

SUMMER 2024 PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

Youth Sports Mission Statement

In pursuit of excellence in youth sports, we are committed to creating a positive environment for our youth's participation in and enjoyment of recreational sports.

Program Philosophy

The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department (PRCS) Youth Sports Program philosophy is to instill a positive attitude, sportsmanship, basic fundamentals, confidence, and high moral standards.

Youth Sports Programs develop the physical, psychological, and social aspects for youth. Our programs emphasize participation, fun, sportsmanship, and promotes a non-competitive, recreational approach to sports.

Participants, parents, and coaches are expected to support this value system.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How are divisions formed?

Divisions will be determined by the participant's grade entering the 24-25 school year as of October 1, 2024.

- Players must be 4 years old at the start of the program May 6th, 2024.
- Players who are 19 years old or older as of October 1st, 2024 are NOT eligible to participate.

Divisions Based on Grade	Division Name	Game Days
PRE K & Kindergarten Coed T-Ball	Hank Aaron	MON/WED/FRI
1 st & 2 nd Grade Coed T-Ball	Rich Gossage	TUES/THURS/SAT
3 rd & 4 th Grade Boys - Coach Pitch	Willie Mays	TUES & THURS
5 th & 6 th Grade Boys - Baseball	Pee Wee Reese	MON-FRI
7 th -8 th Grade Boys - Baseball	Sandy Koufax	MON-FRI
9 th -12 th Grade Boys - Baseball	Slow Pitch Softball	MON-FRI
3 rd -5 th Grade Girls - Softball	Minors	TUES & THURS
6 th -8 th Grade Girls - Fast Pitch Softball	Juniors	MON-FRI
9 th -12 th Grade Girls - Fast Pitch Softball	Seniors	MON-FRI

Changing to a different division based on grade is not recommended. A child may move up one grade level only if the parent signs a waiver acknowledging that they are aware their child may be playing with children up to two years older. A player may move down one grade level by providing a signed statement from a physician describing a condition or disability that would prevent the child from playing within his/her division. **NOTE: The medical statement must be submitted to the Sports Office for approval.** If a child is held back a grade, a letter from the school will need to be provided with the registration. Players may not waive into the program.

How are leagues organized?

1. The leagues are based on the number of teams in each division and the number of players at the practice locations.
2. Practice sites that do not have enough players to make a team will be relocated to the nearest available practice location needing players. Relocated players will be notified.

What if this activity is not for my child?

- Youth Sports will issue a full refund|credit if the activity is canceled by the City.
- Once the activity has started but is not yet 50% complete, the individual withdrawing can be refunded|credited 50% of the registration price.
- No refund|credit will be issued for a withdrawal if 50% or more of the activity is completed.

What equipment does my child need?

What equipment do participants need?

- **Uniforms:** Youth Sports provide shirts and caps/visors. Your coach will distribute uniforms.
- **Shoes:** Tennis shoes or molded-sole baseball shoes are the player's responsibility.
- **Baseball glove:** Players will provide their own gloves. Bats, balls, batting helmets, and catcher's equipment will be furnished by Youth Sports and maintained by the coach.
- **Jewelry:** Rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces, or other hard objects are prohibited. Medical identification bracelets or chains are allowed if taped down.

When and where will my child practice?

Practice may begin the week of May 6th. Your coach will inform you of the location, time, and date of your first practice. Each team may participate (*practice or game*) up to four times per week. A practice may last up to two hours and is organized by the coach. **NOTE: Coaches have the option to move the practice location within a 2-mile radius of the practice site you have chosen.**

When are games played?

Games will begin the week of May 27th and end on or before July 19th. The Hank Aaron, Rich Gossage, Willie Mays, and Minors games will start at 5:45 or 6:45 p.m. The Pee Wee Reese and Sandy Koufax games start at 5:45 p.m. The Junior and Senior girls games start at 6 p.m. Slow Pitch teams will start at 5:45 or 7:45 p.m. Saturday games will be scheduled in the mornings. In most cases, teams will have two games per week. We will not schedule any games the week of July 4. Game nights may be changed to accommodate divisions that have too many or too few children.



Through a partnership with the
National Inclusion Project,

Youth Sports strives to offer opportunities for children of ALL abilities, so ALL youth have a chance to play.

