

# Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Baseball and Softball Field Use Policy

**Revised: 9/10/2015**

**Adopted by Park Board 9/15/2015**

## **A. Baseball**

1. Definitions: The terms below shall have the following meaning:

a. “Facilities” shall mean facilities owned by the City of Vestavia Hills or otherwise controlled by the Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Board, including Vestavia Hills Board of Education facilities that are used by Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation programs.

b. “VHYB Regular Season” shall mean: the VHYB spring season that starts in March and ends in April that has at least a 10 game season and a single elimination tournament.

c. “VHYB Post Season” shall mean: the VHYB season that starts in May and ends in June that includes open weekends so as to allow VHYB Post Season Select Teams to play in tournaments.

d. “VHYB Post Season Select Team” shall mean:

i. For ages 9-12: a team organized through VHYB for play during May and June with 100% of its players who participated in the VHYB Regular Season, but subject to paragraph 4(a)(iv) below.

ii. For ages 13-14: a team organized through VHYB for play during May and June with 80% of its players who participated in the VHYB Regular Season and/or Developmental League.

iii. VHYB Post Season Select Teams for all age groups are considered “select” by the fact the coach selects the entire team. These teams are not drafted teams by VHYB but are governed by VHYB.

iv. For ages 15-18: a team organized through VHYB with at least 50% of its players who are residents of Vestavia Hills. (See AHSAA 50% Rule).

e. “Sanctioned Travel Team” shall mean:

i. For ages 9-12: a team organized for play outside of the VHYB Regular

Season or VHYB Post Season with 80% of its players who are residents of Vestavia Hills and with 100% of its players participating in the VHYB Regular Season;

ii. For ages 13-14: a team organized for play outside of the VHYB Regular Season or VHYB Post Season with 80% of its players who are residents of Vestavia Hills;

ii. For ages 15-18: a team organized for play outside of the VHYB Regular Season or VHYB Post Season with at least 50% of the players who are residents of Vestavia Hills. (See AHSAA 50% Rule). If a team has any VHHS baseball members on the team the team cannot exceed 50% residents of Vestavia Hills.

f. "Travel Team" shall mean:

i. For ages 9-12: a team organized for play outside of the VHYB Regular Season or VHYB Post Season with 80% of its players who are residents of Vestavia Hills;

ii. For ages 13-14: a 13-14 year old Travel Team must meet the requirements of a "Sanctioned Travel Team" as set forth above in order to use the Facilities.

iii. For ages 15-18: a team organized for play outside of the VHYB Regular Season or VHYB Post Season with at least 50% of the players who are residents of Vestavia Hills. (See AHSAA 50% Rule). If a team has any VHHS baseball members on the team the team cannot exceed 50% residents of Vestavia Hills.

2. Coaches on Sanctioned Travel Teams, Travel Teams and VHYB Post Season Select Teams must be NCSS certified. Select Travel Teams and Travel Teams shall register with VHYB by submitting their team rosters to VHYB and to the Parks and Recreation Department Superintendent by the registration deadline set by VHYB.

3. As long as VHYB holds a VHYB Regular Season (with a time period as defined in the definition above) and a VHYB Post Season that starts by May 1 and ends in July based upon age and final VHYB season schedule for VHYB Post Season Select Teams, the Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Board will not require any weekends off during the months of March, April and May.

4. Teams may have access to the baseball fields beginning on the following dates (subject to the priorities set forth in paragraph 6):

a. 9-12 year old Teams:

i. 9-12 year old VHYB Post Season Select Teams shall have access to Facilities beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> ;

ii. 9-12 year old Sanctioned Travel Teams shall have access to Facilities beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>;

iii. 9-12 year old Travel Teams shall have access to Facilities beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

iv. **Exception:** In the event a 9-12 year old VHYB Post Season Select Team has fewer than 100% of its players but at least 75% of its players who participated in the VHYB Regular Season, only such VHYB Post Season Select Team members who participated in the VHYB Regular Season may have access to Facilities beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, those players who did not participate in the VHYB Regular Season may practice with the entire team and have access to use such Facilities.

b. 13-14 year old teams:

i. 13-14 year old VHYB Post Season Teams shall have access to Facilities beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>;

ii. 13-14 year old Sanctioned Travel Teams and 13-14 Year old Travel Teams shall have access to facilities beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.

c. 15-18 year old teams: All 15-18 year old teams shall have access to facilities beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. Penalties:

a. Any VHYB Post Season Team; Sanctioned Travel Team or Travel Team in violation of these rules shall be subject to the following penalties:

i. First violation: Such team shall lose 1 week of practice;

ii. Second violation: Such team shall lose 2 weeks of practice;

iii. Third violation: Such team is disqualified from using any Facilities for 90 days.

b. Teams that are not VHYB Regular Season Teams, Travel Teams or VHYB Post Season Teams pursuant to this policy may use the Facilities only with express permission from the Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Department. Any coach or team manager in violation of this rule 5(b) will have one warning and then shall be suspended from using the Facilities for the remainder of the calendar year, regardless of whether such coach or team manager later becomes affiliated with a VHYB team, Sanctioned Travel Team or Travel Team.

