



MIDLAND TITANS BASEBALL HANDBOOK

2023-2024 Season

All Teams

“Follow the Stampede”

The A-Z guide of policies, procedures, and expectations for all players and parents of the Midland Titans Select Baseball team.

Dear Players and Parents,

Congratulations and welcome to the 2023-2024 Midland Titans select baseball team! We are extremely excited to be continuing our program this year with 9u, 10u, 11u, 12u JV, and 12u Varsity.

As a program, the Midland Titans will incorporate a development towards sports and society. The student-athletes we develop will carry discipline, hard work, dedication, and team mentalities beyond just winning baseball games. Our goal is to provide players with a life-long positive experience with others and bridge them to the next stage within their lives.

We have high standards and while having fun, we are firm with our kids to apply their own high standards. Our coaching staff is fair as no single player is above the program. Every individual on the team has potential. We do not favor talent, but rather hard work. We encourage academics, attitude, and conditioning. We promote a team first philosophy within our training tactics, focusing on the fundamentals of the sport before the highly attractive play. We ask not for them to be great at everything, we only ask that they do their very best as the rest tends to take care of itself. To that end, this program will develop players into amateur and over time, professional athletes and grown men and women into our society.

To ensure both on and off the field success of the program, please read, understand, and adhere to the following information. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please contact us at your earliest convenience. It is our sincerest gratification that you all have a positive and memorable experience.

Daniel Shelton

President

Cell: (432) 488-6942

Bryce Pruitt

Vice President

Cell: (432) 553-9343

Amanda Tremble

Secretary

Cell: (432) 553-5307

Kim Watkins

Treasurer

Cell: (432) 634-5161



CODE OF CONDUCT

Philosophy

Baseball is about being part of a team, a unit greater than any individual, and accepting all of the challenges, successes, and failures that come with that responsibility. It is not about winning and losing; rather, baseball is about incorporating the lessons learned through victory and defeat into our daily lives. Baseball is a game that allows us to learn about ourselves, our teammates and ultimately, life.

We feel very committed to this philosophy as our job consists with a focused responsibility to developing student athletes towards the next level. Winning tournaments is our goal each year. However, winning baseball games does not measure our athlete's development.

Player Conduct

Players should play the game with honor and class when they step onto the baseball field. All coaches, players, fans, umpires, and other personnel should be respected. The reputation of Midland and our program is very important. It only takes a single moment to negate what it has taken years to build.

As per league rules, "any individual who is ejected for any reason shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team's next contest. After the suspension from play, the individual may only return after certification by the league.

The use of profanity, throwing equipment, arguing, or questioning an umpire and/or any other negative behavior is strictly prohibited. The privilege of being on the field may be dismissed at the player's expense.

Parent Conduct

Attendance and demonstrating good sportsmanship at our games and functions is expected. Our positive mantra is highly influenced by our parents at the field and even more dramatically at home.

Please remember to keep comments positive, whether they are to your own child, another player or parent, a coach, an umpire, or any other opposing player, parent, or coach. The Midland Titans should be looked to as the class of the league at all times.

Parents should refrain from entering the dugout and/or field before, during, or after a game or practice. The intent is that the coach is responsible for the players during practices and games and allows the players to focus on the task at hand and should provide the best outcome.

The use of profanity, arguing with a coach, umpire, player, other parent, etc., or negative behavior is strictly prohibited. Any parent action that creates a negative or unsafe environment may cause a player to be removed from the program entirely.

Note: This conduct expectation also includes extended-family and friends. Any player spectator that is causing disruption, negative, or unsafe environments may cause a player to be removed from the



program entirely. Parents are responsible for extended family, friends, and spectators of their player.

Team Concept

Players will be part of the Midland Titan baseball family throughout their lives. Your actions should be for the benefit of the team. Always demonstrate respect and support for your teammates. The quickest way to begin losing is to create unnecessary dissention on or off the field. Further, what happens on the field should stay on the field. Please respect the privacy and confidentiality of your teammates, parents, and coaching staff. We are a family and should support each other through both good and difficult times.

Team Party

Periodically, all players from the program will be honored and recognized for their efforts and achievements. Invitations will be sent out in advance with more details and information with venues is to be determined. This is an important event for the players. All players, parents, relatives, and friends are encouraged to participate in any semi-annual evening of celebration.

Coaching Staff

All Titans coaches are unique and have their own style that will allow players to gain as much knowledge and perspective as possible. All coaches should be respected equally for the time and commitment they provide the players and the program. All coaches are here to help you and our doors are always open.

Throughout the season, coaches may involve hired private instructors. It is important to have an open mind towards philosophies.

