

# Valley Center Recreation Commission

## Baseball & Softball - Informational Sheet

The administrative organization for the baseball and softball program is the Valley Center Recreation Commission. The managerial organization for the baseball and softball program is the Wichita Heights Jr. Baseball & Softball League. The WHJBSL is comprised of: Andover Parks & Recreation, Bel Aire Recreation, Circle Recreation, El Dorado Parks & Recreation, Park City Baseball & Softball, Valley Center Recreation Commission and Whitewater Park Board. Each entity is solely responsible for the day-to-day operation and decisions of their program, in accordance with WHJBSL rules and regulations when applicable.

Baseball teams comply with National Baseball Congress rules. Softball teams comply with Amateur Softball Association rules. Age specific modifications have been made to both organizations rules by the WHJBSL. The WHJBSL has also developed and adopted "minimum age requirements" for each division that the participants must meet in the event that they are considering *playing up*.

The WHJBSL embraces the philosophy of sportsmanship, equal play opportunities, skill development, etc... but the WHJBSL should not be considered a "pure recreational league". Standings are kept, some teams are more competitive than others, and coaches are allowed (by the WHJBSL) to select / recruit their players (vs. a random draw), etc... However, the basic premise and mission of the WHJBSL is to design a youth sports program which is fun, enjoyable and a positive experience for those involved. The VCRC will advocate a "recreational" philosophy and stress equal play opportunity to all Valley Center teams. However, teams are not bound by this because of WHJBSL regulations.

Official practice for all teams can begin the week of March 25<sup>th</sup>. The VCRC will schedule each team one practice per week. Teams/coaches may request a 2<sup>nd</sup> practice, if diamond space is available. Please be aware that some teams may practice more than twice a week and some on weekends. Communication between the parents and coaches is essential when they are attempting to schedule practices.

**Beginning the week of May 1<sup>st</sup>**, the following divisions will begin play: 7 & 8 year old baseball and softball, 9 & 10 year old baseball and softball, 11 & 12 year old baseball and softball and 13 & 14 year old baseball. Every attempt will be made to conclude the season by July 1<sup>st</sup>. However, due to circumstances beyond the control of the VCRC and/or WHJBSL, the league season may run until July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Beginning the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>**, the following division will begin play: 13 & 14 year old baseball. Every attempt will be made to conclude the season by July 1<sup>st</sup>. However, due to the last start of the season, the number of games that will be played and circumstances beyond the control of the VCRC and/or WHJBSL, the league season may run until July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Beginning the week of May 29<sup>th</sup>**, the following division will begin play: 13, 14 & 15 year old softball. Every attempt will be made to conclude the season by July 1<sup>st</sup>. However, due to the last start of the season, the number of games that will be played and circumstances beyond the control of the VCRC and/or WHJBSL, the league season may run until July 7<sup>th</sup>.

7 & 8 year baseball and softball teams will play 10 games. 9 & 10 year old baseball and softball, 11 & 12 year old baseball and softball, 13 & 14 year old baseball and 13, 14 & 15 year old softball will play 12 games.

Every Head Coach and hopefully Assistant Coach will be certified through the NAYS (National Alliance for Youth Sports) / NYSCA (National Youth Sports Coaches Association). Additionally, every Head Coach will have a background check administered by the WHJBSL. Both the Head Coach and his/her Assistant(s), will be required to adhere to the guidelines, policies and philosophy of the NAYS/NYSCA, VCRC and WHJBSL, as it relates to youth sports. Additionally, every parent will be asked to adhere to proper sportsmanship and exhibit positive attitudes and respect for coaches, players and umpires, at all times. Parents and coaches are **ROLE MODELS** for these young men and women and we challenge you to make this a very positive and enjoyable activity, one that your son or daughter will walk away from with fond memories, regardless of the score, outcome of the game or the number of mistakes that are made by the participants, coaches and/or umpires. **Unacceptable behavior, unsportsmanlike conduct and/or any other action which is viewed as detrimental to youth sports are dealt with very sternly. Coaches, players and parents / spectators are encouraged to enjoy themselves and always demonstrate positive sportsmanship at all times.**

The children participating in this program have varying degrees of skills and abilities. For some, this may be their first time in a “team sport” activity. Always remember, be fair in your assessment of all players, regardless of their skill. Keep your perspectives realistic in assessing the skill of your son / daughter. Each participant on the team is just as important as the next player.