



Silver Sluggers Baseball Tournament Teams

MISSION

Our focus at Silver Sluggers is to develop our young athletes to be quality baseball and softball players, great teammates, and to respect the game. We teach how work ethic and preparation translates to improvement, how attention to detail, discipline, dealing with adversity and commitment can build a foundation for success on the field, and how this game can prepare us for life off the field.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

PROGRAM CALENDAR

- **August:** Tryouts and Team Selection (late July-August)
- **September -October:** Fall Training Camp (6-8 Weeks of Team Practices and Skills Sessions)
- **November- December:** Off (Skills Clinics Available and Focus on Strength and Agility Training)
- **January-March:** Winter Indoor Training (10-12 weeks of team practices and strength training)
- **Late March-April:** Spring Training Camp (4-6 Weeks of Team Practices and Skills Sessions (14U and below)
- **May-July:** 10U-14U Tournament Season 8-9 tournaments in 12 weeks
- **June-July:** 15U-17U Tournament Season (HS Players) - 6 tournaments in 7 weeks

OFF SEASON TRAINING

- **Sluggers Fall Training Camp- Sept-Oct:** We will quickly assemble our teams, and begin our Fall Training Camp in late August to Mid-October. Fall Training Camp will be a skills-based practice to teach the individual fundamentals of throwing, hitting, fielding, pitching, and catching as well as team fundamentals of defensive strategy, positioning and communication.
- **Winter Training- Nov-March:** November and December we will focus on at home strength and athletic performance training as well as online drills and training ideas at home to maintain mechanics of hitting, throwing, and fielding. Silver Sluggers still offers skills clinics at a discounted rate for Silver Sluggers players. January-March we will phase into team training at our indoor facilities.

Our primary goal with our Winter Training program is to focus on strength/speed in phase 1 (Nov/Dec/Jan) and build baseball/softball skills in phase 2 (Jan/Feb/Mar) prior to the High School season or our outside Spring Training Camp.

SPRING TRAINING CAMP (LATE MAR-APRIL)

- In mid to late March, our High School players will move into their respective high school teams.
- For those not playing in high school (10U-14U), our outdoor Spring Training Camp will prepare our players for the season. This will include at least one team practice per week with other skill specific clinics or practice options offered.



COMPETITION/TOURNAMENT SEASON- MAY-JULY

High School players begin in June after their school season finishes.

- **Developmental Groups (10U-14U Teams)**
 - 8-9 Tournaments from late April-July
 - Local Travel- Mostly in WI within 1.5 hours
 - Weekly practices or scrimmages with other local teams
 - Small Group Clinics (2 per week included in team fee)
- **Showcase Groups (15-18U) Tournament Season- June-July**
 - 6 tournaments begin mid-June
 - Regional Travel- WI, MN, IL, IN, IA
 - Mid-Week practices
 - Small Group Clinics (2 per week included in team fee)

PROGRAM COST

2025-26 Full Program Cost

- 10U-14U - \$3,250
- 15U-17U - \$3,400

This includes the following:

- Seasonal Training programs of over 150+ hours of team and skills training throughout the season.
- Spring/Summer Tournament Season (6 for 15-17U teams and 8-9 for 11-14U)
- Full Uniform for each player
- All Coach Fees Included (Paid head coach)
- Sluggers Skills Academy Clinics (Pitching/Hitting/Fielding/Catching with our Sluggers Coaches) (Up to two per week during our training season)
- Regular “Electronic” Instruction from Silver Sluggers Staff to keep players learning throughout the season (Daily Checklists, Fundamentals of the Week, Baseball IQ Tests, etc.)
- Weekly Practices during the season between tournaments
- 15-17U Players - Program includes a video showcase. Professionally edited video condensed into 2-3 minute highlight reel with showcase numbers for college recruiting
- Strength and Speed Training Sessions- Strength and Speed sessions will be an add on option for players. Strength and Speed classes will be offered with the following options -
 - Full Season Membership - \$499 for unlimited classes, September 9-July 15 (2 classes per week = \$6.25 per class)
 - Packages of 10 or 20 classes for a greatly reduced rate.
- Silver Sluggers member only discounted apparel and equipment from top manufacturers
 - Wilson, Demarini, Evoshield, Marrucci, Louisville Slugger..
 - Bats, bags, apparel, gloves, bat grips...

