

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **What is the Sam Bat Fall League?**

The SAM BAT Fall League is a grassroots, wood bat league in which the focus is on player and skill development through an extended season. The Sam Bat Fall League is designed to enable players to continue to play through the Fall Season, to teach players to focus on the proper hitting techniques and to have fun! Sam Bat Fall League programs provide opportunities for players to meet new friends while gaining firsthand experience in hitting a baseball with a top quality wood bat. With the generous support and sponsorship from Sam Bat, the Original Maple Bat Corporation, each player through their [registration](#) is able to play with a top quality Sam Bat during their league play.

## **What is the difference between a Sam Bat and any other wood bat?**

Swing what the pros swing! **Sam Bats** are the standard by which all other maple bats are measured. The company was founded by Sam Holman, inventor of the patented Sam Bat, the first approved maple wood bat for the Major Leagues. His Prime Hard Maple bats have changed professional baseball forever.

Sam Bats are selected from only the top 5% of Prime Hard Maple. Unlike other maple bats, their zero pressure process maintains the wood's natural strength, while traditional processes fatigue the wood. Sam Bat continues to be the bat choice of more than 100 major league players. Sam Bat is about performance.

## **I have a recreational team. Do only travel teams participate in Sam Bat Fall League?**

Teams of all levels are welcome, and encouraged to join the Sam Bat Fall League. It is our goal to offer playing opportunities for any team or player interested in playing. We have designed the rules to ensure parity amongst teams. In addition, we carefully screen all our teams, and limit participation for the purposes of monitoring the competitive level of play.

## **How do I sign up to play with the Sam Bat Fall League?**

The Sam Bat Fall League is a team-based league. We do not sign up individual players, but fully assembled teams. To register with the league, coaches must first register their teams online, and instruct their players to register as individuals to that respective team. This mode of registration is to gather physical characteristics of each player for the purpose of instructing Sam Bat to create their individual bats. Also, there are demographic questions in the Player Registration that allow the league to determine the player's competitive caliber. Player Registration is also a means to collect required forms.

A team registration, player registration, a completed roster, waiver of liability, proof of insurance (league provides if need) and a signed medical release form is all that is required to be added to the league schedule and participate. The league provides an 8 game Regular Season, and 1 guaranteed playoff game. **You may register at [www.sambatfallleague.com](http://www.sambatfallleague.com). Registration ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>.**

### **Can I register for the Sam Bat Fall League if I do not have a team?**

If a player is interested in the league as an individual, they are encouraged to contact us directly for potential assignment to an assembled team. We cannot guarantee placement of a player via "free agency," but we are happy to help players and teams by offering this service. Players should send their name, name of parent(s) or guardian(s), date of birth, and playing experience, plus any additional information about themselves to [sbflhouston@gmail.com](mailto:sbflhouston@gmail.com).

### **Why is the league fee \$250?**

The league fee includes all associated costs of running a baseball league. Included in the cost is a Sam Bat maple wood bat valued \$90-130 (depending on type, and size). Teams may also opt for a training session **at no cost** with Elanis Westbrooks, a former professional baseball player. That's an excellent value for \$250!

### **Where can I find the required forms to submit?**

All forms are available for [download](#) from the "league" page or at [www.allprosportstraining.org](http://www.allprosportstraining.org). They must be mailed to the contact address on the [home page](#).

### **How much are umpire fees?**

Umpires are paid in cash (ONLY) at the beginning of each game. There are two umpires for each game. Each team will split the cost of the umpires before the first pitch. The league will cover all umpire costs in the playoffs.

The standard fee is as follows:

- \$60/umpire/game

### **When and where are games played?**

Games are on the weekends. The league is flexible with regard to scheduling requests. The league fields are Stude Park (46/60), MacGregor Park (60/90) and Spring Spirit Baseball (flexible dimensions). Teams may opt to use their own field (league approval required) for their home games during the Regular Season only. Playoff games for 14U – 18U will be played at MacGregor Park and 9U – 13U will be played at Spring Spirit Baseball.