Practice

Players are expected to attend practice on a consistent basis. Like academic classes and areas of employment, three unexcused absences may occur before being cut from the team. When an unexcused absence occurs, the following rules apply: For designated starting players, a missing practice results in a non-start for that player on the next game day. For specific role players, missing practice results in no playing time for the next available game day.

Practices are “open” to parents, providing they remain in the stands and avoid involvement with players and/or coaches. Players will be dismissed as a team after the field is cleaned up.

Generally, we will practice multiple times leading up to a tournament weekend and take a break thereafter. We may have multiple age groups practice together, but also focus on smaller groups.

Excused Absences

Players should notify the Coach in advance if they need to miss any part of practice. Players must notify the Coach as soon as possible and have a deadline of the day before to qualify for an excused absence. Text messaging is appropriate.

As each player is a student first athlete, we will exercise caution in allowing players to miss practice for



academic reasons.

Parents: Please try to avoid scheduling doctor/dentist appointments, driving lessons, etc. during practice time. If it is impossible to avoid such scheduling conflicts, please contact Coach so arrangements can be discussed. If you must schedule such an appointment, Batting Practice days are a more flexible day as those practices are generally less comprehensive than full squad workouts.

Leagues

Rules and regulations are defined and may vary depending on the league and sub-region of the league. For example, Midland Titans may participate in multiple leagues such as USSSA, NCS, Perfect Game, etc. Rosters and rules may vary. For clarification, please contact your Team Governor and/or Coach regarding decisions based on the league event.

Team Assignments

Within the Titan program, players should expect to play for their team per Fall and Spring season. There are occasions where a player may play-up on another Titan team when needing to fill a roster for a tournament or event, but that player should wait until the end of the season to expect to move permanently to another team. In situations where both team coaches agree, a player can move teams mid-season.

External Teams and Sports

As per participating league recommendations, a member of a select travel baseball team may compete for an outside team in the sport of baseball during the official season.

Multiple-sport athletes are encouraged due to having well-rounded skills and abilities. It is important to understand that playing other sports may cause a detriment to your player. It is possible that your player will regress in their baseball skills and in-turn affect their position on the team. In addition, playing little league or for other baseball teams can cause issues with pitch-counts/arm over-use and scheduling issues. It is also important to know that this is not the case for every player.

It is imperative to speak with your team's coach on playing other sports and for other teams (including little league) for the best outcome and benefit to the player and their development. Communication is key and attendance to practices and games is vital to both the player and the team's growth and in turn their successes.

Game Days

Generally, two tournament Pool Play games will be on Saturdays and each tournament generally guarantees three (3) games of play. Depending on how far we play into the tournament (how many games we win) we may play as many as ten games over a weekend. As we win games, we accumulate points that can be accessed to qualify us for certain tournaments. Each player/parent will agree to play in a tournament generally one month prior to. Any monthly dues collected by the group to play within that time frame (ie: month) will not be returned if a player misses games.



Players are expected to be appropriately dressed (see “Uniform”) and begin their stretching circle one hour before game time, unless otherwise noted. This is a deadline and can be done earlier.

Players should be ready to enter the game at any time, which includes staying stretched and warm. This also means keeping mentally aware of what is happening in the game by anticipating what may happen, especially for relief pitchers, pinch hitters/runners, etc.

Players will remain in the dugout and should avoid socializing with friends or family during the game. This includes accepting food or drinks during the game. You may ask the Governor or a coach to transfer any items to the players. All players are currently involved in the game as they have duties and assignments, such as: charting pitches, warming up outfielders, retrieving foul balls, viewing opponent’s signs, etc. There are no bench players; rather everyone plays specific roles for the benefit of the team.

Player Appearance

Players should be well-groomed and maintain a neat and orderly appearance. Uniforms and equipment should also be well-maintained. When you look good, you feel good, and when you feel good you play great. Players are encouraged to style their personal belongings (helmet, pants, etc.) in different forms such as tapered pants. Eye black may also be worn. Individual style is important in developing character. However, there are requirements (Please see “Uniform”). Remember, you are always representing Midland Titans baseball!

Uniform

The requirements are for game pants, hats, and belt at all times with shirts to be tucked in, hats worn forward, and no jewelry. Please take honor in wearing the Titan uniform. Players may also be required to wear a specific uniform/color during specific days. Remember, you must be properly dressed to be “present” at any game or practice.

Playing Time

Other than inning/pitch counts for pitchers, there are no playing time limitations. There are also no restrictions to playing the same positions. In fact, the program will focus on specific position(s) for each player to advance their comprehension. Each situation may be different. Keep in mind, there may be cases when a player does not enter a game.

