



CITY OF FORT LUPTON

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THANK YOU! We couldn't do this with out you!

After Today's Meeting

- Email the sports coordinator – jpryor@fortlupton.org
- When you receive rosters please call your parents when it's convenient for you within in a couple of days.
- Let them know your practice times and locations. Make sure you speak with the parent and not the child.
- Give them your contact information – home phone, cell phone, email, and other pertinent information.
- Recruit additional help if needed: team parent, assistant coach, parents, sons, daughters or neighbors etc.
- Please consider that many of the youth are currently involved in our spring sports – many teams will be done by the weekend of May 9th. T-ball & Coach Pitch Teams may start after May 10th.

Parent's Meeting

- Please hold a parents meeting before your practices and games get underway.
 - Be open, honest, and flexible.
 - Inform the parents of the information in this manual and let them know your expectations of them and their children in the upcoming season.
 - Have FUN!
 - Help us Help you – please pick up all trash from your bench and spectator areas BEFORE and AFTER all practices and games! ***It is YOUR PARK – KEEP IT CLEAN!***
 - Pearson Park Rules – ***NO SMOKING, NO PETS, NO ALCOHOL*** these will not be allowed or tolerated. Pet owners will be asked to remove pets from the park.
 - Be respectful to our sports department workers – All Umpires, Concession Stand, and Field Supervisors.
 - Keep your children safe! Last year there were many accidents and injuries that could have been prevented if parents would have kept an eye on their children.
 - Be mindful of the parking situation! – additional parking is available along the north side of the facility.
 - Introduce your philosophies – importance of recreation focused on skill development and fun
 - Stress to them the importance of their children attending all practices and games, and that there may be consequences if they do not show up.
 - Hand out game schedules and let them know your probable practice times – email
- Please designate a 'team parent' to help you call everyone if games are cancelled or you must cancel practices. They can also help arrange treat schedules or anything else you decide to do with your team.
- Youth sports are not successful without parental involvement, so take advantage of their assistance.
- Please inform the sports coordinator with all assistant coach and team mom or dad contact information.

In order to build our umpire pool we are asking the Coach Pitch teams to bring one youth to each game to volunteer/get experience being a field ump. If youths cannot be brought to the game then non-bias parents will need to work the field ump position.

Goals and Purpose for Youth Sports

- Provide programs for all youth of Fort Lupton to enjoy regardless of race, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, or any other factors as a service to the community.
- To provide programs that promotes learning, participation and fun first and competition second.
- Provide programs that are safe and enjoyable.
- To EXPECT that good sportsmanship and fair play is the standard behavior by coaches, players, and parents.
- To teach the participants the skills and fundamentals of the sport in which they are participating
- To encourage the participants' development of sportsmanship, team play, and leadership.

- To have a mandatory playing rule to guarantee participation opportunities for every child.
- To do everything possible to ensure that the child's participation is a worthwhile and positive life experience.
- To have volunteer coaches that are trained and are volunteering for the best interest of the youth
- To encourage coaches to teach children that success does not require winning a game and that losing does not mean one is a failure.
- To teach participants to strive for excellence and to do the best they can in every competition, but that winning is not the primary objective. A strong commitment should be made toward improving skills and just having fun!

We ask parents & spectators to abide by the following Code of Conduct

- Be supportive of all participants by giving positive encouragement
- Remember that the game is for the players, not the spectators
- Display and encourage good sportsmanship at all times
- Don't coach your child during the game; let them play the game for itself
- Respect the officials and the staff
- Read and understand the rules of the game
- Respect all players, the field, the officials, the coaches and other parents
- Always keep your emotions under control
- Sit back, enjoy the game, and watch your child have fun!
- ***Remember to follow the rules of Pearson Park – NO Pets, NO Smoking, and NO Alcohol.***

Policies for Youth Sports

- During any Youth Sports event Fort Lupton Parks and Recreation Department prohibits behavior which is inappropriate, such as: profanity, abusive language or behavior, smoking and the consumption of alcohol, removal of any Fort Lupton Recreation Department property, or criminal conduct.

