

Panther Baseball FAQ's

1. What is Panther baseball?

Unlike most recreational baseball programs, the recreational league is competitive in nature with a focus on player skill development, team concepts, and most importantly, FUN! The Panthers and the AYL offer baseball that is played on dirt fields, as close to the real thing as possible. This is not run around the bases, nobody out baseball, so please be aware that the program is designed for those that want to learn and play real Baseball.

2. Who may participate in Panther Baseball?

Any child age 6 to 14, excluding high school students.

3. When is registration?

Registration starts the 1st of January until the 31st of January. There is a space available registration February 1st - February 15th or until the teams are at capacity.

4. How many players are on a team?

Team size can vary depending upon the number of kids registering to play. Most teams will have between 11 and 13 players.

5. How is a player assigned to a team?

A Baseball player is assigned to a team based upon age and experience. Returning players who are registered on-time and paid in full will be assigned first. Returning and new Panther baseball players may request to play with a friend or a particular coach, this can be noted during registration; however, based on many factors, we cannot guarantee the placement, but will take it in to consideration. If a preference is not indicated on the registration, placement is based upon experience, school attended and area of residence. Again, the Panthers will take note of any special requests; however, we cannot guarantee that the request(s) will be met. The Panthers will make every effort to place players according to level of play (like talent playing like talent) to the best of our ability given roster limits, and available teams.

6. Are there tryouts?

Yes, coaches do conduct tryouts, which are typically set after the current season, but some do have tryouts later and before the season starts. All tryouts are held by the coach(s), the Panthers only facilitate the field and equipment; the coaches are in control of choosing players.

7. Why does Baseball registration occur so early?

The Panthers are a member of the Arapahoe Youth League (AYL). There are more than 300 teams participating in the AYL baseball program. Each club must know the number of players and teams that will participate in the league by Mid February to allow time for the all volunteer board to plan for the season. This also provides ample time to acquire quality coaches to fill any vacancies.

8. What is the cost to play Panther Baseball?

The cost for Panther Baseball can change from year-to-year. The cost to play baseball in 2010 was \$240 for the Recreational League and \$280 for the Competitive League if registered and paid in full by January 31st. Space available registration is February 1st to the 15th and the cost increases on February 1. Placement on a team is not guaranteed for registrations submitted after January 31st.

9. What does the registration fee cover?

- Registration
- Practice field's
- Game fields
- League fees
- Referees
- Insurance
- Coaching and practice equipment
- Panther baseball operating expenses
- Coaching education

10. What uniform will I have to purchase for my child to play Panther Baseball?

Each individual player is responsible for his own uniform. The Panther uniform consists of:

- Jersey / Sleeveless Vest / Black.
- Athletic Undershirt / Gold or Black (all uniforms must match for each game)
- Grey Pants
- Black Socks
- Black Belt
- Solid Fitted Black Hat
- Baseball Cleats (NO metal spikes)

See the link on the panthers Web Site concerning details on where to buy your uniforms.

11. What equipment should I purchase for my player to play Panther Baseball?

Required Items:

- Baseball Glove
- Batting Helmet

Optional Items:

- Baseball Bat
- Protective Equipment (cup) (chest and mouth protection)

12. Where, when and how often is practice?

The Panthers acquire practice fields through South Suburban and Greenwood Village. Most of the fields are in the Centennial/Littleton area.

The number of practices and the time they are scheduled are determined by the coaches. The Panthers offer assigned fields for two practices per week up to and including the first game and then continues through the season. Additional practices and other activities may be added at the discretion of the coach(s).

13. How many games are played? Where and when are they scheduled?

Please check the web site for specific dates concerning the baseball season. The number of games does differ depending on the league you are in, as does the post season. Also, you will see the dates that games will not be played.

Please take note, during the season, the schedule is subject to change due to conditions beyond the AYL and the Panthers control, such as weather, umpires and field availability.

14. What if we have a family vacation scheduled during the season?

Baseball requires significant preparation and practice. Vacations during the season are highly discouraged. Depending upon team rules, playing time may be impacted by the vacation. You are encouraged to schedule your vacations prior to or after the season or during the times that the league will not have games to avoid playing time impacts.

15. What if my child decides he does not like Baseball and wants to quit. What is the refund policy?

Full refunds will be issued if the Panthers are unable to place the registrant on a team. Refunds, less a \$15.00 processing fee will be granted if the player 1) sustains a season ending injury prior to the start of the practice season, or 2) player moves from the territory prior to the start of the practice. In the event the player changes his mind about participating in Baseball prior to the first game, a refund of 75% of the registration fee will be processed. No refunds will be granted after the first game. Please refer to the "Refund Policy" on the Panthers website homepage.

16. How can I apply for a Scholarship?

Please refer to the Panthers "Scholarship Policy" on the Panthers Web Site. Volunteering to the Panther Baseball program is required for approval of a scholarship.

*Note: Scholarships are not available for any player in Competitive League play.

17. Who can be a coach?

Anyone can register to coach, however coaching takes a lot of time, and energy. All candidates will have to register and go through a pre-certification process. The process involves registration, undergoing a background check and the possibility completing an interview with the Panther Baseball coordinator. All Panther coaches are required to attend a preseason coach's meeting, typically held late February or early March. Baseball teams are limited to one head coach and two assistant coaches. Each coach must register on the Panthers website as a coach.