

## Tinley Park Bobcats Colt/Palomino Divisions

The Bobcats provide Colt age players (15/16U) and Palomino age players (17/18U) an extension of our “organized fun” baseball program. The Bobcats participate in a summer league called SWILA that incorporates teams from other towns in the southwest suburbs with these high school age divisions.

The SWILA season starts after IHSA spring baseball has concluded, right before Memorial Day. Due to the timing of the start of the season, freshmen (and all other grades) can and should sign-up to play Colt and Palomino summer ball whether or not they will make the high school team. SWILA dictates the basic outline of rules. The Bobcats participate as an extension of their recreation or in-house leagues so there are no tryouts to play at this level.

Since the ballplayers are getting older, it is found to be advisable to carry more players per team than the standard 12, instead opting for 13 to 15 especially at the Palomino level.

Due to the late start of the Colt/Palomino seasons, sign-ups remain open later, this year on-line through March 26<sup>th</sup>. There is no candy buy-out at these levels. By this point attention needs be paid to counts at each level before a waiting list is implemented. Based on the number of players per team, a last call for players may be enacted. Uniforms sizes are collected once the teams are formed.

Returning managers and coaches are given first consideration to manage depending on how many teams are warranted. Managers, coaches and the league rep ensure that an equitable allocation of players occurs under the direction of the Commissioner of Baseball. Teams can start practicing April 1<sup>st</sup> except for high school players who participate later.

Although technically a recreation league, due the competitiveness of SWILA and the nature of playing away games out of town, Colt/Palomino teams function like quasi-travel teams. Therefore managers and their coaches are expected to provide an organized and enjoyable season for everyone participating on their team. Managing in the Bobcats is a privilege not a right.

The season is 18 games, which runs through the middle of July. Playoffs finish up by the end of July. Home games are played at Freedom and Vogt. The Bobcats assign two IHSA “patched” umpires from the travel team service or from the in-house service.

All game issues and team issues are the responsibility of the manager. Larger issues are brought to the attention of the League Rep and ultimately the Commissioner of Baseball. The Bobcats Code of Conduct is expected to be followed at home and away. Other teams abide by their own league requirements so differences can and do occur. Adherence to the Code is required for not only players and coaches, but also parents and fans.