

# East Lansing Baseball Club

## Information



**Baseball, it is said, is only a game. True.  
And the Grand Canyon is only a hole in Arizona.  
-George F. Will**

### Club Mission Statement

The mission of the East Lansing Baseball Club is to foster, encourage and promote the playing of the sport of baseball for the kids and families of East Lansing.. This will be done through various means in order to develop fundamental baseball skills and promote the qualities of physical fitness, competitive spirit, team play, school loyalty and good sportsmanship. This organization was formed in order to develop stronger baseball programs in our schools and work ultimately as a feeder program to East Lansing High School. Club info can be found at [www.elbaseball.org](http://www.elbaseball.org)

### Clinics and Tryouts

During January and February each year, the Club holds Winter Workouts (clinics) and Skill Evaluations (tryouts). The clinics are designed to get the players introduced to a number of keys concepts in baseball and to “knock the rust off” for returning players. The tryouts are designed to allow the Club to place players on teams where their skill level will match skill levels on others teams they will play so that they can have some success playing baseball.

### Online Registration

Please register your player online at <http://leagues.bluesombrero.com/elbaseball>

## Team Formation

Team formation is done following our clinics and tryouts. We will usually have one team at each level from U8 (8 year olds and under) to U14. The age cut-off is a little complicated because it was changed in 2018. The age division is determined by how old they are on April 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year, with the exception of any team started at U8 in 2018 or later. For those teams, the age cut-off is August 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year. So, the exception applies to U8 in 2018, U8 and U9 in 2019, U8-U10 in 2020, and so on. The age cut-off and the exceptions can be confusing, so please ask if you have any questions.

Our goal is to form as many teams at the U9 to U14 level that we can with players that can safely and effectively compete at the travel baseball level. Any players that cannot be placed on a team within the Club can still play baseball, either with the East Lansing Parks and Recreation Program or through another team that plays in the local league.

## Team Information

Each team will be coached by a coach that has been approved by the Club and has passed a background check. After teams are formed in February and March, each team will be provided with at least a couple of opportunities to practice indoors, usually at the Capital City Baseball Kingdom. Once the weather permits, practice fields (usually one or two pre-season weekday sessions of practice time and a permanent weekend practice time) will be provided, at Patriarche Park or the EL Softball Complex. The team will also be provided with Club insurance, equipment (game balls, practice balls, score book, first aid kit, catcher's gear, bats, batting tee), field preparation for game days, umpire fees, league fees (which includes post season tournament fee). All of these are covered by a team fee, which is spread out over the number of players on your team. Limited scholarships opportunities are available for kids that participate in the free school lunch program. Contact a Club board member with any scholarship questions. Any additional tournament fees (variable by team) may be added to the team fee.

## League and Tournament Information

1.) League Games. The Club teams participate in the Mid-Michigan PONY league (MMPL). The League is currently coordinated by the Mason youth baseball program. Information about the league is found at [www.masonpony.org](http://www.masonpony.org).

Each Club team will be placed into a division in the appropriate MMPL age group, which includes separate leagues for each age grouping between U8 and U14. Most age groups will have multiple divisions that are grouped primarily by skill and then by geography, if possible. Each Club team selects its own divisions and then final placements are made by the MMPL board. Club coaches attend a MMPL coaches meeting held in April to schedule games for the season within each division.

Games usually start in early May and finish before July 4<sup>th</sup>. A typical schedule might include one home and one away game per week. Generally, the MMPL divisions will have 5-11 teams, and each team will schedule 6 home and 6 away games. Home games are played at Patriarche Park or the EL Softball Complex. The normal start time is 6:30 p.m., but if the U14 and U10 fields are being used at the same time at Patriarche, the U9 and U10 games will usually

start at 5:30 p.m. and U13 and U14 will start at 7:15 p.m. We do have lights at both El locations and try to schedule a game so that teams can play at least one game under the lights.

2.) Tournaments. Participation in tournaments for a particular team are scheduled individually by the respective coaches

Generally, the top teams at levels U9 through U14 play a number of tournaments throughout the season from mid-April to mid-July. The top U9 through U12 teams play in the East Lansing Spring Tournament that is held annually in mid-May. The top U9 through U14 teams also play in the Thornapple Valley Tournament that is held annually the weekend after the 4th of July. The Club also has a tradition of sending its top U12 team to Cooperstown, New York for a week-long tournament, usually in June or July.

All teams in MMPL divisions B and lower are encouraged to participate in the MMPL End of the Year Tournament, which usually begins the week after the 4th of July and continues until the following weekend. The Club also hosts some other individual tournaments by age group on various weekends throughout the season. If any team is interested in hosting such a tournament, please contact the Club President.

#### Coaches and Volunteers

The Club is an entirely self-funded and volunteer organization. It is a tax-exempt charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Club is always looking for qualified coaches and assistant coaches, as well as those interested in assisting the Club with clinics, equipment, concessions, tournament preparation, fundraising and other activities that will improve the baseball experience for East Lansing.

#### Sponsors

The Club is also looking for sponsors – from individuals and businesses. We are looking for both monetary contributions and donated gifts and services. The Club has a scholarship fund to assist with those who cannot afford to play. We have multiple donor levels and can provide a tax receipt because contributions are tax deductible as charitable contributions. It is a good way to help a worthwhile program while also promoting local businesses, as we are able to promote our sponsors via our website and with large sponsors signs displayed at our tournaments. Our Club meetings and teams usually try to frequent those sponsors that support us.

#### Club Reminders to Parents/Players

The Club stresses that the coaches, parents and players all represent the East Lansing Baseball family throughout the season and beyond. We encourage the following:

Parents should not be addressing umpires and should cheer in a positive manner.

Game behavior by players must be appropriate.

Teams are looking for parent liaisons and extra volunteers for equipment, snacks, scorekeeping and lots of odd jobs that will help the team.

Parents and players are encouraged to talk to coaches if there are concerns. Please observe the Club's 24-hour rule (do not talk to a coach immediately after a game).

Please let coaches know if a player will miss a game or practice, so that appropriate practice plans, lineup cards and batting orders can be adjusted accordingly.