Garden City Parks and Recreation
Youth Baseball / Softball League

GARDEN CITY
PARKS & RECREATION

Rules Packet / Coaches Manual

STRUCTURE

Garden City Parks and Recreation Youth Baseball/Softball Leagues are open to all boys and girls. Age is determined as of **May 1, 2027 for boys, and for girls it will be the current grade they are enrolled in.** The program is divided into leagues according to age / grade to provide appropriate competition and skill development at all ages.
Leagues are established as follows:

BOYS	AGE		GIRLS	Grade
Mini-Sluggers	**4**		**Mini-Sluggers**	**4 years old**
T-Ball	**5**		**T-Ball**	**5-6 years old**
Pee Wee	**6 & 7**		**Zodiac**	**Kind - 2nd Grade**
Rookie	**8**			
Minor	**9 & 10**	**Cal Ripken**	**Midget**	**3rd & 4th Grade**
Major	**11 & 12**	**Cal Ripken**	**Prairie**	**5th & 6th Grade**
Junior	**13-15**	**Babe Ruth**	**Pony League**	**7th – 9th Grade**

ADMINISTRATION

The GCPR Athletic Staff, with the approval of the Superintendent of Recreation and the Garden City Recreation Advisory Board, will establish the policies governing the Youth Baseball / Softball program. Evaluations, surveys, and input from advisory committees will be used to help formulate those policies.

ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

Anyone meeting the age requirements will be eligible to participate in this program. All boys and girls wanting to participate must be registered and fees paid before they will be allowed to play. For those unable to pay the fee, scholarships are available through Garden City Recreation. Registrations will be accepted only at the Garden City Recreation Office, 310 N.6th, or by mail.

COACHES & ASSISTANTS

Volunteers will be used as coaches and assistants for all teams. Experience is second to willingness to coach the youth. All Head Coaches must be 18 years or older, those under 18 are encouraged to serve as assistants. Any parent that volunteers will be allowed to coach his/her own child. **Coach's children must still attend the workout and be rated.** A coaches training session and organizational meeting will be conducted each year prior to the start of the season. It is strongly recommended that all volunteers attend. All volunteer coaches will be required to submit a background check to the Garden City Parks and Recreation, along with any assistant volunteer coaches helping.

GENERAL RULES

1. No coach may hold practices until after the Coach Meting has been completed for his/her age division.

2. Cancellation of games will be posted on the GCPR Facebook page but **not before 4 pm.** Coaches are responsible for notifying players of the cancellation. Coaches affected by a cancelled game will get an email from team sideline to let them know of the new date and time for that game.

3. Line-up sheets must be turned in to the scorekeeper at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Any players arriving after line-ups are in will be added to the bottom of the order.

4. **No jewelry such as watches, rings, neck chains or earrings may be worn while playing.**

5. Each player will be entered in the teams batting line-up and bat each time it is their turn. **Each player must play one defensive inning by the third inning and two innings by the end of five.** A manager may not play an individual for disciplinary reasons; however, the manager must notify the GCPR Athletic Staff and the players' parents prior to the game. Not playing an individual is to be the last resort and any abuse of this rule can result in (first offense) a warning and (second offense) a forfeiture of the game by the Athletics Staff.

6. Any batter throwing the bat could be called out. This is a judgement call by the umpires. The ball will be dead, and no runners can advance.

