



League Handbook

Pleasant Hill, MO

Baseball/Softball Information

The mission of Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation Youth Sports, is to provide all boys and girls an experience that builds confidence, develops character and helps them acquire skills to pursue their interests. Players will be encouraged to have fun and work with others to help everyone reach their potential.

What is expected from Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation:

- We will schedule all practices and games.
- We will hire and maintain officials for each sport
- We will provide updated equipment not furnished by participant
- We will send out weekly schedule communications
- We will update the rainout line daily by 4:00 PM with any cancellations
- We will update the standing of all divisions weekly

Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation programs are designed to provide every player with an equal opportunity by following these simple rules

Fair Play	Rules allow for equal treatment of all players involved.
All in	All players have that same right to play and should get equal playing time.
Safety	We provide all the equipment needed to keep the game safe.
Competition	Keep it positive as players learn how to win and how to lose.
Enjoyment	The emphasis on the sport is for FUN for all players.
Support	Positive support for all players is needed for their success.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact
Rebecca Fisher CYSA
Recreation Coordinator
City of Pleasant Hill
203 Paul Street
Pleasant Hill MO 64080
rfisher@pleasanthill.com
Phone 816-540-7814
Cell 816-719-4679

There are two site supervisors that you can contact for information
Jo Tiltion and Austin Brown

Important Dates

- 8/11/22 - Coaches Meeting
 - Coaches will be made aware of all/any rule changes, and be able to ask questions of the Parks Department
- 8/15 - Practices start
- 8/18 - South Metro Scheduling Meeting
 - During this meeting representatives from the South Metro Cities will meet and put together the season's game schedule
- 8/25 - Game schedule released by end of day
- 9/5 - Uniform Pickup
 - Barring any supply chain issues, we expect to receive our order for all those enrolled on time this week.
 - *uniforms will not feature names or specialized numbers to ensure timely delivery.
- 9/12 - Games Begin

Communications and Cancellations

Communications including cancellations from the City will be distributed in three primary ways:

1. Enrollees will receive email notifications from TeamSideline. This is our league management software. Parents can find schedules, standings and other information at their team site. Your email must be registered with the City during enrollment, to ensure delivery of important notices and information. All information can be found at <https://pleasanthillrecsports.org/>
2. Coaches will be asked to disseminate information via a team text chain, as they receive it from the recreation coordinator.
3. Announcements of game decisions can be found at:
 - a. PHPR's Cancellation Hotline – (913) 791-2600
 - b. Harrisonville Cancellation Hotline - (816) 380-8980 EXT 9
 - c. Belton Cancellation Hotline - (816) 892-0458
 - d. Home page of TeamSideline
 - e. Coaches will be provided information
4. Games will be canceled if the threat of inclement weather is imminent, has caused field conditions that are no longer safe to play on, could cause irreparable damage to the surfaces, or could impede the play of the game beyond the scope of general weather guidelines.
5. We will try to make game determinations by 4:00PM

Locations and Game Play

The City of Pleasant Hill has many different locations where games can be played. In an effort to make things more organized we have separated the fields per age division. We will be playing a seven game season plus an end of season tournament. We will be playing in the South Metro League with Harrisonville, Raymore, and Belton.

The Rules for each age Division will be posted at the field where games will be played and available online, If there is any rule you need more information on please email or call Rebecca Fisher.

Before the season starts each team will have two practices each week. After games start teams will play two games per week and any additional practices or use of the pitching tunnels will need to be scheduled with Rebecca.

8U games will generally be played at Girls North and Girls South. These are the two small fields that are located on One Rooster Way near the High School.

1301 Myrtle
Pleasant Hill MO
64040

10U Games will generally be played at Doug E. Yuille Baseball Field located at the corner of MO-58 and 7 Highway.

1200 MO-58
Pleasant Hill MO
64040

12U and 14U Games will generally be played at The Recreation Complex located on Broadway near the High School.

1542 E Broadway
Pleasant Hill MO
64040

If you notice any problems with the fields in Pleasant Hill Please contact Rebecca Fisher or Jack Sparks.

