

# Strike Zone Club Teams

## Policies and Expectations

Welcome to Strike Zone! We are so excited for the upcoming year in baseball. We have set forth some levels of expectations and some general policies that we feel will best represent Strike Zone. Our hope with these policies is to set forth an expectation for the season so everyone is on the same page throughout the year.

### General Overview of 4 year player plan

- 15u baseball general overview: to spend the fall and winter preparing every player to be able to make their high school baseball team as a freshman.
- To lay a foundation for everything they will need to be able to execute through their high school careers with Strike Zone.
- To teach them what is expected from a baseball player from effort and commitment standpoint
- In the fall there will be a lot of scrimmages and practices to teach and train the players and there will be more player rotation to get to know the players and what their strengths are
- Summer tournament play: there is no guarantee of playing time or a spot in the batting order. We believe the players should push themselves to earn a spot in the order
- 16U: prepare the kids for what colleges are looking for. There is not a lot of recruiting being done at the 16u level but this is where they need to know and understand what they need to do to impress college recruiters the next year
- 17U get exposure to colleges and get the recruiting process started. Some kids will make their college commitments at this age
- 18U get all kids who would like to play college baseball signed and committed to school

### Policies and expectations

- We will have a no tolerance policy for issues concerning parents that are complaining in the stands and stirring up trouble with other families. You will be asked to leave the team during the season. If you have a concern or problem please contact the coach. It will go much better than if you are just complaining in the stands
- **Conflict chain of communication:** for all concerns we will follow a 24hr policy. We will not address any issue immediately after a game. Give it 24 hours and see if you are still upset

The players are to address any concerns they have with the coach. We are preparing them to be adults and mom and dad cannot take care of their problems as adults. So if there are concerns we expect to hear from the player. Please address issue with head coach of your team first and then address it with me (Kevin)

- We do not put wins above doing what is right. We are trying to raise young men and we don't want them thinking you need to do whatever is necessary to win even if it is grey area of what is right. Always be honest and don't cheat the system. **They may lose a game today, but they will win in life due to learning the right principles.**
- There is no guarantee of playing time at the High school level. Playing time will be rewarded based on effort and performance
- Players are expected to attend practice and if they do not their playing time will be effected

- Players are expected to get extra work in on their own. A high school baseball player who is wanting to earn a college scholarship should work on hitting or pitching 5-6 days a week to master his craft. Success does not happen by accident it takes dedication and effort
- We need to welcome failure. If someone never fails it means they are never stretching their limits. This means they can not grow. Parents and coaches need to understand that failing through stretching should be encouraged. However, failing through fear or lack of effort should be addressed in a teaching format. Yelling at the kids, coaches, or umpires doesn't help anyone get better.
- Strike Zone players can be benched at any time for a poor attitude or crying because they messed up. **A poor attitude is never acceptable.** We have to help the kids understand that failing is going to happen. It is how you handle it and bounce back that is important. It is ok for a player to be frustrated or upset because they have messed up but how they learn to channel the frustration is important. They need to use it for the positive and to create more focus on what they are doing
- Players understand August 1 –April 1 is all other sports' season; Soccer, football, basketball, wrestling, etc. If there is a conflict you should attend the in-season sport. April 1- July 29 is baseball season. Your team is counting on you! If you miss a Strike Zone team game for another sport in the months of April - July you may sit an entire game as you have not prioritized your commitment to your team.
- If you have a job. That is not an excuse to miss practice or games. The team is counting on you and your temporary high school job does not take priority over your team.
- You do not miss practice because you are tired or don't feel like it. To be successful at anything you need to do things you don't want to do and I want to teach the players that how they feel in the moment doesn't take over what they committed to and how to be successful.
- If a player misses a practice or game he cannot start the next game.  
Exceptions:
  - 1) Mandatory school events
  - 2) Death in the family
  - 3) Close family member wedding: (if you are not part of the wedding party or your child is not part of it then they should be at the game. You are free to go to the wedding but the kid would rather be playing baseball anyway. Someone on the team will give them a ride)
- In order to get the full benefit of Strike Zone and to improve you need to prioritize making the Strike Zone winter practice sessions. I understand there will be conflicts and if you cannot make all of them you need to get in for lessons and come in and practice on your own
  - **Don't strive for the minimum, strive for 100%**
- Parents need to stay outside of dugout and off of the dugout fence during the game. Let the coach's deal with everything for the 1hr and 45 mins to 2 hours of the game. If there is something that seems to be missed, feel free to talk to have your son talk to the coach before the next game so they can deal with it. Players do not need to be distracted from the game; they need to be on the fence cheering for their team, not discussing their individual performance.

There will be no food allowed in the dugout from 5 min before game time. If there is not going to be much time in between games please make sure they have food available right when the game is over so you are not bringing them food while the game is starting. They will be instructed to throw it away.

- Parents do not coach from the stands. Players do not need to be looking in the stands after every pitch to get instruction.
  - Do not yell at your child for making a mistake on the field. When you do it will not make your player better and it will make the other kids nervous. If you cannot control your frustration how can we teach the kids to control theirs?
  - Let the coaches make the game decisions and coach the kids on what they should have done. The players do not need to hear 2 different things from coaches and parents. It only confuses the player and they cannot play well confused.
  - Do not try to move players in the field. I know some times players are not in the right spot in their position on the field and the coaches miss it, but there are many more times the coaches have a player in a certain spot for a reason that you may not know about from the stands
  - Do not call pitches from the stands
  
- We could play through the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July. Do not take a family vacation until after that. All players are expected to be available for every weekend from memorial day through 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of July
  
- Do not yell at umpires. I understand that they are bad and a lot of times don't know the rules. As we yell at umpires we make it so the kids think it is the umpire's fault that things are going wrong. We don't want the kids blaming umpires for everything so we as coaches need to make sure we represent the same thing. If it is a judgment call they are not going to change it. You can ask for an appeal but assume the other umpire probably didn't see it either. We need to let the head coach deal with the umpire, if the coach feels it is important enough, he will talk with the umpire. Outside of that we should just cheer for the players. If they have a rule wrong then there is no need to get in an argument just call for a white hat to get a rule interpretation. Sometimes the White hat will have the rule wrong also. It is better to let it go we do not want to create the reputation that we argue everything because Umpires hold grudges and tell their friends they will intentionally make bad calls against you.
  
- Players will be evaluated throughout the season on effort, attitude, ability/performance and overall fit with the team to determine if they will be invited back the following season. If a player is not ready to move on with the current team but would like to stay involved in the Strike Zone training program, we will try to place the player on the team that best fits him.
  
- All payment for the club team fees will be made through automatic monthly withdraws from checking account or credit card. I am not going to try to track down people for their monthly payment. I need to focus on helping the players, not who has and has not paid.
  
- Overall we take great pride in what we do to help the kids develop as baseball players and as young men. We want to represent ourselves well out on the field as parents and as coaches. I am not a fan of the way a lot of coaches talk to and treat kids as well as the way a lot of parents act in the stands. We want to represent a new way with a new attitude out at the ball park; **Winning through good attitude, good preparation and encouragement. We set a high expectation for players without yelling or demeaning the players to get the best out of them.**
  
- **Players can be asked to leave the team at any time if they are not meeting the above expectations. We are a competitive club and are looking for players who are committed to becoming their best as baseball players**
  
- I am very excited for another year of Strike Zone baseball! I am here to help and encourage both the players and the parents through this growing period of change in youth baseball. If you have any questions or concerns, please come to me. My door is always open, and I am always looking for things that I need to improve on.

**I have read and agree to the policies and expectations for Strike Zone Baseball Club teams.**

**Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**