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2025 PLAYER/PARENT HANDBOOK

**Clippers
Baseball Club**

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PLAYERS TIME EXPECTATIONS

Off Season Practice – (January – April)

- Teams will start practices sometime in January. Most teams will practice two nights a week, one night for hitting and one night for fielding/conditioning.

In Season Commitment – (April – July)

- At the Coaches discretion, games will be scheduled. The amount of practices, games and tournaments during the season is determined by the Coaches. A typical weekly commitment would be one - two games during the week, tournaments on selected weekends, and practices where needed.

Playing Time

- During games, a players time on the field is earned, not guaranteed.
- A player's time on the field will be determined by commitment, ability, and attitude; and is entirely at the coaches' discretion.

ESTIMATED FEES

Dues for the 2025 Season will be \$420 for 7U and 8U teams and \$470 for 9U-14U teams. Families with more than one player in the club will receive a multi-player discount of \$25 per player. Dues may be paid in full or split into 2 payments. If dues are paid in full by October 1st you will receive a \$20 discount. If you choose the 2-payment option, the first payment will be due October 1st and the second payment is due by January 15th. There will be a \$25 late fee applied to past-due payments.

Each family will receive an invoice by email and can pay by credit/debit card, bank transfer, or Cash App. You can also mail a check to the Club directly. Invoices will be sent out by September 1st.

(Funds are released to individual teams once all players have paid. For teams to have sufficient funds to pay for indoor practice space and receive early registration discounts for tournaments we need to have all payments made by January 15th)

Fundraising will be done by the Club to offset expenses such as practice field rental, team banners and State Tournament Entry Fees. Individual teams may also organize fundraisers to cover additional team expenses. Player and family participation in club and team fundraisers is encouraged.

- **Teams pay for practice facilities, umpire fees, tournament and league entry fees, team equipment and insurance.**
- **Clipper Baseball Club covers banner fees, field rental and entry fee to the Clipper Classic and State Tournaments for each team.**

Uniform Cost

Teams can design and order their own uniforms as long as they adhere to the Club's regulations. Efforts should be made to keep uniform costs reasonable.

Additionally, all teams within the club will wear identical hats, which will be ordered through the club. Coordination is essential for uniform orders to ensure they are delivered before team photos, typically scheduled for early April.

State Tournament

Each team will decide if they are going to play in the State Tournament. If your team chooses to go to the State Tournament and it is out of town, hotel accommodations and other travel expenses will be each families responsibility.

All Star Showcase

There may be opportunities for players to participate in All Star Games or Showcases that are sponsored by outside organizations. Nominations for these opportunities are at the discretion of each coach and are not mandatory or guaranteed. Any costs associated with participation is the responsibility of the player, the club does not cover any of the costs.

Annual Player Evaluations

Player evaluations are held after each season to fill teams for the following year. Participation in the current season does not guarantee the player a spot in future seasons. Teams are chosen by coaches based on many factors including skill/ability, attitude, effort and coachability. After evaluations are complete, the coach will give their desired roster to the Club Board and the Club will email out player offers.

Players Code of Conduct

I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth baseball experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Code of Conduct.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship. I understand that bad sportsmanship will not be tolerated.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach as soon as possible if I am unable.
- I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- Harassment/Bullying of any kind (verbal, social or physical) that happens in person or virtually/electronically will not be tolerated.
- I deserve to have fun during my baseball experience and will alert my parents and coaches if it stops being fun!
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and profanity and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

I understand that I am a Clipper Baseball Player on and off the field. I pledge to represent the Clippers Baseball Club in a positive manner at all times.

Parent Code of Conduct

I hereby pledge to be positive about my child's youth baseball experience and accept responsibility for my actions by following this Code of Conduct.

