



Lower Swatara Township Athletic Association (LSTAA)

www.lstaa.org

Dear Parent:

On behalf of the LSTAA, welcome to our 2021 Baseball and Softball Season! Your son or daughter's enrollment in this program is extremely important to us and we hope you find it an enjoyable experience for your family.

We are sending you this informational material because many of you may have registered online and were not able to ask questions of us in person. If there is something here that you find confusing or have more questions about, the LSTAA Officers and Board is always willing to answer your questions. Those contacts can be found on our website under the "About Us" tab. We encourage you to frequently visit our website (as well as our Facebook Page and Twitter Feeds) for the latest information from LSTAA.

As a participant in LSTAA, you may have some added responsibilities that will help make the season a success.

FUND RAISING

During registration, some of you may have opted to participate in the fundraiser in order to lower your initial registration fees. If you selected this option, you are **REQUIRED** to participate in this fundraiser. Of course, if you chose the "streamline/buyout" option, you don't have to fundraise and you can ignore this section of material.

Fundraising is very important since it accounts for approximately 25% of our operating budget. This year's fundraiser is a **Sub/Sandwich Sale from R&K Subs**. Each *player* must sell a minimum number of items, or pay a \$2.00 for item that is not sold. The following guidelines will be used according to the number of players in a family:

- 1 Player – sell 22 items
- 2 Players – sell 33 items
- 3 Players – sell 44 items

Details on the fundraising program can be found by clicking on the LSTAA website and were also sent to you in your registration confirmation email. Additionally, every family

opting to complete the fundraiser was emailed directly with the order forms attached.
Orders will be due to your son/daughter's manager by February 27, 2021.

RAFFLE

LSTAA is conducting a raffle ticket sale during the season. Each team will be responsible to sell tickets. This raffle is for capital improvements to our program. Last year we were able to use portions of this raffle install a new batting cage at the Stepp Softball Field and an electronic scoreboard at Memorial Field. Please consider helping with this raffle. The Raffle is NOT required but strongly encouraged to help us better the facilities in our association and township.

INSURANCE

Many families ask us about this. We certainly hope no one gets hurt, but as with any sporting activity, there are some risks. You are required to provide adequate and primary health and liability insurance coverage for your child; however, LSTAA does have secondary insurance coverage which will help offset expenses that are not covered by your insurance. Notify your child's manager of any injury where needed insurance coverage may occur.

BACKGROUND CHECKS/CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

LSTAA takes very seriously your trust in us to provide the safest and most enjoyable baseball and softball program possible. Protecting the children and youth in our community is of the utmost concern for the entire organization. LSTAA has always conducted **MANDATORY** background checks on all our managers, coaches and assistant coaches before they are permitted to lead our kids on the playing fields. We at LSTAA will continue to conduct these checks in accordance with the requirements of our insurance company AND applicable state and federal laws.

Due to recent changes to the state laws, LSTAA has developed new procedures and policies to obtain all required clearances from our volunteers. Under the law, these clearance must include the following:

- PA State Police criminal background check clearance.
- Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Abuse clearance.
- FBI criminal background check clearance, which includes fingerprinting (if lived in PA for less than 10 years).

We understand these clearances may be a challenge and burden for some to obtain. However, we are required under the law to collect these from our volunteer managers and coaches. Only the FBI checks will cost our volunteers. The state checks are available online and all fees are waived **IF YOU OBTAIN A CODE FROM LSTAA,**

which we will provide our volunteers. Links to the online sites can be obtained on our LSTAA website.

Thank you for your understanding and patience with this process. We **ALL** share in the responsibility of protecting our kids.

UNIFORMS AND PROVIDED EQUIPMENT

The fee that you paid at registration covers each player's uniform jersey, uniform pants, uniform hat and in some cases uniform socks. This uniform is the player's responsibility to keep clean and have ready for games. Only one complete uniform is provided to each player per registration fee. The uniforms are the players to keep at the end of the season.

