



CITY OF FORT LUPTON

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the City of Fort Lupton Youth Sports Programs. We are very proud of our leagues and classes and are glad that your child or children will be participating with us. This handbook will provide you with important information regarding our programs as well as serving as a guide to being a "Youth Sports Parent."

Our mission at the City of Fort Lupton is to provide your child with athletic participation in a fun and supportive environment. We encourage all of our coaches and participants to try their best during every competition; however, winning is not our *primary* objective. We would like all of our teams to be successful, but do not want to promote a win at all costs atmosphere.

All coaches are required to pass background checks and NYSCA certifications. We hope that you and your family have a fun and rewarding experience in our program.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me throughout the season with any comments or concerns that you may have. We are very serious about providing the best programs possible and input from our customers is the best way to find out how we are doing.

Again, thank you for choosing the City of Fort Lupton Youth Sports Program for your child's athletic experience. We hope this season is a success for everyone.

Sincerely,

John Pryor, Sports Coordinator
(303) 857-4200 ext. 106
jpryor@fortlupton.org

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 of the community.
- 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 (*KEEP children in arms reach for safety reasons*)
- **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.

General Information

- Coaches

- Part of our Youth Sports programs success is based on our coaches. We are always looking for coaches to help assist in our programs. If you are interested in coaching or assisting in any way please contact the Sports Coordinator at (303) 857-4200 for further information.
- Please keep in mind that all coaches with the Fort Lupton Recreation Department are volunteering time out of their lives to teach your child, please be considerate and respectful to all coaches.

- Birth Certificates

- All players in Pee Wee, Junior, Senior divisions must provide the Recreation Department with a copy of their birth certificate. *Please provide the Recreation Department with a copy of the participant's birth certificate if you have not done so already.*

- Practice Information

- Practices will be between 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.
- The practice times and dates are up to the coaches and subject to facility availability.
- Please make sure your child has the necessary equipment and attire on for all practices. All children need to have water, toe covered shoes, baseball/softball glove; other necessary baseball/softball equipment will be provided by the Recreation Center.
- If your child cannot attend a practice or team function please contact the coach. Practices are an important part of our program, since that is where much of the instruction is done. Failure to attend practices without consulting the coach can result in less playing time for the participant.
- It is required that your child is picked up promptly after practice. Children cannot be left unattended after practice, please pick them up in a timely manner.
- ***Due to the size of our program some fields will be shared – please be as flexible as possible.***
- If your coach has not contacted you by this start up time contact the Fort Lupton Recreation Center at (303) 857-4200.

- Minimum Play Requirement

- All players will bat in a team's line-up. No one player will hit a second time before every player on the team has hit once.
- All players must play a minimum of two innings on defense.
- ***Coaches have authority not to play a child if that child is not attending practices. However, they must inform the parents and the league supervisor if they are going to make this decision.***
- Coaches who do not attempt to play all of the children fairly will be subject to discipline and possibly losing their ability to coach.

- Games

- There will be NO games the week of July 4th (Week of June 29th – July 4th)

