

## Team Information and Frequently Asked Questions:

### 1. *Who is eligible to play?*

Those living in Festus, Crystal City, Herculaneum, Pevely and parts of Hillsboro which are closer to Festus High School than to DeSoto High School, as well as those attending St. Pius X or other parochial schools in these communities. If you do not meet one of these criteria, please see Coach Bone after the meeting to discuss options.

**Freshmen** – Must be at least 13 by 1/1/21 and not turn 16 prior to 5/1/21

**Junior** – Must be at least 13 by 1/1/21, and not turn 17 prior to 1/1/21

**Senior** - Must not turn 19 prior to 1/1/21

### 2. *Who coaches the teams?*

**14u** - Ben Ervin

**Freshmen** – Steve Horrell, Matt Eisenbeis, Billy Pruneau

**Junior** – Justin Neel, Austin Bearden, Scott Byrne

**Senior** - Zac Bone, Drew Horrell, Jim Smetzer, Aaron Mayer, Eric Lawrence, Ethan Reando

### 3. *What is the cost to play?*

The cost can vary from \$0 to \$650, due to our new payment and fundraising policy. In the past, we have charged \$300-450 as a flat rate. We would then ask players and their parents to participate in multiple fundraisers throughout the winter and spring in an effort to raise more money for the program. This undoubtedly made the true cost for many in terms of both financial commitments to the fundraisers and time invested in working, donating, etc. larger than what some people were comfortable with. In an effort to make this easier on everyone, our new policy on payments and fundraisers is as follows:

Player fees will be \$650 for all teams for the year, but players will be issued sixty-five \$10 dollar raffle tickets at the fall parent meeting. Some of you may want to write a check, cash, etc for \$650 and not sell any raffle tickets. Some may want to sell all 65 raffle tickets and not have to pay any player fees. And some may want to do a combination of selling some raffle tickets, and paying the rest of the fees themselves. Also, as a result of this, we will no longer be asking you to participate in any other fundraisers. No Snap Raise. No trivia night. No First Pitch Banquet. We will simply give you the option to offset some or all of the player fees as you desire.

Players will have from the day they are issued the raffle tickets, up until mid-May to sell as many tickets as they would like. We will plan to draw the raffle winners live at West City Park prior to the start of our season in May. We will have a firm date for the drawing at the Fall Parent Meeting. Prizes for the drawing will include money, gift cards, and other items. A full outline of the raffle ticket plan with all details and dates will be issued at the parent meeting

A payment schedule can be setup if necessary, and financial hardship will not prevent anyone from playing. Payments will not be refunded. Half of the payment will be due at the fall parent meeting, The other half will be due by the first day of practice, unless an alternative payment plan is set up.

*4. What does this cover ? ...* **NEW UNIFORM POLICY**

In an effort to cut costs for the program, ensure every player gets the uniform fit they need, and make the process more efficient, we are starting a new uniform policy for our **14u, Freshmen, Junior, and Senior** teams for Summer 2020. Players will need to purchase a “Player Package” through our online teams store. This will include new jerseys, game caps, practice gear, helmets, and bat bags.

Player numbers will be issued throughout the Freshmen and Junior programs, so that no players on those teams have the same number. This way, your son can wear the same jersey throughout his time playing for those teams and will not have to purchase new jerseys every year. Items such as the practice gear, helmet, and bat bag could potentially be a one time only purchase, as long as items are cared for. The initial “Player Package cost for the Freshmen and Junior teams will be between \$210-225, and between \$275-290 for the Senior team. We will use some of the same gear as last year for the Senior team, so the uniform cost for players returning to the senior team will be significantly less. This will be covered more in depth at the fall parent meeting.

*5. How many games will we play in the summer?*

**14U** - Schedule is TBD, but will be similar to the tournament seasons you have played in the past.

**Freshmen** – Regular season schedule is typically 25-30 games, beginning the third week of May, with playoffs starting the first week of July.

**Junior** – Regular season schedule is typically 30-35 games, beginning the last week of May, with playoffs starting the first week of July.

**Senior** - Regular season schedule is typically 30-35 games, beginning the last week of May, with playoffs starting the second week of July.

*7. How many players will make the team?*

**All Teams** – rosters are limited to no more than 18 players per team. To ensure that there is adequate playing time, teams will typically include 12-16 players.

*6. What is the time commitment involved*

**All Teams** – the time commitment involved with this program is significant. Players are expected to attend all practices and games.

*7. Will there be any off-season workouts?*

**14u** - will begin indoor workouts in early March.

**8th graders on the Freshmen Team(s)** - will begin indoor workout in early April.

**Freshmen/Junior/Senior** - team practice begins at the conclusion of high school season.

**Additional Workouts** - Pitching, Defense and Hitting training will also be available year round for our players. The difference between us and a typical “club team” is that these are **optional** for each player., as opposed to making it mandatory for you to pay for off-season training. More info will be provided at the fall parent meeting.

*8. Where are games and practices held?*

All home games are at West City Park in Festus, MO. Games typically take place in the early evening during the week, and any time from late morning to early evening on weekends. Away games (excluding any out of town tournaments) are usually within an hour's drive or less. The Senior and Junior teams will also practice at West City Park, the Freshmen and 14u teams will practice at other high school fields around the area.