



HYAA Hawks Tournament Teams Program

HYAA Hawks Team Philosophy

The Hillsborough Youth Athletic Association (HYAA) Hawks Team program is designed as a tournament caliber team that is not required to have its players play the recreational season. This program was created to provide a higher level of competition beyond the recreational program for talented and motivated HYAA players who are willing to make a greater commitment to the improvement of their skills in a team focused environment.

The primary focus of Hawks Baseball/Softball is on player development and education with particular emphasis on developing position-specific skills. The Hawks program addresses more than just a player's athletic ability. All of the additional skills necessary to truly play the game will also be developed: professionalism, maturity, independence and responsibility. By nurturing the growth and development of HYAA players, we hope they will build the foundation to play baseball or softball competitively at the middle school and high school levels.

The Tournament Teams Committee shall have the responsibility of administering Hawks Baseball/Softball and all Hawks teams are subject to oversight and direction by the HYAA Board of Directors.

Player Expectations

Parents and players should note the following obligations before committing to join a Hawks team:

Although it is expected that families will have other obligations and periodically take vacations, parents should consider that tournaments for the spring season typically run February through June, and August through November for the fall season. Practices can range from 2 to 4 times a week or more than 4 times a week following the school year.

It is expected that any player on a Hawks team will attempt to make most, if not all, practices or games, and will supply advance notice to the coach if unable to make a practice or game. Although coaches will determine distribution of playing time, it is common practice that playing time is influenced by a player's attendance at practices and games.

In tournament games playing time is earned and decided upon by the coach. Amount of play will vary from player to player, as even playing time is not required. Tournament rules may also have certain substitution rules that dictate playing time as well.

Parent Expectations

HYAA believes the experience for the players, coaches and parents will be enhanced with an open dialogue among all individuals. The HYAA Parent Code of Ethics also applies during the Hawks baseball/softball season. Parents should know that because teams in the program play in a more competitive environment, playing time is not guaranteed for all players. Decisions about playing time are made by the coaches. Coaches are expected to provide opportunities for development for all players. If parents or players have concerns or questions, they are



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encouraged to discuss them openly with the coach. If you would like to discuss any issues with your coach/coaching staff please do not do this during a game/tournament. We ask that parents wait 24 hours, and reach out to the coach/coaching staff. If concerns still remain, parents are free to contact the Tournament Team Committee to discuss them. If issues are yet unresolved, the HYAA executive committee can be contacted. For contact information, see the HYAA web site.

Hawks Team Manager Selection

Hawks baseball and softball team managers are considered ambassadors of HYAA and are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.

The role of a Hawks team manager extends beyond on-field responsibilities and involves a significant investment of time and effort. Candidates must be willing and able to perform all responsibilities of the job and make an honest evaluation of their work schedule and personal commitments for their availability to meet the time and travel requirements for practices and tournaments.

Selection of a Hawks team manager will consider many criteria including, but not limited to, baseball/softball knowledge, coaching techniques, communication and organizational skills, past experiences in HYAA as well as any other youth sports organizations, and youth sports philosophy. The term of the Hawks team manager shall be the season for which the team has been developed. Previous coaching experience must include 1 season as a recreational league head coach or 2 seasons as a recreational league assistant coach or 1 season as a Hawks assistant coach. Coaching a Hawks team in a prior year does not guarantee a coaching position in the current year. Candidates will be required to submit a coaching application, along with a team plan, preliminary team schedule, and projected team cost. The Tournament Teams Committee will submit all applications to the Board of Directors for selection of the individual perceived to be the best overall team manager, teacher, role model and leader of HYAA's youth. The Board of Directors may also designate additional candidates as may be required to develop a team within a particular age group. Each team manager will then choose two assistant coaches and submit those assistant coaches to the Board of Directors for ratification.

The Board of Directors will select Hawks baseball and softball team managers in accordance with the process outlined above and may replace a team manager or assistant coach at any time for reasons of misconduct or repeated failure to adhere to the objectives of HYAA.

At or near the conclusion of each Hawks baseball and softball season, evaluation forms for the Hawks coaches will be distributed to a parent or guardian of each Hawks team player by a member of the HYAA Board of Directors. A board member will organize the evaluations and provide a report to the HYAA Board of Directors along with all noteworthy comments from the parents. These evaluations help the organization identify areas that worked well for the players and areas that need improvement.

Hawks Team Player Selection

Players can be selected to a Hawks teams via previous team selection or a tryout in which a player's skills are evaluated in the areas of hitting, fielding, throwing, and running.



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Eligibility for a Hawks team is open to any player registering for the HYAA program. Registration timelines will be defined within normal registration periods defined by the Board of Directors. Hawks teams will be assembled by skill level, and players must be at or under the designated league age of the team.

It is the objective of the HYAA Hawks program to provide an open and fair environment for Hawks team selection. Tryouts are scheduled to enable a fair selection process to occur which will develop teams with the most competitive participants. Playing on an HYAA Hawks team in a prior year does not guarantee selection for a team in the present season. A team manager may choose to move forward with all existing players from a previous team, hold an open tryout for all team slots, or designate a limited number of available spots for the tryout. The Hawks manager will hold the tryout, and submit an assessment summary of the tryout along with proposed player selections for the team roster to the Tournament Teams Committee for approval.

In the event that an insufficient number of players show up to a tryout, additional players may be recruited in an effort to develop a Hawks team during the defined registration period. Recreational players are not allowed to be selected to a Hawks team once a division draft has taken place, nor are recreational players allowed to fill in on a Hawks team.

If a team is short of rostered players for a game or tournament the team manager is allowed add a maximum of 2 guest players, however total number of players cannot exceed number of defensive player positions plus 1 bench player. If the player is from a current Hawks team that manager must agree to allow the guest player to play, and their team cannot have a scheduled event. If the guest player is not a current Hawks player, they must be added to team insurance, and cannot play more than 3 tournaments without becoming a rostered player. Guest players cannot receive more playing time than team members. No recreational league HYAA players can be called upon to fill in roster spots until after the HYAA season is complete. Hawks team managers must get 75% of parents to agree to allow a player to "guest play".

Should an instance of a non-approved player participating on a Hawks team event occur a meeting is required including the Hawks coach, and participating parties with the HYAA executive committee prior to the manager or associated parties participating in any HYAA team related event.

Costs: The team manager will provide a preliminary illustration of the project team cost and per player fee based on estimated schedule of play. The player fees will include player & coach uniforms, tournament fees, and HYAA season registration fees. Upon acceptance of a roster spot, the non-refundable player fee must be paid before the player will be allowed to participate in practices or tournaments. Individual player cost will be defined by the playing schedule for each Hawks team and cost may vary from team to team depending on the number, location, and cost of tournaments. The HYAA player registration fee included in the Hawks player fee provides field usage, lights, and player insurance. Financial aid is not available; however, teams have the option to use qualified fundraisers (requires HYAA approval) to offset expenses. Hawks teams will participate in the annual fundraiser to continue to support the HYAA program.

At the end of the playing season, the remaining team balance will forward to the following season unless the criteria for defining the original player fee have not been met. For instance if the player fee included uniforms that were not delivered, or if the minimum number of tournaments included in the player fee were not played by the team, then the player may be entitled to a partial refund as determined by the HYAA Board of Directors. A player



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leaving the team, or asked not to continue does not apply, but may be brought to the Board of Directors for discussion. Should a team dissolve with funds remaining the Board of Directors will determine how the funds are applied. Special funds for Cooperstown type experiences where team deposits are non refundable and do not apply.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Player Name: _____

Player Signature: _____