Call (719) 385-6964 for details.

WHAT RULES APPLY TO MY CHILD'S DIVISION?

TBALL

Hank Aaron (Coed: PRE K & Kindergarten)

- No official score is kept.
- A legal game is 3 innings or one hour.
- One full inning consists of all players from both teams batting. After the last player in the batting line-up hits a fair ball, the player will continue to run around the bases until he/she reaches home base.
- An adult "tee-tender" must be provided by the batting team.
- A batter will continue until a fair ball is hit.
- The batter-runner or base runner will stay on the base path even if he/she is put out or tagged out.

"When Thunder Roars Go Indoors"®
*Colorado weather changes quickly,
know what to do and the safest location to be
if your team gets caught in a storm!*

Boys Baseball

Willie Mays (Boys: 3rd & 4th grade)

- Umpires are not used; head coaches must meet before the scheduled game to review any special ground rules.
- A legal game is one hour and fifteen minutes of play.
- A half inning consists of three outs or the offensive team batting their maximum number of players.
- Ten players play on defense - 4 outfielders and 6 infielders.
- Every player will be in the batting line-up. Note: Both teams will use the same number of players in the batting line-up. If one team has fewer players, they will continue in the batting order until an equal number of players have batted.
- A maximum of 5 pitches will be thrown to the batter. The batter is out after 3 non-contact swings or five pitches. Exception: Batters can't take a base on balls. Note: Coaches must pitch from the distance designated in the Willie Mays division (40 feet).
- Pitching Rule: The head or assistant coach from the offensive team pitches to his or her own team. If the pitching coach intentionally interferes, either verbally or physically with the defensive team, the batter-runner or nearest base runner to home plate will be called out.

Pee Wee Reese (Boys: 5th & 6th grade)

- Two umpires are assigned per game.
- A legal game is 6 innings or two hours.
- If the home team is ahead by 12 runs after 4 innings or 3 1/2 one-half innings, a 12-run rule applies.
- Every player will be in the batting line-up. Note: Both teams will use the same number of players in the batting line-up. If one team has fewer players, they will continue in the batting order until an equal number of players have batted.
- Pitching Rule: A pitcher may pitch up to 3 innings per game.
- Nine players play on defense - 3 outfielders and 6 infielders
- Pitch count determines amount of rest before pitching again

Sandy Koufax (Boys: 7th & 8th grade)

- Two umpires are assigned per game.
- A legal game is 7 innings or two hours.
- If the home team is ahead by 10 runs after five innings or 4 1/2 innings, a 10-run rule applies.
- Nine players play on defense - 3 outfielders and 6 infielders.
- Pitching Rule: A pitcher may pitch up to four innings per game.

Slow Pitch Softball (Boys: 9th-12th grade)

- One umpire are assigned per game.
- A legal game is 7 innings or two hours.
- If the home team is ahead by 10 runs after 5 innings or 4 1/2 half innings, a 10-run rule applies.
- Ten players play on defense 4 outfielders and 6 infielders

Rich Gossage (Coed: 1st & 2nd grade)

- No official score is kept.
- A legal game is 3 innings or one hour.
- One full inning consists of all players from both teams batting.
- Ten players play on defense - 4 outfielders and 6 infielders.
- An adult "tee-tender" must be provided by the batting team. The "tee-tender" shall remove the tee from the plate before players reach home base.
- Every player present will be in the batting line-up. A batter will continue until a fair ball is hit. If the batter-runner or base runner is put out or tagged out, the player must leave the base path.
- Batter's Option: The player has the option of having three pitches thrown during his/her turn at bat. If the batter has not hit a fair ball during the three pitches, the player will use a tee to hit a fair ball.

Girls Softball

Minor Fast Pitch (Girls: 3rd-5th grade)

- Umpires are not used; head coaches must meet before the scheduled game to review any special ground rules.
- A legal game is one hour and fifteen minutes.
- A half inning consists of three outs or the offensive team batting their maximum number of players.
- Ten players play on defense - 4 outfielders and 6 infielders.
- Every player will be in the batting line-up. Note: Both teams will use the same number of players in the batting line-up. If one team has fewer players, they will continue in the batting order until an equal number of players have batted.
- A maximum of five pitches will be thrown to the batter. The batter is out after three non-contact swings or five pitches. Exception: Batters can't take a base on balls. Note: Coaches must pitch from the distance designated in the Minor division (35 feet).
- Pitching Rule: The head or assistant from the offensive team pitches to their own team. If the pitching coach intentionally interferes, either verbally or physically with the defensive team, the batter-runner or nearest base runner to home plate will be called out.

