GUNDAWGS BASEBALL

Player & Family Expectations

Welcome to Gundawgs Baseball! We are thrilled to have you as part of our family! We are honored to have the opportunity to be a positive influence in your player's life. Although this is just baseball to some, it is a whole lot more to us!

Our Mission
Building pillars of the community one child at a time!

What does that mean? We are building pillars of the community through methods used to be successful both on the field and in future endeavors that these players will encounter throughout their lives. We are committed to instill proper attributes into our players such as selflessness, respect, honor, teamwork, perseverance, courage, commitment, work ethic, and more!

Financial Details
Gundawgs Baseball is an official 501©(3) non-profit organization. Proceeds paid to our organization are tax deductible. Proceeds will go toward operating expenses for our organization.

Fees are structured according to age group and schedules. Certain venues may require additional fundraising. Each team will have the required cost & projected tournaments / fundraising available for parents. These can be requested from your player's coach or the Gundawgs Baseball Office.

There are two seasons per year: Spring & Fall. Costs and tryouts are based per season.
Spring season includes six tournaments & fall season is based on four tournaments.

Fees

- Initial $200 Deposit for players // $300 for 15u players (secures your spot; due upon registration)
- Remaining Balance will be due prior to first tournament

Any fundraising will offset the cost of player fees, so starting immediately is imperative.

Costs are variable due to the success of our fundraisers and sponsor partnerships; however, we do our best to keep the out of pocket expense as low as possible for our Gundawgs families. (*If there are circumstances preventing you from being able to meet the deadline, please call me (Matt) and we will work together to make alternate arrangements.*)

The season fees and fundraisers cover our uniforms, gear (*helmets, bat bags, balls, tees, etc.*), field/facility rentals, insurance, tournament fees, and similar costs.

In order to keep our fees to a minimum, our teams host fundraisers throughout the season. These are often organized by the coaches, fundraiser volunteers, and team moms. These activities may include but are not limited to:

1. Sponsorships: We will actively seek sponsorships from local businesses and individuals who believe in the development of young athletes. Sponsors will have the opportunity to advertise their support on our team's website, game-day banners, and social media platforms.
2. Community Events: We actively engage with the local community by participating in projects or hosting fundraising events to raise funds and create additional resources.
3. Crowdfunding: Players may participate in online crowdfunding campaigns where families, friends, and supporters can make direct donations to our team, or participate in pools & fundraising. This makes it easy for individuals to contribute and share our fundraising efforts with a broader audience.
4. Corporate Grants: We will support corporate volunteering requests by validating support hours or verifying matching donation programs.

As a 501(c)3 organization, we have fundraising guidelines we must abide by. To ensure compliance of those guidelines, all fundraisers must be approved through the Gundawgs Baseball office. Please submit fundraiser requests via email to powerhousebaseballNC@gmail.com (include as much detail as possible about the fundraiser you are requesting approval for).

Should a player/parent quit, withdraw or leave the team at any point, for any reason once a team position has been accepted, they will not receive a refund of any kind. Player fees/budgets are set based on the number of players that originally join the team. All fees paid up to the player's departure will not be refundable.

All season fees and payment schedules are set by the Gundawgs Baseball office. Please note that no modifications may be made to season fee totals or payment timelines or without prior written approval. Coaches who would like to request modifications can do so by sending a written request to powerhousebaseballNC@gmail.com.

If you have questions about costs, please feel free to reach out to the Gundawgs Baseball treasurer at powerhousebaseballNC@gmail.com and include “Attn: Treasurer” in the subject line.

Commitment
If you choose to commit to our program, we require the following from our players, parents, and their family & friends in order to make this program successful…

Once a player is chosen to be a member of a specific team, it is a one-year commitment. Tournaments are played in the fall, spring, and summer; winter training also takes place (with coaches’ discretion). Teams typically have two practices per week and play in an average of two tournaments per month (which may include travel).

All tournament dates have not been posted yet, but we will do our best to provide a rough schedule to our teams at the beginning of each season.

• PLAYER EXPECTATIONS •

Conduct
At Gundawgs Baseball, we expect good sportsmanship and professional behavior at all times, and in all circumstances, by all of our Gundawgs (players and parents). We are guests of the communities we visit and represent, please behave accordingly and keep the ballfields clean.

We exhibit class and good behavior (both on and off the field) - inappropriate behavior from a player my result in your player being removed from the team. This includes towards umpires.

