

2015 SSA BASEBALL

Policies and Procedures

Communication

1. Players are required to check their **school** e-mail account once a day for notification of meetings, cancellations, and other updates. Varsity coaches will also notify players via text for last minute updates and info.
2. Students are required to call or e-mail Coach Grandizio and/or their JV team head coach prior to 3:00 or bring a note from a teacher if they expect that they will be late for practice. Student government, academic issues, family issues, religious obligation and/or doctor's appointments will be considered excused when accompanied by a note, e-mail, or phone call. Otherwise the absence will be considered unexcused.
3. If a student or parent has a concern or question about the student's experience or progress, the student is encouraged to speak to his coach first. A follow up with the parents is acceptable after the student has first had a discussion with the coach.
4. Per Shady Side Athletic Dept. policy, parents may approach a coach with concerns or questions on non-game days or via phone or e-mail. Exceptions will be made in the case of an emergency. Please remember that we will not discuss another student in these discussions. The conversation will be strictly limited to the individual student's progress and experiences. The student must also be made aware of the conversation. Friendly conversations that are not related to any specific issue or concern are welcome at any time!
5. **Per Shady Side Athletic Dept. policy, parents, siblings, and friends are not permitted in or around dugout/bench area before, during, or after home or away games unless invited by the coaching staff or Athletic Director. This has become a growing issue over the last few years. The dugout/bench area is for players, coaches and school personnel only. We will have water at every game so providing extra beverages is unnecessary.**

Absences

1. If a student is absent and will not be able to attend a game or practice, he is required to notify Coach Grandizio via phone or e-mail before 3:00 or prior to dismissal for an away game.
2. A player will be ineligible to **start** a game if he is absent for practice on the day before the game. (Excused absences include: Illness, death in the family, religious holiday, Academy-sponsored activity, extraordinary opportunity).
3. If a player misses a game due to an unexcused absence, he will be ineligible to **play** in the following game.
4. Absences due to participation in out-of- season sports, school club activities, or outside club teams will not be considered excused.
5. The varsity team requires a Monday – Saturday commitment except for the following Saturdays: March 14, April 4 and April 25, which will be optional practice days. JV teams have a Monday – Friday commitment.

Injuries

1. Any player who has been injured is required to report the injury to the Head Coach and Shady Side's Athletic Trainer. A plan of treatment will then be devised and enacted.
2. If receiving treatment or rehabilitation for the injury at an off-campus facility, it is the responsibility of the student or the student's parents to communicate the progress to SSA's Athletic Trainer.
3. Clearance from a doctor or SSA's Athletic Trainer is required for an injured player to return to practice. Once the student has been cleared by the doctor or trainer to practice, the coaching staff will assess the player's progress and enact a return to game action program.

Tryouts

1. A one week tryout will be held during the first week of the season, beginning March 2. Players will be distributed to their assigned team at the end of the week. Players will be divided into two teams: Varsity and JV. The composition of these teams will depend on the number of students in the program. After returning from Spring Break, the JV team will be split into a JV Blue team and a JV Gold team to maximize playing and instruction time. The varsity team requires a six day per week commitment (Monday-Saturday) starting on March 2 and ending when the team completes their playoff run, which may be as late as the PIAA state championship game, June 12, 2015. The JV team requires a five day per week commitment beginning March 2 and ending May 11. JV players are not required to attend practices over spring break.
2. Players can be moved between varsity and JV teams during the season depending upon factors such as performance, injury, attendance, attitude and effort.

Spring Break Florida Trip to ESPN Wide World of Sports at Disney World

1. All baseball players who have previously taken part in the Florida trip will be invited to attend the trip unless there is a previous discipline issue or an injury that interferes with the player's ability to participate fully in practices and games. The Florida trip limit is 28 players.
2. Players who have not previously taken part in the trip will be selected based on availability and a tryout. In the event that we have more than 28 upperclassmen we will select players based on recommendations from SSA coaches and a one day tryout in November. Priority will be given to older students if skill level is similar. Any players who asks to take part in the trip after the roster limit has been reached will be placed on the waiting list.
3. Freshmen are eligible for the trip only when there are less than 28 returning players signed up for the trip. A one day tryout for new players will be held in November to create a waiting list for the Florida trip.
4. Players going on the trip are asked to participate in fund-raising programs designed to off-set some of the costs of the trip.
5. **Participation in the Florida trip is not required and will not affect a student's team placement.**

