

ISTROUMASPORTS

BASEBALL + SOFTBALL 2026

WELCOME TO ISTROUMA BAPTIST CHURCH

- We glorify God by making disciples of all nations. Visit istrouma.org for more information.
- You're invited to join us for small groups at 9:00 and worship service at 10:30 each Sunday.

WELCOME TO ISTOUMA SPORTS

- We are a gospel-centered sports ministry that intentionally creates opportunities to glorify God, make disciples, and redeem sports back to God.
- You're invited to join the Baseball + Softball Season Celebration on Sunday, April 26, at 9:30. We will enjoy breakfast together, take family photos, and then attend the worship service.

DOING SPORTS A DIFFERENT WAY

- This sports ministry is a bridge that connects the community together, but most of all to the gospel.
- This sports ministry is a laboratory that reveals our need for a perfect, loving Savior. Sports can help us understand just how broken and sinful we are. God can use sports to redeem us back to Him.
- God cares about sports. He cares about the events on these fields just as much as the church because He loves us and created us. God gave us talents and abilities, like playing baseball or softball.
- Because God gave us the gift of sports, we should play/coach/watch as an act of worship.
- We define competition as striving together for God's glory rather than against others for our own recognition. Competitors are not the bad guys; they play their best to bring out the best in your team, so that players improve.
- We strive to provide developmental leagues balanced with fun, healthy competition. Our leagues include divisions for kids 4-17 years old (varies per sport). You may notice some of our rules are different because we want players to develop skills and experience success at all ages.
- Teams are intended to be created fairly and competitively based on practice conflicts, friend requests, experience, and skill grades from The Combine.
- Players will receive equal playing time during each game. Players are encouraged to try all positions.
- Coaches are volunteers, mostly parents, who go through a vetting process.
- Coaches will integrate the gospel by teaching biblical principals through sports occurrences. Coaches in 11U, 13U, and 14U will present the gospel during practice one week.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Consider volunteering to be a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Bench Coach. All of our teams need at least 4 parent coaches, ideally 5. You don't need baseball/softball or coaching experience.
- If coaching isn't your thing, help us sell concessions on a practice night or game day.
- You can volunteer for any role at www.istroumasports.org/volunteer.
- Be present for practices, games, and postgame gatherings. RSVP weekly to your coach.
- Keep score or bring snacks for your team.
- Write fan mail (available at the greeting table on game days) to encourage your players and coaches.
- Teach your child the memory verse and discuss the weekly theme/devotion.
- Fans are not allowed to yell at an official, coach their child from the bleachers, or walk on the field.
- Cheer on your children and enjoy the game.

STAY INFORMED

- Read emails (acallender@istrouma.org) and visit our website (istroumasports.org/baseball) weekly.
- Follow us on social media @IstroumaSports.
- Weather updates will be displayed on the website and social media. Coaches will be notified. Parents will be emailed if we can get to a computer. No news is good news here. Always check before arriving.

CAMPUS POLICY

- No alcohol, smoking, profanity, or pets.
- Park in appropriate parking spots (not in grass). Parking lots next to the Student Building are reserved for the elderly, handicapped, and families with young children. Park in the Worship Center lot if your family is able to walk a little further. We recommend exiting our campus via Cedarcrest Ave.
- Sit in designated spectator seating, behind the outfield fence at or near your team's bleachers. Parents are not allowed inside the outfield fence unless they are coaching.
- Respect our officials; they are part of this ministry too. Don't yell at or complain about these folks giving up Saturday mornings to help your children.
- Help us maintain a culture of positivity, encouragement, and Christlikeness. Focus on the gifts and opportunities that God has given you this season.

PRACTICES/GAMES

- 5U Boys and 7U Girls will practice on Saturday and will start playing games on March 14.
- All older teams will practice on Monday or Tuesday, starting at 5:30-7:00 pm.
- Rained out practices and games may be rescheduled on Thursday or Friday.
- Saturday games will start at 9:00-12:30 and may vary each week.

EQUIPMENT

- We provide uniforms, which include jerseys, belts, and hats for boys or visors for girls.
- We provide bats, helmets, catcher's gear, and baseballs/softballs.
- Players need to provide their own neutral gray pants, gloves, and water bottles.
- Tennis shoes are acceptable through 9u boys and 10u girls.
- Rubber cleats (metal spikes not allowed) are recommended for older players.

COMING UP

- The timeline contains all dates and events for this season
- February 12 team assignments emailed
- February 18 practice schedule emailed
- February 28 first practice
- March 4 game schedule emailed
- March 9/10 teams receive uniforms
- March 14 first game

STAFF

- Landon Collins coach chaplain
- Amelia Morgan event staff
- Henry Jimenez event staff
- Jacob Keith event staff
- Josh Mealy event staff
- Sara Authement event staff

