

WOLFPACK BASEBALL HANDBOOK

Policies, procedures, and expectations for all
players and parents of the Claremont High
School Wolfpack Baseball Program.

2009-2010

Dear Players and Parents,

I am honored to be the new head coach for the Claremont High School baseball program, and I'm excited about the 2008-2009 season. We'll field three teams again this year, and I look forward to working with our student-athletes at every level of our program.

We've assembled a first-rate coaching staff this season, and while each team will have its own designated coaching staff, all of our coaches will have the opportunity to work with players at all three levels.

My hope is that our players develop as students and as baseball players. They are students first and then athletes. Their first commitment must be to school, and we hope each and every one is able to attend college. Through our program, we hope they develop their skills as baseball players and their knowledge and understanding of the game. We'll place a strong emphasis on basic fundamentals and on teaching strategic and "smart" baseball.

For the Claremont High baseball program to be successful, we'll need your support as players and as parents. Please read the team policies, procedures and expectations included in this manual. Much of what you'll see has been carried on from previous years, but much has been rewritten to correspond with the new coaching staff's approach. Some of the rules included on the following pages are mandated by the CIF, Claremont Unified School District or other governing bodies, and others are unique to our baseball program. Most of what is here was established with a focus on simple common sense, courtesy and respect.

Please remember that it is a privilege to play baseball at Claremont High School, and not a right.

I hope your experience with the Claremont High baseball program is enjoyable and filled with success and positive memories.

Steve Jackson
Head Coach, Claremont High School Baseball

Academic Eligibility

As defined by state law, students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 (“C”) and continuing enrollment in a minimum of four semester courses. However, students are expected to establish higher academic standards for themselves. The scholastic eligibility period for athletic participation is the preceding triad. Students are encouraged to check regularly with their teachers to make sure they are maintaining satisfactory grades. Parents are encouraged to visit the school’s online Zangle Parent Connection Web site for current grade and attendance information. Students who are in danger of academic ineligibility should consult Coach Jackson immediately so that all avenues for assistance can be explored.

Academic Issues

Parents who have concerns about their son missing academic instruction on game days should discuss this with their counselors before scheduling classes for the spring semester. Players will be released from classes early on game days (earlier for road games), so plan ahead.

Alcohol, Tobacco & Drugs

The Claremont High baseball program has no tolerance for alcohol and drugs. It is against the law for any student to use or possess alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances on the Claremont High campus or at any Claremont High activities. Furthermore, it is against the law for any minor under the age of 21 to use or possess alcohol, and for anyone under the age of 18 to use or possess tobacco. Controlled substances are illegal for everyone (this does not include prescription drugs under the care of physician). **Any player cited or disciplined by school officials or law enforcement officers for using or possessing alcohol or drugs will be appropriately disciplined.** This extends beyond the legal and disciplinary actions that could be invoked by Claremont High School, as stated on page 38 of the Claremont High Parent-Student Handbook under “Controlled Substance Policy,” which is noted below:

Claremont Unified School District Policy 5441.91 states, “The superintendent or designee shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use or sale of alcohol and other illegal drugs and related paraphernalia on school grounds, at school events or in any situation in which the school is responsible for the conduct and well-being of students. Students possessing, selling and/or using alcohol or other illegal drugs or related paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary procedures which may result in suspension or expulsion.”

The administration of Claremont High School will enforce this policy, as well as Education Codes sections 48800 (c) (d) and (j) and any other relevant California law. For any violation of Policy 5441.91 and/or the relevant California Education Codes, the administration will always suspend a student from school for five days and recommend that the student be expelled.

Possession or use of tobacco by high school students or minors is not permitted during any school baseball activities. This includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco and snuff (dip). **Players using tobacco products will be disciplined at the discretion of the coaching staff, up to and including suspension or removal from the baseball program.**

Alumni Game

This year the Claremont High varsity will play an exhibition game against CHS baseball alumni. The game is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 20.

Amateur Status

The CIF-SS has very specific rules about players retaining their “amateur status.” Players should notify Coach Jackson before attending tryout camps or showcase events, speaking with a scout or college coach, or accepting any money or payment for their skills—this could even include giving hitting lessons, working camps, appearing in a commercial and other activities.

