

HEALING PLACE ATHLETICS
{BASEBALL/SOFTBALL}
2024 SEASON



VISION

To Be a Healing Place For a Hurting World Through Sports

MISSION

Healing Place Athletics exists to.....

1. Integrate the Gospel in Sports
2. Create community
3. Bring fun back to sports for kids
4. Redeem sports back to God

What is the win?

1. Kids memorize Gospel-centered scriptures
2. Kids have fun and learn the value of hard work
3. Families make memories and relationships in a family-friendly environment



WELCOME

Coaches,

Welcome to Healing Place Athletics. You are now part of a ministry that has the privilege to bless, encourage, and teach a precious group of kids, ages 4-12 years. Here at HPC, we want to create environments for children to know and experience Jesus along with growing in their knowledge and skill of baseball/softball/t-ball.

As a coach, you are on the front lines of this ministry. Each week you have the opportunity to interact with the families that have been placed on your team. You are a direct reflection of our league, our church, and ultimately, Christ. Coaches are among the most influential adults in the lives of young players.

It is our job as a staff to “create the environments,” but it is your job, as a coach, to help “children know and experience Jesus, along with growing in their knowledge and skill of any given sport” as written in our mission statement.

We are here for you!

You can expect that the HP Athletics staff will be timely in our communication and do our very best to provide a positive and encouraging atmosphere for you as a coach. We will be here to discuss any issues that might arise during the season. With help from your fellow coaches and parents, we will do our best to make sure the facility is in the best shape possible for your practices and games.

-Healing Place Athletics

Coach with a 2 Corinthians 4:18 philosophy:

“Don’t focus on the seen but the unseen. The seen is temporary but the unseen is eternal.”



STANDARDS & EXPECTATIONS

First and foremost, Healing Place Athletics exists to teach all participants to walk in a Christ-like manner; this includes coaches, youth, parents, and volunteers. Coaches are expected to teach sportsmanship to their players, as well as be a good example of what good sportsmanship always looks like.

To coach here at HPC, we expect the following things to be done as a standard of our program. You are the front lines of ministry; there will be no exceptions to these standards and each coach will be held responsible and accountable to these standards.

- Promote teaching fundamentals, discipline, and hard work; not win at all costs. We give each child an equal chance to play and succeed.
- Lead by example, by demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players, coaches, and officials.
- Proper Language – no profanity or tearing down a player, parent, game official or fellow coach. We will treat EVERYONE with respect.
- As a coach, we expect you to refrain from any activity that would grieve the heart of God and possibly cause someone in the Sports Ministry to stumble. Some of the stumbling blocks that can be detrimental include, but are not limited to, domestic violence, substance abuse, and sexual immorality (cohabitation, pre-marital sexual affairs, same sex relationships, transgenderism, or any attempt to change one's biological sex). 1 Corinthians 8:9-13, 6:9-10, 10:31, Romans 1:26-32, 14:1-23, Philippians 2:14-15
- Teach and play kids in multiple positions – each child should learn and play a minimum of (2) positions, infield, and outfield
- No negative physical contact of a child or parent under any circumstance.
- No being alone with a child that is not your own, without another adult or child around. (Three-person rule)

Understand that as a volunteer of HP Athletics, you represent Christ and this church wherever you go and in whatever you do. This includes what you post to social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.)

***Background checks will be required for all coaches. A link will be emailed to coaches in need of a background check.



PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

The coach should know each player's name and edify him or her at every opportunity. Build opportunities within your practice and game situations for your players to build character, build relationships, learn more about Jesus and develop sportsmanship. Child-centered coaching places a high priority on the total development of a young person. The two primary elements of development that are most focused on within HPC Athletics are Spiritual Development and Skill Development.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT:

Teach players to work hard to be their best, because that is what God asks of us.
Colossians 3:23 (NIV) – *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*

How do you accomplish this:

1. Organized Practice
2. Teach Fundamentals
3. Take Advantage of In-Game Teaching Moments
4. Teach Disciplined Practice Habits
5. Teach Players Their Responsibilities as a Member of a Team

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:

Teach players how we are to live a life pleasing God.

