

Lynn Haven Baseball/Softball Bylaws

The primary objective of Lynn Haven Baseball/Softball league will be to encourage good sportsmanship, team work, honesty, commitment, and self-esteem, thus enabling players to become healthier and responsible as they grow older. Emphasis is placed on sportsmanship, developing skills, and promoting enjoyment.

The Lynn Haven girls fast pitch league is comprised of (5) leagues as follows:

1. Lynn Haven Girls Farm (7-8) League
2. Lynn Haven Girls Minor (9-10) League
3. Lynn Haven Girls Freshman (11-12) League
4. Lynn Haven Girls Sophomore (13-14) League
5. Lynn Haven Girls Junior (15-16) League

The Lynn Haven Baseball program is comprised of (4) leagues as follows:

1. Lynn Haven T-Ball
2. Lynn Haven Farm (7-8) League
3. Lynn Haven Minor (9-10) League
4. Lynn Haven Freshman (11-12) League

The league will be run by the City of Lynn Haven under the direct supervision of the department of Community Services. The recreation specialist will act as the representative of the department of Community Services and the City of Lynn Haven.

League formation will be determined by the number of players signed up for an age group.

Recreation Specialist Will:

1. Run the Lynn Haven Baseball/Softball league in accordance with the league bylaws and the rules and regulations of the City of Lynn Haven.
2. Approve expenditures for each league and for general expenditures.
3. Fund raising by individual leagues is expressly prohibited, unless authorized by the Director of Community Services, except that an all-star or traveling team may raise funds to help defray the expenses of state and national tournament after submission of a completed budget to and approval of the

Department of Community Services and the City Manager. On any all-star or traveling team, the coach and his designee will be aware of all funds collected and a full accounting of donations and expenses must be provided to the Department of Community Services. All remaining funds must be returned within 30 days from the tournament play for deposit to the Lynn Haven Recreation Fund.

Protest:

All protest must be submitted in writing to the Recreation Specialist within 24 hours of the game being protested. The head umpire must be told of the protested infraction as soon as possible. \$50.00 must accompany the written protest. Protests will only be accepted for the games that count towards league standings. If the protest is ruled in favor of the protester the money will be returned, if the protest is ruled as a failed protest, the money shall be placed for deposit in the Lynn Haven Recreation Fund.

Protest will be reviewed by the Department of Community Services. A ruling will be given within two (2) working days after being reviewed. All decisions will be final.

Disciplinary Decisions:

The Recreation Staff along with Umpires and the Community Services department will act upon the request of any of the members of a Lynn Haven Recreational program concerning improper behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct by any head coach, assistant coach, parent, player, or spectator and will recommend appropriate action to be taken.

Umpires:

Coordination of the activities and instructions to the umpires will be through the Department of Community Services and Umpire Association. They are the final authority of all calls made on the field. The home plate umpire ONLY will handle the line-ups and all changes in play.

Conduct:

1. During league activities, coaches, players, parents, and spectators must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with high moral and sportsmanship standards.
2. No coach or player may have a rule book or league bylaws on the field. Rule books and bylaws are permitted only in the dugouts.
3. Any coach, player, umpire, parent, or spectator that causes controversy within the league through actions, word or deed shall be suspended from the league. If a player, coach, or spectator is ejected from a game they will automatically be suspended for the next scheduled game. Depending on the incident further punishment will be determined by the recreation staff, umpires, and the Community Services department.

Ownership of Property:

All materials, property, and equipment purchased by the city will become city property. No person may purchase any equipment or supplies with city funds. All-star uniforms purchased by the city may not be given away nor sold. The recreation specialist will be responsible for ensuring that all league equipment is properly inventoried and stored during the off-season.

Official Scorekeeper:

Each home team during the season will be the official scorebook. It will be each coach's responsibility to maintain and keep the book for review later if needed.

Playing Time:

T-Ball: Every player plays in the field the entire game and bats every inning.

All other leagues: Each player must play 3 consecutive defensive outs. If a game is called for time it is the coach's responsibility to make sure each player bats before the game is finished. Violation of this rule will result in a forfeit.

Uniforms:

The uniforms will be provided by the league, through the Community Services Department. Uniforms must be worn in entirety throughout all league games and

may NOT be altered in any way. Any sizing errors or lost uniforms must be replaced at the cost of the parent.

