

2024 Parks & Rec Baseball Program Guidelines/Rules

GOALS

1. 7/8 teach basic catching, throwing, and batting skills, base running basics
2. 9/10 improve on catching, throwing, batting, PITCHING skills

EQUIPMENT

1. Shirts and hats given to all players to wear for games. **Wearing a hat under batting helmet is REQUIRED.** Until team hats come in, please make sure your child has a hat. This helps us prevent any head lice issues from arising.
2. All batters, base runners and players on deck **MUST** wear protective headgear during practices & games
3. Players supply their own gloves, baseball pants, soft spikes or tennis shoes. If you are in need of gear, contact Kylie as there are many donations at the Parks & Rec office.
4. If players want to use their own bat, it **MUST** be approved and remains the responsibility of the player/parents, not Parks & Rec or the coach
5. Parks and Rec will supply necessary equipment to all coaches

COACHES

1. Set the example of **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** for all players and spectators
2. Coaches need to discuss before the **START TIME OF THE GAME:** review ground rules/cover questions
3. Injuries need attended to **IMMEDIATELY**
4. Coaches are responsible for forwarding practices, games, events, cancellations to players parents in a timely manner. All notices of changes will be posted to Team Snap app, Facebook Group: Boundary County Parks & Rec, as well as posted to our website under the Baseball/Softball tab.
5. Keep it simple, focus on the players learning rather than winning vs. losing. Provide encouragement and enthusiasm to your team/players! Teach them to be good sports both on and off the field.

FIELD

1. Base path will be 60' in length and pitching mound will be 40' from the home plate

TEAM PICTURES

1. Team pictures are scheduled for the beginning of your child's practice on either Monday April 29th or Tuesday April 30th. Please make sure that they are on time and in their team t-shirt. Pictures will be rescheduled if t-shirts are not finished by then and/or due to weather. Pictures will take place over by the gazebo on the other side of the covered pavilion @the park.

LENGTH OF GAME

1. Games will be 4 innings or 1.5 hours (a started inning needs to be completed in full regardless of the time limit) **do not start another inning if the time limit is almost met. Games are scheduled at their "start time". Warm ups need to occur PRIOR to this start time.**

2. Rainouts will be cancelled by Parks & Rec Sports Director. No games/practices if there is lightening within 6 miles of Bonners Ferry via WeatherBug app

GAME RULES

1. 3 coaches may be utilized on offense: one to assist batter, two at the bases
2. 2 coaches may be utilized on defense: located behind the infield and the front of the outfield
3. Each player is placed in number sequence for batting line up, if a player cannot bat his/her turn, the batting order continues
4. Outs will count, each inning will have 3 outs
5. Innings will end after 3 outs OR if offensive team runs through batting order (whichever occurs first)
6. A batter will strike out at 3 strikes
7. **PITCHING-** Because we are playing with combined age groups this season, we will plan for all teams to play coach-pitch. After some practicing, if **all** coaches feel that they have players who are able to adequately pitch, we can transition to player-pitch. Both teams in a game need to be on the same page, this is where coaches need to communicate with each other so that expectations for the game are clear. The primary focus is to allow a game to proceed and we need to keep in mind that we have an age range of 7–10 year-old's this season.
8. Games can be paused/stopped for instructional purposes at any time
9. Outfielders must throw the ball to the infield, they are not allowed to tag a base or runner
10. If a batter throws their bat, he/she will be given a warning, after that they will be called out
11. The following is not allowed for either age group on offense: lead offs, stealing bases, sliding, pinch hitting, infield fly rules or protesting
12. Defensive team: field all normal positions, you can place your extra players in the outfield OR bench
13. Each inning, the players need to be rotated
14. Runners on base may be forced out or tagged out per regulation baseball/softball rules
15. The following is not allowed for either age group on defense: baseline interference, running on any overthrows, double plays or protesting

SCORING

1. No scorebook will be kept, we are here to teach fundamentals and sportsmanship, not winning vs. losing.

Sportsmanship Pledge

Boundary County Parks & Rec asks everyone to make this a great time for all. Please be a good sport in the stands and on the field. Respect your opponents; no talking back to players, coaches or officials. By showing good sportsmanship, you honor our kids, the game and our community.

Appropriate behavior is expected of coaches, parents, players, spectators, officials and any one else participating in our youth sports programs.

Thank your volunteer coaches & help out where you can. Let's have a great season!

Field Map

