

HILLSBORO BOYS BASEBALL COACH PITCH (T-BALL) RULES

1. **Goal:** The purpose of the game is to have fun!!! Coaches and parents should be positive and supportive role models, nurturing teamwork and building self-confidence in all players as they learn the fundamentals of baseball and sportsmanship. Equivalent playtime is **required** for **all** players.
2. **Fields:** The bases will be approximately 60 feet apart. Pitching distance is roughly 45 feet.
3. **Games:** A regulation game will consist of a maximum of 4 innings. All weekday games will start at 6:00 PM. No new inning may start after 1 ½ hours of game time.

RAIN-OUTS- The home team coach is responsible for checking the field and calling a rain-out. They will notify the visiting team as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 pm. The home team coach will call the visiting coach and reschedule the game using a scheduled practice day and field.

4. **Inning Length:** The team at bat shall continue hitting unless the defense gets 3 outs or everyone on the offensive team comes to bat. This does not mean you can “stack” your team with its best players at first base and pitcher every inning. Remember, we are trying to achieve **fair play.**
5. **Pitching:** Coaches are encouraged to pitch to the hitters as much as possible from a reasonable distance. Early in the season, coaches should use batting tees in practice to help promote the continued development of the batting skills. Teams are encouraged to follow the “3-pitch rule”. Batters will be given at least 3 “good” pitches to hit. If a batter is deemed “fair ball challenged” after 3 pitches, they must then hit from the batting tee to keep the game moving along.
6. **Batting:** No bunting is allowed. There will be no strikeouts. If the batter hits and knocks over the batting tee and or the ball doesn’t travel 20 feet in fair territory, it is a foul ball.
7. **Defensive team: Safety 1st-The player at the pitching position must wear a helmet at all times** and will be on or within 5 feet of the pitching rubber at the time of the pitch or when the home plate umpire places the

ball on the batting tee and says “play ball!”. At a minimum, all players must play defense in alternating innings. Coaches are encouraged to provide players the opportunity to play both infield and outfield defensive positions. **No player may play the same position more than one inning in a game.** T-Ball teams may have a maximum of 10 players in the field including a catcher and extra outfielder (Rover or Buckshot). The extra outfielder must remain in the outfield. Coaches can go in the field with their team and “encourage” them on where to throw the ball to get an out.

- 8. Offensive team: Safety 1st-All batters/base runners must wear a helmet when on the playing field-NO EXCEPTIONS! There must be an adult present to supervise the bench AT ALL TIMES (Parents please help your coaches). If a batter throws a bat and the umpire judges it a danger, the batter will be warned. If the batter does it a second time, he will be called out.** All players present for the game will bat in order. Any late players will be added to the bottom of the roster. Offensive coaching is permitted from the 1st and 3rd base coaching boxes. **Base runners:** There will be no stealing or leading off. The only way a runner may advance bases is to have a ball hit into fair territory. On a ball hit into the outfield, runners may advance bases until the ball is thrown back to the infield and given to the pitcher. It is then considered a “dead ball” and play will stop. If a runner is advancing to the next base before the ball gets to the pitcher, he can continue to that base only.
- 9. Umpires: Home team** is responsible for the home plate umpire. The home plate umpire is responsible for removing the batting tee from the plate area after a batter hits the ball. **Visiting team** is responsible for providing field umpire(s). It is the field umpires responsibility to call force-outs and enforce the rules outlined above for base runners.
- 10. Parents:** You are responsible for getting your child to practice and games on time. Please support your coaches, as they are volunteers and we could not provide this opportunity for your children without them.
- 11. Last but not least: ALL COACHES, PARENTS AND PLAYERS MUST OBEY THIS RULE...BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN!!!**