

Hello Head Coaches.

Thank you very much for volunteering to be a Head Coach in our **2021 Little League Baseball** program. I'm happy to welcome you and your team to our upcoming season.

If we haven't already met, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Steve Schellman. I am the Program Manager of Youth Sports for JC Parks. I look forward to working with you.

I also want to thank you for coaching and volunteering your time to mentor young kids. That is a very noble gesture. Personally, I've found coaching to be very rewarding and a great way to make a difference in our community.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with quality information so you are well-informed and well-prepared as a coach.

I have broken it down into the various topics below:

League Website Information:

I assume you have already received all the info. you need from our league website (linked above). If not, please refer back to it or let me know if you have questions.

Team Rosters:

I sent your roster to you via email on **March 8** in an Excel spreadsheet with everything you need, including contact info. for parents. Please contact all parents by **March 9**. If you add Assistant Coaches, please make sure they register online at [this link](#) so they can submit a background check, their jerseys size, etc. The link above will take you to a website by Blue Sombrero/Sports Connect. You can have up to 3 Assistant Coaches who will each receive a jersey and hat.

Background Check:

We require **all Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches** to submit their information for an online criminal background check, through JDP, as part of the Little League Baseball registration process. All of this is coordinated through JDP. You should have received an email from JDP on March 8. If there are any issues, I will let you know.

Team Equipment:

JC Parks will supply each team with team equipment including a set of catcher's gear (except the mitt), practice baseballs, 1-2 team bats, and about 6 helmets. Players are free to wear their own helmets or use their own gear too. We will conduct an **Equipment-Check Out on Fri. March 12 from 12-1 PM at the back of the Ice Arena** (where we store all of our equipment). From Missouri Blvd. take Michigan St., go about 3 blocks, then turn right on Louisiana Ave., go about 1 block, then park by the tennis courts and walk to the back door of the ice arena. There will not be an alternate time for this, so if you are not able to come, please send an Assistant Coach or Team Parent. We require a \$150 deposit to check out equipment. You must give me a credit card number, expiration date, and 3 digit code from the back of the card or a check for \$150. The card will not be charged and the check will not be cashed unless the equipment is not returned or is badly damaged beyond normal wear and tear. Please make checks payable to "JC Parks."

Individual Equipment/Gear:

We do not provide baseball pants, belts, baseball gloves, cleats/spikes, etc.

Practices:

Here are our policies and procedures for any of our Little League Baseball teams who would like to use our fields for pre-season practices as a thank you for being in our league.

- You can reserve our 5 fields at Binder Sports Complex for FREE, as long as they are available.
 - We are not offering practices at any of our other JC Parks fields, including 63 Diamonds and Optimist Sports Complexes.
- Pre-Season only, from March 15 to April 18. First games are April 19.
- Limit of TWO 90-minute practices per team, per week, to help accommodate the demand.
- Time slots are 5:30-7:00 PM and 7:00-8:30 PM on weeknights. Weekend time slots start at 8:30 AM.
- Beginning **March 8**, you may call the front desk at The Linc at 573-634-6482 from Mon-Fri., 8 AM-5 PM to make a practice reservation.
- Please reserve practices under the Head Coach's name.
- Bathrooms will be unlocked and available.
- Bases and portable pitching mounds will not be provided.
- We will try to drag the infields each day if possible. Baselines/batter's boxes will not be provided.
- You do not need to check out a key. The fields will be unlocked.
- We will set the lights to come on and turn off automatically by remote.
- We do not have batting cages at Binder.
 - **Binder Sports Complex:**
 - 400 Binder Lake Rd., Jefferson City, MO 65109.
 - 5 fields
 - Wisch, Williams, & Kremer fields (on the west side of the road) renovated in 2018.
 - Base distances are 70 feet max, so recommended for **ages 9 to 12.**
 - Byrd & Scott fields (on the east side of the road)
 - Base distances are 80 feet max on Scott & 90 feet max on Byrd, so recommended for **ages 13-14.**
 - All fences are 300 feet.

Game Schedules/Conflicts/Special Requests:

Game schedules will be released as soon as possible at teamsideline.com/jeffersoncity. This usually takes at least 2-4 weeks. If you have any schedule conflicts or special requests please email me ASAP. The game schedule is much easier to change before it is published, rather than after. I will try to accommodate all requests, but can't make any guarantees.

Cancellation Text Alerts:

I will send text messages for cancellations in case of inclement weather. In order for anyone to begin receiving texts, they will first need to text the keyword **All2021tshq21528** to **334-310-2497**. Everyone should have received an email on March 8 to do this. For cancellations, an email will also be sent to coaches & parents. We usually make a decision on cancellations at about 3 PM. Please do not call us, we will notify you.