Payment Options and Plans

Program fee payment options are as follows:

- Initial commitment fee
- 5 monthly payments leading up to the tournament season.

Payment can be made the following ways:



- Credit Card (Additional fees apply)
- Check, Venmo, Cash (up front full payment only)

TEAM FEES- FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Team Fees are non-Refundable and must be paid at the due date of the payment schedule. Payment due dates are defined at the beginning of each training season after tryouts. The only criteria for a reduced season fee are:

- Pitcher Only Status
- Injury- If a player is injured and will miss the entirety of the tournament season, a partial refund may be given on a case by case basis.
- Unexpected move from the area

Fee reduction for these cases will be defined on a case by case basis.

A player is deemed ineligible and will not play for Silver Sluggers if full payment is not made by the beginning of the tournament season.

Travel Team fees cover team expenses during the season. These expenses include but are not limited to:

- Facility or field rental/lease
- Coach/Instructor expenses
- Tournament fees
- Team equipment
- Uniforms
- Umpire costs
- Coach travel cost and hotel rooms
- Team insurance
- Administrative and Team Communication Software and fees

Travel Team Fees Do Not Include:

- Player and family travel expenses
- Hotel fees and incidentals
- All equipment such as gloves, bats, helmets, batting gloves, protective gear.
- Gate fees for various tournaments
- Individual (1-1) Instruction and Academy Clinics outside of Sluggers Team programming

UNIFORMS AND ATTIRE

Team Issued Uniform: All players will receive the following team issued uniforms:

- Jersey- 2*
- Baseball pants - 1
- Hat- 1
- Socks- 2 pair
- Belt- 1

All uniform items listed above can be kept by the player after the season.



Parents/Players are responsible for ensuring the player has the equipment necessary for play, including gloves, bats, cleats, catcher's gear, helmets and other protective gear.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS (SUMMARY)

Our team selection process starts with tryouts. After tryouts, team invitations are sent out via email in phases. We will send out invitations to groups of players as we complete the tryout process. Team selection may take up to two weeks, but if a family needs more information to make a decision before invitations are sent, please contact us. We would be happy to discuss and answer any questions you may have regarding our organization or status of the team selection process.

All players selected for our teams will have an equal chance to move up and down the depth chart of our teams over time. We do not guarantee playing time or positional preference to any player. Players can prove themselves over time in our organization to earn their playing time or ability to play certain positions. For more details on our team selection process read further below.

ROSTER SELECTION

If we have multiple teams per age group, we typically do not select the teams until we can evaluate the players on the field over time. Our philosophy is to select our players for our organization, then get to know them on the field over many practices and training sessions to find the right rosters for each team at an age group.

In the event that there are enough talented dedicated players to support multiple teams at one age group, we will establish "A" and "B" teams at that age group. A and B team selection are determined based upon skill and talent, as well as positional depth and playing time considerations.

For more information on our Roster Selection criteria, read further below.

ROSTER SIZE

Team rosters will vary but are typically 12-13 players at 10-14U and 13-15 players at 15U-17U. The following are exceptions that will increase the player roster to 13 or above.

- One or more "Pitcher Only" players on the team.
- One or more players with multiple conflicts to tournaments. For example, if more than one player indicates that he will be missing multiple tournaments due to conflicts with other commitments, we will add another roster spot to the team.
- One or more players missing multiple tournaments with injuries

COACHES

Silver Sluggers assigns a non-parent, paid coach to each team. On rare occasions, we may have an instructor for our organization assigned to coach a team with their son or daughter on the team.

Silver Sluggers will work very hard to assemble a coaching staff of quality teachers and mentors for our players. For more information on our coach expectations, read further below.

