



ROCKIES BASEBALL SKILLS CHALLENGE 2023 PLAYBOOK



CPRA
COLORADO
PARKS & RECREATION
ASSOCIATION

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WELCOME

The 2023 *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge* is produced by the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) with support from the Colorado Rockies.

We are looking forward to providing the youth of Colorado with a statewide baseball skills competition testing their skills in base running, batting and throwing. This is an exciting program that can take a boy or girl from the local competition to a sectional event, culminating at Coca-Cola All Star Park in Lakewood for the state championship if they are the top scorer in their age group.

This playbook is designed to ensure that everyone involved with the various levels of competition has a good understanding of the program, and that all the rules are followed carefully and consistently. It provides information, suggestions and guidelines regarding staffing, equipment and on-field execution.

Communication, teamwork and organization will ensure safe and successful competitions and thus, the ultimate success of the *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge*.

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Program Overview

Title

The *Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CRPA)* produce the *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge* with support from the *Colorado Rockies*.

Purpose

The *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge* is an opportunity for boys and girls ages 6-13 to complete against their peers in base running, batting and throwing skills.

Philosophy

CPRA and the Colorado Rockies want every child to have an equal opportunity to compete. There is no registration fee or purchase required for any participant to enter.

Participants

Children must be between the ages of 6 and 13 and show a valid birth certificate for age verification if they are winners at a local competition. Separate divisions are offered for boys and girls. All contestants must complete an entry form which can be obtained from a local parks and recreation agency or local youth organization.

Age Groups

There are four age divisions: 6/7, 8/9, 10/11, and 12/13 for both boys and girls. Age is determined as of State Finals of the current year. The top scorer in each age group from each local competition will advance to the sectional competition. In each sectional, the top scorer in each age group will advance to the state championship.

Local & Sectional Competitions

Each local park and recreation agency or local youth organization hosting a local and sectional competition is authorized by CPRA to hold the event in accordance with the rules and information contained in this Playbook. Local competitions will be in May and June. Sectionals will be in July. Saturday and Sundays are recommended.

State Championship

The top scorers in each age group at each sectional competition will compete at the state championship which will be announced. Finalists will receive *Baseball Skills Challenge T-shirt, hat and plaque*.

Eligibility

1. The competition is open to all boys and girls ages 6-13. The four age classifications are based upon the child's age as of **August 19th of the current year**. Example: If participant's birth date were 04/17/10, he or she would participate in the 12/13 year old age bracket. Age classifications are 6/7, 8/9, 10/11, and 12/13.
2. There is no charge to participate in the *Colorado Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge*. No special equipment is necessary unless the child has a special bat they want to bring.
3. *All participants must show proof of age at the sectional level of competition. Failure to provide a birth certificate or religious document (baptismal record) will result in that participant being ineligible to compete. Participants do not need to provide proof of age to participate in a local; only if they are a winner at a local competition.*
4. Participants may only register and compete in one (1) local round of competition. Competing in more than one local round will result in the automatic disqualification of that participant.
5. Only agencies that have registered online through CPRA will be allowed to host a local competition.

Birth Date Verification Chart

Age is determined as by state final date: August 19th

Age Group 6/7	August 19, 2017 to August 19, 2016
Age Group 8/9	August 19, 2015 to August 19, 2014
Age Group 10/11	August 19, 2013 to August 19, 2012
Age Group 12/13	August 19, 2011 to August 19, 2010

Rules

General

1. All participants will compete in three events - base running, batting, and throwing.
2. Shoes must be worn. No metal spikes are permitted. Only sneakers (gym shoes) or rubber/plastic cleats will be allowed.
3. A participant's final score is his/her cumulative total of points received in each event based on how they finished within that event.
4. Use of Official Little League Baseballs is recommended at all local competitions and will be used at all sectional and state competitions.
5. Inclement Weather: Competitions should be held if possible. Threatening or dangerous weather conditions will result in on-site cancellation, and rescheduling of the event at another time. If a sectional is canceled, call your state director to determine when your event will be rescheduled.

Tie Breakers

1. If a tie exists for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th place within an event, either at the local, sectional, or state championship competitions, each participant involved in the tie will compete in a play-off to determine the final standings within that event. The play-off will consist of the participants competing head-to-head in the event(s) in which they are tied. This competition will repeat until a winner is determined.

For example: If a tie exists in the base running event, the two participants will run again for the fastest time. If a tie exists in the throwing event, the participants will throw once and will make one attempt each until the tie is broken.

If a tie exists in the batting event, the participants will take turns batting (three swings each, same as the initial contest) until one hits farther than the other, breaking the tie.

