

Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources
2023 Fall Baseball
Participant Handbook



1. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Sponsor: Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources
Address: 100 N. Greensboro St, Carrboro, 27510
Phone: 919-918-7364
web site: www.carrboronc.gov/349/athletics
Weather line: 919-918-7373

Office hours: 8:30am- 5:00pm (Monday - Friday)

2. PHILOSOPHY

The goal of youth athletics is to provide an opportunity for all participants by developing sport skills and creating a wholesome atmosphere. Good sportsmanship and basic fundamentals are emphasized under the leadership of volunteer coaches.

3. DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

To enrich the leisure needs and quality of life for citizens by providing accessible facilities, creative and diverse recreation opportunities and a safe public park system.

4. REGISTRATION

Fall Baseball registration is accepted on an individual basis. All participants must register for each season/program. Anyone may register male or female, to participate in the three various leagues.

Participants are registered into a particular league based upon their playing age. * If requested prior to team placements, a participant may "play up". For a participant to "play up" he/she must be in the final year of their appropriate league.

The request to "play up" must be made in writing and directed to the Athletic Division. No player may participate on two teams within the fall baseball program.

League ** ages based upon an August 31, 2023 cut-off date.

A: 6 and 8 years old
AA: 9 and 10 years old
AAA: 11 and 12 years old

**** Special Request for team selection ****

When a registration form is filled out for a program, any special requests such as: friends to be teammates, play for a certain coach, car-pooling, medical reasons, etc., must be written on the form in the "special information area." CRPCR will inform the coaches, who select the players who attend team placements, of these "special requests" prior to and during the league draft. **SPECIAL REQUESTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED.** It is not mandatory for coaches to fulfill these requests; however they are encouraged to draft with them in mind.

5. REFUND POLICY

If someone wants to cancel their registration before the season starts, they must notify CRPCR in writing to be considered for a refund. A \$5 processing fee applies.

6. TEAM PLACEMENTS

CRPCR will designate times for team placements. Team Placement is the process used for the formation of teams in our youth athletic programs. The goal of team placements is to create a balance among all the teams in a specific league and to maintain interest among all participants by providing the fairest level of competition possible. All new players or existing players looking to re-enter the draft that are signed up in fall baseball must attend at least one team placement time.

At team placements, CRPCR staff conducts a "mini Baseball clinic." Each participant performs specific drills to allow each coach in their league an opportunity to evaluate talent.

After all team placements, the coach's meet to draft the teams. The following is the format of how the draft is conducted:

II. Pre Draft Status

Registered participants are classified into two categories.

- a. Pre-assigned participant
- b. New or unassigned participants

a. Pre-Assigned: CRPCR has the discretion to place any player on a team prior to team placements for the following reasons:

- Brother and sister situation on the same team
- Parent becomes the HEAD coach or assigned assistant coach
- Two or more players live in the same household
- Hardship or unusual circumstances approved through CRPCR

b. Unassigned/New Participants

- All players who do not qualify under the a) category

III. Draft Information:

The number of players listed on each team roster (Pre-Assigned) influences the draft procedure.

The team with the least number of players on their roster (Pre-Assigned) will draft first. The team with the most will draft last.

When teams have the same number of players on their roster, the order of the draft will flip back and forth to balance selections.

IV. Draft Participants: The participants in the draft will be:

- a. Head Coach
- b. Assistant Coach (s)*
- c. Designated Staff Personnel

**Note*

- a. Parents of players participating in the team placement process or on a waiting list are requested not to attend the draft.
- b. Youth participants are not eligible to "sit in" on team placements.

V. The Draft

- a. The first two rounds each team will have one draft pick per round. Exception: The head coach implemented the option of using an assigned assistant coach.
- b. The order will be according to roster size (see section III)
- c. Third round and later, the team with the least number of players will draft until it reaches the team with the next fewest.
- d. This process will continue until all the youth attending team placements are drafted onto teams.
- e. If after the last complete round of the draft there exist an insufficient number of players (undrafted) for another complete round to be conducted, these players will be selected in order determined by random draw involving the league teams.
- f. The number of players on any team returning, pre-assigned, or drafted cannot exceed 7 of any specific age.

**Exception:* If the total number of participants of any age left in the draft exceeds item (f) then the total of 7 may be exceeded.

VI. Post Draft Placements

- a. Failure to show for placements
 - 1) Any player failing to show up for team placements will be placed on a team at CRPCR discretion
- b. Late Registrants
 - 1) Players signing up after the draft will be placed on teams by CRPCR.