In the other cities here are the address of where their fields are located:

Harrisonville

North Park
1500 S Jefferson
Harrisonville MO 64701

Belton

Markey Park
615 Markey Rd
Belton MO 64012

Raymore

Recreation Park
1101 S Madison St.
Raymore MO 64083

Team Sideline Team Site

- All team members will have access to a team site created by PHPR.
- There are two ways to access the team site: Parents will get an email to gain access or you can download the TeamSideline App from the Play Store or App Store.
- The TeamSideline app allows you to access your existing TeamSideline Team Site teams. For each team, you can manage your events, roster, and attendance. You can also view announcements, links, downloads, and send a team or staff Communication.
- A short training video for the app can be found at [Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation \(pleasanthillrecsports.org\)](https://pleasanthillrecsports.org) Under the main toolbar select Recreation Programs > Youth Sports> Youth Sports info.

Equipment

- All players will need to provide their own age appropriate glove to wear during games.
 - Any questions on glove specifics can be directed to Rebecca or Coaches
- Optional Items - batting gloves, bats, helmets, cleats and fielder's face mask for softball.
- Metal cleats will not be allowed on the Recreation Complex's North field.
- The league will provide five helmets to each team. If members of your team would like to supply their own, we require that all softball helmets have a face guard and chin strap.
- The league will also provide one set of catcher's equipment that includes a Catcher's Mask, Shin Guards, and a Chest Protector. We do not provide catchers gloves. If your catcher's equipment does not fit please let Rebecca know and we will get you what you need.

Expectations of anyone visiting our program locations

Below you will find our Code of Conduct please know we will have a zero tolerance for anyone breaking the rules listed.

Parents and Spectators

PARENTS CODE OF ETHICS

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- I will treat all players, coaches, fans and officials with respect.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth - not adults.
- I will do my best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect.

Coaches Code of Conduct

The Pleasant Hill Parks & Recreation Department is committed to providing a positive and enjoyable environment for all participants in youth sports programs. These programs are provided for the benefit of the children of the community, not the parents or coaches. When the environment is correct, youth sports can provide valuable lessons in teamwork, sportsmanship, responsibility, and self-esteem. To clarify expectations concerning the behavior of all coaches, the following code of conduct has been developed.

- *I will remember that children participate in sports to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.*
- *I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league and follow these guidelines even if I disagree.*
- *I will introduce myself to the opposing coach and official(s) before each game.*
- *I will be a positive role model and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators before, during, and after all games and practices. I will*

never engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct such as booing or taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.

- *I understand that my team can be held accountable for the actions of players, coaches, and fans associated with the team. Spectators should be encouraged to cheer for good plays by either team and discouraged from yelling at players and official(s) no matter the circumstances.*
- *I will teach my team to play by the rules and insist conflicts be resolved without resorting to hostility or violence.*
- *I will treat all coaches, players, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.*
- *I will emphasize that doing one's best, competing fairly, and trying hard are more important than winning, so that my players will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.*
- *I will never ridicule or yell at players or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.*
- *I will respect the officials and their authority during games. If there is a small issue, it can be discussed with the referee calmly and patiently. If there is a major complaint or if I think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, I will report this opinion to the Parks & Recreation Department staff or a league representative. (Reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively.)*
- *I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco; I will also refrain from their use at all sports events.*
- *I will thank the official(s) after the game and request my players do the same.*

Officials, especially young and inexperienced ones, are like your players in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable and occasional mistakes, and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, verbally abusing them, and/or inciting or even accepting your own players' improper behavior. They are volunteers like you and their efforts should be appreciated.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long-term development, and support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage or allow your players to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about results, and criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you are doing during practices and games – always demonstrate fair play and sportsmanship. If you follow the expectations described above and encourage others to do so, the participants will have an enjoyable time, which is the reason for the league. **Head coaches and assistant coaches MUST sign below in order to sit on the bench during games.** Those who do not follow the Coaches' Code of Conduct will be disciplined or removed. Each of the league representatives is committed to providing a positive and enriching atmosphere for all youth activities, please be a part of these efforts.

Pictures and Awards

Pictures will be taken on 9/19/2022 for all Softball teams and 9/20/2022 for all Baseball teams at the Community building. We have a new company taking pictures this year Legends Sports Photography will be making a schedule please show up at your scheduled time if you can not make it please let Rebecca know.

9/19/2022

6:00 PM ½ grade Team Speer
6:15 PM ½ grade Team Deringer
6:30 PM ¾ grade Team Harlan
6:45 PM ¾ grade Team Diederich
7:00 PM ¾ grade Team Rhodes
7:15 PM ⅝ grade Team Fisher
7:30 PM ⅝ grade Team Sanders
7:45 PM 7/9 grade Team Willig

9/20/2022

6:00 PM ½ grade Team McMullin
6:15 PM ½ grade Team Phillips
6:30 PM ¾ grade Team Hutchings
6:45 PM ¾ grade Team Mcconville
7:00 PM ⅝ grade Team McBride
7:15 PM ⅝ grade Team Skivers
7:30 PM 7/9 grade Team Denslow

Participation medals will be given to all players in 8 U and 10 U divisions.