2. In the event of an overall tie at any level for any place (1st, 2nd or 3rd), the participants involved will have their scores compared, and the participant with the longest batting distance will be declared the winner of that place. If a tie continues to exist, the base-running times will be used to break the tie. If a tie still exists, the throwing distance will be used to break the tie.

Events

Base Running

A test of speed. Each participant makes one attempt.

All age groups run the distance from 2nd base to 3rd base to home plate

1. Commands given by the starter will be, "Ready, Set, Go."
2. The timer will start the watch on the "Go" command, and stop the watch when home plate is touched.
3. Each base must be touched.
4. Penalty for a missed base is five (5) seconds for each base missed.
5. Bases shall be placed in a diamond configuration 90 feet apart. (The distance through the infield from the home plate to 2nd shall be 127 feet + 3-3/8 inches.)
6. It is recommended that a spotter be placed at each base to confirm the touch. For a base missed, the spotter should waive both arms above his/her head to indicate the miss.
7. Bases may be placed on dirt or grass, but should be tied or staked down.
8. Each participant must begin the attempt with one foot in contact with 2nd base.

Batting

A test of strength and coordination. Each participant gets three (3) attempts at hitting the ball from a stationary tee as far as possible in fair territory. The tee can be adjusted by each participant to suit the needs of each individual batter.

1. Three (3) attempts are defined as swings. A swing and a miss is an attempt. A swing that hits the tee and not the ball is an attempt. A batted ball that goes foul is an attempt.
2. The longest of the three (3) batted balls that come to rest (ages 6-7) or initially lands (ages 8-13) in fair territory will be the one measured.
3. Ball will be measured from the batting tee. Attach the tape to the "tee" section of the batting tee.
4. Participants may use their own bats. Extra bats should be provided. Bats may be wood or aluminum. All bats brought by the participants must be open for use by other participants.

Note: for agencies using fenced facilities, it is recommended that you choose a facility compatible for the 12/13 year old age group.

