

# 2014 Mauldin Baseball & Softball

*America's pastime, played in your own backyard*

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## Message from Mauldin Parks and Recreation

The Mauldin Parks and Recreation Department would like to welcome you to one of the most outstanding Baseball and Softball programs in South Carolina. 2013 was another outstanding year for our program in which we had over 500 boys participate in baseball. We are looking forward to another year of awesome youth baseball in the City of Mauldin.

Thanks go to all the parents who made last year a huge success! As you all know, everyone serves this league on a volunteer basis and our league has always been about serving the community and our youth. However, without our volunteers, who work so hard and give so much, this program could not happen.

**Thank You volunteers!** As it has been in the past, the 2014 season will be no different in that no child will be denied the chance to play baseball or softball in Mauldin, regardless of skill level, personal background, or place of residence. We will continue to stress sportsmanship to our players, parents, and coaches as we all support our motto of "It's about the kids!"

This season we will participate with Simpsonville and Fountain Inn for both boys baseball and girls softball.

We will be part of the Golden Strip Baseball/Softball League. Baseball will compete locally during the regular season and jointly in the post season. Softball will participate jointly for regular season and post season play.

**There are some changes this year that you will notice in the following pages of this handbook. Please take the time to review all pages and make note of our sports information line.**

Your support for our teams last year was spectacular, and we believe it will be again in the 2014 season. Sponsorship continues to be the "financial backbone" of our program. It greatly reduces the cost to each player. We need help from you or your business to continue this successful program.

Thanks for all that you do,

John "JB" Barwick

**2013 Mauldin Baseball and Softball Staff and Advisory Board**

**MAULDIN PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF**

DIRECTOR  
**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**  
ASST REC. DIRECTOR  
ADMIN. ASST.

Van Brannon  
**John Barwick**  
Bart Cumalander  
Darlene Franklin

**ADVISORY BOARD**

Scott Freeman  
Rick Nelson  
Tony Norris  
Greg Rice  
Willie Stewart  
Craig Tucker

Mauldin Recreation Department  
PO Box 249  
Mauldin, SC 29662  
Phone: 864-288-3354

## Who do I contact for:

Player/Parent/Coach Issues: John "JB" Barwick @ 288-3354  
([jcb29662@charter.net](mailto:jcb29662@charter.net))

Bart Cumalander @ 288-3354  
([mauldinrec@yahoo.com](mailto:mauldinrec@yahoo.com))

Sponsorships: Darlene Franklin @ [dfranklin@mauldinrecreation.com](mailto:dfranklin@mauldinrecreation.com)  
Wille Stewart @ [wstewart@mauldinrecreation.com](mailto:wstewart@mauldinrecreation.com)

Baseball: John "JB" Bawick

T-Ball – Bart Cumalander

Modified Coaches Pitch – Bart Cumalander

Coaches Pitch (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) – Rick Nelson

[rnelson@easternfirst.com](mailto:rnelson@easternfirst.com)

Coaches Pitch (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) – Tony Norris

[Tony.norris@saralee.com](mailto:Tony.norris@saralee.com)

Minors (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade) – Scott Freeman

[sfreeman@gracechurchsc.org](mailto:sfreeman@gracechurchsc.org)

Minors (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade) – Willie Stewart

[wstewart@mauldinrecreation.com](mailto:wstewart@mauldinrecreation.com)

Majors (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade) – Greg Rice

[Greg.rice@thetruckpeople.com](mailto:Greg.rice@thetruckpeople.com)

Majors (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade) – Craig Tucker

[dcctucker@bellsouth.net](mailto:dcctucker@bellsouth.net)

Softball: John "JB" Barwick

Uniform Issues – Willie Stewart

Please note that with the size of our program it is sometimes difficult to respond to all needs immediately. We ask for your patience in advance regarding your questions and concerns. There will also be issues directed to the advisory board members that they may feel more appropriate to direct to Mauldin Parks and Recreation.

