

## **2012 Spring/Summer Sports Frequently Asked Questions**

### **T-ball/Softball and Baseball (current junior K–high school)**

#### **Who coaches the CUMC teams?**

Coaches are volunteers who attend the Protect Our Kids (POK) program sponsored by CUMC. In addition, coaches must attend and be certified through the Shepherd Coaches program at CUMC. The athletic committee reviews the coaches' registrations and selects the coaches for each season. Our program mission is to transform and serve God through sports and fitness. The Bible is our game book—it is our foundation. We believe each child is equal and deserves to be treated equally on and off the field. A child's self-worth is not based on athleticism, but because Jesus Christ died for each and every one of them. We do believe that God calls us to be our very best and to do our very best, so our coaches try to help your child use his or her talents to God's glory.

#### **What is the next step?**

The athletic staff and committee will divide teams and forward the rosters to the coaches. You will not receive a notification from our office. Instead, the coach will contact you directly via e-mail or phone call.

#### **When will the coach call?**

After April 1

#### **How are teams divided?**

MCRA rules state that all teams must be divided equally by age and ability. That means if we have two teams in the same age group, the teams will have equal number of 1<sup>st</sup> graders and equal number of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. The teams must also be divided by ability and player position.

#### **Can I request a friend?**

Our staff does all we can to ensure everyone placed on a team knows someone on that team. If you feel you need to request a carpool buddy or friend, this must be done on your registration form. You may stop by the Athletic desk and ask for your form so your request can be printed on the form. We cannot take requests over the phone or via e-mail. We also request that the child you request also requests your child on his or her form. In the past we have had parents object to special requests if they were not aware of it.

#### **When will practice begin?**

The week of April 9. Coaches will schedule practice times at the coaches' meeting. Each team will have one practice during the week and one on Saturdays until the season begins. Exceptions to this are the junior and senior K teams—they will practice one time a week.

#### **Can I watch practice?**

Yes, please sit on the bleachers since there will be other teams on the field. No pets are allowed inside the fence, and siblings are asked to stay with the parents and not run onto the field. Please be sure the coach sees you when you pick up your child. Having an open field and adults watching practices, we want to ensure your child's safety to and from practice.

#### **What times are the practices scheduled?**

That is completely up to the coaches. Most weekday practice times are 5-6:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-dark. The younger-aged teams get first priority for the early times. On Saturdays we schedule practices from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### **When are the games played?**

Most teams play two games a week—Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday. We try to schedule all games on Monday/Thursday. T-ball games are sometimes scheduled on Saturdays; however,

we try to schedule all games on weekdays and hold Saturdays open for rain out rescheduled games. Game times are usually 5:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The games will start the week of May 7 and finish the week of June 18—each team playing 10 games. There will be no games scheduled Memorial Day weekend.

**When will the game schedules be posted?**

Schedules and field locations will be posted on the website's athletic page, <http://www.cumcmemphis.org/athletics>, and will also be e-mailed to each participant on April 30.

**Where are games played?**

Games are played at CUMC and other area church fields. Sometimes there might be a game scheduled at a local Park Commission field. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders who play after the PAA season is over will play on Park Commission fields mid May-first of July.

**Will my child get a uniform?**

Each player will receive a jersey, socks and hat—shorts and baseball pants are the responsibility of the parent. We recommend gray baseball pants. We also recommend that each child have his or her name in the hat.

**Are cleats mandatory?**

No they are optional—athletic shoes are fine, especially for the junior and senior kindergartners and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

**Do we need our own gloves and bats?**

Gloves—yes and put your child's name on the glove. Bats—we do supply two bats per team.

**Are batting helmets required?**

Yes, and each team will receive four helmets. However, many parents purchase a helmet for their child.

**Junior and Senior K play T-ball, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders play coach pitch and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders play kid pitch.**

**My son is awesome. Can he move up a division?**

We are sorry, but due to liability issues, players must play in their respective age group.

