



2026 Diamond Prospects (DP) Greater Rock Hill (GRH) Fall League Manual

Diamond Prospects (DP) is in early organizing for the 2026 Greater Rock Hill Fall League (11th year). Games are scheduled to kick off earlier than usual due to school district academic calendars. Some teams will begin league games August 25 or 26 while the others will open up September 1 or 2. Games will be played with the normal Tuesday, Wednesday schedule. Mondays and Thursdays will be used for make-up games. Dates of play will include August 25-26, Sept. 1-2, Sept. 8-9, Sept. 15-16, Sept. 22-23, Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 6-7. The Select Fall-Star Game will tentatively be scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 13 and the Futures Fall-Star Game (also tentatively) for Thursday, Oct. 15. Both games are expected to be played at the Winthrop University ballpark.

Each team will play 1 game per week unless making the schedule work out requires a double-header or a second game in a particular week. The goal is for all teams to play a six game schedule with two All-Star Games (Select Fall-Star and Future Fall-Star) the week following the end of the regular season. Players of all grades 8th-12th are eligible for the Select Fall-Star Game. Only players in grades 8-10 will be eligible for the Futures Fall-Star Game. **Players in any grade 9-12 may play on a Varsity level team or a Junior Varsity level team. 7th and 8th grade players may play on any level team at the coach's discretion and with parental permission.** Every effort will be made to match similarly constructed teams (grade and/or skill level) to the extent possible

The DP Fall Leagues (Greater Rock Hill, Upstate, Midlands, Greater Charleston, Myrtle Beach) are designed to provide an avenue for high school players & their teams to IMPROVE. All DP Fall Leagues provide an opportunity to as many teams as are interested in taking part in a successful and proven model for a fall baseball league. Again, the overriding league goal is to aid in the development of players during their off-season by allowing an increase in team practices and game reps to push individual and team growth in experience and skills.

DP will provide opportunities for players to be scouted in games and add exposure through coverage on the DP website in the form of posted schedules, rosters, game write-ups & prospect info. Social media in the form of Twitter (X) will promote the league and highlight team and individual accomplishments where possible. Involvement in a DP Fall League also enhances the chances of players being ranked on the DP's statewide ranking for each position, year in school and school classification.

With the Tuesday or Wednesday DP League game plan, players can still play on their respective showcase (travel) teams on the weekends, if they so choose, and play one game a week and practice with their DP teammates per the coach's plan.

DP website access is available to college coaches, pro scouts and to parents interested in purchasing a yearly or monthly website subscription. Monthly subscriptions can be entered into to follow the fall leagues and/or to follow the spring season if interested. Monthly subscriptions MUST be cancelled and then restarted or monthly charges will continue.

League/Team Rules/Info:

*National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules will be followed (same as SCHSL) except when adjusted by DP Fall League rules.

*****SCHSL Varsity Player Rule - Maximum Varsity Players per Fall League Team:** This SCHSL rule applies to games and practices and is to be followed by SCHSL teams but will not be enforced by DP representatives. No more than **9** Varsity Players (dressed for a Varsity game the previous year) can be coached by any one coach affiliated with that high school, whether paid or volunteer. Two or more teams can be fielded by a school and coached by two different coaches on the high school staff, but no one coach can have more than **9** “Varsity” players on the team they are coaching. If someone who is NOT a coach at the school coaches a fall league team, there is NO limit to the number of “Varsity” players that can be on the team or teams he coaches.

*The minimum team roster limit is 12 players, unless pre-approved by DP. There is no maximum roster limit, though having more than 13-14 players on a team will limit the number of ABs each player will get if all players are in the lineup.

*Per the SCHSL, school names and school acronyms cannot be used on the official schedule or on the DP website. The school’s mascot can be used for the team name in the league, or in the case of multiple teams – a system such as Panthers 1, Panthers 2, Panthers 3 can be used. Or, if a team wants to make up an entirely different name for a team, that will likely be allowed.

*The fall league regular season schedule will begin in late-August or early-September, end in October and will be followed by the two Fall-Star Games. Exact dates & the final schedule will be made available to coaches & posted on the DP website once we reach the end of the team sign-up period. The schedule can be accessed by players, parents and coaches on the DP website without a subscription.

*Combined teams (players from two or more schools) are encouraged if it means more players have an opportunity to participate in the league. Notify DP regarding the possibility of two schools combining to form an additional team in order to help facilitate this venture. Combined teams and their coaches are advised to be in discussion together as to the handling & coaching of the team.

*Rainouts will be made up to the best of our ability and yours in agreeing with the other team as to a suitable date/time/site.

*No game admission is to be charged at any site.

Player Ejection Rule:

*Signed off on by both Player and Parent on the Player Application/Waiver Form. For any player ejected from a game, there will be a mandatory 1 game suspension from playing in the next game. Upon a player's second ejection in any single season, said player will be dismissed from further play in the league either for that season or indefinitely (Commissioner’s Ruling). **There is NO recourse for a player/parent to receive any part of a refund in regards to the Player Ejection Rule.**

Players may be ejected for any number of reasons, all of which could be listed under the heading of Poor Sportsmanship:

1. Arguing with umpires

2. Potentially injurious actions that go beyond the bounds of aggressive baseball
3. Excessive taunting of opposing players, teams or fans
4. Foul language and vulgarities directed at umpires, fans, other players/teams, the other dugout or simply inappropriate words or comments with sufficient volume, even those directed at oneself in disgust that may be heard at a significant distance.

The Commissioner of the league in conjunction with Diamond Prospect ownership will review each instance of Player Ejection.

Game Rules/Info:

*Games are scheduled on Tuesdays & Wednesdays with Monday & Thursday used for make-up games.

