

Rules and Guidelines

TEAM HC Program

Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation's Athletics Division has established these rules for the TEAM HC (Travel Elite & Advanced Members Hillsborough County) Program. This is a specialty sport youth athletics program for travel ball teams and is governed under the specialty sports league fee on the County's approved fee schedule. These rules have been established to coordinate and regulate the use of the County's sports fields. The County will monitor the proper use of the fields and compliance through regular site visits.

The Rules and Guidelines must be followed, or the team will be removed from the TEAM HC Program.

Rules

- Sunset Guidelines
- One team per field only.
- A registered team who is aging up and requires a larger field, is not automatically given priority placement. Instead, all teams are urged to join the waitlist for the next available field.
- Fees must be paid within 5 days of invoicing – if payment is not made within those five days, then the team will be removed from the program.
- Teams are not allowed to pay for a field/session and **not** use the field for the season.
- Notify Athletics when fields will not be in use, i.e. out of town for a tournament, canceled practice.
- Gates must be locked after use, including batting cages.

Sunset Guidelines - Age To Field

The sunset rules are designed to manage and limit a team's duration in the TEAM HC Program based on the age progression of the players and the corresponding field requirements. This structured approach ensures that teams move through the program efficiently and that field resources are allocated appropriately according to age groups and field size needs.

As teams progress through the age brackets and require larger fields, they must submit a new application and join the waiting list for the appropriate field size. This process is crucial because there are fewer larger fields available compared to smaller ones.

- Field Use Agreement holders have priority for the site where they hold an agreement
- Teams currently in TEAM HC are prioritized over teams that are not currently active in the program
- We recommend teams put in a request for a larger field at least one year before their sunset date.

Softball

Length	Age
40/60	8U - 18U

Baseball

Length	Age
40/60	7U - 8U
40/65	8U - 10U
50/70	11U - 12U
60/90	13U - 18U

Process for Reserving Fields

Fields may not be used until the required forms, paperwork, and supporting documentation are uploaded to their team's online compliance folder, the Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Athletics Division approves submissions, and prepayment is made. All reservations will be processed on a first come-first serve basis.

Required Forms

- Signed TEAM HC Rules and Guidelines plus Waiver
- Signature Verification Form - This form verifies Florida statutes for background checks and concussion education plus volunteer training and at least one volunteer/coach on site is CPR, First Aid and AED certified.
- Team player roster – 15 or fewer players and age (The County reserves the right to request age verification)
- Team volunteer roster
- Supporting Documentation for Volunteer Compliance (mandatory for all coaches/volunteers)
 - FDLE background check Instant Search (\$24) - [Florida Criminal History Record Check \(state.fl.us\)](https://state.fl.us)
 - Concussion Education (FREE) - [Concussion in Sports Course \(nfhslearn.com\)](https://nfhslearn.com)
 - Volunteer Training (\$20) - [NAYS | National Alliance for Youth Sports](https://nays.org)
 - CPR, First Aid and AED (FREE) - [Free Online First Aid, CPR and AED Training - First Aid for Free](https://www.firstaidforfree.org)
- Insurance Requirements:
 - Certificate of Insurance
 1. General Liability \$1,000,000 per occurrence
 2. Participant Accident Medical \$10,000
 3. Additional insured – "Hillsborough County BOCC 601 East Kennedy Boulevard Tampa FL 33602"
 - Endorsement/Declaration page supporting the additional insured on the General Liability.

Session Fees

- \$300 per session
- Fees are invoiced prior to use and must be paid within 5 days of invoicing – if payment is not made within those five days, then the team will be removed for the program.
- Payments are only made online through our reservation system.
- Specialty Sports League program fees are nontaxable.
- Tax is required on rentals; however, a Consumer's Certificate of Exemption will be allowed for no tax.
- Failure to make payment with-in 5 days of invoicing will result in the team being removed from the TEAM HC Program.

Program Seasons

- 2025 yields four 10-week seasons and one 9-week season = 5 seasons.
 - No makeup days – seasons are extended from 8-week seasons to 9 and 10 week seasons to accommodate for any missed days.
 - No field use during the Thanksgiving and winter holidays - they are not included in the seasons.
- Each season allows for up to 2 practices each week.
- Each practice is a maximum of two hours.
- Additional practices or scrimmages against teams who are not in the TEAM HC program are allowed at the HCBOCC approved \$30/hour/field rental rate and are subject to sales tax. The Florida sales tax will not be charged if a valid Consumer's Certificate of Exemption is presented at the time of the rental.
- Each session allows for 2 optional scrimmages. Each scrimmage is a maximum of 2 hours and can only take place during a team's normal scheduled practice day and time, or weekend day if available. The opposing team must be a part of the TEAM HC program in order to scrimmage.
- A team is only allowed to skip one full season per year,
 - If the last season of the year is skipped then the first season of the next year cannot be skipped (no back-to-back, even though it is a new year.)
 - If more than one season is skipped/needed, then the team must join the wait list. The same session is not guaranteed upon their return.

