



**EXCELSIOR SPRINGS PARKS AND REC DEPARTMENT
KID PITCH (3rd & 4th grade)
BOY'S BASEBALL & GIRL'S SOFTBALL
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

ADMINISTRATION:

The Kid Pitch League is supervised by the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Department. Decisions rendered by the Parks and Recreation Department are final. USSSA baseball and softball rules apply except where superseded by the following Kid Pitch League Rules.

COACHES:

1. Shall, above all, have the welfare of each child as his/her main objective.
2. Must have a reasonable knowledge of the game.
3. Shall act as an example of good conduct and sportsmanship to his/her team in all league matters.
4. Emphasis shall be placed on learning rules and fundamentals of the game, participation and personal enjoyment.
5. Guidelines for selecting coaches:
 - a. -Must be 18 years old
 - b. -Previous years experience and good standing within ESPR programs
 - c. -Parents of children in program
 - d. -Past complaints from parents, coaches, and umpires will be considered
 - e. -If all is equal, a coin toss will be used to break a tie
6. All selected coaches must be approved by office background check before able to coach

TEAMS:

1. Players must submit a player contract (registration form) with fee, properly signed by a parent or guardian, prior to participation in any game.
2. Team rosters will be as balanced as possible so that each team consists of maximum 15 players or less. Exceptions may be made by the Parks & Recreation Department.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT:

1. Required uniform consists of a provided shirt with number. Player names may appear on the uniform. Uniforms shall be the same color.
2. Batters and base runners are required to wear approved head protection helmets with ear covering at all times during practice and games. Umpires are instructed to rigidly enforce this rule. The catcher is required to wear a mask and boys must wear a protective cup. Catchers not wearing cups will be removed from position, teams with no catchers with protective cups will have to forfeit game!
3. Tennis shoes or rubber cleats only are to be worn. No street shoes or metal cleats are allowed.
4. ESPR will provide each team a duffel bag containing bats, helmets, catcher gear, practice balls
5. Each player must provide their own glove; individual bats & balls are optional.

GAME TIME:

1. Games are played weeknights.
2. Games will start promptly as scheduled. A team must have 7 uniformed players to start or continue a game. A 5 minute grace period is allowed from the scheduled starting time. The umpire's watch is official.
3. All teams must play on assigned fields and dates. Failure to do so is an automatic forfeit.

HOME TEAM & SCORE KEEPING:

1. Home team will be listed first on the schedule and shall occupy the first base dugout.
2. REMINDER: Home team will provide the Official Scorekeeper. The Official Scorekeeper is there to keep batting line ups in order. Scoresheets should be turned in to staff at end of game.

OFFICIAL GAME:

1. There will be a time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes for baseball and softball or 5 innings which ever comes first. If the score is tied at the end of five innings, the game will be over.
2. Decisions concerning rain cancellations will not be changed until 4:00 p.m. for weeknight games. The rain out information will be updated on the Department Facebook and Twitter pages. If decision is made early enough all coaches will be emailed. Coaches will be notified as to when games have been rescheduled.
3. Two umpires will be assigned to each game. However, a game may be played with only one umpire.

INNING REQUIREMENTS & PLAYER SUBSTITUTION IN THE FIELD:

1. EVERY player will play at least 2 innings in the infield and 2 innings in the outfield. Due to the fact there is limited spaces in the infield, coaches will do their best to rotate in & out throughout games. It is our hope that coaches will abide by this rule as well as try to rotate their children into more than 2 positions by the end of the season! Failure to abide by this rule may result in forfeiture of the game. A player must be substituted or switched every inning.
2. It is the decision of the umpires as to when a player removed from the game due to injury or illness will be allowed to re-enter the game. Their decision will be determined by the seriousness of the injury or illness.
3. Player arriving after the start of the third inning must be substituted into the field at the start of the next half inning in which his/her team is in the field.
4. It is the goal of the Parks & Recreation Department to provide as much learning experience as we can to our youth. Therefore, try to have every child play as many different positions as they can.

BATTING LINE-UP AND BATTING ORDER:

1. Each coach is required to submit the batting order to the Official Scorekeeper at least (5) minutes prior to the game time.
2. All players will be placed in the batting order. However, only 9 players will play the field each inning.

PROTESTS:

Officials' decisions in all matters are final. There shall be no protests.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Team members, coaches and spectators shall exhibit appropriate behavior toward other players, coaches, spectators, and officials. Unsportsmanlike conduct from team members and/or associates, including spectators, will result in one or more of the following:

- a) Player, coach or spectator ejection from the game.
- b) Player, coach or spectator ejection from the league.
- c) Player, coach or spectator suspension.
- d) Forfeit of game.

During the game, the officials have the authority to eject players, coaches & spectators. The Parks and Recreation Department has the final authority on determining the duration of suspension or other penalty. Any player (if he/she has a way home) and/or coach ejected from the game must leave the playing area. Failure to do so may result in forfeit of game.

