



2015 GENERAL INFORMATION  
HANDBOOK





# WEST CENTRAL SPORTS COMPLEX ADVISORY BOARD

Carolyn Heitman

Chair

Athletic Director

Larry Gilmore

League Commissioners will be assigned each season

Telephone – 320-6000



WELCOME!



- 👤 This park is the result of a partnership between the John Barrow Neighborhood Association and the City of Little Rock for the convenience of the surrounding neighborhoods.
- 👤 Participants are advised that this is not a city program! Your complaints to City Hall will be referred back to the West Central Sports Complex Advisory Board who will refer you back to the Athletic Director for resolution.
- 👤 This park does not receive program funding. Therefore, we must charge a registration fee and charge an entry fee at the gate.
- 👤 In exchange for your registration and entry fee we will provide a facility where the games will be played, security, a schedule and officials.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION!**



## The Season

The baseball program runs from April through June, with play offs taking place in July.



For more information, contact West Central Sports Complex at 501-320-6000.



Parents, Grandparents and all other individuals who have children registered in this program. Please read the following statement carefully:

**If you are looking for perfection, this is not the program for you.**



**We suggest that you right now and go  
and look for another program!**

**If you are willing to work with us to **MAKE** this a successful program, you are welcome to **STAY** but please know this: You will only get out of this program what you put into it And if that is complaining, we would rather you not participate!**

**So please note:**

**THERE IS A  
**ZERO TOLERANCE**  
POLICY IN EFFECT IN THIS PROGRAM!**

**We will not hesitate to ask you to leave if your behavior gets out of hand.**



## THE LEAGUES



### Tee ball – Ages 3-4 and 5-6

These leagues will remain the same in that they are instructional and are designed to prepare the player (boys and girls) for advancement. Ages 3 and 4 will play on field 5. Ages 5 and 6 will play on field 1.



### Girls Softball - Ages 7-12 and up

Some of you may know that the game of softball has changed from slow pitch to fast pitch. Because the girls who register in our program in the past have never played the game before, our Athletic Director opted to stay with slow pitch. Ages 7-9 will play on field 2. Ages 10-12 will play on field 3.

Our 7-9 year old league will serve as an introduction to softball and is designed to be an instructional league with heavy concentration on the fundamentals. Parents please note this is a coach pitch league.

Ages 10-11 and ages 12 and up are player pitch leagues.



## Baseball



Minor League – ages 7-8, pitching machine. This is a machine pitch league.



Junior League - ages 9-10 and 11-13 is live pitch baseball.

As previously stated, it is our goal to have teams in each of the age categories above; however, if we do not register enough players, there is a possibility that we will combine age groups.

Rules for each league will be provided to each coach. Each team will be required to attend a mandatory Meet and Greet with the Athletic Director. During the Meet and Greet, the Athletic Director will assign the Coach, measure each child for their uniform and go over the Park Rules.

**NO UNIFORM WILL BE ORDERED UNTIL THE CHILD IS MEASURED AND THE PARENT(S) SIGN THE ORDER FORM FOR EACH CHILD.**



## Registration

In the past we have had challenges getting parents to register their children early. This has led to us to implement an **Incentive Program** that will provide a discount for early registration.



**Early Registration** will take place from February 1<sup>st</sup> – 28th. Parents will receive \$10 off the regular registration fee so they can register their child for \$55. Regular registration will take place March 1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> and the cost to register will be \$70.



We also need coaches for the teams.





Rules for each league will be provided to each coach.



**If** we get enough kids registered and coaches for each team, teams will be assigned by mid -April. The Athletic Director will assign coaches and players to teams unless a coach brings his/her team intact.



### ***Meet and Greet***

Once assigned to a team, all parents must attend a mandatory orientation session with their child. The Athletic Director will conduct these ***Meet and Greet*** sessions during which the parents will:

- (1) meet their Coach,
- (2) each child will be measured for their uniform and,
- (3) the Park Rules will be explained.

