



3280 Redstone Park Circle  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129  
Phone: 303-791-2710/Fax: 303-470-9516  
[www.highlandsranch.org](http://www.highlandsranch.org)  
[www.quickscores.com/hrmd](http://www.quickscores.com/hrmd)

# General Rules - 2023 Fall Baseball League

## **I. Players and Eligibility**

- Rule 1. Determination of age level is based on the child's age as of **May 1<sup>st</sup>, of 2024**. A player can only move up one division with the Recreation Supervisor's approval.
- Rule 2. Registration closure will annually be determined by the Highlands Ranch Metro District employees and published on the registration form. A team will be added after registration closure only if given approval by the Highlands Ranch Metro District recreation staff.
- Rule 3. Payment of Fees – No team shall be eligible to play until the registration fee has been paid and a parent or legal guardian signs the registration form or other arrangements have been made with the Highlands Ranch Metro District staff.
- Rule 4. Official Rosters – the Highlands Ranch Metro District staff will maintain rosters. Official rosters are not protestable. Rosters shall be “frozen” prior to your team's first game. After that date, the Highlands Ranch Metro District staff must approve additions and changes. Players may only be rostered on one (1) HRMD Fall Baseball team during the season.
- Rule 5. “Guest” players are not allowed to play during the regular season or during the tournament. All players must be on signed roster before your team's first practice (or have turned in an individual registration form with signature).

## **II. Playing Period**

- Rule 1. Practice – We will provide one, one-hour practice a week on HRMD Fields. (the practice could be a shared practice with another team due to limited space). One additional Saturday practice will be provided before games start.
- Rule 2. Time Between Innings – The umpire has the responsibility of expeditiously moving the game along. A maximum of six warm-up pitches will be used to guide play between innings. This same number of pitches will be allowed for changing pitchers during an inning. The umpire must assure teams are moved quickly on and off the field of play.

## **III. Fields**

- Rule 1. Field Size – The Highlands Ranch Metro District schedules and assigns all fields. They will assure field dimensions are suitable for the age divisions assigned to that field.
- Rule 2. Markings – The Highlands Ranch Metro District handles the field maintenance and as such is responsible for the quality of the markings. Any problems or concerns with regard to marking of the fields should be referred to the Highlands Ranch Metro District Staff. Rulings based upon markings of the field shall be in the discretion of the umpire.
- Rule 3. Use of the infield for warm up prior to the game is prohibited.

## **IV. Equipment and Uniforms**

- Rule 1. Game Equipment – Batters, runners, and catchers must wear NOCSAE approved protective helmets in good condition with full ear coverage at all times when in the playing field. (Must be stamped with NOCSAE).
- Rule 2. Uniforms – Shirts must be tucked in at all times. Teams are required to have like-colored jerseys with numbers on the back.
- Rule 3. Game Balls – All divisions will play with the approved baseballs supplied by the Highlands Ranch Metro District. HRMD will issue each team one new game ball for each regularly scheduled season game. This game ball is to be used for that purpose. Each team shall give a new ball to the umpire at the beginning of each scheduled game.
- Rule 4. Cleats – **STEEL/METAL CLEATS WILL NOT** BE ALLOWED in 7-12 year old leagues, but **WILL** be allowed in 13/14 year old leagues.
- Rule 5. Bats may either be metal or wooden; bats must be identified as a “baseball” bat for play in baseball leagues. The following bats will be legal for play in all leagues:
- Big Barrel Baseball Bats:
    1. 2 5/8 or 2 3/4 will be allowed if they have the USSSA or USA mark, prominently & permanently displayed on their taper.
    2. “Qualified” BBCOR Bat
    3. The New 1.15 BPF USSSA Mark on its Taper
  - Bats that are marked as (or designated or marketed) as Coach Pitch, practice, etc. are illegal.
  - Altered Bats are illegal.
  - Bats that are broken, cracked or dented or that deface the ball shall be removed without penalty.