7. In baseball, if a pitcher in the pitching leagues is taken out as pitcher and goes to the bench he may return and play another position but cannot return as pitcher. Defensive substitutions cannot be made during an inning except for an injured player, or for the pitcher in those leagues using a regular pitcher. **Two pitcher conferences in an inning by coach/manager the pitcher must be removed. Any attempt to evade or circumvent this rule by the manager/coach going to the catcher or an infielder and that player going to the mound to confer with the pitcher shall constitute a trip to the mound.**

8. **Any player, manager, or assistant shall be suspended for the remainder of the game and ejected from the area if guilty of any of the following:**
   - **A. Using profane language in any manner.**
   - **B. Making unnecessary gestures in protesting an umpire's decision.**
   - **C. Resorting to unnecessary roughness on the playing field (No crash plays).**
   - **D. Throwing a bat or helmet in an unsportsmanlike manner.**
   - **E. Riding, heckling, or making uncomplimentary remarks to an opposing player, manager, or official.**
   - **F. Bickering with judgment decisions of the umpires.**
   - **G. USE OF TOBACCO while on Playing fields or any GCPR Facilities.**

Zero Tolerance Rule

There will be zero tolerance for players, coaches and spectators who engage in harassing and/or unsportsmanlike behavior with umpires / officials, other spectators, game supervisors, other players, or GCPR Athletic Staff. Officials, game supervisors and GCPR Athletic Staff have the authority to penalize the player, coach, spectator, or team if an official is sworn at, harassed, argued with, or insulted. Penalties will range from: warning, to ejection from the game, to suspension from future games and possible forfeiture of the game.

9. **Shoes with metal cleats or spikes are prohibited in all GCPR Youth Baseball / Softball Leagues**. Shoes with molded rubber or plastic cleats are permissible.

10. Coaches, players, and other team personnel must remain completely in the dugout and out of the playing area with the following exceptions:
    A. The on-deck batter in the appropriate circle.
    B. One bat boy/girl when retrieving equipment.
    C. One base coach at each 1st and 3rd base. In addition, one coach around home plate for Zodiac, Pee Wee, Rookie and Midget leagues to help with getting batting tee ready for use.
    D. One defensive coach in the outfield grass for Pee Wee & Zodiac league games.
    E. The fielding team, batter, and base runners.

11. Pitchers will be allowed up to five (5) warm-up pitches before the start of the first half inning their team is in the field, five pitches between innings and three (3) pitches whenever a pitching change is made.

12. All batters, base runners and catchers must wear a helmet that covers the head and both ears.

13. A minimum of seven (7) players are required to avoid a forfeit (6 players for Pee Wee, Zodiac, and Rookie leagues). Scheduled game time is forfeit time. Automatic outs will not be recorded. In the case of a forfeited game, managers can agree to a practice game but in no instance, will a practice game go past the starting time for the next regularly scheduled game. Teams may continue to scrimmage with the use of officials but may not exceed the time allowed.

14. If a team cannot catch the other team due to runs allowed per inning, the game is officially over, and score will not be kept from that point on. Teams may continue to scrimmage with the use of officials but may not exceed the time allowed.

15. **Any communication to the umpire must be done through the head coach and in calm and respectful manner.**

16. Teams will wear shirts and hats provided by Garden City Parks and Recreation through sponsor participation.

17. Any team using an ineligible player shall forfeit all games that the ineligible player participates in.

18. Protests are allowed only for determining an ineligible player. All other questions regarding a ruling by an umpire shall be settled on the spot by the umpire, supervisor, coordinators, if available. Judgment calls are not open to discussion. If there is any question or comments on rules / interpretation, please contact GCPR Athletic Staff.

19. Coaches and assistants shall be responsible for the conduct of their players and parents or relatives of the players.

20. **Tobacco products are not permitted on the playing field, in the dugouts or in the stands during practice or games.** Any manager under the influence of alcohol will be automatically out of the program and relieved of all responsibility.

21. There will be no play-offs to break ties at the end of the regular season

22. Coaches, players, and spectators are not to talk to the scorer unless necessary.

23. Coaches and assistant coaches must remain in the confines of the field and dugout except, to report a substitution or check score with scorekeeper.