Colossians 1:10 (NLT) – *Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.*

How do you accomplish this:

1. Practice and Game Devotions/Scriptures
2. Teach Discipline and Respect
3. Lead by Example



SCRIPTURE MEMORY COMPETITION

We believe that scripture memory is vital for kids at this stage of their mental and spiritual development. We will send out a weekly email on Monday with a scripture memory verse and devotion for the week to parents and coaches. Please go over the verse and devotion at practice. Also, encourage your parents to go over it at home. We are also giving you a physical copy of the scripture verses and devotionals at the coaches meeting. If you don't have one, then let us know!

Before the game we ask that you line up your players and quiz them on the scripture memory verse of the week. It will have to be quick to avoid starting late! It is so vital that you only use positive reinforcement. Please never make scripture memory a negative experience for the kids. If they get it right, praise them. If they don't, then give them a word of encouragement for the next week.

The goal is to get every word right so that the standard is the same for every team. Otherwise, some coaches would grade strict and others would not. After your scripture memory quiz is done, let the other coach know how many kids got it right. The team with the most kids to get the verse correct will be awarded one point before the start of the game. We do not keep score in T-Ball and Transition, so you can just tell your team they won! We are using the honor system.

The top two teams with the most wins during the season will be given a Chick-fil-A party! The points will be added up all season and end on the second to last game. A Chick-fil-A gift card will be given to the team at the last game. There will be one winner from T-Ball and Transition. There will also be a winner in the older divisions. A junior volunteer or staff member will go around and find out during the game who won the scripture memory for each game day. The announcement of the two winners will be made the final week.



TEAM MANAGEMENT

MANAGING YOUR TEAM AS A COACH IS YOUR PRIMARY ROLE.

PERFORMANCE & DISCIPLINE EXPECTATIONS

Be clear about your expectations beginning with the first practice. It's easier to teach and discipline when boundaries are set. This begins at the first practice. We always want to be encouraging, but that does not mean we are not to have team rules, which the kids should follow.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Here at HP Athletics, we expect coaches to encourage players to perform at their highest level. We expect the best out of our kids. Just remember, someone's best does not always translate into skill. We want to build our kids up, not tear them down.

RECRUIT

In order to help out the HPAC staff and the flow of game day, we ask each team to take care of a few responsibilities.

Get the parents involved with the team. It helps to utilize parents with practices and game duties. Get them invested into the team. One very important position for your team is your Team Parent Manager. Recruit this person at the very beginning of meeting with your team. The Team Parent Manager is the "right hand" support of a coach. This parent will take the lead in communicating with your parents on the coach's behalf and assigning parents to team responsibilities on game day.

TEAM PARENT MANAGER is responsible for:

- Scheduling parents to keep score on the scoreboard in the press box at home games. Runs and outs are the only things that need to be tracked. (Machine Pitch League & Up only)
- Managing players in the dugout during a game, such as assisting coach with lineup.
- Encouraging parents, players, and coaches to pick up all of the trash around their bleachers and dugout/benches after each game.

COMMUNICATION

Over communicate with your kids. In some cases, they are the ones communicating with their parents. Make sure they know what is going on and what you expect of them on and off the field.



KEYS TO MANAGING PARENTS

INITIAL PHONE CALL

When you first receive your roster, you need to contact each parent by **PHONE**. Emails are great follow-ups, but the initial contact should be made by phone. They may have entered an incorrect email; we want to make sure we speak to the parent for the first contact.

ORGANIZATION

At the first practice, ask parents for the best way to contact them. Their contact information may have changed since they first registered. Be organized. Always have the most up-to-date information. Ask parents to check their contact information on the website. Some may not have given permission to receive texts or may have checked “No Email” when registering.

WEEKLY COMMUNICATION

You should have weekly communication with your parents either by email, phone, or team meeting. The best thing you can do is meet with parents at the end of each practice and game. Practice handouts and weekly calls or texts should be used for practice re-caps, any housekeeping things that need to be dealt with, practice or game changes, etc. Communication is key to having a smooth and successful season.

SET EXPECTATIONS AND STICK TO THEM

Expectations are boundaries. When parents know what you expect of them, you are more likely to have their support.

