



2026 SEASON

HANDBOOK

PLAYER & PARENT GUIDE



OUR MISSION

The mission of Hayward Little League is to build tough, disciplined, and resilient athletes who train with intensity, compete with purpose, and represent our community with pride and respect. We prepare players to thrive under pressure, embrace challenges, and bring the storm every time they step on the field.

LEAGUE VALUES

We prioritize long-term player growth, learning, and improvement. Success is measured by effort, progress, and character development rather than wins and losses alone. We treat teammates, coaches, umpires, opponents, volunteers, and facilities with respect. Respect for the game and for one another is expected at all times. Players, coaches, and families are responsible for their actions, effort, attitude, and preparation. We take ownership of both successes and challenges. Baseball is a team game. We support one another, communicate positively, and work together to create an environment where every player can succeed. We embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and respond to adversity with effort and determination. Growth comes through perseverance. Players represent Hayward Little League and the Hayward community through their behavior, sportsmanship, and effort on and off the field.

S — STRENGTH

We build physical, mental, and emotional strength through preparation, training, and consistency.

T — TOUGHNESS

We compete through adversity, respond to challenges, and never back down from hard work.

O — OWNERSHIP

We take responsibility for our actions, attitude, preparation, and performance.

R — RESPECT

We respect the game, our teammates, coaches, umpires, opponents, and our community.

M — MENTALITY

We maintain a competitive mindset, stay focused under pressure, and approach every rep with purpose.

Strength. Toughness. Ownership. Respect. Mentality.

“BRING THE STORM.”

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

Hayward Little League is operated by two League Leaders who oversee all league operations. Hayward Little League exists to provide a safe, positive, and developmental environment for youth athletes. Decisions are made with long-term player development, safety, and the overall health of the league in mind. As a volunteer-run organization, the league relies on cooperation, patience, and positive communication from all participants to ensure a successful season.

LEAGUE LEADER: TBALL/COACHES PITCH

- Player registration and rosters for assigned league
- Serve as the primary point of contact for parents, coaches, and volunteers
- Recruit, approve, and coordinate volunteer coaches for all divisions
- Practice, game, and tournament schedules based upon league in which leading
- Equipment and uniforms for assigned league
- Field and facilities coordination and maintenance
- League communications and social media
- Following SafeSport guidelines
- Assigning/Finding Volunteers to support league duties
- Overall league planning and operations
- Ensure all coaches complete required annual background checks, SafeSport training, and sign Code of Conduct prior to participating in league activities

LEAGUE LEADER: MINORS/MAJORS/TRAVEL

HEAD COACH

The Head Coach is responsible for the overall leadership, safety, and development of their team. Head Coaches represent Hayward Little League and are always expected to model positive behavior on and off the field. Coaches are responsible for reinforcing STORM values and modeling these expectations for players throughout the season.

- Oversee and organize age-appropriate league scheduled practices and games
- Teach baseball fundamentals, teamwork, and sportsmanship
- Ensure all players are treated fairly and given equal opportunity to participate
- Maintain a safe, positive, and respectful environment for players and families
- Respect league guidelines and expectations
- Communicate clearly and professionally with parents and League Leaders
- Be present and prepared for all scheduled practices and games
- Immediately report injuries, safety concerns, or behavioral issues to League Leaders
- Support and uphold league decisions and structure
- Respect and support decisions made by League Leaders and follow league direction
- Coaches must follow SafeSport guidelines

Head Coaches have authority to make decisions regarding positions, lineups, and playing time based on safety, attendance, effort, behavior, and team needs in alignment with league guidelines. Hayward Little League is a developmental program, and League Leaders reserve the right to review and address situations with the appropriate League Leader where these standards are not being followed in the best interest of player development and the league as a whole.

ASSISTANT COACH

Supports the Head Coach and helps supervise players.

