

HEALING PLACE ATHLETICS
{BASEBALL/SOFTBALL}
2026 SEASON



VISION STATEMENT

To Be a Healing Place For a Hurting World Through Sports

MISSION STATEMENT

To create an environment for children to know and experience Jesus, along with growing in their knowledge and skill of any given sport.

WHO WE ARE

We are a faith-based organization that exists to teach all participants to walk in a Christ-like manner!

How do we do this?

We express *GRATITUDE*. We *BELIEVE* the best. We strive for *EXCELLENCE*. We walk in *HUMILITY*. We *LEAD* the way. We show *KINDNESS*.



WELCOME

Coaches,

Welcome to Healing Place Athletics. You are now part of a ministry that has the privilege of blessing, encouraging, and teaching a precious group of kids, ages 4-13. Here at HPC, we want to create environments where children know and experience Jesus and grow in their knowledge and skills in 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 assigned to 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 the HP Athletics staff to communicate in a timely manner and to 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 keep the facility in the best possible shape for your practices and games.

Our primary role as staff and leaders of HP Athletics is to protect the league's atmosphere and environment and ensure we fulfill the mission of HP Athletics through Spiritual Development and Skill Development.

-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 and to be a good example of what good sportsmanship looks like.

To coach here at HPC, we expect the following standards to be upheld in 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 for them.

- 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, including infield and outfield.
- No negative physical contact of a child or parent under any circumstances.
- 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 them 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 a young person's overall development. 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 Members of a Team

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:

Teach players how to live a life pleasing to 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
2. Teach Discipline and Respect
3. Lead by Example



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 should not have team rules that 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

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

Get the parents involved with the team. It helps to utilize parents with practices and game duties. Get them invested in the team. One very important position for your team is the Team Parent Manager. Recruit this person at the very beginning of the season. 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 (if you are the AWAY team). 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 the coach with the 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, 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 communicate with your parents weekly via email, phone, or a team meeting. The best thing you can do is meet with parents at the end of each practice and game. Use practice handouts and weekly calls or texts for practice recaps, any housekeeping items that need to be addressed, 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 the 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. To use your practice time wisely, set a time interval for each drill and stick to it. Since kids arrive at different times, prepare activities that kids can engage in immediately upon arrival, such as throwing the ball around with teammates or a coach.

When dividing players for drills, make sure each player has a group or a 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 kid 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 THE FIELD!**

Machine Pitch League – The sports staff will set up the machine on your field prior to the start of your practice. Only the 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 on-duty sports staff 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 helpful at this point for the parent of the injured player (or the adult who brought the player to the game) to 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 on the injured body part, no player should return to a game until they can run straight without pain or a limp. They should also be able to perform a toe raise on the injured side without support.

COMMON INJURIES IN SPORTS AND PROPER CARE:

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

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

Heat Exhaustion: Characterized by pale, clammy skin and profuse perspiration. Move the player to a 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 communicate with your parents and manage 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/T-Ball leagues.

INFORMATION ON THE HP ATHLETICS WEBSITE INCLUDES:

- Rainout conditions for practices and games

INFORMATION ON THE LEAGUEAPPS WEBSITE INCLUDES:

- 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 the Head Coach nor the 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.

No rescheduled games will be allowed. Any canceled game 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 pm. Cancellations for Saturday practices and games will be posted by 7:00 am. 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 anytime 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.

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 7

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

MONDAY, February 9

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

SATURDAY, February 28

Last day of Saturday practices.

SATURDAY, March 7

Games begin; all regularly scheduled games will be on Saturday, except for weeknight games that will be scheduled.

WEEKNIGHT GAMES, March 30 - April 3

No practice will be allowed this week.

EASTER BREAK, April 4 - April 10

There will be no practices or games during this time. Games will resume on April 11.

SATURDAY, May 16

Last day of games.

****It is expected that coaches of school teams that are composed of players who 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 THE FIELD!**
- If you are the last team, please return the machine to the equipment barn.
- Teams on Children's Cup, Honduras, and Peru will need to split time in batting cages.
- Devotions are to be done at each practice. If you choose to do them at the end of practice, make sure to leave enough time.
- If it has been raining leading up to your practice, check the website before assuming the 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.**
- Teams in the Boys Kid Pitch (9-10) and (11-12) divisions will have two practices during the weeks leading up to the start of games. The first is your normal weekday practice, and the other is on Saturday for pitching development. On Saturdays, you will have an hour to practice. You will share a field with another team. Each of you will spend 30 minutes on the field and 30 minutes in the batting cage, so please allow each other that much time in both areas. This is NOT a full practice - this is to give your pitchers extra practice before the season starts. Once games start, you will only practice on your designated weeknight.