PRACTICE FREQUENCY

Silver Sluggers offers many different training options, from regular team practices, small group skills clinics (pitching/hitting/catching) and weekly training checklists for our players sent via email. Silver Sluggers players always have many training resources to motivate consistent work ethic and skill building. For more detail on specific training resources, read further below.



Formal team practices are held once per week during the off-season training program (on weekends) and once per week during the tournament season (weekdays between tournaments). Our program includes 16-18 off-season team practices (Fall and Winter), and at least one practice per week during the tournament season for a total of 30-35 (70 hours) team practice in the program season.

PRACTICE LOCATIONS

Silver Sluggers has an indoor facility (Silver Sluggers, Middleton) and multiple fields for outdoor practices. Our indoor practice location is Silver Sluggers Academy, 8210 Forsythia Street, Middleton. Outdoor practices in Fall, Spring and Summer are in various fields in the Waunakee, WI area.



PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Letter To Players, Parents And Coaches

Welcome to Silver Sluggers Baseball. We are very excited for players in our organization to understand the responsibility that comes with being on a highly functioning team.

It is a privilege to be a part of this organization. It is a privilege to be a teammate of other players with lofty goals and aspirations in baseball. Our coaching staff also realizes it is a privilege to coach players that have a strong desire to compete at a high level of baseball.

With that privilege comes a large responsibility to each other as coaches, players and teammates. We are all accountable for our successes and failures. Every coach and player must represent themselves (and this organization) with class, a high work ethic, and a will to prepare that will surpass our competition.

It is every player's and coach's responsibility to prepare for success on and off the field, every day. If any individual is not prepared for a practice or game, it will inhibit our success on the field. This will negatively affect our team and our teammates goals of playing at the next level. We must continue to remind ourselves that we are working to reach our own individual goals, but are also accountable to our teammates and their aspirations for success in baseball at the next level.

Silver Sluggers teams will work hard to win games, but it is not our primary focus. Preparing to win, the right way, every day, is our priority. A result of this preparation is improvement, a higher level of performance on the field, and success as a collective team, on and off the field. Winning is a byproduct of our preparation.

We are really looking forward to training all of you this season!!

Brad Woodall and The Silver Sluggers Coaching Staff

PLAYER ABSOLUTES

Silver Sluggers players will win each game not by wins and losses, but on the characteristics of attitude, effort, sportsmanship, class and respect. With these goals as our foundation, wins and losses on the field will come.

Class

Players will represent themselves and the organization with class at all times. Silver Slugger players will win the Class Contest every game.

Respect

Players will show respect to teammates, competitors, coaches, and umpires at all times. Silver Sluggers players will win the Respect Contest every game.

Attitude

Players will arrive at the field on time, ready to work, with a positive attitude to help the team in any way that is asked of them that day. Silver Sluggers players will win the Attitude Contest every game.

**Effort**

Players will show exceptional effort at all times. Running on and off the field between innings, and sprinting down the line Silver Sluggers players will win the Effort Contest every game.

Reliability

One of the best character traits we can instill in our young athletes is reliability. Our coaches and teammates should be able to rely on players to be at the game on time, attend all games with few exceptions, and show up to every game and practice with a good attitude and ready to work. If we have a team full of players that we can count on each game to be on time, ready to work and learn, we will have a successful season.

Team

The Team comes first. The Individual comes second. Players will support their teammates and their coaches decisions, at all times. Players may not agree with everything that happens on the field. However, a negative attitude toward a player, coach, or umpire before or during a game is unacceptable.

Attention to Detail

Players will take absolute pride in our pre-game warmup and how we prepare for each game. Being on time, good energy, attitude, and attention to detail in our pre-game routine will play a major role in our success. Silver Sluggers players will win the Preparedness Contest every game.

Anticipation

Players will be expected to anticipate very well. The game of baseball is 80% anticipation and 20% reaction. If our players learn to let their anticipation lead them, their reactions and instincts will follow resulting in better decision making and performance on the field.

All Silver Sluggers players and teams will be evaluated on these metrics after every game. These are the components of winning teams, and Silver Sluggers will win these contests.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Silver Sluggers will teach players how to play the game of baseball THE RIGHT WAY. We strive to create a positive learning experience for the players. We will do EVERYTHING with class, win or lose.

