



2011-12 12u (Travel)

Coaching Philosophies, Parent and Player Expectations

1. Our team will be all about having some serious FUN learning how to play winning baseball: Winning is important but secondary to learning. We are going to try to win every game and we are going to strive to learn every time we take the field.
2. We are a team: We need to work on things together. We can't do that if players are not present and on time. On time for practice means 5 - 10 or more minutes earlier than the stated start time. On time for a game means 60 minutes before game time (45 minutes on week nights) in full uniform and ready to play. We warm up together as a team before a game and we can't warm up properly if the team is not present.
3. Attendance: Players cannot learn to play the game well if they are not at our practices. We will design practices that are fun, exciting and challenging. We will work very hard with the players who attend. If a player has to miss a practice or a game, we ask that we are notified at least two days before the event or more when possible.
4. Play with Honor: Players will always hustle, run out every ground ball and pop up, encourage teammates, especially after an error, bad pitch, or a strike out. Players will carry themselves with pride and dignity. Players will not, in frustration, throw equipment. Players will not ridicule another team or an opposing player's name, or physical appearance. Players will not distract an opposing player with low-level antics or rehearsed songs. We will always be positive with teammates.
5. Mistakes will be made: Coaches will make them. Players will make them. As long as we are learning from our mistakes, we won't worry about it for a minute, so players shouldn't either.
6. No Excuses; our players will not blame teammates, umpires, coaches, fans, or the position of the moon for their performance. Our players will take responsibility for what happens on the field. We are not expected to be a perfect performer. No one is. Baseball is not an easy game to play.
7. Players will keep a positive attitude at all times. That makes baseball and life fun, and makes it easier to learn.
8. When you look and feel like a ballplayer, you will play like a ballplayer. Our players will always come to practices and games dressed correctly. Athletic supporter and cup are mandatory for every practice and game. Do not wear shorts unless otherwise directed by the manager in advance.
9. Parents, please cheer for your child, but refrain from yelling at them. During games, please realize that we will be coaching/instructing them, so please don't compete with the

coaches for their attention. Please be encouraging and cheer for our team, but don't yell 'instructions'. That's our job. Thanks.

10. The kids that play more are the ones that are at practice regularly, are attentive and productive. We will be analyzing each player and place them in appropriate positions where we feel they will have success. If a parent does not agree with our assessment, we are open to a courteous and professional discussion at an off-field location at least 12hrs after a game/practice. We ask that parents not discuss their concerns with other parents or their son.
11. During the off season we understand and encourage baseball players to play other sports. Our policy is that in- season sports take priority. We ask that our players attend most of our fall and winter workouts, but they are not mandatory. From late-March through late-July, the Red Sox should take priority and practices and games are mandatory.

Other Items of Note:

Costs - To play at this level in this league the costs will be approximately \$850-900 per player. This includes league fees, umpire fees, uniforms, insurance fees, field rentals, team equipment, balls, winter workout facility costs, and fees for potential tournaments. Additional costs may be incurred if the team decides to enter additional tournaments. This is a non-profit enterprise, coaches will not be paid.

Schedule – Schedules are still to be determined. We have a scheduling meeting in March/April. The team will play in the North Oakland Baseball Federation (NOBF). We will play approximately 20-25 league games during the months of April, May, June, and part of July. Additional games will be played via tournaments during the season or after the season which typically results in approximately 40 games for the season.

Equipment - All players will be responsible for their own glove, cleats, bat, helmet, and water bottle.

Thank you for your participation,

Rick Ziegler & Doug Pfaff

***Rick Ziegler**, his wife Kim, and 2 sons live in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Rick played 4 years of baseball at Eastern Michigan University and 4 years of Class A baseball. Rick has coached and instructed baseball for over 10 years. In the past, he has been an instructor at EMU Baseball summer camps in Ypsilanti, DeWitt, Toledo, Brighton, etc. His coaching experience includes Franklin Little League, Tournament Baseball, and Travel Baseball. Rick stresses proper fundamentals, mechanics, and teamwork to develop skills that help get players to the next level of baseball.*

***Doug Pfaff**, his wife Jennifer and 2 sons live in Birmingham, MI. Doug has been involved with youth baseball for 10 years and has coached more than 15 teams. He understands that the real value of youth sports lies within the life lessons each player will learn as they face challenges on & off the field. While perhaps none of our children will play in the Major Leagues, they will all be better prepared for life when they realize that effort and attitude are the only things they can control when faced with adversity.*