- I will display good sportsmanship by providing positive feedback to my child as well as other team members. I understand that bad sportsmanship will not be tolerated.
- I will not argue with the coaches, umpires, opposition, or other parents.
- I will have my child at practice and games on time and ready to play. I will notify the coach, within a reasonable amount of time, if my child is unable to attend.
- I will discuss team issues with the coach in private, away from players and other parents. This will be done by phone or I will make arrangements to meet with the coach away from the ball fields, and not immediately following practice or games.
- I will let the coaches coach my child while on the field and refrain from yelling instruction from the stands.
- I will do my best to help with any team volunteer opportunities and fundraisers. Children deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and profanity and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events. I understand that Clipper Baseball Club is a competitive league, and playing time is earned, not guaranteed.
- I understand that a violation of the above will result in me being expelled from the premises. My actions may be subject to review by the Board and if the behaviors are repeated or are serious enough, I may be prohibited from attending any Clipper Baseball Club games, practices, or activities at the Board's discretion. If this occurs, I understand that my fees will not be refunded.

I understand that I am a Clipper Baseball Club Parent on and off the field. I pledge to represent the Clippers Baseball Club in a positive manner at all times.

Coaching Code of Conduct

Each coach will ensure that his/her coaching conduct is that of an adult, with the best interests of every ball player and the Clipper Baseball Club. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, each coach is expected to follow this Code of Conduct.

- I will display good sportsmanship by providing positive feedback to all players on my team. I understand that bad sportsmanship will not be tolerated.
- I will instruct team members on the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
- I will ensure the health and safety of all players, including by adhering to all pitch count rules, and in the absence of rules, act in the best interest of player health and longevity regardless of the situation.
- I will act at all times to protect the principles of fun, safety, and development of all athletes.
- I will respect the umpires and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner.
- I will ensure that the players and spectators follow game and practice facility rules and regulations. I will also ensure that fans of this team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game/practice sites; and will assist the umpires in maintaining control of spectators during the games.
- I will respect the coaches, players, and parents of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at its conclusion, win or lose.
- I will maintain control of my emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating. Use of foul or abusive language in the vicinity of players is not permitted.
- I realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship.
- Children deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and profanity and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- If I choose to not continue coaching I will inform my team, parents, and the Clipper Baseball Club Board of Directors by July 1st. I will help ensure a smooth transition of the team to a new head coach and will return all equipment purchased by the team or the Clipper Baseball Club to the club president at the conclusion of the season.
- I agree to abide by this Coach Code of Conduct of the Clipper Baseball Club and understand that any violation of these rules may result in disciplinary action against me at the sole discretion of the Clipper Baseball Club Board of Directors. I also understand that if I am ejected from a contest, the situation will be subject to review by the Clipper Baseball Club Board of Directors and may result in my removal as a coach for the rest of the season.

I understand that I am a Clipper Baseball Club Coach on and off the field. I pledge to represent the Clippers Baseball Club in a positive manner at all times.

Parents, please take a minute to read this! This is a great letter with an outstanding message for all of us who support, play, and coach, the game. I know it is a lengthy piece, but it is very thought provoking.

Mike Matheny Letter To Parents

Message from Kevin Seitzer - Mike Matheny is a former St. Louis Cardinals catcher and manager. Mike lived with me in Milwaukee his rookie year. He's one of the most respected, wonderful people you will ever be around. Mike coached his kids after retirement and this is a letter to the parents on his team. This may be the BEST letter I've ever read regarding youth baseball and is exactly what "The Mac-N-Seitz Way" is all about. Please enjoy and help us get there!

Letter from Mike Matheny.....

I always said that the only team that I would coach would be a team of orphans, and now here we are. The reason for me saying this is that I have found the biggest problem with youth sports has been the parents. I think that it is best to nip this in the bud right off the bat. I think the concept that I am asking all of you to grab is that this experience is ALL about the boys. If there is anything about it that includes you, we need to make a change of plans. My main goals are as follows:

1. To teach these young men how to play the game of baseball the right way
2. To be a positive impact on them as young men, and
3. Do all of this with class.

We may not win every game, but we will be the classiest coaches, players, and parents in every game we play. The boys are going to play with a respect for their teammates, opposition, and the umpires no matter what. With that being said, I need to let you know where I stand. I have no hidden agenda. I have no ulterior motive other than what I said about my goals.

