

Union County Vipers

Union County Vipers 12U Travel Baseball Spring 2013 Program

Prepared by
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November 7, 2012



Mission Statement



Mission Statement

Union County Viper Baseball – Spring 2013 and Beyond

The Union County Vipers 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 an elite 12U Travel baseball program and to be competitive with the strongest 12U teams across the country.

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 will be selected from **OPEN – TRYOUTS** by professional coaches. 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 !!!

Tryout Expectations



Our Spring 2013 Team's will be selected from **OPEN – TRYOUTS**. You can expect the following during our try out process.

- Professional coaches to perform the evaluations.
- Each prospective player will be scored individually and then compared to the peer group.
- Each player's family will receive written feedback via email from the program, which will provide you and your son with valuable feedback about how your son did individually and compared to the peer group.
- An example of the measurable elements and feedback each player will be graded on and receive feedback on is as follows;

Player Name: Player Name					

The scores below reflect the individual scores within each of the evaluation areas for the player named above, as well as the average scores for his peers involved in the assessment/tryout process. Each assessment category score is based on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest score). This information is being provided as a means of conveying to the ballplayer and his family how the individual player compares to his peers, and the areas of focus in skill development programs.

Assessment Category	Personal Average Scores	Average Scores of Peers	Above or Below Peers
Hitting for Average (Contact) (Rating)	8.00	7.00	Above
Hitting for Power (Rating)	5.00	5.94	Below
Speed and Quickness (70ft times)	4.10	4.14	Above
Speed and Quickness (Rating)	8.00	7.83	Above
Pitching Average Fast Ball	51.00	51.61	Below
Pitching Top Speed Fast Ball	52.00	52.78	Below
Pitching Overall (Rating)	8.00	7.22	Above
Fielding Throwing (Rating)	9.00	8.44	Above
Fielding Catching (Rating)	10.00	8.44	Above
Athleticism / Awareness (Rating)	10.00	8.28	Above
Total Score	58.00	53.15	Above

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 teams will play local tournaments sponsored by Nations Baseball, Top Gun, and USSSA in addition to travel and compete in regional and national tournaments. Based on the expected level of interest of quality players it is anticipated that the Vipers will field two 12u teams for the 2013 Spring season.
- The primary focus of team 1, the “Blue” team is to qualify for and compete in the USSSA 12U Elite 32 World Series in Disney from July 14th to July 20th. The “Road to the Elite 32” will require participation in a minimum of 5 to 6 overnight travel tournaments and focus on competing in USSSA Super NIT and NIT events across the southeast to qualify for the Elite 32 event and to accumulate as many USSSA points as possible.
- The primary focus of team 2, the “White” team is to compete at the premier level in local and regional tournaments across the Carolinas. It is expected that the White team will have 2 to 3 regional overnight travel tournaments.
- In addition, Vipers Baseball may, depending on interest, field one team to compete on a national level at a week-long tournament at a venue such as Dreams Park in Cooperstown, NY, Champions Village in Omaha Nebraska, or the Ripken Experience in Aberdeen, MD. The cost for this team and event will be in addition to the standard player fees outlined on page 6 and will range between an additional \$550 to \$850 per player. This additional cost per player may be offset by additional fundraising efforts.
- Our Spring 2013 teams will require players to be available for indoor “Spring Training” on Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:30pm the 8:00 pm starting February 6, 2013 through March 8, 2013. It is anticipated that when the weather improves in March and beyond, we will have practice a minimum of two times a week at a combination of outdoor fields and at the Vipers training facility in Waxhaw, NC.

Program Overview



Program Overview

- A team calendar will be issued in mid-January and maintained and updated on our team web-site (www.govipersbaseball.com) throughout the season for easy access to information.
- Tentative Spring Training and Tournament Schedules for both teams can be found at the end of this document noted as EXHIBIT I.
- For a player to participate in the Union County Viper travel program, he or she 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. Baseball must be the priority sport for that child.
- Our Spring program will entail a 48 - 60 game schedule and practice a minimum of two nights a week.
- Vipers Baseball prides itself on controlling the out of pocket cost of families through various fundraising events. It is expected that all Viper families will "make an effort" and participate in our program fundraising events to help offset the program costs. Our fundraising will include activities such as an Applebee's Breakfast, Super Bowl Pools, and Direct local and national business sponsors.
- Players are expected to arrive 1 hour prior to game start times and 10 minutes prior to practice start times.
- Professional Coaching will be provided by Patrick Whitted, Coach Whitted will also be responsible for conducting tryouts and selecting the rosters for both the Blue team and White team.
- We are in the process now of interviewing for a second professional coach to assist Coach Whitted during the Spring 2013 season.
- Optional Winter (December / January) Speed and Agility program will be offered.