## **V. Game Rules and Umpires**

- Rule 1. Official Rules – The current edition of the “National Federation of State High School Association Baseball Rule Book” shall govern all situations not addressed by the HRMD General, Division & Age Specific Baseball Rules. The Highlands Ranch Metro District may adopt special rules augmenting the above listed rules; however, the spirit of the above rules shall be considered before any change is made.
- Rule 2. Dugouts – The Home team shall occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout and the visiting team the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout at all games.
- Rule 3. Umpires – The Highlands Ranch Metro District will assign one or two paid umpires for the 9-14 year olds games, one umpire for 7/8 year old games. Any game in which two paid umpires are assigned may be played with only one umpire. Those games with only one umpire-such umpire shall work from behind the plate.
- Rule 4. Length of Games – The maximum length of a game and qualification for a legal game shall be discussed in the Matrix.
- Rule 5. Scorekeepers – Each team must supply one scorekeeper; the home team’s scorekeeper shall be the official scorekeeper. Scorekeepers shall check with each other at the end of each complete inning to verify the correct score and discuss any other relevant matters. Both coaches & both umpires must sign home team scorebook at the end of the game.
- Rule 6. Reporting Game Results – Home team coaches are required to e-mail or call in their scores within 24 hours of their game being played. E-mails should go to [lruter@highlandsranch.org](mailto:lruter@highlandsranch.org) or calls should go to 720-240-5912.
- Rule 7. Ineligible Player – If an ineligible player plays in a game, the game is automatically forfeited and the head coach will be suspended for the following game.
- Rule 8. Forfeited Game – At least 7 players are needed to constitute a legal team.
- Rule 9. Tied Game – Games that are tied after a “complete game” shall be played out until regulation time has expired. Once an inning begins, it will be played out. Games will not “revert back” to previous complete inning. If the game is still tied at the end of regulation time, it will end in a tie. (Regular season only).

Rule 10. League Standing Tiebreakers. If two or more teams are tied at the end of the season, the following are the tie-breaking rules that will be followed without exception:

1. Any team forfeiting a game in the season will automatically be dropped from the tie.
2. Head to Head in equal games against common opponents.
3. Run differential between the teams during the games they played against each other.
4. Fewest runs allowed.
5. Coin-flip.

Rule 11. Sliding – A slide rule is in effect. The runner is out when he does not slide or attempt to avoid contact with a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag or if the runner maliciously runs into a fielder. In addition to being out, the runner **may** be ejected from the game at the discretion of the umpire.

**Sliding (Get Down/Get Out of the Way/Give yourself up).** – Sliding is the preferred option to avoid contact on close plays at any base. Knowing not everyone slides, we do ask that you avoid contact the best you can or give yourself up to the out. Lowering a shoulder or intentionally taking out a fielder will constitute an ejection.

Rule 12. Jewelry – There is no jewelry allowed, regardless of placement on the body. After seeing any jewelry, the umpire at this time will start counting off ten seconds and a strike will be issued for every ten seconds counted off until jewelry is off or three strikes are counted off and the player will be counted as an out.

\*Medical bracelets/necklaces are allowed.

Rule 13. **Pitching Definitions:**

- a) One pitch constitutes an inning.
- b) Any pitcher may re-enter a game (one-time) as a pitcher as long as he does not exceed his allotted innings. Once a pitcher is removed as a pitcher for the second time he may not pitch again in that game. Clarification: a pitcher re-entering in the same inning will be charge for another inning pitched.
- c) If a pitcher hits 4 batters during the same game, the pitcher must be removed as pitcher for the rest of the game.
- d) Violation of pitching limitations in any game will cause a forfeit of that game.

Rule 14. Batting, Substitution & Playing Time:

1. For all ages, all players present will bat in full rotation and each player will play at least 2 defensive innings.
2. Free substitution will be observed at all levels of play.
3. A player who arrives late to a game may be added to the bottom of the line-up provided his team's lead-off hitter has not batted twice in the game.

Rule 15. Base Coaches – Bases must be coached by adults (18 & older). Individuals who are coaching the bases must only coach their own team's players. Base coaches are not allowed to talk to the defensive player (s) at any time.

## **VI. Scheduling/Rescheduling of Games**

Rule 1. Scheduled League Games – The Highlands Ranch Metro District will be responsible for obtaining fields, field maintenance and scheduling of league games. Changes in scheduled league games will be the sole responsibility of the Recreation Staff. Failure by a team to report at the start of a scheduled league game will constitute forfeiture.