- Tee Ball & Coach Pitch will be played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting June 2nd and ending July 9th (July 14th and July 16th will be reserved for make up games).
- **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. A schedule will be given to you by your child's coach.
- **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. A schedule will be given to you by your child's coach.
- **Pee Wee** (9-10yrs) will be played on Wednesday and Friday evenings. (Red or Yellow Field)
- **Junior** (11-12yrs) will be played on Monday and Thursday evenings. (Red Field)
- **Senior** (13-14yrs) will be played on Tuesday and Friday evenings. (Green Field)
- Games for Pee Wee-Senior teams will be played in Fort Lupton and surrounding communities. All games will start at 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted on the schedule. Schedules will be given to coaches and then to parents once they are made available by the league (4-Star).
- *Some games may be played on different nights than the ones listed due to make up games or other circumstances.*
- *If you need directions to fields PLEASE contact your coach and / or the Recreation Center for information.*
- **Payments and Refunds**
 - Payments are due for all programs at the time of registration. If a program is cancelled, the participant is entitled to a full refund or a credit to the individual's recreation account for use for any recreation program.
 - Once a program starts (the start of a program is the date of the coaches meeting) dropping from a program does not guarantee a refund. Participants may get a refund if there is another child to take their spot on the waiting list. By the time the coaches meeting has started, uniforms and equipment have been ordered which is where the majority of the registration cost goes.
- **Weather**
 - The safety of the participants, officials, and spectators is the primary concern in cases of inclement weather.
 - Once a game has started, the game officials and coaching staffs will have the responsibility to remove the players from the field if the conditions become extreme. If ordered to do so, please find a safe shelter in an automobile or in a building until instructed to return to the playing field or told that the game has been cancelled.
- **Game Cancellations and Rescheduling**
 - If a game is cancelled due to weather or other unforeseeable circumstances, all efforts will be made to reschedule that game. However, due to time restraints and/or field usage conflicts, some games may not be made up.
 - ***The Recreation Center will not cancel team practices. The Recreation Center will cancel games only. If you have a question about your team's practice, contact your head coach.***
 - ***Game Cancellations will be called at the latest possible time in accordance with league rules and the National Weather Service – Game cancellations will be available by 4:00pm – PLEASE CONTACT YOUR COACH and or TEAM PARENT FIRST!*** Typical conditions that might cause cancellation are rain, snow, wet grounds, lightning, possible tornados, or excessive cold.
- **Uniforms**
 - Pants and belts are rented to players – please return pants and belts promptly after your last game.
 - A portion of the registration fee is used to supply to the participants with uniforms. These uniforms become the property of the participant once he or she has completed the season. If a refund is granted for dropping a program, he or she may be required to return the uniform or have a portion of the refund retained for the cost of the uniform.

- Uniforms are expected to be worn in the condition that they are given out. Unauthorized alterations to the uniform (i.e. cutting off the sleeves, making a 'half shirt') will require the parent to pay for a replacement uniform. ****Metal cleats are not allowed****
- Numbers on the back can be duplicated.
- Every effort will be made to give the players the jersey size they ordered.
 - If a player receives the uniform size they ordered but it does not fit, they may get it replaced, but it will be at an additional cost to the player.
 - If a player gets a size they did not order and it does not fit, the recreation department will pay to get them the correct size.
 - This does not apply to anyone who signed up late after the uniforms had been ordered.
- Tee-ball & Coach pitch teams will receive: pants, jerseys, and a hat
- 4-Star teams will receive: socks, pants, belts, jerseys, and a hat
- All softball teams will receive: socks, pants, belts, jerseys, and a visor
- **Equipment**
 - The equipment checked out is the property of the City of Fort Lupton.
 - Failure to turn in equipment or use equipment properly only results in higher registration costs.
 - Equipment is not for personal use
- **Picture Day & Rockies Skills Challenge**
 - Picture Day will be held at Pearson Park. Picture schedules and packets will be given out to coaches closer to the picture date.
 - 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 the Coca-Cola All Star Park on August 8th.

Youth Day at the Rockies

- All youth who participate in baseball or softball with the FLRC 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 FLRC; there are a limited number of tickets available; tickets must be purchased by June 5th.
- Players need to wear their uniforms.

Bluedevil Softball Camp – May 9th - \$15per player

Blue Devil Baseball Camp – May 16 & 17th - \$20per player

- **Sportsmanship Commandments for Parents, Coaches, Spectators, and Players**
 1. Abide by the rules of the game
 2. Avoid arguments
 3. Share in the responsibilities of the team
 4. Respect the officials and their calls
 5. Always play fair
 6. Follow the program philosophy
 7. Respect the other team's effort
 8. Offer encouragement to all players
 9. Accept the judgment calls of the game officials
 10. End the game smoothly

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@fortlupton.org

“It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game that counts.”