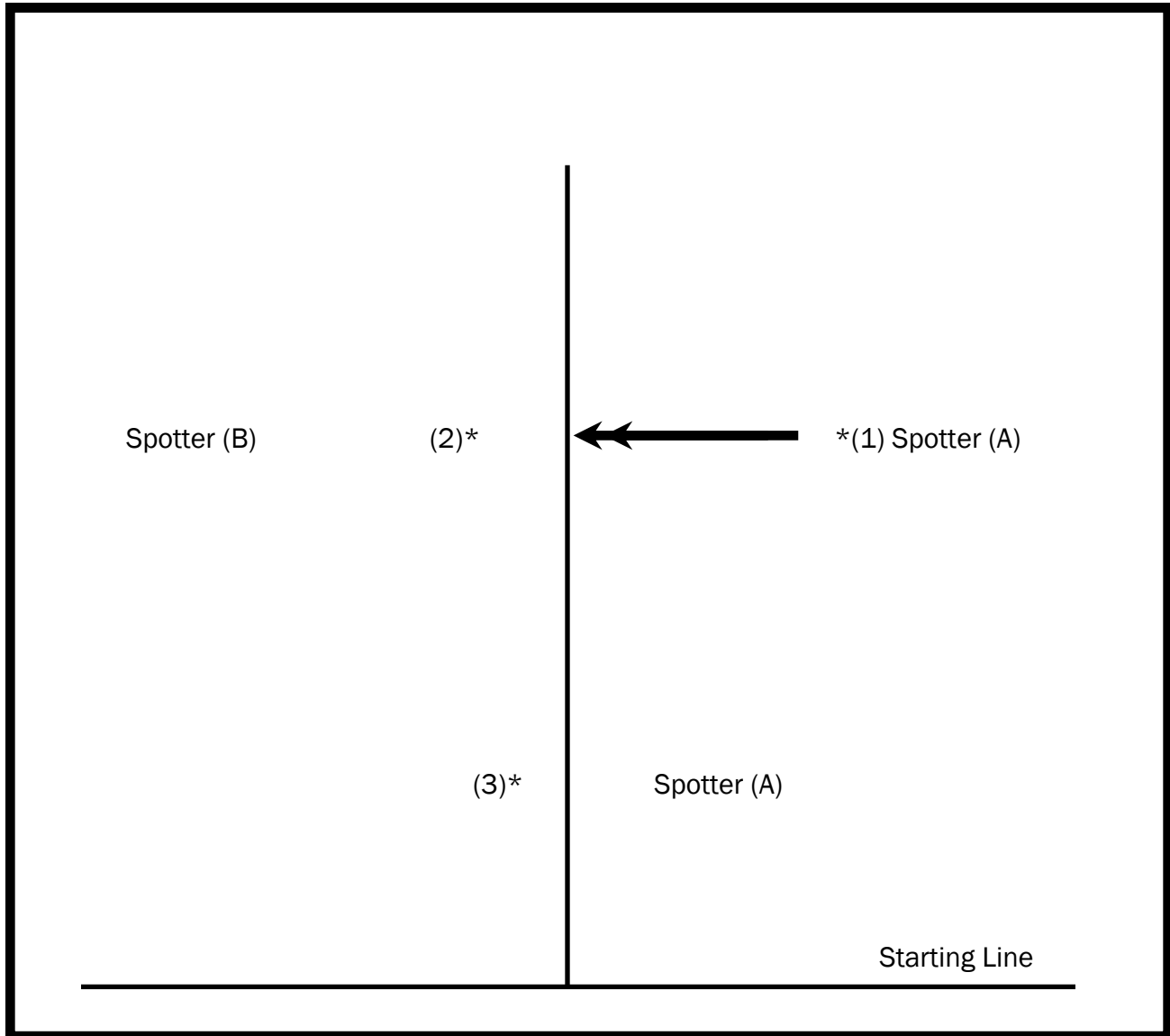
Throwing

A test of throwing distance and accuracy. Each participant makes three attempts. In order to ensure that all measurements are done as quickly and as accurately as possible, we recommend that you follow the method described below:

1. Two spotters are essential for all measurements.
2. Chalk a straight horizontal line approximately 15-20 yards long at one end of the field. This line will be referred to as the “starting line.”
3. Place your measuring tape or string perpendicular to the starting line. This tape should be at least 100 yards in length and centered on the starting line.
4. Spotter (A) should have a string at least 30 yards long. This string will be used to mark the ball where it first hits the ground.
5. Spotter (A) should run to the spot where the ball first lands and place a marker, (cone or tennis ball) on that spot. (See diagram, point 1). This spot should be marked until all three attempts are marked.
6. Spotter (B) should then walk perpendicularly with the free end of the same string in the direction of the measuring tape. Once at the measuring tape, Spotter (B) should pull the string taut and hold securely that point where both lines intersect (See diagram, point 2).
7. Spotter (A) with Spotter (B) remaining in his place should then pick up his end of the string while still marking his point on the string and walk diagonally toward both the starting and measuring lines. Once the original spot is aligned directly over the measuring tape, the string should be pulled taut in the direction of the start line. In doing so, you will be subtracting the inaccuracy of the throw from its distance. When the string is taut, the new point on the measuring tape should be marked. This point will be referred to as the score point, and should be recorded in both feet and inches. This point constitutes the participant’s score in the event (See diagram, point 3).
8. Both feet must be behind the line at the point of release. Follow-through is permitted over the line after release of the ball.
Penalty: Scratch

See Diagram on page 10.

Throwing Diagram



Time Schedule

Feb 15	Registration Open for Local Events
June 1	Local Registration Deadline
May 1 - June 30	Local competitions
July 1	Local results due to sectional coordinators
July 1 - 30	Sectional competitions
July 31	Sectional results due to State Director with birth certificates and entry forms.
August 19th	State championship 10:00 am at Coca-Cola All Star Park in Lakewood.

Responsibilities of Staff

Local & Sectional Competitions

1. Keep State Director and the CPRA office informed of your progress.
2. Follow the time schedule.
3. Local hosts:
 1. Scan and e-mail or Fax the following documents to your Sectional Host:
(Please get this information to your Sectional Host within two days of hosting your local event).
 - Results Sheet: First Place (page 25)
 - Registration Forms: First Place (page 22)
 - Birth Certificates: First Place
 2. Scan or e-mail, ALL REGISTRATION FORMS (including the winners) to JT Flahive and Chris Hopes at:
 - Scan/e-mail to jflahive@greenwoodvillage.com and Chopes@pueblo.us
4. Sectional Hosts:
 1. Scan and e-mail the following documents to your State Director the day after the sectional:
 - Results Sheet: First Place (page 25) – need to include t-shirt sizes please!!!!
 - Registration Forms: First Place (page 22)
 - Birth Certificates: First Place
 - Instruct participates to register for State on Team sideline
5. Use the congratulatory letter (*See local and sectional letters, page 26*) to inform your winners of the date, time, and location of their next level of competition.
6. Oversee operations and logistics of local and sectional competitions.
7. Handle distribution of merchandise, prizes, and gifts to all participants and volunteers at the competitions.
8. Publicize and promote the *Rockies Baseball Challenge* in your area, including agency brochures, posting fliers, distributing entry forms, contacts with local media, etc.
9. Send results of your competition to local media. (*See sample news release, see page 21.*)

