

Lebo Baseball Coaching Checklist



1. At the Draft (Minor, Major, Pony):

- Review Division Rules (*submit potential changes to MLBA Board*) and points of emphasis for season.
- Goal: Draft for Parity across Division/District teams.
- Only 1 pre-selected assistant coach allowed. Must draft additional coaches' players.
- Draft Order will be determined by slotting coach's players (typically in Major/Pony) OR at random. Expediency should be the driving force, minimize discussion and get to team formation or drafting!
- Draft format is "Snake Draft".
- Major/Pony Draft- Draft older players (6th / 8th grade, 12/14 year olds) first to ensure equal distribution.
- Minor Team Formation/Draft- Coaches will split into predetermined districts (combination of schools), "draft" older players (4th grade, 10 year olds) first from each school (separately) then younger players to ensure equal distribution by age/grade and school.
- Identify higher/lower skilled players in each Division/District and discuss as a group so all coaches are informed prior to drafting or forming teams. Spread these players across all teams in division or district, whenever possible.
- Take into account coach/teammate requests (when applicable) when drafting or rostering a player. AVOID "Car Pool" teams!
- Prior to finalizing teams: review teams for balance of skill/age/grade, review teammate requests (especially for lower skilled players), document reason for any post-draft changes for review.
- All teams and any special requests must be approved by Division Commissioner, Rec League Director and President before considered final and posted.*

2. Make sure the kids have fun and come back next year!

- Teach safety, fun, sportsmanship, and fundamentals.

Focus on:

- effort over scoreboard results.
- learning over comparison to others.
- the ability to bounce back from mistakes

* Baseball is a game of failure. It teaches kids to be resilient which will help them succeed later in life.

3. Safety is the top priority.

- Never leave a child unattended, including after practice/games.
- Make sure kids can't get hit with overthrows or swinging bats.

4. Complete and Submit Volunteer Clearances (*see www.lebobaseball.org*)

5. Introduce yourself and communicate with your parents before the first practice

- Send a short note that explains what they can expect from you.
- Make sure you are available to answer questions.
- Use website and Game Changer Team Manager mobile app for schedule and communication.

6. First Practice: Sharing expectations of them and what is important to you

- Learn their names quickly
- Hint: Keep it to the 2-3 items you want them to remember
- Handout Uniforms (*do not let players pick numbers; line up players in order of their size*)
- Handout Pirates Raffle Tickets (*10 per player*)

7. Review the "Coaches Corner" section of the Lebobaseball.org website.

- Find coaches contact info, pool/call-up players, division rules, etc.
- Use Dugout Captain to help plan practices.

8. Before/After games:

- Prepare the field- line batter's box, foul lines, rake and/or drag infield.
- Move bases/pitching rubber to proper distances (*see division rules*).
- Dispose of garbage. We don't have a garbage crew, it's on all of us.
- Rake the fields. Especially make sure to fill in any holes around bases, mound, and home plate.
- Put the bases and any field equipment in the storage area if you are the last game of the day.
- Enter scores and any additional information on the website (*Major and Pony*).

9. Respect the Game

- Respect the Umpires, parents and players.
- It's youth baseball, don't embarrass yourself.

10. Know your Division's Commissioner and Rec League Director

- They are your first line of help and support (*see Division rules*).

11. Enjoy yourself and the time with the kids. If you have fun, kids will have fun and play again next season...