



INFORMATION PACKET



Our Mission:

*To build a community where **God's love is demonstrated through action**. We treat every player, family, staff member, official, and board member with **Christ-like kindness, grace, and respect**, ensuring that judgment and shame are absent from our culture. We commit to a genuine, personal investment in every player and family. Furthermore, we commit to **financial stewardship** by keeping costs low to honor the sacrifices made by our members.*

Our Priorities:

- **Minimize costs** for players & their families
- Schedule games that are in the Greater St. Louis & St. Charles areas and within a reasonable driving distance (less than 45 miles) to **minimize travel time** for players and their families
- Establish a foundation of **transparency, accountability, and integrity**
- Help players to **develop their skills**, while also **building character** and forming relationships for successful team play
- Invest time and finances to secure an **experienced, high quality coaching staff**
- A Christ-centered approach to leadership, planning, and coaching

Board Members:

Amanda Stegeman—Director, Treasurer, & MSHSAA Coordinator

Email: LightningSportsSTL@yahoo.com

Cell: (314) 629-2685 (call or text)

Melissa Fox—Co-Director & Social Media Coordinator

Email: foxymomma77@gmail.com

Jim Politte—Coach Coordinator, Website Coordinator & Middle School Head Coach

Email: jopolitte81@gmail.com

Amanda Politte—Secretary

Email: amandap72@gmail.com

Cheryl Bates—Fundraising Co-Coordinator

Email: batesacademy@gmail.com

Chris Bates— Fundraising Co-Coordinator

Email: cbateserac@yahoo.com

Josh Fox—Board Member & High School Head Coach

Email: foxjoshie@yahoo.com



School Teams

(Middle School and High School only)

*****CURRENTLY REGISTERING PLAYERS*****

- Games are played against area public and private school teams
- All games are held within 45 miles of St. Charles (local)
- Start time for games is 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Season is March-May
- 2-3 games per week
- Training begins in January
- 2-3 practices/training sessions per week
- Fees are **\$300** for Middle School and **\$450** for High School
- Uniforms required (jersey, hat, helmet, black pants, royal blue belt, socks, molded cleats.) Minimum cost: **\$120**

➤ High School: 12-20 games JV team (ages 13-18)	➤ Middle School: 8-12 games Mixed grades 6-8 (ages 11-14)
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Spring/Summer League Teams (14U and younger)

Contingent upon interest level

- Games are played within a local league, such as St. Peters Athletic Association (SPAA) or Chesterfield Baseball & Softball Association (CBSA)
- All games are held at league fields (all local to the league—St. Peters for SPAA or Chesterfield Sports Complex for CBSA)
- Season is April-June
- Uniforms—same as school teams (listed above)



Fees and Payment Information

Middle School Team

Uniform: **\$120** (jersey, hat, helmet) up to \$171 (entire uniform)

Team fees: **\$300**

Minimum TOTAL fee amount: **\$420**

(up to \$471 if additional uniform items purchased)

High School Team

Uniform: **\$120** (jersey, hat, helmet) up to \$171 (entire uniform)

Team fees: **\$450**

Minimum TOTAL fee amount: **\$570**

(up to \$621 if additional uniform items purchased)

Fee Payment Schedule:

November 30th: Uniform Fees + \$100 Deposit Due (**\$220** to \$271)

February 1st: Remaining Fee Balance Due



Projected Expenses for 2026 Baseball

<u>GENERAL EXPENSES:</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL TEAM:</u>	<u>MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM:</u>
IRS 501(c)(3) filing: \$275 <i>Paid by donor</i>	Insurance: \$200	Insurance: \$200
Secretary of State filing: \$25 <i>Paid by donor</i>	MSHSAA: \$275	MSHSAA: \$175
Website domain: \$10 <i>Paid by donor</i>	Equipment: Baseballs-\$300 (\$150 per bucket of 24)	Equipment: Baseballs-\$300 (\$150 per bucket of 24)
Team banner: \$25 <i>Paid by donor</i>	Umpire fees: Up to \$114 per game \$2,280 per season	Umpire fees: \$83 per game Arbiter fees \$13 per game Total=\$96 per game \$800-\$1,200 per season
Practice fields: \$0 (Blanchette Park) to \$12 per hour (St. Peters Parks) up to \$1,000 <i>Paid by donor</i>	Field fees (games): \$100 per game for 6 home games=\$600	Field fees: \$100 per game for 6 home games=\$600
First Aid Kits: \$50	Coach salary: \$1,000	
*Training/cages: \$35-\$200/hour= \$500-\$1,000 total <i>*not included in the budgeted expenses and potential additional fee of \$20-\$40 per player</i>		
TOTAL=up to \$1,050	TOTAL=\$4,655	TOTAL=\$2,475

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What are the fee amounts and when are the fees due?

