***Kirtland High School Baseball Expectations***

**Program Objective and Purpose:**

Our goal is to build a program of excellence and tradition. We want to develop student athletes into all-around people, having them learn the importance of teamwork, competition, dedication, accountability, responsibility, and the concept of buying into something bigger than themselves.

Participation in Kirtland Baseball will be an experience in hard work, dedication, and fun. We are going to work hard to achieve the highest level of performance that our skills will allow, and we will keep in mind that baseball is a game... and games should be fun. However, as long as there is a scoreboard, we are playing to win the game with our highest level of character intact.

**Below are the Coach’s Expectations for Kirtland Baseball. Read them carefully before you sign and return the portion at the end.**

***Practice Rules***

**Attendance**:

Your attendance at every practice is absolutely necessary. Coming late or missing a practice or game shows a lack of commitment and respect for your coach and team.

* Excused absences are due to illness, family emergency, or special circumstances approved prior to practice or a game. Notify Coach Smrdel by talking to him personally, sending a message on whatsapp, or by emailing him at: [luke.smrdel@gmail.com](mailto:kirtlandsoftball@gmail.com)
* If you have a school related activity that conflicts with practice or a game you must get it approved by your coach ahead of time.
* Injured players must attend practice at the coach’s discretion.

***Conduct***

Your conduct on and off the field is expected to be mature and sportsmanship-like.

* You must maintain a positive mental attitude. Criticisms, if you have them, ***must*** be directed to Coach Smrdel, Coach Kyle Torok, Coach Clayton Torok, or any of our assistants. Varsity and JV players may also go to their captain(s), who will then bring any issues up to Coach Smrdel.
* You must control your emotions. ***Absolutely NO swearing will be allowed at any time.***
* You must be coachable. Signs of disgust, talking back, or noncooperation will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.
* Proper apparel is required at all practices. This includes: shorts, sweat pants, t-shirts, compression shirts, hoodies, and baseball pants. Always have anything you may need at school, along with warm clothes to go outside. If we can be outside, we will! **NO CUT OFF SHIRTS or TANK TOPS!** All jewelry must be removed including earrings.

***Game Conduct***

**Games**:

* Players must play within the rules set forth by the OHSAA and Kirtland High School. Athletes must conduct themselves in a positive manner.
* Set the tone when you step onto the field. ***HUSTLE*** at all times!
* Respect your opponents. No taunting of opponents is allowed.
* Respect the umpires. Never question a call or respond in a disrespectful fashion. Any questions will come from the coaching staff only.
* Show good sportsmanship at all times. Maintain a high character. It is one of the most important traits you will carry with you your entire life.
* Only the official Kirtland Baseball uniforms will be worn for games.

***Transportation Conduct***

**Behavior**:

* You will abide by all bus rules. See the district Bus Conduct Rules.
* Quiet conversation will be allowed. No yelling or screaming is necessary or allowed.
* We will clean up the bus after every trip and thank the bus driver for driving.

**Team Members**:

* All players must ride to the game(s) on the bus in order to participate in the game.
* The bus will leave on time. We will not wait for you! A player must request special permission from Coach Smrdel and receive approval at least 24 hours prior to a game, to drive separately to that game if the circumstances warrant this to be absolutely necessary.
* All players must ride home on the bus from the game. If there is an emergency situation a parent or guardian MUST sign his/her son out at the end of the game. If a parent sends a note for his/her child to ride home with another parent from the game because of an emergency situation, the athlete must get the note signed by the principal or athletic director prior to boarding the bus for the game. After the game has concluded, the parent driving home must sign for each athlete they are driving home including his/her son. In this event, the parent will take over total liability for the players involved.

***Equipment Care***

**Uniform Care:**

* You are responsible for cleaning your own uniform, and it must be clean for each game.

**Before and After Practice:**

* ***Every team member*** is responsible for the set up and clean up of all nets, balls, buckets, and plates, and collection of all baseball equipment.

**Before Home Games:**

* Players are responsible for setting up the batting practice hitting screens and getting the equipment out to the field for pregame.

**After Home Games:**

* Players are responsible for picking up the bench area and ensuring baseball equipment is returned to appropriate location.

**BEFORE ALL GAMES and Game Preparation:**

1. Please be dressed and ready to go. In some instances we may hit before getting on the bus for away games. Home games you will need to be at the field at 3:00PM ready to go.
2. We are responsible for keeping a scorebook and game changer.
3. Home games we will have to run the score board.

Note: PRE-GAME routines will be learned in practice.

***School Conduct***

* You are a student athlete. School comes first. Do not forget these priorities.
* Be in school at all times. DAILY ATTENDANCE is required to participate in a game, however, there are few exceptions - see the district athletic code.
* No tardiness. You will be considered absent and therefore will not be allowed to play.
* No ISS Room Detentions or Opportunity Schools

***Training Conduct***

As a member of the Kirtland High School Baseball Program, you will be expected to meet these expectations at all times. Violations of any of the above expectations will be dealt with by applying the appropriate consequence to the violation depending on the severity. The following consequences could be applied:

Game Suspensions: (Unexcused absences, tardies, ISS or Opportunity school, not in proper game uniform)

* 1. 1st Violation: You will not start the next game
  2. 2nd Violation: The entire next game you will sit
  3. 3rd Violation: Dismissal from the team

In the event of an unexcused absence the day prior to a game, the player will not start the next game.