Practice Information

- The oldest age groups get practice sign up priority - first choice of practice space at Pearson Park.
 - Peewee-Senior & Softball 16 & 14 and under teams
- Practices can be 45 to 90 minutes in length depending on the age of the participants, field availability, and coaches' discretion. Younger teams will practice less than older teams.
- Coach Pitch and T-Ball and the younger softball teams will get next pick of field space – **Railroad Park and the Community Center Park can be used for practices as well.**
- Practice space is somewhat limited so please be respectful of each team's need to practice. Space will be even more limited once games actually start, so please be aware of the possible need to practice places other than Pearson Park.
- ***If a field is marked for a game, do not practice on the field out of respect for the team(s) scheduled to play on that field – move your practice to the outfields – throw down bases are available.***
- You are allowed to practice three times a week until games start – two times a week once games begin. Please mark on the practice schedule which practices you will be dropping once games start; please indicate this practice by putting a (3) by your name.
- Please make every effort to be to practice on time, if not early. During your scheduled practice time you are responsible for the children. For example if you are 15 minutes late to practice and a child gets hurt while you are late, you could be held liable for the injury because you were supposed to be there supervising. If you are going to be late or must cancel practice, notify your parents in a timely manner.

Coaching Staff Keys

- Keys will be provided to the head coach that opens the gate, restrooms, and equipment boxes.
- **Bases & tees will be located in the storage boxes, please be responsible and put them away each night.**
- If you are the last coach to leave for the night, please make sure everything is put away and check the restrooms to make sure they are locked before you leave.
- DO NOT give the keys out to anyone else, and YOU MUST them at the end of the season.
- ***Please respect this privilege.***

Birth Certificates

- All players in Pee Wee, Junior, Senior divisions must provide the Recreation Department with a copy of their birth certificate -
- Birth Certificates are important for the following reasons
 - Allows players to participate in league against kids their same age.
 - Allows players to participate in post season play.
 - Allows our teams to win fairly & honestly – in the event of a challenge you must be able to produce birth certificates with in 24 hours

Game Scheduling

- **T-Ball** games will be played on Tuesdays & Thursdays in three time slots beginning at 5:45, 6:50, or 7:05pm
 - **Each game will be no longer than 50 minutes in length – BLUE FIELD**
 - There is a 15 minute grace period between each game. We ask all teams and spectators to vacate the playing field as soon as possible which allows the other team access to the facility.
- **Coach Pitch** will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays in three time slots beginning at 5:45, 7:00, or 8:15pm
 - Tuesdays, teams from HAWKS Athletics will be coming over to play.
 - Thursday games will be played against other Fort Lupton Teams
 - **Each game will be no longer than 60 minutes in length – YELLOW or RED FIELD**
 - There is a 15 minute grace period between each game. We ask all teams and spectators to vacate the playing field as soon as possible which allows the other team access to the facility.
- **4-Star Peewee-Senior** games will be played at Pearson Park and surrounding communities.
 - Peewee (9/10's) games will be on Wednesdays and Fridays
 - Junior (11/12's) games will be on Mondays and Thursdays
 - Senior games (13/14's) will be on Tuesdays and Fridays
 - Game times for these games will be 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted on the schedule. Please be aware that due to field availability in other communities, there may be a few Saturday games. It may or may not happen, but it is a possibility.
- **NVAA Softball** games will be played at Pearson Park and surrounding communities.
 - **10 & Under** – TBA
 - **12 & Under** – TBA
 - **14 & Under** – TBA
 - **16 & Under** – TBA
- All games will be played at their scheduled times unless prior arrangements have been made by the league. If cancellations should occur, you will be informed as soon as possible by the sports coordinator. Please inform your parents of this information – we will not make cancellation decisions before this time.
- Game schedules will be handed out as soon as they are completed by the league.

Minimum play requirements

- All players must bat in the line-up unless they are being disciplined, and try to make sure the children are getting two to three innings in the field.
- Peewee-senior teams must make sure each child plays at least 2 innings in the field. If this is not done, it will result in a forfeit.
- **Coaches have authority to not play the child if they are not attending team practices or are being disciplined for other reasons.** However, if a coach decides that they are not going to play a child for this reason the Sports Coordinator & the child's parent must be informed ASAP.
- Coaches who do not attempt to play all of the children fairly will be subject to discipline and possibly losing their ability to coach.