GAME DAYS

- The National Anthem will be done 5 minutes prior to the 8:00 games. Please make sure your team is ready to line up along the foul line in front of your dugout.
- Home and away teams are determined when the game schedule is released and will be shown on LeagueApps. The Home Team is to take the THIRD base dugout. The Away Team is responsible for providing a scorekeeper (located in the press box).
- Game balls will be provided by HP Athletics.
- Check the 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 before the game. If there is an issue with the machine, the umpire will alert a member of our staff.
- Be ready to take the field as soon as the game before yours ends.
- Teams are responsible for returning all foul balls to the field.
- Make sure all players have their complete uniform on and shirts tucked in before taking the field.
- **CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELVES.**

Officiating for Boys and Girls Coaches Pitch:

- Coaches in these divisions are responsible for umpiring their games. We will not provide an umpire.



CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE YOUTH COACH

Honesty
(Be fair)

Communication
(Appropriate words and body language)

Ability to Motivate Positively
(Develop self-confidence)

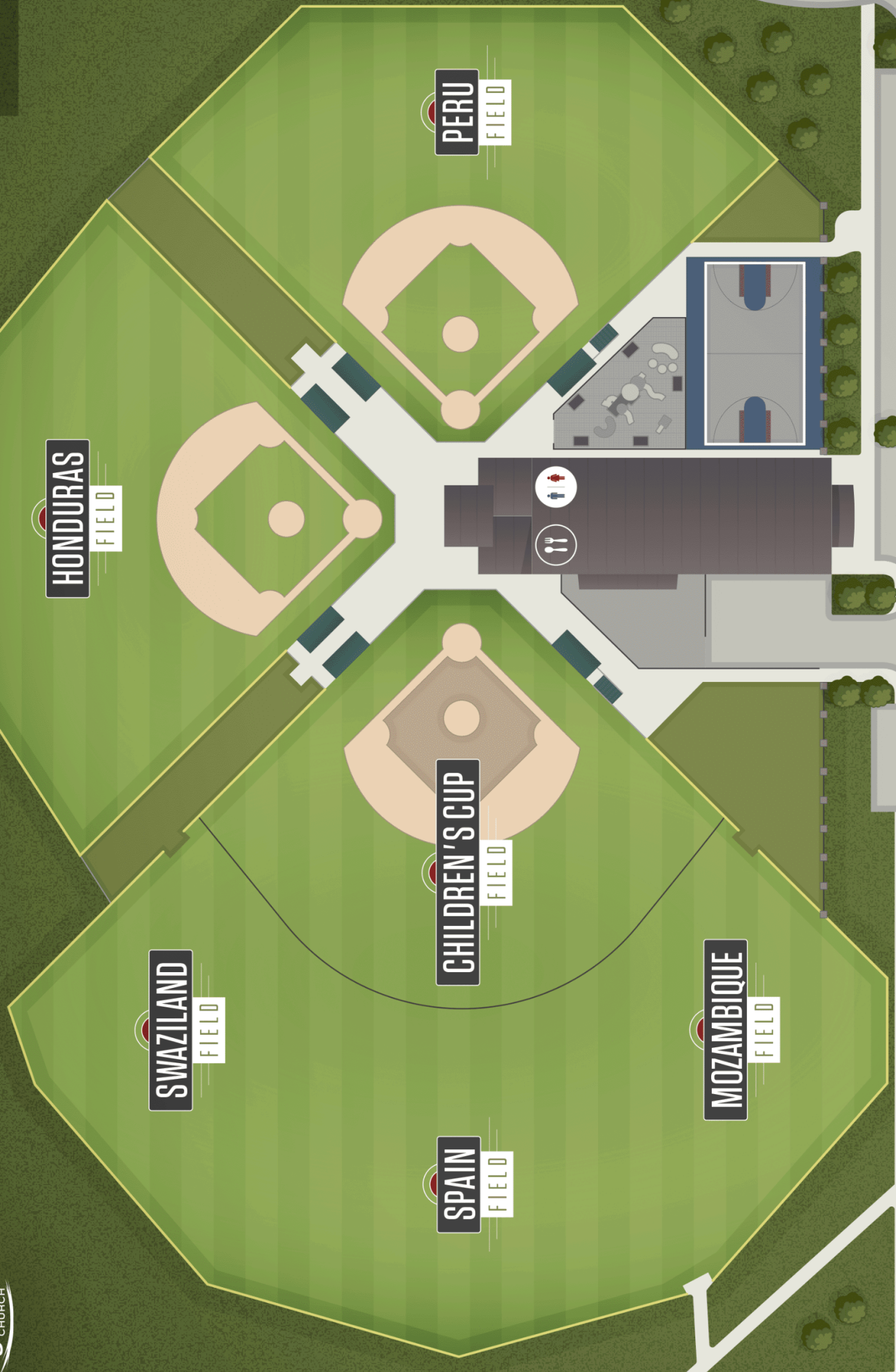
Possess Leadership Qualities
(Be prepared and organized)

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