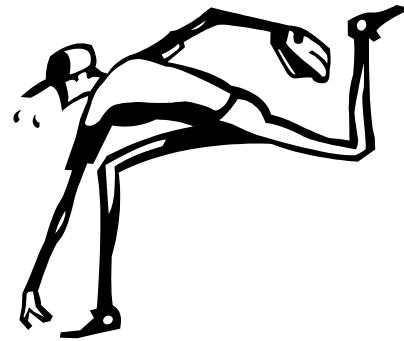
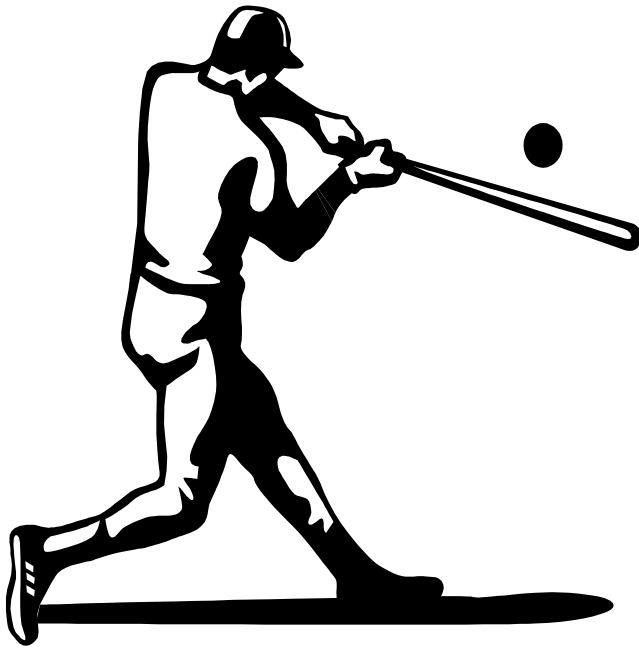


Youth Baseball Guide

What Every Parent Should Know
Before Selecting A Youth Baseball League



**Presented by
Fremont Baseball Inc.
A Pony Affiliate**



Goal and Purpose of this Guide

The purpose of this Youth Baseball Guide is to shed some light on the differences between the many baseball leagues in the Fremont Tri-Cities area, which cover Fremont, Newark, and Union City.

There is a minimum of five (5) different baseball leagues in the Tri-Cities that cater to youth ranging from 5 years old to 16. So, how do most people choose a league for their player?

Most of the time a league is chosen because a good friend is in the league, or the home field is within close proximity to your home. In other instances, since you played in a certain league when you were a kid, you put your kid in the same league. 20-30 years ago there may have only been one or two leagues to choose from, and there were distinct differences between them.

We hope you find this Youth Baseball Guide useful in determining which league best suits your players' ability level, interest level, and future dreams.

Not All Youth Baseball Programs Are the Same

Over time, more and more leagues popped up, and all of a sudden it became very difficult to distinguish one league from another.

Our goal is to arm you, the community of the Tri-Cities, with enough information so that you feel like you are in control of the decision that you make for your player.

Your goal may be to have your player learn the game of baseball for recreation and socialization. Or, you may want your player to learn a team sport. Then, there are those of you who see that you may have an exceptionally good player and you want him/her to learn the finer points of baseball. You may want your player to play in a more competitive environment.

Whatever the goals are that you have for your player, you need information essential to selecting a league. This document will provide you with items that need to be considered while going through the league selection process.

Player Considerations Selecting a Youth Baseball League

Age – Players starting at ages 5 or 6 will all be playing T-ball, which is where the ball is placed on a ball holder (the T), and the players bat the ball into the field to get a feel for how the game is played from both a batter and fielder point of view.

The players that started with T-ball will tend to be more comfortable than the players that are just beginning to play at ages 7-8. However there are players who start playing between the ages of 7-10 who have older siblings who they have played with but they just haven't played organized baseball yet. These players tend to fit right in, in terms of skill level and coordination.

Generally speaking, even older players (e.g., ages 7-10 years of age) just starting baseball, will still commonly require a few additional years to get comfortable with baseball. In this case, if your player is having fun and likes the game, be patient with his progress.

Temperament – Some kids are naturally aggressive and outgoing, while others are naturally shy, easy going, or timid. Every temperament can learn the game of baseball and gain the benefit of being part of a team. Take the temperament of your player into consideration when selecting a youth baseball league, as the first experience in anything is always the most important.

Hand/Eye Coordination – If your player has good hand eye coordination and can hit a ball that is pitched to him by another person at an early age, take this into consideration. On the other hand, if a player has a hard time hitting the ball that is pitched to them, you may want to make sure you don't rush him/her into an intimidating situation.

Aptitude – If your player has a good baseball aptitude (knowledge, skill, execution), and your current league doesn't offer a challenge, you may want to consider a league that will provide your player with this opportunity, even if they have been playing in a league with friends for several years.