Ineligible Players:

Any team that plays a player who is not a member of the league or is not eligible to play in the league will forfeit all games in which the ineligible player participated. **Any head coach or assistant coach who knowingly allows an ineligible player to participate in league games will be dismissed.**

ALL-STAR MAY NOT BE SELECTED DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS

All-Stars:

All-stars will be chosen in one of two ways:

1. Head coaches of their league will vote on the best players in their age group. The top 7 votes will be on the all-star team. Then the head coach of the all-star team will fill the roster with the remaining nominated players. The coach of the All-star team will be one who follows the proper coach's conduct outlined within the bylaws. The regular season record will be considered as to who gets the priority. A representative from each team must attend the all-star meeting to receive nomination consideration.
2. All all-star coaches must have coached in the Lynn Haven league and in the respective age groups and the same year the all-star team is to play.
3. Generally, the head coach that wins the league tournament will be the all-star coach, but it is not guaranteed. An all-star coach must be approved by the Department of Community Services.
4. An all-star may only play on one all-star team in the same year.
5. All-star players will play in their age groups only. Playing up or down is not permitted.
6. A player must play all-stars in the age group they played in during the regular season.
7. If a player misses a scheduled game because of a game with another team, they will not be eligible for all-stars. The only exception is if a player is playing JV or Varsity baseball or softball for the school that he or she attends.

League Fundraising:

The City of Lynn Haven expresses 100% participation of parents, players, coaches, and managers on all league fundraisers.

Awards:

Each team member on the first and second place team of each league will receive a trophy. Each team may elect to have a party and provide trophies at their own expense. All t-ball participants will receive a participation award.

General Game Rules (All age groups):

1. Home team score book will be the official score book. Scorebooks will be issued before the season.
2. Home team will sit in the 1st base dugout.
3. **NO practicing on the infield or on the chalk lines before the games.**
4. **Each team must clean out their dugout after each game and practice.**
5. No parents should be on the field unless they are coaching.
6. Parents must keep bleachers clean.
7. NO tobacco use on the field or bleachers. There are designated smoking areas marked throughout the park.
8. **NO profanity!** If the staff or umpires hear any profanity by coaches, players, or fans you will be expelled from the game or asked to leave the park. **NO warnings!**
9. If a player or coach is expelled from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct, they must also miss the next game. If the infraction is severe enough the Department of Community Services will decide the outcome.
10. All equipment must be turned into the City of Lynn Haven after the last game of the season. All-star equipment will be reissued.
11. Park in designated parking spots ONLY.
12. **NO flip drills on any fences.**
13. No digging trenches or holes on the field while trying to dry the fields.
14. No new innings will be allowed to start after an hour and twenty minutes from the beginning of the game. (All age groups except 13-14 which no new inning after two hours).

15. Coolers are not permitted.
16. There will be one additional inning if the game is tied at the end of the time limit. A variation of the Texas tie breaker will be used. The batter that got out the previous inning will start on second base. The extra inning will start with one out. There will be a 3 run limit per team in this extra inning. If the inning ends in a tie the game will be recorded as a tie.

Coaches:

All coaches participating in the City of Lynn Haven baseball/softball league must be screened and approved by the Department of Community Services. The City of Lynn Haven and the Department of Community Services have the right to deny any person from coaching, if with good reason, it is felt they would not be good for the league.

Coaches Rules:

1. Coaches will demonstrate good sportsmanship always.
2. Coaches will not organize or cause to organize a practice before the official practice date.
3. Coaches will not condone any players or parents to stay home or away from practices or games to play only the best players or not play certain players.
4. Coaches will not teach a player to demonstrate falsehood with their skills or play. (Teach proper fundamentals).
5. Coaches will not abuse any child in any way physically, mentally, or verbally.
6. The head coach is responsible for their assistants, players, and spectators of their team. Head coaches are the only ones that may appeal or speak to umpires.
7. Any coach, player, parent, or spectator involved in fighting must leave the sports complex and parking area immediately or the police will be notified. Trespassing charges will be filed and will be subject to suspension by the Department of Community Services. Failure to leave the complex in a timely manner will also result in ejection of the coach and forfeiture of the game.

8. Any coach displaying unsportsmanlike conduct will be ejected from the game and must leave the park promptly.
9. Any coach or player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will serve a one game automatic suspension from their next league game.
10. Any coach or player that is ejected from a second game during the season for unsportsmanlike conduct may be subject to suspension for the remaining games of the season.
11. Any team representing the City of Lynn Haven at another ballpark is bound by the rules of Lynn Haven and the rules of that league as well. Violation of these rules may result in the dismissal of the coach.
12. All coaches need a copy of the Dizzy Dean rulebook. The Lynn Haven league refers and plays by these rules. A couple of rules to reference are:
 - a. A courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher in each age group.
 - b. If a pitcher starts a motion and then stops it will be a balk. The pitcher must make the move to the plate without stopping. This is a judgement call by the umpire.

Outside Teams:

Any team playing in the Lynn Haven baseball/softball league that is not a Lynn Haven team will not be eligible to win the league or play in all-stars.

Player eligibility girls softball:

Any girl between the ages of seven (7) and fourteen (14), residing within the playing area as defined for each league shall be eligible to participate in the Lynn Haven Girls Softball program unless declared ineligible with the provisions of this paragraph.