****COACHES THAT QUESTION THE UMPIRE IN A DISRUPTIVE MANNER WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. ESTABLISH CREDIBILITY WITH THE CHILDREN BY SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH CERTAIN SITUATIONS THAT ARISE DURING THE GAME IN "HEAT OF THE MOMENT" SITUATIONS. IF THE UMPIRE SHOULD CALL A PLAY OR SITUATION THAT GOES AGAINST THE RULES STATED, THEN: HE WILL STOP PLAY & ACKNOWLEDGE HE MADE AN ERROR IN THE CALL, DISCUSS IT WITH THE COACHES & CORRECT THE SITUATION IN THE BEST WAY THAT HE CAN. REMEMBER TO TEACH THE KIDS MORE THAN JUST BASEBALL, TEACH THEM SPORTSMANSHIP, TEAM SPIRIT, POSITIVE INTERACTION WITH OPPOSING TEAMS & MOST IMPORTANT TEACH THEM TO HAVE FUN WHETHER THEY WIN OR LOSE!**

1. NO Alcohol permitted
2. No Mechanical noisemakers or bullhorns allowed at fields.
3. Any questions or issues should be directed towards the field supervisor rather than voicing opinions/complaints to umpire.
4. Umpires, coaches, parents, etc. are encouraged to inform the Parks and Recreation Department of unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, parents, players, etc. Office phone number is 816.630.1040.
5. Only positive remarks from parents, spectators, and players will be allowed. No yelling "swing" at the batter.

GENERAL PLAYING RULES:

1. Player position: A team shall have three (3) outfielders, and six (6) infielders. Teams can start/end with a minimum 7 players
2. Baseline shall be 65 FT and rubber 45 FT for boys; 60 Ft bases and 33 FT pitching rubber for girls.
3. Base running...
 - Girls Softball- There will be no stealing allowed
 - Boys Baseball- Stealing is allowed to second & third base only. The base runner may not leave the base until the ball crosses home plate. Base runner may not steal home, but may take home only after being forced in by a walk or because of a fairly hit ball. This rule is interpreted as follows: Base runners may not lead off any base and can only steal 2nd and 3rd when the ball has crossed home plate. The only way to score from third is by being forced in by a walk or a fairly hit ball. Also, a runner can't advance on a passed ball thrown by the catcher to the pitcher.
4. Free Substitution after playing requirements have been met.
5. Batting:
 - Each batter and base runner must wear a batting helmet.
 - Batter is automatically out on a dropped third strike.
 - Each offensive team remains at bat until 3 outs occur or 6 runs are scored.
 - Bunting is allowed when player is pitching!
 - There are no walks after fourth ball; the offensive coach will take the pitchers position on the rubber and no closer. From the rubber they will take up where the pitcher left off in the count. The coach must pitch overhand for baseball and underhand for softball. Each pitch will count as a strike whether or not the batter swings from the coach. The batter either strikes out or puts the ball into play.
6. No player may sit the bench for more than 2 consecutive innings. (Note: practice is an integral part of Excelsior Springs Parks & Rec Youth Sports. It is usually not the child's fault if they can't make it to practice and the child shouldn't be punished by not playing. If a player from your team is consistently missing practices, try to talk to the parents and see why the child isn't making it to practice. If it continues to be a problem, make sure the program coordinator is aware of it.) Every child plays at least 3 innings! However, if a child does miss practice it is encouraged they not start the following game.
7. Pitcher/Catcher Rules: No pitcher/catcher may pitch/catch more than four innings per game. They may play separate or consecutive innings. One pitch will count as having pitched an entire inning.
8. Girls Softball- Once both feet are on the rubber, the first step must be forward. There will be no rocking back to gain momentum.
9. Catcher interference is awarded a walk. Coach interference with runner (touching) causes runner to be out.
10. No 2 people can occupy one base. Therefore the following runner will be called out. The preceding runner is entitled to the base unless forced to move up.
11. A new pitcher may take a total of 7 warm up pitches at the beginning of an inning as a replacement. A pitcher returning to the mound from a previous inning may take a total of 5 pitches before play begins.
12. Our umpires sometimes rely on "Coaches Honor" when it comes to base running of the children. A child will go (usually) when a coach tells him/her. There are times when the umpires' attention is focused at one-point of the baseball field. At this time it is coaches who decide whether or not to advance a base runner while the umpire is occupied. Excelsior Springs Parks & Rec hopes that all coaches will use fair judgment on advancement of the runners. If unfair judgment is decided upon by the umpire the runners in question will be returned to the previous bases occupied.
13. A fair and sportsmanlike judgment by the coaches to advance runners is appreciated and makes it easier for the umpires/coaches/parents in the long run!
14. Before the start of games it is a great idea to get with the umpires to go over any questionable rules.
15. Sliding is permitted; however, when sliding if a person has the ball and a runner runs into them, that runner will be called out. Malicious contact will not be tolerated. Players shall not block a base without possession of the ball.
16. NO CHANTING ALLOWED.
17. NO SMOKING, CHEWING TOBACCO, OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITTED DURING PRACTICES OR GAMES PERIOD BY ANY COACHES OR ASST COACHES!!
18. Coaches please go over league rules and conduct with your parents.

AWARDS:

All Players in the Kid Pitch League will receive a participation award. Coaches will receive these awards prior to their final game.