



Core Heat Principles

- Instill a love for baseball and knowledge of the game
- Prioritize player development and health
- Prepare kids for high school baseball
- Play competitive baseball through high level competition

Philosophy

- **Player Commitment**
 - All ages will play roughly 35-40 games from April 1st to July 21st, which will represent our "season."
 - In season there will be roughly 1-2 practices per week depending on game schedules.
 - All ages will have additional off-season warehouse and Fall practice opportunities for additional development.
 - Scheduled practice and games will not be enough to develop. All players should practice at home for additional reps. Group or private lessons are encouraged.
 - During the baseball season the Heat will be prioritized above other sports.
- **Playing Time**
 - This is a select program, playing time will not be equal. Recreational opportunities such as the NBAA are available if that is desired.
 - Progression
 - At U8-U9 all players will have the opportunity to play one infield and one outfield position during all complete games. Shortened games might limit that opportunity. Each player will play at least half of the available innings over a full season. Note: For safety reasons and our desire to put kids in a position to be successful, infield positions will only include 1st base or catcher when the coaching staff believes the child is ready physically and mentally. Every player will bat.
 - At U10-12 infield and outfield positions will start to be defined based on player tool set (speed, size, arm strength, range, etc). Each player will be targeted to play at least half of the available innings over a full season, but the amount of time in the infield or outfield will not be equal. I.e. Some players might only play infield or outfield. Every player will bat.
 - At U13-14 playing time and positions will begin to mirror the high school experience. Each player will appear in most games, but might not appear in every game. Batting lineup might be limited.

- Coaches will find opportunities at all levels to increase playing time for players with less innings in lopsided games.
 - Pitching is a highly specialized skill that requires a meaningful commitment outside of scheduled practice. All players will be coached and given the opportunity to pitch. As a general rule, pitchers need to be able to throw strikes about 50% of the time to pitch in games. Anything less will position the player for failure. As a result, not every player will pitch and the number of innings the most committed players receive will be significantly more than those that have not developed the skill. Note: The Heat is extremely committed to player arm health. Pitching guideline recommendations will be monitored closely by the coaching staff.
- Consistent mental errors will have a meaningful impact on playing time. I.e. Not knowing the score, number of outs, situation, etc.
- Experiencing team success is important. All games will be coached to win. Tournament bracket play (normally Sunday's) will see playing time narrow considerably.
- **Attendance**
 - During the season most practices and games are **mandatory**.
 - Heat baseball comes before all other non-academic activities (i.e. soccer, track, basketball, dances, etc.). Players will be dropped or replaced for lack of commitment to the program.
 - Heat baseball comes after all school academic functions, major religious functions and major family functions (weddings, funerals, etc.) Every effort should be made to schedule family vacations outside of the season which is always known.
 - Players regularly attending practices and games in season will be given playing time priority relative to those with absences. Sitting players that miss mandatory functions is not a punishment. Playing time is a reward to the players prioritizing the team.
 - Practices and scrimmages outside of the baseball season are optional, but will greatly impact player development, and naturally translate to success in season.
- **Expectations**
 - Coaches, players and parents will abide by the Heat Code of Conduct.
 - Coaches will be available outside of game days and tournament weekends to discuss playing time positions (subject to the 24 hour wait/cooling off period. Parents will only discuss their own child. All discussions will emphasize the objective.
 - Parents will volunteer to help the team in any way possible. (Gamechanger, TeamSnap, concessions, tent setup, field prep, etc.) Coaches are unpaid volunteers that commit hundreds of hours to players. Sharing in responsibilities is a reciprocal agreement.
 - Players will work outside of scheduled practices and games on their development.
 - Dugouts are for players and coaches only.
 - League play and tournament selection will emphasize like competition.