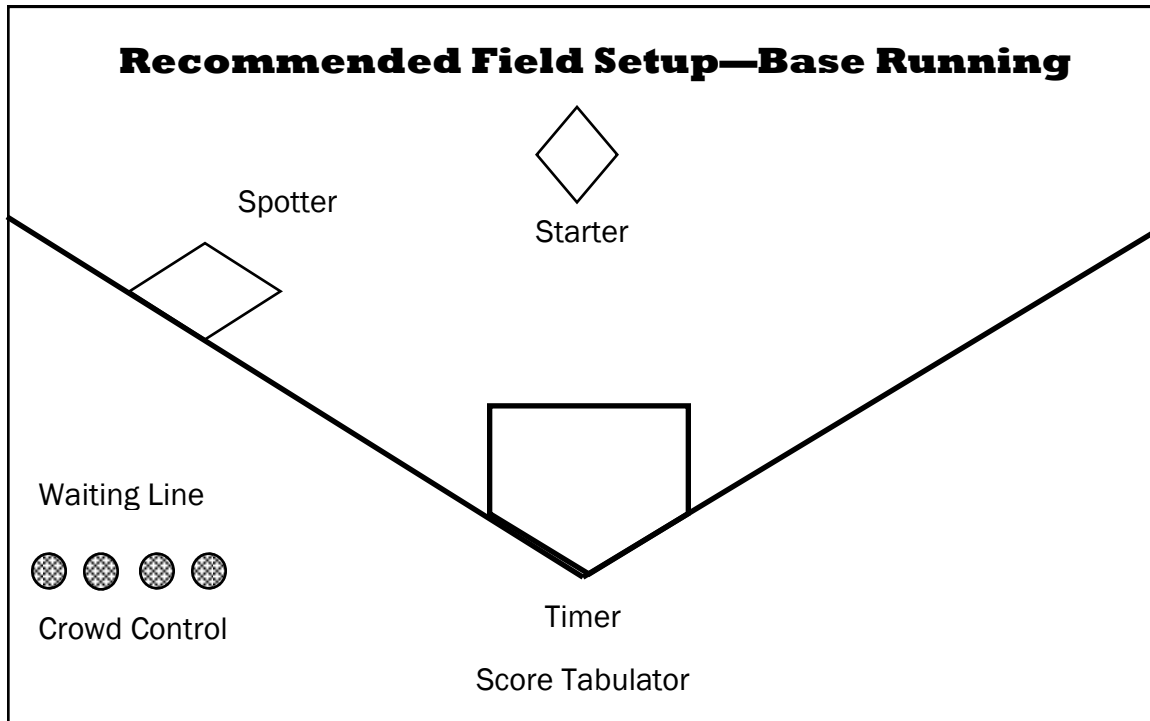
Field Staffing & Set Up

It is recommended that age and gender groupings rotate around from event to event to enable the scorers and judges to keep these age groupings and their scores together on a single clipboard, making the tabulation of final event scores easier and to speed up the event.

Base Running

- One Starter** Gives commands to start the run and calls false starts.
- One Spotter at Third Base** While each participant is running the bases the spotter will watch to assure that each base is touched.
- One Score Tabulator** Records times as each child finishes. Once a given category is completed; the score tabulator can begin to determine 1st - 5th place in that age category and move the group to the next event.
- One Timer** Starts timer when starter drops hand and says, "go". Ensures runner touches home plate.
- One Crowd/ Participant Controller** Keeps participants in the correct order for competing. Keeps order and control.