**Consideration for POST DRAFT PLACEMENTS will be based on the participant's age and on space in the program*

**Players are added from a generated waiting list.*

Questions concerning the Team Placement Process should be directed to the Recreation Supervisor at 919-918-7364.

7. BASEBALL COACHES

ALL coaches are volunteers! Anyone interested in becoming a head coach must submit a volunteer application to CRPCR as no team is guaranteed to an individual from one season to the next. The application is reviewed by the Recreation Supervisor with a decision culminating based on previous coaching and/or playing experience, a clean criminal background, as well as good standing with the Department – (i.e. has not violated departmental conduct rules or been difficult to work with in previous seasons). Once assigned as a head coach, he/she is asked to attend various coach training clinics. A majority of the clinical training is completed prior to working with your child on the field. Should anyone be interested in coaching a team, please contact the CRPCR Office at 919-918-7364.

The Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources Department appreciates the intent volunteers wish to become a Head Coach of more than 1 team either within a program or in a separately sponsored activity. However, due to programming format and probable scheduling conflicts, volunteers are selected to become a Head Coach of one team per season.

CRPCR does reserve the right to void this policy at their discretion in situations where participation would suffer without a Head Coach.

8. ASSIGNED ASSISTANT COACH PROCESS

An approved Head Coach may request an assigned assistant coach to help him or her with running a team. A form requesting to be an assigned assistant coach must be completed by a parent, of a participating child already registered in the baseball program, but is not on a current team. The individual chosen to serve as an assigned assistant must complete and return the assigned assistant coach form accompanied with an assistant coach contract prior to team placements beginning. A background check will be conducted and upon approval, the child of the parent wishing to be an assigned assistant, will be placed on the roster of that particular team. The impact for a head coach choosing this is losing the team's first round pick in the draft.

9. PRACTICES SITES / GAME TIMES

Practice is held primarily once during the week (Monday-Thursday) and Saturday (prior to league play) in hour and a half increments (please note alterations may exist):

A League: **During the week:** (Hank Anderson Park #2, #3 and Carrboro Elementary)

AA League: **During the week:** (Hank Anderson Park #4)

AAA League: **During the week:** (Wilson Park)

The decision to cancel practice is up to the coach.

**** Games** are held during the general time frames and locations

A League: **Saturday:** 9:00am & 10:30am
Hank Anderson Park #3

AA League: **Saturday:** 9:00am & 10:30am
Hank Anderson Park #4

AAA League: **Friday:** 5:45pm & 7:30pm
Wilson Park

Games will begin the weekend of September 22nd and conclude the weekend of October 28th.

** All days and times subject to change.

10. CANCELED GAMES

If games are canceled by CRPCR, the head coach will be contacted. He / she will be responsible for notifying all parents and players of the cancellation. A message will also be left on the weather line **919-918-7373**. If the games are not canceled, no message will be displayed. Decisions to cancel games are based on field conditions, not forecasts.

11. CONDUCT/SPORTSMANSHIP

Providing a youth athletic program with the appropriate display of sportsmanship from all involved (coaches, participants, and parents) is a major concern and goal of the Department. Competition can be a healthy part of any athletic program, but the degree of competition and emphasis must be kept in proper perspective. Disagreements or complaints should be expressed through the proper channels and handled appropriately by all involved (parent, coach, and staff).

Control of the playing setting is necessary to maintain and ensure that the youth participants are exposed to an atmosphere positive for recreational athletics. Parents, coaches, and players should keep in mind that the program is designed for a recreational setting where the priority is not wins and losses. Coaches and parents should provide reinforcement to all players and show support for one another.

Our coaches will be instructed to inform parents and players not to make negative comments toward opposing players and coaches.

