**Damascus Cougar Select Baseball Policies and Procedures**

Select baseball has some substantial differences from nearly all DSA programs. First, like the recreational baseball program, it is essentially a year round program. Teams are fielded in both the spring and fall. Furthermore, all spring select teams hold winter workouts in January and February. Second, select baseball teams operate as independent franchises under central management of the Select Program. Each team sets independent plans for tournaments and league play. Consequently, each team develops a separate budget and fee structure, which follows general principles established by the Commissioner, and which are approved by the DSA Board. The program maintains the following time line:

**January:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Finalize individual team uniforms orders.

***Fall Season*** - N/A.

**February:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Process tournament registration check requests as needed. Final spring registration payments due. Submit merchandise orders.

***Fall Season*** - N/A.

**March:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Process MCBA or other league registration and check requests.

***Fall Season*** - N/A.

**April:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Process check requests for uniforms and merchandise. League play begins.

***Fall Season*** - N/A. Check for interest in U18 Summer League (MCBA).

**May:**  Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Verify allinvoices for have been submitted. Process outstanding check requests**.**

***Summer Season (U18 only) -*** Conduct Summer head coaches’ selection meeting with committee as needed (coaches approved for previous spring do NOT require approval for Fall). Hold tryouts for new players as needed in early May (returning players need not try out unless demand exceeds the number of roster positions available). Order new or replacement uniforms for Summer season.

***Fall Season*** - Schedule a meeting/by email with Commissioner and/or field coordinator to secure practice and game field permits for the Fall season.

**June**: Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Finalize all financial accounts. Regular season ends, playoffs are completed. Establish and announce on-line (e.g., SurveyMonkey) coach and program evaluations.

***Summer Season (U18 only) -*** All player fees due.Process check requests for uniforms and merchandise. League play begins.

***Fall Season*** - Explore interest in with head coaches or interested parents.

**July:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - N/A

***Summer Season*** - Season ends. Finalize all financial accounts. Regular season ends, playoffs are completed. Establish and announce on-line (e.g., SurveyMonkey) coach and program evaluations.

***Fall Season*** - Update website and email announcements of coach and player registration.

**August:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Update web site with any new league information and advertisements for coaches. Schedule head coaches’ selection with coaches’ selection committee (composed of 2 board members and 4 DSA members). Schedule a meeting/by email with Commissioner to secure practice and game field permits for the Spring season.

***Fall Season*** - Conduct Fall head coaches’ selection meeting with committee as needed (coaches approved for previous spring do NOT require approval for Fall). Hold tryouts for new players as needed in early August (returning players need not try out unless demand exceeds the number of roster positions available). Order new or replacement uniforms for Fall season. Process MCBA or other league registration and check requests.

**September:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Conduct head coaches’ selection meeting with committee. Pull permit for Sundown #1 and #2 for tryouts the second and third weekends in November. Distribute prepared flyers through schools on designated mass flyer distribution dates and/or post signs around town. Post flyers around town at local establishments. Open Spring tryout/returning player registration.

***Fall Season*** - League play begins.

**October:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Schedule a meeting/by email with Commissioner to secure practice and game field permits.

***Fall Season*** - Regular season ends.

**November:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

***Spring Season*** - Selected head coaches will conduct all evaluations at designated age levels. This evaluation/selection process can take up to two weeks. Finalize team rosters. Good faith installment ($200) due immediately. As teams are selected head coaches will submit their assistant coaches for approval. Head coach will also pick a team mom. Discuss and get board approval for budgets and fundraising.

***Fall Season* -** Playoffs are completed. Verify allinvoices have been submitted. Process outstanding check requests**.** Establish and announce on-line (e.g., SurveyMonkey) coach and program evaluations for season.

**December:** Check DSA email for questions and information and update website.

Spring Season - Finalize winter workout schedule and book facilities (as needed).

Fall Season - Finalize all financial accounts.

**Additional Select Baseball Policy Information**

**Boundary Policy** Upon registration, any player who attends (or would attend) a school outside of the DSA cluster will be notified by Commissioner for further information.

**Birth date Cutoff**  The nationally established birth date cutoff is May 1. Adhering to this standard allows DSA teams to participate in leagues and tournaments without concern about player eligibility. The vast majority of select leagues and tournaments divide players in single age groups (U9, U10, U11, etc.).

**Playing up or down** Playing outside the age division (either up or down) is discouraged for a variety of reasons, but is permitted with the express, written permission of the Commissioner.

**Spring vs. Fall** Fall select baseball is generally less in demand than the Spring Program. Typically, DSA only fields 2 or 3 teams in the fall vs 5 or 6 in the spring. Also, because the decision to field fall teams generally takes place in July, after the Spring season is over, the timeline for coach selection, player registration, and other logistical steps is greatly compressed. Coaches approved for spring are considered approved for the fall. Often an assistant coach will step up to coach the fall team, in which case the Selection committee approves the nomination per normal procedures (see discussion of High School age players below).

**Summer Season**  MCBA offer a U18 Summer League that provides additional playing time for high school age players. It is operated in compliance with all other policies, but financially is treated as an extension of the Spring Season.

**High School age players** Maryland High School rules prohibit DHS baseball coaches from coaching high school age players in the fall. As consequence, DSA sponsored 18U teams (Summer and Fall only) that play MCBA are coached by DSA approved coaches. Head coaches for these team are approved per normal procedures. Similarly, all other aspects of team management, financial tracking, etc. follow regular DSA select baseball procedures.

**Fundraising**  Teamsset budget and fundraising goals independently. Parents may opt out of fundraising activities by agreeing to pay full fee. Fundraising is tracked by individual player.