

A note from Coach Stone about Summer League, 2014

First and foremost I would like to thank everyone who has spent countless hours getting our summer program off the ground running. The transition into Connie Mack will be well worth it for our student-athletes, but anytime change is involved there is a transition period. We have an amazing team behind the scenes who work tirelessly to make sure that our kids have the best possible environment and situation to succeed. As your Head Coach I could not be more grateful or proud. I did want to address a few common questions before we begin our summer season, and the following should help to smooth those waters as we begin the summer of 2014.

Regarding summer tournaments

Having a chance to play out of our region and against the top competition is a large reason that so many programs are choosing Connie Mack. It allows our kids to get exposure, to play top competition, and ultimately to build the family atmosphere that makes Chatfield Baseball so special.

Fees

Fees have traditionally been smaller in summer seasons past. However, we have changed those in our efforts to switch to Connie Mack and keep our programs thriving.

- First and foremost, as in the regular season, we are responsible for our **facility and field**. We take pride in having a first class field and it does require constant upkeep. Having our kids play at Chatfield allows them to use our facility, instead of renting someone else's field while being able to maintain and grow our facility to continue to be one of the best in the state. We have partnered with companies to get our goods at a lower cost and use our coaching staff to maintain our field, keeping the overall cost at a minimum.
- Second: league fees, umpire fees, and scheduling fees **have all gone up** incrementally over the past several years which in turn force our fees up as well.
- Finally, coaches pay. Keep in mind that all of our coaches are paid during the regular school year that helps them justify the time and commitment to your boys/our players. For the record, that coaching salary is so minimal that it doesn't even cover gas for a spring season. During the summer months our games go from 19 to 50+; requiring not only a greater time commitment, but additional travel as well. I want you to know, that as part of that, we are committed to bringing the **best coaches** on board not only to show our kids how to play the game the right way and in the right manner but also to contribute to their development as they become young men. That is typically part of the reason kids look to play "club", or a more competitive league in the summer: to get better. That is what your fee should also be paying for. We are evolving our program here at CSH for this reason above all. We want a summer program that "keeps our kids home." Home at the school, with the team, and with the kids they will play with for 4 years. We are dedicated to doing this; it is one of our program core values. It's reasonable to note, however, our salaries are still on the low end of the "club" and "summer" spectrum and we have already lost a few coaches to other programs with bigger budgets and salaries, but have been able to put together a top notch staff for your athletes.

Family Vacations/Multi-Sport Athletes

First, I want you to know that I respect family time above all. My family is the first priority in my own life and I know that it is yours as well. In addition, I was a multi-sport player and understand the reality of every sport wanting a piece of the athlete over the summer. If players and families schedule vacation or travel during the season or multi-sport kids are balancing training/preparing for another sport - forcing them to miss games or tournaments; that will be respected and no player will be penalized in terms of play. However, in terms of fees, we have adopted the same by-laws as other Connie Mack programs (other area high school summer programs) in that we won't refund fees in those cases. At a certain point you get to where it can become "unfair" if one player misses say two games versus four, etc.

Perspective on Migrating our Program

We've worked hard to make our summer program affordable, much more so than "club" programs that are out there for the players. This is the first year in the transition to Connie Mack and we want to invest in our program and more importantly our players knowing that it will only build on their skills and our sense of team. Most programs in the state have shifted into a Connie Mack: allowing for more games, better competition, and more development. However, we have created an option for a Summer League via South Jeffco. This option will still allow our players to play throughout the summer; the only difference is that it will run through South Jeff.

I hope this has eased some anxiety and answered some questions for you. As your Head Coach I am dedicated to continuing the level of excellence here at Chatfield. This truly is a special place, and I am honored to be part of it. If you have any questions please get a hold of us and we will do our best to answer those.

Thanks again and I look forward to a successful summer.

Brandon Stone
Head Baseball Coach