We will not tolerate disruptive behavior on the field or in the dugout. There should be no conversation with umpires, coaches, players, or parents regarding a call or a play. Disrespect for umpires, coaches, instructors, facilities, staff, etc. will not be tolerated. Gundawgs Travel Baseball Program reserves the right to dismiss any player or parent who breaches good sportsmanship or ethics at its sole and absolute discretion that it determines are contrary to the best interest of the program.

Players are expected to give their best effort at all times, and take instruction & advice from coaches (and lessons instructors) in an effort to improve. Show respect to your coaches, team mates, umpires, and opponents at all times. Be respectful to opponents both in victory and defeat. Be humble and gracious both on and off the field. The game is never won or lost by a single player. Do not transfer blame or make excuses - We are a team. We win together and lose together.

Be an example and set the bar high for future players to follow. Have fun, learn the game, and enjoy the privilege of playing the great game of baseball!

Practices & Games
Every effort should be made to attend all practices, games, tournaments and be on time. That means, “on the field, warming up” by the start time designated by the coach. Be on time for all baseball related activities; the team will not wait on you. If you are running late please text a member of the coaching staff.

Absences
If a player must miss a practice or tournament/game, please notify a coach with as much advance notice as possible prior to missing the scheduled activity.

Playing Time
Travel baseball is not an equal time/equal play organized environment. Players may sit multiple innings in a game or a player may only be a substitute during a game. This is solely at the coach’s discretion.

- In younger age groups (7U/8U), the expectation is that all players will bat/play in every game. Coaches will work to rotate players in multiple positions when possible to focus on their development.
- Older age groups (9U and above), playing time and position rotations will be determined by the coaches of the team.

If a player misses practice, he should not “expect” to be a starter in the following game, though, the player may still do so. Practice attendance may be considered when determining game lineups and field positions. If a player misses multiple practices due to illness or family-related events, the player may sit more in an upcoming tournament or bat lower in the lineup, not as a punishment, but in support of the players who were able to attend all team practices. The coach reserves the right to make this decision at their discretion.

Injuries/Insurance
In the event of an injury, if possible, the player should still attend practice. Much can be learned from helping coaches and listening to practice. If the player becomes injured or becomes ill during a game or practice, it is their responsibility to report it to a coach immediately. Parents shall maintain medical, health, dental and/or accident insurance for the benefit of the player.

Attire/Equipment
Players & parents shall be solely responsible for ensuring the player has the equipment necessary to play for the team including gloves, bats, cleats, catcher's gear (for catchers), and other protective gear. Proper practice attire shall be worn at practice which includes baseball hat, baseball pants, proper belt, socks and cleats.

Players should arrive in the correct uniform for all games and it should be clean and in good shape. Before warmups start all shirts/jerseys are to be tucked in & remain tucked in for the entire practice/game.

Dugout
Only coaches and players are allowed in the dugout. Parents are encouraged to support their children. However, during practices and games they should refrain from approaching the dugout to coach, counsel, or to critique their child. Players should not leave the dugout during games unless it is to use the restroom or have permission from a coach. Players should have everything they need with them inside the dugout (sunscreen, medications, water, etc.).

Guest Playing Opportunities
We want to remind all players and parents that Gundawgs Baseball is a significant commitment. Our organization will provide a tentative schedule prior to the start of the season; however, please note this schedule may change due to weather, venue availability, etc. We understand that players may receive invitations to guest play for other organizations during the season. All requests to guest play must be approved by your coach to ensure there are no potential conflicts or conflicts of interest with the Gundawgs Baseball schedule.

Attendance of Friends/Parents
Players should always remember that practice/game time is not designated as time to visit with friends or family outside the field of play.

Quit/Withdrawal from team
If a player/parent wishes to quit/withdraw from a team the procedure shall be as follows:

- The parent will notify the head coach and their division coach.
- The parent will pay any outstanding fees to Gundawgs Baseball Program.

• FAMILY EXPECTATIONS •

Our Gundawgs parents and families are well-known for their hospitality and great sportsmanship. At our organization, we celebrate our kids as well as the other teams we play. Over the years, we have often been complimented for our sportsmanship and conduct by tournament directors, opponents, and fans. Just like our children, we represent the Gundawgs family in each community we visit. All players and their families will appreciate the good plays of our opponents and remain humble during our shining moments. Win or lose, we will handle it with class and appreciate the experience gained. We will treat all opposing players, coaches, and fans with respect. The only difference between us is that they are pulling for the other team.

