



**Dear Coach -**

Thank you for continuing to coach these kids! We hope that you have a great time, and that the kids on your team learn a lot and most of all, HAVE FUN! You will be able to have a big impact on them, and we are glad that you have volunteered your time. There are lots of people that have been coaching MAA teams for a long time that you can get help from if you need it, so please don't hesitate to ask. Also, feel free to contact your Age Director or me if you have questions or concerns. There is a lot of information, some of which is new, in this letter, so please look through it carefully.

**TO DO LIST:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit your roster to through the Coach's Corner on the MAA website as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule to attend the March 23 or 24 Coach Meeting and Meet Your Coach Meeting at Scheel's.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bring a \$250 Equipment Deposit Check (funds will not be deposited - MAA will simply hold the check) to the meeting. Equipment will not be available unless a check is provided.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the Coach Background Check at [www.ncsisage.com](http://www.ncsisage.com) (use 33690012)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare a plan to provide parents at the Meet Your Coach session to include:  
Practice Plan, Parent's Meeting, and optional names on jerseys
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule to attend the FREE Coach Training Session at Rockwell I Field April 23

**EQUIPMENT:**

As in previous years, you will receive an equipment bag that includes 4 batting helmets, a catcher's mask, chest protector and shin guards. You'll need to have a deposit check of \$250 that we will return after the season is over and you return the equipment. You will need to bring this check to the mandatory Coaches Meeting on March 19 at Scheel's. Many kids like to get their own helmet, they just need to know that they will most likely need to share it with the other kids if they bring it to their games.

**BACKGROUND CHECK:**

To ensure the safety of our players, we ask that you complete an online background check every other year. To do this, go to [www.millardathletics.com](http://www.millardathletics.com), select the Coach's Corner on the far right side, and click on "MAA Coaches Background Screening". Enter the Self Registration Number: 33690012. Please do this as soon as possible, and it must be done prior to your first game. As you complete this, the system will tell you if you have a background check that is still valid, and if so, you won't need to complete the process. If your background check has expired, you'll complete the process.

## **MANDATORY COACHES MEETING**

**AT SCHEEL'S**

**10U-13/14U 5:30 pm, Friday, March 23**

**4/5U – 6U 8:00 am, Saturday, March 24**

**7U – 9U 1:00 pm, Saturday, March 24**

Your attendance at this meeting is crucial and mandatory. Much will be discussed, and you will receive your equipment bag and lots of information that you will need. If you absolutely cannot attend, please have someone from your team (assistant coach, spouse, another parent) attend.

## **MANDATORY**

**MEET THE COACH EVENT**

**AT SCHEEL'S**

**10U-13/14U 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Friday, March 23**

**4/5U – 6U 10:00 – 11:30 am, Saturday, March 24**

**7U – 9U 3:00 – 4:30 pm, Saturday, March 24**

This event is a great time to meet your players and parents. It is important that you be there, particularly if you have any new players. If you absolutely cannot be there, you will need to have an assistant coach or other parent be there. You'll be able to distribute the hats, and if you choose not to put names on the back, their jerseys. At the event, you'll want to know what color pants, belt, and socks that you would like players to wear so that they can plan on purchasing them before the first game.

### **ROSTER:**

You will receive your official roster at the Coaches' Meeting. You are encouraged to contact the parents of your players to introduce yourself if you don't already know them, and this is a great time to solicit help for practices and games. You'll want to have an idea of when you'd like to schedule practices. We also recommend that you schedule a parents meeting before you start practices, and you can have your parent's meeting right before your first practice if you like. At that parent meeting you can let them know what you need from them (help at practices and games, someone to be a team mom – more info on that later, have players on time to practices and games, etc) and go over the questions that they have. You'll also want to go over the Spectator Code of Conduct and convey your expectations and coaching style.

### **PRACTICES:**

We recommend that you have a set practice time and place (you'll need to find practice space on your own), and let your parents know as far in advance as you can. Try and schedule a practice as soon as possible **AFTER** the coaches meeting and Meet the Coach.

