

Lincoln Sox Baseball

Building Tomorrow's Dreams Today.

Welcome to the Lincoln Sox Baseball Organization! Whether you are new to the Lincoln Sox Organization or not, we appreciate your interest and your child's desire to be a part of the Sox Organization. The Sox Board of Directors works closely with our coaches to emphasize a unified, family-like organization, but it is also our goal to prove that can be accomplished while still playing at a highly competitive level. We are excited to note that we are the only select baseball organization in Lincoln to have every one of our teams entering the 2021 season playing at the Major level. We are also one of only four select baseball organizations in the entire state that will field a team at the Major level at every age from 9's through 14's, the other three from the Omaha metro area. We eagerly look forward to working with all the players and getting to know each of them to help maximize their potential, both on and off the field.

As an organization, we've learned a lot over the years, and the Lincoln Sox Organization continues to strengthen and grow. We hope that each season will bring even better playing experiences to all Lincoln Sox team members. The goal is not about collecting money (we are a registered IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization), but about teaching a love of the game to young players and capitalizing on the life lessons that sports give us an opportunity to pass along. We do not decide how many teams we will have at each age after we see how many players attend our tryouts each year. We stick to one team at every age, and try to provide the best instruction, support, dedication, and opportunities to every Sox player. All Lincoln Sox coaches and officers donate their time without pay, and we are grateful for their time and effort. We feel this creates an environment where they are there for the right reasons, and history has shown that they are much more likely to coach their team all the way through 14's. The coaches' reward is a great environment for their son. The Sox Board of Directors focuses on supporting the coaches, and we work very hard to educate our coaches using local, regional and national resources.

Thank you again for selecting the Lincoln Sox Baseball Organization for your child to play select baseball. If at anytime you have a question or concern, please feel free to contact your coach, or the general Sox email account at lincolnsox@gmail.com.

Brian Vanis
President



www.lincolnsoxbaseball.com

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Lincoln Sox Baseball organization shall be to provide competitive opportunities for the youth baseball players of Lincoln and surrounding communities. To instill proper fundamentals and sound mechanics that will prepare the players for the high school and college level of play.

Our goal as an organization shall be to teach sportsmanship, self discipline, and teamwork. Coaches within the Sox Baseball program shall attempt to further develop each player's skills and abilities, and in doing so, we also hope to build the players' character both on and off of the field. We hope that these lessons learned would then become lifelong traits for each player.

Most of all, the Sox program further hopes that each player that has participated within our organization develops a passion and a love for the game so that they can carry it on with them the rest of their lives, and someday pass it on to others.

2021 Lincoln Sox Board of Directors

Brian Vanis, President
Shawn Meyer, VP
Kyle Lingenfelter, Treasurer
Jeff Bjorkman, Secretary
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Brett Rhodes, 12U Coach
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Ben Buettenback, 14U Coach



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2021 Operating Guidelines for Parents and Players

These guidelines were established to outline the responsibilities of both parents and players and to ensure full understanding what is expected. Please contact your team coach if you have any questions.

I. Roster Acceptance & Player Fees

A. When a player is offered a roster spot, you will be e-mailed a link to register for a new user account via www.lincolnsox.com, where you must confirm agreement with the player agreement, accept the medical release/waiver, and provide emergency contact & medical information so that we can adequately care for your son. You will then be directed to make a selection for the type of payment plan you want to choose: one-time full payment, automatic monthly payments, or manual payments:

- **One-time full payment:** The total per player fee is \$900 for a one-time full payment, and the entire payment will occur in one initial transaction. No credit card information is saved.
- **Automatic payments:** The total per player registration fee is \$900 for automatic payments. This includes a \$300 non-refundable deposit, and 6 monthly \$100 payments. You will set up automatic payments at the time you register for a Sox user account.
- **Manual payments:** You either can pay the entire annual player fees in one check, or you can split it up into three checks (made payable to "Lincoln Sox" and submitted to the team coach). If you pay your entire fees in one check, the total amount due is \$900. If you split your manual payments into three installments, the total per player fees are \$1,000. The \$100 difference is to pay for the additional time and external accounting costs involved with collecting and tracking manual payments. This includes an initial \$400 non-refundable deposit, a payment of \$300 at the uniform try-on in late October, and a final payment of \$300 by December 10th.

B. The player's birth date is required to enter them on the team's USSSA roster, and a copy of the player's birth certificate is required to be turned in to the coach for any tournaments that require proof of players' birth date, or if your team gets protested during tournament play.

II. Fund Raising Activities & Sponsorships

Each year the costs associated with equipment, uniforms, supplies, winter practice facilities, field rentals, baseball clinics and umpire fees continue to rise. In order for the Sox Organization to keep fees low, each family will be asked to volunteer for team fund raising activities or help gather money and sponsorships for your team. The level of effort required will be determined by the type of schedule that your coach puts together, but all families are expected to participate equally.

III. Sox Tournament

The Sox Organization hosts one of the most popular and widely attended USSSA baseball tournaments. This is a large source of revenue for each team's budget, entry is free for Sox teams, and as such, each team is expected to support their age division accordingly. This means that all parents are expected to participate in activities in support of the tournament, as directed by your tournament director, such as volunteering for field prep, concessions, t-shirt sales, etc.