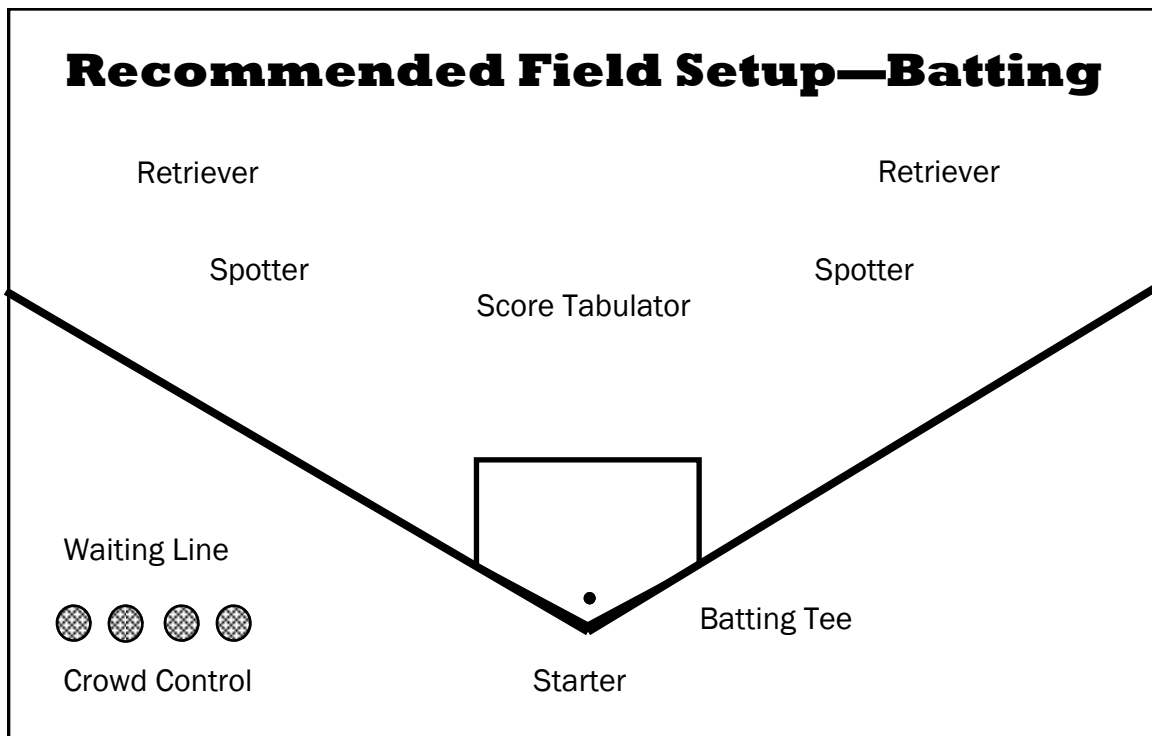
These suggestions are for one line of competition. If you use more than one line, increase the staff as necessary.



Batting

- One Starter** Assists batter in adjusting the tee if help is needed. Received balls and places them on the tee. Makes sure spotters are ready.
- One Score Tabulator** Marks participant's scores on the score sheet after all three attempts are taken and the spotters announce their longest hit.
- Two Spotters** As soon as each ball touches the ground (ages 8-13) or comes to rest (ages 6-7), spotter immediately goes to the location and marks the ball with a tennis ball or cone. The longest of the three attempts that each participant gets is measured. This one must be in fair territory to be recorded.
- Two Retrievers** While the spotters are spotting and measuring, retrievers get the balls and roll them back to the batting area.
- One Crowd/
Participant Controller** Keeps the participants in correct order for competing. Keeps order and control.

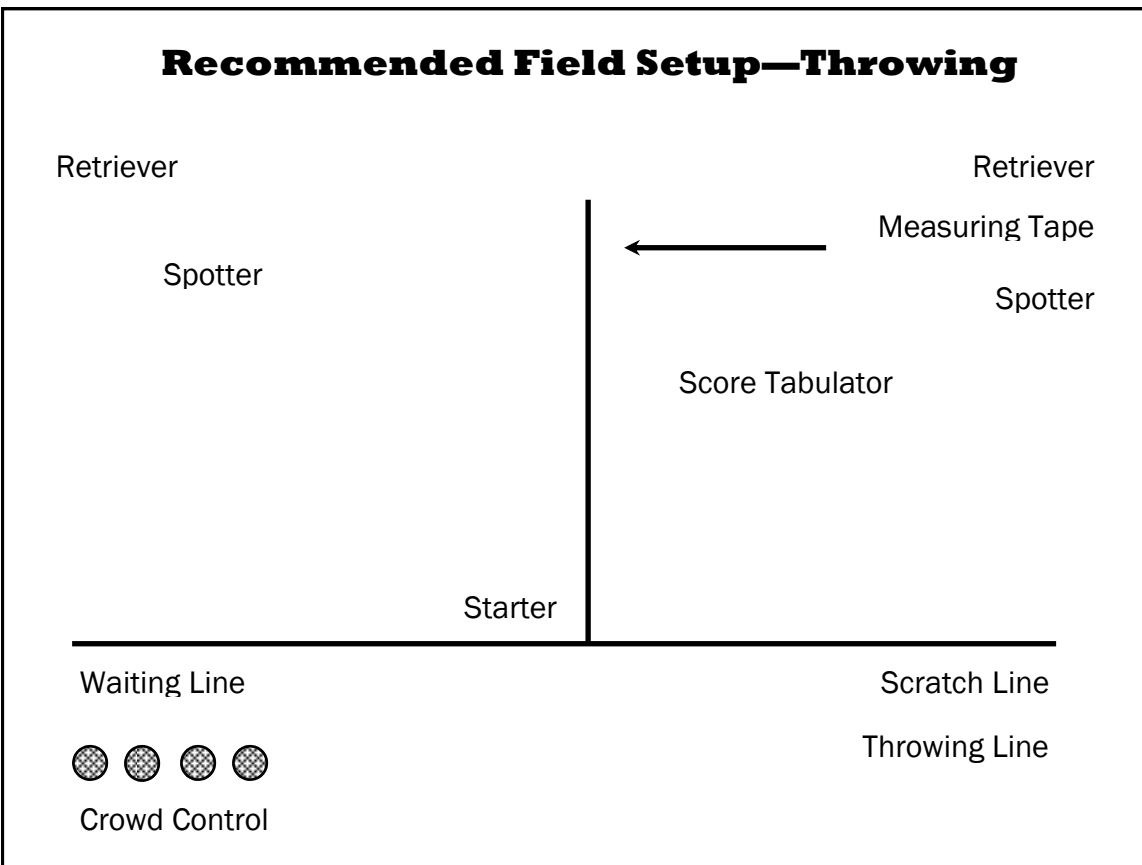
These suggestions are for one line of competition. If you use more than one line, increase the staff as necessary.