Viper Baseball – 12U Spring of 2013



Viper Baseball Program Highlights – Spring 2013

- Open try-outs will be held on the following date;
 - Saturday December 1st, 2012 (12noon to 3pm) and Sunday December 2nd (12noon to 2pm) – at Jack Hughes Park Field #4 – Located at 513 Main Street, Pineville NC 28134
 - If the weather is expected to be bad we will take tryouts indoors at a facility to be named later.
 - Additional tryouts may be added at subsequent dates, if needed.
- Invitations to Roster will be issued on or before Friday December 14, 2012.
- The Spring Vipers program will run from February 6, 2013 through mid July 2013.
- The Spring Vipers Baseball Program will include the following key components:
 - **Indoor Facility Practice:** Beginning February 6, 2013 through March 8, 2013 we will have “Spring Training” and practice on Wednesday and Friday nights from 6:30pm to 8:00 pm at Champions Baseball Academy or a similar indoor facility. Subsequent indoor practices will be added as needed.
 - **Full Field Practice:** One weekend practice either on Saturday or Sunday will be conducted, at the discretion of the team Manager and the coaching staff, on weekends the Vipers are not playing in tournaments and during the seven week period prior to the start of our first tournament on March 9th, 2013.
 - **Field Practice Facility:** Full field practices will be conducted in the South Charlotte/Waxhaw area during the Spring season. Field locations are subject to change based on availability and will be announced and added to our website calendar by February 1, 2013. It is anticipated that our primary field location will be Siler Presbyterian Church located at 6301 Weddington-Monroe Road Wesley Chapel, NC 28104.
 - **Game Schedule:** A 48 to 60 game schedule will be played during the Spring through local tournaments such as Nations Baseball in the Metro Charlotte and USSSA baseball through both NC, SC, GA, TN, and FL. Our complete game schedule will be posted to website calendar on or before February 1, 2013. See Exhibit I for tentative tournaments.

Viper Baseball – 12U Spring of 2013



Viper Baseball Program Highlights – Spring 2013

oProgram Cost for Spring 2013:

- Estimated Player Cost - \$850 to \$1,300 – Blue Team
- Estimated Player Cost - \$650 to \$1,100- White Team
- Note: the actual player cost will be based on the Net results of our fundraising activities. Our Spring of 2012 sponsors contributed cash of over \$10,000. If the Blue team and White team can raise \$5,000 in cash per team for 2013 then the net player cost will be limited to \$850 per player for a Blue Team roster spot and \$650 for a White Team roster spot.
- The fees will cover the following Items for each team.

Player Uniforms
Facility Rental - Spring Training (7 weeks)
Professional Instruction - Spring Training
Professional Coaching (includes Travel Costs)
Outdoor/Indoor Field Rental
Insurance and Administrative Expenses
Equipment and Team Supplies
Tournament Entry Fees

- This excludes the cost of baseball pants, family gate fees, and other travel related expenses.

Viper Baseball – 12U Spring of 2013



Player and Roster Selection Process

The Spring Viper 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 December 14th, 2012. 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 Viper 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 as follows – January 15th, 2013 - \$200, February 15th - \$200, March 15th - \$200, a final bill, if any, will be issued on April 15th. (this will be evaluated after the results of our 2013 fund raising activities). By your acceptance of a roster spot you agree that you are obligated to fulfill the financial obligations of that roster spot, furthermore there will be no refunds of fees for injury or any other situation that may limit or hinder your sons ability to play viper baseball,

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 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.

Our Management Team



Mike Polito – President, Carolina Vipers Baseball Academy, Inc.

Mike's role will focus on creating, communicating, and implementing the programs vision, mission, and overall direction as a whole. In addition, Mike will be responsible for the negotiation of contracts with third party vendors, the oversight of the growth and direction of the program, the tournament selection process, organization finances, and the compliance of the non-profit status requirements.

Erik Zikos – Co-General Manger

Jeff Nichols – Co-General Manager

Erik and Jeff are both committed long time Vipers and played key roles in the initial start up of the Viper Baseball program in 2008. They will jointly function as the General Managers of the program and have primary responsibilities of being the liaison for Viper players/families and the Viper program, communications of activities and events, enforcement of policies, and the hiring or assignment of additional coaches. They will work very closely with the VP of Baseball Operations, Patrick Whitted, to ensure Patrick can focus on the "on-field" training and development of our players and not get bogged down with administrative items as they arise during the season.

