**Esterhazy Minor Ball (EMB) – Learn to Play & Rally Cap**

On behalf of Esterhazy Minor Ball, thank you for volunteering your time to coach the Learn to Play or Rally Cap ball team this year. We all know that without the gracious help of volunteers the ball program would not be as strong as it is for Esterhazy.

We have created this document package to make your coaching experience as successful as possible:

* Kids & parents contact information
	+ EMB will provide a list of players/parents contact information
	+ EMB promotes the use of ‘Team Snap’ to organize/schedule your baseball season. We will re-reimburse teams for a 3-month subscription – Keep your receipts and submit them to the EMB board (Treasure).
	+ It is best to reach out to all families asap to introduce yourself and set expectations for the season
* Rally Cap Program
	+ Refer to baseball.ca – Rally Cap for more information on this ball program
	+ Website it equipped with practice layouts and other information.
	+ Esterhazy is not a registered Rally Cap program; we are just following the concept.
	+ With young kids; it is most important to keep the kids engaged – a couple things to consider:
		- Put the kids in small groups
		- Each group is set up to do a different drill (focus on throwing, fielding, running the bases & batting)
		- Rotate the kids often (every 10 min or so)
		- Introduce some fun competitive games to keep everyone having fun and engaged in the game.
		- Playing actual ball games at the young age is not as important as practicing
			* If you decide to do games, just field the infield and keep the other kids working on practice drills
* Equipment requirements
	+ EMB provided equipment:
		- Bats, Back Catchers equipment, helmets (we do not recommend kids sharing helmets), game & practice baseballs
	+ All Players need the following equipment:
		- All kids should wear a hat to practice / games
		- Kids can wear shorts or long athletic type pants
		- Kids need to wear runners or rubber cleats
		- Helmets (EMB recommends that all kids provide their own helmet – hygiene reasons)
	+ EMB has an account set up in Regina – Western Cycle
		- You will receive 10% off baseball purchases
* Coaches, Team Manager & Assistant Coaches
	+ Coaches & Assistant Coaches must provide a current ‘Criminal Record’ to EMB.
		- This can be acquired from the local RCMP office.
	+ Coaches may want to assign a Team Manager to assist with managing Team Snap, organizing events, etc.
	+ Coaches will need help on the field for practices and games – EMB recommends minimum 2-3 assistant coaches
	+ Coaching Clinics – refer to nccp.baseball.ca for available courses / requirements
		- Course listing – Pick Saskatchewan and it will give you a list of locations / dates specific coaching seminars are offered.
	+ Schedule a parent meeting before the league starts to discuss any specific items, set expectations and/or answer questions.
* Game / Practice Days
	+ All practices/games will be played at the PJ Gillen School
	+ Practices Dates
		- Learn to Play & Rally Cap – Mon / Wed
		- Times to be determined by Coaches
	+ EMB recommends kids showing up 15min early before game time – coaches call
	+ Fields will be prepared
	+ In the event of a rainout; use your best judgement when cancelling games – check the weather network radar to assist. Make sure to contact all players.
	+ Post rainfall; ensure the diamonds don’t have any standing water or are dry enough to play on.
* End of Season
	+ Feel free to schedule a team building or year-end wind-up with your team – this is a good task for the Manager. This is entirely up to the team. If you decide to have one, it may be easier to schedule this before the end of the season to avoid summer holiday conflicts.
	+ All equipment must be returned in good condition to the ‘Equipment Coordinator’
		- teams will be responsible for missing equipment (with the exception of a few missing baseballs as we know these may get lost or damaged).
		- If any equipment is damaged throughout the year please contact the EMB equipment coordinator and we will get it replaced.
		- All coaches will be contacted and a date/time will be set to return equipment. Send a designate if the coach cannot make it.
	+ Coach evaluations will be sent out to all parents of their respectable teams to gain valuable feedback and help us continuously improve our ball program in Esterhazy.

On behalf of the EMB board, we wish you a fun & enjoyable ball season!