

9U, 10U, and 11U Colts 2023-2024

Colts travel baseball is committed to providing young athletes aged 9-11 with a transformative travel baseball experience that extends beyond the game itself. We prioritize player development in skill, leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, and community service, aiming to shape well-rounded individuals who excel on and off the field and serve as role models within the greater Great Falls Virginia community, and surrounding area.

Colts Experience

GF Colts is a partnership between the parents, players, coaches, and the Great Falls Little League community. The Colts organization is founded with Great Falls Little League players and includes neighboring Little League players. This Colts' mission is to promote the development of players ranging from 8-11 years old by providing a challenging, but supportive environment that focuses on all of baseball and civic responsibilities within the greater Northern VA region. Our goal is to not only develop outstanding baseball players, but quality young people as well.

The Colts prioritize Little League involvement during the Spring season, with all players required to participate in Little League. However, in the Fall, Colts players are not obligated to play Little League if they are engaged in different sport (beyond Colts baseball).

When joining the Colts Blue or Red team, players can expect a higher level of intensity, requiring them to bring their best effort and attitude to every practice, scrimmage, and game. While the Colts support multiple sport athletes and understand schedule conflicts, we expect Colts activities to take precedence during the Fall season.

Each Colts team actively seeks out and participates in volunteer activities throughout the year. As parents, you have provided your player with an extraordinary lifestyle through hard work and commitment. As Colts, our players express their gratitude by giving back to the community.

Player Development & Skill:

Our focus lies in the holistic development of each player. Through high-quality coaching, personalized training, and competitive opportunities, we unlock their full potential on the field while instilling valuable life skills. We equip our athletes with the necessary tools, knowledge, and discipline to succeed in baseball and beyond.

Leadership:

Colts emphasizes cultivating leadership qualities in our players both on and off the field. By providing team leadership roles, we foster communication skills, decision-making abilities, and a strong work ethic. Our athletes become inspiring leaders who motivate others, both within our team and in their future endeavors.

Sportsmanship:

We prioritize the power of sportsmanship, with fair and positive behavior, as the foundation for success. Our players uphold the highest standards of integrity, respect, and fair play. We create an atmosphere where healthy competition is valued; and expect our athletes to demonstrate graciousness in victory and resilience in defeat.

Teamwork:

We firmly believe in the value of teamwork. Our program instills in our players the importance of collaboration, cooperation, and unity. Through shared goals and collective effort, our athletes learn to work together as a cohesive unit. They understand that by supporting and relying on one another, they can achieve far more than by individual efforts alone. Teamwork becomes an integral part of their growth as athletes and as individuals.

Community Service:

GF Colts recognizes the importance of giving back to the Great Falls community, and surrounding area. We actively encourage our players to engage in meaningful community service initiatives, such as volunteer work, fundraising efforts, and outreach programs. Through these activities, our athletes develop a strong sense of social responsibility and empathy, embodying a lifelong commitment to making a positive impact off the field. As age appropriate, Colts players

are encouraged to support Little League by participating in events, working concessions, umpiring, or helping with younger teams.

Coaching Plan

The Colts envision a paid professional coach for each team who will be supplemented by a parent manager and coaches. Nate Loman, Colts Technical Director, will oversee all coaching and player development. Nate will hold regular meetings/calls with all coaches to discuss approaches to practices and game strategy to ensure quality control of the entire staff. The entire coaching staff is committed to being prepared for each Colts event and make the most of our time together.

Baseball Staff

- Technical Director: Nate Loman
- General Manager: Todd Walter
 - o 11u Blue Manager: Todd Walter
 - 11u Professional: Nate Loman
 - 11U Parent Coach: Matt Cerritelli
 - o 11U Red Manager: Vasili Tzeremes
 - 11u Professional: Nate Loman
 - 11U Coach Red team: tbd
 - o 10u Manager: Leo Anez
 - 10u Professional: Nate Loman
 - 10u Parent Coach: tbd
 - o 9u Manager: Brian Lockhead
 - 9u Professional: tbd
 - 9u Parent Coach: tbd

