



Academy Athletics Baseball and Softball Program guidelines

Thank you for considering the Academy Athletics Baseball and Softball program. We appreciate your time and look forward to making the relationship as rewarding as we can for the players, families and staff alike.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Academy Athletics teams are designed to provide a challenging environment where each of the players is tested both physically and mentally to take their game to the next level. We will have a diverse group of professional coaches to help us assist each player. The program is designed so that they will be:

“Confident in their game”
”Competent in their ability”
”Mentally prepared to endure a competitive environment”

PROGRAM:

Acceptance into the program is accomplished by tryout, recommendation, or prior knowledge of the player. Each player will be evaluated for skill level, speed & agility, enthusiasm, and attitude. Performance base line statistics will be recorded and posted on the player's web page. These measurements will be checked at different times through out the process, posted, and compared. You will see progress.

The professional coaching staff will be compensated. Coaches will have many organizational obligations and will be held accountable for the training & development of their players. There will be no favoritism-one player will not be given preferential treatment over another. There will be players who choose to do extra and we are here to support that work ethic. Let's face it, since this program is more about life than sports, usually in life a person is rewarded for working hard. If your player is not able or willing to work and train hard this may not be the program for them.

The academy's goal is to ensure that the skills being taught to Academy members are uniform and consistent. The summer coaches will be trained and compensated as well as under contract with the organization. They will be held to a higher standard than normal. There will be "NO" favoritism shown to an individual player including their child. If that happens it will be addressed with the VP of Baseball Operations and then of course the Commissioner if a resolution can not be found.

CODE OF ETHICS AND STANDARDS

Coaches and staff

Our primary goal is to foster the development and skills of each individual player to maximize their performance as much as possible;

- All coaches and staff of the facility will conduct themselves professionally and in a positive manner while interacting with players both male and female. Our intent is to have several female coaches to assist in the training of the girls. However, parents need to be prepared to attend practices or games etc if you are concerned about the interactions of the coaches.
- All coaches will actively promote inclusion, fairness, fun, and equal treatment of all players.
- Maintain the integrity of the program by adhering to All American Sports Academy and Academy Athletics mission, policies, procedures, rules, and safety policies at all times.
- We will not baby the players. Coaches will be instructed to be tough but fair. We want to take this program and its players to tournaments and win. We will accomplish this by pushing the kids past what they are used to and holding them to a standard that they might be uncomfortable at first.

PLAYERS:

- Must be prepared to work hard.
- Silliness will be tolerated to a point, if it starts to detract from the goal it needs to stop.
- Respect all! Players need to respect there coaches and families. Players will be taught that there parent's support of this program is a big deal and they should take advantage of the opportunity.
- Respect and enjoy your teammates. You may not have friends on the particular team and that may not be what you are used to. We want the best kids on the teams that we can get. Learn about your teammates, make sure that you include them in conversations, and share your stories and jokes.
- Do not use other player's equipment with out asking. Bats are expensive and using a bat without permission and breaking it could be a huge loss to a family.
- Always bring a good attitude to the practice and or games. It will go a lot better for everyone. If you feel that you can not compete on any given day, tell the coach. Do not let him put you in and you don't think you can perform.
- You can be upset that you are not performing up to standard. Everyone has a bad day, a bad at bat, makes an error, etc. **Get angry at yourself that is ok**, take this game seriously, but do not under any circumstance throw a bat, helmet, glove or other items. **You will receive one warning and one warning only!** You will be dismissed for the day. This is not negotiable.

Parents:

Some simple rules for the families:

- Please have your players at the practice or games at the specified times. Practices should be 10 – 15 minutes early and games will be 1 hour. That way we are ready to go at the appropriate times.
- If you are late your player needs to be ready to go. We will not wait. If late to a game they probably will not start. We want to teach the kids that they need to be prepared.
- Your player will be issued a pair of shorts and a t shirt for the winter practices. This is what they are required to wear and will have it on when they get here. If your player does not have them or is dressed differently than the rest of the players they will be required to

sit out the practice. They can support the team from the bench. (Exception – there are times at the Academy where it is cold. We understand this and if the kids need some sweats to get warmed up that is fine).

- Water will be supplied for the kids and there is a water fountain. Please do not chase your kid around to give them a Gatorade or whatever. They will be cared for and you do not need to get involved. Relax, enjoy the show and let's teach the kids some responsibility.
- Games: While we certainly understand that there are different age groups involved, some more mature than others, all of that will be taken into consideration when the rules are made and enforced. However some general guidelines.