- Assist with drills, instruction, and player supervision
- Help maintain safety and organization
- Reinforce positive behavior and sportsmanship
- Follow direction of Head Coach and League Leaders
- Communicate respectfully with players, parents, and officials
- Be present and engaged at practices and games
- Report any safety concerns or issues to the Head Coach and League Leaders
- Complete and pass annual background check and SafeSport training prior to participating in league activities
- Respect and support all decisions made by League Leaders and follow league direction at all times
- Assistant Coaches must follow SafeSport guidelines

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Players represent Hayward Little League at practices, games, school, in the community, and online, and are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner at all times. Players are expected to represent the STORM values of Strength, Toughness, Ownership, Respect, and Mentality in their behavior and effort.

- Show respect to coaches, teammates, umpires, opponents, and volunteers
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship whether winning or losing
- Listen to coaches and follow instructions for safety and team organization
- Maintain a positive attitude and give consistent effort during practices and games
- Support teammates, avoid negative comments or behavior, and contribute to a positive team environment at all times.
- Treat equipment, facilities, and league property with care
- Refrain from unsportsmanlike behavior, arguing, or disrespectful language

Unsafe, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior may result in reduced playing time, removal from practice or games, or further disciplinary action as determined by coaches and League Leaders. Participation in Hayward Little League is a privilege, and players are expected to contribute positively to the team and league environment. Any player who is suspended from school will be considered ineligible to participate in games and practices during the duration of suspension. League Leaders reserve the right to review and determine participation based upon the situation and the best interest of the players and league. Bullying and/or harassment will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT & LEAGUE EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITY

Players are responsible for bringing required personal equipment to all practices and games. Please refer to the age-appropriate equipment guide for division equipment guideline handout.

Hayward Little League is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items.

League-issued equipment and uniforms must be returned at the end of the season in reasonable condition unless otherwise approved by League Leaders.

Players are not required to share personal equipment, under any circumstances this decision must be respected by all players, coaches, and families. Personal equipment represents a significant financial investment. Any player who takes, uses, or damages another player's personal equipment without permission, or who pressures another player to share equipment, may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with league guidelines, including removal from practices or games as determined by League Leaders. Hayward Little League supports each player's right to determine how their personal equipment is used.

PLAYER ELECTRONIC DEVICES/CELL PHONES POLICY

Players are expected to remain engaged during practices and games. Cell phones and personal electronic devices must remain in player bags or backpacks while in the dugout, on the field, or during team activities unless otherwise permitted by the Head Coach for league-related purposes or emergencies. Failure to follow these expectations may result in disciplinary action in accordance with league guidelines. Electronic devices may be confiscated by a coach or league leader during practice, games, or other team activities if device is not kept in backpack.

PLAYER PLAYING TIME & PARTICIPATION

Hayward Little League is a developmental league. All players will be given fair and reasonable opportunities to participate in games, while allowing coaches to make lineup decisions based on safety, attendance, effort, talent, and sportsmanship. Coaches may adjust playing time for safety reasons, talent, practice attendance, team needs at certain positions, and player behavior. No specific position or role is guaranteed.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Regular attendance helps ensure team safety, fairness, and development. Consistent attendance allows coaches to plan practices safely and effectively for all players. Repeated absences without communication may impact team planning, positions, and participation decisions. If possible parents and guardians are expected to update player availability and attendance for practices and games through the SportsEngine app in a timely manner. Accurate attendance updates allow coaches to plan practices, ensure player safety, and maintain team organization. Excessive absences may impact playing time, positions played, and team participation.

TRAVEL BASEBALL EXPECTATIONS

Participation in the Hayward Hurricanes recreational Little League season is strongly encouraged as part of player development within the league. Travel baseball is intended to supplement and extend the recreational program, not replace it. Participation in the recreational season supports player development, strengthens relationships between players at the local level, and helps build teamwork and community within Hayward Little League. This approach promotes fairness, continuity, and the opportunity for players to develop together throughout the season.

Travel baseball is a tryout-based program and team selection is determined through evaluations. While selection to a travel team is based on skill and performance, participation, attendance, effort, and conduct during the recreational season remain an important part of overall player development and evaluation within the league.

As travel baseball is an extension of the Hayward Hurricanes program, a player's participation and behavior in the recreational league may influence playing time, positions, and overall opportunities at the travel level. Players are expected to demonstrate consistent commitment, positive attitude, and adherence to league expectations throughout the season.