Athletic Clearance Forms

Players must submit a completed Athletic Clearance Form before they participate in any conditioning, tryout, practice or game. Once this form is completed, it should be brought to the A.S.B. office. The original copy will be kept on file and players will be given a copy to take to Coach Jackson. Those participating in a fall or winter sport already have this information on file and simply need to bring Coach Jackson another copy from the A.S.B. office when they transfer in to baseball. As a courtesy, please notify A.S.B. and Coach Jackson of any changes that may occur throughout the season (i.e. insurance information). **No player will be permitted to condition, try out or play until the Athletic Clearance Form is on file.**

Awards Banquet

All players from the varsity, junior varsity, and freshman teams will be honored and recognized for their efforts and achievements at the end of the season. The annual awards banquet will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Claremont in late May or early June. Invitations and more information will be distributed to all player families in late April or early May. Players should dress appropriately (absolutely no jeans, shorts or t-shirts). All players, parents, relatives and friends are encouraged to join in the celebration.

Booster Club

As stated in the constitution of the booster club, “The specific and primary purpose of the Claremont High School Dugout Club is to induce and stimulate parent and student participation to the extra-curricular activities of the sport of baseball, and to establish a fund from which the aforesaid activities may be provided with equipment, materials, supplies and financial support which are not available through school funds.”

The Dugout Club’s primary function is to raise money to benefit the Claremont baseball program. The executive board, committee members and all volunteers work to help make the program run smoothly for the players, coaches and parents. Along with the executive board, there are several appointed non-board positions and committees that will be filled during the year. We thank you in advance for volunteering to help our program succeed.

The activities and opinions of the booster club board and membership are not factors in the operation of the baseball team on the field or in determining which players are on each roster. While the coaching staff has close and important working relationships with members of the booster club, those relationships will not influence coaching decisions. Players are evaluated on their abilities, performance, attitudes, work ethic and attendance, and not the financial or volunteer contributions of their parents.

Booster Club meetings are generally on the first Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. Meetings will begin promptly at 7 p.m. in the Claremont High School library. Please check the CHS Baseball Web site (www.claremonthighbaseball.com) for specific meeting dates, updates and other important booster information. Parents are encouraged to attend all meetings.

Coaching Staff

The Claremont High baseball coaching staff has been expanded this year to include additional coaches. Along with Coach Jackson, the staff includes a well-rounded staff of coaches who have played and coached high levels of baseball. While coaches have been designated to work with specific teams, every coach will spend time working with players at all three levels in an effort to offer his expertise in certain areas. Each coach has his unique baseball experiences and perspectives, which contribute to their own style. Please take advantage of the opportunity to learn from each of them.

All coaches receive a small stipend, but they are here because they love the game and they bring something valuable to the CHS program with their knowledge and experience. Please give them the respect they deserve. You might not agree with them, and they might not always be right, but they are all well qualified as high school baseball coaches. Baseball is a game of second-guessing. Please understand that all decisions are made for a reason. Not all of their plans work, but most will be successful.

Colleges

We hope that all student-athletes in the Claremont Baseball program will strive to go to college after they graduate from CHS, and that they are able to continue their baseball careers in college. Most of the coaches on the CHS baseball coaching staff played college baseball. Please talk with Coach Jackson about the colleges that interest you. The coaching staff will do its best to introduce players to college coaches/scouts.

Playing college baseball doesn't necessarily mean playing for Cal State Fullerton or another major NCAA Division I powerhouse university. Please keep an open mind, because there could be opportunities for you at smaller schools at the Division II or Division III levels, or at an NAIA college. And your route to college may be through a community college. There are more top-quality college baseball programs in California than anywhere else in the country, so keep an open mind to playing college baseball out of the state if presented the opportunity.

Please be sure to check the CHS Baseball Web site (www.claremonthighbaseball.com) in the "Links" section for more information about the recruitment process, NCAA recruiting rules, the NCAA Clearinghouse and more.

There is a strong likelihood that college coaches/scouts will be in attendance at some varsity games during the season (and perhaps professional scouts as well). You probably won't know when they are watching, so ALWAYS play as if they are there. You never know what opportunities could be ahead.

Committees

Along with the executive board of the Dugout Club, the Claremont Baseball program will have the several committees this year. Parents are encouraged to join at least one of these committees. Our fundraising efforts rely on your hard work and remarkable generosity. Thank you.

- Golf Tournament Committee
- Sponsorship and Banners Committee
- Meet the Coaches Dinner Committee
- Spirit Pack/Merchandise Committee
- Awards Banquet Committee
- Alumni Game Committee

Communication (also see Claremont Baseball Web site)

Most communication will occur several ways:

- Information about on-field activities and player personnel issues will be communicated directly between the coaching staff and student-athletes.
- Coach Jackson will meet personally with all varsity-eligible players and their families before rosters are announced prior to the first official team practice in February. Individual meetings with families will not be scheduled after that time.
- Routine communications will be handled by e-mail from Sid Robinson. Please direct communications (including messages about your student-athlete with respect to his schedule) to Coach Jackson through Sid Robinson at sid.robinson@verizon.net or sidr@csusb.edu. Your message will be relayed to Coach Jackson immediately.
- Booster club information will be e-mailed by club President Sid Robinson and other members of various committees with respect to booster-related activities.
- Complete information about the CHS baseball program, including special announcements, will be updated regularly at the team's Web site.

Community Service

The Claremont Baseball program will be participating in at least one community service project this year. More information will follow.

Contacting the Coach

In contacting the coach with an issue or concern, please adhere to the following procedures:

- 1) The player should first discuss the issue with the coach or coaches
- 2) If the issue is not resolved, the parent(s) may request a meeting with the head coach of the specific team. Before the teams have been selected, those meetings should be requested with Coach Jackson. Please send such requests through Sid Robinson at sid.robinson@verizon.net or sidr@csusb.edu.
- 3) Parents of varsity players requesting meetings with Coach Jackson should send requests through Sid Robinson at sid.robinson@verizon.net or sidr@csusb.edu.
- 4) If the issue is still not resolved, a meeting between the head coach (if freshman or junior varsity), Coach Jackson, assistant coaches, athletic director, the parent(s), the player and possibly others will be scheduled.

Through their daily practices and interaction with coaches, players should have a clear understanding about why they are or aren't playing, or the positions they are playing. If not, they should ask their coach. If parents have a question about playing time, please talk with your student-athletes. We expect them to have an understanding of what is happening with their team.

If there is an issue that a coach might not be aware of, please have your student-athlete speak directly with his head coach and allow him the opportunity to address the concern.

Please do not contact the coach over issues such as playing time or game decisions. If the matter is an off-field issue, please address the question to the proper authority (booster president, school teachers or counselors, etc.).

Parents are welcome to attend and watch practices, but they are not allowed inside the fenced areas, including the playing field, dugouts, bullpens or batting cages.

Coaching Decisions

More than any other sport, baseball lends itself to second-guessing the coach. That is to be expected. Coaches make decisions based on what they think is best for the team and the overall program. Coaches will make decisions to try to win games. Sometimes those don't work out. Decisions about playing time are not always based on baseball talent, but rather on how each player fills certain positions and how they work within the team concept. Players who have negative attitudes or who disrespect their coaches and/or teammates may find themselves on the bench – or off the team – no matter their skill level. This applies to all three teams. We encourage players to try to work through issues directly with their respective head coach.

Coaches Meetings

Coach Jackson will meet with every varsity-eligible player to personally inform him if he made the team, and on which team he will be placed. This includes, but is not limited to, sophomore, junior and seniors who completed the previous season on a Claremont baseball team roster, and those who try out for the teams this year. In some cases, freshman players and their families may be included in meetings. However, most freshman players will not have individual meetings with Coach Jackson. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for early February. No regular meetings will be scheduled with players and their families after this time unless specifically requested and deemed necessary.

Equipment

All program equipment should be treated with care and respect. Equipment is inventoried and assessed annually to ensure players have the best possible equipment. It is inappropriate to mistreat any equipment, including throwing bats and helmets. **Players not abiding by these rules are subject to immediate or deferred disciplinary action.** Please take pride in all equipment.

Fundraising

All fundraising efforts come from the Dugout Club booster organization, and all players and parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer their time and effort. Fundraising efforts go directly to the Wolfpack Baseball program to assist with uniform costs, equipment, field renovations, tournament fees, etc. No effort is “too small,” and your willingness to help is greatly appreciated.

The major fundraiser this season will be the annual golf tournament. Other smaller fundraisers will be held where your participation will be requested. Thank you in advance for your much-needed assistance. Your time, work and contributions are very much appreciated.

Game Days (Also See “Travel”)

Baseline League baseball games for all three teams this year will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays in 2010. The varsity and freshman teams will play against one league opponent at one site, and the junior varsity team will play against the same opponent at the opposite site. Most times, the varsity and freshman teams will travel together to road games. Tournaments and non-league games are scheduled for all three levels, and they fall on most days of the week, including Saturdays. Unless otherwise announced, starting times for all weekday games are 3:15 p.m. Saturday contests typically begin at 11 a.m. Tournament starting times vary and will be announced at a later date. **Players must be in attendance at least four periods on the day of a game to be eligible to participate in any game or practice.**

Players should be ready to enter the game at any time, which includes staying stretched and warm. This also means keeping mentally aware of what is happening in the game by anticipating what may happen, especially for role players like relief pitchers, pinch hitters/runners, etc. All players should remain supportive of their teammates. Players will remain in the dugout and should avoid socializing with friends or family during the game—this includes accepting food or drinks during the game. Players not currently in the game may have other assignments, such as charting pitches, warming up outfielders, retrieving foul balls, etc. Players, please show respect and support for your teammates, coaches, opponents and umpires.

It is against CIF-SS regulations to take individual batting practice on game days.

Injuries

All baseball players should report all injuries to Coach Jackson immediately through the proper communications channels, regardless if the injury occurred during a baseball game or practice, or is not baseball related. This is important to assure the player can receive the proper injury diagnosis and treatment for a healthy recovery.

In-Season Practice

Players are expected to attend practice on a consistent basis. Practices will begin promptly at 3 p.m. and will end at approximately 6-6:30 p.m., although some practices will run longer and some will end earlier. Players should be ready at 3 p.m., so arriving earlier is recommended. Players should bring plenty of water, Gatorade, etc.

Because of limited practice fields, the Claremont High baseball program hopes to utilize the baseball field at Cahuilla Park. However, the field will only be available for practice in the evening and at night, because the CHS softball team practices on the field during the afternoon after school. Times and schedules for evening and night practices will be announced. The teams will also hold Saturday practices. Times will be announced.

Parents are welcome to attend and watch practices, but they are **not allowed inside the fenced areas for any reason**, including the playing field, dugouts, bullpens or batting cages, unless they were specifically granted permission in advance for team business. Parents should avoid involvement with players and/or coaches during practices. Please, no parents coaching from the stands, during practices and at games.

It is common for teams to meet after practice. In addition, ALL players are expected to help with field clean-up and maintenance after games and practices. Players will be dismissed as a team after the field is cleaned up, raked and dragged.

Players should notify their head coach in advance if they need to miss any part of practice. Players should make an effort to communicate this to the coach in person at a previous day's practice, if possible. Otherwise, please e-mail Sid Robinson at sid.robinson@verizon.net and sidr@csusb.edu and your message will be relayed to Coach Jackson.

Players are strongly discouraged from missing practices. However, there are times when this is unavoidable. Coaches can only evaluate the talents, attitudes and work ethics of those players they see in practice every day. If it is impossible to avoid scheduling conflicts, please talk to your head coach so arrangements can be discussed. If a player needs to miss an extended period of practice time, please be sure to discuss the situation with Coach Jackson. Also, please try to avoid scheduling activities such as driver's training, private hitting/pitching lessons and so on during regular season practice sessions. **Players must be in attendance at least four periods on the day of a game to be eligible to participate in any game or practice (unless cleared through the office by parent).**

Maroon & Gray Intra-squad and Alumni Games

Claremont High will present its annual Maroon and Gray Intra-squad games. The freshmen and junior varsity teams tentatively will play on **Friday, Feb. 19**, at 3:15 p.m. on the varsity field. The next day, **Saturday, Feb. 20**, the Wolfpack varsity will play an exhibition game against CHS baseball alumni at the varsity baseball field at 10 a.m. The Saturday activities will include special ceremonies, including the introduction of players from all three teams, as well as a barbecue. All families are encouraged to attend these activities to support the entire program as it prepares for the upcoming season. CHS baseball alumni are invited to participate in the game or to simply take batting practice before the game. More information will follow.

Max Preps

The Max Preps Web site provides standings, rosters, records, statistics and more for all CIF-SS varsity teams. The Web site can be found at www.maxpreps.com. Links to Wolfpack baseball statistics, Baseline League standings and league leaders, schedules and more on Max Preps are available on the CHS baseball Web site (www.claremonthighbaseball.com) under "Links."

Meet the Coaches Dinner

After all three teams are selected, the Dugout Club will present the annual "Meet the Coaches" dinner. It is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 p.m.** All families are encouraged to join the Claremont Baseball program for a special dinner and to meet the coaching staff and learn about the upcoming season. Details to follow and the date is subject to change.

NCAA Clearinghouse

All high school student-athletes should be cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse if they would like to continue to participate in intercollegiate sports in college. We recommend that student-athletes begin the process during their sophomore or junior years. More information can be found at <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common>. For additional questions, students should consult with their individual counselors or Athletic Director Rick Dutton.

Off-Season Fall Baseball

Informal off-season baseball workouts and games will be held throughout the fall on Mondays through Thursdays. All players who are not participating in a fall or winter sport are encouraged to participate. The focus of the fall baseball workouts will be on fundamentals and conditioning (much like Major League Baseball's spring training period). Workouts will typically run from 3-5 p.m. Players will work out either on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. All players are invited to hit in the batting cages on days they are not scheduled to practice.

Games against other high school and club teams will be held on Saturdays and Sundays during the fall. Most Saturday games will be at 10 a.m. for the "Maroon" team, while times will vary for the "Gray" team and "16U team. Rosters for Saturday games will be announced on the Claremont Baseball Web site (www.claremonthighbaseball.com) several days before each game. T-shirts and caps will be available for purchase.

We realize players will have additional obligations after school, including doctor's appointments and other obligations. Players are expected to inform Coach Jackson if they are unable to attend a practice or game. If unable to do so in person, please e-mail sid.robinson@verizon.net or sidr@csusb.edu and the message will be relayed to Coach Jackson. Student-athletes who are participating in fall or winter sports are not expected to participate in the fall baseball program while their sports are in season (including official practice seasons).

Other Sports/Activities

Claremont High baseball players are encouraged to participate in other CHS sports and school activities during the fall and winter seasons. Multi-sport athletes are well rounded and maintain their physical conditioning. Those who participate in clubs, student government and other organizations gain valuable experience, knowledge and friendships. Student-athletes should enjoy their high school experience and participating in as many activities as they choose. However, baseball players are expected to commit themselves to the baseball program during baseball season, beginning with the first day they attend practice. In addition, student-athletes participating in other activities are expected to stay informed about the baseball program activities throughout the school year.

Outside Teams

As per CIF bylaw 511, a member of a high school baseball team may not compete for an outside team in the sport of baseball during the official high school baseball season, beginning with the first game (non-league, tournament or league game) and ending with the final game.

Parents

The biggest role that parents can play is to support their student-athletes in school and with their athletic endeavors. Attendance and demonstrating good sportsmanship at our games and functions is expected and greatly appreciated. Please remember to keep comments positive, whether they are to or about your own son, another player or parent, a coach, an umpire, or any other opposing player, parent, or coach. Parents, too, represent Claremont and Claremont High.

Parents are welcome to attend and watch practices, but they are **not allowed inside the fenced areas for any reason**, including the playing field, dugouts, bullpens or batting cages, unless they were specifically granted permission in advance for team business. **Parents should avoid involvement with players and/or coaches during practices.**

Philosophy

Our basic philosophy is to develop good baseball players who play smart, strategic fundamental baseball as a team. School comes first, and we want our student-athletes to strive to go to college after they graduate from high school. We hope they'll continue playing baseball in college, and we'll do our best to help them. We hope our players develop strong character and work ethics, and that they respect each other, their coaches, themselves and the game of baseball. We hope to be an aggressive team that runs the bases and plays good defense. With every win and loss, we hope our players learn from their experiences. They are part of a team with a common goal, and they'll share success and failure.

Player Appearance

Players represent Claremont High School, the CHS baseball program, their families and themselves. As such, they are expected to maintain a neat and orderly appearance. Uniforms should be clean and properly maintained, and equipment cared for with respect. Players are encouraged to take pride in how they look, both at school and on the field.

Player Conduct

Players should play the game with pride and class. It is a privilege to play baseball for Claremont High, and not a right. All coaches, players, fans, umpires, and other school personnel should be treated with respect. The heat of competition can bring out the worst in some people. However, the coaching staff will not tolerate inappropriate conduct. Please remember that players represent Claremont High School, the CHS baseball program, their families and themselves, and we expect them to show respect and restraint at all times. Inappropriate behavior is grounds for discipline from the coaching staff, including suspension or removal from the baseball program. The use of profanity, throwing equipment, arguing or questioning an umpire and/or any other embarrassing, demeaning or offensive behavior is strictly prohibited. As per CIF rules, "Any player who is ejected for any reason shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team's next contest.

"Any player whose conduct merits ejection from a game by an official for fighting or assaultive behavior shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team's next contest. After the suspension from play, the student may only return after certification by the school principal that the student(s) has completed a conference with a school administrator..."

"Any player who leaves the confines of the bench or team area during a fight that has broken out or may break out will be ineligible for the team's next contest..."

"A second ejection from a game or contest for fighting or assaultive behavior will cause suspension for the remainder of the season. A player who was ejected from the previous contest, who knowingly, or unknowingly, participates in or is in attendance at the next contest, will result in the forfeiture of that contest."

Playing Time

The concept of “equal playing time” does not exist at the high school level, especially on the varsity team. Positions will consistently be earned, and starting line-ups may change from game to game or week to week. Because coaches are looking at an entire roster in a variety of situations, there are players who might play one game and then not play the next. This may or may not be because of their performance or abilities. A player’s attitude and work ethic will also contribute to how much he plays. Early in the season, playing time will probably fluctuate for most players as coaches determine their strengths and weaknesses in game situations. As the season progresses, coaches often utilize players who are playing well at the time or who fit well with the specific conditions. Players may also be asked to fulfill certain roles, such as pinch-hitting, pinch-running or playing defense late in the game. Every role is an important one and is crucial to the overall success of the team and/or program.

Private Coaches

Working out with a private coach is a great idea. No CHS coach will feel slighted or offended if a player is working after practice or on weekends to make himself a better player. It is virtually impossible for players to reach their full potential in the few hours we have each day. Before choosing a private coach, you may want to consider consulting your head coach to make sure you are hiring a qualified person who has a good reputation. Players should never miss a team practice or game to attend private workouts.

Program Support

Wolfpack Baseball is a program, not just a varsity team. Some players will, on occasion, be moved from one team to another during the season. During the fall workout period, players from different levels will practice together. There will also be combined practices and intra-squad games during the fall and pre-season practice period. This helps build camaraderie and respect among players at all levels. Players and parents are encouraged to attend as many games as possible to show support for our baseball teams and other sports as well.

Residency

The student body at Claremont High School includes a large number of students who were raised and still live in other communities and did not attend elementary school and/or junior high school in Claremont. Included are many who play baseball, whose path to the Wolfpack baseball program was not through Claremont Little League. It is important to know that once a student is accepted by the Claremont Unified School District and has enrolled at Claremont High, he or she is an equal member of the Claremont High School student body. The Claremont Unified School District will not tolerate discrimination or favoritism of students for any reason. All players will be treated equally and will be evaluated on their abilities, performance, attitudes and work ethic.

Saturday Games

The Wolfpack baseball teams will play several Saturday games during the season. Most of these will be non-league and tournament games, as well as rescheduled games. Baseline League games are not scheduled for Saturdays, with the exception of make-up games. Please be flexible and make note of these dates and try to keep them available as you schedule your plans. In the event that a game interferes with a prior commitment, such as an S.A.T. exam or family obligation, please notify your head coach in advance so arrangements can be discussed. Also, because of budget cuts, transportation is the responsibility of individual families on Saturday games.

Season Length

CIF rules allow for coaches to work with their baseball teams throughout the school year. As such, baseball practices begin in the fall. Teams will be selected in January and players will then practice with their designated teams. The first allowable day that the baseball teams can play a scrimmage game is **Saturday, Feb. 27**. The first day that teams can play official baseball games is **Friday, March 5**. The final day of the regular season is on **Friday, May 14**. Teams are limited to one scrimmage and 20 regular season games (non-league doubleheaders count as a single game). CIF-SS playoffs will follow. Please refer to the Master Schedule on the CHS Baseball Web site (www.claremonthighbaseball.com) for all practice and game dates and times. Changes to the schedule will be posted on the Web site. Players will be issued uniforms prior to the start of the season, and they are required to return their uniforms at the season's conclusion.

Selection and Placement

Players will receive a comprehensive evaluation prior to the start of the baseball season. The teams will be selected after careful discussion and consideration from the entire Wolfpack coaching staff. Players who demonstrate the ability to successfully compete at the high school level will be assigned to one of the three teams. Players will be assigned to teams based how they will contribute to that specific team, as well as how they will best develop as baseball players. The size of each team's roster will vary, depending on player abilities and team needs.

Players are not evaluated on skill alone. Respect, cooperation, enthusiasm, hustle, dedication, work ethic, a positive attitude, attendance and academic standing also will be considered.

Senior Ceremony

As is tradition, the Claremont High Baseball program will salute its senior players at the team's final regular season home game. All senior players – accompanied by their parents – will be recognized at special ceremony before the start of the game. Players and families from the entire program are encouraged to attend.

Spirit Packs

Spirit Packs will be handed out to players in early February after rosters have been announced. Players and families will also have the opportunity to purchase additional items, including caps, t-shirts, jackets, helmets and more.

Sponsors

Many local businesses and organizations will be supporting Wolfpack Baseball this season. In turn, it is courteous to show our support of those businesses. The next time you go out to eat or need a professional service, please remember who is supporting this program.

Spring Break

Claremont High School's spring break runs from **April 5-9**. However, it is likely that all three teams will be playing in tournaments during part of the spring break period. Please check the CHS Baseball Web site (www.claremonthighbaseball.com) for schedule information and updates. In the event a family commitment or vacation interferes with a game, please notify your head coach so arrangements can be discussed.

Summer Baseball

Claremont will participate in summer baseball leagues, which is not part of the regular high school baseball program. While all teams will give their best efforts, the purpose of summer baseball is to gain experience and work on fundamentals in preparing for the following season. Every effort will be made to accommodate multiple-sport athletes, vacations and other planned activities. More information will follow as soon as it becomes available.

Sundays

CIF-SS regulations clearly state that it is illegal to engage in any scheduled practice or game on a Sunday. Players are able to work out on their own, but a Claremont coach may not be present.

It is recommended that players take Sundays completely off from baseball. Players work very hard during the week, and their bodies deserve a break from the daily grind. Use this time off to spend time with family, friends, get caught up with school, or simply to relax.

Tobacco

The use of tobacco products in conjunction with any CIF Southern Section athletic contest is prohibited, as per CIF rules. This includes all those involved in the contest, including players, coaches and officials. Possession or use of tobacco by high school students or minors is not permitted during any school baseball activities. This includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco and snuff (dip). **Players using tobacco products will be disciplined at the discretion of the coaching staff, up to and including suspension or removal from the baseball program.**

Team Concept

Players will be part of the Wolfpack baseball family throughout the next several months. Your actions should be for the benefit of the team. Please demonstrate respect and support of your teammates at all times. The quickest way to begin losing is to create unnecessary dissention on the field or in the dugout. Please respect the privacy and confidentiality of your teammates and coaching staff. We are a family and should support each other through both good and difficult times.

Team Pictures

Team pictures will be scheduled in February or early March on the varsity baseball field for all three teams. While purchasing pictures is optional (picture packets will be distributed about one week prior), all players should be in the team picture. Further, all players should take an individual picture for the yearbook and CHS Baseball Web site. Each individual team will decide on what uniform they would like to wear. More information and details will follow.

Transportation

All three teams will be traveling by bus to some away games. Because of budget cuts, buses will not be available for all games, and they will not be provided for Saturday or tournament games. More information will be provided. However, families should plan to find alternate transportation for their student-athletes on days when bus transportation is not available. Players are expected to ride with their team on days when buses are provided. Any exceptions must be cleared through Coach Jackson, and parents must sign a waiver. Players may leave class early only at the specified times. All players will demonstrate appropriate behavior while on the bus.

Tryouts

All players participating in fall and winter workouts/practices will be evaluated based on their baseball skills, as well as their work ethic, cooperation, enthusiasm, hustle, dedication, respect, attitude, attendance and academic standing. The teams will be selected after careful discussion and consideration from the entire Wolfpack coaching staff. Players who demonstrate the ability to successfully compete at the high school level will be assigned to one of the three teams. Formal tryout sessions are not planned, but could be scheduled later. If tryout sessions are added, they will only be for freshmen and players new to Claremont High, as well as returning CHS students who were not on a Wolfpack baseball team at the end of the previous regular season. More information will be provided.

Uniforms

Players on all three teams will be issued uniforms (jerseys and pants) prior to the start of the season and are required to return the uniforms in good condition at the season's conclusion. Uniforms and equipment should be laundered and cleaned on a consistent basis. Please make sure all uniforms and equipment are treated with care. If there is a problem with any uniform or equipment, please notify your coach so the problem can be rectified. These uniforms are the property of Claremont High School. Please see the uniform policy for more information.

We will try to issue jersey numbers that will allow players to maintain their same number throughout the season. To do that, we'll try to limit the duplication of numbers. Seniors and returning varsity team members have top priority for numbers, followed by junior varsity and then freshmen. Older players (by class year) on each team have priority selection.

Uniforms – Alternate

Along with the jerseys provided by Claremont High School, players on the varsity and junior varsity teams will have the opportunity to purchase a maroon mesh jersey with their name on the back and the number of choice. These will be used as batting practice jerseys and alternate game jerseys (primarily during doubleheaders or tournaments). Players can keep those jerseys and use them in following years. Returning players who already have jerseys from last year are welcome to use those this year, provided they are still fit, are in good condition and the uniform number does not conflict with another player. Priority for uniform numbers will be given by seniority and years on the varsity team. Freshmen, newcomers and those who need to replace their alternate jerseys will be able to order those with their spirit packs.

The alternate jersey is not a requirement. If a player elects not to purchase an alternate jersey, an extra jersey will be made available for that player on a loan basis for games where those jerseys are used. Alternate jerseys that are loaned to players will not have individual names and the choice of jersey numbers will be limited.

Wolfpack Merchandise

Wolfpack merchandise will be on sale throughout the year. You will have the opportunity to purchase sweatshirts, t-shirts, caps and more. Please support Wolfpack Baseball and wear the school colors.

Wolfpack Web site

The Wolfpack Baseball Web site is the primary source of information for the baseball program. Please visit www.claremonthighbaseball.com regularly for updates and information.

(Please Do Not Write on This Line)

PLAYER & PARENT AGREEMENT

Please return to Coach Jackson as soon as possible.

**PLAYERS WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICES OR GAMES
WITHOUT THIS FORM ON FILE WITH THE VARSITY COACH.**

I have read all of the information of the WOLFPACK BASEBALL HANDBOOK. I understand what is expected and agree to follow and support all policies, procedures, and expectations throughout the entire season.

Player Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

COMMENTS/CONCERNS/QUESTIONS