Uniform fee: \$120 minimum M.S. Team fees: \$300 H.S. Team fees: \$450

November 30th: Uniform Fees + \$100 Deposit Due

February 1st: Remaining Fee Balance Due

- Are there options for financial assistance to reduce and/or cover the fees? (Fundraisers, payment plans, donations, etc.)

YES!! We will have fundraisers and we will work with your family in any way we can to help your player(s) participate in our teams. Our first fundraiser is planned for mid-January 2026.

- Can I register, pay fees, and make donations online?

Registration forms can be submitted in person or via email. Donations and fees can be paid online using Zelle or a PayPal payment/donation option through our website.

- Do I have to purchase socks?

The players are required to wear **black socks** for games. If they wear **full-length baseball pants**, solid black crew-length athletic socks will be acceptable for games. **Royal blue baseball socks** must be worn by players who choose **knee-length pants**. These can be purchased through our organization or on your own.

- How often will the team practice?

School teams: 2-3 times per week

- Where will practices be held?

We cannot book practice fields until January 1st. The goal is to train and practice in St. Charles County.

- How many games per week? How many for the season?

School Teams: 2-3 games per week, M.S. season: 8-12 games, H.S. season: 12-20 games

- Is this a nonprofit organization?

YES!! We are a registered nonprofit corporation in Missouri, as well as a federal 501(c)(3) tax exempt charity.



Coach Code of Conduct for St. Louis Lightning Sports

As a coach for the Lightning Sports Organization, I pledge to lead by example and uphold the same core values of Respect, Responsibility, and Sportsmanship that our players and parents commit to. My actions will reinforce the standards we ask of our athletes and families, creating a unified culture of excellence.

1. **Respect for All:** I will treat every player, parent, official, opponent, and fellow coach with dignity and courtesy, using the same positive language and tone I expect from players and parents.
2. **Player-First Mentality:** I will prioritize each athlete's long-term development, confidence, and love for the game over short-term results. Wins are secondary to effort, growth, and teamwork, just as players are asked to give full effort regardless of the score.
3. **Positive and Constructive Leadership:** I will coach with enthusiasm, patience, and encouragement, focusing on what players *can* do and how they can improve. Criticism will be specific and encouraging, private when needed, and always followed by a path forward, mirroring the supportive feedback parents are asked to give.
4. **Preparation and Professionalism:** I will arrive early, organized, and prepared for every practice and game, with a purposeful plan. I will honor schedules and commitments.
5. **Emotional Control and Resilience:** I will remain composed under pressure, modeling the self-control and bounce-back attitude we teach players. I will not argue with officials, opponents, or parents in front of players, and I will address concerns as privately and respectfully as possible.
6. **Open and Proactive Communication:** I will keep parents informed with regular updates, clear expectations, and prompt responses, just as parents are asked to communicate concerns directly and respectfully to me. I will host at least one parent meeting per season to align on goals and philosophy.
7. **Guardian of the Lightning Culture:** I will embody and enforce the Lightning culture in everything I do: inclusive, competitive, and character-driven.
8. **Higher Standard:** I will hold myself to a higher standard than I hold those around me. I will lead with humility, owning my mistakes and learning from them. I will consistently demonstrate discipline, preparation, and positivity.
9. **Embrace Accountability:** I welcome and invite full accountability from the St. Louis Lightning Sports Association Board. I will proactively report concerns, accept feedback, and cooperate fully with any review of my conduct, demonstrating the same ownership and transparency I expect from players and parents.

Your Commitment

By signing below, I affirm my full commitment to this Coach Code of Conduct. I understand that I am not just a coach, but a mentor, role model, and ambassador for the Lightning Sports Organization. My conduct will reflect the same standards of respect, responsibility, resilience, and sportsmanship that we require from our players and parents.

Coach's Name (Print): _____

Coach's Signature: _____

Date: _____