All players will be supportive of their teammates. We all will carry a positive mantra.

The concept of “equal playing time” does not exist at this level. However, positions will continuously be earned, and starting line-ups may change from game to game or week to week. A player’s positive attitude and work ethic will also contribute to opportunities.

As the season progresses, the coaches utilize players who fit well within specific situations. Players will be asked to fulfill roles, such as: starters, pinch hitting/running, playing defense late in the game, or charting the opponent. Players may also be asked to play up into the higher age group in a smaller role or option down into their travel ball age to help develop their skill in a prime position. There are no



bench players. Every role is an important one and is crucial to the overall success of the team.

Contacting the Coach

In contacting the coach with an issue or concern, please adhere to the following procedures:

1. The player must contact the Head Coach to explain and discuss the issue.
2. If the challenge is not resolved, the parent(s) may contact the Team Governor.
3. If the challenge is still not resolved, a meeting between the Governor, Head Coach, the parent(s), and the player will be scheduled.
4. Final attempt(s) should be made by having the Head Coach and Governor schedule a meeting with the President and/or Vice President and parent(s).

By respecting and following this process, concerns have a much greater chance of being resolved amicably. Coaches and Board members throughout the program are in constant contact with one another. Challenges will likely worsen if other solutions are first attempted (speaking to other coaches, parents, going directly to board). In most cases, the coach may not even be aware a problem exists. Please give coaches the opportunity to address your concern.

Playing time issues are the ultimate decision of the head coach and are based upon the interests of the entire program, not the individual player. No individual player, no matter the talent level, is above the program. Please be aware that coaches routinely forecast player development and analyze information for the best interest of the program – its players.

Players are encouraged to talk to coaches about any concerns right away. Our door is always open for them. In an effort to encourage open dialogue and communication with parents, Coaches will be available after each practice to discuss issues of playing time, areas for player improvement and/or other relevant issues. Any parent(s) who would like to discuss any concerns related to playing time are invited to stop by and meet with the Head Coach, and their son, in a private and candid conversation (as long as the player has first made contact with the coach).

Equipment

All program equipment should be treated with care and respect. Equipment is routinely inventoried and assessed annually to ensure our players have the best possible equipment. It is inappropriate to mistreat any equipment, including throwing bats, helmets, etc. It is a pleasure to be on the field with the equipment, please honor them. Any individuals who disobey these rules will be asked to sit in the dugout or leave a game or practice immediately.

Plays and Signs

All players will receive a playbook. Players are expected to be familiar with these plays and signs before we approach them in practice and/or games. The playbook will evolve as we advance within the program.

Hard-90's

Players throughout the program are expected to display "Hard-90's" in every game. A Hard-90 is simply running to each base at a sprinting pace. This includes AT ALL TIMES. If you reach base on balls or line



out and are even one step out of the batter's box, you are required to run your "hard-90." Not doing so is an easy way to reduce your playing role and get replaced in a game.

Alcohol & Drugs

The Midland Titans and tournament governing bodies policy on alcohol, tobacco and drug use will be followed.

In any case a child is under medication, it is important coaches are aware in order to assist in any potential matter while on and/or off the field of play during the season. Medications such as pain killers, muscle relaxers, inhalers and/or antibiotics may generate additional fatigue which players tend to overcompensate and create a separate injury.

Injuries

Regardless if an injury occurred during a baseball game, practice, or is not baseball related, players should report all injuries to Coach immediately. This is important to ensure the player can receive the proper injury diagnosis and treatment for a healthy recovery.

As a program, we are deeply concerned about the growing presence of arm/elbow injuries, most notably "Tommy-John." Our opinion is the growing presence of year-round baseball that contributes to this. With that in mind, we may take weeks at a time off from throwing or baseball activities all together on an individual case by case basis. We will build a proper arm care program for your child.

Private Coaching

Working out with a private coach is a great idea. It is virtually impossible for players to reach their full potential in the few hours we have any given day.

Holidays

Most larger tournaments do align into holidays. Teams will need to decide which tournaments to play and if practices would be scheduled during holiday breaks.

Sundays

Depending on the tournament entered, tournament regulations state that it is likely to engage in multiple games on a Sunday. Please keep this in mind as we may travel and be required to play games on Sundays.

Transportation

It is expected that all parents arrange their own travel. To that end, parents may work together to carpool, etc. Remember the concept of the program is a positive experience together amongst our families.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & EXPECTATIONS



Program Dues

Each player is required to pay their dues timely and in accordance with the program by-laws.

Payment Due Dates: Dues will be paid in 6-month increments for the Fall and Spring seasons.