Player Code- Respect for Equipment, Teammates and Opponents

- Players are expected to wear full uniform for all games, practices when asked. Full Uniform includes team issued hats, jerseys, belts, pants, socks. Jerseys are to be tucked in, belt on, and hat is to be worn straight at all times
- Players are responsible for their equipment and equipment bags. Players should check equipment and pack their bags the night before game and practices. Forgetting equipment, jerseys, hats, etc. is a sign of lack of preparation. Sluggers players will be prepared for every game and practice.
- Player will never throw equipment out of anger or frustration. Adversity will happen every game. Responding positively to adversity and accepting the challenges the game and our competition gives us is a sign of a great player.
- Hang bags up in a line on the back of the dugout if possible.
- Keep dugout neat at all times.



- Players will show no negative body language or comments to teammates umpires, coaches and parents. It is a clear sign of your character if you respond negatively to adversity from teammates, coaches, competition, and umpires.
- Players will never disrespect another player on our team or the other team in any way. We will do our job on the field, which is to take care of our fielding, hitting, pitching, base running, and team communication. If the other team challenges us, we respond by playing well on the field and competing with 100% effort.

Player Code- Respect for the Game

- Be On Time: Players are expected to be at the games 1 hour prior to start time, and on time for practices. On time means completely ready to start warm-ups, with full practice or game uniform and cleats on.
- Players will shake hands with teammates and coaches before every game, telling them to have a good game.
- When a teammate scores, every player will line up at the dugout entrance and touch (high five, tap helmet, fist bump) the player who scored.
- Players will sprint on and off the field....all the way to their position. Players on the bench will run to the nearest foul pole and back to the dugout when our team takes the field every inning. Players will be removed from the game if they are not running to their position
- Players will always sprint all the way down the first base line on every ball in play. Even if a player hits a line drive to the pitcher, the player will still run down the line and touch first base.
- Players will get into the proper fielding position every pitch.
 - Step into pitch
 - Glove out to hitter and down toward ground
 - Small hop - landing on balls of feet when pitch crosses home plate
- Players will communicate with each other between every pitch.
- Players may not leave the dugout during games unless it is to use the restroom.
- Players should have everything they need with them inside the dugout prior to the game.

Player Code- Work Ethic

Our goal is to create an environment that challenges every player to put in the time and sacrifice to play at the highest level possible.

- Players are required to devote at least 2 hours per week for individual practice. Individual practice is any work on their baseball skills or mental training outside of team practice. This includes reading books and articles on mental training, or working on individual skills with a family member, teammate, or friend.
- If a player misses practice due to a conflict, he is expected to make up the missed time by individual practice, with a parent, teammate, sibling, or friend in order to catch up on practice time.

PLAYERS MANAGE THEIR SCHEDULES

We want our players to manage their practice schedules, and be responsible for their schedules as well as their communication with teammates and coaches. Parents, please allow your kids to schedule, unschedule, RSVP, provide their reason for not attending a practice, etc. If they do not have a phone or a computer, let them borrow one from someone in the family to manage their baseball or softball schedule. This is part of the process of taking accountability to their team, their teammates and coaches this season....as well as creating leadership qualities in our players. If we see that they



are not being accountable to their team, we will find ways to motivate them to make the adjustment quickly.

PLAYING TIME GUIDELINES

For our coaches and staff, playing time is one of the most difficult aspects of our game to manage. Our general philosophy is as follows:

For all of our teams, playing time for individual players will look similar to a bell curve. In our experience, each team will have a few players that will play most of the innings of our tournament games. These players are typically versatile and valuable at multiple positions, or play at a position such as catcher and shortstop/second base/center field where teams need stability and reliability.

Many of the players on a team will share playing time at various positions that we feel will add value to the team competitively. There will be a few players on each team that will see less playing time defensively than others. Typically, we will have players that are not in the top 2 on the depth chart at a position, or in the top two at only one position, where they will share playing time at that position.

