Handbook

*Diamond Boys Baseball Club*



*“Although we train and play at a very high level, at the end of the day, baseball is a game, and it is supposed to be fun.”*

*Ken Wilson*

# Welcome to the Diamond Boys!

Baseball is America’s game. Diamond Boys have become known as one of the best youth baseball programs in the State of Ohio. This has not come by accident: I have built this program the right way by teaching the values of respect, sportsmanship, loyalty and courage. Developing kids with the skills to play and succeed at the next level is only part of the Diamond Boys tradition. Our player development is unrivaled in the region. I am excited that you have chosen to join Diamond Boys and we look forward to working with you. The Best Get Better Every Day!

*Ken Wilson, founder of Diamond Boys Baseball Club*

# Mission Statement

The Diamond Boys Baseball Club was established in 1996 as a highly competitive baseball team for talented student-athletes. Our goal has and always will be to further help our players become better athletes, better people and provide the opportunity to showcase their talents to both college and professional scouts through league and tournament play. We pride ourselves on the player development we provide. We will work hard to develop our players into fine young men - both on and off the field - and prepare them for the road ahead!

Diamond Boys Baseball

This handbook is provided to you to outline all necessary information regarding our organization. Included are policies and procedures and a code of conduct for players and parents.

Our Club prides itself in developing student-athletes. Our players must maintain a 3.0 grade point average along with being a good athlete. The coaching staff on each team consists of qualified, paid coaches that understand our goal as a club -- **that is to respect the game of baseball and respect others on and off the field with good sportsmanship**. We take pride in instilling that being a good student comes before being a good athlete.

We started the Diamond Boys in 1996 with one team and grew to five teams in 2006. In 2019, we will have 15 teams. All of our coaches are top-notch with experience at the high school, college or pro level. The Championships we have won and the numbers of players who have made it to the next level are secondary to the life lessons we have taught the young men that have gone through our program.

Financial Commitment

Diamond Boys team fees provide for coach’s fees, umpires, tournaments, uniforms, balls, league fees, practices, fields and insurance. You will receive a fee and payment schedule in your packet once you have signed the player contract. If you need to work out something different or are having trouble making the payments, please contact Strike Force directly at 330-655-2255. Please understand that we follow a “*First Pitch Rule”* whereby no player will be allowed to participate in PDP (Player Development Program), practices or games and will not receive any team uniforms or equipment until the outstanding balance is paid in full. Use of Strike Force is also prohibited if payments are not up to date. A $10 administrative fee **per month** will be added to all accounts that are more than 10 days late.

Night at the Races Fundraiser

Diamond Boys coaches pay their own way for the entire season, including travel and hotel costs. In order to help alleviate those costs, we hold an annual Night at the Races fundraiser for the coaches. This is a very fun, adult-only night out for everyone that attends and goes to a very good cause. The sale of fundraiser tickets and horses is **required** for all Diamond Boys’ families. A donation of equal value can be provided if you do not wish to sell tickets or attend.

Parents’ Code of Conduct

Parents Will:

1. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and fans at all events.
2. Insist that my athlete treat other players, coaches, officials and fans with respect at all times.
3. Let the coaches coach my son.
4. Not yell from the stands to their son during a game or practice.
5. Have a positive relationship with the coach and other parents.
6. Not go in the dugout or on the playing field during practices and/or games unless asked to by a coach.
7. Not discuss their son’s role on the team at games or tournaments.
8. Note the ***24-hour rule*** before contacting the head coach or the Club President (see Communication Process section on next page).
9. Not schedule vacation until after the season is over.
10. Pay all fees according to the fee schedule, or my player will not be permitted to participate.

Player’s Code of Conduct

Players Will:

1. Represent Diamond Boys Baseball Club in a professional manner.
2. Arrive on time and be prepared to play hard at every practice and game.
3. Maintain a positive attitude.
4. Notify head coach directly if unable to attend a practice or game.
5. Sit out a game if unexcused from 2 consecutive practices or 1 game.
6. Be baseball ready with proper attire at all practices and games.
7. Give the coach their full attention.
8. Be a leader in the dugout, on the field and in the classroom.
9. Exercise good sportsmanship on the field and in the dugout.
10. Treat all umpires, coaches and players with respect.
11. Support teammates when they are struggling on the field or at bat.
12. Not engage in any bullying behavior either in person or via social media.
13. Turn their cell phone off from the time they enter the dugout/field until after being dismissed after practiceor a game*.*
14. Maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Communication Process

When a player or parent has questions or concerns regarding the program or a player’s individual role on the team, the following communication process is to be followed.

1. 24-hour rule – Let 24 hours pass before contacting the head coach.
2. The **player** should approach his head coach to schedule a time to discuss his questions or concerns. If the player is not satisfied with the outcome of the meeting, he should proceed to step 3.
3. The player and/or his parent(s)/guardian(s) should request a meeting via email. This email should include a brief explanation of the player/parent concerns and be sent to both the head coach and the Club President.
4. All questions and concerns will be about ***your***player. Other players ***will NOT*** be a subject of discussion*.*