Field Staffing & Set-Up (Continued)

Throwing

- Two Spotters** As soon as ball touches the ground, spotter immediately goes to the location where ball first touched and marks the spot for all three throws.
- Two Retrievers** While the spotters are measuring and marking, retrievers get the balls and toss them back to the front of the line.
- One Score Recorder** The score recorder should be positioned between the start line and the spotters. They mark participants' scores on the score sheet after the spotters announce them.
- One Starter** Gives balls to participants to throw. Make sure spotters are ready. Watches for and calls out scratches for stepping on or over starting line.



Scoring Instructions

1. Scores are awarded based on how each participant finishes within their age group in each event. Points are awarded for each event using the following distributions:

1 st place.....	5 points
2 nd place.....	4 points
3 rd place.....	3 points
4 th place.....	2 points
5 th place.....	1 point

For example, the child who runs the fastest with his/her age group will be awarded five (5) points. The next fastest child within that age group will be awarded four (4) points, and so on. There will be three events, so it is conceivable that one child could receive 15 total points if they finished first in each event.

2. Only full points can be awarded. There will be no ties. In the event of a tie, please refer to Tie Breakers (*See rules section, page 7*) for details.
3. Scores are not cumulative from local to sectional and sectional to the state finals. All competitors begin with a score of zero at each level of competition.

Equipment

Each host agency is responsible for providing the necessary staff and equipment to run this event.

Recommended Equipment

First Aid Kit
Stopwatches
Camera
Calculators
Pens & Pencils
Tables & Chairs
Clipboards

2 Adjustable Batting Tees
Tape Measures
Distance Markers (cones or flags)
3 Bats (Different Sizes)
8 Balls (4 for Hitting, 4 for Throwing)
2 Bases (2nd & 3rd base for Running)

Ribbons* (local events)
Medals* (sectional events)
Certificates*

Registration Forms (in this playbook)
Score Sheets (in this playbook)
Congratulatory Confirmation Letter (in this playbook)

** Denotes equipment provided by CPRA*

Note: Equipment needs will be unique to your competition. Larger events will need more equipment. Be prepared.

Have adequate equipment and staff so that your event runs smoothly.

P **Prize Structure**

Locals

-Ribbons for top three scorers in each age group.

Sectionals

-Medals for top three scorers in each age group.

State Championship

-Plaques for the top three scorers in each age group.

-Each contestant will get a *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge* T-shirt.

Promotion

1. Distribute fliers and entry forms to all local newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and schools while still in session, council/board members, community/civic groups, service clubs and local baseball/softball organization. Add your agency name and logo to the flier and entry form in the designated places (*See entry form and flier, pages 22 and 23*).
2. Publicize your local competition with surrounding communities if they are not already conducting a local *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge*.
3. Include a description of your local *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge* competition in your parks and recreation community brochure.
4. Prepare press release for your local papers, school newsletters, and local homeowner association newsletters (*See press releases, pages 20 and 21*).
5. Place entry forms in literature racks and at registration desks of all of your facilities and at other appropriate community locations.
6. Emphasize that the *Rockies Baseball Skill Challenge* program is free to participants, requires no special equipment (unless they have a favorite bat they want to bring), boys and girls have separate divisions and compete in their own age groups.