**NO UNIFORM WILL BE ORDERED UNTIL THE CHILD IS MEASURED AND THE PARENT(S) SIGN THE ORDER FORM FOR EACH CHILD.**



**Tentative schedule:**



Teams will practice April 5<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.



Team uniforms will be assigned during the week of April 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.



The first games will be played the third **Saturday in April.**

The season will last from April – June; park playoffs will take place during the month of July. Trophies will be handed out at the end of the season for first place teams in each league. If funds are available we will provide trophies all players.

If these instructions are followed, we can promise you a well organized, well run program!



This is our **PLAN** for the season however; parents need to remember that there are certain elements that are outside of our control. The weather is one such element that is always a factor. We can not control the weather. If the fields

are too wet to play, then we will **not** play and our



will be adjusted accordingly.

**Also, we can only follow this plan if parents cooperate and register on time!!! This is critical!**

# Program



- 👤 The registration fee is \$70 per child. **There will be no refund of the registration fee.** Parents need to make up their minds before registering their child and before uniforms are ordered.
- 👤 The registration fee will cover the cost of the uniform to include a hat, shirt and pants with lettering. Parents will be responsible for providing the socks, belts and shoes.
- 👤 Parents will be responsible for providing the gloves, bats, and helmets.
- 👤 There will be an entry fee into the park. Adults, \$3.00; youth 6-15, \$1.00; children age 5 and under, free. The entry fee covers the cost of security and pays for the umpires.



**NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR**



**DRINK:** The

concession stand will be open; therefore, no outside food or drink will be allowed in the park. Team drinks will have to be purchased at the concession stand at a cost of \$7 per team.



**NO ALCOHOL OR OTHER BEVERAGES** will be

allowed to enter the park. The West Central Sports Complex will provide water and cups in each dug out. If you are observed with food or drinks that were not purchased from the concession a Little Rock Police Officer will ask that you go outside and finish your food. After the second incident you will be asked to leave the park and not allowed back in for that day. After the third incident you will be banned for the season.



## PARENTS

- Parents are advised that games are scheduled to last from **1 hour to 1 hour and 45 minutes** depending on the age of the league. We will make every attempt to ensure that the games start on time and end on time. However, there are a variety of reasons that might cause a game to run long. These include but are not limited to:
  - (a) The 15 minute grace period for the other team to arrive;
  - (b) A team not having a score keeper;
  - (c) A coach questioning each call by the umpire;
  - (d) A tied score at the end of regulation play; or
  - (e) An injury occurs.



Parents please know that just because your game is late does not mean the program is unorganized! This means that **humans** are involved and for this reason nothing is going to run perfectly all the time!

- Parents must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Your behavior reflects on your child! After the second incident involving an umpire or West Central Sports Complex staff, the parent or the coach will be removed from the park for the

remainder of the playing season. And there will be no refund given.



- Parents are advised that we provide parking attendants to ensure that your car is safe and to prevent others from blocking your car. The parking lot is a part of the park, as soon as you enter the parking lot, park rules are in effect. These rules include parking where you are instructed to park.
- No child will be allowed to switch teams once the season starts.




- If you want your child on a particular team you need to be aware that placement on a team is on a first come



first serve basis. You must register early in order to have input as to what team your child is placed on. For example your child must be within the first 10 kids registered for a particular team. If he/she is number 11, he/she will be put on the next team formed (at the discretion of the Athletic Director). No child will be moved in order to make room on a team for a particular child.


- All games will be played at the West Central Sports Complex unless we fail to register enough kids to play in a particular league. If this should occur, parents will be given the option of playing teams outside the park (home and away games), or given a refund of their registration fee.
- Parents are advised that all players who come through the gate on days when they are not scheduled to play must pay at the gate.