If you have an issue with playing time, position, etc. we ask that you discuss it first with your coach prior to contacting us at Mauldin Parks and Recreation.

Also understand that we only have a specific period of time to fit in the required number of games for each league. **Depending on the number of teams we field in each age group, the possibility exists that we will schedule games during PASS testing dates. Historically, we have at least played early games on these nights.**

Mauldin Parks and Recreation reserves the right to make updates, and/or changes, to this handbook. Any updates, and/or changes, to this handbook will be posted on the league website. We will notify all applicable coaches of any updates, and/or changes, but it is your responsibility to frequently check the website.

# **GAME/WEATHER INFO**

Please seek game info using the following sources.

- First, call the Sports Info/Rainout Line: 281-7879 after 4pm.
- Contact your child's coach concerning all game/practice info. Please do not call Mauldin Parks & Recreation

Typically in May, we will receive late afternoon showers. It is possible that inclement weather will come after closing of our office (5:00). In such case, it will not be posted to the website or on the rainout line. Rule of thumb is, if you're not sure of the status of your game and can not get in touch with your coach, come to the game. There will also be occasions where the umpires will be responsible for calling the game at the field. We apologize for any inconvenience this will bring you, but we can not always predict the weather.

It is a good idea to have a cell phone number of your coach as well as giving the coach your accurate and best phone number.

## **Rainout Policy (Overview)**

We do not guarantee that every team will play a complete schedule of games or that all games called due to weather (rain) or field conditions will be made up. We will begin making up rainout dates when a league has been subjected to two rainout dates. Games can and will be made-up on the Saturday/Sunday if necessary. Rainout dates will be made up on an "earliest date" basis first, and then we may elect to play selective games that have an impact on the final divisional league standings until all teams involved have played an equal number of games with approval by the Advisory Board and Mauldin Parks & Recreation. No effort will be made to make up games after the final regular season scheduled games. See your coach for the program's detailed rainout procedure.

## **Team Sponsorship**

The Mauldin Baseball/Softball Association will once again ask this year that all coaches solicit from their community sponsorships for their teams. This is a program that we have implemented for quite some time with moderate success, but we feel it holds great potential for the future of our program.

The fees that you pay at signups primarily go to the City of Mauldin and its Public Works Department where it is budgeted for the maintenance of our 13 fields. This includes mowing, fertilizing, and watering of the fields as well as lining them off for games. The fees also pay for uniforms (shirt and hat) and for insurance.

**Sponsorship money**, however, is raised solely by the Mauldin Parks and Recreation to help run our program and pay for its operation. All new equipment including helmets, tees, shin guards, catcher's masks, chest protectors, etc. is bought from these funds. MBSA buys approximately 1000 baseballs/softballs each season. Sponsor money is used to support end of season tournaments for things such as shirts, trophies, rented sound systems, etc. League membership fees are paid with this money. MBSA pays for the lights to be turned on and off each night at all 13 fields. MBSA is one of the only programs around that provides free drinks to all players and coaches after every game. MBSA also uses these funds to help support some of our underprivileged kids who cannot afford to play ball or buy a bat and glove. Our biggest cost, however, is umpires. Last season, MBSA paid over \$30,000 in umpire's fees.

As you can see, we aren't just asking for sponsors, we NEED sponsors. Please see the Sponsorship Form on the next page and thank you in advance for all you are doing for our kids in the Mauldin Baseball/Softball program!



# MAULDIN BASEBALL/SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION SPONSORSHIP FORM

THE MAULDIN BASEBALL/SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING SPONSORS FOR THE 2014 BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL SEASON.

FOR ONLY \$300 YOU CAN SPONSOR AN ENTIRE TEAM. (THE RENEWAL FEE FOR A PARK BANNER IS \$200.)

