



2023 Youth Sports Schedule Frequently Asked Questions

[Why is Harker Heights Parks and Recreation making changes to the sports schedule?](#)

- Our department vision is to create community through people, parks, and programs. Our staff talks often about what this means for youth sports. We will strive to:
 1. Provide safe and high-quality programs.
 2. Create community by building relationships between participants, coaches, and parents.
 3. Offer opportunities for youth to participate in physical fitness through a variety of sports.
 4. Foster a lifelong atmosphere of physical fitness by finding resources for youth to play sports.
 5. Involve our invested community partners who offer sports in our area.
- During the yearly update to the 2023 Sports Schedule, Harker Heights Parks and Recreation made changes with these goals as the guide in our decisions along with feedback from community members, community partners, coaches, parents, End of Season surveys, and industry trends in Youth Sports.

[What changes did Harker Heights Parks and Recreation make to the 2023 Sports Schedule?](#)

1. Winter Soccer is changed to a Flag Football season in the summer which will run semi-concurrently with Volleyball.
2. Baseball, Softball, and Tee Ball will start games early April instead of late May.
3. Basketball will start games in January instead of November.

[What other changes is Harker Heights Parks and Recreation making to youth sports it offers?](#)

- Harker Heights Parks and Recreation will be making the following changes to how it offers youth sports:
 1. Focus on our youth participants by adding time to the preseason for additional practice, adding an additional regular season game totaling 9, and adding End of Season series to each season, adding up to 10 scheduled games at minimum.
 2. Focus on player development by heavily recruiting sports instructors, offering non season sports camps and programming, and sharing information about organizations that offer sports opportunities in our area.
 3. Focus on our volunteer coaches by adding time to the preseason for staff to recruit coaches, for coaches to complete the required background check and National Alliance of Youth Sports (NAYS) coach training, and for participants, coaches, and parents to build relationships before games begin.
 4. Focus on providing for the needs of Harker Heights by having End of Season After-Action Meetings with coaches and starting Youth Sports Advisory Meetings for parents and coaches.

Why is Harker Heights Parks and Recreation not having a Winter Soccer season?

- Harker Heights Parks and Recreation's decision to not have a Winter Soccer season was made because:
 1. Soccer is the only sport offered twice each year by our department and was changed to Flag Football.
 2. We need space in our programming schedule to focus on adding value for participants and coaches.
 3. In response to feedback received from participants, coaches, and surveys about our current offerings.

I want to participate in soccer this winter.

- We understand this is a big change on our part, but as a part of our goal to involve community partners, contact us for information about organizations that offer soccer opportunities during the winter season.

Why is Harker Heights Parks and Recreation starting Baseball/Softball/Tee Ball early?

- Based on feedback from participant surveys, coach feedback, and internal After-Action Reports (AAR) a re-occurring improvement that was suggested was starting the season earlier.

Why is Harker Heights Parks and Recreation starting a Flag Football season?

- Community members and participants in our programs have asked for Harker Heights Parks and Recreation to add additional activities for children in the summer. Community members and participants have specifically asked for a Flag Football season. Additionally, we as a department feel that adding Flag Football will provide an additional sport opportunity for youth to be physically active.

Why is Harker Heights Parks and Recreation moving the start of the Basketball season to 2024?

- Due to gym space and gym availability in our area, the current youth basketball season registration is limited and has a compact schedule. For example, our current 2022 Youth Basketball season started in October 2022 and will finish at the end of January 2023. Our department plans to reduce the compaction of the season by starting Basketball season games in mid-January to allow flexibility in scheduling.

I am a community partner who would like more information on offering a class, a clinic, a camp, to share information about a Sports Organization, or become a Youth Sports Sponsor.

- That is great, we appreciate your support of youth sports! Visit bit.ly/HHPRDCommunityPartnerInterest to request more information.

I have feedback, ideas, or want more information about the changes.

- To better serve our community, we need feedback and ideas. The best ways to do this are:
 - Volunteer to coach with us by completing the application or visiting the Recreation Center.
 - Apply to officiate or score keep with us by completing the application or visiting the Recreation Center
 - Contact Jonathan Hanson, Recreation Manager at jhanson@harkerheights.gov.
 - Contact the Harker Heights Recreation Center if you would like to schedule a meeting with staff.
 - Check out our website at <https://www.harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/parks>.
 - Follow the [Harker Heights Parks and Rec Facebook Page](#).
 - Register for a CivicRec account at secure.rec1.com/TX/harker-heights-tx/.
 - Update your CivicRec communication preferences to receive information about upcoming events.
 - Complete the surveys which are sent to participants at the end of each season and program.