Parent Expectations can be:

- On time for practices/games
- Communicate with the coach when a player will be absent or late for a game or practice
- Ask questions when unsure
- Positive support for players, coaches, and officials
- Assist with practices and games as needed
- Sign up for game day responsibilities with Team Parent Manager



PRACTICE

KEYS TO MANAGING A SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

Preplan your practice. Know what you want to teach the kids and the drills you need to accomplish it. In order to utilize your practice time wisely, assign a time interval for each drill and stick to it. Since kids arrive at different times, prepare activities in which kids can engage immediately upon arrival, such as throwing the ball around with teammates or with a coach.

When dividing players for drills, make sure all players have a group or partner. For an odd number of players, the coach or a parent can partner up with the extra player. Never allow the same player to be the “extra player” on multiple drills. No player should be eliminated or have to wait their turn. Do your best to create and utilize drills that maximize the reps kids get in each practice.

Teach the fundamentals. Engage each kids and keep them moving. Avoid the mistake of having your kids standing around. Be prepared, not only to teach physical skills, but also to look for ways to instill confidence, boost self-esteem, and share Christ with your players.

Arrive earlier than the players and have your equipment on the field, ready to go. Equipment will be provided by the staff of HP Athletics and will be stored in the orange equipment bin located either behind the backstop or in one of the dugouts on your assigned field. The equipment box will include catcher’s equipment, balls and a tee. Bats are available upon request. Players are responsible for providing their own batting helmet.

Each team is responsible for placing all equipment back into the equipment box at the end of your practice. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE EQUIPMENT ON FIELD!**

Machine Pitch League – The sports staff will set up the machine on your field prior to the start of your practice. Only sports staff is allowed to make any adjustments to the pitching machine. If the pitching machine is **CONSISTENTLY** throwing too low or too high, please ask the sports staff on duty for assistance.

Kid Pitch League – The sports staff will place the pitching mound and bases at the correct distance prior to your practice.

MAKE PRACTICE FUN!



SAFETY

CARE OF AN INJURY

- Band-aids and ice packs are available at the concession stand
- Ask the player where it hurts. Don't take for granted that because you saw what happened, you know where the actual injury is.
- If the player is unable to continue, he/she should be checked to determine the extent of the injury.
- Decide the severity of the injury.
- Look for swelling and deformity.
- Remove the player from the game. It would be good at this point to have the parent of the injured player (or the adult who brought the player to the game) assist in caring for the player.
- If the injured player's parent (or the adult who brought the player to the game) is not present, assign the Team Parent Manager to assist with the child's injury.
- If it is determined that the injury is severe (needs more than just an ice pack or bandaid), please notify the game official immediately. The official will assist in contacting the appropriate medical personnel.
- Depending upon the injured part of the body, no player should return to a game until he/she can run straight without pain or a limp. They should also be able to do a toe raise on the injured side without being supported.

COMMON INJURIES IN SPORTS AND PROPER CARE:

Sprain, Strain & Contusion: Remove player from game; apply ice and a compression bandage and elevate.

Abrasion & Blister: Clean with antiseptic; apply antibiotic ointment; apply bandage.

Heat Exhaustion: Characterized by pale, clammy skin and profuse perspiration. Move player to cool area; have the player lie down with feet elevated; cool with wet towels; drink water. If the player vomits, immediately take them to a hospital.

Cramps: Hydrate with water; slowly stretch the cramp area.

Concussion: Seek immediate medical assistance.



MEDIA/CANCELLATION & RAINOUT POLICY

MEDIA

Multiple resources are available on the sports website, healingplaceathletics.org, to help you in communicating with your parents and managing your season. This website must be used for all media correspondence with players and parents. Neither coaches nor parents are allowed to create personal websites highlighting HPC, HP Athletics, families or children participating in the HP Athletics Baseball/Softball/TBall leagues.

INFORMATION ON HP ATHLETICS WEBSITE INCLUDES:

- Rainout conditions for practices and games
- Game schedules, including rescheduled games
- Team rosters
- Opportunity to communicate with your parents via email
- League documents; found under Coaches Corner tab

CANCELLATION POLICY

Coaches are not allowed to cancel practices or games due to inclement weather. HP Athletics will make all decisions for weather cancellations.