Coach Smrdel will handle special circumstances as long as there is communication between the player, coach, and parent. Situations will be addressed individually and decisions will be based on the coach’s discretion. ***No one is above the rules.*** Everyone will be treated fairly. If at any time you feel as though a situation was not properly handled, please follow the protocol outlined below:

1. Have the player talk to the coaches
2. Parents and player set up a meeting with the coaches
   1. Please DO NOT approach a coach before a game or right after a game
3. Set up a meeting with the athletic director and coaches

***Miscellaneous***

**Cell Phones:**

In this day and age our coaches understand how important it is to be connected by our cell phones. However, at practice our cell phones need to be put away and not out unless told by the coaches to call/text a parent/guardian. Cell phones can be one of the biggest distractions in life. In order to maintain focus during practice and games, we ask that cell phones are put away.

On the bus you may have your phone out along with walking up to the field and walking away from the field. When you are warming up, playing, or sitting on the bench, there are to be no cell phones out. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Additionally, players should call/text for a ride 15-30 minutes before we return back to school from an away game. Coaches will try to let them know when we are about 15 minutes away.

\*\*\*YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING YOUR CELL PHONE IN A SAFE SPOT DURING PRACTICES AND GAMES. THE PROGRAM IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGED, LOST, OR STOLEN CELL PHONES AS THEY SHOULD NOT BE OUT EXCEPT FOR THE TIMES STATED ABOVE\*\*\*

**Jewelry:**

There is to be NO JEWELRY (necklaces, earrings, or bracelets) on at practice or during games (exceptions: medical necessity or religious reason; doctor’s note or a note from a parent will be required as documentation). It is an Ohio High School rule that athletes are not to have earrings, necklaces, or bracelets (which include the rubber cause bracelets) while being on the athletic field of play. At the time of a game if any athlete steps on the field (whether it be to play or to help with warm ups) with jewelry on, our team may receive a warning based upon Ohio High School rules. If you have any questions please ask.

**Drugs and Alcohol:**

The use of drugs and alcohol are illegal and prohibited. Failure to comply will result in school disciplinary actions. First offense will be a 2 week suspension of practice and games. A second offense will result in removal from the program.

**Social Media:**

Social Media is an amazing way of communication and at the same time can be someone’s biggest nightmare. Players, please be smart about what you post. If any drama is caused on the team because of social media, consequences will follow based on school policy and at the discretion of the coaching staff. Our coaches don’t intentionally search individual accounts, but that does not mean that other students, teachers, administrators, etc. will not look at your accounts and bring inappropriate things to our attention. If anything inappropriate is brought to our attention it will be addressed and consequences will be given accordingly.

Rule of thumb: if you have any doubt about something being appropriate or not, you probably shouldn’t post it! What is posted will always be there regardless of if you delete it or not.

**General Presentation:**

We are a representation of Kirtland High School. We will present ourselves with dignity, respect, and class. While we are at school, coaches and players will be model students/colleagues for our peers, at practice and home games we will demonstrate these expectations day in and day out. At away games we will stay together and avoid any drama with other teams, coaches, and fans. We will be respectful, use proper language, and ask before going places.

Daily focus should be on the team, not your social life. At the conclusion of games you are expected to immediately meet with your coaches and other teammates. You may talk to your parents, family, and friends after our meeting, but all players must remain at the field until dugouts have been cleaned, fields prepped, and equipment has been properly stored.

***Communication***

**Email**

Email is our program’s primary way of communicating. Try to check your email daily for any updates, and if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to email me at: [luke.smrdel@gmail.com](mailto:luke.smrdel@gmail.com)

**Other Communications Used**

Our secondary communication tools are updated as needed, but will be done when time permits and after EMAIL’s have been sent.

**Twitter:** Follow us: @kirtlandbaseball

**Facebook:** Like/Follow**:** Kirtland Baseball

**Remind:** @kirtlandbb

**Website:** [www.hornetbaseball.com](http://www.hornetbaseball.com)

**MAXPREPS:** Kirtland (OH) Baseball \*check for the most up to date schedules on MAXPREPS

**General:** Throughout the day, I consistently check my email and text messages. However, please be aware that any messages that are received after 8pm might not get responded to until the next day.

***Parents***

Our coaches’ jobs are to look out for the well-being of the program along with all of the players in it. Playing time can be discussed if it is done in the proper manner, which is by contacting Coach Smrdel via email to set up a time. However, playing time will not be discussed before, during, or after any game or practice without contacting Coach Smrdel first, and the playing time of other athletes will not be discussed. Please understand that playing time may not be equal, but every player in our program will have an individual role. These roles will vary and each role is dependent upon the need of the team. At times, parents and coaches may disagree and we ask that as adults we handle every situation in a calm and respectful way. Please follow the protocol above if any disagreements may occur.

Additionally, we know it takes a lot of support and time to have a child in the baseball program. Since baseball is very unique compared to other sports when it comes to schedules, we ask for your patience, understanding, and flexibility for practices, home games, and away games. There will be countless changes during the spring due to the weather, along with other things, and we will make sure we communicate any changes that are made as quickly as possible.

We truly appreciate your son’s hard work and commitment to the program, and also your time and dedication, as well.

Please return this portion.

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**Kirtland High School**

**Kirtland Hornet Baseball Coach’s Expectations**

Parental Agreement and Player Agreement:

We, the parents/guardians of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read the Kirtland High School Baseball Expectations and agree to help our son abide by the rules and regulations as stated.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/guardian signature)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Player signature)

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_