Failure to meet league expectations related to attendance, conduct, or participation may result in reduced playing time, role adjustments, or removal from travel team participation as determined by coaches and League Leaders. Any player suspended from Hayward Little League recreational activities is also considered suspended and ineligible for travel baseball participation for the duration of that suspension.

TEAM MANAGER/TEAM PARENT

Players represent Hayward Little League at practices, games, school, in the community, and online, and are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner at all times. Players are expected to represent the STORM values of Strength, Toughness, Ownership, Respect, and Mentality in their behavior and effort.

- Assist with team communication and reminders
- Organize snacks or team needs at coach's approval
- Manage game updates, player availability, and uploading league established schedules into the Sports Engine App
- Support coaches with non-coaching tasks
- Help ensure parents are informed of schedules and updates
- Organize and facilitate team volunteer requirements
- Promote positive communication and sportsmanship among families
- Direct questions or concerns to Head Coach and/or League Leaders
- Team parents are volunteers and are expected to follow the same code of conduct as all league volunteers
- Respect and support all decisions made by League Leaders and follow league direction at all times
- Does not make coaching, playing time, or disciplinary decisions
- Team Manager/Team parent are not allowed in dugout or on field during games or practices unless instructed by head coach

UMPIRES

Officiate games fairly, safely, and in accordance with league expectations. Umpires represent Hayward Little League and have full authority over game play.

- Enforce game rules and league guidelines consistently
- Promote sportsmanship and respectful behavior
- Maintain game flow and player safety
- Make final calls on plays during games
- Communicate clearly and professionally with coaches and players
- Report any safety concerns, injuries, or behavioral issues to League Leaders
- Be present, prepared, and on time for scheduled games
- Complete and maintain required umpire training prior to officiating games

Umpires have full authority over game play. Arguing, harassment, or abuse of umpires by coaches, parents, players, or spectators will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the game, ending the game, or further disciplinary action.

CONCESSIONS VOLUNTEERS

Support league operations by helping run the concession stand.

- Work scheduled shifts
- Handle food safely and cleanly
- Follow food safety standards
- Handle money accurately and honestly
- Keep concession area clean and organized
- Follow direction from League Leaders or Concessions Coordinator
- Report any issues or shortages

Children/minors may assist only under adult supervision or if approved by League Leaders and/or Concession Coordinator. Concession volunteers are responsible for handling league funds appropriately and must follow league procedures for cash handling.

PARENT & SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Abuse or harassment of volunteers will not be tolerated. League volunteers are acting in good faith to support youth athletics and must be treated with respect. All participants are expected to follow Hayward Sports Center facility rules and respect shared property and facilities at all times. Participants also share responsibility for creating a positive environment where players feel supported, safe, and encouraged to learn the game.

- Show respect to players, coaches, umpires, and volunteers
- Use positive language and behavior
- Avoid coaching from the sidelines
- Refrain from arguing with umpires or coaches
- Follow direction of League Leaders, coaches, and umpires
- Refrain from profanity or inappropriate behavior
- Do not approach players, coaches, or umpires during or immediately after games regarding disputes
- Respect all property of Hayward Little League
- Parents & Spectators are not allowed in the dugout or on field during games or practices unless instructed by head coach

Harassment, verbal abuse, or unsportsmanlike conduct towards players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, or other spectators will not be tolerated. League Leaders reserve the right to remove any individual from league activities for inappropriate behavior. All participants must respect Hayward Sports Center and school facilities. Fields, dugouts, and surrounding areas must be kept clean. All garbage must be disposed of properly. Failure to respect facilities may result in disciplinary action.

COMMUNICATION

All electronic communication between coaches and players must include a parent or guardian and should take place through approved league communication platforms whenever possible. Private one-on-one electronic communication between coaches and minor players is not permitted.

All league communication should go through:

- League Leaders
- Head Coaches
- Team Parents (for team-level info)

Parents, Coaches, and Players should not:

- Contact umpires directly
- Confront coaches or volunteers during games
- Use social media to air complaints

Concerns should be brought to League Leaders privately and respectfully. Parents and spectators are encouraged to allow an appropriate cooling-off period before addressing concerns related to games or playing time. Discussions should not take place during or immediately after games or practices. Inappropriate or negative comments regarding players, coaches, officials, or the league on social media may be subject to disciplinary action.