Bad Weather

- The Fort Lupton Recreation Department has a weather policy that must be followed in all game and practice situations. Typical conditions that might cause cancellation are rain, snow, wet grounds, lightning, possible tornados, or excessive cold.
 - Is it safe?
 - Playing surface – are the fields (in/out) dry

- 45* or warmer?
- Be careful to cancel too soon as sometimes the weather can change and things can dry up
- Is it going to allow you to have an enjoyable experience/practice that day
- If lightning and thunder are occurring we will follow NFHS rules.
 - This rule states that if lightening and thunder occur within 30 seconds of one another, the game will be suspended until the last lightening has been 30 minutes removed.
 - If the 30 minutes start and there is another lightning strike, you must start the time again.
 - There are no exceptions to this rule – please keep everyone’s safety in mind.
- If games are cancelled due to weather or extreme circumstances, every effort will be made to make up the game(s); however there is no guarantee that games will be made up. Information on cancellations due to weather can be found at (303) 857-4200 *after 4:00 p.m.* Unless games are cancelled much earlier in the day, this is the earliest game cancellation information will be available.

Uniforms

- The Recreation Center will provide all players with a hat, jersey, pants, and socks. Players may keep the hat, jersey, and socks, but we ask that you have all of your players return their pants at the end of the season (for peewee-senior teams, please return the belts as well).
- It works best if you have all the kids wear shorts under their uniforms on the last game and then after the game is over collect the pants and put them in your equipment bag to return to the Recreation Center. We will take care of cleaning them. This is one of the ways we are trying to make baseball more affordable for all of the players. Your cooperation in this manner will be greatly appreciated.

Equipment – METAL CLEATS are NOT ALLOWED.

- When you receive your equipment, please go through the bag and make sure you have all of the necessary equipment. Teams will get balls, bats, catcher’s equipment, helmets, tees, and first aid kits. When you return your equipment at the end of the season you must meet with the sports coordinator or other Recreation Center employee to check all of your equipment back in. Please do not just drop off the bag without checking in the equipment. ***You will be asked to replace any items that are missing.***

Picture Day & Rockies Skills Challenge

- Picture day is scheduled for _____ at Pearson Park. Picture schedules and packets will be given out to coaches prior to picture day.
- For peewee-senior teams, you will need to have a team picture taken of everyone with their hats off. Steve (the photographer) will help with this. If you have players who miss picture day, it is up to you to provide the Recreation Center with a hat off picture of the player or players who miss the team picture.

Rockies Skills Challenge

- The Fort Lupton Recreation Department will host the Rockies Skills Challenge on _____ at Pearson Park.
- Participants will test their skills in hitting, running, and throwing. The event is free, but interested participants must sign up at the Recreation Center prior to the challenge. Winners of the local competition will advance to regional and possibly the state competition at Coors Field.
- All coaches are strongly encouraged to help run this event.

Youth Day at the Rockies

- All youth who participate in baseball or softball with the Fort Lupton Recreation Department have the opportunity to walk on Coors Field before a Colorado Rockies home game.
- The date of the game is Sunday, June 14th at 1:10 p.m. All players must have a ticket and any parents, friends or family members who wish to attend must also purchase a ticket.
- Tickets are \$11.00 and can be purchased at the Fort Lupton Recreation Center; there are a limited number of tickets available; tickets must be purchased by June 5th. Players must wear their uniforms

Coaches Behavior

- Please remember that you are representing the City of Fort Lupton, the Recreation Department, and yourself at all games and practices.
- Sometimes calls are not going to go your way, but it is up to you to remain professional and respectable in the face of these moments.

- You are a role model to the youth and a representative for our community; please do not behave in a way that casts a negative light on our program.
- Use any bad calls or ‘injustices’ as teaching tools and opportunities to learn instead of overreacting and causing a scene. Also remember, many of the officials are members of this community and youth of this community, they are going to do the best that they can – they will make mistakes, but no mistake is worth embarrassing yourself and the recreation department for.

Player and Parent Behavior

- You are responsible for your parents and players at every game and practice.
- Parents are going to get upset, but it is your responsibility to do your best to keep them under control at all team functions. If you have tried to talk to a parent about their behavior and they do not respond, please contact me and I will take the necessary steps to fix the situation. Explain in your parents meeting what appropriate behavior is and let them know that if they do not display appropriate behavior they may be asked to leave games. This could result in their suspension from attending games.
- Calls are going to go wrong, but please do not encourage or model behavior that allows parents to think it is okay to get upset. Also – make sure that your players are respecting the officials and the game. I understand that we tend to get some ‘good ones’ for officials – that’s just part of the game. You may discuss bad calls in a civil manner with officials, but your players should not be talking back or disrespecting officials.
- Please have respect for our fields and for the fields in other communities. Make sure your dugout is cleaner than when you arrived, please keep all of these areas clean, and make sure your players and parents understand the same thing.