Junior Fast Pitch (Girls: 6th-8th grade)

- Two umpires are assigned per game.
- A legal game is 7 innings or two hours of play.
- If the home team is ahead by 10 runs after 5 innings or 4 1/2 half innings, a 10-run rule applies.
- Nine players play on defense - 3 outfielders and 6 infielders.
- Pitching Rule: A pitcher may pitch up to four innings per game.

Senior Fast Pitch (Girls: 9th-12th grade)

- Two umpire are assigned per game.
- A legal game is 7 innings or two hours of play.
- If the home team is ahead by 10 runs after 5 innings or 4 1/2 half innings, a 10-run rule applies.
- Pitching Rule: A pitcher may pitch a maximum of ten innings per week and sixty-three regular season innings.
- Nine players play on defense - 3 outfielders and 6 infielders.

“Ethics is a code of values which guide our choices and action and determine the purpose of our lives.” -Ayn Rand

Players' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experiences and accept responsibility for my participation by following this **Players' Code of Ethics**:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I will do my very best in school.
- I will remember that sports participation is an opportunity to learn and have fun.

Parents' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following the **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 place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.
- 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, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth and not adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectful fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.

Coaches' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to live up to my responsibilities as a coach by following the **Coaches' Code of Ethics**:

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I promise to review and practice basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and I will teach these rules to my players.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for all of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.



The Players', Parents' and Coaches' Code of Ethics was developed by the National Alliance For Youth Sports, A program of The Academy For Youth Sports

TRY ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS TOO!

COLORADO SPRINGS LITTLE LEAGUE

The City and CSSL team up to provide Spring Coed Baseball for ages 6-10 and Girls Softball ages 8-10. Registration is TBD Practices begins mid-March; games run early April through the first week of June. For more, [visit www.coloradospringslittleleague.com](http://www.coloradospringslittleleague.com).

JUDO

Youth, ages 6-14, will be taught from Olympians under Head Coach, Eddie Liddie, Olympic Bronze Medalist and four-time Olympic Coach. Classes are Tuesdays & Thursdays; 6:30-7:30 PM at the OTC. Register now for any upcoming session!

PIKES PEAK & PATRIOT LACROSSE CLUBS

The City joins forces to provide youth in Colorado Springs access to America's fastest growing youth sport. Lacrosse players can expect to be in an environment that teaches skills, builds character, encourages and values team play, and promotes good sportsmanship. For specifics, see <http://patriotlax.org/> or <http://pikespeaklacrosse.com/> for more.

SWITCHBACKS SOCCER CAMP

Dates TBD

Youth ages 5-18 will get a chance to learn from Switchbacks FC professional coaching staff and players! Camp is held at Venezia Park for the first two days, then culminating with a meet and greet with the current roster of the Switchbacks FC.

Registration details @ www.coloradosprings.gov.

ONE SPRINGS BOXING

For ages 8-21 who want to learn about boxing and wish to develop skills using proper training techniques. USA Boxing certified instructors provide daily leadership and structure. Program runs year-round 3 days per week; 5-7 PM at Otis Park. Register anytime!

FALL SOCCER & TACKLE FOOTBALL

Registration for Fall runs May 13th-July 12th
Soccer practices begin week of August 5th with the games starting August 26th through October 11th or earlier.
Football practices begin the week of July 29th with games running August 26th through October 25th or sooner.



Know the Policies of Youth Sports

Warning Statement

Although participation in supervised athletics and activities is one of the least hazardous in which any person will engage, and serious injuries are not common, it is impossible to eliminate every risk. Participants have a responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey safety rules, report all physical problems to their coach, follow a proper conditioning program and inspect their own equipment daily. By registering, you acknowledge you have read and understand this warning. Those who do not wish to accept the risk described in this warning should not register or participate.

The City of Colorado Springs carries no insurance for players, coaches or spectators.