24. The home team listed on the schedule will occupy the **first base dugout**.

25. **Kansas Highs School Athletic Association (KSHSAA) rules will govern all play not covered in these General Rules or the League Rules for each league.**

26. If a player is injured during defensive play, they skip him in batting. If injured when he is a base runner/batter, a designated runner may be used. **The designated runner will be the person who is the closest previous batter not already on base.**

27. **In the event of inclement weather, if the game has passed the allotted time to complete a game but the visiting team has an additional at bat. The score will reflect the previous completed innings score.**

28. Automatic outs will not be taken for any division in baseball or softball when there are not enough players to fill the lineup card.

29. Runners must always seek to avoid contact with fielders. If, in the judgement of the umpire, the runner interferes with the play by making contact with the fielder; the runner shall be called out and all remaining runners will return to the base they occupied when the interference occurred.

29. Fielders may not interfere with the runners basepath provided they are not making a play on the ball. If, in the umpire's judgement, a fielder makes contact with a runner and impedes their ability to reach a potential base; obstruction will be called, and the runner will be awarded at least one base. (This includes blocking bases.)

30. Any player designated as an outfielder must start each pitch in the grass of the outfield. Infield players must also assume their normal positions. (Players must be behind their respective base as to not be in the basepath)

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Mini-Sluggers League Rules

Governed by Cal Ripken Rules

1. A team must have at least 5 players to start a game or borrow players from another team. If a player is lost during the game due to injury or sickness his/her batting position will be skipped.

2. To start the game, the visiting team will bat its entire line up, while the home team is in the field. After the half inning is over teams will switch to complete the inning. **The 3-out rule is not in effect.**

3. Teams will play a 3-inning game.

4. A batted ball must cross the 25' arc or it will be called a foul ball.

5. A batter will receive 5 attempts to put the ball into play.

6. No defensive player may play in front of the 46' arc (pitcher position) until the ball is hit.

7. **Players need to play in regular baseball positions. Do not line kids up around the 46' arc.**

8. Extra players may play defense only in the outfield. No extra players allowed in the infield.

9. The defensive player in the pitching position must stay in contact with the 46' pitching arc until the ball is hit.

10. Players must be rotated at different positions each inning to allow players to experience various positions on the field.

11. Players may only advance one base at a time. The last batter in the lineup is allowed to run the bases

12. No runners will be allowed to advance on an overthrow.

13. Batting line-ups should be rotated every inning to allow a new hitter to bat last. No scores will be kept.

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T- Ball League Rules

Governed by Cal Ripken Rules

1. A team must have at least 5 players to start a game or borrow players from another team. If a player is lost during the game due to injury or sickness his/her batting position will be skipped without penalty (no out given).

2. To start the game, the visiting team will bat its entire line up, while the home team is in the field. After the half inning is over teams will switch to complete the inning. **The 3-out rule is not in effect.**

3. Teams will play a 3-inning game.

4. If a batter receives three strikes, he/she will be called out. A swing and a miss, foul balls, or any combination of the two can total three strikes. A foul ball on the third strike will not be ruled a strike. If the batter misses the ball and hits only the tee and/or misses entirely, then it is a strike.

5. A foul ball occurs when the ball is hit into foul territory or does not cross the 25-foot, which is shown by an arc drawn from foul line to foul line. If a batter hits part of the ball and part of the rubber tee, it is a fair ball if it goes past the 25-foot arc. If a batter hits all rubber or the ball does not go past the 25-foot arc, it is just a foul ball.

6. No defensive player may play in front of the 46' arc (pitcher position) until the ball is hit.

7. **Players need to play in regular baseball positions. Do not line kids up around the 46' arc.**

8. Extra players may play defense only in the outfield. No extra players allowed in the infield.

9. The defensive player in the pitching position must stay in contact with the 46' arc until the ball is hit.

10. Players must be rotated at different positions each inning to allow players to experience various positions on the field.

11. Players may only advance one base at a time. The last batter in the lineup is allowed to run the bases

12. No runners will be allowed to advance on an overthrow.

13. Batting line ups should be rotated every inning to allow for a different player to bat last. No scores will be kept.

14. No stealing or leading off is permitted. Batters cannot bunt.