

Union County Vipers

Vipers Baseball Travel Baseball Program Fall 2013

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Mission Statement



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Union County Viper Baseball – Fall 2013 Program

The Union County Vipers Baseball Program is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) Travel baseball organization that is focused on **Total Player Development**. We strive to provide our players with superior training, knowledge and the highest level of competition possible. It is our goal to be a premier Travel baseball program and to be competitive with the strongest teams across the county.

Our goal is to create an environment that will allow our players to realize their capabilities as baseball players; to develop confidence, self esteem and poise as athletes; to understand that their achievements are a direct result of their efforts; to cultivate friendships among their teammates; and to understand that sportsmanship, not showmanship, is the major ingredient in playing with class and respecting the great game of baseball.

Our teams are selected from open tryouts. Each player selected must demonstrate the following qualities needed to be a successful travel baseball player and well rounded young athlete:

1. Hustle ! Hustle !! Hustle !!!
2. Sound baseball knowledge and ability
3. Athleticism
4. Positive attitude / disposition
5. Leadership abilities
6. Coachability
7. Passion for the game
8. Respect for coaches, teammates and parents
9. Good Sportsmanship
10. Hustle ! Hustle !! Hustle !!!

Program Overview



Program Overview

- The Union County Vipers travel baseball program provides a fun, challenging and intense baseball experience for select talented players. Participation in the travel program requires a serious commitment on the part of its players and their parents. Our Fall program will primarily play local tournaments sponsored by Play Top Gun Sports, Triple Crown, Nations Baseball and USSSA.
- Playing travel baseball requires a love and dedication to the game. Our Fall 2013 teams will require players to be available two nights a week starting September 3rd through mid November, and involves a 16 to 20+ game schedule. We will play in both Sunday only and two day tournaments which will be dependent upon the strength of the tournaments and availability.
- The primary goal of our Fall program is player instruction and development. For a player to participate in Viper Baseballs travel program, he must commit to participate in all but a very few of the team's practices and games.
- Players' parents are expected to actively support this commitment. Our Fall baseball program certainly allows time for other sports and activities, but each player must commit to be available to his team as outlined above. See page 4 for more specific details.
- Players are expected to arrive 1 hour prior to game start times and 15 minutes prior to practice start times.

Viper Baseball – 12U Fall of 2012



Viper Baseball Program Highlights - Fall 2013

➤ Try-outs will be held at a cost of \$15 per player. Open try-outs will be held on the following dates and times, each player is expected to participate in try-outs on both days;

○ Saturday August 3rd, 2013 (Location: The Athletic Barn)

○ 9u and 10u – 9:00am to 11:00am

○ 11u and 12u – 1:00pm to 3:00pm

○ 13u – 4:00pm to 6:00pm

○ Saturday August 10th, 2013 (Location: Walnut Creek Park)

○ 9u and 10u – 9:00am to 11:00am

○ 11u and 12u – 1:00pm to 3:00pm

○ 13u – 4:00pm to 6:00pm

○ Additional tryouts may be added at subsequent dates

○ Location Saturday August 3rd – The Athletic Barn – 5412 Waxhaw Marvin Road, Waxhaw NC 28173

○ Location Saturday August 10rd – Walnut Creek Park - 10521 Walnut Creek Parkway, Indian Land, SC – corner of Route 75 in Waxhaw and 521 in Indian Land, SC about 4.5 miles from The Athletic Barn)

➤ Invitation's to Roster will be issued on or before Friday August 16, 2013

➤ The Fall Vipers program will run From Tuesday September 3, 2013 through Sunday November 17, 2013.

➤ The Fall Vipers Baseball Program will include the following key components:

○ **Professional Instruction:** Players of each team will participate in an eight week hitting, pitching, and fielding developmental program to be conducted at The Athletic Barn in Waxhaw, NC. The professional instruction program will run for 2 hours one night per week for eight consecutive weeks commencing on September 3, 2013.

Viper Baseball – 12U Fall of 2012



Viper Baseball Program Highlights - Fall 2013 Cont.

- **Full Field Practice**: One weekend practice may be conducted, at the discretion of the team Manager and the coaching staff, on weekends the Vipers are not playing in tournaments. Field practices may be conducted at various local school and / or county parks and recreational facilities.

- **Game Schedule**: A 16 to 20+ game schedule will be played during the fall through local tournaments such as Play Top Gun Sports, Nations Baseball, and USSSA in the metro Charlotte area. It is anticipated that we will play both two day and Sunday only tournaments.

