

REVISED 5/11/09

LOCAL LEAGUE RULES:

Draft Rules

Prior to the draft a meeting will be held including HHBR Board members and managers where all registered players will be evaluated and rated. This will help new managers and coaches who might not know the abilities of all players.

Managers will be allowed to select one coach prior to the draft. Any managers or coaches who have their children playing on their team will have their children evaluated, ranked and slotted into one of the draft positions prior to the draft.

At the draft team numbers and draft order will be selected randomly. The draft will be conducted through the serpentine method...i.e. Team 1 selects first through Team 12 in the First Round. In Round Two Team 12 selects first and Team 1 selects last.

Prior to the draft based on registration information each team will be required to have a minimum and maximum number of players in each age group (13, 14 and 15) that they will need to select.

At the conclusion of the draft the HHBR Board will review all team rosters to ensure all teams are in compliance with age requirements. The board will take the appropriate action should rosters not be balanced per the age criteria from above.

Playing Rules:

All games shall be seven innings (unless home team is ahead at the end of 6 1/2 innings). During the regular season all games will end after seven innings regardless of ties. Extra innings will only be allowed during playoffs.

(NEW) 2-HOUR WEEKEND TIME LIMIT:

No inning may START after a game has gone beyond a 2-hour time limit. This applies to all weekend games whether a game follows your game or not. It is recommended that each manager make note of the start time during ground rules with the umpires thus establishing the actual start of the game and the 2-hour time limit to follow.

Slaughter rule-if after 5 innings (visiting team) or 4 1/2 (home team) is ahead by ten or more runs the game is terminated. After 4 1/2 innings each team must have an equal amount of at bats to terminate a game. Example: If the visiting team achieves a 10 or more run lead in the top of an inning the home team must get their final at bat in the bottom of the inning. Once the home team achieves the 10 run lead after 4 1/2 innings then the game is over.

Every team's line-up bats around in the order. Every player must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field (per a 6 or 7 inning game). It is free substitution, which means you can rotate your players defensively. If a game is shortened to 4 or 5 innings, every player must play a minimum of 2 innings in the field.

Slide Rule. When there is a play at a base or home, the runner must slide or avoid contact with the fielder. Slide or avoid.

No player is allowed to wear **METAL CLEATS during the regular spring season.**

All players coaching the bases are required to wear a helmet.

At the start of the game, each team will throw in one new game ball. Additional baseballs can be used from the previous game.

The hidden ball will not be in effect at any League games.

Pitching Rules

No pitcher can pitch more than seven innings in any two consecutive games. No pitcher can pitch more than seven innings in any one game.

One pitch equals one inning. In a three or four game week, no pitcher can pitch more than ten innings. A week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday.

A starting pitcher can move to another position and return as a pitcher in the same inning as long as he stays in the field. A starting pitcher also may reenter the game as a pitcher at the beginning of an inning.

A pitcher can come in from either the bullpen or the field (no longer required to come from the field only) with the provision that all players are still required to play 3 full innings on the field per game

Any pitcher that also pitches for a school team cannot pitch in any Babe Ruth game until the school season is completed unless we receive written permission from the school coach. A player that is not a starter or regular school pitcher can be exempt from this rule only [by a letter from the School Coach that will be confirmed by the President]. Any abuse of this rule will result in a forfeit. The list of all pitchers and all innings pitched must be entered on the HHBR website by the manager of the winning team.

Borrowing Player(s) Rule:

Teams may not forfeit games due to having a lack of 9 players to begin a game.

One forfeit due to a lack of 9 players to begin a game will preclude a team from qualifying to play in the season ending playoffs, to be determined by the board. You may borrow HHBR registered 13 year old players only!

In order to avoid a forfeit, a team may borrow a sufficient amount of players to bring the roster number to 9 for any regular season game. This rule shall not apply to playoff games. Players borrowed for a game are to be treated as a member of the team for that game and shall play the same number of innings as required for all other players unless the borrowed player elects to leave early. In the event that additional team members arrive late, they are to

be added to the roster in the order of their arrival. Any player may decline a request to be borrowed.

Managers update the HHBR website within 48 hours indicating the name(s) of all players who were borrowed and the game played. Managers should also inform the borrowed player's team manager as soon as possible.

Borrowed players may not pitch for the team borrowing that player.

Conduct

Players and coaches are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Foul and abusive language will not be tolerated. Throwing helmets and other equipment will not be tolerated. The President or designee of the league shall reserve the right to suspend a player, Manager, or coach for any misconduct. Players and coaches who are ejected will be suspended for a minimum of one game following that game and are not allowed to return without the President's permission.

All teams are expected to hustle on and off the field at all times.

Only players are allowed in the dugouts. No food, soda or glass bottles are allowed on the bench or in the dugouts. Sunflower seeds, gum, water, and Gatorade are allowed. Dugouts and fields should be cleaned up after each game.

All players are required to be in full uniform consisting of a league hat, league shirt, league sox and baseball pants furnished by each player.

Only the Manager or his designee may speak directly to an umpire.

Protests

Only rule violations may be the subject of a protest. In the event that during a game the Manager (or, in his absence, a Coach) of a team believes that a rule has been violated, he shall state his case to the umpire and the Manager/Coach of the opposing team. Every attempt shall be made to resolve the matter at that time. The Manager/Coach of the opposing team is expected to say so if he believes the claim of a rule violation is valid.

In the event that the matter is unable to be resolved, the umpire's ruling shall stand and play shall continue. If the Manager/Coach claiming the rule violation intends to file a formal protest, he shall so state prior to continuation of play. He shall notify the President by phone within 24 hours and in writing within 48 hours, stating clearly the basis for the protest. The President and two (2) neutral Board members will decide the protest based on the Manager's report and a report from the opposing Manager/Coach. If the President is associated with either team, he will appoint a replacement for himself on the committee.

Playoffs

1. All teams will make the playoffs, which will consist of a single elimination tournament. The championship series will be a three game series with the winner having won 2 out of 3 games.
2. The first round match-ups will be as follows:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

All teams make playoffs with bottom two teams playing a 1 game playoff to advance. Top seed will then play bottom seed - 1vs4/5 and 2vs3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

All teams make playoffs with bottom two teams playing a 1 game playoff to advance. Top seed will then play bottom seed - 1vs4/5 and 2vs3

3. The home team for all games is the highest seed team based upon the entire League standings at the end of the regular season, except that in the championship series the higher seed team will be home team in games 1 and 3. If both teams in the championship series are the same seed, a coin flip will determine the home team for games 1 and 3.
4. For the playoffs, no pitcher shall pitch more than seven (7) innings in consecutive games (one (1) pitch equals one (1) inning), except that a starting pitcher may pitch up to an additional three (3) innings in the event of a tie game provided that pitcher has pitched the entire game and the game is completed in the same day.