- 1) Please make sure that your player is ready to go. They will be excited and so will we.
- 2) Send them to the dugout and leave them to the coach. If you want to send them with a little cooler please do that. In the meantime please stay away from the dugouts. We will be trying to teach the kids what to look for in the other team like pitches, positions etc. Some of the silliness needs to be curbed. Everything and Everyday is another training opportunity.
- 3) If a medical emergency occurs I am sure that everyone will be upset, concerned and rushed. No one wants to see their kid hurt! Please take a deep breath and try to realize that it will be ok. All of the teams will have first aid kits and usually that takes care of it. Most of the big facilities have a first aid station or trainer available. If something more than that is needed an emergency room is usually within a couple of miles.
- 4) Playing time is not guaranteed. Hard work and dedication will be rewarded and everyone will be given a chance or two or three. No player will sit for games at a time. The coaches will have to have a plan and need to be given some time to work the plan. If there is a discipline issue your child will probably sit until it can be corrected. I want it known that no player will be prosecuted for making an error! If they choose to not hustle, show effort or just have a bad attitude that is far worse than a player that is going all out and made a mistake.
- 5) The coaches aren't perfect and they will make mistakes, make wrong calls, and send someone home that doesn't make it and hopefully nothing worse than that. Please, Please, Please remember that they are human to and we all make mistakes. There will be a lot of eyes on the manager and coach of the team. We are a new program that is going to go out and try to make some noise. Give the coaches a chance and if they make a mistake they on the whole will be more upset than you are. Give them a chance. You can call them in the morning when everyone calms down. If you have issues and have talked to the manager of the team then it is time to up the chain. We will listen, we want the feedback, but please do not get in someone's face and start screaming, especially in front of the kids.
- 6) Please do not scream and yell instructions to the field from the stands or sidelines. It has been proven time and time again that the younger players hear your voice and out of respect will turn or try to acknowledge your instruction. You are there parents and life blood. Of course they are going to react. However it is the coach that they need to listen to. In the heat of the play there is really very little that you can do to assist your kid. We all want them to succeed. Remember that "Every situation is also a training opportunity". We need to teach the kids about that play, what was good and what was bad.
- 7) We as a new organization need to get the reputation for being a group that is under control, handle there business professionally, respectfully and win or loose

graciously. In the long run it will help with getting calls, help us get into tournaments more easily and generally help us when we try to help the kids on the scholarship path. College coaches that come to watch a game see everything!!!! The will assess your kid for years before they say anything to the coach about your player.

CHAIN OF COMMAND:

This is an important section and will be followed by all persons.

First contact is your Manager of the team. Most likely this manager will be a dad or mom from the team.

Second contact if you are not able to resolve your concerns will be to go to the VP of Operations for your division. (It is planned that both VP's will have teams also. If there is a conflict then the Asst. Commissioner or the Commissioner will step in and handle the situation) All of this info will always be on the website and is easily accessible.

Third contact: Assistant Commissioner.

Last contact: The Commissioner of the league. Only the most severe of issues should get here.

LOCATION OF FACILITIES:

All American Sports Academy is the home base of the organization. Our address is

Academy Athletics, Inc.
801 Elkton Boulevard
Elkton, Maryland 21921.
410-392-0009

Additionally, we will be using a large grassed area attached to our building and have made arrangements to use a local field that is within walking distance. We are currently looking for more fields that can be made available to us for outdoor practices etc.

Winter Training:

Our winter training program will be held at the Academy. Our current plan is that we will be providing 20 weeks of winter training. We are planning on 4 hours a week of training for each player. This will be broken out to specialty areas but for the most part the training will be done as a team. There will also be additional time for the pitchers and catchers required. Besides the regular training listed we will be doing a chalk talk series with the kids. These will be informational sessions that will teach the kids more about the game and give them background information on why things are done a certain way.

Speed and Agility work: Dr. Michael Higgins, PHD, Kinesiology, Sports Performance Group. Dr. Mike and his group of trainers include Jason Beaulieu. Jason is the head strength and conditioning coach at the University of Delaware and is responsible for the over 600 athletes at the college. The additional trainers are Jay's associates from the school.

Pitching (Boys): Brian Honeycutt will be handling the pitching duties. Brian is an Ex Royal pitcher and will be setting schedules for the players. In association with Dr. Mike the two coaches will be providing a comprehensive plan for the pitchers strength and development of young pitching arms.

Hitting: We have Ty Gainey (Ex Astro) and are expecting the return of Derrick May (Ex 12 year pro and current AA hitting coordinator for the Cardinals). Both gentlemen exceptionally qualified.

Catching: We have Eddie Lynch. Ed is an Ex pro catcher in the Pirates organization. Ed is also the Manager of the 18U Maryland Legends girl's team that is responsible for approx 75 scholarships for the players from the team. In fact every girl that caught for Ed has gotten a scholarship to college.

Fielding: We will be using several different coaches for this area. Ed Lynch, Chuck Henze, and some guest coaches will be handling these duties. We will be covering off not only the basics of fielding but also specialty work and of course position work.

Outfield: While a specialist in nature the outfielders will be trained not only for there positions but also with the regular fielders. Both need to be able to make plays both on the ground and in the air.