Our priority is to put the team and our individual players in the best position for success. There may be times where a player's wants may not be in line with the team success. A player's desire to play a particular position will always be considered, but team success and other team members playing time will be considered as well.

PLAYING ON COMMUNITY TEAMS

We encourage players to play on community teams if they can while also participating with Silver Sluggers. Players should make Silver Sluggers a priority during the tournament season. When game conflicts arise, we expect that our players choose to play for Silver Sluggers. However, we encourage our players to play in community league games over a Silver Sluggers practice, as well as splitting time between Sluggers and community team practices.

PHILOSOPHY ON INJURED PLAYERS

Inevitably, we will have players with sore arms or other minor injuries. If a player informs a coach or staff member of an ailing arm or other injury, we will always err on the side of caution. We will assess the situation as well as possible, but will not put our team in front of our individual players' health.

COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

Setting our coaching staff is one of the challenging aspects for our organization. We take pride in our coaching staff, but also understand how difficult it is to have a stable, consistent group of coaches year over year, as many of our coaches are finding new career paths out of college, or finding that the time commitment of coaching a showcase travel team is too much for their family or career.

Each team will have a Head Coach, hired and paid by Silver Sluggers. Each team may also have additional Assistant Coaches (parents of players) to assist the Head Coach in mentoring and developing the players during games and practices.

Head Coaches will make all decisions regarding player playing time and game strategy. Assistant Coaches may not make lineup or game strategy decisions without the approval of the Head Coach.



COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaches will have a great responsibility of managing the development of our individual players while also putting the team in the position of success on the field.

The following are the various responsibilities and mission of our coaching staff:

- Set and example for our players in regard to:
 - Respect for our opponents and umpires
 - Work ethic that it takes to succeed at a high level of sports
 - Attention to detail and preparedness
 - The ability to stay calm under pressure and manage adversity in competition.
- Teach our players:
 - Exceptional work ethic and attention to detail
 - How to prepare for the challenges and competition of our games
- Manage our teams and players for continuous improvement throughout the season.
- Manage appropriate playing time for each player.
- Manage games to win, while at the same time keeping the priority of team and individual player development
- Maintaining the focus on improvement and development, rather than winning and losing. Winning and losing is a short term outlook. Developing players for success over time is a long term goal.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

The Silver Sluggers organization is a team-based organization. We understand the role our parents play in our organization. Our best strategy is to work together to develop our players, coach them together as a unified team to better handle the pressure and adversity on playing travel team competitive baseball.

We rely on our parents to help us in many ways. Honest and appropriate communication is the best way to create a positive environment for our kids.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Parents should:
 - Get players to the games and practices on time
 - At all times be supportive of the experience your sons/daughters are enjoying.
 - Enjoy the games by cheering for our team and the players' successes.
 - Watch the games, enjoying that your child is gaining fantastic life experiences of successes and failures, handling adversity, and performance under the pressures of high standards and competition.
 - Practice with their children on their own time, using coaches suggestions to work on improving individual skills.
 - Demand that their child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect at all times.
- Parent's may not:
 - Shout (or even express) derogatory remarks toward coaches, players and umpires before, during or after games.



- Generally be overly boisterous toward any one player during a game. This is a team sport. Please cheer for the team success.
- Interact with the coach during or after the game to offer a complaint, discuss playing time, batting order, positional or game strategy.
 - All concerns about playing time, game strategy, batting order, or other complaints must be addressed with the Club director on Tuesday after tournament
- Interact with players during games and practices. Parents should not approach the dugout to coach, counsel, or critique players. We want our players to give 100% attention to their coaches and teammates.
- Make negative comments about coaches, teammates, and umpires in the presence of players.

** Parents who are openly acting against the above bullet points may be asked to leave the field immediately. Excessive violation of the above bullet points will be grounds for removing the player and parent from the team.

Matheny Manifesto- Recommended Reading

Recommended reading for every parent (and coach) is Mike Matheny's book, ***The Matheny Manifesto***. This book outlines our philosophy on how the game should be played by our players, and how our parents should view their role in their child's experience with Silver Sluggers.