YOUR COMPANY'S NAME WILL BE PLACED ON A BANNER THAT WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE OUTFIELD FENCE OF THE PARK AND FIELD OF YOUR CHOICE. THIS IS A VERY GOOD WAY TO ADVERTISE FOR YOUR COMPANY AT AN INEXPENSIVE RATE AND AT THE SAME TIME SUPPORT ALL OF THE MAULDIN TEAMS. IT WILL ALSO SHOW YOUR COMMUNITY THAT YOU CARE ABOUT MAULDIN'S BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PROGRAMS. YOUR SPONSORSHIP HELPS THE MAULDIN BASEBALL/SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION CONTINUE TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR FACILITIES AND FIELDS, WHILE PROVIDING OUR PLAYERS A SAFE AND COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO PLAY BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL.

COMPANY  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOUR COMPANY HAS A PARTICULAR LOGO OR FONT, YOU WILL NEED TO FURNISH AN ELECTRONIC FILE OF THE LOGO AND/OR TEXT WHEN YOU TURN IN THIS FORM. (THE FILE MUST BE IN VECTOR OR PDF FORMAT – NOT JPEG)

COMPANY  
CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE  
NO: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON  
BANNER: \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU HAVE NO PREFERENCE, THE PROGRAM WILL ASSIGN YOUR SPONSORSHIP TO A TEAM ON AN "AS NEEDED" BASIS. ALL SPONSORSHIPS ARE ASSIGNED ON A "FIRST COME" BASIS.

BASEBALL \_\_\_\_\_ SOFTBALL \_\_\_\_\_ AGE GROUP \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BANNER FIRST YEAR \$300 \_\_\_\_\_ BANNER SECOND YEAR \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ LOGO ON SLEEVE \$150 \_\_\_\_\_

PARK/FIELD FOR DISPLAY OF BANNER \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CITY OF MAULDIN

RETURN THIS FORM AND MONEY TO: MAULDIN RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENT AT THE SPORTS CENTER  
OR HAND DELIVER TO BRUCE RICHARDSON

BY BEING A SPONSOR YOUR COMPANYS NAME WILL APPEAR ON OUR WEBSITE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
HAVE A WEB-LINK ? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

WEB-ADDRESS  
\_\_\_\_\_

CUTOFF DATE FOR 2014 SPONSORSHIP IS MARCH 24, 2014. Send FORM and Graphics to

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT WILLIE STEWART at 335-4854

## Parents Role in Mauldin Baseball and Softball

As parents, there are several areas that we ask for your help in making this another successful baseball/softball season.

1. Please support your child, coach, other players and parents, and Mauldin Parks and Recreation in a positive manner. Please support your child's coach's decisions. If a problem arises, please talk to your coach privately and not in front of the team.
2. Our concession stands are vitally important to the success of our league because they provide the major funding source for league operations. Your "Team Representative" will be assigning times for you to work in the concession stand during the season. **Every team for each game will provide one concession worker, age 16 or over.** If everyone takes their turn it will be fair to all and will require a minimum effort on everyone's part. **Refusal** by a parent to do "concession duty" will be grounds for limiting their child's game participation. It is **mandatory** for the each team to have one 16 year old or older worker in the concession stand when they are playing. Teams that fail to be represented at their assigned times will be subject to **forfeit** the game in question. **No one under the age of 16 will be allowed in the concession stand.**
3. We need anyone who has first-aid training, preferably those that have been vaccinated for Hepatitis B, to volunteer their skills to assist our children in the unfortunate event of an emergency. Please contact any Board Member if you would be willing to do this.
4. All parents or legal guardians will be required to read and sign a **parent's code of conduct** and to abide by the guidelines included in that code. Coaches will review the code with parents at a team meeting and have each parent to sign.

## Player Participation Requirements

The following player participation requirements have been adopted for regular season play for Baseball and Softball leagues grades 4 through 7. These requirements have been established to define and promote player participation within the various leagues.