Rule 2. Postponement of Games – The Highlands Ranch Metro District is the only entity that may reschedule postponed games. Once a game begins, the umpire is the only person who may call the game due to inclement weather. In the event of inclement weather or darkness, an official game shall consist of four innings, or three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead at the time.

Rule 3. Rescheduling of Games – Rained-out or suspended games will be rescheduled when and where possible by the Highlands Ranch Metro District Recreation staff.

Rule 4. Games will only be rescheduled if they are cancelled by a Highlands Ranch Metro District employee, by an umpire, due to inclement weather, or due to safety issues. If a team cannot play their regularly scheduled game due to a low number of players, that game will be considered a forfeit by that team.

## **VII. Players, Coach and Spectator Conduct**

- Rule 1. Umpire's Responsibilities – Umpires will enforce the Highlands Ranch Metro District Rules. A coach may ask for a rule interpretation from the game umpire provided he/she does it in a professional manner.
- Rule 2. Keeping Order – Each team shall be responsible for keeping the spectators orderly and off the playing field and behind spectators' boundaries. Players, coaches and fans are to refrain from being behind the backstop, unless there are bleachers and everyone remains seated. Shouting abusive language or inappropriate comments at players, umpires, or spectators is strictly prohibited. Violation of this rule by players, coaches or spectators shall result in ejection from the game and playing area. Failure of an ejected person, to leave the playing area shall result in a forfeit by the offending team
- a) Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game will be suspended from playing, watching or coaching in the next game. Depending upon the severity of the offense, suspension from further games may be possible.
- Rule 3. Abuse of an Umpire – At the immediate time of any incident of physical or verbal of an umpire; the umpire will meet with the head coaches of both teams in order that every effort is made to identify the assailant. Physical abuse of an umpire or another coach by a coach, spectator or player will result in suspension of that person from all Highlands Ranch Metro District activities for the entire calendar year or 365 days commencing with the date of the infraction.
- Rule 4. Smoking and Alcohol Policy – There shall be no smoking, no chewing tobacco, and no alcohol by coaches, players, or spectators during their teams' practices and games.
- Rule 5. Number of Coaches Permitted – There shall be a maximum of two coaches on the field and a maximum of three coaches in the dugout.

## **VIII. Protests**

- Rule 1. Protests are allowed only for ineligible players.
- Ineligible Players:
1. Anyone who submits a falsified registration.
  2. Anyone playing who has not registered or paid.
  3. Anyone playing for a team to which they were not assigned.
  4. **A pitcher who has pitched too many innings.**
- Rule 2. Protest of Player Eligibility – If upheld, the team with the ineligible player forfeits the game and the coach will be suspended for the next two (2) games. Upon a second violation, the coach will be suspended for one (1) calendar year from the time of the violation. EXAMPLES: A pitcher who has pitched too many innings in a given time period or non-rostered player.....

## **IX. Miscellaneous**

- Rule 1. Use of Video Film Equipment – During league games, the use of video or filming equipment will be permitted under the following conditions:
- a) Videotaping/filming must take place from out of bounds and not from behind home plate, unless bleachers are provided. If any player who is on the field of play feels that video or film equipment presents a distraction and obtains the umpire's concurrence, said equipment shall be relocated.
  - b) Taping/filming cannot impede/restrict the umpires, in the performance of their duties. Taping/filming by either of the participating teams can in no manner impede safe play, as determined by the game umpires.
  - c) Failure to comply with the above condition, at the request of a game umpire, will result in a delay of game until safe conditions can be established and safe play can continue.

## **Concussions**

### **The Jake Snakenburg Youth Concussion Act:**

After coaches complete concussion training and provide certification of said training, the coaches have the responsibility of looking out for possible symptoms of concussions in youth athletes who take a blow to the head or body. If a concussion is suspected, the law requires the coach to immediately remove the youth athlete from the game, competition or practice (unless the symptoms can be readily explained by another condition). The coach needs to contact the parents (guardian) informing them of the suspected concussion. The youth athlete is not permitted to return to the game or practice without being evaluated and released to participate by a healthcare provider. Parents (guardians) must provide written clearance to the coach in order to return to play. The law provides detailed definitions of acceptable health care provider qualifications.