**Esterhazy Minor Ball (EMB) - Baseball**

On behalf of Esterhazy Minor Ball, thank you for volunteering your time to coach the 11U, 13U, 15U or 18U baseball team this year. We all know that without the gracious help of volunteers the baseball 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’ or the   
    ‘RAMP Team App’ 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
* Equipment requirements
  + EMB provided equipment:
    - Bats, Back Catchers equipment, helmets (we do recommend each kid having their own personal helmets), game & practice baseballs
    - Jerseys
      * Coaches need to keep track of each kids Jersey #
      * No Jerseys to be worn during practice
      * No Jerseys go home with the kids
      * All Jerseys need to be collected at the end of each game, washed & hung to dry (do not use the dryer)
      * This could be a good job for a parent helper or manager
      * Jerseys need to be washed at the end of the season and returned with the equipment.
  + All Players need the following equipment:
    - EMB baseball hats (Parents will need to purchase from EMB)
    - Solid Grey baseball pants are recommended (purchased from any sports store)
    - Plastic or rubber cleats (steel cleats are only allowed for 15U/18U age groups)
    - Helmets (EMB recommends that all kids provide their own helmet – hygiene reasons)
    - Bats – if you are purchasing bats for your kid make sure you purchase the proper bat for their respective age group – refer to Baseball Sask recommendations
      * i.e., 11U , 2 ¾” diameter barrel, -13 length to weight difference
      * 13U, 2 ¾” diameter, -10 Aluminum
      * 15U, 2 ¾” diameter, -3 Aluminum (wood bats can be -7)
      * 18U, 2 ¾” diameter, -3 (wood bats only)
  + EMB has an account set up in Regina – Western Cycle
    - You will receive 10% off baseball purchases
* Umpire
  + Umpires are scheduled by our Umpire coordinator
  + In the event of a game cancellation; you need to contact the Umpire Coordinator and they will notify the respective umpires of any changes or cancellations.
* 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 want help on the field for practices and games – EMB recommends minimum 2 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.
    - There is lots of good information that can help prepare coaches for practices & games.
  + Schedule a parent meeting before the league starts to discuss any specific items, set expectations and/or answer questions.
    - EMB recommends head coach to have your initiation coaching, Teaching & Learning, Pithing & Catching. All coaches should take ‘Respect in Sports’. All clinic costs will be re-reimbursed by EMB.
* Sask Baseball rules (11U, 13U, 15U & 18U)
  + Refer to Baseballsask.ca – Recommend you read this document
    - Section 14 – General Playing Rules
      * 14.01 – Length of Games
      * 14.02 – Pitching Regulations (make sure you understand pitch count rules)
        + Print off Pitch count spreadsheet for your respective age group (baseballsask.ca – pitch count forms). Make sure you print off a few of these and have in equipment bag.
      * 14.03 – Minimum Defensive Innings Regulations
      * 14.04 – Mercy Rules
      * Nine Person Baseball (15U & 18U only)
      * Everyone Bats Rule applies (11U, 13U, 15U)
* Parkland Baseball rules (specific to our league)
  + Coaches must wear pants & shoes/cleats (no sandals or shorts)
  + Before June 1st – No new innings start after 8:00pm
  + After June 1st – No new inning starts after 8:30pm
  + All kids require hats in the field
* League Scheduling meeting
  + EMB home games should be scheduled on Monday & Wednesdays if possible
    - Tuesday/Thursday is girls’ softball – they get priority on these days
    - Atwater Steelers typically play Friday
  + Parkland league scheduling meeting is typically mid-April (check EMB web page) in Yorkton – coaches need to attend
    - All league games with other teams are scheduled at this meeting
    - Make sure you come prepared; know what days don’t work for your kids (i.e., school events, other conflicts, etc)
  + EMB will have their scheduling meeting (the following week)
    - You will need to schedule all home games & practices at this meeting
    - These dates / times will need to be entered in the Esterhazy Minor Ball RAMP webpage
  + Any changes in the schedule must be agreed upon by both teams
    - Umpires must be notified
    - Parkland league needs to be notified
* Game Day
  + EMB recommends kids showing up 45-60min early before game time – coaches call
  + Proper warm up is required to prevent injury – Ensure Pitchers warm up prior to starting game
  + 12 Game balls (85cc) will be provided for each team. Re-use as best as possible; try not to use more than 2 new balls per game. Keep separate from your practice balls so kids don’t accidentally grab them for practice. Cycle old or damaged game balls with the practice ball
    - Don’t use practice balls as game balls.
  + Practice balls will be provided (these are typically a lower grade ball and not intended for game balls)
  + Fields will be dragged, bases put in position & lined by Regional Park
  + Mobile pitcher’s mound will need to be set-up – coach’s responsibility. It is in the C-Can.
    - All coaches will be provided a key to the C-can
  + Player line-up cards must be filled out
    - 1 copy to umpires
    - 1 copy to guest team
    - Keep one for your self
  + Opposing team to keep track of pitch count
    - Ensure you print out pitch count sheets prior to game (2 sheets / home game required)
  + Home team keep score
    - Home team needs to send in final score to Parkland statistician – this is good manager duty.
  + Refer to the Saskatchewan Parkland Minor Baseball League website for all league info:
    - General information
    - Schedule
    - League standings & stats
    - Team contacts
  + Cancelling home Games (try to make this decision by 4pm)
    - Contact the visiting coach (ensuring adequate time for them to contact their respective team players). When giving notice; Take into consideration travel time, warm-up time (45-60 min), and time for them to contact their players.
    - Contact the Umpire Coordinator - so they can cancel umpires
    - Notify the Yorkton Scheduler
    - In the event of a rainout; use your best judgement when cancelling games – check the weather network radar to assist.
    - Post rainfall; ensure the diamonds don’t have any standing water or are dry enough to play on.
  + Re-scheduling games
    - Coordinate this with the other team Coach/manager
    - You must coordinate field availability around the existing schedule.
    - Notify the Yorkton scheduler
    - Notify the Umpire coordinator to ensure you have umps.
  + It is important to develop pitchers; encourage as many kids to pitch – you will need extra pitchers for tournaments (see pitch count rules as per Sask Baseball)
  + Rotate kids as their skillsets allow & never put a kid in a position that isn’t safe
    - i.e., Catching & Pitching are one of the toughest positions
* Practices
  + Need to be scheduled by the Coach – this will be determined at the Esterhazy Scheduling meeting
  + Anything additional or changes must be coordinated within the schedule
    - As a courtesy, please let them know asap if you are cancelling so other teams can book if interested.
* Tournaments
  + It will be up to the Coach or manager to coordinate any tournaments.
    - Landenberg hosts one tournament in June every year
    - Look on Baseballsask.ca for other tournaments; Esterhazy ball is typically ‘A’ caliber baseball. I would avoid ‘AA’ or ‘AAA’ tournaments.
  + If you are interested in hosting a tournament in Esterhazy please let EMB know asap and we can assist with the coordination of this event.
* End of Season
  + The parkland league will ask for volunteers to host the year-end tournament – just let the Parkland coordinator & EMB know if interested.
  + 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!