



2024 Fort Collins Foxes Player Handbook

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WELCOME TO YOUR SUMMER HOME

Welcome to the Fort Collins Foxes! Fort Collins is a beautiful city with mountains, rivers, and lakes all around making it a destination city. FOCO, as the locals call it, has a population of nearly 170,000 and it's the home of Colorado State University. With Fort Collins being an "outdoors" community, we urge you to get out and explore your summer home when you arrive – it's a beautiful place to live.

The Fort Collins Foxes have a rich history as they started in 2005. Over the past several years, they have been members of the very competitive Rocky Mountain Baseball League (RMBL). In 2023, the RMBL sent three teams to the NBC World Series in Wichita. In 2024, the league will be celebrating its 25th season. The Foxes are now under new ownership where we have big plans to build one of the marquee summer college teams in the country.

We are very happy to have you join us this summer and our goal is to help you further your baseball career by providing you the opportunity to play with and against high-level talent. We also hope we can expand your social and life experience while you're with us this summer. We ask that you join us in getting out in the community, meeting the people of the area and being good citizens. Our culture at the Foxes is that of family – you're now part of that family.

Speaking of families, during the summer you'll be staying with a host family. We have carefully chosen host families and done our best to match your needs with theirs. Please remember, these families are opening their homes and their families to complete strangers through the goodness of their hearts. Treat them and their homes with respect, obey their rules as you would the rules of your own parents. Please let us know if you have any issues with your host family and we will take care of that for you. Treat your host family as you would your own and you may find that you've made some life-long friends along the way. You have a lot to live up to when you join the Foxes and we hold you to a very high standard when it comes to on and off-field professionalism and fan-friendly attitude.

FORT COLLINS FOXES PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES

Show Respect

If you show respect for the game, for the uniform you wear and for the fans, you'll meet the Foxes' professional guidelines. A general rule we emphasize is: **IF YOU CAN'T DO IT AT YOUR SCHOOL or HOME, YOU CAN'T DO IT HERE.** Respect the game, your teammates, the organization and the fans.

Players and Coaches Must Be In Uniform

When the ballpark gates open (usually one hour before game time) all players and coaches are to be in full, matching uniforms. No players or coaches are allowed on the field and/or in the dugout or bullpen without being in full uniform. No exceptions. That means hats on, too. If it's cold and jackets and/or windbreakers are available, they may be worn in the dugout or sitting in the bullpen, but not on the field. Coaches may wear a jacket or windbreaker to go to the mound. In extremely cold weather, base coaches may wear matching jackets or windbreakers featuring the team logo. Only one team is to wear a dark jersey. The home team makes the determination. If the home team is wearing white, the visiting team must wear gray or dark. If the home team is wearing dark, the visiting team must wear gray. It is up to the visiting team to check with the home team and to have the proper tops. Trainers must wear appropriate shirts or jackets featuring the team logo.

Guests

Non-uniformed personnel (primarily guests and family) must be approved by management to be in the dugouts or on the field and are to be out of the dugouts and off the field ten minutes prior to game time. Media and participants in pre-game on-field events are an exception. This is not high school or travel ball, families are not to be on the field on game days unless invited by the staff.

Stay in the dugout or bullpen

If a player isn't at bat, on deck, on the bases, playing defense, warming up in the bullpen or warming up a pitcher in the bullpen, that player must be inside the dugout and/or seated on a bench or chair in the bullpen. All equipment must be stored inside the dugout and/or underneath a bench or chairs in the bullpen.

Decorum

Proper behavior on, and off, the field is paramount and there will be low tolerance for those that show poorer behavior. Show enthusiasm but do it in a professional manner. Bench jockeying and cheerleading are part of being enthusiastic, but don't do it to the point that it becomes the show and draws the attention of observers. **Four letter words are not part of affordable family entertainment.** Umpires will be instructed to eject players and coaches using profanity.

Using Toilets and Concession Stands

At our ballpark, players and coaches must share toilet facilities with fans. The goal is to use these facilities prior to the gates opening and then as little as possible. Players and coaches may not use the ballpark concession stand(s) once the stadium gates are open to fans.