Each team will have a Head Coach and at least one Assistant Coach. Games and practices must not be cancelled, unless neither Head Coach nor Assistant Coach can attend.

If an emergency arises and you need to cancel practice at the last minute, make sure to call or text parents. An email is NOT sufficient communication in this situation.

There will be no rescheduled games allowed. Any game that is canceled will result in a forfeit. This does not include games rescheduled by HP Athletics (i.e., rainouts).

RAINOUTS

Cancellations due to weather will be posted on our website only. Cancellations for weeknight practices will be posted by 3:00 p.m. Cancellations for Saturday practices and games will be posted by 7:00 a.m. on Saturday. Please note that it might not be raining at your scheduled time, but cancellations could be made due to wet conditions from prior rain. Please check the website any time it is or has been raining BEFORE you head to the HPAC.

Rainout notifications will be displayed on the ticker below the header picture of the main page.

Example



UNIFORMS

All uniforms are provided through the registration fee. Uniform Code found in league rules **MUST BE FOLLOWED**. Coaches are not allowed to pick up their team's uniforms. Parents must sign for their child's uniform in order to avoid mistakes. Coaches are not allowed to ask parents to purchase additional items for a uniform, with the following exceptions:

All players will receive:

Uniforms provided by HP Athletics consist of a jersey, hat/visor, belt, and socks. Parents are required to purchase pants for their child. Coach will decide what color. Must be consistent for the entire team.

LEAGUE DATES

SATURDAY, February 3

Practice begins for T-Ball, Transition Coaches Pitch, and Boys Kid Pitch.

MONDAY, February 5

Practice begins for all teams on your regularly scheduled practice night.

SATURDAY, February 24

All Saturday practices will begin 2 hours after regularly scheduled time.

SATURDAY, March 2

Last day of Saturday practices.

SATURDAY, March 9

Games begin; all regularly scheduled games will occur on Saturday except for weeks that have weeknight games scheduled.

WEEKNIGHT GAMES March 25-28

No practice will be allowed this week.

EASTER BREAK, March 29 - April 5

There will be no practices or games during this time. Games will resume April 6.

SATURDAY, May 18

Last day of games.

****It is expected that coaches of school teams that are composed of players that share a common activity inform the HP Athletics staff of any dates or events (within the season) that will cause the team to not be able to attend a scheduled practice or game time. The coach is expected to inform the staff prior to game schedules being developed and released to teams. Any last minute forfeits will not be rescheduled.**



LOGISTICS

PRACTICES

- All equipment needed for practice will be in the orange bin closest to your field.
- Each team is responsible for placing all equipment back into the equipment box at the end of your practice. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE EQUIPMENT ON FIELD!**
- If you are the last team, please return machine to equipment barn.
- Teams on Children's Cup, Honduras, and Peru will need to split time in batting cages.
- Devotions and Scripture Memory verses are to be done at each practice. If you choose to do them at the end of practice, make sure to end with enough time to do so.
- If it has been raining leading up to your practice, make sure to check the website before assuming fields are dry enough to practice.
- If a rainout is NOT posted, practice and games are still on.
- Only wiffle balls can be hit against the field fences. **NO REGULAR BASEBALLS, TBALLS, OR SOFTBALLS ARE TO BE HIT AGAINST THE FIELD FENCES.**

GAME DAYS

- The National Anthem will be done 5 minutes prior to the 8:00 games. Please make sure to have your team ready to line up along the foul line in front of your dugout.
- Home team is decided by a coin toss. Find the opposing coach before the game and before you choose a dugout. Home Team is to take **THIRD** base dugout.
- Game balls will be provided by HP Athletics.
- Check catcher's equipment to make sure it will fit your catcher before the start of the game.
- Do not adjust pitching machines. Machines are pre-set at time of set-up.
- Be ready to take the field as soon as the game before you ends.
- Team is responsible for making sure all foul balls are returned to the field.
- Make sure all players have their complete uniform on and shirts tucked in before taking the field.
- **CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELVES.**



CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE YOUTH COACH

Honesty
(Be fair)

Communication
(Appropriate words and body language)

Ability to Motivate Positively
(Develop self-confidence)

