



## **Welcome to Stetson Hills Stealth Baseball Club 10U**

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### **Coaching:**

We will provide the boys with a manager and 2 coaches.

Manager: Jamie Smith

Coaches: George Kokodynski, Scott Dankworth

Team Mom: Kim Dankworth

Scorekeeper: Any parent willing to volunteer

### **Uniforms:**

As a member of the Stetson Hills Stealth you will be provided with the following:

- 1 Game Jersey (Property of the team)
- 1 Batting Jacket or Hooded Sweatshirt (Property of the team and to be purchased late Fall)
- 1 Practice T-Shirt (Property of the team)
- 1 Hat (Yours to keep)
- 2 Pair of Game Pants (Yours to keep)
- 1 Bat Bag (Yours to keep)
- 1 Batting Helmet (Yours to keep)
- 1 Belt (Yours to keep)
- 1 Socks (Yours to keep)

Each player must wear a black belt and black socks at all times.

Please wear ONLY BLACK OR WHITE CLEATS and or apparel. EX-headbands, armbands, batting gloves, etc...

**Please note any gear that belongs to the team must be returned within 7 days, if a player leaves the team for any reason.**



Dear Stealth Parent(s):

The Stealth coaches wanted to take this opportunity to put in writing our coaching philosophy and our goals for your child and the Stealth this season. Youth baseball can be an exciting and fun opportunity for your child to learn new skills, make new friends, and have fun. As fun as it can be for your child, different expectations from the coaches, parent(s), and player can take away from that positive experience in a number of ways. As you read through this letter please make sure that our philosophy fits with your expectations of what you want for your child and how you believe the team should be run. If not, this is your opportunity to let us know.

### **Coaching Philosophy**

- We believe that kids gain confidence and a love for the game through positive feedback from parents, coaches, and other players. Skill level develops at different rates for kids, but effort and having fun can always be achieved. We try to always provide positive feedback for effort.
  
- We think it's important that a coach takes more than a casual interest in the players. We strive to talk with all the players 1 on 1 at some point during the practices and games. We want them to know that we are interested in what they have to say and more importantly, we want them to know that their coaches like him/her as a person.
  
- We believe in trying to make practices as fun and entertaining for the kids as possible, while providing the practice and instruction that they need to improve. We've found that kids expect and respond to well structured and organized practices. Attention span is often limited with this age group, so we will strive to keep them moving and active by setting up multiple instructional stations at each practice.
  
- Teamwork and developing friendships is an important part of any team sport. We always try to tell the kids how important it is for them to support each other and to always be positive towards their teammates.
  
- Competition is an important element of any sport and as kids grow they naturally become more competitive. We don't talk to the kids about "needing to win a game" or "how important it is that we win". We feel our role and that of the parents is helping the kids develop the ability to deal with competition in a healthy way. **Effort** and **attitude** is our focus. If we can achieve that, then chances are we'll win the number of games that we are capable of winning.

We will work on teaching fundamentals and skills during practice, but we believe the game is their time. We will give instruction during the game if we feel it will help with their performance during the game, but in general we try to let them enjoy the game. We don't think any of the kids want to be told what they did wrong during the game. We hope as parents you will do the same. At this age, one missed ground ball can ruin the game for some kids. If your child misses a ground ball, tell them how proud you were of the effort they made to get in front of it. Strive to make them feel good about their contribution. Our goal is to have every child feel that they played a great game that day regardless of the outcome.



## **Objectives**

With this age group, we have 5 primary coaching objectives which we believe are equally important.

1. Help your child develop the skills necessary to be successful at this level and to prepare your child for the next level.
2. To have fun and have the kids develop a love for the game.
3. Learn about the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship.
4. Give positive reinforcement based on effort rather than results.
5. Provide a safe and healthy environment for all the kids on the team.

## **Playing Time and Positions**

Our philosophy is to put the kids in a position where we feel they will have the most success. Kids will typically play a variety of positions and are always encouraged to learn more. This is competitive baseball and as such no guarantees are made in regard to where your child may play.

## **Team Rules and Discipline**

We do have a few team rules that will become clear during our practices over the next month. Rules may be added during the season if necessary.

## **Player Expectations**

1. Have fun and always give your best effort.
2. We expect players to always show respect for the coaches, parents, and other players on the team.
3. Spend time outside of practice playing baseball.

## **Parent Expectations**

- 1) Please try to get your child to practice and games on time. We know this can be difficult at times and impossible at other times, but it's really hard to conduct practice or get ready for a game when players continually show up late. If you know your child will be late or won't be able to make it to a practice or game, please let me know in advance if possible. (Text 480.560.7705)
- 2) Get involved in playing baseball with your child. This may be helping out with at practice or playing catch in the yard on days we don't practice. Kids love it when their parents get involved. Repetition is also crucial for skill improvement. There simply isn't enough organized practice time for the kids. They need to work on the skills they learn at practice at home also.
- 3) Please encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game and practice. Please cheer for your child during games, but try to keep from yelling instructions to them. Remember this is their opportunity to enjoy playing in the game. Much of the fun is lost if their Mom or Dad is always yelling instructions.
- 4) Please let me know if you have a problem with me or something that is happening. Same holds true if your child isn't happy about something. We want to know if there is a problem right away. With this age group, very small things can cause a child to be upset. These problems can be fixed very easily if we know about them.
- 5) Safety is a primary concern for us. Unfortunately, we can't watch every child every second. If you see any situation that you believe is a safety concern, please step in and help. Make sure you follow up with us so we know what has happened.



Dues:

A start up fee of \$350 will be assessed when joining the team. The \$350 fee will be reassessed at the beginning of each new season (yearly). We will charge \$125 a month per player. All dues will be payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. All dues and the start up fee are non-refundable.

Sponsorship/Donations:

Running a Club Baseball Team is a very expensive endeavor. We ask any parents with businesses or if you know of anyone with a business that would like to donate to our team, it is very much appreciated. From time to time we will set up fund raising events and we would ask that the parents participate. All proceeds from the fund raisers will go toward helping with activities and parties for the team. We are a non-profit organization so all donations to the team are tax deductible.

By signing this letter you are acknowledging you received the coaching letter, parent information and the dues letter for Stealth 10U. You agree to abide by the terms and conditions in these letters.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

We are looking forward to a fun and rewarding season. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call us.

Sincerely,

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