There will be a placement award for the end of season tournament.

General Rules

- Rain-out lines are posted earlier in this handbook. It is the responsibility of the coaches and parents to contact the rain-out line for the community where the game is being played. Rain-out lines are typically updated at 4:00pm each day.
- Delays due to lighting, rain, or inclement weather will be called by the umpire and league officials.
 - Incomplete games called due to inclement weather, field conditions, time limits or park curfew by a league official or representative shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the league officials.
- No game will start 15 minutes after scheduled time unless the delay is caused by an umpire, field conflict or weather conditions. Any team not ready to start 15 minutes after scheduled time will forfeit the game.
- Official game time will start at the first warm-up pitch or when the umpire announces the game time. Games will be played to finish the inning unless doing so will disrupt time limitations of the park where the game is being played. If a game is called on time it will still be considered a full and complete game.
- Only managers, coaches, and team members can request timeout.
- Both teams involved in the game will clean out their receptive dugout and place all trash in provided trash receptacles at the conclusion of their scheduled game.
- One out constitutes 1/3 of an inning.
- Any ball hit bouncing over, going through, around or going under the fence in fair territory is a ground rule double.
- Whenever a tag play is evident, runners must slide OR seek to avoid contact with the fielder. Malicious contact shall suspend all obstruction penalties. Malicious contact by the runner and obstruction by a fielder are both judgment calls to be made by the umpires.
- No player can be added to a team roster by a coach after teams are set. League officials must authorize the addition of any player to a team and they will notify all communities involved in share-play games.
- In all divisions, the batting order will consist of all players eligible for game play at the start of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted at the end of the batting order. All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the order.
- Any player not filling their spot in the batting order will constitute an out, unless the player has been permanently removed from the game due to injury or they left the field. If you have a player leave the field before the end of the game you must inform the umpire and Opposing coach.
- Pitchers will receive no less than 3 warm up pitches between innings for returning pitchers and 5 warm up pitches for new pitchers. More warm up pitches may be allowed at the umpire's discretion.

- A team may start and finish the game with 7 players.
- Teams who know that they will not be able to field 7 players to start a game may borrow players from other teams in the division, or in the immediate younger division. League officials, and the opposing coach must approve the borrowed players prior to the start of the game. The team is only allowed to borrow the number of players to fully field the defensive positions (9 or 10 total players depending on division). Borrowed players are not allowed to pitch or play catcher, and they must assume the last positions in the batting order. Borrowing players is not intended to strengthen a team, but rather avoid forfeits and late season rescheduled games.
- Borrowed players must wear the team uniform that has been assigned by the league. They are not to wear the uniform for the team that they are filling in for.
- The use of electronic devices will not be allowed on the field of play during the play of the game.
- Mercy Rule:

Run Differential Inning

15 After 3 innings

12 After 4 innings

10 After 5 innings

8 After 6 innings

- Tie games: At the end of regulation play, if the game is tied, the game will end in a tie.
- All judgment rulings made by umpires are final. Coaches may ask for time to discuss a rule with an umpire or ask to speak with a league official or Umpire in Charge (UIC). All rulings by league officials and UIC's are also final.

Heat Policy

The South Metro Sports Group has implemented the following guidelines to deal with extreme heat at youth baseball/softball games and practices. It is designed to provide participants with a standard for safe play in situations of extreme heat.

The two values that will be considered when modifying or canceling games or practices are air temperature and relative humidity. The combination of these two elements reflects the heat index. We will rely on the heat index reading that is updated hourly by the National Weather Service from Kansas City/Pleasant Hill, MO.

The South Metro Sports Group will follow the same guidelines as the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). These guidelines are followed by area school districts for their activities as well. If the heat index is between 95 and 104 degrees, practices and game conditions will be altered. This can include, but

is not limited to, at the discretion of league officials:

- Limiting players to not play the position of catcher more than 2 innings consecutively
- Shortening game times, or delaying the start of games
- Extending game times to allow for more breaks during the game
- Requiring longer breaks between innings to properly hydrate

If the heat index is 105 degrees or higher, practices and games may be postponed and/or rescheduled.

