

HILLSBORO BOYS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
K-BALL RULES

1. Goal: The purpose of the game is to have fun!!! Coaches and parents should be positive and supportive role models, nurturing team work and building self confidence in all players as they learn the fundamentals of baseball and sportsmanship. Equivalent play time is required for all players.

2. Fields: The bases will be approximately 60 ft. apart. Pitching distance is roughly 45 ft.

3. Games: A regulation game will consist of a maximum of 4 innings. Both teams will bat their full roster each inning (The inning will NOT terminate after 3 outs). All week day games will start at 6:00 pm. No new inning may start after 1 1/2 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. Pitching: Coaches are encouraged to utilize the batting tee to develop hitting fundamentals. At the coach's discretion, they are encouraged to pitch to the kids following the "3-pitch rule" to promote continued development of their batting skills. Pitching will be done from a reasonable distance and in a manner that the batter has a chance to hit the ball. Batters will be given 3 pitches each. If the batter is deemed "fair ball challenged" after 3 pitches, they must then hit from the batting tee. This is done to keep the game moving along. K-Ball team coaches are advised to use the batting tee for the first game to ensure the player's first batting experience is as positive as possible.

5. Batting: No bunting allowed. There will be no strikeouts. If the batter hits and knocks over the batting tee and or the ball doesn't travel 20 ft. in fair territory, it is a foul ball.

6. Defensive team: Safety 1st - The player at the pitching position must wear a helmet at all times and will be on or within 5 ft 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. K-Ball teams may opt to use excess players in the outfield (you may find it useful to keep them involved in the game).

7. Offensive team: Safety 1st - All batters/base runners must wear a helmet when on the playing field. 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 informed of what he or she did. 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 a fielder in the infield, at which time the

ball will be considered "dead" and play will stop. In the case of an overthrow, the runner will be allowed the base he or she is going to from the time of the throw. No additional bases will be awarded for out-of-bound throws. If a player is put out at a base, the offensive coach will decide whether to have the runner return to the bench. Each team will bat their entire line-up and then be on defense, regardless of the number of outs.

8. Umpires: Home team is responsible for the home plate umpire. The home plate umpire starts the inning by placing the ball on the tee and saying "PLAY BALL!" (Umpires - For your safety, it's advisable to instruct the kids to wait until you are clear of the tee and call "play ball" before swinging the bat.) It is the home plate umpire's responsibility to remove the batting tee from the plate area after a batter hits the ball. