



Welcome to the 2017 Junior Saltdogs League baseball program.

Our Lincoln Youth Baseball Organization is associated with our hometown Lincoln Saltdogs, and we use the name “**Junior Saltdogs League**”.

All program services and daily League administration are provided by our Organization. All inquiries should be directed to the Junior Saltdogs League Board of Directors.

For more information, please see our website at www.jrsaltdogs.com.

DIVISIONS AND PROJECTED NUMBER OF GAMES:

- U6 t-ball for 5-6 yr olds [**must be at least 5 yrs old as of 4.30.17**]: 13 games plus JSL tournament
- U8 machine pitch for 7-8 yr olds: 13 games plus JSL tournament
- U10 for 9-10 yr olds: 16 games plus JSL tournament
- U12 for 11-12 yr olds: 18 games plus JSL tournament
- U14 for 13-14 yr olds: 20 games plus JSL tournament
- U16 for 15-16 yr olds: 14 games plus JSL tournament

NOTE: The number of players, number of teams, and field availability may affect the total number of games for each division

REGISTRATION: Bring in the registration form yourself or have a coach or a friend bring it in for you. Payment is due at sign-up; a registration will not be accepted without payment.

1. Parents are highly encouraged to come to one of the following in-person registration dates (cash and checks accepted):
 - Sat, Feb 4 from 1pm-3pm at Auld Pavilion Rec Center, 1650 Memorial Dr
 - Thu, Feb 9 from 6pm-8pm at The Space, 5900 S. 58th, Suite H (in the Trade Center directly behind Raising Canes)
 - Tue, Feb 14 from 6pm-8pm at Belmont Rec Center, 1234 Judson St
 - Sat, Feb 18 from 1pm-3pm at FUNdamental Athletics Academy, 8400 Cody Dr, Suite K (14th & Yankee Hill)
2. Online registrations will be accepted from January 9 until midnight on February 18. See the link on the home page of our website. A processing fee (apx 10%) from the online agent will be assessed to all online registrations.
3. The late registration period will be from February 19 until midnight on March 4 by online registration only. In addition to the online agent's processing fee, a \$25 late fee will also be assessed. **There will be no U6-U14 registrations accepted after March 4 – NO EXCEPTIONS. U16 division, see the special section on page 2.**
4. In addition to the player fee (see the registration form for the breakdown per division), all U6-U16 registrants are required to choose one fundraiser option, either (A) buying a Saltdogs 12-ticket booklet for \$60 and reselling each ticket to recoup your fundraiser fee; or (B) choosing the “buy-out” option for \$55 which means you prefer to pay the in lieu of fee and not receive/sell the Saltdogs tickets.
5. If you plan to list a coach or friend request, check with that coach or friend **before** you register to make sure he/she plans to volunteer to coach or play and for what division. Please be sure to list his/her correct first and last name. In the case of a coach request, make sure you are listing the head coach's name (not the assistant). With nearly 2,000 registrations coming in, it can be very confusing when half the players list the actual head coach, and the other half list an assistant coach. Coaches & Parents—please double check with each other before you register to make sure you have the correct name listed. Note that no changes can be made after teams are organized.
6. Your registration form must be filled out accurately and in its entirety and signed by a parent/guardian at the bottom.
7. We do not accept registration forms that are mailed in – NO EXCEPTIONS.
8. There are no registration refunds.

AGE VERIFICATION: For the U16 division only, the player's birth certificate, learner's permit, or driver's license must be shown for age verification. For other divisions, the parent/guardian signature at the bottom of the form will certify that all information is honest and accurate. A player's age as of April 30, 2017 determines the youngest age division that he/she can play in. We recommend that all players play in their appropriate age division; however, players can play up one age division. **To play in the U6 t-ball division, players must be at least 5 years old as of April 30, 2017.**

ROSTERS: Players will be assigned to a team based on requests for division, coach, friend, school, and zip code. Even with an adequate number of volunteer coaches, you are not guaranteed to be playing on your requested team or area of town.

What's New for 2017

New age limit for high school division:

Our high school division has been renamed our U16 division and players must be no older than 16 years as of 4.30.17. The player's learner's permit, driver's license or birth certificate must be shown at registration for age verification (if registering online, one of these documents will need to be emailed to jslregistrations@jrsaltdogs.com separately to complete the registration). With this change, the U16 division will have a 2-year age spread like our other divisions. The Board is hopeful this step will alleviate the growing number of issues we have had in this division the past several seasons. If it doesn't, further action will be taken by the Board which may result in eliminating this division entirely.

U6-U16 coaches: 4 team shirts/JSL caps will be provided for U6 and U8 teams and 3 team shirts/JSL caps for U10-U16 teams. In order for a coach to be on the field, the team shirt must be worn. If not, the coach must stay in the dugout. If a cap is worn, it must be the JSL cap. These are the same rules we require for players.

U8: We will continue to use the pitching machine and have a JSL site supervisor at the field.

