

The Eastern Suburban Youth Baseball League or ESYBL

Who we are – The ESYBL currently comprises of 5 community based baseball programs in a more rural area east of Madison, Wisconsin. Current ESYBL members include Cambridge, Deerfield, and Marshall in far eastern Dane County, Columbus in southern Columbia County, and Waterloo in northwestern Jefferson County.

Leagues – There are two leagues in the ESYBL – National & American. Teams are drawn through open and published registrations by each local community. Typically an open tryout and draft is held by the local organizations but random selection has also been employed. The ESYBL does not mandate which method is used so long as the method will try to make the teams as evenly matched as possible (no stacked teams). The ESYBL is not a traveling, select, or all-star type of league. The ESYBL demands that all kids who have registered will play and demands that registrations be open and publicly published in local newspapers to all kids who are league age 9 to 12 years old. Each community must have no less than 2 teams competing for each league. For 2009 there are 12 National League and 15 American League teams.

The National League is comprised of league age 10 to 12 year olds but primarily 11 & 12 year olds. It is intended for kids who have demonstrated a higher skill level in baseball. The National League is the most competitive of the two leagues.

The American League is the developmental league for kids league age 9 – 12 years old but primarily consists of kids that are 9 to 11 years old. This league is intended for kids who need or desire more instruction and skill to be able to compete in the National League.

The Season – ESYBL season begins on the 1st Saturday after Memorial Day and runs through mid-July. Each team will play 10 to 12 regular season games (depending on the size of the league). After the regular season is complete, each league has an End of Season Tournament that is single elimination NCAA style bracket format. The regular season performance is used to determine tournament seedings. The final four is held at a site determined on a rotating basis by the ESYBL. For 2009 the National League Final Four will be held in Columbus and the American League in Waterloo.

Games – ESYBL rules state that all kids are in the batting order and no kid sits on the bench for more than 2 consecutive innings.

Rules – ESYBL Rules closely follow Little League rules. The ESYBL has two rule sets, National & American League and are available on the ESYBL website (www.esybl.org).

Is your organization interested in competing? Please contact Dave Lemke at president@esybl.org.