

# Athletics Baseball Association

## Parent Package

### Purpose of the Athletics (A's)

1. To attract the most talented baseball players & provide them an opportunity to practice with and play against the greatest competition possible.
2. To develop the ballplayers and prepare them for the next level – on and off the field.
3. To compete against the best and to create a winning culture.
4. To teach sportsmanship (win or lose) and other life lessons.

### Life Lessons

1. Developing baseball players is good... but developing kids that grow up to be great adults is great!
2. Failure is part of life. Life may not always be fair.
3. Establishing goals, implementing a plan, and working hard is a great formula for success when combined with a great attitude.

### Guiding Principles

1. The Right Way: The A's Board expects everyone to do things "the right way", and to make positive contributions to the A's reputation. Coaches, parents, and players represent the Athletics on and off the field. During and after games, the A's coaches, parents, and players must demonstrate great sportsmanship, win or lose. The A's expect everyone to cheer great plays made by A's players, as well as great plays or the great efforts of our competitor.
2. The Team: Decisions are and must be made by the A's Board and by the A's coaches in the best interest of the team first, and the individual player second. Parents and players must accept those decisions.
3. The Triangle: The coach & parent are the foundation for the player. When building a team, we look for great coaches, great parents and great players. It's a privilege, not a right, to coach or play for the Athletics.
4. Coaches: Provide well-organized practices. They are expected to build players up, never tear them down. They must strive to develop each player's skills (at two positions for players 14 and under), improve each player's baseball IQ, and nurture all players' love for the game.
5. Parents: Support the program and cheer for the logo – i.e. the team and each and every player.
6. Players: Give their best effort at practice and in games, and fully participate in all team events, practices, drills. Players will compete for playing time and positions.
7. Positions & Batting Order: Both are earned, not given. Coaches decide when and where a player plays, whether they will bat 9, use a DH and/or EH, or roster bat. (It's recommended that position players get at least 2 innings of game time per game when they are not scheduled to pitch, and that the 9U – 12U teams roster bat.)
8. Outfield: At this level of competition, the competition can hit. Outfield positions are important and will require some of the teams' best athletes to play in the outfield.
9. Pitching: The A's strictly adhere to pitch count guidelines for each age group.

## **Player Eligibility**

The Athletics home is in Licking County. The A's, however, are committed to fielding the best teams possible and have opened the selection process up to players living and/or going to school outside of Licking County. This past years, the A's fielded rosters with players from across Central and Southeastern Ohio.

## **Player Selections**

1. A's players sign a 1 year contract; they must tryout and earn a spot for next year. (Their body of work - performance during the season and tryouts is considered.)
2. Tryouts are modeled after the typical High School Showcase format. Players are evaluated on the "five tools" – hitting, fielding, catching, throwing, and their speed.
3. Evaluations are performed by A's coaches from all age groups, and to ensure fairness, that preferably does not include the head coach nor the assistants of the specific age group at the tryout.
4. A stand-out player may be offered a roster position immediately after or within 24 hours of their tryout. The full roster will be determined after all tryouts for the specific age group are completed.
5. The size of the roster will be determined by each head coach. Typically the roster will be set at 10-11 players at younger age groups and expand to 12-16 players at older age groups. The "top X" players will be selected based on their evaluations and overall team need. (Note: Pitcher-Only (PO) positions are also available.) The A's Board and the Head Coach will sign off on the roster.

## **Fees & Finances**

1. Player Fees are set by each team. The fee covers 2 full uniforms, bat bags when needed, and all practice/game expenses (e.g. baseballs, umpires, field supplies, etc.) and tournament entry fees.
2. Parents should budget for other related expenses:
  - Basic equipment (e.g. bat, ball glove, sliding shorts/cups, cleats, etc.)
  - Travel expenses associated with away games and tournaments (including hotel stays)
3. Parents are required to actively participate in our field days and in 3 fundraising events during the off-season.

## **Home Fields**

9u/10U / 13U - Newark Eagles, 52 Forry Street, Newark, OH 43055

11U/ 12U - Newark Moose Lodge #499, 235 W National Dr, Newark, OH 43055

## **Leagues, Games & Tournaments**

1. COYBL: The A's continue to increase the level of competition we play each year.
2. Opponents: The A's schedule will be filled with games vs. high quality (COYBL and Non-COYBL) opponents – e.g. Columbus Cobras, Ohio Elite, Ohio Surge, and other Elite teams.
3. Games & Formats: Single games will played on weeknights. When not participating in a tournament, the weekends will be reserved for double-headers, 3-ways, etc.
4. Tournaments: The A's will participate in at least one early tournament vs. moderate competition to "knock the rust off". Our program continues to expand tournament play and will play in as many of the best tournaments central Ohio has to offer, plus several out of town tournaments.