Pitching (Girls): Danny Grove and Chuck Henze will be taking care of this. Additionally we will bring in College girls from the local colleges to not only demonstrate but to provide specialty pitch help.

Nutrition: We have a PHD Nutritionist that is available on a consulting basis.

PRIVATE LESSONS:

All of the coaches are available for private lessons as well. If there is a particular coach that you would like your player to work with arrangements will be made. Private lessons are \$40.00 per half hour session and can be arranged thru the Academy. Please remember that while the coaches will be available for some discussion thru out the day, they have the teams to deal with and don't have a lot of time for questions. We all are paying them by the hour to be here. They are not volunteers. Please limit the amount of questions or make arrangements to sit down with them privately thru the Academy.

Winter work out dates:

Dates for the weeks of training will be as follows:
Training will start the first Sunday of November and with the exception of two weeks off at Christmas will continue thru the end of March. This will give the players plenty of time to be prepared for the spring high school season as well.

PRICING FOR THE ACADEMY ATHLETICS BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PROGRAM!

Winter work outs: \$725.00.

Spring and summer tournaments: (Approx 6 tournaments plus additional games) \$760.00.

First payment of \$495.00 is due when player is signed up and accepted on to a team.

Second payment of \$495.00 will be due when the training starts the first week of November.

Third payment of \$495.00 is due the first week of December.

All fees must be paid for by the second week of December. Reasoning being that the coaches will be paid each week and we are looking at over \$50,000.00 in tournament fees. These fees are due in full when you register for a tournament. This is a commitment.

We will do one (1) fundraiser for the organization. We will do the discount cards that are sold for 10 dollars each card. Each player will be given 25 of the cards to sell. That will generate approx \$250.00 per player. That money will be split in half with half going to the player's personal account and half going to the organization. The money in your account can then be used for additional hats, shirts etc or just put toward your fees.

Additional fundraisers for the team:

In order for the teams to succeed and reduce the amount of money that each family has to pay to participate each and every team will be given the opportunity to do separate fundraisers in coordination with the organization. All money generated at these additional "team" fundraisers will be divided to the individual player's accounts that participated in the fundraiser. In other words if the team gets together and organizes a tagging event and raises \$500.00 and 5 players participated in the event then \$100.00 will be credited into the 5 individual players accounts reducing the money that is owed by that family.

Lastly we have a large facility that is capable of doing all kinds of events. Be creative and we will listen and help with anything that we can to help the teams raise money. Events have to be booked thru the Academy and are separate from Academy Athletics.

If all of the registration / participation tuition has been paid and the player has surplus dollars in there account we can not issue a check to the family. We are a non-profit and that is illegal. We can however keep the money in the account and supply you additional gear, hats or just keep it for tuition for next year.

FORMS/PAPERWORK

During the registration process for any of the players the following forms will need to be on file. The information will remain on file in a folder for your player. The forms will be available on line and can be printed and filled out to save time at the registration period. Please go to the website and get the forms click here [Academy Athletics registration forms](#).

- **Academy Athletics 2010 registration form**
- **All American Sports Academy / Academy Athletics release waiver 2010**
- **Medical Release/Emergency Information Form / Medication Form (optional)**
- **Player Conduct Agreement Form 2010**
- **We will also need copies of Birth Certificates**
- **Medial Insurance cards if child is covered.**

Please ensure that your child's forms are filled out completely and either brought to the Academy during the tryout / registration days or during the week at the Academy. Due to the costs of processing credit cards we would appreciate checks or cash.

Checks should be made out to Academy Athletics, Inc. Additionally, with cash you will receive a receipt for the money from Academy Athletics, Inc. If you want to use a credit card we will charge 3% for the fees associated with the card. We just don't have a choice, this is a non-profit and the money is tightly controlled. If we loose \$10,000 in credit card fees we have to make up that money up from somewhere.

REFUNDS

No refunds will be given after the registration. (Exception below)

The only exception to the no refund policy is if a player is injured. If that happens the Commissioner may authorize a refund. If a refund is issued, it will be prorated for the length of time and commitments that the team has made as of the date.

PHOTO AND PRESS RELEASES

We have provided a photo release for general photos of the players and coaches to be used for promotional and or web site use. All photos will be of a general nature of the daily activities. Additionally there are parts of the building that are video recorded for the safety of all persons using the Academy. These cameras operate 24 / 7 and at no time are these cameras able to view any private areas of the facility. If you do not choose to sign the photo release we can not guarantee that your child will not be photographed either by a digital still camera, video camcorder or one of the security cameras. All photos will be made available for review on the website. If you choose to not have a particular picture viewed, please contact administration and every effort will be made to remove the photo from display as quickly as we can.

Thank you for taking a look at our program. While we understand that this is a financial commitment, we believe that we are offering the most complete program available. We have listened to families and believe that we have put together the program that hopefully will answer many of the families concerns with other programs.

Thank you and please give us a chance to help your player EXCEL!

Chuck Henze, Commissioner