



2012 T-BALL, COACH-PITCH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL PARENT INFORMATION

It is the mission of this program to offer Christ centered character building, self-esteem, skill enhancing instruction, and spiritual nurturing to children and families of our church and community. As a sports program we will always strive to increase skill development, game strategy, game rules, and enjoyment of sports. It is our hope that sports can be **Christ-like and competitive** with an emphasis on doing one's best while respecting the coaches, officials, and opponents. We as parents have a difficult job that offers great rewards. We must provide a safe, fun environment for our children to exercise and develop physical skills that will lead to a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle. We must encourage them positively with love and always remember that the most important thing to them is to have **FUN**.

We are a **Developmental League** which has certain rules that demand that our focus is not on winning games. Our program is designed to teach sports in a safe way in which each child is given an opportunity to learn skills, increase their knowledge of the game, gain self confidence and enjoy being part of a team. Each coach is required to focus attention on all players.

League **Player Game Rotations** are put in place to make sure all players play an equal amount of time, start and finish games and receive an equal amount of time and attention from the coach. This means that coaches are restricted from adjusting the league required player game rotation. There may be a game where normally when behind in score, a coach could put all of the better skilled players in to increase their chance to win. But because of the rotation rule, it is not their turn to finish the game. This can be hard for some players and parents to understand but this is the nature of C-Sports.

On certain occasions when the score of a game becomes lopsided, we have a **Grace Rule** that requires the team in the lead to ease up, back their defense up to let the opposing team attempt to score all at the cost of losing a game. Winning is good but our purpose is to DEVELOP all players. Another example may be requiring a coach to adjust their game strategy to use the grace rule during a mismatch of talent by asking the team to pass the ball 5 times before shooting. Sometimes it may be asking teams that are in the lead to not let the one player who has scored many points to not shoot again. This is what is called a developmental league. If a player is told not to shoot again and they do they may be benched by their coach. This means that C-Sport's is not for everyone. Some parents and players would enjoy a more aggressive league where the main focus is winning as many games as possible. We understand that. Remember that C-Sports is a positive environment. We do not permit parents to speak harshly to their own children, other children or parents. We do not permit arguing with a referee or umpires. Coaches must never use negative comments to players, other coaches or officials. Please keep this in mind if you invite a guest to our campus and make sure they know our rules. We want our players to hear only cheers and see lots of smiles.

League Positive Affirmation Rules:

This program is built by the hard work of many people who are volunteering their time. Coaches, assistant coaches, team parent, referees and other volunteers are what make this league possible. These people work hard to insure that all of the children who participate will experience God’s love, peace and understanding. Please thank them every chance you get. Please review our campus rules below and instruct visitors you bring to do the same:

- Never speak negatively toward your child or any other player.
- Never speak negatively toward an adult (coach, volunteer or another parent).
- Never criticize a call made by an official. *Complaints may be emailed to Jon Seale at jon@christumcmobile.com
- Please do not react poorly if your child does not win a game.

These rules are in place to insure that our focus is on what is best for our children. Children want to have fun and play the game. If you witness someone that you feel is not aware of these rules please bring it to our attention.

VOLUNTEER COACHES, ASSISTANTS, UMPIRES, AND TEAM PARENTS:

This is a great chance for you to serve God through this ministry and spend time with your child. We need YOU...

- All coaches are needed to assist with evaluations.
- We will have evaluation training Monday, January 30th at 6:00pm. Coaches should attend this meeting to learn what we will be doing during evaluations.
- All coaches must attend baseball coaches training and roster pick up which will be on Friday, Feb. 24th at 6:00pm in the Christ Center (gym).

BASEBALL EVALUATIONS:

- To be held in the Christ Center Monday February 6th, & Tuesday the 7th.
- Children should wear tennis shoes (NO CLEATS) and bring their own glove.
- All players must attend evaluations. Any player that does not complete an evaluation will be placed on a waiting list. If you have any questions, please call Jon.

EVALUATION SCHEDULE:

Monday Feb. 6th	Tuesday Feb. 7th
5:30pm - K4 girls	5:30pm - K5 girls
5:45pm - K4 boys	5:45pm - K5 boys
6:15pm - 3rd - 6th grade girls	6:15pm -1st & 2nd grade girls
6:45pm - 3rd grade boys	6:45pm -1st grade boys
7:00pm - 4th grade boys	7:00pm -2nd grade boys

LEAGUE ASSIGNMENTS:

Players will be assigned to teams by the Recreation Ministry based on abilities of players as determined by an evaluation process of skills. Most children in the same age group will have the same practice night and time. Parents are discouraged from requesting teammates (for car pool purposes) or coaches. We do this so all teams have beginner, seasoned and advanced players so that the teams will be balanced. There will be separate leagues for 1st & 2nd grade boys and 1st & 2nd grade girls as well as 3rd & 4th grade boys and 3rd and 4th grade girls. Players will be contacted by their assigned coach after Friday, February 24th.