Sample News Release:

For Immediate Release

Contact: (Your name, address, phone) or JT Flahive, State Director, Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge, 303-486-5768, e-mail jflahive@greenwoodvillage.com

(Insert name of agency) to host ***Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge***

Young baseball fans can exhibit their baseball skills when the (agency name) hosts a Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge competition at (date/time and location).

The competition is free and open to boys and girls ages 6 through 13. Boys and girls have separate divisions. Age classification is as of state finals of the current year.

Entry forms are available at (insert location).

Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge is a baseball competition that allows youngsters to showcase their talents in base running, batting and throwing with scores based on speed, distance and accuracy. It is a youth program of the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) with support from the *Colorado Rockies*.

Top scorers from each age group advance to a sectional competition.

Top sectional scorers from each age group advance to the State Championship to be held at Coca-Cola All Star Park in Lakewood, CO. All state finalists will then be invited to attend the Colorado Rockies game at Coors Field that evening.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners are recognized at each level of the competition as follows; Locals – ribbons, Sectionals – medals, State Championship – plaques. State Championship participants and parents will receive a total of 4 tickets to a Rockies game. State participants also receive a *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge* t-shirt.

Sample News Release: Results

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Your name JT Flahive
Position State Director
 Rockies Skills Challenge
Address 10001 East Costilla Ave
City, State ZIP Greenwood Village, CO 80112
Phone Number 303-486-5768
Email jflahive@greenwoodvillage.com

Area Youth Capture Honors in the *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge*

Over (number of youths) participants took part in the Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge competition hosted by (name of agency/host, date, time and location of event).

The following eight youngsters earned first place honors in their respective age groups.

Boys

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Town</u>
6/7		
8/9		
10/11		
12/13		

Girls

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Town</u>
6/7		
8/9		
10/11		
12/13		

These eight winners now move on to a sectional competition to be held (date, time, location). They could qualify for the State Championship in Lakewood at Coca-Cola All Star Park on August 19th at 10 am.

The *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge* program allows youngsters to showcase their talents in base running, batting and throwing with scores based on speed, distance and accuracy. The *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge* is a youth program of the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association with the support of the Colorado Rockies baseball club.

Baseball Skills Challenge - 2023 **Registration Form**

- ◆ Produced by the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association with the support from the Colorado Rockies.
- ◆ For boys and girls ages 6-13 (age verification as of **08/19/23**) to test skills in base running, batting, and throwing. Local competitions are conducted with the top boy and girl finisher in each age group advancing to a sectional competition. The top sectional boy and girl finisher in each age group advances to the State Championship at Coca-Cola All Star Park Lakewood on August 19th, 2023 at 10:00 am.
- ◆ Free to participate. Winners of a local competition must provide a copy of their birth certificate or religious document along with the entry form to advance.
- ◆ No metal spike shoes will be permitted (only sneakers, or plastic/rubber cleats will be allowed). Your own bat is acceptable. (Some bats will be available at the competition) All other necessary equipment will be provided.

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Birth Date _____ Age (As of 08/19/23) _____ Male / Female

T-shirt size (Will ONLY be used if the participant makes it to the State Final):

Youth – circle one: S M L XL **Adult** – circle one: S M L XL

I do hereby waive, relinquish, release, discharge and hold harmless from any and all liability for any physical or mental injury or aggravation of any pre existing illness or handicap, death, loss of enjoyment or any other harm or loss of any nature whatsoever which may be sustained by me or my son/daughter in travel, participating in, and returning from the Baseball Skills Challenge Competition (local, sectional, or state final), the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association, the Colorado Rockies and their representatives, agents, volunteers and employees.

I, parent and/or guardian of the above named participant, in consideration of the acceptance of this entry, hereby join and confirm the above waiver and release. Also, I certify that my son/daughter has listed his/her correct birth date and that he/she does not have any physical and/or mental deficiencies that may be aggravated, or in any way endanger him/her by traveling to, participating in, and returning from the competition. Participation constitutes permission to use competitor's name and likeness for promotional purposes without compensation.