- **Program Cost for Fall 2013**: The cost of the above noted program will be as follows;
 - **Reinstated Viper Players - \$500 to \$600** per child and includes at a minimum tournament fees for 16 games, eight weeks of professional instruction, and a new Vipers fitted baseball cap. This excludes the cost of baseball cleats, family gate fees, and other travel related expenses.
 - **New Viper Players - \$650 to \$750** per child and includes at a minimum tournament fees for 16 games, eight weeks of professional instruction, two Vipers game jersey, Vipers fitted cap, game socks, belt, and pants. This excludes the cost of baseball cleats, family gate fees, and other travel related expenses.

Viper Baseball – 12U Fall of 2012



Player and Roster Selection Process

The Fall Vipers Baseball teams will be selected after above noted tryouts based on several factors including, but not limited to, mental readiness, sportsmanship, and physical skills or abilities.

Invitations to roster will be presented no later than Friday August 16, 2013. Players selected for roster positions have **24 hours to accept the invitation to roster**. Once expired, the Vipers selection process will continue without guarantee of roster position. An invitation to roster does not guarantee any specified defensive fielding position, spot in the batting order, or amount of playing time.

Once an invitation to roster is accepted, this is a clear acknowledgement that you are committed to the Vipers Baseball program and agree to follow the Parental and Players expectations communicated in this document. This will entail full participation in practice, games, and attending all posted and scheduled events. Failure to do so may result in diminished playing time, or ultimately, the removal from the team's roster.

Once a player has accepted the invitation to Roster payment of participation fees are due within 7 days. Team selection and playing time will be determined by a player's merit, determined by the team manager and coaching staff for the best success of the team and development of the player.

Total Player Development is the goal of the Vipers Fall Baseball Program which means each young athlete will be exposed to and expected to play and understand multiple positions, some of which they may have limited exposure.

Coaching Staff



Key Vipers Coaching Attributes

The coaches selected for the Union County Vipers 2013 Fall season will demonstrate the following key attributes of a good Coach;

- Baseball knowledge
- Ability to respectfully and effectively communicate with players and parents
- Ability to focus on teamwork and the development of all players equally
- Ability to teach using a positive, constructive approach
- Ability to enhance the self-esteem of all players
- Ability to have fun and generate enthusiasm from the players
- Ability to provide a positive environment for the players to learn and grow

Most importantly – Our coaches are selected because coaching youth baseball provides an opportunity to teach the players about this wonderful game of baseball and to develop life skills that each player can take with them as they navigate through their life’s journeys.

- Professional coaching and instruction will be provided to all Viper teams and players during the Fall 2013 season and beyond.

Expectations of Parents



- To get your child to practice and games on time. I know this can be difficult at times and impossible at other times, but it's really hard to conduct practice or get ready for a game when players continually show up late. If you know your child will be late or won't be able to make it to a practice or game, please let me know in advance if possible.
- Get involved in playing baseball with your child. Kids love it when their parents get involved. Repetition is crucial for skill improvement. There simply isn't enough organized practice time for the kids. They need to work on the skills they learn at practice at home also. Reinforce the concepts using the team terminology and approach to provide a consistent framework to learn.
- Please encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game and practice. Please cheer for your child during games, but try to keep from yelling instructions to them. Remember this is their opportunity to enjoy playing in the game. Much of the fun is lost if their Mom or Dad is always yelling instructions. Bottom line: do not coach from the stands at anytime each player needs to focus on the game and receive primary instruction from the coaching staff during practice and the games.
- Please let me know if you have a problem with me or my coaching staff or something that is happening. The appropriate time to communicate with the Team manager is NOT during a tournament or practice. It is expected that all communication will be before or after practice or during the week.
- No parent will be allowed in the dugout or on the field at anytime during practice or game time unless directly requested by a Team Manager.
- Safety is a primary concern for me. Unfortunately, I can't watch every child every second. If you see any situation that you believe is a safety concern, please step in and help. Make sure you follow up with me so I know what has happened.
- Help out with team volunteer opportunities. We have a number of items that require parent help.
- Parent probation and/or termination for violation of the above noted guidelines or any misconduct is at the sole discretion of the team Manager and the Coaching Staff. Participation fees will be non refundable.

