



Highland Youth Sports Advisory Commission
YOUTH SPORTS FAQ'S/POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PROGRAM QUESTIONS

What is the age range of players?

Age divisions vary by sport, season and location. Some sports allow players to participate as early as 4-years-old or as late as 16-years-old. Players are not allowed to play up a division or move down in a younger division.

What if my child has never played sports before?

The Youth Sports program in Highland is designed with every skill level in mind. From the beginner to the advanced athlete, everyone gets equal playing time. All teams are formed to ensure a balanced team on every level.

My child is special needs. Can he/she play?

Yes. HYSAC ensures that special needs participants have a positive sporting experience. Please discuss your specific needs with the Sports Coordinator ensure the best placement.

REGISTRATION

What does the registration fee cover?

All registration fees pay for the operation of the league. We strive to keep registration fees as low as possible in efforts to continually offer a wide variety of opportunities to the youth in Highland.

Is there a discount for multiple children?

Yes, please see each individual sport for multiple child discount rates.

How do I register?

All sports registrations must be done in person at the Korte Recreation Center. Only checks and cash are accepted.

Can I cancel my registration and get a refund?

Full refunds will ONLY be granted prior to the coaches meeting and team selections. Refunds due to injury will be granted with a doctors note. Please contact the Korte Recreation Center for additional refund information.

COACHING

Who will be coaching my child's team?

We believe in family involvement that require parents to participate in the operation of their child's team by volunteering to coach or assist with practices or other operational duties. We ask that all parents consider volunteering for the role of coach! You do not have to have a wealth of knowledge about the sport. We just ask that you are energetic, patient and create a fun inviting learning experience for all players.

How do I volunteer to be a Coach?

Volunteer coaches can sign up on your league registration forms or by contacting the Korte Recreation Center at 618-651-1386. Coaches will be contacted by the league coordinator with Coaches meeting dates and times.

Does Highland Parks and Recreation provide any coaching materials?

Yes. We want you to have a positive coaching experience. Coach packets will be distributed at the Coaches meeting. Please contact the league administrator for dates and locations for this event.

What are the benefits of coaching?

Coaching is key to developing character in children and about helping players achieve personal goals as well as team goals. Every coach is a role model. Your team will be more apt to achieve their goals and become great athletes when given the proper direction.

We like to reward all Head coaches by refunding their child registration fee at the end of the season. Coaches refund checks will be mailed to the address on the registration form.

TEAMS

How are teams selected?

First and foremost, all of the athletic programs sponsored through the HYSAC are intended to encourage fair play, good sportsmanship and an opportunity to allow your child to enhance their sports skills through play. All teams rosters will be formulated prior to coaches meetings. There will be NO drafting of teams.

What if we requested to be placed on a certain team or with a friend?

Please understand that our first priority and mission is to formulate teams as equal in talent as possible. If we were to take into consideration every request it would discredit this process. Although we respect that there may be carpooling needs please understand that selecting rosters is a lengthy process. Special requests are NOT encouraged and are NOT GUARANTEED. Thank you for understanding.

What is the point of the Evaluation? (Basketball and Baseball/Softball)

The purpose of evaluations is to keep the talent pool as even as possible when **formulating** teams to promote the real purpose of youth athletics.

What happens at the Evaluation?

Players will run through multiple stations assessing skills and sports competency. These evaluations will only take up to 30 minutes on average and then you are free to leave. Parents please stick around during the evaluation, as it will be a quick process. At no time will a player's evaluation score be shared with players or parents. **These** data collected will only be used to assist in the process of creating fair and equal teams.

What if I can't make it to either evaluation or opt not to attend?

Your player will be randomly drafted to a team. Ideally, each team will also have a blend of younger and older players when applicable.

When can I find out what team my player is on?

Teams will be grouped and assigned to coaches. Coaches **Meetings** will be held shortly after the registration deadline. Coaches will receive their rosters and select practice times at these meetings. Please be patient and check your email listed on your registration form as coaches begin communicating to players. If you have not heard from a coach by one week after the coaches meeting you may contact the Korte Recreation Center at 618-651-1386 to find out what team your player is on. If you have signed up to be a coach you will be notified if you were selected.

PRACTICES AND GAMES

When do practices start?

Coaches will notify parents of practice times and locations.

When will game schedules be released?

Schedules will be developed as early as possible. It is important to note that schedules are **contingent** upon the **numbers** of players registered and **the** number of teams. **The** schedules will be posted online at www.highlandil.gov when **it is** available.

How long is each season?

Highland Parks and Recreation operates four seasons a year: Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. Season **length** can vary in length, but **is** generally 8 weeks long. Check with individual sports **tab** for season dates.

When are the games played?

Game times and days may vary based on availability of fields and gymnasiums.

Where will the games be held?

All indoor sports will take place in Highland at the Weinheimer Community Center or Korte Recreation Center. Locations can also be found on game schedules. Sports including Outdoor Soccer and Baseball/Softball may require traveling based on the age division.

What should I bring to the game?

Parents are encouraged to always bring bottled water for use during the game and snacks for after the game. If your game is held outdoors, sunblock protection is suggested. Location accommodations vary, it is recommended that you bring a chair as there may be very limited or no seating.

How do I find out if a game is cancelled due to inclement weather?

Game cancellations will be announced on the Highland Parks and Recreation Weather Hotline at 618-654-7042. Game updates can also be found on the Highland Parks and Recreation Facebook. Please be sure to like us on Facebook.

It is not the intention of the Parks and Recreation Department to demand or expect all youth to attend each game or activity. Therefore, in the event of inclement weather attendance is NOT mandatory. Games may be played on days when the Highland School District has cancelled classes. Please make sure to check the weather hotline for updated game information.

Will there be a makeup game if a game is cancelled due to the weather?

We will do our best to make up any cancelled games if field and gym space is allows.

EQUIPMENT

Do I need to purchase any equipment?

The goal of the HYSAC commission is to provide athlete with a sports experience at a low cost. Team uniforms are included in registration fees. HYSAC often has equipment donated so please contact the league coordinator if there is an equipment need that we may assist with. All game and practice equipment will be provided to the coaches.

The following equipment MAY need to be purchased based on sport but is NOT required:

- OUTDOOR SPORTS: Appropriate footwear includes rubber cleats or sneakers.
- INDOOR SPORTS: Gym shoes must be worn at all times.
- BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/T-BALL: Each player is required to have a glove. Protective cups are recommended in baseball.
- BASKETBALL: Mouth guards are recommended but not required.
- SOCCER: Each player is required to wear shin guards at all times during the game.
- VOLLEYBALL: Knee pads are recommended.

PROGRAM CONTACT NUMBERS

If I have additional questions who can I contact?

Korte Recreation Center- 618-654-6071

Weinheimer Community Center- 618-651-1386