PARENT CONFERENCE:

All parents are encouraged to attend the parent conference.

First time parents (1st time your child has played C-Sports) MUST attend parent conference which is held during evaluations.

FEES:

Registration Fee: \$65.00. After Feb 4th - LATE REGISTRATION fee: \$70.00

Registration Fee covers cost of shirt, hat, player award, coach's award, assistant coach & team mom gift.

Sizing t-shirts will be available to view when you register. You must select the correct size you want.

Parents who have to reorder for incorrect sizes will be charged for both uniforms.

EQUIPMENT:

Bats & Batting helmets will be provided or you may purchase your own.

Each child will need to bring their own *Cleats & Glove. (No Steel Cleats) Please put name & Phone # on Glove.

Baseball pants are not required, shorts may be worn.

Please do not buy any socks, pants or shorts until your coach tells you to. Team colors will dictate this.

Put name & phone # on your glove and in your hat once you receive it.

*** You may wear Soccer Cleats for Baseball. (But you can't wear baseball cleats for soccer.)**

PRACTICES:

- Practice begins the week of February 27th, 2012.
- All practices will be at CUMC west field.
- There will be 2 practices every day. For example, on Tuesdays, K4 will practice first followed by 3rd-6th grade girls.
- Due to Daylight Savings Time, our first 2 weeks of practice all 1st waves of teams will begin practice at 5:00pm and will end promptly at 5:45pm so the next practice time can begin. The 2nd wave will begin at 5:45pm and will end promptly at 6:30pm. This will allow both waves enough daylight time to get their practice in.
- Please be aware there will be a lot of players on the fields - there will be no hitting during these practices this first 2 weeks. This will only be until after Daylight Savings Time.
- Daylight Savings Time (DST) will occur on Sunday, March 11th, 2012.
- After DST the 1st wave of practices will begin at 5:30pm and end at 6:30pm. The second wave of practices will be 6:30pm to 7:30pm
- There will not be practice on April 6th, 2012 due to Good Friday and no games on Saturday, April 7th, 2012.
- Parents make sure fluids are available to your child during practice and games.

GAMES:

Parents should remain near their child's team during practices & games. You must bring your child to the coach. You may not drop them off in the parking lot and leave. If you leave campus you must give your coach your cell phone #. Parents are not allowed on the field for games. We will have a coach in the field assisting with defensive play. There will be base coaches during offensive play.

Parents will be put to work if they are willing! There must be an adult in the "dugout" (bench) area at all times for those children waiting their turn on the field or at bat. Players will be expected to be on the bench if they are not on the field or up to bat. It's distracting and difficult to keep up with them if

they are running to their parents at will. This will allow coaches to make sure everyone is accounted for and gets their proper turn to play/bat. Please encourage your child to follow this rule.

Each game consists of a 5 minute warm-up and then at least 45 minutes of play. Have your child at the game at least 15 minutes early. We will meet for 5-10 minutes after the game to have snacks/drinks and talk about the game and our performance. The team mom will be coordinating a schedule for the parents to provide the goodies for us.

In K4 & K5 T-Ball we will bat their entire batting order. For 1st grade and older grade games each inning will play 3 outs per team or a 5 run maximum per team - whichever comes first. We will try to play out the last inning if time permits. While each player may not bat every inning; all players will have the opportunity to bat at each game.

All players will play defense with all positions rotating as much as possible. **Note: We need to have someone who can catch consistently at first base & pitcher so these positions may not rotate as often.**

1st & 2nd grade league will play T-Ball - Coach Pitch. After the first game, all players will be thrown 3 pitches – If no hit occurs they are allowed to hit off of the batting tee.

There will be a coach/umpire at all games. These umpires are volunteering their time so please thank them.

You are the key to your child's development and enjoyment. Work with them at home. They can practice throwing with a tennis ball, or even a bean bag to work on the mechanics of the skill itself. Be encouraging!! You are their best cheerleader!!