ADDRESSING CONCERNS

Parents will not address coaches with advice or complaints during tournament weekends. Silver Sluggers requires that all complaints or concerns regarding playing time, positional preference, batting order, or any game management issue be addressed first with the Director of Teams on Tuesday (or after) following a tournament weekend.

Our coaches are very busy on tournament weekends managing games, lineups, rosters and other responsibilities during the weekend. Please let them focus on their role to manage the team, coaching the players and games as well as they can.

For all players, at 15U and above: All concerns and questions must first be addressed from player to coach before discussion between parent and coach.

Email communication to coaches: Email communication to coaches is allowed from Tuesday-Thursday during the tournament season. All email communication to coaches from parents must also have Brad Woodall copied throughout the email chain. brad@silversluggers.com



PROGRAM DETAILS AND SPECIFICS

TRYOUTS

The Silver Sluggers “season” starts each year with tryouts in late July, or early August. All players, including returning players must tryout for Silver Sluggers teams every year. Current Silver Sluggers players are not entitled to a roster spot the following season. All players must earn their way onto the team every year.

TEAM SELECTION

Generally, our teams in the 10-15U age groups are built with the individual player's development in mind. Playing time and development at positions we project them to play in the future are our primary goals. Our 16U-17U Teams are our showcase teams and we are looking to showcase our players to college coaches as well as help them prepare for college baseball.

The following factors are considered when making our decision on team development.

- Skill and Talent- Our goal is to put our current most talented players together, with tie breakers or exceptions listed below
- Commitment- If a child shows less work ethic or commitment to practice or tournaments compared to other players in the selection process, a player with less skill or talent but with more dedication may be selected over one with more talent.
- Team Chemistry- If players played together in previous year, and the team chemistry was good, we want to keep these players together if possible. This includes
 - Playing on a Silver Sluggers team in the previous year together.
 - Playing on or being from the same home town.
- Positional Depth- With the intent of putting our most talented players together, we are also factoring in positional depth. For example, an age group has 4 true shortstops in our top 10 most talented or skilled players, we will likely split these players up between the two teams at that age group so that playing time at their primary position is maximized.

Our roster development is our toughest task in our organization. Putting together the right team for our players' development is our foremost priority. This task is not taken lightly, and once the rosters are finalized, every player and family can assume that the Silver Sluggers staff has put a lot of thought and time into each decision for each player. There is a reason for every player's placement on each team.

The term “final rosters” is defined loosely for our teams. Silver Sluggers may move players from one roster to another depending on the need for a particular team or player. A few of the reasons for switching teams during the season are as follows:

1. Roster need for a team, or short players or at a particular position on a particular weekend.
2. Developmental need for a player --If we see that a player is not receiving the playing time needed to develop at a position that we see he should be playing, or to effectively showcase his skills.
3. For any reason, if we feel that a player would benefit from a new environment to increase motivation or positive attitude.



If at some point during the season, a player can get more playing time for one team over another, we reserve the right to move that player to another roster.

ROSTER SIZE

Team rosters will vary but are typically 12-13 players at 10-14U and 13-15 players at 15-17U. The following are exceptions that will increase the player roster to above 13.

- One or more “Pitcher Only” players on the team.
- One or more players with multiple conflicts to tournaments. For example, if more than one player indicates that he will be missing multiple tournaments due to conflicts with other commitments, we will add another roster spot to the team.
- One or more players missing multiple tournaments with injuries

In the event that there are enough talented dedicated players to support multiple teams at one age group, we will establish “A” and “B” teams at that age group. A and B team selection are determined based upon skill and talent, as well as positional depth and playing time considerations.

SPIRIT WEAR- LOGO APPAREL

Silver Sluggers will offer multiple “Spirit Wear” purchase opportunities. Spirit Wear and other Silver Sluggers recommended equipment may be purchased through these periodic online stores with Badger Sporting Goods.

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Helmet - In addition to our standard issue uniforms above, we highly recommend all players purchase a Silver Sluggers helmet. Returning players are not required to purchase a new helmet every year. New players are highly recommended to purchase a helmet through Silver Sluggers for individual use.