Other team positions:

- o Assistant Coach: (Parent Volunteer)
- o Tournament Coordinator: (Parent Volunteer)
- o Team Administrator and Communications: (Parent Volunteer)
- o Team Volunteer Coordinator: (Parent Volunteer)
- o Team Fundraising: (Parent Volunteer)

Colts Red

The Colts Red Team offers aspiring players a supportive environment focused on fundamental techniques. This team strengthens the competitive edge of the Colts organization by investing in player development. From time to time, exceptional players may be called up to higher-level teams, motivating continuous improvement. The addition of this team solidifies the Colts' commitment to excellence and creates a pathway for players to thrive at higher levels of play.

Age Determination

This year, we will have teams at 9-11u levels. Your players travel baseball age is determined by their age as of April 30 of the current year. For example, April 30, 20xx = 11u and May 1, 20xx = 10u.

2023/24 General Schedule

Summer and Winter training will facilitate a competitive Fall, and Spring (when Little League is priority).

10U & 11U

Summer 2023: Mid-July & August

- 3-week hitting clinic:
 - o July 11th
 - o July 18th
 - o July 25th

- 3-week pitching/throwing clinic:
 - Thursdays: 6-7pm
 - o July 13th
 - o July 20th
 - o July 27th
- 3-day Camp:
 - Monday Aug 14th – Wednesday Aug 16th

Fall 2023: September – Early-November

- Practice once or twice a week
- NVTBL Double Header (DH) – Most Sundays
Colts Red – Scrimmages
- Tournaments
 - o Expect 2-3 Tournaments (including Halloween wknd)
 - o 1-2 Local

Winter Training 2023/24

- 8 Week Hitting Program (optional- tbd)
- 4 Week Pitching/Catching/Fielding Program

Spring 2024 : March-July

- Practice once a week starting early March
- NVTBL or scrimmages 4-6 weekends
- Tournaments
 - o Expect 2 – 1 before Little League season and 1 Memorial Day Weekend
- Nothing scheduled Mother’s Day Weekend!

9u

Summer 2023: Mid-July & August

- Weekly practices at Nike

Fall 2023: September – Early-November

- Practice once per week
- Sunday scrimmages with local 9U teams
- Tournaments
 - o Expect 1-2 local tournaments.

Winter Training 2023/24

- 8 Week Hitting Program -
- 4 Week Pitching/Catching/Fielding Program

Spring 2024 : March-July

- Practice once a week starting early March.
- 4-6 Scrimmages
- Tournaments
 - o Expect 2-3 – 1 before Little League season and 1 Memorial Day Weekend.

Financial Commitment: To facilitate the smooth operation of the team, we will collect membership dues from all players. Colts teams aim to provide transparency regarding financial commitments and works diligently to minimize costs without compromising the quality of the program. We expect families to fulfill their financial obligations promptly and communicate any concerns or difficulties they may encounter. These dues will cover various expenses, such as tournament fees, equipment, uniforms, professional coaching staff salaries, and travel expenses.

Membership Dues for 2023 (Spring, Summer and Fall) estimated at **\$1,900-2,100**

To support families with multiple players in Colts teams, we offer the option to request a multi-player credit of potentially 10-20%. This credit acknowledges the commitment and financial investment required for families with multiple athletes in our program and is offset by additional team fundraising. We understand the importance of making participation feasible and strive to accommodate families by providing this financial consideration.

Fundraising Opt-Out Option: We recognize that each player's fundraising appetite and availability may differ. Therefore, we offer a fundraising opt-out option for those who are unable, or prefer not, to participate actively in our fundraising activities. For a fee of *\$1,000 per player*, individuals can choose to opt-out of fundraising efforts. This option allows families to contribute to the team's financial needs without the ongoing personal involvement in fundraising activities.