I also need all of you to know that my priorities in life will most likely be a part of how I coach, and the expectations I have for the boys. My Christian faith is the guide for my life and I have never been one for forcing my faith down someone's throat, but I also believe it to be cowardly, and hypocritical to shy away from what I believe. You as parents need to know for yourselves and for your boys, that when the opportunity presents itself, I will be honest with what I believe. That may make some people uncomfortable, but I did that as a player, and I hope to continue it in any endeavor that I get into. I am just trying to get as many potential issues out in the open from the beginning. I believe that the biggest role of the parent is to be a silent source of encouragement. I think if you ask most boys what they would want their parents to do during the game; they would say "NOTHING". Once again, this is ALL about the boys. I believe that a little league parent feels that they must participate with loud cheering and "Come on, let's go, you can do it", which just adds more pressure to the kids. I will be putting plenty of pressure on these boys to play the game the right way with class, and respect, and they will put too much pressure on themselves and each other already. You as parents need to be the silent, constant, source of support.

Let the record stand right now that we will not have good umpiring. This is a fact, and the sooner we all understand that, the better off we will be. We will have balls that bounce in the dirt that will be called strikes, and we will have balls over our heads that will be called strikes. Likewise, the opposite will happen with the strike zone while we are pitching. The boys will not be allowed at any time to show any emotion against the umpire. They will not shake their head, or pout, or say anything to the umpire. This is my job, and I will do it well. I once got paid to handle those guys, and I will let them know when they need to hear something. I am really doing all of you parents a favor that you probably don't realize at this point. I have taken out any work at all for you except to get them there on time, and enjoy. The thing that these boys need to hear is that you enjoyed watching them and you hope that they had fun. I know that it is going to be very hard not to coach from the stands and yell encouraging things to your son, but I am confident that this works in a negative way for their development and their enjoyment. Trust me on this. I am not saying that you cannot clap for your kids when they do well.

I am saying that if you hand your child over to me to coach them, then let me do that job.

A large part of how your child improves is your responsibility. The difference for kids at this level is the amount of repetition that they get. This goes with pitching, hitting and fielding. As a parent, you can help out tremendously by playing catch, throwing batting practice, hitting ground balls, or finding an instructor who will do this in your place. The more of this your kids can get, the better. This is the one constant that I have found with players that reached the major leagues. Someone spent time with them away from the field.

I am completely fine with your son getting lessons from whomever you see fit. The only problem I will have is if your instructor is telling your son not to follow the plan of the team. I will not teach a great deal of mechanics at the beginning, but I will teach mental approach, and expect the boys to comply. If I see something that your son is doing mechanically that is drastically wrong, I will talk with the instructor and clear things up. The same will hold true with pitching coaches. We will have a pitching philosophy and will teach the pitchers and catchers how to call a game, and why we choose the pitches we choose. There is no guessing. We will have a reason for the pitches that we throw. A pitching coach will be helpful for the boys to get their arms in shape and be ready to throw when spring arrives. Every boy on this team will be worked as a pitcher. We will not over use these young arms and will keep close watch on the number of innings that the boys are throwing.

I will be throwing so much info at these boys that they are going to suffer from overload for a while, but eventually they are going to get it. I am a stickler about the thought process of the game. I will be talking non-stop about situational hitting, situational pitching, and defensive preparation. The question that they are going to hear the most is "What were you thinking?" What were you thinking when you threw that pitch? What were you thinking during that at bat? What were you thinking before the pitch was thrown, were you anticipating anything? I am a firm believer that this game is more mental than physical, and the mental may be more difficult, but can be taught and can be learned by a 10 and 11 year old. If it sounds like I am going to be demanding of these boys, you are exactly right. I am definitely demanding their attention, and the other thing that I am going to require is

Their attitude, their concentration, and their effort are the things that they can control. If they give me these things every time they show up, they will have a great experience.

The best situation for all of us is for you to plan on handing these kids over to me and the assistant coaches when you drop them off, and plan on them being mine for the 2 or so hours that we have scheduled for a game, or the time that we have scheduled for the practice. I would like for these boys to have some responsibility for having their own water, not needing you to keep running to the concession stand, or having parents behind the dugout asking their son if they are thirsty, or hungry, or too hot, and I would appreciate if you would share this information with other invited guests .. like grandparents. If there is an injury, obviously we will get you to help, but besides that, let's pretend that they are at work for a short amount of time and that you have been granted the pleasure of watching. I will have them at games early so we can get stretched and loosened up, and I will have a meeting with just the boys after the game. After the meeting, they are all yours again. As I am writing this, I sound like the little league Nazi, but I believe that this will make things easier for everyone involved.