Cleats - It is recommended to wear black cleats for our games and tournaments. We do not provide cleats with the standard issue uniform. Our assumption is that most of our players will already have a pair of cleats from their spring team, or from last season and it is unnecessary to purchase an additional pair for the Silver Sluggers season.

ATTENDANCE TO PRACTICES AND GAMES

We are a family-based organization with our families coming first. If you have a family event or activity, players will be excused for a practice, game or tournament. However, we ask that players and families give us ample notice to accommodate any absences during the season.

We will reserve the right, out of fairness to the team, to provide more playing time and placement in the batting order or position selection to those who exhibit exceptional attendance and reliability during the season.

We understand that our players may be with multiple teams or sports during the summer. We like to see our players involved in other sports and activities other than baseball or softball. However, we expect that on tournament weekends, our first priority would be Silver Sluggers. Other sport or activity conflicts for tournament weekends must be discussed with the Silver Sluggers organization in advance of the season. We can manage multiple sport and family event conflicts with enough advanced notice.



TRAVEL GUIDELINES

Accommodations and Travel (reservations and expenses) are the responsibility of the player/parents. Silver Sluggers assumes no responsibility or liability for or in connection with the player's transportation to practices, games, tournaments, and/or activities.

The Silver Sluggers staff will provide hotel information for the parents when appropriate for each event; it is encouraged, but not mandatory to stay at the team hotel unless the tournament is a "stay to play". When choosing the hotel, we look for the best accommodations with a mid-range price at brand name hotels. Please review the following.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

- When booking the rooms, we usually do not have our specific game schedule. These types of events often use several fields that are up to forty-five minutes apart. We will try to find hotels that are the best travel solution for our players and staff to drive to each field.
- Hotel phone numbers addresses, and a reservation cutoff date will be provided in the hotel schedule on our team pages of our website.
- Rooms will be released back to the hotel after the cutoff date and players/parents will be on their own for hotel arrangements
- Some rates are based on a two-night stay. When making reservations, please ask about the cancellation policy and rates for a one-night stay if appropriate.

RIDE SHARING AND TRAVEL

- Travel to and from games: Rides/carpooling must be organized by the individual player/parents.
- Ride Sharing Requests- Requests for Ride Sharing may be posted on our Sports Engine "chat" function/message board.
- If a Player is carpooling with another player, and is getting his own room or sharing with another player, in order to check in they will need to be 18 years of age and have a credit card. Please make sure of the hotel policy before making these types of arrangements.
- If a player makes arrangements to travel with another player, it needs to include travel to and from each game.
- Silver Sluggers and coaching staff is not responsible for player transportation and accommodations.

HOTEL RULES

Keep in mind that you are representing Silver Sluggers Baseball on and off the field.

The coaching staff will monitor curfews and behavior at the team hotel only for players traveling with another player or alone.

- Curfew is 11:00pm
- No females visitors, unless accompanied by an adult
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products allowed in rooms
- Shoes, pants, and shirts are to be worn when outside of hotel room on hotel property.
- Be respectful to hotel employees, staff, and other people staying at hotel
- Maintain rooms and all hotel property while keeping them reasonably neat
- Before leaving room for checkout, clean room of any trash



INSTRUCTIONAL OFFERINGS DETAILS AND DEFINITIONS

TEAM PRACTICES

Each team/age group has a specific practice time. If you are not able to attend practice due to a conflict with another sport or family obligation, you may attend another practice time with a similar age group.

Sign Up/Attendance Notification: All players must RSVP for team practices on the Sports Engine app. If a player is not attending practice, he/she must RSVP "No" for that practice, and provide a reason for not attending practice. If he/she plans on attending another age group practice, RSVP "No" and provide the reason for not attending his/her practice and the age group/team practice that he/she will attend that weekend.