COVID 19 Baseball/Softball Guidelines:

These guidelines (linked above) shall be followed by all teams, coaches, players, parents, and fans when participating in all baseball/softball games at any JC Parks fields. The cooperation of everyone involved will prove critical in helping to ensure compliance.

League Rules:

Complete league rules (linked above) are on our Little League Baseball website. Please take the time to become very familiar with the league rules for your age division.

Playing Time:

Please note, as part of our League Rules, that minimum playing time per player is 6 consecutive outs on defense & 1 At-Bat per game. If this rule is not followed it will result in a forfeit by the offending team.

Score/Standings & Awards:

Score and standings are kept for all age divisions on the TeamSideline site along with the game schedules. We will give out awards (most likely, trophies) to the winning teams at the League Tournament.

League Tournament:

Our League Tournament is **June 18-20, with June 25-27** reserved for rain make-up. This is mandatory for all players and team. Please remind the parents to keep these dates open.

All-Stars:

If selected, All-Stars pay an additional fee (typically \$100) and play in a weekend District tournament (usually in Columbia, MO) in early-mid July. Winners can advance to State and Regional tournaments and the international Little League World Series (on ESPN) in July and August. All-Stars also receive a special jersey with their name on the back. We will select All-Stars about mid-season.

Facility Supervisors:

A Facility Supervisor will be on-site at each complex. The Facility Supervisors wear bright-colored shirts with the JC Parks logo so you can spot them easily. If you need any assistance, please talk to them. Please report all emergencies, accidents, incidents, etc. to them ASAP.

Scorekeepers/Scorecards:

We need one volunteer between the two teams to run the scoreboard. The Facility Supervisor will hand out the wireless remotes to run the scoreboard. Each team is also responsible for supplying one volunteer for each game to keep a scorebook (paper or online). Umpires will confer with both teams often to make sure the score is accurate. The umpires will also keep score each half inning on a scorecard. At the end of each game, a coach from each team will need to verify the accuracy of the scorecard and sign it.

Team Jerseys & Hats:

Each player and coach will receive a MLB-replica jersey and Little League hat. I will notify you when they arrive, usually about 1 week before the season starts, so you can come pick them up at The Linc and distribute them to your teams. The jersey sizes come from the online registration. The hats are flex-fit.

Jewelry:

For player safety, jewelry (ear rings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.) is not allowed while playing.

Game Baseballs:

JC Parks will supply all game balls at no cost to teams. Each team is responsible for retrieving game balls on their side of the field and making sure they get back to the umpires.

Sportsmanship:

Everyone must always use good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all coaches, players, parents, and fans. Head Coaches are responsible for the behavior of everyone associated with their team. We have a zero tolerance policy and will not tolerate poor sportsmanship from anyone. Consequences will include ejections, suspensions, removal from the league and any means necessary to ensure the kids have a safe, fun, and enjoyable youth sports experience.

Please also respect your opponent and do not run up the score. Please sub different kids in at various defensive positions to help keep the score more competitive when needed.

Umpires:

JC Parks will provide two trained and experienced umpires for each game. We have a great team of hard-working and dedicated umpires. Everyone must be considerate and respectful in all interactions with the umpires.

Pre-Game Meeting:

15 minutes before the start of each game (especially the first game of the night) the two umpires and the Head Coach from each team will meet at home plate for a Pre-Game Meeting. The designations for home and away teams are listed on the games schedule so no coin flip is needed. During this meeting, the umpires will explain the ground rules for the field and answer any questions coaches may have regarding the league rules. The Home Plate umpire will then let both Head Coaches know:

1. Any poor sportsmanship by anyone associated with their team will not be tolerated.
2. Head Coaches are responsible for anyone associated with their team and will be held accountable for it.
3. All interactions with the umpire need to come exclusively through the Head Coach.
4. Any calls made by the umpire, especially balls & strikes, will not be argued by anyone.
5. Consider this conversation a warning. Any violation of these rules will result in an immediate ejection from the game and suspension from the league.
6. Compliance with these rules will help ensure the kids have a safe, fun, and enjoyable youth sports experience.

At the conclusion of the Pre-Game Meeting, the official game start time will be announced by the umpires.

Survey:

At the end of each season, we will email a brief (3-5 minutes, 7-8 questions) online survey to all coaches and parents. Please take the time to offer us constructive feedback so we can continue to improve all aspect of our operations and service.

Questions:

I hope this information has been helpful and has answered all of your questions. Please let me know if you have additional questions or need assistance at any time.

Thanks:

Thanks again for coaching and thank you for your time and efforts as we all work together to provide a safe, fun, and enjoyable youth sport experience for the kids in our community.

Sincerely,

Steve Schellman
JC Parks
Program Manager of Youth Sports
Certified Youth Sports Administrator (CYSA)
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