Varsity Lettering

1. Attendance
 - a. Player must make 90% of practices – excused absences will be considered. Multiple excused absences may eliminate player from lettering eligibility.
 - b. Player must stay with team throughout the course of the playoffs unless excused by coach.
2. Participation
 - a. Player must participate in 30% of the team’s contests.
 - b. Coach may make exemptions for injured players who otherwise make a strong contribution to the team.
3. Discipline Issues
 - a. If a player is removed from the team, he is not eligible to letter.

Optional Winter Conditioning

1. Beginning in mid-January and concluding the Friday before the spring season officially starts, we will offer winter workouts in Curry Gym.
2. Winter workouts are strictly **optional**, supervised by SSA coaches are typically offered on Sundays in January and February from 12-2 and designated weeknights in January and February from 5:45 pm – 7:30 pm.
3. Winter workouts are designed to help students prepare themselves for the upcoming season with elements of flexibility, throwing mechanics, speed development, hitting drills, position work and pitching specific training.
4. Students who are playing a winter sport must gain clearance from their winter coach in order to participate. **We do not support quitting a winter sport in order to participate in baseball winter conditioning. We do support and encourage students who wish to participate in multiple sports.**

Captain Selection

1. Elections for athletic team captains will be held at the end of the season. All students and coaches will vote by secret ballot. Coaches will tally votes and captains will be elected by a simple majority.
2. The number of captains selected will be determined by the coaches. The Head Coach reserves the right to add a captain before or during the season if they note that a player has demonstrated exceptional leadership.
3. Coaches will inform the Athletic Director and Head of the Senior School of the team’s choice for captain before any announcement is made. Captains are notified in person prior to the team being notified. A team meeting will be called to announce captains within a week of elections.
4. Criteria for selecting captains should include dedication to team, demonstrated leadership skills, strong work ethic, willingness to help others, maturity and responsibility and other criteria determined suitable by the head coach.
5. Head coaches reserve the right to remove captains for any major rule violation during the season or academic year. If a captain is removed or unable to fulfill his/her responsibility, the Head Coach reserves the right to appoint a replacement.
6. Athletic team captains are expected, at all times, to uphold the highest standard of leadership and adhere to the Academy’s Guiding Principles. Per the Senior School Student Handbook, students who appear

before the Discipline Committee may likely be asked to relinquish their leadership positions for the year, including the position of athletic team captain.

Additional Costs

1. The only required additional cost for participation is a team game hat (\$20). Additional team gear (t-shirts, shorts, hats, jackets) may be distributed as a result of donation and/or fund-raising. Students may be given the **option** to buy team gear, but the order must be placed by a parent. When offered, **these items are strictly optional**.
2. The spring break trip to Orlando is not required for any player. The costs of the trip will be paid for by the parents and through fund – raising efforts.
3. No team dues will be required for participation in the SSA Baseball program.
4. If the team decides to have an end-of-season banquet, it will be a picnic style gathering at the conclusion of the varsity season. Players’ parents may be asked to bring items for the picnic.

Coaches Contact Information:

Varsity: Bob Grandizio, Jr. '91, Head Coach – rgrandizio@shadysideacademy.org
Office #: (412) 968-3080; Cell #: (412) 720-9216

John Cappa, Assistant Head Coach, Pitching Coach- jcappa@shadysideacademy.org

Harry Fleishman, Assistant Coach

Jason Zoeller '03, Volunteer part-time Assistant Coach

JV Gold: Scott Majesky '09, Head Coach - majeskyscott@gmail.com

Chuck Shafer '06, Assistant Coach - cshafer@shadysideacademy.org

JV Blue: Scott Bender, Head Coach - sabender@hotmail.com

Keith Gorse, Assistant Coach - gorse@duq.edu

Volunteer Part-time V/JV Coach: Jeff Foley