COMMUNICATION: If you have questions, please check the FAQ page of our website at www.jrsaltdogs.com. If your question is not answered there, email the board member/commissioner that you need using the email addresses listed on our website.

COACHES: If you are willing to be a head coach, please check the box on the coach section of the player registration form and provide the requested information. Background checks will be conducted on all individuals indicating a willingness to be a head coach. We do allow and encourage anyone wanting to head coach to attach a list of the players you anticipate being on your team to your child's registration form. It will be used as a guide only. Commissioners will refer to the individual player registration forms as their primary source, but having a coach list is helpful when they begin the team sort process. Note that JSL reserves the right to add or remove players. Roster sizes will vary per team and division. Commissioners will make the final decisions on individuals selected to head coach a team and will contact them directly with the date of the mandatory head coaches meeting.

U16 DIVISION: Registration refunds are not given; therefore, if you anticipate trying out for a summer legion baseball team, do not sign-up with Junior Saltdogs League until after your Legion tryouts are done. U16 registration will have a second registration period in April which will stay open until later in May (check the U16 page of the website for additional details and the final registration deadline). Games for the U16 division will start in mid-June and run through July. A mandatory head coach meeting will be held in early June. The U16 commissioners will contact U16 head coaches when they are finalized with the meeting details.

GAME SCHEDULES: U6-U14 games will most likely begin in early to mid-May which may cause conflicts with year-end school activities, so please be advised and plan accordingly since games will not be rescheduled. Each year, the number of teams and available fields vary. Schedules are not finalized until late April and until that time, we cannot commit to certain days for any division. Possible game days are:

- Week day evenings (6pm and 7:30pm for U6; 6pm and 8pm for U8-U16)
- Saturday morning, afternoon and evening
- Sunday afternoon/evening. Sunday games will not begin before 1pm and will be scheduled as a last resort for U6-U14 divisions

RAINOUTS: The playing fields are checked by JSL, city park officials, and field owners before a determination for safety and playability is made. Game cancellations are forwarded via mobile text alert (see next section) and also posted on the phone rainout lines and "rainout info" page of our website by 5 pm. Please note that JSL does not own any fields so we must wait for representatives from each of the fields to contact us as to whether games can be played. Field and weather conditions may improve or deteriorate after the fields are checked and may be different in other areas of town. The rainout decisions are final, and teams should not play the game on their own.

- The first two rainouts will not be rescheduled; after that we will attempt to reschedule rainout games, **but no guarantees can be made.** Head coaches should notify their commissioner as soon as they have their 3rd rainout. All tournament games are an added bonus and cannot be rescheduled if rained out.

MOBILE TEXT ALERTS: We will use the same text alert service that we used in 2016 so if you are a returning player from 2016 and signed up for the text alerts at that time, your number is still registered. If you are a new player or have not registered your phone to receive the alerts, please go to the "rainout info" page of our website for the instructions.

FIELDS: Each year, we work closely with the City and other privately-owned organizations to secure playing fields. Many fields across Lincoln are used in order to complete the schedule.

NO SMOKING: Smoking is not allowed at any fields that we rent.

BAT INSPECTIONS: JSL uses the Little League National guidelines (for U8-U14) and the NSAA high school guidelines (for U16) for allowable bats during games. It is possible that newer composite-barreled bats have been manufactured under these new guidelines. Any older composite bats that do not meet these standards cannot be used. Consult these organizations' websites to see if your bat is approved. If you have additional bat questions, please contact the JSL Vice President at jslvicepresident@jrsaltdogs.com. If your bat was inspected and stickered by JSL in the past and the sticker is still on the bat (white sticker for U8-U14, green sticker for U16), it is not necessary to have it inspected again. If you are a U8-U16 player and are new to JSL or have a new bat, a JSL rep must inspect it and, if approved, sticker it. Umpires (and coaches in the case of U8) will look for this sticker at all games and will not allow a non-stickered bat to be used in games. Bat inspections will be done at all of the February in-person registration dates. A couple dates will also be scheduled for these in early May (dates/locations will be posted in late April on the home page of our website when they are finalized).

SPONSORSHIPS: Team sponsorships are a great way of supporting youth baseball in Lincoln. Businesses can choose to sponsor a specific team, player, or coach. Team sponsors are given prominent recognition with the name and/or logo of your company or organization on the shirts of the team players as well as on our website and in the *Lincoln Journal Star* in August. For more information, see the "Sponsors" page on our website at www.jrsaltdogs.com. If you know of a business that might be interested, please let them know about this opportunity or contact a JSL board member at jslsponsors@jrsaltdogs.com.

Our Junior Saltdogs "Know Your Role" philosophy: Players will play, coaches will coach, umpires will umpire, and parents will parent.

Play ball . . .

2017 Junior Saltdogs League Board of Directors
www.jrsaltdogs.com

**Concussion information for coaches, parents and players
is posted on the "Concussions" page of our website.**