

# Spearfish Youth Baseball Spring Evaluation Guide

## 2022 Schedule:

**Tuesday March 8 6:00-8:00 PM Field House Donald E. Young Center**

**Wednesday March 9 6:00-8:00 PM Field House Donald E. Young Center**

**All kids playing in A/AA/AAA/Majors must attend a player evaluation session.**

- Kids ages 9-12 are encouraged to attend the Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> session.
- Kids ages 6-9 are encouraged to attend the Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> session.
- **\*\*NOTE If you cannot make it on the preferred night, you can attend either session.**

The purpose of this short guide is to prepare you and your child for the SYBSA Player Evaluation (PE) session and help put them at ease if they've never been through the PE process before.

### **What to bring**

Each player should bring their fielder's mitt, *not* a catcher's mitt or first baseman's mitt! Bats are optional and will be provided if a player doesn't bring their own. If a player has his own batting helmet, they can bring that also, otherwise one will be provided (most players do not have their own helmets). All equipment should be labeled with player's name and phone number.

### **What to wear**

Dress the same as you would for an indoor baseball practice: sneakers (NO cleats!), tee shirt or sweatshirt, baseball pants or sweatpants.

### **How it works**

The players will be evaluated in 3 baseball skills. Formal evaluations are conducted by a group of SYBSA volunteers, who will rate each player in each skill on a 1-to-5 scale. These ratings, along with coaches' opinion, are used to help determine the proper league placement for each player. Each coach may also conduct his own informal evaluation of each player.

The players are rotated through three skill stations. Multiple stations will be in operation simultaneously to "keep things moving", so coaches/volunteers will not necessarily see each player in each skill station.

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Under no circumstances will any SYBSA board member, evaluator, or coach reveal the ratings or ranking of any individual player.***

The skill stations are: *(3 primary skill stations are finalized; other details subject to refinement prior to PE dates)*

**Batting** - Each player is given five swings in the batting cage against soft toss pitching. They are evaluated based on how well they swing the bat and their technique (swing mechanics), how well they hit the ball (contact), and how hard / how far they hit the ball (power). They are assigned one overall rating for batting.

**Pitching** - Each player is given five pitches from a pitcher's mound. They are evaluated on how hard they throw (velocity), and how accurately they hit the strike zone (control), and assigned ratings for each. In addition, most coaches will evaluate them on their form and technique (pitching mechanics), though they will not receive a formal rating for each.

**Fielding** - Each player will be thrown three ground balls and three pop flies. While the player's success in catching the ball is factored in, the evaluators are mainly looking at the player's form, technique, and footwork (fielding mechanics) to come up with a ground ball rating and a fly ball rating. They are also assigned a throwing rating, which includes their throwing accuracy, throwing mechanics, and release (how quickly they get in position to throw and get rid of the ball after fielding it). The throwing rating and pitching rating are distinct, which allows us to differentiate between a player who doesn't throw well and one who does throw well but lacks pitching experience.

***\*\*The evaluation ratings will not be shared with any player or parent (other than managers).***

## **How to make a good impression on the coaches**

- If at all possible, make it to your assigned PE time. The volunteers/coaches have set aside personal time to watch your child.
- Follow the directions of the volunteer running the drill station. Coaches also love players who listen and follow directions!
- Have your child come prepared and dressed appropriately. (See What to wear above)
- Most importantly, HAVE FUN! Let the coaches see what a great kid you are and how much you love the game. SMILE! RUN to and from your position at the fielding station. If you make a mistake, shake it off, grit your teeth, and give it another try. Make it clear you love the game and you're ready to learn. Most coaches would rather have a player with average skills and a great attitude than a player with very good skills and a poor attitude.