CRPCR has an established Code of Conduct that governs action taken against violators of our Recreation Programs. All participants (players, coaches, and spectators) are subject to disciplinary action for any violation of these rules:

CARRBORO RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT RULES OF CONDUCT

Revised 11/88 - Adopted by CRPCR Department, May 11, 1989

The following RULES OF CONDUCT are sportsmanship guidelines utilized to maintain a positive atmosphere in recreational athletics sponsored by the CRPCR Department. These rules will be applied to all sports/athletic programs in all age groups. Each registered team will be provided with this information and it is the responsibility of the team manager/coach to inform his/her participants. Ignorance of these rules will not be considered as an acceptable excuse for violations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The RULES OF CONDUCT will be in effect before; during and after each game/match/practice beginning with departmental sponsored pre-season practices and continuing through the conclusion of league/tournament play. All athletic special events will be governed by these rules. These guidelines will apply to all events conducted by the department regardless of whether these events are on city owned property or rental facilities.
- Each league in each sport will have league rules to meet requirements of that particular sport. These league rules will not be considered separate from the RULES OF CONDUCT and violations of league rules can result in suspension.
- Team(s) and/or individuals suspended, as a result of infractions of the RULES OF CONDUCT will not be given refunds for team or individual fees.
- Participant - Any of the following: player, coach or assistant coach, spectator, team, team follower or an official.
- Official - Any of the following: umpire, referee, supervisor, scorekeeper, or any other CRPCR Department staff person.
- Any departmental official has the authority to eject a participant from a CRPCR Department event or property.
- Participants ejected from a game/match/practice must leave the facility in an expedient manner (2 minutes and less is considered expedient). Failure to do so will result in a forfeited ball game.
- Repeated violations by team(s) or individuals will result in more severe penalties being applied.
- Violations of the RULES OF CONDUCT at the conclusion of seasonal play may result in a penalty application in succeeding programs and/or seasons.
- Penalties applied for any situation or circumstance not specifically covered in these RULES OF CONDUCT will be left to the discretion of the Recreation Administrator.

RULES OF CONDUCT

1. All participants must abide by an official's decision.
2. All participants must refrain from all objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an official's decision (i.e. kicking or throwing a ball, bat or equipment, speaking loudly to an official, making any gesture toward an official, etc.)
3. During the course of a game/match, only one coach or one captain per team will be allowed to discuss decisions reached by an official with that official.
4. All participants must refrain from using unnecessary roughness against the body and person of an opposing player during the course of play.
5. All participants must refrain from using profane, obscene, or vulgar language.
6. Taunting, mocking, and/or harassment of participants or officials will not be allowed.

-----**PENALTY**-----

The participant will be ejected from the game/match and subject to the possible suspension of one (minimum) to three (maximum) games.

The length of the suspension will depend largely on: The action that warranted the ejection and the action displayed after the ejection occurred.

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7. Profane, obscene, or vulgar language used maliciously towards another participant, or official will not be allowed.
 8. Verbal abuse and/or harassment of participants or officials will not be allowed.
 9. Participants must refrain from pushing, shoving, striking, laying a hand on, or threatening any of these actions to another participant or official.
 10. The drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will not be allowed at CRPCR events or property.
 11. Participants must refrain from any form of physical attack as an aggressor upon another participant or official.
 12. Firearms, knives, or other weapons are not allowed at CRPCR events or property.

-----**PENALTY**-----

The participant will be ejected from the game/match and suspended for the remainder of the season, or if circumstances warrant, be suspended from any further competitive programs offered by the Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources Department. For violations of the above laws, legal authorities will be contacted.

APPLICATION OF THE RULES OF CONDUCT

- Upon receipt of a written report describing a violation, the Athletic Program Supervisor or designee will investigate the report and will in turn apply the appropriate penalty in compliance with the RULES OF CONDUCT.
- The violator will be mailed a form letter describing the violation and appropriate penalty. Additional copies of this letter will be issued to the team coach/manager, league supervisor, officials, etc. as needed. Parent/guardian will be mailed this letter for youth violators.
- Penalties will begin immediately following the determination/notification of the penalty.
- Participants suspended from a program are suspended from attending any game/match (same program) sponsored by CRPCR Department during the period of suspension. Same program is defined by major program category such as youth athletic programs, adult softball, etc. For example, a parent suspended because of actions at a pee wee baseball game would be allowed to participate in adult softball, but could not attend a mite baseball game or any other program in the youth athletic league for the duration of the suspension.

APPEAL OF SUSPENSIONS

A formal appeal process is available for those desiring a review of any sanctions issued.

12. UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION

CRPCR issues uniforms (baseball jersey and cap) to all fall baseball participants. These uniforms are distributed to the teams prior to the first game of the season.

13. EQUIPMENT

CRPCR provides each team with the necessary equipment for all practices and games.

Each participant is responsible for providing their own ball glove (except catcher's mitts), bat, and batting helmet. Those people who need to borrow a bat and helmet can request to do so from the Department and can be loaned out on a first come first serve basis. At the completion of the season, any loaned equipment needs to be returned to the head coach or returned back to the Department.