In other words, consider the players' skill development as well as their socialization development. Remember strangers are just unmet friends.

League Considerations Selecting a Youth Baseball League

When selecting a youth baseball league, there are more subtle things to consider about the league other than convenience, or how many people I know, or this is where my family has always played. Here are several other things to ponder:

Level of Play – By this we mean, is the level of play compatible with my players' experience? If a player is 9 years old with a timid temperament, you may want to ask if the league has a less advanced program where your player will not be intimidated by live pitching. Or, you may have a player who is ready for a more challenging environment. You may want to ask if the league offers a program for the more advanced or skilled player.

Flexibility – You may want your player to stay in your neighborhood for convenience. Or, if a particular league offers what your player needs, you may want drive several extra miles for that experience. Does the league allow players from different parts of the city to play in the league for a more expansive experience? A league with flexibility will allow friends that go to different schools to play in the same league.

Leagues that fall under the same organization label even within the same city limits are spit up with boundaries. (E.g. North & South, National & American) Even though these leagues belong to the same organization, many of them function and operate differently which is caused by this boundary split.

Advanced Baseball – You may be looking for a program that emphasizes a more controlled brand of baseball, such as no leading off of the bases. Or, you may want your player to experience a more advanced brand of baseball where base runners can lead off, and pitchers can attempt pickoff moves. This type of advanced environment promotes situational play at an early development stage, which enhances the growth and the experience of a player ready for new challenges.

Tournament Play – Some leagues take time off on Memorial Day and 4th of July weekend. This gives the league and its family's time off. If you have a player that shows promise, you may want to find a league that offers tournament play other than a three or four game All-Star tournament at the end of the year.

National Affiliations - You might want to ask about the league affiliations? Are they sanctioned nationally? Do they have Sectional, Regional, and World Series tournaments?

About Fremont Baseball Inc.

Fremont Baseball Incorporated (FBI) was established in 1954 as Washington Township Baseball, prior to the City of Fremont being incorporated.

A few years later the name was changed to Fremont Baseball Incorporated and is the oldest running youth baseball league in Fremont, California; and is dedicated to providing the youth of Fremont a safe, fun environment to learn fundamentally correct baseball.

FBI is a PONY affiliate. Pony is a national organization headquartered in Washington, PA. Each year Pony League has Sectional and Regional tournaments, where the winners qualify for World Series competition. A different region hosts the World Series annually.

The official playing rules, with the exceptions and variations based on safety and fairness, is the "Official Rules of Major League Baseball".

FBI Home fields are located behind Harvey Green Elementary School at 42875 Gatewood Street, Fremont CA 94538. Gatewood is located off of Blacow, between Grimmer and Fremont Blvd.

We at FBI look forward to your players' participation, and wish you well in the upcoming season.

Fremont Baseball Inc.

A Pony Affiliate

P.O. Box 1399

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Comparison Grid

Use this comparison grid when you talk to the representatives of the league that you are considering for your player. By knowing your player, and the options available, it will make for a much more enjoyable experience.

League Features	<i>Pony</i> <i>Shepherd 5-6 yrs</i>	<i>Compare</i> <i>League</i>	<i>Compare</i> <i>League</i>
T-Ball	Yes		
Some Coach Pitch	Yes		

League Features	<i>Pony</i> <i>Pinto 7-8 yrs</i>	<i>Compare</i> <i>League</i>	<i>Compare</i> <i>League</i>
Coach Pitch	Yes		
Player Pitch ++	Yes		
Big Barrel Bats	Yes		
4th July Tournaments	Yes		
Memorial Tournaments	Yes		
Other Optional Tournaments	Yes		
All-Star Tournaments	Yes		
Diamond Dimensions	50 feet		
Pitching Distance	38 feet		

++ Player pitch after 6 games

League Features	<i>Pony</i> <i>Mustang 9-10 yrs</i>	<i>Compare</i> <i>League</i>	<i>Compare</i> <i>League</i>
Player Pitch	Yes		
Lead Off Bases	Yes		
Pitcher Pick Off Moves	Yes		
Big Barrel Bats	Yes		
Diamond Dimensions	60 Feet		
Pitching Distance	44 Feet		

League Features	<i>Pony</i> <i>Bronco 11-12 yrs</i>	<i>Compare</i> <i>League</i>	<i>Compare</i> <i>League</i>
Player Pitch	Yes		
Lead Off Bases	Yes		
Pitcher Pick Off Moves	Yes		
Big Barrel Bats	Yes		
Diamond Dimensions	70 feet		
Pitching Distance	48 feet		

Advanced Competition

4th July Tournaments	Yes		
Memorial Tournaments	Yes		
Other Optional Tournaments	Yes		
All-Star Competition	Yes		
Regional Competition	Yes		
World Series Competition	Yes		

4th July Tournaments	Yes		
Memorial Tournaments	Yes		
Other Optional Tournaments	Yes		
All-Star Competition	Yes		
Regional Competition	Yes		
World Series Competition	Yes		