- All players present for the game will be listed in the batting order for that game and will bat in that order until the completion of the game. Players, who arrive late, after the game has started, will be added to the end of the batting order and will bat when that batting position comes up in the batting order.
- All players shall play a minimum of two innings (6 outs) on defensive in the first four innings per game and may be substituted freely (except for pitchers) to balance team-playing time. All players must play at least 3 innings (9 outs) per game in the field for a six inning game.
- Exceptions to the above player participation requirements for disciplinary and/or other justifiable reasons can only be granted in advance by Mauldin Parks and Recreation after a conference with the player's parents and Leagues division representative.
- Remember, a player only improves if they attend practice. They cannot expect to improve as a player or even play as much as his/her teammates if they do not attend practice.

## Explanation of League Age

This season we will divide baseball and softball into teams by grade level as follows:

T-Ball – Kindergarten  
Mod Coaches Pitch – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Coaches Pitch – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Minors – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Majors – 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Explanation of Fees

### **REGISTRATION FEES**

Includes registration fee, fund raising fee, and drink money fee. The purpose of the below fees is to cover the cost of equipment such as baseballs, softballs, helmets, bases, regular season uniforms (shirts & hats), field maintenance, insurance, coaches background check and umpire fees. **Make all fee checks payable to the City of Mauldin.**

<b># of Players</b>	<b>City of Mauldin Residents</b>	<b>Outside City of Mauldin Residents</b>
1	\$75	\$95
2	\$120	\$165
3	\$160	\$215
4	\$195	\$260
5	\$230	\$300

A fund raising fee is included so parents, players, and coaches are not asked to sell anything. You will have opportunities during the season to help the program by purchasing league t-shirts, hats and magnets and by participating in fund raising activities such as First Team Pants Nights. We will also be collecting money for youth scholarship funds.

## Umpires

This year the Carolina Umpire Association will provide officials for all of our games. Officials for games in Fountain Inn and Simpsonville will be provided by the respective Recreation Department.

## **T-Ball, Modified Coaches Pitch Blind Draw Draft**

Because of the size of these leagues, Mauldin Parks & Recreation has a policy of using a “blind draw” draft to assign players to individual teams within these leagues. Mauldin Parks & Recreation and/or the Advisory Board will supervise this draft with the coaches and attempt to balance these teams by age and number of returning players.

### **Coaches Pitch Draft**

This season we will hold try-outs and draft for the coaches pitch division. All players will participate in the try-outs. All players not participating in the try-out will be placed in the hat to be drawn at the draft.

### **Special Requests**

**WE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT ANY PERSONAL REQUEST'S OF ANY KIND.**

### **Coaches Information**

Our volunteer coaches are vitally important to the success of our program. In addition to making the game fun for our children, coaches have the responsibility of teaching our girls and boys the proper way to play the game. Coaches also have the responsibility to establish character and give life lessons to our youth. All coaches will need to fill out application forms for each season. We will utilize these forms for reference and background checks.

While we do not hold certification clinics, we do offer several lines of assistance for all of our coaches. Local high school coaches are always available to attend practices and/or meet with our volunteer coaches. We will also offer helpful information and guidelines through our coaches meetings. Additional information can also be found in the “resources” section of the National Alliance of Youth Sports website ([nays.org](http://nays.org)).

### **Individual / Team Pictures**

All teams in age groups 12 and under will be given a designated time and place to have their individual and team pictures. Pictures will be taken by Pro Shots. Pro Shots has the responsibility of all pictures. All pictures will be taken at the field prior to your game. Team coaches and/or team representatives will receive information regarding time and date for your team's pictures.

### **Spring Break Schedule**

**April 14 – April 18**

All teams will have the opportunity to practice during this week. We realize that we have a good number of families that go on vacation during Spring Break and their children have to miss practices for this reason. With that said, we ask that you let your child's coach know of your plans as soon as possible.

