

Tealtown Parents Contract

A brief history of the park.....

The original booster owned fields were known as Aicholtz Fields and were located on what is now known as Dick's Sporting Goods, Best Buy, and Furniture Fair etc. The construction of I-275 and resulting commercial growth in the 1980's transformed what was once a set of dusty fields into very valuable commercial real estate. Sold in the early 90's the boosters took their windfall and purchased this property and built what you see here today. It's hard to imagine a facility of this size and quality being completely built and operated by a booster organization but the boosters truly "hit the lottery" many years ago and even today **the park does NOT receive any taxpayer assistance.** We are solely owned and operated by the Mt. Carmel Glen Este Boosters organization.

It's important you know this because we need your help.

It's important that everyone who has a son or daughter, niece or nephew, granddaughter or grandson that plays in the park understands they have an ownership stake in the park and its success both today and tomorrow depends on all of us combining our talents, working together and giving back to the community.

Like everyone, we've been hit hard with the rising costs of energy and materials. As the park enters its 17th year and the infrastructure ages, the cost to repair and maintain the park increases every year. Even now the parking lot needs re-sealed at an estimated cost of nearly \$20,000.00. Our utility and insurance costs alone are approaching \$40,000.00 annually. We work very hard to operate as efficiently as possible and over the last few years we have replaced ice machines, HVAC units, the park mower and a Gator. For many years, the board has discussed the need to develop a rainy day reserve but efforts to keep registrations low combined with increased maintenance expenses have prevented us from implementing that plan.

Last years exceptionally wet spring and summer resulted in a significant loss of income. The park was closed a record 35 days last year and we ended 2009 with an \$8,000.00 deficit. In addition, our fall ball program had the smallest turnout in years. We were forced to institute a small increase in registration fees but remain a very good value when compared to Milford and Loveland. In addition, parents are required to work in concession stands and or bingos at other parks and we do not have that requirement at Tealtown.

Simply put we need to develop additional sources of revenue. Tournament income provides an important subsidy to our operating income but we are limited in how many we can host without affecting our league teams. What about community grants? Fund raisers? Grant money to help complete the dugout program to help us in our bids to host large tournaments. Stimulus funds.....energy efficient lighting or HVAC would help lower our expenses and be a long term asset to the park. Our park is a 501 C-4 non-profit organization. We've been told it would be to our benefit if we were a C-3 organization. Perhaps someone can help us get this changed? In short, we need people to step up, get involved, think out of the box and help us keep Tealtown the premier park in the Midwest.

A very important issue is park management. Most of the board members have been here many years and our children are growing up. It is very important people step up and get involved. You do not have to be a coach to join the board and we invite anyone interested to contact us for information. Everyone that has a child here has a stake in the park and we need your help.

Sadly, we must also address another issue. Parental conduct. While most parents conduct their self in a respectful, controlled manner a growing number of parents believe it acceptable to scream, yell or otherwise berate opponents, spectators and umpires. There isn't any need to define poor conduct. Simply put..If you conduct yourself in an unsportsmanlike manner you will be asked to leave. **Period, end of discussion, zero tolerance.** We understand sports are competitive but we do NOT understand people that will mistreat another child for any reason. If you really feel the child behind the plate is "blind" why not be an umpire? We are always looking for good umpires and we can use your perfection. Before you belittle the #9 batter loudly proclaiming "he or she can't hit" is your child batting 1,000? Error free? THIS IS A GAME. Games are meant to be fun and they are not fun for anyone when someone loses self control and dignity. Fortunately, the vast, vast majority of our coaches and parents are outstanding individuals and we applaud them. We applaud them for the example they set for not just their kids but all the kids around them. The mission of the board of directors is to do our best to provide a safe, enjoyable climate for everyone concerned and we take this matter seriously. We don't want to expel you from the park and you don't want to be expelled so please leave your bad day at the park entrance, enjoy your time here and let everyone around you enjoy theirs. It's a poor reflection on society that we have to go to these extremes but we intend to keep it a pleasant, family oriented atmosphere at the park.

I understand this is a game and meant to be fun. I will exercise and use good sportsmanship.

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____