Foster a Positive Environment for your child
Parents are strongly encouraged to practice with their players at home. Development outside of practice days is crucial to a player's success. Try to find positive ways to encourage your player throughout the week. Tell them areas where you have seen improvements, and be their biggest cheerleaders! Remember that each player has a unique set of strengths, and don't compare your player to their team mates. Every player has a role within the team! Tell your player you love them and remind them how much you love watching them play! We want your child's experience to be memorable and FUN! You truly matter in the success of your child on and off the field. They will follow your lead. If you are a positive encouragement, they will follow your example.

Support the Players, Coaches, and Umpires
The coaches & umpires are always right! I know what you are thinking, so let me elaborate.

When you drop your kids off to the game or practices, they are ours – ours to coach, to discipline, to encourage, and to lead. There is already too much chaos in the world we live in, and we won't have it subverting our games or practices.

As parents, we will respect decisions made by the umpires. We cannot change their decisions, and recognize our reactions may reflect poorly on both us and our team. Should an issue arise where a call needs to be questioned, that is to be done by the coaches at their discretion.

Interaction with your player and umpires during the game is discouraged. Too often, we as parents yell, scream, coach from the sidelines, or pick apart everything that we believe could be better. This is detrimental to the continuity and success of a team. Since these kids are young and extremely impressionable, parents can make or break the confidence that coaches are working to build. You may think that chastising your player makes them better, but what about their teammates? You may think that coaching your child while he's in the batter's box helps, but in reality, you are distracting them from their objectives (along with distracting them from the constant communication they need with the coach).

Parents, please refrain from coaching your child on the sidelines. That includes comments or instruction when up at bat or in the field. Please be courteous to the coaching staff and allow coaches to coach. Trust that the coaches are making decisions that are best for the team as a whole. The coaches need to have the full attention of the kids during practices and games.

Outbursts and disruptive behavior from the parents, fans, and players will not be tolerated and any such actions may result in removal from the team.

Your job as the parent is simple…

- Ensure the player arrives to practices and games with all their gear & fluids they will need.
- Encourage them with positive attitudes and verbiage.
- Sit back and enjoy watching them play ball! This season of life only lasts for a short time.

Addressing Concerns/Problems: The 24-Hour Rule

At Gundawgs Baseball, we encourage communication! We are all volunteers doing this for the love of the game of baseball, our community, and the kids. If you have any issues with coaches, parents, or players please come to me (Matt) first.

In our organization, we have a 24-hour rule. This rule means, you need to wait 24 hours following the weekend's games to contact me and/or the coaches regarding any qualms you have in reference to a game incident. We have implemented this practice because we (coaches) are very competitive and are likely just as frustrated, if not more, than you following a loss, mistake, bad call, etc. Remember, our coaches volunteer a vast amount of their time to these players throughout the year. Not only at practice & games, but also in planning, organizing, and other behind the scene sacrifices they make for your children. It is consuming, yet commendable to say the least.

Having this cooling off period allows all of us the time to think and process in order to ensure a positive outcome moving forward. We ask that concerns are not addressed in the presence of the children. Parents should contact Matt to set up an appropriate time to address questions or concerns one-on-one (*please do not interrupt a game or practice*). Please be respectful of the 24-hour rule as we work together to provide the best experience for your player.

Organization Logos & Image Usage

Use of player images & Gundawgs / PH Logos are strictly forbidden unless approved by the Gundawgs Baseball Board Members. This includes but is not limited to merchandise, flyers, banners, etc. Requests to utilize these assets can be submitted to the board of directors in writing to powerhousebaseballNC@gmail.com.

Volunteers

We encourage our Gundawgs families to get involved! There are many areas in which parents and families can be a helping hand. As the organization has grown, we have found that many hands make for light work. If you are interested in being a team parent, helping with fundraisers, organize team meals on long game days, scorekeeping, providing the dugout cooler, or serve in other similar areas please fill out our volunteer form, and submit that to your team coach. We will work together to find a great fit for you.

We understand that true commitment requires effort and sacrifice, but it is through this dedication that players can reach their full potential. We greatly value the commitment shown by players and their families, as it creates a culture of accountability and fosters a strong sense of team unity and achievement. By embracing these commitments as part of the Gundawgs, players and their families become integral members of our baseball community, working together towards shared goals and fostering an environment that promotes growth, camaraderie, and success.

Welcome to the Gundawgs!

Matt Behe

Gundawgs Baseball GM / Head Coach

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