OPTIONAL HITTING PRACTICE

Occasionally we will have Optional Hitting Practices located at our Silver Sluggers Indoor facility in Middleton. These practices are included in the season/program fee and are of no extra charge to players. Hitting practices will be monitored with a coach to assist at each practice, but we want these practices to be led by the members of the team. Our goal is to identify and create leaders within each age group, and this is an opportunity for our players to practice leadership, creativity, and interact with each other to help each other improve.

OPEN GYMS- ("ALONE PRACTICE" TIMES)*

Open Gym times are opportunities for our players to use our indoor facilities to hit, throw, pitch, and do drill work on their own during the winter. We have limited availability and training space during these times as our coaches will be training individual players (Individual Lessons/Instruction) at our facility at that time.

- **Details:** We highly encourage "alone time" practice away from coaches and parents, where players can slow down to find their mechanics and work at their own pace. We know that players that spend ample time by themselves or with another player to dig into the details of their mechanics, or try new things in "discovery mode" are the players that improve the most over time. It is not important where this happens, and often it is done best in a quiet place like a basement or on a field when the weather is good. Our facility is open for our players to sign up for Open Gym/Alone Work this winter.

SLUGGERS WEEKLY CHECKLISTS

During our program season, we routinely send out Daily Checklists to our players. This is a list of drills, strength training workouts, and an at home practice plan for our players to follow when they are away from their team. Our individual work is the key to increasing quality reps and honing mechanics. Our Daily Checklists gives our players a motivational boost to train on their own during the week when they do not have team practices or games.



FUNDAMENTALS OF THE WEEK

One of our most valuable methods of instruction for our players and coaches. Each week during winter training and tournament season, we highlight a set of fundamentals for our players to review, research and explore. During our tournament season we highlight specific fundamentals that our players should focus on during their games. This extra level of focus on fundamentals challenges our players to learn the details of the game at a faster pace. At the end of the season, our players have more knowledge of the game.

ADDITIONAL COST- Extra Training and Instruction

SLUGGERS SKILLS ACADEMY CLINICS

Our Silver Sluggers Skills Academy are weekly clinics are included (2 per week) with the fee for our Silver Sluggers players, providing a high level of instruction in a small group setting. They are not required but offer an extra opportunity for our players to improve their specific skills and fundamentals with our coaching staff. Sluggers Skills Clinics are held at our Silver Sluggers indoor facility in Middleton.

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS: 1:1 PLAYER/COACH TIME

Individual Instruction is the most valuable instructional opportunity in our academy. Players are able to spend 1:1 time with a professional coach, focusing on specific fundamentals and areas of improvement to meet the individual player's needs. Not only are players and coaches able to completely customize their sessions, the player and coach are able to develop a working relationship that creates trust and accountability well beyond the session time limits. Players truly benefit from the entire experience, resulting in stronger work ethic, confidence, and performance on the field.

We recommend that every player try an individual lesson with one of our coaches if it fits their schedule and budget.

Individual Lesson Details and Registration*

*Sluggers Team Players receive a discount on all individual lessons. Upon registration for individual lessons use coupon code:

- "Sluggers 10" for 1-hour lessons (\$10 discount per lesson)
- "Sluggers 5" for 30 minute lessons (\$5 discount per lesson)

SILVER SLUGGERS ACADEMY CLINICS- HOLIDAY AND SPECIALTY CLINICS

Silver Sluggers Academy also offers many different clinics and training options that are open to the public. For example, our Holiday clinics, and specialty clinics (Metrics and Mechanics), are popular clinics that can compliment your Silver Slugger Team training program. Our Silver Sluggers team



players are welcome to attend any of these clinics. View our **Silver Sluggers Academy Clinic** page for upcoming clinics open to the public.

We feel that the Silver Sluggers Travel Team program provides one of the most comprehensive training programs in Wisconsin for young athletes. All in all, we offer more than 100 hours of formal training for each player as well as a tournament competition experience that will challenge every player in our organization. This journey of mentorship, coaching, personal and sport development, and competition is second to none in the state of WI.

Players that take advantage of the many different instructional options offered to Silver Sluggers players truly benefit from the time they put in. We get out of this what we put in!!!

We are looking forward to taking everyone on a developmental journey that will be productive for everyone involved.