Please note that the heat index readings used can change or be different depending on the location of your game or practice in the South Metro Area. League officials will take into consideration travel time and projected game-time heat index values to make the best possible determination for safe playing conditions.

Protests

Officials' decisions in all matters are final. There shall be no protests except in cases of violation of the minimum playing requirements. Intent to protest must be noted in the scorebook by an umpire at the request of the coach within five minutes of the conclusion of the game. The protest must then be reported to a league official in the community that the game was played by the next working day. Reports must be made by written letter or e-mail.

Uniforms and Equipment

- Required uniform consists of a baseball cap or softball visor (visor optional), team shirt/jersey with a number and baseball pants or softball pants/shorts.
- Batters and base runners are required to wear approved head protection. Helmets with ear covering must be worn at all practices and games. Softball helmets shall have face masks in all divisions of player pitch softball.
- Tennis shoes or athletic cleats should be worn by all players. Metal cleats are allowed in the 7th /8th grade divisions of baseball and softball only.
- Baseballs and softballs will be provided by the communities where games are being played.
- Catchers shall wear leg guards, chest protector, and a catching helmet. The catcher's helmet shall have a faceguard, extended throat guard or a separately attached throat guard, and shall fully cover both ears in divisions through 5th/6th grade. 7th/8th grade divisions may wear catchers' masks that do not fully cover both ears.
- All boys catching must wear a protective cup.
- All other personal protective gear should be provided by the players.

Sportsmanship Policy

The South Metro Sports Leagues Sportsmanship Policy:

As a league, we encourage positive reinforcement from coaches, officials, parents and teammates for every player. Harassing, shouting or engaging in any sort of emotional or physical harm to an opposing coach, league official/umpire, or any player will not be permitted. Individuals who fail to comply with this policy will be asked to leave the game or, at the discretion of league officials, will be removed from the league. We thank you for your cooperation with this matter as we strive to provide a safe and fun environment for the children in our communities to learn the fundamentals of youth sports.

▪ A coach, player, parent or bench personnel shall not:

- 1) Deliberately throw a bat, helmet or team equipment
- 2) Call "Time" or use any command or commit any act for the purpose of trying to cause the opposing pitcher to balk or throw an illegal pitch
- 3) Use words to act to incite or try to incite spectators to demonstrations, or use profanity or remarks which reflect upon opposing player, umpire or spectator
- 4) Enter the area behind the catcher while the opposing pitcher and catcher are in their positions
- 5) Use amplifiers, speakers or bull horns on the bench or on the field during the course of the game.
- 6) Maliciously run into a fielder, even if the fielder is out of position
- 7) Be outside the vicinity of the designated dugout or bull pen area if not a batter, runner, on deck batter, in the coach's box or one of the 9 or 10 players on defense
- 8) Verbalize in any way with the opposing team for the purpose of intimidation
- 9) Exhibit behavior that is not in accordance with the spirit of fair play

▪ Umpires and league officials have the right to restrict a coach to his/her dugout for the remainder of the game if they feel that the coach is not following the rules of the game or acting in accordance with the spirit of fair play. The coach will be able to continue to coach his/her team from the dugout as long as the coach follows the rules the rest of the game. A coach that has been restricted to the dugout will not take the field to coach a base, talk to a pitcher, or discuss any calls with an umpire or official. A dugout restriction will be treated the same as a warning, and the coach will not be suspended for any future games.

▪ If a coach, player, or spectator is ejected from a game, the offender will be suspended for a minimum of one additional game. The one game suspension will be served at the next scheduled league game. League officials reserve the right to suspend individuals for more than one game if the league official deems it necessary, or the offender has been suspended before.

- If any coach, player, or spectator threatens an official, umpire, opposing coach, spectator or player, that individual will be removed from the league.

Draft Rules

The South Metro Sports Recreation Leagues have draft rules set to ensure fair play between share-play communities. In divisions where the score and standings are kept, each coach will be allowed to “freeze” or keep a number of players. After all coaches have selected these players, the remaining players will be distributed equally at the discretion of league officials by age, grade and/or talent level. For all baseball and softball teams, coaches will be allowed to “freeze” 5 players. The 5 players include the son/daughter of all coaches and team sponsors.

In rare occasions, additional “freezes” may be allowed at the discretion of league officials as long as it does not affect the competitive balance of the league. League officials also reserve the right to allow less than the 5 standard “freezes” to help with the competitive balance of the teams. Teams and individuals who would like to play with the same players and coaches each season should consider participating in the South Metro Competitive Leagues.