Over the past several years, we have received several questions concerning baseball equipment. The following is a summary of the most requested information and recommendations for proper fit and use of each.

Glove Size:

1. A youth participant's glove should be a size that properly fits the player's hand.

Breaking in a new glove or keeping one in proper condition:

A bucket of water, shaving cream or saddle soap can be used to break a stiff leather glove in or to maintain a leather glove in good condition. Tying a ball in the center of a glove helps to create the proper shape.

Call for detailed information. When breaking in a new glove, one must be careful of the material used. Some items used can leave a greasy residue on the glove.

Bats:

2. Any bat used should be of proper size for the player. On every bat a logo that must be on every bat is the **USA baseball stamp**. This logo will inform the coaches and umpires the bat is compliant for use in practice as well as game play.

To further educate yourself on the type of bats that will be acceptable to use moving forward please visit the website <https://usabat.com/faq/>

At the upper top of the page is a tab called "**APPROVED BAT LIST**" which show the type of bats that will be acceptable for use.

3. All bats shall be:
 - In diameter at thickest part: (wood) 2 ¾ inches or less
 - In diameter at thickest part: (non-wood) 2 5/8 inches or less
 - In length: 36 inches or less
 - No weight differential restriction

Softball bats are not considered legal.

4. If a bat requires the replacement of a new grip, use a proper rubber bat grip, or grip tape. Slick tape such as electrical tape is illegal because of the texture that could cause the player to lose control of the bat during a swing.
5. CRPCR recommends, but does not require, that baseball participants wear a cleated-style shoe. The cleated shoe provides more traction (footing) than tennis shoes.

14. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

CRPCR strives to offer the safest environment possible for its participants. The use of safety approved equipment is one method of reducing some of the potential injuries which may occur during a baseball season. Along with the use of safety equipment, the possibility of injuries can be reduced through the attentiveness and cooperation of each participant. The two sections below discuss various equipment, which may contribute to a safer environment:

Protective Cups- All male participants are encouraged to wear a protective cup during baseball practices and games. Protective cups are made in various sizes and are available at most sporting goods dealers.

Baseball Hats- Baseball hats are considered part of the uniform and are expected to be worn during all games. The hat should also be considered a safety item for the player. The hat is designed to protect the player from the sunlight, heat, and shade the eyes during an attempt to catch a thrown or batted ball.

Mouthpieces- A participant may wear a mouthpiece during practices or games. If a participant elects to wear a mouthpiece, proper steps should be taken to ensure that the item fits properly in the player's mouth.

Catchers- All catchers should wear a cup-type athletic supporter, mask with a throat guard, chest protector, shin guards and protective headgear when catching behind home plate. Any player serving as a catcher while a pitcher warms up shall wear a mask, whether the pitcher is warming up from the mound, bullpen, or elsewhere.

CRPCR will provide the basic catching equipment (mask, throat guard, chest protector, shin guards, and protective headgear). The cup-type athletic supporter should be provided by the participant.

Baseballs- CRPCR uses a Safety Level 5 baseball in it's A league and Safety Level 10 baseball in its AA league.

There are several "safety" designed baseballs on the market for youth participants. They range from cloth-covered baseballs to the RIF baseballs. If a parent/guardian is interested in obtaining a "safety" designed baseball for home use, most sporting goods dealers have them in stock. If someone needs additional information on the various baseballs available, please contact CRPCR.

Participant Assistance

Attentiveness- Players should always be attentive while on a baseball field. Many injuries occur in the dugout when a player picks up a bat and swings while disregarding other players in the area. Sometimes a player will walk into a bat being swung by another player.

Foul balls sometimes hit the "on-deck" batter during a practice or game setting. Anyone standing on deck should be attentive and should be wearing a batting helmet.

Other injuries occur during warm-ups when someone stands or walks between or directly behind two players who are throwing a baseball. Players should observe others before throwing a baseball.

Jewelry- All forms of jewelry (watches, earrings, necklaces, rings, etc.) should not be worn during practices or games. In certain situations, these items may injure the participant wearing the piece of jewelry or someone else. Umpires will request players to remove jewelry prior to participating in games.

Clothing- During the season, many players wear shorts to practices. CRPCR recommends long pants (baseball pants or sweat pants) to be worn. Long pants protect the players' legs if he/she falls down, dives for a thrown or batted ball, or slides into a

base. If a player wears shorts to a practice, the player may need to bring a pair of longer pants to put on if needed.

