

## GENERAL INFORMATION –LINN-MAR RED 8U

Tim Larson is the volunteer director for the Linn-Mar Baseball Leagues. He was the evaluator at the tryouts. [timothy.larson@csbiowa.com](mailto:timothy.larson@csbiowa.com)

We are not part of an official league like the YMCA or Marion Park and Rec. No one makes a schedule for us. We make our own schedule against similar teams through loose affiliations with the high schools. We are not supported or sponsored financially or in any way through LM.

We are one of three 8U Linn-Mar baseball teams. The other two teams were assembled by parents/neighbors who knew each other and made up a team. We are the only true try-out team of the three.

There is a meeting in March when all of the baseball coaches get together to match up teams and dates and finalize a schedule. The state tournament is the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend so games are typically played April through June.

I do not want this team to take up any more than 3 days a week – 1 or 2 days for games and 1 or 2 days for practices each week.

Everyone will play about the same number of innings throughout the season – not the same number innings per game.

Everyone will start about the same number of games.

Ideally, I would like each player to learn and play 1 outfield position and 2 infield positions, +/- pitching. It is difficult to learn and play 9 different positions well.

Our “league” is under the direction of the USSSA national by-laws and rules. [Usssa.com](http://Usssa.com)  
- United States Specialty Sports Association

We will be using regular hard baseballs. Your son will be hit by a pitcher and they will get hit by a groundball or a fly ball. Please prep them accordingly.

At every practice, I expect the boys to wear a hat, cleats, and pants – no shorts. You can't dive for a ball or slide with shorts on.

Please tell me if an out-of-town family member is here to watch your son play – grandma/grandpa – I will make sure they play the entire game if possible.

## COSTS / FINANCIAL ISSUES

Stephanie Schrader, who has an accounting background, has agreed to be the team treasurer. Stephanie and I will open a checking account for the team. She will write the checks for the various expenses and will provide a monthly report of expenses and income.

**IF** we have access to the ball field at one of the churches on C Ave as in past years, each team will donate \$50 to that church for the season. We will have access to this field a minimum of 1 night per week for **practice**. There were some issues last year where some of the church members wanted to use the field after it was already assigned to a team.

Approx. \$4.25 per player for the year

Because we live in Robins, we can sign up for the baseball field for practice at Robins Park. I am not sure how often I can reserve this field.

Hopefully free

If we must practice somewhere else, we may need to pay to play.

Unknown cost

**Game costs** last year were \$15 per team for the field and the umpire cost of \$35 per game for one umpire was split between the two teams. The field expenses are paid at the scheduling meeting in March.

Each game is approx \$35 per game or \$3 per player per game

If we play any **tournaments**, those costs will be shared equally.

We are responsible for purchasing everything for our team: bats, balls, helmets, catcher's gear, uniforms, everything. We will share the costs for these items.

New **catcher's gear**: \$100 for mask, helmet, chest protector, and shin guards and \$40 for a glove

\$140 total or approx \$12 per player

Used equipment \$ ??

New **Batting Helmets**: \$20–25 each, 5 helmets, \$125 total, approx \$10 per player

Bucket of **baseballs**: \$70 for 3 dozen, \$6 per player

**Uniform**: Hat, jersey, pants, socks about \$65 for the set, a little less for less expensive pants

**Total per player**: Approx \$100 per player for the fixed costs plus \$3 per player per game plus any additional costs for practices

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE COACHES

1. We will have 4 coaches with the expectation that we will have 3 of the 4 at every game and practice (with work schedules and travel). At practice we will have 1 coach for every 3 or 4 players.
2. We will have positive reinforcement – you will never hear us yell at your sons for making a mistake, making an error or not getting a hit. We will talk about what happened, how to improve, and use the “lets get them next time” attitude.
3. We will have well planned practices that will keep the kids moving as much as possible – we will have as little standing around time as possible.
4. When we are doing a drill, we will briefly discuss how to do it, explain why we are doing it, and show the kids how to do it.
5. We will put the players in positions on the field where they will have the best chance at doing well. Example: If they are great at fielding ground balls but don't have a strong arm, we will put them at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. We will work at improving their throwing.
6. The coaches on our team will set the standard for good sportsmanship. You will not see us yell at our team for making a mistake, we will not yell at the umpire, the other team's coaches or the other team's players. If something needs to be said, it will be discussed in an adult manner.
7. Please talk to me, e-mail me, or call me if you or your son have questions or concerns. I cannot correct a problem if I am not aware it. The best way to contact me is by e-mail: [mnalmasi@fmtcs.com](mailto:mnalmasi@fmtcs.com). We check our e-mail several times per day and I will send a return e-mail as soon as possible. I am not home a few nights per month for work. My home phone is 294-1718. My cell is 361-6031 if you need to contact me more urgently. I may not be able to answer my cell at work, so leave a voice mail or text and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Coaches:

Mike Almasi  
Matt Off  
Jim Sheehan  
Scott Weiss

## WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE PLAYERS

### **Have Fun - Play Hard - Never Quit**

Listen when the coaches are talking to you or another player. You can always learn something when the coaches are talking.