1. Ages for participation in the various leagues are as follows:
 - a. Farm.....ages 7 thru 8
 - b. Minor.....ages 9 thru 10
 - c. Freshman.....ages 11 thru 12
 - d. Sophomore.....ages 13 thru 14
 - e. Junior.....ages 15 thru 16
2. League placement will be determined by the girl's age on January 1st of the current year.

3. Age shall be verified by a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, driver's license, school record, or previous playing record.
4. No player can be added to a team after the season is half (1/2) over unless approval by the recreation specialist.
5. No trading will take place after the draft. Rosters will be final unless a player is needed from the waiting list due to injury or sickness.

Middle School Softball:

When possible and the league chooses. The intermediate girl's league may become Middle School Age softball league. Middle school league rules are as follows:

1. Teams will be divided using the school zones.
2. Home school players will play for the school they are zoned for.
3. Teams will use school mascots as team names.
4. Teams with enough players to have 2 teams will divide teams evenly or by having a varsity and a junior varsity.
5. The varsity/jv method will only be used if there are 4 or more teams with the number of players to split their teams.
6. If a school zone does not have enough players to make a team, they may merge with other players to form a team or add to an existing team.

For rec league the rules are:

1. All players must attend evaluations on the specified time and date for their age group.
2. Grades will be given to the players by the recreation staff and coaches with drills being run by the recreation staff and volunteers.
3. Teams will be determined by returning players and the coaches' draft. Any player that has a parent coaching will automatically go to that parent's team and the remainder of the players will be determined at the coach's draft.
4. Siblings will be put on the same team unless the parent specifies differently.
5. Requests will be considered when the staff is putting together teams...this includes but is not limited to transportation issues, coaching requests, etc.

6. Trading will take place by the coaches on draft night. Uniforms will be ordered shortly after and no changes can be made. No trades can be made after draft night.

Player eligibility baseball:

Any youth player between three (3) and fifteen (15), residing within the playing area as defined for each league shall be eligible to participate in the Lynn Haven Baseball program unless ineligible within the provision of this paragraph:

1. Ages for participation in the various leagues area as follows:
 - a. T-Ball..... Ages 5 & 6
 - b. Farm..... Ages 7 & 8
 - c. Minor..... Ages 9 & 10
 - d. Freshman..... Ages 11 & 12
2. League placement shall be determined by the player's age on April 30th of the current year.
3. Age shall be verified by a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, driver's license, school record or previous player's record.
4. No player can be added to a team after the season is half (1/2) over.
5. No trading will take place after the draft. Rosters will be final unless a player is needed from the waiting list due to injury or sickness.

Team Selection Baseball/Softball:

1. Any player dropped from a team cannot be picked up by another team during the season.
2. Any player wishing to change teams for any reason may do so under the following provisions:
 - a. Any player wishing to change teams must attend evaluations and go through the draft.
 - b. The team that the player was previously on will not be eligible to draft that player unless that team has a new head coach and assistant coach.
 - c. A player can choose to do this once in his playing career for each league.
3. A player may be dropped from a roster by:

- a. Missing 3 or more scheduled games or practices without an acceptable excuse. Players cannot miss games to play in other leagues. The only exception is for players that play for the school that they attend.
 - b. For any disciplinary reasons presented by a coach or a recreation staff member.
 - c. Any disciplinary issues will be reviewed by the recreation staff. The recreation staff will determine the consequences of the issue and may result in being dropped from the team.
4. All players that are not returning to their previous team, not protected, or wants to change teams must go through the evaluation process. If a player does not attend evaluations that player will be a hat pick and will be placed on a random team.
5. The sibling rule only includes immediate family. Any coach's child that has a sibling will automatically be placed on the same team unless specified otherwise. The child does not have to be living in the same household as the coach.
6. The Department of Community Services will be the final authority on the eligibility of any player.
7. No player living outside the boundaries established by the league can play for the City of Lynn Haven unless they have a release from the appropriate league.
8. If a player is sick or injured and cannot play for an extended period of time, the head coach may replace this player. The player that will be picked up must be the first player off the waiting list. Whenever the player is able to play again they will go back on the same team.
9. If a head coach does not have a child, he may use a coach's pick to protect a player that is not already protected or a returning player.
10. Players will stay on the same team as long as they are in the same age group, unless they choose to back into the draft. These players are referred to as returning players. To be a returning player they must have went through the draft. Once a player moves to the next age group they must go through the draft process and they are no longer protected until a coach chooses to protect them in their new age group.

11. Grades will be given to the players by the recreation staff and coaches with drills being run by the coaches.
12. Two (2) trades will be allowed on draft night.
13. Only one 3rd base coach and one 1st base coach is allowed outside of the dugout while your team is batting.