*Game start times will be dependent on field availability, school dismissal times and travel time. Site double-headers, unless impossible, will start at 5:00-5:30 with the second games of the evening scheduled for 7:00-7:45. Site single games will start at 5:30-6:30. The desire is to keep players from travelling and arriving home later than 11:00 whenever possible.

***For site single games, no new inning may start after a 2 hour time limit or 7 innings, whichever comes first.** If, however, after 7 innings of play the score is tied, play will continue until a team wins or the time limit applies. Official start time for games will begin at the end of the Umpire/Coach meeting at home plate, at which time the home team should immediately take the field. **It is advised that coaches confirm both the official start time and the no new inning time before breaking from the home plate meeting**

For site double-headers, no new inning may start after 1 hour 50 minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first. If, however, after 7 innings of play the score is tied, play will continue until a team wins or the time limit applies. Official start time for games will begin at the end of the Umpire/Coach meeting at home plate, at which time the home team should immediately take the field. **It is advised that coaches confirm both the official start time and the no new inning time before breaking from the home plate meeting.**

*There will be approximately 15 minutes between games of a double-header (same site or same teams)...or until the umpires are ready. Game 1 and Game 2 of a double-header may start before the designated start time provided both teams & the umpires are ready to begin play.

*A 10 minute pre-game in/out will be an option only for single game sites & for the first game of the evening for double-header sites. The home team will take in/out first at 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time, with the visiting team taking it 20 minutes prior to scheduled game time. Teams will forfeit their in/out if not ready at their scheduled in/out time. **GAMES MUST START ON TIME.**

*Pitchers are not allowed to throw more than 3 innings per week in league play unless pre-approved by the Commissioner.

*There is no 10-Run Rule. This league is both primarily and purposely based on player development.

*Teams may hit as many hitters as desired in their line-up, but cannot alter the integrity of their line-up.

Single Game Sites - Hitter Limits: 6 hitters per half inning for the first 5 innings and a 5 hitter limit per half inning in innings 6 and 7.

Double Header Sites – Hitter Limits: 6 hitters per half inning in **innings 1-3** and a **5 hitter limit starting in inning 4.**

*There will be no intentional walks at any time.

*Free defensive substitution is permitted. Players do not have to be in the lineup in order to play defensively.

*Mandatory courtesy runner for the pitcher & catcher with 2 outs.

DP Responsibilities:

*Post on DiamondProspects.com team rosters/schedules & communicate with coaches in regards to league affairs & schedules.

*Handle all scheduling of games & umpires.

*Providing game balls to host sites.

* Make the game jersey order form available to coaches & work with those coaches on the ordering of game jerseys.

*Cover as many games as possible for game write-ups & prospect info on the DP website. A minimum of one game report per team is anticipated.

Team/Coach Responsibilities:

*Purchase team insurance: USSSA & Chappell Insurance Agency have both been used by teams and appear to be good sources. You can easily Google these companies. Naming all players, coaches & other on-field team representatives as insured is wise. You can expect team insurance prices to run around \$10-\$15 per player, depending on how many players are on your teams. Be mindful that a policy is often required for each fall league team and generally covers a maximum of 20 players. If two or more teams are entered, a policy covering each of your teams will be necessary. A copy of the Certificate of Insurance (COI) is to be sent to Gary Randall (bbgary777@gmail.com) before any team can begin league play.

*Communicate with your school principal & athletic director for approval regarding your team's participation and the free use of your school site/field for league games. Should your school administrators need additional school insurance or proof of team insurance, take the necessary steps to service that need.

*Order game shirts through the Commissioner to LDH Sports by the deadline given in order to have game shirts available for game one. The order form will be made available to you. **Please confirm your shirt color scheme (Shirt Color & Letter/Number Color) with the Commissioner before e-mailing the order to the Commissioner who will ensure that the order is accurate and complete and will then forward it to LDH Sports for production and delivery.** Not all teams will get the exact shirt color(s) desired, but every effort will be made to accommodate a suitable color scheme. There are only so many colors and it is important that the two teams on the field are distinguishable from each other.

*Collect player checks (\$185 per player) and e-mail prospective team players the DP Fall League Player Application/Waiver form. Upon collecting ALL player fees, mail ONE CHECK for the team's full amount (\$185 X # of rostered players) by the deadline given by the Commissioner to - Diamond Prospects, C/o Austin Alexander, 124 Artisan Court, Lexington, SC 29072.

*Teams will not be included in the master schedule until all required Team/Player Fees, Player Applications/Waivers & Proof of Team Insurance are received by the designated Diamond Prospects representatives.

*Provide the Commissioner with a detailed team roster (form will be provided) by the deadline given. PLEASE use the roster form provided and **DO NOT** morph it into another format. You may do that for your own use, but for the league, please use the form provided. **The roster must include players listed in game shirt numbered order and all blanks fully completed.**

*Provide own equipment – BP balls, helmets, catching gear, bats, etc. DP will provide umpires and game balls.

*Provide suitable fluids for your team at games in case water coolers are not made available by the home team and the concession stand is not open. Please communicate with the opposing coach in planning whether or not to bring fluids for your team.

*Diligently have your players chase foul balls on your half of the field. Part of the player entry fee is used to cover the cost of baseballs. It is hoped that player fees won't need an increase above the normal \$5 per year increase due to not having foul balls returned consistently to the field of play.

Site Responsibilities:

*Have field in safe & good playing order – grass cut, dirt dragged, bases installed properly and fully lined & ready for play on time.

*Sites have the option of running their concession stand & keeping 100% of profit.

*Make ruling as to whether or not the field is playable. If any game is cancelled, immediately contact the Commissioner of your league.

*Having a responsible person keep the scoreboard & play appropriate music between innings is highly encouraged.