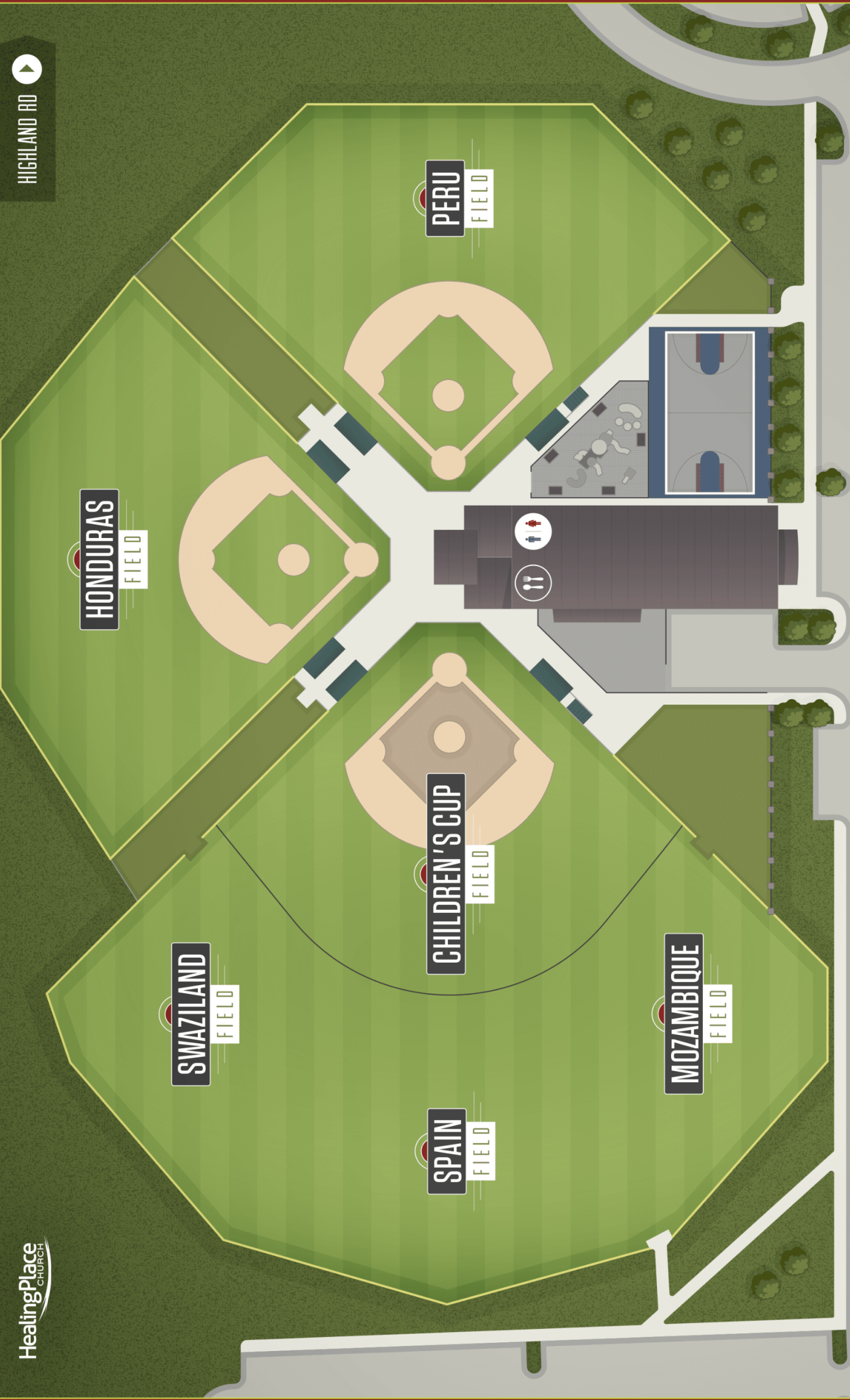
Possess Leadership Qualities
(Be prepared and organized)

High Moral and Ethical Standards
(Be an appropriate role model)

Respect of Players, Parents, and Community
(Develop positive relationships)

Appropriate Temperament for Coaching Children
(Sensitive, Calm, Patient, Sense of Humor)







healingplaceathletics.org