

## 2012 15-16U Michigan Red Sox Team Information



1. The 2012 15-16U Michigan Red Sox coached by Jason Novetsky is a travel baseball team drawing from the Southeastern Michigan Area. The 15-16U team is part of the larger Michigan Red Sox/Motor City Pride Organization. For 2012 our 15-16U team will be playing approximately 5 – 7 local and regional tournaments and possibly a local informal elite league or local scrimmages beginning at the conclusion of the high school baseball season (mid June) through July. Weekly practices will be scheduled as possible. We plan to carry 14-15 players on the roster to allow for flexibility. Fall ball participation for 2011 will be determined based on interest and availability of players/coaches. A few winter workouts will be held in late February of 2012 to allow our team to meet and prepare for high school tryouts..

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. That way we will all be ready to start practice at the same time. In the words of late great Bo Schembechler, *"early is on time, on time is late."*

3. 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.

4. Attendance: Players cannot learn to play the game well if they are not at our practices. We will design practices that are fun, competitive 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. If we see that absences are beginning to be a problem, we will let you know.

5. 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 throw equipment or display poor sportsmanship in frustration. Players will not ridicule another team or an opposing player's name, physical appearance, skill and will not taunt.

6. 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.

7. No Excuses; our players do 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 will stand up, make no excuses and refuse the excuses that others might offer us.

8. Listening is very important: Our players promise to listen to the coaches, and the coaches promise to listen to the players. If something is not right, players will not be afraid to say so, especially to the coaches.

9. Players will keep a positive attitude at all times. That makes baseball and life fun, and makes it easier to learn.

10. When you look and feel like a ballplayer, you will play like a ballplayer. Our players will always come to a practice 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). Our players will always wear their hat correctly and with pride. Our jerseys will be tucked in and buttoned appropriately at all times.

11. The best players are the best learners: Players who are coach-able are always trying to learn more about being successful ballplayers and people. They listen and apply what their parents, coaches and teachers suggest. Players that are coach-able are winners, regardless of what the scoreboard says.

12. Mental Preparation and focus. Pitchers need to know what and why they are throwing a pitch and where? Fielders need to know what they are going to do if the ball is hit to them on every play. Base runners need to know what they are going to do on a fly ball, line drive, ground ball, to the right side, and

to the left side. Batters need to know what they are trying to accomplish on every pitch. Players on the bench need to help the team by cheering and being ready to play if called upon.

13. Grades: Baseball is a sport, a game, a pastime, it is not everything. Players must keep their grades up in school! Players need to learn to budget their time between the things they have to do (school/work) and the things they like to do (baseball, games, having fun).

14. 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 refrain from coming in or near the dugout/bench area during games.** Please be encouraging and cheer for our team, but don't provide 'instructions'. That's our job. Thanks.

15. The players 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. The team keeps very detailed statistics on each player to help determine playing time. If a parent does not agree with our assessment, we are open to a courteous and professional discussion. We ask that parents not discuss their concerns with other parents. **We also ask that parents never speak to a coach before, during or immediately after a game regarding the status of a player. Parents are invited to meet, call or email the Head Coach to discuss their concerns away from the field of play.**

16. Parents and players will not make negative comments towards the umpires. Parents especially need to be good role models.

17. During the off season we understand that players play other sports. **Our policy is that in-season sports take priority.** Once baseball season begins the Red Sox take priority and practices and games are mandatory.

18. All players should have 'home-work'. All of the players can always use additional practice. Feel free to take them to batting cages, private instructors, or your back yard to work on skills being taught by our coaches. Please try not to instruct them on different philosophies without talking to us first. We do not want to confuse the players.

19. It is very helpful at this age if players read baseball books, view instructional videos and watch baseball on television with a critical eye. There is always more to learn about this wonderful game.

20. Schedules are to be determined, but tournaments may be in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and other regional locations.

#### **Other Items of Note:**

**Costs** - To play for the 2012 15-16U Michigan Red Sox the cost will be \$800. The cost includes tournament fees, umpire fees for scrimmage games, field rentals, potential league fees, some winter workouts, insurance, team equipment and uniforms. Discounts may be available for returning Red Sox players if total uniforms are not required. If money remains in the team account at the end of the season, the money will be split up evenly and returned to each family accordingly.

Additional costs may be incurred if the team decides to enter additional tournaments. This is a non-profit enterprise, coaches will not be paid. *The cost associated with this team is for "participation" not to "play."* As stated earlier the most productive players will play the most innings.

**Fan Wear** – We will have items available for sale, such as t-shirts, jackets, caps, etc. for sale with the Michigan Red Sox logo early and throughout the season for those interested.

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

Thank you for your participation,  
Jason Novetsky  
Head Coach  
2012 15-16U Michigan Red Sox  
586-206-6451  
[jsnovetsky@comcast.net](mailto:jsnovetsky@comcast.net)  
[www.redsoxpride.com](http://www.redsoxpride.com)