We also recommend that you have a practice plan, possibly with stations for 3-4 kids each and rotate. This keeps the kids from standing around a lot, and as engaged as possible. We have a number of resources regarding practice plans and drills, you'll just need to request it.

We will have a coaching clinic that is free to you on April 23, and will be very helpful, so please plan on attending. The Hilltopper Clinic has two upcoming free clinics, March 19 and March 26 from 6-8:30 at UBA. There is more information on our website in the Coach's Corner.

If you would like more help during the season, please contact your Age Director or the office and we can recommend coaches to contact for help.

### **GAMES:**

The game schedule will be available in early April on the MAA website ([www.millardathletics.com](http://www.millardathletics.com)). The games will start the week of April 16 for 4/5U, 6U, 7U, and 8U. Games for 9U and older may begin April 16, depending on game slot availability.

The MAA website is very up to date on weather and any game postponements. Please check the website if you have questions about whether your game will be played or not. You can also sign up on the [www.millardathletics.com](http://www.millardathletics.com) website to receive text messages when the MAA fields are rained out. Because of field space, it is unlikely that rainouts will be rescheduled. There is an optional tournament for 8U – 13/14U over Memorial Day, which can add 4-6 games to your regular schedule, and you will get more information about this tournament at the Coaches Meeting. There will be a season end tournament for leagues 7U and older, and the championship games will be completed by July 2.

MAA offers more than just Regular Season games for 8U and older. You may also participate in these optional events:

- Memorial Day MAA tournament **BACK FOR 2012!** (free to MAA Classic teams)
- USSSA Runza Memorial Day 'A' Level Tournament (all fees paid by team)
- MAA Classic season end tournament (free to MAA Classic teams)
- USSSA State Silver "A" (all fees paid by team)
- Up to 2 game requests versus an MAA Power or Select team (if offered by Power or Select team into one of their game slots).

It is critical to program we keep equal parity between teams and their opportunities to play games beyond the events listed above.

**IMPORTANT: Any games or scrimmages scheduled or played after the regular season begins outside of the above mentioned games/events will result in disqualification of the team from the MAA End of Season House Tournament.**

***RULES:***

A full rule book for your age league is available online at the MAA website, [www.millardathletics.com](http://www.millardathletics.com)

***UNIFORM:***

It is up to you to determine what color baseball pants, belt, and socks you would like your team to wear. You'll receive a hats and jerseys at either the Coaches Meeting or the Meet the Coach Event. You can hand out the hats at the Meet the Coach event, but if you would like to have names put on the back of their shirts, you won't want to hand out shirts until that is done. You can get the names put on through Lawlor's and you can collect money from each player for this if you like.

***PICTURES:***

As in years' past, you will be given packets for photos with your scheduled time on them at the coaches meeting. You will be on the composite (as well as your assistants if you choose), so you'll need to wear either the coaches shirt that you'll receive at the Coaches meeting, or a shirt that will coordinate with your team. You'll also want your team hat, and you'll want to make sure that your team brings their gloves for their picture. People don't have to get their pictures taken at the scheduled time, but it is helpful to Modern Images if they are as close as possible to the scheduled time.

## **OTHER TIPS:**

- Get a “Team Mom” that can manage non-practice items, like:
  - Picture distribution
  - Snack schedule
  - Season end party
  - Names on jerseys
  - Website management (you’ll hear more about this at the Coaches Meeting)
  - Scoreboard keeper (7U and older only) for when your team is the home team
- If you don’t have an assistant coach, find someone that can coach with you. You may also need someone to be in the dugout.
- Communicate with your player’s parents regularly (probably once a week or so), and use them in the practices and games as much as you can.
- If you need help, ask for it! MAA has a great group of seasoned coaches that are happy to help with a practice. Let me know if you need guidance or assistance and I’m glad to help.
- **MAKE SURE THAT YOU AND THE KIDS HAVE FUN!!** This experience should be one that these kids remember as adults as being great, and you can make a huge impact on them.

Thank you again for coaching for MAA, I appreciate and thank you for your service! Please don’t hesitate to contact me, and you will be seeing and hearing from me throughout the season.

Sincerely,

Jeff LeDent  
General Manager  
Millard Athletic Association  
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