

Practice Time Priority

Field space at Shades Mountain Park for league ages 7YO and older is available based on a priority system. The Executive Committee of the Shades Mountain Park Board will determine how many teams the Park can accommodate in a particular age group giving due consideration to overall field availability based on providing a reasonable number of practice and game opportunities to its registered players with a focus on the recreation program. Once the allotted number of teams is accepted for a particular age group, no additional teams will be accepted.

Priority is established based on the following schedule:

1. Recreation Teams except for Sundays which are reserved for AA teams in the 10YO and younger leagues paying the full fee and any 11YO or older team comprised of players playing both recreation and AA.
2. AA Teams with 100% Hoover residents. Team never left Park.
3. AA Teams with 80% Hoover residents. Team never left Park.
4. AA Teams with 100% Hoover residents who are returning to the Park.
5. AA Teams with 80% Hoover residents who are returning to the Park.

“Team never left Park” means a AA team with a roster comprised of at least 70% of players who either: (1) registered and played at Shades Mountain Park during the Spring season preceding the current registration period or (2) are new Hoover residents. Exceptions for injury and other extenuating circumstances will be considered by the Executive Committee on a case by case basis. Once a team has left the Park, the team cannot requalify as a "never left the Park" team. Teams with fewer than 80% Hoover residents are not permitted to participate in the Shades Mountain Park AA program (*see* December 2015 Board Meeting Minutes).

All practice times are based on available field space. If a team registers or a team's player(s) register and the Park is unable to accommodate the team based on a priority issue, full refunds will be issued. At the 11 year old and older level, the objective is to provide each team at minimum of one weekday and one weekend practice slot. Additionally, note that the Board has discretion to reserve weekday practice slots for younger AA teams to use in the post-season where the Park has multiple available fields (for example, Brock's Gap and Field 3). These times will be allocated during the season by the Scheduling Coordinator to teams who lose practice time due to weather and/or game conflicts.

Notice of this policy or a reference to the policy – including that space is not guaranteed to any “AA only” team - will be provided as part of the registration process.

Additional priority considerations for 11YO and older leagues:

1. All players must register through the Park's on-line registration process. This process is required to ensure (1) all waivers are executed to protect the Park and its volunteers and (2) to verify residency. Late registrants will be subject to the late fee. AA head coaches are responsible to ensure that all players are registered and may be subject to

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loss of practice time for allowing an unregistered player to practice. AA coaches are encouraged to inform the Park of their intention to register for practice time at Shades Mountain Park as early as possible. Coaches can notify the Scheduling Coordinator or the Commissioner of their League and are encourage to do so via email. **AA only teams (those whose players are not also participating in a recreation league) who do not provide written (including electronic) notice of their intent to participate in the Shades Mountain AA program at least ten days prior to the date that registration is initially scheduled to close lose their priority status and shall be deemed to be a 5th Level Priority team for that season.** The team can regain its priority status for the subsequent season.

2. For 11 – 14 YO leagues, Monday nights are designated as a recreation practice night. Recreation teams will be assigned Monday practice nights in addition to a weekend practice slot.
3. Except for the Monday night assignment, practice times will be selected using the above priority system. Teams within a priority band shall be permitted to select one weeknight and one weekend practice slot within their priority band. Once all the teams in a priority band have selected their times, the selection process moves to the next priority band. At the discretion of the Scheduling Coordinator and/or the Executive Committee, weekend practice times may be assigned prior to recreation teams being formed and/or finalized. It shall be their discretion whether to reserve particular times for the recreation teams and/or allow the other teams to select first. Teams in a higher priority band shall have “bumping” rights, within reason, if their regular assigned time is frequently lost due to recreation games.
4. Priority within Priority Bands. Priority for both field availability and practice time selection within priority bands shall be determined as follows: (1) coaches within a particular priority band are encouraged to reach a consensus regarding practice time selection and/or facilitate teams within in a priority band being able to participate at the Park and (2) if no consensus can be reached, priority shall be established by calculating the average number of prior Spring seasons at Shades Mountain Park played by the team’s roster players. Note that the Board anticipates that a cooperative spirit will prevail on priority and other issues.
5. Any misrepresentation of residency shall result in a forfeiture of practice time or additional corrective measures to be determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have full discretion is determining the appropriate corrective measure to include forfeiture/reassignment of practice time and/or disqualification of the team from practice eligibility with all registration fees forfeited.

Note: this policy was first effective for the Fall 2016 season and was supplemented and updated to offer clarity to the process to assist the Scheduling Coordinator beginning with the Spring 2018 season.

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