

# 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 we are 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 eagerly look forward to working with all of 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. Our goals are to teach the game of baseball via training and development of the fundamentals, to foster a love of the game to all players, and to capitalize on the life lessons that sports give us an opportunity to pass along. We hope to provide the best instruction, support, dedication, and opportunities to all players. 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 if that is true, they are more likely to coach their team all the way through 14's. The Sox Board of Directors focuses on supporting the coaches, and we work very hard to educate our coaches using both local and regional 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](mailto:lincolnsox@gmail.com).

Brian Vanis  
President



[www.lincolnsoxbaseball.com](http://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, and to instill proper fundamentals and sound mechanics that will prepare the players for the high school and collegiate levels 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 on and off the field. We hope that these lessons learned would then become lifelong traits for each player.

Most of all, the Sox organization hopes that each player 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.

## 2023 Lincoln Sox Board of Directors

Brian Vanis, President-emeritus  
Bill Hooks, President-elect  
Brandon Lucking, Vice-President  
Kyle Lingenfelter, Treasurer  
(Open), Secretary  
Jodi Ledgerwood, Fundraising  
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Chad Steele, 8U Coach  
Brian Millard, 9U Coach  
Matt Bokowski, 10U Coach  
Zach Bogart, 11U Coach  
Matthew Taylor, 12U Coach  
Dominic Gusso, 13U Coach  
Aaron Semm, 14U Coach



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## 2023 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](http://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: automatic or manual.

- **Automatic payments:** The total per player registration fee is \$1000 for automatic payments. This includes a \$250 non-refundable deposit, and 5 monthly \$150 payments. You will set up automatic payments at the time you register for a new user account.
- **Manual payments:** The total per player registration fee is \$1000 for manual payments if the entire amount is paid up front via check or cash. If manual payments are requested to be split up, the total cost will be \$1100, and will be split up into a \$400 immediate deposit and two \$350 payments. The \$100 difference is to pay for the additional time and external costs involved with collecting and tracking manual payments. Checks should be made payable to "Lincoln Sox" and submitted to the team coach.

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 in case you enter 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. For the Sox Organization to keep fees low, each family will be asked to volunteer for team fund raising activities or help gather 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 a popular and widely attended USSSA wood bat baseball tournament in Lincoln. This is a free tournament plus a source of revenue for each team's account, 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-shirts, etc.

### IV. Responsibility for Uniforms

A. The Sox organization will provide each player with the required uniform (helmet, bat bag, socks, pants, belt, jerseys and at least one cap).

C. Decisions to purchase additional accessories (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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, umpires, coaches, or fans on either team.

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 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 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, 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 basketball, swimming, 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 (including your own son), families, or people from other organizations. Your input is always welcome; however, a private phone call the next day is the best way to help the team.

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**

A. 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**

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

- Field prep / grounds crew
- Score keeping / statistician
- Fundraising
- Communications / photography
- Other organizational committees
- Social events
- Clothing and apparel

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (parent)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_\_\_ (player)



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