The Emergency Medical Service will be called for any medical emergencies. Parents are responsible for all charges resulting from a medical emergency.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The City of Colorado Springs complies with the ADA and will make reasonable accommodations to enable people with disabilities to participate in and enjoy recreation programs. If you require an auxiliary aid or service for participation (e.g. sign language interpreter, Braille format, adaptive equipment) please contact the Sports Office at (719) 385-5981 at least two weeks prior to program start date to help us serve you better.

Large Type Brochures

A copy of this brochure is available in large type upon request. Please contact the Sports Office at (719) 385-5981, if you would like to receive any portion of the brochure in large type. Three to five days notice is required.

Photography Waiver

By registering in Youth Sports' activities, you hereby consent to the photographing of your child by the City of Colorado Springs and/or their agents. You hereby consent to the use of these photographs singularly or in conjunction with other photographs or video recordings for the City marketing and training purposes without compensation.

Concussion Awareness & Safety

A concussion is a brain injury.

Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head.

Even a "ding," "getting your bell rung," or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

You can't see a concussion.

Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the hit/fall or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury.

If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Signs and Symptoms

Appears dazed, confused, or stunned
is confused about assignment or position
forgets instruction
unsure of game, score, or opponent
moves clumsily
answers questions slowly
loses consciousness (even briefly)
shows behavior or personality changes
can't recall events prior to or after hit or fall
headache or "pressure" in head
nausea or vomiting
balance problems or dizziness
double or blurry vision
sensitive to light and/or noise
feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
concentration or memory problems
or
just does not "feel right"

Parents can also take an active approach to learn more about concussions.

Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports is a free, online course available to coaches, parents, and others helping to keep athletes safe from concussion.

It features interviews with leading experts, interactive exercises, and compelling storytelling to help one recognize a concussion and know how to respond if they think that their athlete might have a concussion.

http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html

Volunteering "You want ME to coach a youth sports team?!"

If you're feeling intimidated by the thought of coaching, relax, we aren't the pros. Our goal is for our young players is to develop a foundation based on support, encouragement, and skill development. Our Coaching Program is designed so players develop a positive image of themselves, their teammates, coaches, game officials and opponents. It is the goal that every volunteer coach be trained and certified. You can quickly learn the fundamentals by talking to others, reading a coaching manual and attending all the coaches training sessions. Applying those techniques will ensure proper skill development and a satisfying experience for everyone. If more information is needed, please call (719) 385-5981.

PLUS... All Head Coaches will receive a coupon for 50% off a future registration for a youth sports team. Coupon is valid for one calendar year from the time of issue.

Does Sports ever cancel games?

Games will not be canceled due to wind, cold or damp conditions. Dress appropriately. When in doubt... report to the field. If weather conditions do require cancellations, Youth Sports will publicize weekday cancellations by 3:30 p.m. on

- call (719) 385-5981; select 2
 - Facebook @ Colorado Springs Sports Office
- Cancellations after 3:30 p.m. will be made at the site by the coaches and officials.

Who schedules pictures, trophies and end-of-season parties?

We recommend parents helping the coach plan those season extras like providing game refreshments and helping with scheduling pictures, trophies and/or after season parties. All team costs are the sole responsibility of the parents. Youth Sports does not endorse any photographer or business.

Note: It is a good idea to plan ahead for parties and banquets, as many places require reservations

EXPLORE PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

The Hub at Acacia Park
(719) 385-6521

Administration, Events,
Reservations & Volunteering
(719) 385-5940

Adult & Youth Sports
Athletic Field Reservations

(719) 385-5981
COMMUNITY CENTERS

Deerfield Hills
(719) 385-5996
Hillside

(719) 385-7900
Meadows Park
(719) 385-7940

Garden of the Gods
Visitor & Nature Center
(719) 634-6666

GOLF COURSES
Patty Jewett
(719) 385-6963
Valley H
(719) 385-6911

Pikes Peak - America's
Mountain Gateway
(719) 684-9138

Pioneers Museum
(719) 385-5990

Rock Ledge Ranch

(719) 578-6777
Sertich Ice Center
(719) 385-5983

Starsmore Visitor & Nature
Center
(719) 385-6086

Therapeutic Recreation