Additionally, each team is outfitted with a set of team batting helmets, any required additional face mask protection, catcher's equipment, a few team bats, and practicing equipment. Each player, however, will be required to bring provide their own mitt/glove, any preferred batting gloves, and footwear (cleats, playing shoes, etc.). If you have questions regarding what equipment is not provided, please ask your child's manager.

CONCESSION STANDS

All teams are scheduled for concession stand duty and are responsible for covering their own home games. Proceeds from the stands are crucial to the success of the program and keeping **registration costs low**. Please help your child's manager meet this responsibility by cheerfully helping when asked. No game will be able to proceed at any LSTAA field location where concessions are present without being open and operated under this policy.

GAME ATTENDANCE

Attendance at the games is one of the most important items on this list. Remember, the coaches and many umpires are volunteers, giving of their free time for your children. Your *conduct* and *moral support* make a big difference to the players and their attitudes. Game collections or "hat money" is used at all our home games and play a substantial part in helping to defray the cost of umpiring and field prep materials. Hat monies collected are **not used for ice cream or treats!**

SEASON LENGTH

For baseball (ages 5-12) and softball levels (ages 5-14)

The season generally begins with practice about mid-March as weather permits and games starting around mid-April in most cases. Younger age groups typically play less games and will start toward the end of April. Normal activity will cease in early June for T-ball players and run through June for all other age groups. There will be post season and tournament play opportunities for older age groups. Practice and game scheduling will vary from team to team so parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's manager on scheduling. **While every attempt is made to ensure that games are scheduled when everyone can attend, conflicts may occur. Your child's manager will do the best he or she can when it comes to game scheduling.**

For Teener baseball (ages 13-15)

Practices typically start in March with games starting in mid-April for 13 and 14 year olds but in mid-May for 15's. Season activity typically continues through mid-July with playoffs and all-star opportunities.

Please be aware that while every effort is made not to play on a Sunday, it is a possibility due to rain, field availability and scheduling requirements. In the event of Sunday play, NO GAME will commence before Noon.

OPENING DAY

This event is one of the largest attended, single events in our township. This year, it is scheduled for **Saturday, April 17, 2021**. The ceremony schedule is to yet to be fully determined, but players and parents should expect to be on site at approximately 10 a.m., at Memorial Field in the Little Hollywood Recreational Complex (located off Longview Drive near Rt. 441).

Activities typically include a guest speaker; scrimmage/regular games; team, player and manager introductions; and much more. Please plan to support your child and his/her team by attending the entire day and enjoying the festivities! **Rain date is the afternoon of Sunday, April 18.**

TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS

Player photos will be scheduled again this year and will likely occur at the beginning of the season. A specific time slot for your team will be provided to you by your manager. Your child's manager will supply you with an order form/envelope and also will advise you of the time. Please be 15 minutes early and bring along a check **made payable to the photographer** and sealed in the envelope provided. You are not required to purchase any photos! Your child's presence in a team photo obligates you in no way!

SPONSORS

Many local businesses help support LSTAA by donating to our program. This support is important and helps offset many of the operational expenses to run a successful program. Please show your support for these businesses by patronizing them whenever possible. If you would like to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please email sponsors@lsta.org for more information.

LSTAA ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The association conducts its business affairs at monthly meetings throughout the year. We typically meet the first Tuesdays of the month except for the months of September and October at the Lower Swatara Township Municipal Building. A full meeting schedule can be found on our website or in the listing of key dates at the end of this material. **We welcome everyone. We need your support. Please attend.**

TROPHIES

Any trophies will be provided for by LSTAA in accordance with approved by-laws. No other trophies will be paid for by LSTAA.

REFUNDS

There will be no registration refunds after uniform orders are placed.

LSTAA Key Dates for the 2021 Season

February 20 @ 9 a.m. – TENTATIVE Parent Orientation Meeting at the Lower Swatara Fire Company. If restrictions are still in place we may have this meeting virtually.

February 27 – Fundraiser Orders Due

March 16 @ 3 – 6 p.m. – Fundraiser item pick up/delivery at Strites' Orchard.

April 17 – Opening Day