I truly believe that the family is the most important institution in the lives of these guys. With that being said, I think that the family events are much more important than the sports events. I just ask that you are considerate of the rest of the team and let the team manager, and myself know when you will miss, and to let us know as soon as possible. I know that there will be times when I am going to miss either for family reasons, for other commitments. If your son misses a game or a practice, it is not the end of the world, but there may be some sort of repercussion, just out of respect for the kids that put the effort into making it. The kind of repercussions could possibly be running, altered playing time, or position in the batting order.

Speaking of batting order, I would like to address that right from the top as well seeing that next to playing time this is the second most complained about issue, or actually tied for second with position on the defensive field. Once again, I need you to know that I am trying to develop each boy individually, and I will give them a chance to learn and play any position that they are interested in.

I also believe that this team will be competitive and when we get into situations where we are focusing on winning; like a tournament for example; we are going to put the boys in the position that will give the team the best opportunity. I will talk with the boys individually and have them tell me what their favorite position is and what other position they would like to learn about. As this season progresses, there is a chance that your son may be playing a position that they don't necessarily like, but I will need your support about their role on the team. I know that times have changed, but one of the greatest lessons that my father taught me was that my coach was always right...even when he was wrong. The principle is a great life lesson about how things really work. I hope that I will have enough humility to come to your son if I treated him wrong and apologize. Our culture has lost this respect for authority mostly because the kids hear the parents constantly complaining about the teachers and coaches of the child.

I need all of you to know that we are most likely going to lose many games this year. The main reason is that we need to find out how we measure up with the local talent pool. The only way to do this is to play against some of the best teams. I am convinced that if the boys put their work in at home, and give me their best effort, that we will be able to play with just about any team. Time will tell. I also believe that there is enough local talent that we will not have to do a large amount of travel, if any. This may be disappointing for those of you who only play baseball and look forward to the out of town experiences, but I also know that this is a relief for the parents that have traveled throughout the US and Canada for hockey and soccer looking for better competition. In my experiences, we have traveled all over the Midwest and have found just as good competition right in our back yard. If this season goes well, we will entertain the idea of travel in the future.

The boys will be required to show up ready to play every time they come to the field. Shirts tucked in, hats on straight, and pants not drooping down to their knees. There is not an excuse for lack of hustle on a baseball field. From the first step outside the dugout they will hustle. They will have a fast jog to their position, to the plate, and back to the bench when they make an out. We will run out every hit harder than any team we will play, and will learn how to always back up a play to help our teammates.

Every single play, every player will be required to move to a spot. Players that do not hustle and run out balls will not play. The boys will catch on to this quickly. The game of baseball becomes very boring when players are not thinking about the next play and what they possibly could do to help the team. Players on the bench will not be messing around. I will constantly be talking with them about situations and what they would be doing if they were in a specific position, or if they were the batter. There is as much to learn on the bench as there is on the field if the boys want to learn. All of this will take some time for the boys to conform to. They are boys and I am not trying to take away from that, but I do believe that they can bear down and concentrate hard for just a little while during the games and practices. I know this works because this was how I was taught the game and how our parents acted in the stands. We started our little league team when I was 10 years old in a little suburb of Columbus, Ohio. We had a very disciplined coach that expected the same from us. We committed 8 summers to this man and we were rewarded for our efforts. I went to Michigan, one went to Duke, one to Miami of Florida, two went to North Carolina, one went to Central Florida, one went to Kent State, and most of the others played smaller division one or division two baseball. Four of us went on to play professionally. This was coming from a town where no one had ever been recruited by any colleges. I am not saying that this is what is going to happen to our boys, but what I do want you to see is that this system works. I know that right now you are asking yourself if this is what you want to get yourself into and I understand that for some of you it may not be the right fit. I also think that there is a great opportunity for these boys to grow together and learn some lessons that will go beyond their baseball experience. Let me know as soon as possible whether or not this is a commitment that you and your son want to make.

Thanks, Mike Matheny



**Let's Have a Great
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