Coach/Player Relationships

- Keep in mind that your players are children, not miniature adults. They are going to make mistakes. Allow them to play in a situation that allows mistakes, that is the only way they are going to learn.
- Constantly yelling at or berating children does not make them try harder or want to play anymore. Be encouraging. We want to make kids come back, not scare them.

End of Season Awards

- Teams will receive medals before their last game that coaches can pass out to their team. Please make sure each of your players gets one of these awards. If you have anything left over, please turn them back into the Recreation Department. The Recreation Center also offers coach parties for an end of season celebration. Additional information is available if you are interested.

Questionnaires

- To gather information about our sports, participants, and coaching staffs I’ll be handing out questionnaires towards the end of each season – I’ll ask that you have all parents participant.
 - *The purpose of this survey is to better understand your expectations, your involvement, and your opinions of our coaching staff. It is our intention to provide knowledgeable and positive coaches so the participants have the best experience possible.*
 - *The purpose of this survey is to better understand the needs of the participants so that we can give them the best experience possible.*

Youth Sports Coach ~ Behavior Checklist *

1. _____ I praise my kids just for participating.
2. _____ I look for positives, and make a big deal out of them.
3. _____ I stay calm when my kids make mistakes, helping them learn from them.
4. _____ I treat my kids with respect, avoiding put-downs, sarcasm, or ridicule.
5. _____ I remind my kids not to get down on themselves.
6. _____ I remind myself, and my kids, to laugh and keep a sense of humor.
7. _____ I emphasize teamwork, and help my kids to think ‘us’ instead of ‘me.’
8. _____ I remember not to take myself too seriously during the game.
9. _____ I maintain a ‘fun is #1’ attitude.
- 10 _____ I am a role model of good sportsmanship: Winning without gloating, Losing without complaining, Treating my opponent, and officials with fairness, generosity, and courtesy

Problems or Concerns: *Many different issues or circumstances can arise during the season; please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, problems or concerns. I am always willing to help, and appreciate any feed back you can give me about how the program is running. I can be reached at (303) 857-4200 ext 106 or at*

jpryor@ftluptonrec.com

Blue Devil Baseball Camp

Come participate in the Blue Devil Baseball Camp sponsored by the Fort Lupton High School Varsity baseball Program. This Camp focuses on the Fundamentals of baseball including: Hitting, Throwing, and Fielding. Local players and youth teams are encouraged to participate! This is an opportunity to receive expert coaching in all areas of baseball for players and coaches alike. All proceeds will go to benefit the youth baseball program. Come sign up today!



Registration Deadline: May 8

Age group:	Camp Blue - Youth in grades 3 rd – 8 th (Saturday May 16 9:00am to 1:00pm) Camp White - Youth in grades PK – 2 nd Grade (Sunday May 17 12:00pm to 4:00pm)
Location:	Fort Lupton High School Baseball Field
Camp Dates:	Camp Blue May 16 & Camp White May 17
Camp Times:	Camp Blue 9:00am to 1:00pm Camp White 12:00pm to 4:00pm
Cost:	\$20 (each participant will receive a T-shirt)

Blue Devil Softball Camp

If you're a first year player or have years of softball experience this camp is perfect for you! Come participate in the Blue Devil Softball Camp sponsored by the Fort Lupton High School Varsity softball Program. This Camp focuses on the Fundamentals of softball including: Hitting, Pitching, Fielding, Throwing, and Catching. Local players and youth teams are encouraged to participate! This is an opportunity to receive expert coaching from the Fort Lupton High School coaches in all areas of softball for players and coaches alike. Come sign up today!



Registration Deadline: May 1st

Age group:	Youth aged 6 to 14 years are eligible to participate
Location:	Fort Lupton High School Softball Field
Camp Dates:	Saturday May 9 th
Camp Times:	9:00am - Noon
Cost:	\$15 (each participant will receive a T-shirt)
1800.223	May 9 th Camp

***Get the word out to your kids – lets have a
GREAT 2009 CAMP***