IV. Responsibility for Uniforms

- A. The Sox organization will provide each player with the required uniform (helmet, bat bag, pair of pants, belt, jerseys and cap). The jerseys are a combination of high-quality re-useable button-up jersey that you keep but must be used for two seasons, and alternate jersey(s) with the player's names on the back that are kept by the player.
- B. Button-up jerseys will be available to purchase at your own expense if they are lost, damaged, or your son outgrows it.
- C. Decisions to purchase additional accessories (2nd hat, extra pants, extra jersey, etc.) will be solely up to the parents and the team coaching staff, however at minimum players must provide their own regulation baseball shoes and athletic cup.

V. Parent and Player Responsibilities / Coaching Philosophies

- A. Parent support is critical; criticism of any player is not acceptable—your son or otherwise.
- B. Loud, vocal support for your team is important; however, derogatory comments should not be made to individual players, coaches or fans on either team, or the umpires.
- C. Bad calls by umpires are part of baseball, but parents and players must refrain from making negative comments, as it distracts from the game, and reflects poorly on your team and the entire Sox organization.
- D. Sportsmanship is expected from all players and parents. Players throwing bats or helmets, arguing with umpires, and arguing or fighting with other players or coaches are all grounds for ejection from the game and future games. Player or parent use of foul language, inappropriate gestures, taunting, will not be tolerated. Players may be suspended from playing in games until an appropriate suspension has been served. Parents may be asked not to attend their son's games until they can control their behavior in a way that respects the reputation of the team and organization.
- E. Lincoln Sox teams win as a team and lose as a team. All players shall continue to be positive and supportive of all teammates. Negative comments or attitudes by players toward other team member(s) will not be tolerated. Players should not criticize other players at any time. Coaches will provide all the required instruction to attempt to correct mistakes.
- F. Parents should not interfere with coaching and should not yell instructions to players during practices or games. During exciting moments of a game, a player can become quickly confused. For example, the coach says "stay" and the parent yells "run." If parents are yelling instructions it makes coaching difficult and can create a distraction for the entire team, up to altering the outcome of a game.
- G. As a general rule of thumb, players are expected to arrive 10 minutes before the arrival time required by the coach for each practice or game, so they can get settled in and be ready to start warming up at the appropriate time. Failure to do so may impact playing time. Specific team policies vary at the discretion of the coach.
- H. Players are expected to be at all practices and games. Any absence shall be approved by the coaching staff in advance or playing time may be lost. It is each player's responsibility to know when the practices and games are scheduled. Parents have the responsibility of arranging all transportation for their player. Parents are also expected to arrange lodging for out-of-town travel. After games and practices coaches should not be expected to stay late waiting for a player's ride or to provide player transportation.

I. The Sox absolutely support multi-sport players. When outside of baseball season, if another sport is in season, it is acceptable to miss a baseball practice for that sport, but it is the player's responsibility to notify their coach in advance of the conflict. During the entire baseball season (March 1 through the state or national tournament), players involved in other sports are expected to give the highest priority to baseball. Many coaches suggest that players limit outside physical activities on tournament weekends, such as swimming, basketball, soccer, etc.

J. This is competitive baseball and equal playing time is not guaranteed. The amount of playing time that each player receives is at the discretion of the coaching staff. Hopefully, all players will have ample opportunities to play; however, parents are expected to be understanding of coaching decisions. Coaches will always put the team first before any individual player.

K. Understand that coaches are unpaid volunteers. If you have a problem or concern with the team or its coaching staff, please do not vocalize it during or immediately following a game or practice in front of team members, families, or people from other organizations. Your input is always welcome; however, a private phone call is the best way to help the team. Please respect the cooling off period, and do not call or approach the coach within 24-hours of the end of the game or practice.

L. Players will remain in the dugout when not on the field, unless instructed otherwise by the coaches. All players not playing will be responsible for making sure the dugout is kept in order. Dugout players may be asked to warm up pitchers and outfielders.

M. Players are subject to dismissal from the team if team rules are violated by players or their parents. Players removed from the roster are not entitled to any monetary refund for past payments.

N. Although playing select baseball is a significant commitment of time, players are expected to complete their assigned schoolwork. Failing in the classroom may be grounds for elimination of participation in practices or games. Parents are asked to inform the coaches of any such problems.

O. Players are expected to give 100% effort and focus to the team. Baseball is fun, and winning is the most fun of all, but it requires hard work. Building baseball fundamental skills requires repetition, so players need to remain focused and refrain from distractions. Disruptive outbreaks during practices, warm-ups, and games can distract the team and will not be tolerated.

P. Everyone involved will remain focused on the goals of the Lincoln Sox Baseball program:

1. Teach sportsmanship, self discipline and teamwork.
2. Develop each player's skills with proper fundamentals and sound mechanics.
3. Prepare players for the high school level of play.

VI. Games

Approximately 40 to 60 games will be played for each age group during the season, depending on the players' age. It is possible for teams to play more than the expected number of games if the coaches and parents agree and additional fundraising is completed to cover the added expenses.

VII. Parents

We need everyone's help to be successful. Each player's parents will be asked to sign-up for different activities, such as:

- Field prep / grounds crew
- Score keeping / statistician
- Fundraising
- Communications / photography
- Other organizational committees
- Social events
- Uniform and apparel
- Tournament t-shirts

VIII. Commitments

As the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a selected player we have read and understand the above guidelines and are committed to participate in the Lincoln Sox Baseball program:

Signed _____ (electronically accepted) _____ (parent)

Signed _____ (electronically accepted) _____ (parent)

As a selected player I have read and understand the above guidelines and I am committed to playing in the Lincoln Sox Baseball program:

Signed _____ (electronically accepted) _____ (player)



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