GAME LOCATIONS:

- All K4 & K5 T-Ball and 1st & 2nd grade games will be played at CUMC fields
- 3rd grade-6th grade girls & 3rd/4th grade boys coach pitch games will be played at Knollwood Christian School's baseball field.
- Game schedules will be handed out at picture day - Sat. March 10th.
- Game schedules will also be available to view and download on our church website after that Saturday: www.christumcmobile.com/recreation

PLEASE SEE THAT ALL TRASH IS PUT INTO A RECEPTACLE!

BAD WEATHER POLICY:

The Recreation Ministry will monitor conditions daily. Practice & games will be cancelled if the recreation staff feels it would be unsafe to play. Unsafe: lightning, thunder, or strong winds. DECISIONS ON CANCELING PRACTICE OR GAMES WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL PRACTICE OR GAME TIME.

Coaches or officials may STOP a game or practice if the weather conditions warrant. If practice or games are canceled the Recreation Ministry will try to notify coaches and coaches should try to notify their team mom or parents. If you have not heard from your coach you should call the recreation desk at 706-3326 for weather decisions. There will be no makeup practices or make up games (rain outs).

PARKING:

Always park in the parking lot, please do not park beside the road by the black fence. Parents may

choose to park in the wooded parking lot closest to Hillcrest Rd. If you park there please park as far in the back as possible and do not block the cone marked drive thru lanes.

CELEBRATION:

We will have an end of the season celebration in the CUMC Christ Center GYM on Sunday May 6th, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Teams, Coaches and players will be recognized and the trophies will be handed out. Our Audio Video Department will put together a video of the kids that will be shown then as well. Teams will sit together so mark your calendars now and try to attend.

TEAM & INDIVIDUAL PICTURE DAY:

Pictures will be taken by PPI on Saturday March 10th, 2012. Your child's team will be given a photo schedule time and you will receive an order form at practice the week before. Additional order forms will be available at picture time. Game schedules will be handed out at picture day.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to work with your children. We take this responsibility very seriously and will do all that we can to meet the goals detailed at the beginning of this letter. Please call if there is anything you need or that we can do. We welcome both compliments and criticism (constructive, of course!) – If you see something that CUMC can do better, please speak up!

May God Bless You & Your Family,

Jon Seale

Sports Coordinator
Christ United Methodist Church
Recreation Desk: 706-3326
Church Office: 342-0462 ext. 216
jon@christumcmobile.com

“In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.” Prov. 3:6



CUMC NIGHT AT BAY BEARS IS MAY 5TH – ALL CSports PLAYERS & COACHES LINE UP ON THE BASELINE AND ARE RECOGNIZED! TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE IN APRIL.

2012 SUMMER CO-ED FLAG FOOTBALL INFO: Registration Fee is \$70.00. Ages: must have completed K5 - 6th grade. Practice will start the week of May 21st; season will end with last game on July 13th. Registration will start sometime in March. All baseball players will be given notice when registration has begun. All practices and games will take place during the last two hours of the day when it is the coolest. There will be one practice a week and games will be played on Thursday (Friday if necessary). No games or practices on Saturdays. This is a summer league and we realize that families will take vacations. If coaches know in advance about these player absences then we can adjust the rosters for game day.



Schedules & Dates to Remember:

- Evaluations Monday Feb. 6th & Tuesday Feb. 7th
- Pictures will be taken by PPI on Saturday March 10th, 2012
- Daylight Savings Time (DST) will occur on Sunday, March 11th, 2012
- No practice on April 6th, 2012
- **NO GAMES APRIL 8th, 2012**
- CUMC night at BAY BEARS is MAY 5th – all CSports players & coaches line up on the baseline and are recognized! Tickets will go on sale in April - \$5 ea.
- End of the Season Celebration May 6th, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Practice Schedule: (Please remember the first week of practice all practices are from 5:30-6:30) The schedule below reflects practice times AFTER DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME):

League	Pitch	Practice Time	# of Practices
K4	T-Ball	1 hour Tuesday 5:30-6:30	1 Practice per week
K5	T-Ball	1 hour Monday 5:30-6:30	1 Practice per week
1 st & 2 nd grade boys	T-Ball & Coach Pitch	1 hour Thursday 5:30-6:30 *or 6:30-7:30(*coaches choice)	1 Practice per week
1 st & 2 nd grade girls	T-Ball & Coach Pitch	1 hour Thursday 5:30-6:30 *or 6:30-7:30 (*coaches choice)	1 Practice per week
3 rd & 4 th grade Boys	Coach Pitch	1 hour Monday 6:30-7:30 & 1 hour Friday 5:30-6:30	2 Practices per week
3 rd - 6 th grade Girls	Coach Pitch	1 hour *Tuesdays & Fridays 6:30pm-7:30pm	2 Practices per week