Days and Times of Field Availability

Monday through Friday

- 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Batting Cages

- Batting cages are not guaranteed with field use, as not all locations have them.
- Batting cages are available to those teams scheduled on their designated field reservation.
- Teams not scheduled for field use cannot use the batting cages during another teams reserved time.
- L-Screens are to always remain in the batting cages, removing L-screens onto fields may result in a violation.
- Batting cages are for batting practice only.
- There are currently no fees for the use of batting cages outside of a team's reserved use, however, that is subject to change.
- Batting Cage rules must be followed.
- Safety equipment must always be worn.

Notice of Field Exchange

- Teams from the same field can exchange a day for a day or a session time only.
- Both teams must notify Athletics in writing of the exchange.
- Teams may not sublease fields. Subleasing of fields may result in the team being removed from the TEAM HC program.

Field Closures

The purpose of this rule is to guide the use of the fields and to prevent damage to the playing surface and injuries to field users brought upon by inclement weather or unsafe playing conditions. Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation reserves the right to cancel or suspend field use whenever field conditions could result in damage to the fields or injury to players. Coaches are expected to protect their players and the fields during periods of rain or inclement weather. It only takes one practice or game to destroy a field that is not ready for play. Fields may be closed at the discretion of Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation.

Field Maintenance

- County Responsibilities (*weather permitting*):
 - Drag the fields at least once a week
 - Mow the fields per the contracted schedule
 - Insecticide/pesticide once a year or as needed
 - Fertilization once a year
 - Till the fields once a year
- User Responsibilities
 - Extra dragging
 - Lining the fields (if needed)
 - Reporting any field and/or park safety issues immediately to the Athletics office.
 - Any extra maintenance to the fields at the user's expense with prior approval from the Athletics office.

Keys or Bluetooth Access

Gate keys or Bluetooth access will be issued, and a Key Issue Receipt Form signed by the team representative. All keys must be returned to the Athletics office once the team is no longer renting the fields. Each team is responsible for ensuring all gates are locked prior to departure

Lights

Lights will turn on 20 minutes before Sunset and will turn off 20 minutes after your scheduled session.

Park and Field Rules

- Property boundary walls and fences may not be used as backstops at any time.
- Coaches, players, and spectators shall park in designated parking areas.
- All coaches and volunteers must have a picture ID badge while on the playing field.
- After their use of a field, each team is responsible for picking up trash and debris from the fields and restroom facilities and depositing it into available trash receptacles and/or the dumpster.
- Adjoining areas must be clear of all trash resulting from use of the fields.
- No smoking, gambling, fireworks or flammable material, narcotics or drugs are allowed on County property.
- Teams may not play on fields closed due to wet field conditions or maintenance. (see Field Closures Due to Inclement Weather and Maintenance)
- Coaches are responsible for informing their coaches, players, and spectators of the Rules.
- Common areas cannot be used for practices/conditioning.
- Private paid instruction is not allowed without proper documentation. Fees will apply.

Please sign both sections (Rules and Guidelines and the Waiver).

I understand the requirements and expectations outlined by the TEAM HC sports program travel ball Rules and Guidelines, acknowledge receipt of a copy of them and agree to abide by the rules and guidelines including any local, state, and national policies, processes, guidelines, ordinances, and laws as well as those of my affiliate organization.

Team Name: _____ Age: _____

Date: _____

Team Representative Printed Name: _____

Team Representative Signature: _____

Failure to Abide by the Rules and Guidelines will result in immediate removal of the team in violation.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REQUIRES ALL PARTICIPANTS TO ASSUME ALL RISK BY SIGNING THIS GENERAL RELEASE.

In consideration of being allowed to participate in programs and activities on any Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation property, I, the undersigned acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. There is a risk of injury from the activities involved in this program and while particular rules, equipment and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of injury does exist even when these activities are conducted in accordance with all such rules; and,
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, and next of kin, HERBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, their officers, officials, agents and and/or employees ("Releases"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL CLAIMS FOR INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS.
5. Hillsborough County DOES NOT provide insurance of any type that covers them while playing or practicing on County facilities.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AGREEMENT, I FULL UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS AND I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT. I SIGN FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.

Signature: _____

Date: _____