



High Desert Baseball

League Policies

Effective Date: Upon registration

Applies To: Players, parents/guardians, coaches, volunteers, and spectators

1. League Purpose

High Desert Baseball exists to develop young athletes and **create good humans through sport**. Our league emphasizes accountability, effort, teamwork, resilience, and respect for the game of baseball, while maintaining a safe, positive, and competitive environment for all participants.

We believe baseball should complement—not replace—other sports and family priorities, while still teaching players how to compete the right way.

2. Registration & Eligibility

- All players must be officially registered with High Desert Baseball and have all required forms on file prior to participation (waivers, medical information, emergency contacts).
 - Players must meet age and division eligibility requirements as defined each season.
 - Any scholarship or financial assistance programs are handled confidentially and at the discretion of the Board.
 - Player placement decisions are final and are made in the best interest of player development and team balance.
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3. Communication Expectations

- Official league and team communication will be conducted through approved channels (email, league platform, team app).
 - Families should allow reasonable time for responses from coaches (typically 24–48 hours).
 - A **24-hour cooling-off period** is strongly encouraged before addressing emotionally charged issues.
 - Coaches and board members will not engage in heated or confrontational discussions at games or practices.
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4. Playing Time Philosophy

(Blended Development & Competition)

High Desert Baseball is committed to **player development, competitive growth, and respect for the game.**

- During the regular season, the league prioritizes **meaningful playing opportunities for all rostered players** over the course of the season. Coaches will make reasonable efforts to balance playing time while also considering player safety, effort, attitude, attendance, and positional readiness.
- As players progress and competition increases, **playing time is not guaranteed in every game**. Coaches may adjust lineups and defensive assignments based on performance, practice habits, team strategy, matchup considerations, and game situations.
- Tournament play and post-season competition are inherently more competitive. In these environments, **playing time decisions may be more performance-based**, while still maintaining a commitment to long-term player development and respectful

communication.

- Coaches are responsible for making playing time decisions in the best interest of both **individual development and team success**. These decisions are not made lightly and are never intended as punishment.
- Parents and guardians may request a scheduled conversation with the coaching staff if they have questions. **Playing time will not be discussed during games or in emotionally charged settings.**

This philosophy is designed to prepare players to **compete, grow, and love the game**, while fostering accountability, resilience, and teamwork.

5. Attendance & Commitment

- Players are expected to attend practices and games and arrive on time.
 - Families should notify coaches as early as possible if a player will miss an event.
 - Repeated unexcused absences or tardiness may impact lineup decisions, defensive assignments, and tournament participation.
 - Multi-sport participation is supported; communication is key.
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6. Player Safety & Athlete Protection

High Desert Baseball maintains a **zero-tolerance policy** for abuse, bullying, harassment, grooming behavior, retaliation, or misconduct involving minors.

League safety standards include:

- Background checks for all coaches and designated volunteers
- Adherence to appropriate boundaries and professional conduct

- Avoidance of one-on-one isolated situations whenever possible
- Immediate reporting of any safety concerns to the League Safety Officer or Board
- Compliance with all applicable mandatory reporting laws

Player safety always takes precedence over competition.

7. Injury, Concussion & Medical Policy

- Any player suspected of having a concussion or serious injury will be immediately removed from participation.
 - Return-to-play requires parent/guardian confirmation and, when appropriate, medical clearance.
 - Pitching limits and arm-care rules will follow the governing rule set adopted by the league and will be strictly enforced.
 - Each team will maintain basic first-aid supplies at practices and games.
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8. Weather & Field Safety

- Games and practices may be delayed or canceled due to weather, field conditions, visibility, temperature, or lightning.
 - Coaches may not override league, city, or field-operator closures.
 - Families are responsible for making safe travel decisions.
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9. Equipment & Uniforms

- Players must wear required protective equipment, including helmets and catcher's gear where applicable.
 - Bats must meet the league's approved standards.
 - Jewelry is not permitted except for medical identification.
 - Players are responsible for maintaining their equipment in safe condition.
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10. Spectator & Facility Conduct

- No tobacco, vaping, or alcohol is permitted in player areas or at youth baseball events.
 - Spectators must remain in designated viewing areas.
 - Pets must be leashed and controlled at all times.
 - Respect all facilities, neighbors, umpires, volunteers, and league representatives.
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11. Photography, Video & Social Media

- Photos and videos should reflect positive sportsmanship.
 - Content that shames, mocks, or targets players, coaches, umpires, or families is prohibited.
 - Do not post personal or identifying information about minors without consent.
 - The league reserves the right to request removal of inappropriate content.
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12. Conflict Resolution & Chain of Communication

Concerns should follow this order:

1. Parent/Guardian → Coach (scheduled discussion)
2. If unresolved → Division Director
3. If unresolved → League Board

No confrontations with coaches or umpires during games or practices.

13. Discipline Policy

High Desert Baseball uses a **progressive discipline model**, though severe incidents may result in immediate action.

Possible actions include:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Removal from practice or game
- Suspension
- Season removal
- Facility or league ban

Discipline may apply to players, parents, spectators, coaches, or volunteers.

14. Refund Policy

- Refunds prior to the start of the season may be issued minus non-refundable administrative or uniform costs.
 - Refunds after the season begins are considered only for extraordinary circumstances (e.g., season-ending injury or relocation) at board discretion.
 - Weather-related cancellations are not refundable.
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15. Policy Acknowledgement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the High Desert Baseball League Policies. I understand that participation in High Desert Baseball is a privilege and that failure to comply with these policies may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from league activities.

I further acknowledge that these policies apply to players, parents or guardians, coaches, volunteers, and spectators associated with my family.

Player Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Coach or Volunteer Name (if applicable): _____

Coach or Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____