- July 1st for Fall Season (Aug. 1st – Jan. 31st)
- January 1st for Spring Season (Feb. 1st – July 31st)

Payment Amounts:

- \$900 per Standard Player
- \$600 per Assistant Coach Player
- \$450 per Head Coach Player
- \$300 per Sibling Player

Payment Methods:

The Titans will provide multiple payment method options. The program discourages the use of cash, due to the potential of fraud, loss/theft, and lack of paper trail. Payments made by cash should be considered risky.

Program Benefits

- Access to a training facility that provides team and player development related to Pitching, Defense, Hitting and Conditioning at least twice per week, one-hour per session.
 - The option of a make-up session will be available each week. However, continued absences will not be available for makeup.
- Access to an on-site consultant to provide or outsource/recommend conditioning and/or other player development within a more privatized setting.
 - *Note: Some private lessons may require additional fees to be paid directly by the individual or by the team and are not included in the program dues.*

Team Funding

Each team manages their own checking account for tournament and team needs. Teams can decide to pay for their needs out of pocket at the beginning of each season or fundraise for their needs. Most teams that fundraise tend to fundraise together with football squares or raffle tickets. There are no restrictions on fundraising, as long as fundraising is done in an ethical manner.

Suggested out of pocket tournament funding is approximately \$100 per tournament, per family. So, if your team wants to participate in 1 tournament a month, each family would be responsible for \$600 each season. Note: this does not include any special team needs for equipment, events, etc. It should also be noted that it is important to pay this expense as early in the season as possible to allow for tournament scheduling and payments.

Uniform Fees



Uniforms are the perfect way to keep the Titan brand consistent across the program. Below lists the required uniform items for each player.

Required Uniform Items:	Cost:	Note:
Practice Jerseys	\$50	<i>Includes 2 jersey tops</i>
Primary Uniform	\$100	<i>Midland Gray jersey and pant set</i>
Secondary Uniform	\$100	<i>White Pinstripe jersey and pant set</i>
Alternative Jersey	\$60	<i>Orange Under Armour</i>
Fitted Hat	\$40	
Sweatshirt / Hoodie	\$50	
Helmet	\$65	<i>Includes cFlap/Face Guard</i>
Bat Bag	\$135	
Gray Practice Pants		<i>Not provided by program; personal purchase.</i>
Plain Navy Belt		<i>Not provided by program; personal purchase.</i>
Plain Navy Socks		<i>Not provided by program; personal purchase.</i>
\$600		

Notes:

- o *Prices above are for bundled ordering which have discounted pricing, such as when a new team orders multiple items together. One-off and small orders will likely be priced higher due to losing the bulk discounts.*
 - o *When ordering individual items in the Titan Store, items are priced slightly more to offset credit card transaction fees.*
- o *Some teams may have additional uniform requirements that may have additional fees or fundraising.*
- o *There are a handful of loaner uniforms that may be available for players to use temporarily until the uniform package has been purchased. (Subject to availability.)*
- o *All uniforms items are subject to change based on availability and price increases from vendors.*

Fundraising Events and Sponsorship Packages

The Midland Titan Board has a sub-committee for fundraising efforts that is represented by families from each team. This committee's purpose is to help facilitate fundraising events for the program as well as individual teams. All parents are welcome to join the fundraising committee. Past events include community cards, community trash pick-up, sponsorships, poker tournaments, football squares, raffles, helping concession stands, and hosting a tournament which entails participation for keeping score during games. One of the easiest ways to fundraise is simply spreading the word.

The Titan Program is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and has tax exemptions that can benefit a team in their fundraising efforts. Corporate sponsorships can be collected for team, player, or program efforts. Please reach out to our Treasurer with any questions regarding tax exemptions.



TITAN HANDBOOK AGREEMENT 2022-2023

PLAYERS WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICES OR GAMES WITHOUT THIS FORM ON FILE.

Print Player Name

I have read the MIDLAND TITANS BASEBALL HANDBOOK and I understand what is expected and agree to follow and support all policies, procedures, and expectations throughout the entire season, including:

- o Maintaining high standards by carrying a positive mantra and the Titan's "class above the rest" mentality.
- o Participating in fundraising efforts, team-building events, etc.
- o Leading by example, by having good sportsmanship, encouraging players, having good attendance, being timely and prepared, etc.
- o Communicating with respect, keeping comments positive, and following the communication protocols.

I understand that by not following these policies and expectations, could result in being dismissed from the Titan program.

Player Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Please sign and return this form to: midlandtitans@gmail.com and complete the player contact information form here: <https://forms.gle/yZS33YvW8SSkzLi2A>