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

On behalf of Esterhazy Minor Ball, thank you for volunteering your time to coach the U10, U12, U14, U16, or U21 softball team this year. We all know that without the gracious help of volunteers the softball 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
* Equipment requirements
  + EMB provided equipment:
    - Bats, Back Catchers equipment, helmets, game & practice softballs
    - 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:
    - Black pants (purchased from any sports store)
    - Cleats
    - 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
  + 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
  + Schedule a parent meeting before the league starts to discuss any specific items, set expectations and/or answer questions.
* Sask Softball rules – softball.sk.ca
* League Scheduling meeting – Typically 2nd week in April
  + EMB home games should be scheduled on Tuesday & Thursday’s
    - Monday/Wednesday is baseball – they get priority on these days
    - Atwater Steelers typically play Thursdays or Friday
  + EMB has our scheduling meeting typically 3rd week in April
    - You will need to schedule all home games & practices at this meeting
  + Any changes in the schedule must be agreed upon by both teams
    - Umpires must be notified
    - League coordinator needs to be notified
* Game Day
  + EMB recommends kids showing up 30-45 min early before game time – coaches call
  + Proper warm up is required to prevent injury – Ensure Pitchers warm up prior to starting game
  + Game balls 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
  + Home team keep score
  + 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
    - 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
    - Notify the Umpire coordinator to ensure you have umps.
  + It is important to develop pitchers; encourage as many kids to practice pitching and give them an opportunity to pitch in games.
  + 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 around existing schedule
* Tournaments
  + It will be up to the Coach or manager to coordinate any 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
  + 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 softball season!