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Plano Reapers Baseball  
Player/Parent Handbook



The Plano Reaper Baseball Program is committed to effectively assisting player development by teaching skills and techniques related to the sport of baseball while promoting a team concept based on successfully competing at the high school level.

*[www. reapernation.com](http://www.reapernation.com)*

*[www.athletics2000.com/plano](http://www.athletics2000.com/plano)*

**Reapers**

Plano Reapers Baseball Player/Parent Handbook

**These rules have been written in conjunction with the student handbook and only apply to the Baseball Program at Plano High School.**

## **Responsibilities of the Athlete**

1. Remember the team's goals, welfare and success must come before any individual.
2. Show Respect for **both** authority and property.
3. Maintain academic eligibility.
4. Exemplify the ideals of sportsmanship and loyalty.
5. Strive to reach the highest level of athletic competence possible.
6. Understand the importance of striving to succeed.
7. Serve as a positive role model for other student-athletes, the rest of the student body, the school, and the community.
8. Report all injuries to the coaching staff immediately.

## **Baseball Tryouts**

The purpose of the Baseball Program at Plano High School is to involve as many student-athletes as possible. It is the philosophy of the coaching staff to give baseball related instruction to as many participants that is manageable. Unfortunately, situations occur which make it necessary to reduce the number of athletes on the roster.

"Cutting" a student-athlete is one of the most difficult things for a coaching staff to do. Therefore the following guidelines will assist the coaching staff in determining the final roster:

1. If a roster reduction is anticipated, student-athletes will be notified of the length of time try-outs will be conducted.
2. Criteria for consideration in determining the final roster will follow an evaluation form listed at the end of this handbook.
3. Before the final roster is selected, all coaches will meet and give careful consideration to each student-athlete. If "Cuts" are necessary, the athletic director will be informed in advanced. If a player is "cut" from the program, they will be personally told by the head coach and are allowed the opportunity to see their evaluation form.

4. Each player that makes the final roster will need to be informed of his role on the team and know that playing time is not guaranteed.

The Plano High School Athletic Department has entrusted in the Baseball Coaching Staff to determine which athletes will make the final roster. If you feel that your son was wrongfully evaluated, you may make an appointment with the Coaching Staff and the Athletic Director to discuss their evaluation. The Athletic Director and Athletic Secretary are not involved in the decision making of the final roster. So, please do not contact them in regards to your son being released from the team.

## Academic Eligibility

Poor grades will not get you into college and also reflects badly on our program. A player that has to attend Mandatory Athletic Study Hall (MASH) will be subject to a punishment determined by the team council and coaching staff to make up for missed practice time. Punishment can range from extra conditioning to missing a game(s). Please remember that student comes before athlete so take care of the academics.

## General Team Policies and Procedures

### Practice, game, and Team Meeting Attendance

Unexcused absences are not tolerated. Unexcused means not letting a coach know that you are going to miss practice, BEFORE THE START OF PRACTICE, NO MATTER THE REASON. YOU MUST LET THE COACHING STAFF KNOW EVEN IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL. Medical absences from school, family emergencies and academics are the only acceptable excuses for missing a practice, game, or team meeting. In cases in which no prior notification was given, exceptions will be made only after a thorough review by the coaching staff. **An unexcused absence from a practice, game, or team meeting will result in a one-game suspension.** To be sure that an absence is excused, notify the coach in advance.

### Spring Break

Going on Spring Break will be considered unexcused. Any player that chooses to go on Spring Break will serve a game suspension for every game missed. Missing more than 3 games changes the chemistry of the team and is not fair to the other players who have committed themselves during this time.\*\*\*

## Sportsmanship

### Language

Flagrant verbal abuse, which includes profanity, towards officials, opponents, or anyone else will not be tolerated. Punishments can range from extra conditioning to serving a suspension.

### Umpires

Every baseball game is controlled by umpires that are trained and paid to do their job. Umpires are human and they do make mistakes from time to time; however, none of these mistakes are intentional. Please show them every sign of courtesy at all times.

### Opposing Players and Coaches

Your opponents are worthy of your best efforts as a baseball player. There is never a reason to get in a personal battle with an opposing player. Play the game with respect, as well as your opponents. Opposing coaches also deserve your utmost respect at all times. Many of these opposing coaches can be helpful to you in the future.

## Additional Rules of the Program

1. Behavior in and out of school is to be of the highest quality. This includes attitude and actions towards parents, teammates, classmates, and other school organizations. Improper behavior will lead to a review with the player, parent(s), and coach.
2. Work hard on your Academics. DO YOUR BEST! If you need help, please see a coach or ask your teachers.
3. On the field be tough and aggressive, but DO NOT trash talk and keep your actions under control. Play with class; never lose your poise regardless of the situation.
4. Players are responsible for the maintenance and care of all equipment issued to them by school. **Lost or damaged equipment becomes the financial responsibility of the player.**
5. HUSTLE at all times! There is no excuse for walking on and off the field.
6. Black socks and black undershirts are required for game days.
7. Athletic equipment issued by Baseball Program may not be worn outside of practice or games without permission of the head coach.

## **Dugout and Travel Rules**

How a baseball team appears and behaves leaves a lasting impression on the schools we visit and the people we meet. To make a good impression and to avoid problems, we will adhere to the following rules:

1. Be Sure to have all your equipment.
2. Never leave trash or equipment behind and never take anything that you did not bring along.
3. Show some maturity on the bus. We will almost always travel with the softball program. Misbehavior will result in review with the coach.
4. Be in COMPLETE uniform when you get off of the bus (shirt tucked in, socks on, etc.). By the time you reach the dugout, the only item you should need to put on is your cleats.
5. Athletes are expected to travel to and from all away contests on the bus. If you need to leave with a parent, prior written approval needs to be obtained with the athletic director in advance of the game.