Tobacco

The use of tobacco by players or coaches is prohibited by the rules of NCAA baseball, which we use at the Foxes. Umpires will be showing zero tolerance.

Interaction with Fans

Whenever you can before and after games, talk with fans and sign autographs. You WILL be asked to be very interactive with our fans, and we appreciate your cooperation in building a great atmosphere. We ask that you also take initiative – be creative, have fun with the fans. They paid money to watch us play, let's appreciate them in every way we can while they are joining us.

Appearances

As members of the Foxes, we ask that you assist with promotional appearances that are set up at the team's discretion. Appearances will be posted for volunteers first, and if there are no volunteers, we will designate players for the appearance.

Corporate partners

We will supply you with a list of our corporate partners – restaurants, workout facilities, doctors, dentists, auto repair locations, etc. We ask that you visit these partners when you need a service they supply. Please make sure to mention that you're a member of the Pioneers!

Autographs

It is very important to the success of our operation that you are available to our fans and guests for autographs and conversation. You must be in complete uniform when on the field or in the stadium. Fans will be seeking autographs from pre-game until the lights are turned off for the night. **We allow fans to join us on the field following EVERY Foxes game.**

Between Inning Promotions

Between innings of each game, we operate various on-field promotions. Please be aware of these activities as you warm up on the field and avoid throwing or running into participants. You will occasionally be asked to participate in some of these promotions. We will NEVER ask you to participate in a promotion that might risk injury to you.

Daily Promotions

During each game your team will run a number of promotions which involve the fans, the staff, and at times, players. A staff member will ask the Head Coach for players to participate in the

promotions when appropriate (usually ceremonial first pitches). Please remember our fan-friendly environment.

Field and Playing Condition Concerns

City Park field is maintained by the City of Fort Collins but please respect the field, dugouts and facilities as this is our home during the summer. We share the ballpark with other groups over the summer so please leave it in better condition than when you arrived.

First Pitch

Before the starting lineup is introduced, there will usually be at least one ceremonial first pitch, often multiple pitches. Typically, it is a representative of one of your team's sponsors or a special guest. A staff member will ask the Head Coach for one player to catch the first pitch and present the first pitch ball to the "pitcher."

Merchandise

All players receive a 25% discount on Foxes merchandise for themselves and immediate family members. We ask that you please do not abuse this rule.

Pass List

Each player will receive two (2) complimentary tickets for each game via a pass list. If you require more, you may borrow from your teammates. Everyone needs a ticket to enter the ballpark. Our baseball operations interns will supply you with a blank list each day in the dugout and will pick it up before the gates open, usually one hour before game time. Please have your guest's names on that list by the time the list is picked up. Remember to do this when you arrive at the park and we'll take care of the rest.

PLAYER UNIFORMS

Player Bats

Players have their preference when it comes to bats (weight, length, brand, etc.) so we ask that you bring your own supply of wood bats. **Composite bats are permitted as long as they are on the NCAA approved list.**

Player Uniforms

You are responsible for each uniform item received. If your uniform needs to be patched or adjusted, please talk to us. Please do not take additional uniform items on your own. Go through your coaches and they will coordinate all equipment needs. If uniform items are lost or stolen, it is your responsibility to replace them.

Each player is required to provide a \$400 deposit check before receiving a uniform. The check will be put in a safe and returned upon your return of the uniform. We will not cash checks unless the uniform is not returned. You can bring your deposit check when you arrive in town – it must be received before you are issued any uniform items.

PROPERTY OF THE PLAYER: The Foxes will provide the following items, which do not need to be returned, but will not be replaced:

- Socks (2)
- Caps (2)
- BP Jersey (1)
- BP Shorts (1)

PROPERTY OF THE FOXES: Players will be issued the following items. These items that **MUST BE RETURNED** to the coaching staff prior to your departure. Any items not returned will result in cashing your deposit check to replace missing item.

- Foxes Jersey's (2)
- Custom Jersey's (3)
- Pullover Jacket (1)
- Uniform Pants (2)
- Belt (1)
- Misc Equipment (1) (anything else not listed in the Property of the Player section above).

Welcome to the Fort Collins Foxes!