**Can I help?**

Most coaches welcome parental help. Please offer your services to the coach at the first practice.

**What are the rain out plans?**

If it rains the night before or during the day, we will post the rain out on our website, <http://www.cumcmemphis.org/athletics>. We will also update the phone message system, 683-6887. Rain out decisions will be posted by 2 p.m. weekdays and 8:30 a.m. Saturdays. Rain after 2 p.m. weekdays or 8:30 a.m. Saturdays will be left up to the field director. Please call if it begins to rain after 2 p.m. weekdays or 8:30 a.m. Saturdays if you are headed this way. Keep in mind: rain in Midtown does not mean rain at CUMC. We will update the message systems as often as possible throughout the afternoons and Saturdays.

**Can I use the field on Sundays?**

No, we are sorry, but we do not open the fields on Sundays. We encourage Sundays to be a day of worship and family time. We try to avoid scheduling practices and games on Sundays.

**The gate is locked. What can I do?**

Please come to the athletic desk and a staff person will come to the field and unlock the gate. For your child's safety, please do not allow your child to climb the fence. The field will be unlocked 30 minutes prior to games and practices.

**Are scholarships available?**

We want all families and children to participate in our program, so we have a scholarship fund available on a need basis. We also know the need of payment plans, so please see Jan Averwater or James Hanrahan, and they will help you register. You can e-mail them directly at [jana@cumcmemphis.org](mailto:jana@cumcmemphis.org) or [jamesh@cumcmemphis.org](mailto:jamesh@cumcmemphis.org).

**PAA Additional Information**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to play preseason ball on a PAA team and can stay and play in an extended league as outlined above.

PAA practices will begin the week of February 20. Games will begin approximately March 19, and the season will end May 12.

**What if it is cold and rainy?**

Occasionally we will move practice indoors to work on base running and situation plays. We do not have a lot of time to teach a lot of fundamentals, so we try to get in as much practice time as possible preseason. Otherwise, the rain plan is the same as outlined above.

Games will be played after school and on Saturdays at the PAA church/school sites.

Teams will practice two to three days weekly until the season begins and then drop down to one or two days a week. Practices will be set up for one and a half to two hours per session.

**Who will coach these teams?**

As with all PAA teams, the athletic committee recommends that PAA teams are coached by non-parents. This helps the athletes prepare for middle school teams. However, in the event we do not recruit coaches, we do allow parents to coach or assist. The extended season teams, as outlined above, are coached by parents, and these teams play in the Memphis Park Commission. Coaches must attend the POK program and be Shepherd Coach certified.

**In the PAA league, boys play straight up baseball and the girls play modified softball—yes, with steals and throw downs!**

Uniforms will be issued to each player; the uniform will include a jersey, socks, hat and bag. Each player is responsible for buying gray baseball pants, a glove and shoes. Cleats are not required, but recommended. No metal cleats are allowed.

Each team will be issued bats, balls and helmets; however, you may purchase your own helmet if you prefer. The girls' helmets must have the wire mask on the front of the helmet.

**When will schedules be distributed?**

We hope we have the schedules e-mailed to each participant and on the website, <http://www.cumcmemphis.org/athletics>, by March 12. However, we are working with PAA schools and churches, so we cannot send it out until all of the Athletic Directors enter their games on the arbiter.

## **Friday Night Lights Soccer**

### **Two Divisions**

- Minor League (PreK & Junior K)
- Major League (Senior K)

Practice begins Friday, March 23 and Friday, March 30.

All practices and games are at 5:30 p.m. on Cy's Field.

Games will be played on

- Monday, April 9
- Friday, April 13
- Friday, April 20
- Friday, April 27

Jerseys, trophies and pictures will be given to each player.

If you have any other questions please e-mail us at [recreation@cumcmemphis.org](mailto:recreation@cumcmemphis.org).

Thank you for participating in our sports ministry program.