### **Are there any Sam Bat Fall League tournaments?**

There are no scheduled tournaments for the 2013 Fall Season. There is a tournament being planned for the Spring of 2014. Interested teams may contact [sbflhouston@gmail.com](mailto:sbflhouston@gmail.com)

### **Can I get some pointers on how to assemble a select team?**

Assembling your first team can be a daunting task. Rest assured however that it is often much easier than it seems up front. Start by considering players you and/or your son have coached/played with in the past in local leagues. Find that old roster from t-ball or coach pitch and make a few calls, for example. You'll be surprised how many people are interested in playing baseball, but don't know where to begin. And if there is an interest, they'll appreciate your call!

Consider friends and "friends of friends" as well. Look for classmates from previous years that your son already knows who may have shown an interest in playing baseball. Get the word out! Let people from your church, your place of business, or clubs where you are a member know you are looking for players. Often, these types of places will allow flyers to be posted free of charge.

### **Should I hold a tryout?**

If response is good, you may want to hold a tryout. Teams are best suited to have 12 or fewer players. Some prefer to play with only 9 or 10, though the possibility of sickness and injury should be considered. Tryouts are an excellent way to gauge talent, but they are also a good way for people to meet and get to know each other. Team chemistry can often be assessed in just a single session!

### **How costly is running an independent team?**

The amount of money needed to provide for a team varies greatly, some costs are set, such as the registration fee. Umpires must be paid each game. League baseballs are included in the Sam Bat Fall League Registration fee, and team insurance also. Even if players pay individually for their own uniforms and equipment, the above costs are fixed. Most teams assemble money into an account and provide for the needs of the team in this way.

Uniforms are a good example of a varying cost item. Some teams go with t-shirts for their uniform jersey. The cost of pants, caps, belts, socks, etc. is fairly consistent among local vendors. T-shirts can be customized for less than \$20 each, which is very affordable. Other teams prefer mesh jerseys, vests, three-button pullovers, etc. and some enjoy having multiple uniforms (which may become a necessity when playing in out of town tournament events so that laundering is not needed). Some teams purchase jackets, matching equipment bags, customized caps, etc. for their players, but it should be noted that all these "extras" are not necessary or required. **Some basic equipment and matching t-shirts and pants will get you on the field and playing, and that's the objective.**

### **How do teams raise the money needed to play baseball?**

Many coaches feel it is important for players and their families to contribute directly to team costs. Most are used to this arrangement from playing local league ball and it does provide a vested interest in supporting team activities. Many teams simply set their budget and divide the total amount among the number of players on the roster. Other teams rely strictly on fund raising efforts and sponsors to provide the needed financial backing. Still others are completely backed by a benefactor or sponsor. The majority of teams likely use a combination of player fees, fund raising, and sponsorships to raise the money the team needs.

Coaches and parents should check with their own companies and places of business, as well as that of family members. Many area firms are anxious to support worthwhile causes such as youth baseball! Some teams offer advertising at games, on team handouts or websites, and banners for those who offer sponsorships.

Fundraising opportunities are virtually limitless – car washes, candy bars, candles, cookies, base sales, coupon cards or "peelers," etc. Some teams are so dedicated to and successful with fundraisers they are able to cover 100% of their costs! It takes organization and commitment, but it is worth it!

Again, it is one of the benefits of being an independent, select team to have these options. Teams are free to raise money in any way they deem appropriate, and are able to spend that money in any way they see fit. Those who handle team finances are encouraged to have financial statements available for those on the team interested in seeing them.

**What is the "age cutoff date" that determines level of play?**

The season runs from September 7th to November 3rd. Whatever age the player is on May 1st is the "league age." That will be the lowest age division for which he can play. Players may "play up," but may not "play down."

**Can I play both football, and Sam Bat baseball in the Fall?**

Yes. The Sam Bat Fall League schedule is flexible enough to allow for players to participate in more than one Fall Season sport.