Any participant or parent who has questions or comments regarding safety should contact CRPCR. The athletic staff will be happy to discuss any of the safety equipment used in the program or available on the market.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS / DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE

Over time, CRPCR has been asked to provide reasoning to some commonly asked questions. Below is an attempt to provide answers to some of those questions people may have:

1) What are some benefits of being the Volunteer Head Coach?

Being the volunteer head coach allows him/her to have the flexibility in selection of players, availability of selected team practices set for the season, and organization/direction of the team.

2) What is the role of the assistant coach?

The role of the assistant coach is just as important as the head coach. The assistant coach may need to fill in or take over for the head coach during an activity for a variety of reasons (head coach out of town, etc...).

Under the direction of the head coach, the assistant coach must be able to assume responsibilities such as, communication, organization of practices, game day preparation and management. All assistant coaches need to have the same team philosophy as the head coach.

3) Why can't all special requests be granted?

Our department receives a variety of special requests, each of which is very important in their own way. Being able to accommodate all the requests would prove quite difficult. Attempts are made by the coaches and Department to grant them but not all can as they could alter the attempted goal of balancing the teams on the basis of talent as well as alter the roster sizes which impact playing time.

4) Why can't my child be on a team that practices a certain day of the week?

Similar to the reasoning behind special requests going unfulfilled, being able to accommodate these requests too would prove to be difficult. If you find that your child is on a team which practices on a day(s) which conflict with other activities, merely inform the coach so he or she can plan accordingly.

5) Who handles field preparations and what goes into making a decision to cancel games based on field conditions?

CRPCR requests, through the town Public Works Department, that all fields be dragged for practices as well as dragged and lined for games. The fields should be maintained on a consistent basis.

On fields where different age groups may be practicing on the same night, bases are set for the first team practicing that evening and base plugs are located at the distance for access by another age group.

When it is raining outside and the condition of the field deteriorates, the decision to cancel games is fairly easy, but when it has rained and the weather has improved, a decision to cancel games is now a more difficult process.

There are 3 factors necessary for fields to dry out quickly; they are sun, warm temperatures, and wind. During the week, when conditions of the field are a concern, Recreation staff consults with Public Works to see if repairs can be made in order to play the games that evening.

These consultations are made in the morning as well as early afternoon. If standing water is on the field, attempts are made to remove the water then mix a drying agent into the wet areas.

On weekend games, when Public Works staff is unavailable, the decision as to whether Recreation staff can fix the field is made at least 2 hours before the first game when possible.

If it is decided the field conditions will not improve by game time, games will be canceled. If work can be done to safely prepare the fields for play, we will make every effort to do so.

Any decisions to cancel are made based on 2 conservative criteria: 1- safety of the participant and 2- liability of playing conditions.

No games may be played if the field is in poor condition.

6) Is there any flexibility in the requesting of scheduling and rescheduling of game times/dates/locations?

CRPCR would like to be flexible in order to accommodate all requests concerning scheduling conflicts coaches or participants have with regard to our game schedules. However, such a goal is difficult to achieve due to many factors involved.

In our Fall Baseball program scheduling and rescheduling is done during the period of September 22nd through October 28th. The season needs to be completed after that time as weather begins to become very unpredictable with the onset of winter.

6) Why does practices and games start so late during the week?

For most of the Fall baseball season, a majority of the games are played on either Friday evening or Saturday morning. However, in order to allow as many participants as our fields and program format can provide, we have to utilize baseball practice and game times that may begin at or after 7pm during the week. We do our best to balance out these times so that it affects all teams as evenly as possible in a specific age grouping (league) and not just a few.

14. LIABILITY

Sanctioned practices, games, and other activities are coordinated, scheduled, and endorsed by CRPCR. Activities such as non-approved team practices or games,

participation in other events such as group/team attendance to a college or professional game, holiday parade, meeting at privately-owned facilities may not be authorized by the CRPCR.

While we recognize and appreciate the intention of volunteers or parents to initiate and conduct activities to build and foster relationships beyond what is offered through the Town, please understand individuals who participate in such activities may be doing so at their own risk or with the responsibility of liability being placed on someone other than CRPCR.

Parents are encouraged to inquire about whether an activity is coordinated and/or endorsed by the CRPCR prior to participation.