Fundraising Activities: To generate the remaining funding for our annual team budgets, we will organize various fundraising activities throughout the season. These activities may include but are not limited to:

1. *Sponsorship:* We will actively seek sponsorships from local businesses and individuals who believe in the development of young athletes. Sponsors will have the opportunity to advertise their support on our team's jerseys, or website, and social media platforms.
2. *Community Outreach/Dine Outs:* We will actively engage with the local community by participating in projects or hosting fundraising events to raise funds and create additional resources.
3. *Crowdfunding:* Players will participate in online crowdfunding campaigns where families, friends, and supporters can make direct donations to our team, or participate in pools & fundraising. This platform will make it easy for individuals to contribute and share our fundraising efforts with a broader online audience.
4. *Corporate Grants:* We will support corporate volunteering requests by validating support hours or verifying matching donation programs.

Uniform

The Blue team will provide players with uniform items, including 2 jerseys and 1 practice jersey.

The Red team will be provided a jersey and hat.

If a player loses a team issued uniform item, they are responsible for replacing it at their expense.

Contact

Website: www.gfcolts.com

Email:

League Play

NVTBL - <https://www.nvtblbaseball.org/>

Time Commitment: We understand that participation in Colts Ltd requires a significant time commitment. Players are expected to attend all practices, games, and tournaments unless there are extenuating circumstances. Regular and punctual attendance is crucial to team cohesion and player development. We ask families to prioritize Colts activities and ensure that players arrive prepared and on time for all team events. Parents should provide proactive & timely updates of player plans and updates through *Gamechanger* to aid with Team Manager plans.

Safety: The safety and well-being of our Colts players and their families are of utmost importance to us. Colts maintain a strong focus on safety protocols and guidelines to ensure a secure and enjoyable environment for everyone involved including our team, coaches, fans, umpires, and competitors.

Safe Handling of Bats: To ensure the safety of everyone present, it is essential that bats are handled responsibly. Colts players are instructed and expected to only swing bats when engaged in game activities or during practice under the supervision of a coach. Swinging bats in areas other than designated practice or game areas poses

unnecessary risks to individuals nearby. We kindly ask all Colts players and families to adhere to this guideline to prevent accidents and maintain a safe environment.

Communication regarding Contagious Illness: In order to maintain a healthy team environment, we request that parents promptly notify the coach if their child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness or any other condition that could potentially impact the well-being or availability of the player. Timely communication allows us to take necessary precautions, ensure the safety of all players, and provide appropriate support to the affected individual.

Supporting Injured Players: We instill a culture of sportsmanship and compassion within the Colts organization. It is a fundamental expectation that all Colts players and coaches prioritize the well-being of our team, coaches, fans, umpires, and competitors. As part of this commitment, if a player from the opposing team is hurt during a game and needs a time out or conversation with an adult, Colts players will kneel on the field as a sign of respect and concern. This display of sportsmanship demonstrates our dedication to fostering a safe and supportive playing environment for all participants.

By prioritizing safety, sportsmanship, and effective communication, we create a secure and inclusive environment for all Colts players and their families. We encourage open dialogue between coaches, players, and parents to address any safety concerns or issues promptly. Together, we work towards maintaining the highest standards of safety, promoting a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved in the Colts organization.

Image Usage: Players and fans may be included in various pictures used in casual Colts communication. These pictures play a fun and wonderful role in our efforts at showcasing the Colts experiences, spirit, and achievements of our teams. While players may opt out of being identified by name, general participation in pictures are a part of being on our team. We deeply respect the privacy preferences of our players and their families and appreciate everyone's participation.

Player Agreements: To reinforce the importance of commitment, all players are required to sign a contract at the beginning of each season. This contract serves as a mutual agreement between the player, their family, and the Colts organization. By signing the contract, players commit to working hard, giving their best effort, and adhering to the values and expectations set forth by the team. The contract acts as a reminder of their responsibility and serves as a source of motivation to strive for excellence both on and off the field.

We understand that true commitment requires effort and sacrifice, but it is through this dedication that players can reach their full potential. We greatly value the commitment shown by players and their families, as it creates a culture of accountability and fosters a strong sense of team unity and achievement.

By embracing these commitments required by Colts, players and their families become integral members of our baseball community, working together towards shared goals and fostering an environment that promotes growth, camaraderie, and success.

Let's Go Colts!