



# HEARTS Baseball Information

## What does HEARTS sports offer?

We offer Christ-centered sports programs for Christian home-school students. We are members of the Lake Effect Conference (LEC) as well as the Ohio Christian School Athletic Association (OCSAA). HEARTS sports teams are one way we challenge and encourage home-school students to honor God in all things, and to grow in their walk with Jesus through athletics. As an ACSI member school, HEARTS athletes are eligible for the ACSI Distinguished Student award.

## When does the season start and end?

- Practices begin in February and end in May.
- The first game is late March and the LEC playoffs are early May.
- We do not typically participate in out-of-town tournaments.
- There is a season kick-off meeting and a season-end party.

## Where are the practices and games?

In previous years the practices were in the Hearts school gym or outdoors at a nearby park if weather permits. Additionally, we have batting practices at local batting cages as needed. The away games are in the greater Cleveland area. There are typically 13 league games with some additional non-league games played if scheduling permits during the regular season. At the end of the season, we participate in the LEC playoffs competing for the league champion. We also have the option to participate in the OCSAA playoffs, if there are enough teams for a tournament. There are other tournaments in the area, but out-of-town tournaments are not typically a part of the baseball program.

## How much will this cost?

For HEARTS members, costs typically run \$175 per player to participate, and \$65.00 for those who do not have a uniform. In addition, player is responsible to buy their own cleats, mitt and possibly bat. As always, we attempt to keep costs down and raise needed funds in other ways through parent-initiated fund raising activities. Fees are calculated based on the number of team members divided by the cost to run the program, so they may vary some from season to season.

You must be a HEARTS member to participate in our sports programs. Membership options include a basic membership (\$250), which covers all sports, ACSI, social and testing for a school year, or full membership which includes Friday classes and access to all HEARTS programs.

## What teams are available and how many participate?

The available teams depend on the number of interested families and vary from season to season. We typically have a HS boys varsity team. A baseball game requires 9 players to start, so 11 players is a minimum.

## How can I help?

Each family is expected to help by signing up for ministry assistant positions (MAP). There will be a sign-up at the start of the season and everyone is required to help. Responsibilities include coordinating fundraisers, coordinating Hearts lunches and bake sales, coordinating Senior Night, taking team photos, keeping statistics, home game set-up, and ordering team uniforms. As you can see, there is something for everyone.

Additionally, there will be fund raising and/or booster activities throughout the year. One typical fund raising event is Friday lunches and bakes sales during Hearts classes, so be prepared to provide baked goods and contribute to lunches as needed. Parents are encouraged to develop fund raising efforts for HEARTS programming.

## What should I do if I am interested in joining the Basketball team?

- Send an e-mail to the HEARTS Athletic Director ([athletics@heartsforjesuschrist.org](mailto:athletics@heartsforjesuschrist.org))
- If you are not a member of HEARTS, you will need to complete the HEARTS membership process. Begin at HEARTS web page: <http://www.heartsforjesuschrist.org/> On the left under *Helpful Links*, select *Information Request*. Fill out this form and submit. Someone from HEARTS will contact you.
- There will be a \$50 non-refundable deposit for team members. It can only be refunded if the single sport of interest to a sport-only family does not go forward due to inadequate sign-ups to form a team.
- Once you have notified us, look for e-mails and other announcements that will get you ready for the season.
- As always, there will be forms to complete, one of which requires a current physical. Your child will not be eligible to participate until all the forms have been received.