Always cheer for your team.

Show good sportsmanship: never boo or say or do anything to make the other team feel bad.

Everyone makes mistakes, makes an error or fails to get a hit. Learn from your mistake, how to do it better next time and forget it. It does not help to stomp your feet and be upset for 20 minutes.

Do your best at every practice and game.

**PLAY HARD** : Run the bases fast, run in and out of the field. Don't stand when the ball is hit, you should be moving somewhere on every hit ball.

## PITCHING AND HITTING

I would like everyone to try to pitch in practice if they so desire. They can pitch in a game when they can show the coaches they have reasonable control with an emphasis on control/technique over speed.

On the Little League website ([www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org)), there are very specific pitch count guidelines put together by Dr. James Andrews. His name is almost always mentioned when a pro athlete is injured. For this age group a player can pitch 50 pitches in a game then must have 3 full days of rest before he can pitch again. Tim Larson follows these guidelines and we will also do the same. Also on this website are some teaching tips for pitching. If you want to view this 22 page document go to [littleleague.org](http://littleleague.org) then: under "Learn More" click on "Rules" then click on "Pitch Count Resource Page" then click on "Pitch Count Publication" posted on 10-24-07.

We will probably need 3 or 4 pitchers per game. If you pitch in the game you will not play catcher – too much throwing as per the guidelines. I am not going to injure an 8 year old arm so we can have our best 1 or 2 pitchers pitch all the time.

We will spend part of our learning to hit time by hitting off a tee. Every pro, college, HS player spends some time hitting off a tee to perfect their swing. If you take your son to Perfect Game or Diamond Dreams, I guarantee a good deal of time will be spent hitting off a tee.

Don't worry about purchasing a bat, we have plenty of bats amongst the coaches.

## WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE PARENTS

Have your son on time to practice and before the game starts.

Play catch nearly everyday.

I am embarrassed to even bring up the next subject but I will say it once and am sure I won't need to think about it again. Keep in mind these are 8 year old boys who want to do well and work hard. They are not the Cubs, Kernels, or Hawkeyes. If you feel the urge to yell in a negative way at the umpire, the other teams, the other coaches, our coaches, our team, or even your own son, buy a ticket and go yell at one of the other teams I just mentioned.

I am embarrassed to even bring up the next subject but I will say it once and am sure I won't need to think about it again. I have talked to many parents who have either coached or have watched their kids in various sports. Almost everyone I talked with has been at games where a parent was either asked to leave because of their behavior or had to be escorted away by either other parents, coaches, or even the police. The first time it happens, I will ask you to stop, if it happens again, I will ask you to leave. Enough said.

During the game I encourage everyone to cheer for our team and be supportive when we do something wrong. However, I think every kid cringes when they hear their parent yell their name: ++or --. I think it makes them nervous and self-conscious. The kids know you are at the game.

Let the players play, let the coaches coach, and let the parents cheer.

Other sports April – June:

I am big advocate of kids playing many sports. It is good to expose them to many sports, let them have fun, and keep them exercising. I know Metro Football, soccer, basketball, swimming, golf, hockey, etc are occurring at the same time. I will ask you to make this team your son's priority sport for several reasons:

1. this is a tryout team
2. you are going to spend a fair amount of money to be on this team
3. we only took 12 players so we could maximize everyone's playing time – but we are still counting on everyone playing every game and being at every practice

## TO DO

How many games do we want to play? The coaches were thinking 20-25. This would be about two games per week April-end of June.

How many weekend tournaments do we want to play?

Do we want mostly weekday games? Mostly weekend games? The coaches were thinking mostly weekday games.

Does any parent have access to a baseball field we could use for practice?

We will need to have some winter/early spring practices if we start playing games in early April.

If you know you will be unavailable for games/practices because of a wedding/graduation/religious education night, etc, please tell me as far in advance as possible so I can take that into consideration when forming the schedule.

Can I give a list of everyone's address, phone number and e-mail address to the rest of the parents to help facilitate car-pooling, etc?

Before the season begins, I will have everyone fill out an emergency card with phone numbers and any important medical information.

We may need birth certificates if we play in a tournament.

Uniform try-on for size and order.