- There will be a maximum of  kids per teams. If you want your child on a particular team, it is your responsibility to inform the Athletic Director or Program Coordinator at the time you register your child.
- If there is rain in the forecast, it is the parents' responsibility to call the Rain Out number (399-3443) or contact the coach if in doubt about a game being played as scheduled.




**If funds are available we will give out trophies during at the end of our year end tournaments.** Trophies will be given to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the regular season. Trophies will be given to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the league tournament.




- Parents will be able to order parents shirts  ; however we will make one order only. So you need to inform the Athletic Director or Program Coordinator at time you register your child.






- Parents,  it is your responsibility to have your child at the park on time for the game; not ours!



- **AND** parents  remember if the other team does not have enough players to play a scheduled game, it is not the **fault** of the park and it certainly does not mean that the program is disorganized!



## FORFEITS

- There is a  minute grace period before the first game only. After that the game will be a forfeit. Please note: If the game is held up 15 minutes, this will make all other games held on that field 15 minutes **late**. Therefore, we ask that all players arrive in the park and be ready to play **fifteen minutes** prior to the start of the game. Parents it is your responsibility to have your child at the park on time; not ours!
- Because we have to  pay the umpires **even** if a team forfeits, we ask that each coach communicate with his team parents **before** each game to make sure he/she will have enough players. The coach is then asked to contact the Athletic Director or Program Coordinator in **advance** if they see that they are not going to have enough players. The staff can then post a sign on the gate **before** parents pay to enter. This will also keep parents from being angry with us for something that is beyond our control.
-  There will be no refund on forfeited games so please make every attempt to follow the instructions above! If a game is forfeited, we will give a rain check ticket for the next games.





## FINAL THOUGHTS

We have made every effort to address each concern that was expressed to us during our last season. If you have an issue that is not addressed in this handbook, parents and coaches are asked to follow the procedure below:

- (1) Parents are to take their issues or concerns to the Coach of their team;
- (2) If they are unable to address the concern of the parent, the Coach should then take the issue or concern to the League Commissioner;
- (3) If the League Commissioner is unable to resolve the problem the League Commissioner should take the issue to the Athletic Director;
- (4) If the Athletic Director is unable to work through the issue, (if it is indeed an issue and not just a complaint because your team lost a game) the matter will come before the West Central Sports Complex (WCSC) Advisory Board;



- (5) **Please note:** All concerns or disputes are not issues for the (WCSC) Advisory Board. For example: A dispute over a call by the umpire is not an issue for the Advisory Board. The Athletic Director will have the final word over a disputed call. **Also**, a judgment call by an umpire can not be disputed;
- (6) If the Athletic Director decides to suspend someone for their behavior, this **is** an issue that the WCSC Advisory Board will address. If the individual violates the suspension, his/her team will forfeit the next game;



- (7) **Because this is not a city program any telephone calls to City Hall will be referred back to the Athletic Director;**
- (8) If you fail to follow this protocol and contact the WCSC Advisory Board before addressing the issue with the Athletic Director and your League Commissioner, you will be referred back to them to work through whatever the issue is.

👨👩 Parents are advised that constructive criticism is appropriate and necessary if our program is to improve. But just because you don't like the rules established for **this** program does not mean that that these rules are wrong. So please understand that bad mouthing or "Bashing" the park and verbally attacking the staff will not be tolerated.

👨👩 You are also advised that practice in the park is something that we are not required to allow. In fact no other baseball park allows practice on their fields. Therefore, scheduling a practice in the park is left to the discretion of the Athletic Director. **AND** no team will be allowed to practice unless they have scheduled through the Athletic Director.

👨👩 Also, even though you place your request before other teams the Athletic Director has to make sure everyone has a chance to practice so you might not get your requested day or time. We **HIGHLY** recommend that you seek alternative practice locations. And if we have conflicts with teams scheduling to practice in the park, we will discontinue all practice in the park.

👨👩 Let's make this a great year for the kids and have fun **and** above all:



**PLAY HARD!**