6. All tournament team field time will be scheduled by VHYB in a fair and equitable manner. Priority for use of the Facilities shall be as follows:

a. February – April:

- i. VHYB Regular Season teams shall have first priority;
- ii. VHYB Post Season Select Teams shall have second priority;
- iii. Sanctioned Travel Teams shall have third priority; and
- iv. Travel Teams shall have last priority

b. May –July:

- i. VHYB Post Season Select Teams shall have first priority;
- ii. Sanctioned Travel Teams shall have second priority; and
- iii. Travel Teams shall have last priority

7. Scheduling; Limitations:

a. Each VHYB Regular Season Team shall have, weather permitting:

- i. up to two practice slots in the preseason,
- ii. one practice slot during the season,

b. Each VHYB Post Season Select Team shall have:

- i. one practice slot per week during April,
- ii. up to two practice slots per week during May and June,
- iii. up to 2 game slots per week starting in May( Exception: A Post Season Select Team may have more than two game slots per week if the additional game slots are played as part of a tournament organized through VHYB) during May and June.
- iv. These slots are not guaranteed, and are subject to availability, priorities and weather conditions.

c. Each Sanctioned Travel Team and Travel Team shall have, beginning in May:

- i. up to two practice slot per week and
- ii. one game slot per week.
- iii. These slots are not guaranteed, and are subject to availability, priorities and weather conditions.

d. For greater certainty, VHYB Post Season Select Teams, Sanctioned Travel Teams and Travel Teams shall have equal priority in May and June for the slots allocated in Sections 7(b) and (c) above. However, when slots are limited due to weather or other conditions, the priority system set forth in Section 6 shall prevail. Extra practices slots shall be provided through the VHYB field coordinator if field space is available and all the above requirements have been met.

e. VHYB will designate a Board Member or contractor hired by VHYB to be the principal contact for VHYB Regular Season Teams, VHYB Post Season Select Teams, Sanctioned Travel Teams and Travel Teams and will coordinate scheduling for all practices, games and tournaments.

8. Grievances: the designated Board Member or contractor hired by VHYB to coordinate practices, games and tournaments shall allocated field space in a fair and equitable manner and according to the rules and priorities set forth in this policy. Grievances regarding scheduling, practice slots or game slots that cannot be resolved by discussion with the VHYB designated Board Member or contractor shall be handled as follows:

a. The team or individual with the grievance shall first discuss the grievance with the VHYB Vice President or VHYB President;

b. If the grievance is still not resolved, the team or individual may appeal to the Parks and Recreation Department Superintendent;

c. If the grievance remains unresolved, the team or individual may appeal to the Parks and Recreation Board by notifying the superintendent, who shall then notify the Parks and Recreation Board.

9. Pitching rules will apply to VHYB games (pitching on travel teams outside VHYB will not be counted and it will be the responsibility of each parent or guardian to determine the appropriate participation in pitching activities for travel team players). The VHYB pitch count rules shall be published by VHYB so that parents are aware of the rules. Registration will ask parents if a child plans to participate in play outside VHYB with a parental indication of willingness to pitch and or catch for purposes of VHYB play (this is to assist coaches in drafting of team).

10. VHYB will have first priority use of Cahaba Heights baseball fields for kids 8 and under from February 1st through June 30th. VHYB will have first priority use of fields at Wald Park and first priority of the days/times designated for baseball at Liberty Park as agreed upon in cooperation with softball and Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Board.

## **B. Softball**

1. Vestavia Hills Girls Softball Association (“VHGSA”) shall publish its beginning and ending dates for each season.

2. A Tournament Team shall be defined as a team with at least 9 players who participated in VHGSA’s regular season. Coaches on Tournament Teams must be NCSS certified. Tournament Teams shall register with VHGSA by submitting their team rosters to VHGSA by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

3. Tournament Team Practices & Games – Wednesday’s after 6, Saturdays after VHGSA games (projected to be after 6) and Sunday’s after 6 will be available for registered Tournament Team use. Tournament Teams may also schedule LAST priority open field slots as available during the week. The last-priority slots and Wednesday's may be bumped by VHGSA for rescheduling and makeup purposes. However, Saturday and Sunday evenings will be completely reserved for registered Tournament Team use. No Tournament Team practices are allowed prior to February 15th.

4. VHGSA will have 100% exclusive use of softball fields for kids 9 and under. For ages 10-12, fields will only be available for VHGSA and VHGSA sanctioned Tournament Teams.

**5. If a Tournament Team has less than 9 players on its team that participate in VHGSA’s regular season, or if such tournament team detracts from Vestavia Hills recreational leagues, they will not be able to use Vestavia Hills facilities until after June 1st (then subject to last-priority slots and subject to field usage rules and cost).**

### **C. Exemptions:**

At the discretion of the Board, Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation reserves the right to 1) allow exemptions for organizations that do not detract from Vestavia Hills recreational leagues or 2) allow field use to elite organizations not affiliated with Vestavia Hills which provide significant economic impact to the City.