Expectations of Players and Discipline



Player Expectations

- Show up on time for practice and games;
 - Arrival times for games are (1) hour before the game start time.
 - Arrival time for practice is (15 minutes) before practice start time.
- Hustle! Hustle!! Hustle !!!
 - It is expected that each child will pay attention and give 100% effort while on the baseball field during practice and games
 - Hustle on and off the fields at all times during practice and games
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Dedicate yourself to improvement everyday – practice outside of team practice
- Put the TEAM ahead of yourself
- Respect your coaches, teammates, parents, opposing teams and officials.
- Represent the Viper Baseball program appropriately on the field, in the classroom and in the community.
- Remember your priorities. Family first, academics second, athletics third.

Player Discipline

- Anything less than 100% effort will not be tolerated. Each young athlete will be held accountable for his actions while on the baseball field. Remedies for disciplinary issues may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Taking laps, running sprints or push-ups
 - Game suspensions
 - Reduction or eliminated playing time
 - Player termination is also an option at the sole discretion of the team Manager and the Coaching Staff. No participation fees will be refunded.

A Disclosure on Travel Baseball Tryouts



Travel Baseball Tryouts:

(Please read carefully before participating in tryouts.)

➤ Travel Baseball consists of very competitive teams and unfortunately, not all promising young players who try out can be asked to play on a team. As such, at these tender ages, the kids will be subject to possibly being "cut" and to be disappointed. Please understand that if you do not want to subject your child to this possible disappointment, please do not appear for the tryouts. For most, there is always next year, when the kids are a bit older and when you feel they are better able to handle the situation. Of course, those who do not play travel baseball are strongly urged and encouraged to continue to play recreational baseball with their friends and consider trying out again next year. Also, travel baseball is a serious commitment in terms of time spent for practices and games. If you anticipate potential conflicts or missed games due to camps, trips, club teams, and/or other sports please consider there are many children who love and would be 100% committed to baseball. Because the interest in travel baseball is so strong, we urge you to consider your child's ability to commit before participating in the tryouts and to discuss any such conflicts with the coaches ASAP.

➤ The coaches take the tryout process very seriously and try to make it as fair as possible. As such, we understand conflicts arise but we ask that you make every effort to be at all tryouts. The more we see the fairer the process.

➤ While we are volunteers and not professional coaches, we will do everything we can to give every child an opportunity to display their skills. Travel is not REC and not everyone will be chosen for a team. We all agree that this is the hardest part of the job and we get no enjoyment out of telling children they cannot play. What we do strive for is an even playing field for all candidates. We recognize these are young kids who develop differently and will give them every shot. Unfortunately, we will be making some tough decisions and, most likely, we will make some mistakes.

Tryout Registration Form



Fall Union County Vipers Tryout Registration Form

Please complete this form and fax to (704) 749-9414 or email to bnichols@goviperbaseball.com
Please fully complete this form. This information will only be used by the coaching staff of the Union County Vipers and will not be shared with any other parties.

1. General

Player's Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

Father's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2. Fall Obligations

Player's 2013 Expected Fall/Winter Sports Activity (if not playing another sport leave blank)

3. Most Recent Baseball Experience

Season/Year Division/Age Group Park or Location Coach's Name

4. Most Recent Position(s) Played:

Pitcher Catcher 1st 2nd 3rd Shortstop Outfield

5. Availability

Please indicate any schedule conflicts (specific days of the week, vacations, etc.) that you and your child may have. Also provide any other comments about your child or the travel ball experience that you would like to share with coaching staff: _____

WAIVER: I hereby request and grant permission to the instructors and officials of the Union County Vipers to provide care to my child in the event of injury or illness if I am not present. Such care may include, but shall not be limited to, first aid treatment, transporting to a medical facility or the summoning of emergency assistance. I the undersigned parent or appointed guardian of the above named child, do hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the UCV organization and its officials, managers, coaches, and assistants from all liability for the above named child's activities of any nature with said association. I acknowledge that participation in this tryout and related activities involves an inherent risk of physical injury, and on behalf of the registrant, hereby assume all such risk and do hereby release and forever discharge the UCV and all agents thereof from any and all liability of whatever kind of nature, arising from and by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, damage to property, and the consequences thereof, resulting from this registrant's participation in or involvement with this clinic, including any failure of equipment or defect on or in the premises.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date: _____
Emergency Contact Phone #: _____

Contact Information



Vipers Baseball – Fall 2013 Baseball Program Contact Information

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