In addition I certify that my son/daughter has not participated in any other 2023 Baseball Skills Challenge competitions and will abide by all rules and regulations to the competition and I acknowledge that any violation of the previous statement can result in the immediate disqualification of my son/daughter from the competition.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Colorado Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge

Free to All Boys and Girls Ages 6-13

- * No Entry Fee!!
- * Test your skills in base running, batting and throwing
- * Separate divisions for boys and girls
- * All entrants receive a certificate signed by Walt Weiss
- * Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners at each level of competition
- * Win a local competition, win a ribbon
- * Win a sectional, win a medal
- * Win the state championship, win a plaque
- * State finalists and parents get tickets to the Rockies game

**Put
Your
Local
Information
Here**



- * Age as of 08/19/23 will determine eligibility—a birth certificate copy is required from the winners of the locals to continue at sectionals
- * The top boy and girl in each age group from each local will advance to a sectional
- * The top boy and girl in each age group from each sectional advance to the state championship in August
- * Finalists compete for the state championship.



Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge is a youth program produced by the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association with the support of the Colorado Rockies Baseball Club

Put your
local logo
here.

For more information, call your local Parks & Recreation Department.

Results Sheet: First Place - 2023

Agency/City _____ Contact Person _____
 Date of Completion _____ Phone _____
 Total Number of Participants _____ Level of Competition Local Sectional State

First Place Winners: Age 6/7	
Boy	Girl
Name	Name
Address	Address
City Zip	City Zip
E-mail Address	E-mail Address
Phone with Area Code	Phone with Area Code
Birth Date	Birth Date
T-shirt Size: Youth - S M L XL Adult - S M L XL	T-shirt Size: Youth - S M L XL Adult - S M L XL
First Place Winners: Age 8/9	
Boy	Girl
Name	Name
Address	Address
City Zip	City Zip
E-mail Address	E-mail Address
Phone with Area Code	Phone with Area Code
Birth Date	Birth Date
T-shirt Size: Youth - S M L XL Adult - S M L XL	T-shirt Size: Youth - S M L XL Adult - S M L XL
First Place Winners: Age 10/11	
Boy	Girl
Name	Name
Address	Address
City Zip	City Zip
E-mail Address	E-mail Address
Phone with Area Code	Phone with Area Code
Birth Date	Birth Date
T-shirt Size: Youth - S M L XL Adult - S M L XL	T-shirt Size: Youth - S M L XL Adult - S M L XL
First Place Winners: Age 12/13	
Boy	Girl
Name	Name
Address	Address
City Zip	City Zip
E-mail Address	E-mail Address
Phone with Area Code	Phone with Area Code
Birth Date	Birth Date
T-shirt Size: Youth - S M L XL Adult - S M L XL	T-shirt Size: Youth - S M L XL Adult - S M L XL

Congratulatory Letter: **Local Winners**

Congratulations!

You have qualified for the 2023 *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge* sectional competition. As a result of your first place finish in the Local competition, you are now eligible to advance to the competition listed below (you may not attend any other sectional competition):

Location _____

Date & Time _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Contact _____ E-Mail _____

Important Notes

1. Please check in 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the competition.
2. No metal spike shoes will be permitted; only sneakers or rubber/plastic cleats will be allowed for the participants.
3. Your own bat is acceptable. Some bats will be available at the competition. All other necessary equipment will be provided.
4. All participants must bring their birth certificate with them at check in for verification of age, even if birth certificate was previously provided to local host.
5. Failure to follow the rules as stated will result in disqualification of the participant.

Congratulatory Letter: **Sectional Winners**

Congratulations!

You have qualified for the 2023 *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge State Championship*. As a result of your qualifying finish in the Sectional competition, you will now advance to the competition listed below:

- ◆ Date: August 19th, 2023
- ◆ Location: **Coca-Cola All Star Park – Gold Crown Facility**
200 S. Harlan Street, Lakewood, CO 80226
- ◆ Following the Championship, All finalists will be invited to attend the Colorado Rockies vs. the Chicago White Sox at Coors Field
- ◆ Each State Finalist will receive four (4) Colorado Rockies game tickets. Tickets will be passed out during registration for the State Championship at Coca Cola All-Star Park. Additional tickets must be purchased through the Colorado Rockies.

Important Notes

1. Please check in at the left field gate at Coca-Cola All Star Park between 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (Participants arriving after 10:00 a.m. may not be allowed to participate.)
2. No metal spike shoes are permitted; only sneakers or rubber/plastic cleats are allowed.
3. Your own bat is acceptable. All other necessary equipment will be provided.
4. All participants must wear the provided *Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge T-shirt* and *Colorado Rockies Hat* (will be given to participants when they check in).
5. Failure to follow the rules as stated will result in disqualification of the participant.