DISCIPLINE & BEHAVIOR PROCESS

The league reserves the right to take disciplinary action for inappropriate behavior by players, parents, or coaches. Participation in Hayward Little League is a privilege, and continued participation is dependent upon adherence to league guidelines and expectations. The league reserves the right to accelerate or skip disciplinary steps when behavior involves safety concerns, harassment, threats, or severe misconduct.

Actions may include:

- Verbal warning
- Suspension
- Removal from game or practice
- Removal from league activities

All decisions will be made by League Leaders. Participation in Hayward Little League is a privilege, and continued participation is dependent upon adherence to league guidelines and expectations.

WEATHER & CANCELLATIONS

League Leaders will determine cancellations due to weather or field conditions. Updates will be communicated through official league channels and Sports Engine. Please do not assume games are canceled unless confirmed by the league.

Games or practices may be stopped or delayed at any time due to unsafe conditions, including lightning or field hazards, as determined by coaches, Umpires, or League Leaders.

INJURY & MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Parents are responsible for informing coaches of any medical conditions or allergies. In the event of injury, coaches will follow league safety procedures and notify parents immediately.

Coaches and League Leaders have the authority to remove a player from participation if there is concern for the player's safety or well-being.

Players who are removed from participation due to injury may be required to receive medical clearance before returning to practices or games, depending on the nature of the injury.

In the event of a serious injury, emergency medical services may be contacted and parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible.

Basic first aid may be provided by coaches or volunteers; however, Hayward Little League does not guarantee medical personnel will be present at all events.

Participation is at the player's own risk.

MEDIA & PHOTO USE

By participating in Hayward Little League, parents/guardians grant permission for the league to use photographs or videos of players for league-related purposes, including the league website, social media, and promotional materials. No personal information will be shared without parent/guardian consent.

REGISTRATION & REFUND POLICY

Registration fees are used to cover league expenses including equipment, uniforms, field costs, insurance, and operational needs. Refund requests may be reviewed prior to the start of the season. Once the season begins, registration fees may not be refundable.

Timely registration is essential to allow for proper team formation, roster balance, and overall league organization. In order to maintain fair and competitive teams, registration will close once roster limits are reached or by the designated deadline. Late registrations are not permitted, as adding players after teams are formed can impact team balance, scheduling, and the overall player experience. Hayward Little League reserves the right to deny any late registration requests.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Hayward Little League is 100% volunteer-run. Families will be asked to assist with concessions, field prep, events, and team support. The success of the league depends on volunteer participation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUIDELINES

Participation in Hayward Little League indicates that players, parents/guardians, coaches, and volunteers have read, understand, and agree to follow the Hayward Little League Guidelines & Expectations. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in disciplinary action or removal from league activities. By signing the Hayward Little League Code of Conduct, parents/guardians, players, and coaches acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to follow the Hayward Little League Handbook and League Guidelines & Expectations.

RIGHT TO MODIFY GUIDELINES

Hayward Little League reserves the right to change, adapt, or update these guidelines at any time as needed to ensure a safe, fair, and positive experience for all participants. Updates may be made to address safety concerns, operational needs, or changes within the league or Hayward Sports Center.

FINAL LEAGUE STATEMENT

Hayward Hurricanes Little League is built on the commitment of players, families, coaches, and volunteers who work together to create a positive and competitive baseball experience for our community. The goal of this league is to develop players through effort, accountability, teamwork, and respect for the game.

By participating in Hayward Hurricanes Little League, all players, parents, coaches, and volunteers agree to support the mission, values, and expectations outlined in this handbook. The success of the league depends on cooperation, communication, and a shared commitment to providing a safe, fair, and development-focused environment for every player.

League Leaders retain final authority over league operations, safety matters, disciplinary decisions, and interpretation of league guidelines. League Leaders have the authority to enforce all league guidelines and expectations. These decisions are made in the best interest of the players and the league as a whole. These decisions are final and not subject to appeal.