## **Equipment, Uniforms, and Equipment Collection**

Student-Athletes are responsible for the equipment they are assigned during the season.

- If any or all of their team-issued equipment or uniform is lost, stolen, or damaged, this must be reported to the head coach immediately.
- All equipment must be handed in at the end of the season to the head coach, or a coach in charge of uniform collection. The Athletic Office is not a "drop-off" for uniforms. Equipment that is damaged or lost is the financial responsibility of the player.
- Student-Athletes will not receive their letter or awards at the end of the season until all equipment has been turned in.

## **Varsity/Junior Varsity Philosophy**

### **Varsity Philosophy**

Baseball is a team sport that relies heavily on the combined ability of individuals working together towards a common goal. The ultimate goal at the varsity level at Plano High School is to successfully compete. Therefore, it is the priority of the coaching staff to base playing time decisions on what

is to be determined to be the best for the overall achievement of the team as opposed to individual achievements. The baseball program stands firmly behind the belief that participation in varsity games be reserved for the players that contribute toward achieving the team goal.

Selection for a roster spot on the varsity level is based on the coaching staff's evaluation of a player's ability to show the skills necessary to compete at this level.

### **Junior Varsity Philosophy**

Participation in games at the junior varsity level is designed to accommodate overall team achievement with consideration given for promoting the development of individual players' skills in preparation for the varsity level. While successfully competing as a junior varsity team is emphasized, it is of equal importance to provide players with opportunities to improve their individual skill-development. The coaching staff, however, reserves the right to limit playing time opportunities for those players requiring necessary skill-development in order to adequately compete at the junior varsity level.

### **Individual Playing Time**

The Plano Reapers baseball coaching staff has developed standards to their decision-making process for awarding playing time to an individual at both the varsity and junior varsity levels. The following standards form the basis for the coaching staff's decision-making process and are listed in no particular order. These standards can be used singularly or in combination with one another:

- **Individual Ability** - A player's individual ability as it relates to the baseball specific skills highlighted on the evaluation form at the end of this handbook.
- **Professional Judgment** - The ability of the coaching staff to make reasonable decisions on awarding playing time based on coaching experience and thorough observation.
- **Off-Season Preparation** - The coaching staff defines off-season preparation as a player's physical and mental readiness for the upcoming season.
- **Game Performance** - A player's performance during game time to completely assume the role or position most beneficial to the team as assigned to him by the coaching staff, and his ability to show the skills necessary to effectively compete at his designated level of play.
- **Practice Performance** - A player's performance during practice time to completely assume the role or position assigned to him by the coaching staff, and his ability to consistently exhibit the skills necessary to compete at his designated level of play.

Any player, or parent of a player, wishing to discuss team philosophy and/or the standards for awarding playing time should schedule an appointment with the coach or coaches. Players may ask to talk to a coach or coaches privately after a practice or a game. The coaching staff is willing to meet with parents to discuss their child's playing time but only after their child has talked to their coach first. the meeting must be set up in advance and will have in attendance an administrator, the child's coach, their parent(s)/guardian(s), and myself. PARENTS ARE NOT TO APPROACH ANY COACH BEFORE OR AFTER A GAME TO DISCUSS THEIR CHILD'S PLAYING TIME.

**The Plano High School baseball coaching staff believes that through the use of the standards for awarding playing time to an individual, the head coaches of the varsity and junior varsity teams are in the best position to make the final evaluation for game time participation. Therefore, as long as the standards are applied, the Athletic Director or Athletic Secretary should not be contacted about playing time.**

# Reapers

## 2012 PLAYER EVALUATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Ht. \_\_\_\_\_ Wt. \_\_\_\_\_ Bats L R S Throws L R GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Pos. \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Pos. \_\_\_\_\_ 60 Time \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

	EVALUATION SCALE						COMMENTS
	N/A	POOR	N.I.	AVG.	GOOD	EXC.	
<b>PITCHERS</b>							
Mechanics	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Fastball Velocity	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Off-Speed	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Control	0	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>CATCHERS</b>							
Receiving Mechanics	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Arm Strength	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Throwing Accuracy	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Blocking Technique	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Footwork	0	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>INFIELDERS</b>							
Fielding Technique	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Arm Strength	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Throwing Accuracy	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Range	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Footwork	0	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>OUTFIELDERS</b>							
Fielding Technique	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Arm Strength	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Throwing Accuracy	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Range	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Footwork	0	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>HITTING</b>							
Swing Mechanics	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Bat Speed	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Zone Awareness	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Bunting Skills	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Power	0	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>INTANGIBLES</b>							
Athleticism/Versatility	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Attitude/Team-focused	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Hustle/On-field Effort	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Coachability	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Speed	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Physical Conditioning	0	1	2	3	4	5	

Suggestions for Improvement:

Evaluating Coach's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Player/Parent Handbook Agreement

This handbook is designed to familiarize the players and parents with the policies and procedures used within the baseball program here at Plano High School. Our goal is to develop an efficient and effective program in which all of us can be proud. Therefore, it is imperative that we fully cooperate individually and collectively in following all of the guidelines listed. if you have any questions please feel free to contact the Head Coach or call the Athletic Director.

(Complete the form below and return it by the first day of practice.)



## Player/Parent Handbook Agreement

I acknowledge that I have read the Player/Parent Handbook and understand the guidelines and information provided and agree to follow the rules of Plano High School and the coaching staff with the understanding that the Coach has the authority to exercise disciplinary measures against team members found to be in violation of any of the rules and regulations.

I also acknowledge that I have read the terms regarding playing time and understand how coaching staff decisions involving the amount of playing time a participant earns are deduced.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Parent's signature (optional)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student-Athlete's Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student-Athlete's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*