Patrick Whitted - VP Baseball Operations / Head Coach:

Patrick has been a professional instructor and coach in the Charlotte, NC metro area for over ten years. Patrick has filled the role of the Vipers primary hitting coach for the past three seasons and has successfully made the transition to the VP of Baseball Operations role for the Vipers program. As part of his new role Patrick will be in charge of the structure of try-outs, roster selection and teams, practice plans, and the overall baseball development of each individual Viper player.

Patrick grew up in Butler, AL, where he played football and baseball. He earned a Bachelor's degree (Cume laude) in Chemistry from Alabama State University (ASU) in 1996, and a Master's degree in Chemistry from Wayne State University (2000).

After serving 4 years in the U.S. Air Force, Patrick earned a scholarship to play baseball at Bishop State Community College. He received a Presidential Scholarship to Alabama State University (Div. I) and finished his collegiate baseball career.

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. Same holds true if your child isn't happy about something. I want to know if there is a problem right away. With this age group, very small things can cause a child to be upset. These problems can be fixed very easily if I know about them. Game day is NOT the time to talk to me about any issues, call me anytime after the game or after any practice.
- 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. (drinks, ice, snacks, etc.)
- 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 (10 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, up-downs, 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.

Contact Information



Union County Vipers – Baseball Program Contact Information

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Patrick Whitted
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Union County Vipers
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Exhibit I

Tentative Tournament Schedule



Union County Vipers – “Blue Team” Spring 2013 Tentative Schedule

Union County Vipers		Blue Team	
Tentative Schedule			
Spring 2013		<u>44+ Game Schedule</u>	
<u>Begin Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
6-Feb-13	8-Mar-13	Vipers Spring Training Program	X-1 and CBA
9-Mar-13	10-Mar-13	USSSA - TBA	Metro Charlotte, NC
15-Mar-13	17-Mar-13	USSSA Super NIT	Atlanta, GA
30-Mar-13	31-Mar-13	USSSA - 7th Annual Gameday April Fools Challenge	Rock Hill, SC
12-Apr-13	14-Apr-13	USSSA Super NIT	Greensboro, NC
3-May-13	5-May-13	USSSA Super NIT	Kingsport, TN
18-May-13	19-May-13	Local Tournament TBD	Metro Charlotte, NC
25-May-13	27-May-13	Ripken Experience (Memorial Day Tournament)	Myrtle Beach, SC
15-Jun-13	16-Jun-13	USSSA - NC State Championship	Charlotte/Greensboro
29-Jun-12	30-Jun-13	USSSA - 3rd Annual Boys of Summer Classis	Jack Hughes Park - Pineville
6-Jul-12	7-Jul-12	USSSA - TBD	TBD
14-Jul-13	20-Jul-13	USSSA Elite 32 World Series	Disney - Elite 32
Travel Tournament			
Local Tournament			

Exhibit I

Tentative Tournament Schedule



Union County Vipers – “White Team” Spring 2013 Tentative Schedule

Union County Vipers		White Team	
Tentative Schedule			
Spring 2013			
<u>44+ Game Schedule</u>			
<u>Begin Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
6-Feb-13	8-Mar-13	Vipers Spring Training Program	X-1 and CBA
9-Mar-13	10-Mar-13	Nations Baseball	Metro Charlotte, NC
15-Mar-13	17-Mar-13	USSSA Baseball	Rock Hill, SC
30-Mar-13	31-Mar-13	Nations Baseball	Metro Charlotte, NC
12-Apr-13	14-Apr-13	USSSA Super NIT	Greensboro, NC
3-May-13	5-May-13	USSSA Baseball	Rock Hill, SC
18-May-13	19-May-13	Nations Baseball	Metro Charlotte, NC
25-May-13	27-May-13	Ripken Experience (Memorial Day Tournament)	Myrtle Beach, SC
15-Jun-13	16-Jun-13	Nations Baseball	Metro Charlotte, NC
29-Jun-12	30-Jun-13	Nations Baseball	Metro Charlotte, NC
6-Jul-12	7-Jul-12	Nations Baseball	Metro Charlotte, NC
		TBD	
Travel Tournament			
Local Tournament			

Player Try-out Form Spring 2013 Season



Vipers Spring 2013 Player Try-out Form

Please complete this form and **fax to (704) 749-9414** or email to **mpolito@tprsolutions.com**
Please fully complete this form. This information will only be used by the coaching staff of the Union County Vipers 12U Team and will not be shared with any other parties.

1. General Information

Player's Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

Dad's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mom's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2. Please provide a brief outline of your son's baseball history, include items such as prior teams, primary positions, travel baseball experience and any other information you think would be helpful. Please also identify any restrictions you son may have due to injury or illness at the time of tryouts.

Description:

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: _____