### **Opening Day Festivities**

Opening Day festivities will be on Saturday, March 29 at Sunset Park. Please note that this is the Saturday following the first week of regular season games. The format for Opening Day will be forwarded to all applicable coaches.

### **Baseball/Softball Bats/Helmets**

All baseball/softball bats used in Mauldin leagues must meet the current published *Official Rules* for that age group. Baseball bats for grades K4 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade may not have a barrel size of more than 2 1/4". Baseball bats for grades 4 through 7 may not have a barrel size of more than 2 5/8" (big barrel).

**Helmets** must be worn during batting practice and games for all players in all age groups. All age groups in softball will wear helmets with facemasks. Helmets with facemasks will be required for boys ages 12 and under.

**Cleats:** All baseball and softball players can only wear rubber cleats.

### **Mauldin City Park Rules**

The City of Mauldin has the following rules at each of its parks.

- No alcoholic beverages
- No coolers in the park other than team coolers
- No pets, except a Seeing Eye dog accompanied by a blind person
- No soliciting without approval from the Mauldin Recreation Department
- No overnight parking, parking in circle at City Park or on grass at Sunset Park
- No bicycles, skateboards, scooters, or motorcycles
- No driving to batting cages at Springfield Park and City Park.
- Smoking is not allowed near the dugouts and backstops. Please observe the No Smoking signs.

### **Dates to Remember**

**EVENT**                      ***Mauldin Rec Opening Day Celebration***  
**WHEN**                      Saturday, March 29

**EVENT**                      ***Mauldin Baseball/Softball Regular Season Begins***  
**WHEN**                      Monday, March 31

### **Tryouts 2014**

All players will be asked to record previous playing experience on their registration card. If you have experienced coaching issues you would like to avoid this season, please make note on your registration card. All tryouts will be held at Mauldin City Park on Saturday, February 22. In the event of inclement weather, they will be held in the Ray Hopkins Gym. There will be no tryouts for T-Ball, Modified Coaches Pitch or Softball. All other baseball age groups are required

to try out. We will re-form the coaches pitch division. Returners will still need to try out even though they will return to their previous team.

**COACHES PITCH BASEBALL** (grades 2 and 3) – 9:00am to 11:00am

**MINORS** (grades 4 and 5) – 12:00 to 2:00

**MAJORS** (grades 6 and 7) – 3:00 to 4:00

### **Draft Schedule - 2013**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Only Head Coaches** attend the player draft. **Players, parents, and assistant coaches do not attend the draft.** Your coach will let you know what team you are chosen for within 2 days after the draft. All draft meetings will be held in the Mauldin Cultural Center.

<b><u>T-BALL BASEBALL</u></b>	Sunday, Feb 23	2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
<b><u>MODIFIED CP BASEBALL</u></b>	Sunday, Feb 23	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
<b><u>COACHES PITCH BASEBALL</u></b>	Sunday, Feb 23	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
<b><u>MINORS BASEBALL</u></b>	Sunday, Feb 23	4:00 PM - until
<b><u>MAJORS BASEBALL</u></b>	Sunday, Feb 23	4:00 PM - until
<b><u>SOFTBALL</u></b>	TBD	TBD

PRACTICE WILL START THE WEEK BEGINNING WITH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

### **2014 Post Season**

#### **Baseball**

Beginning the end of May, all regular season baseball teams will participate in the Golden Strip Tournament. Games will be played in Mauldin, Fountain Inn and Simpsonville. Teams will be broken up into respective brackets for competitive and fun play. Further information will be handed out at a later date. All games will be completed by the end of school.

## **Softball**

This season we will participate with Simpsonville, Fountain Inn and Greer in a post season tournament. Further information will be handed out at a later date.

## **2014 Fall Baseball/Softball**

Fall Baseball and Softball will be available in Mauldin in 2014. Look for announcements in July/August 2014.

Sign-ups will be held at the Mauldin Sports Center or online at [mauldinrecreation.com](http://mauldinrecreation.com).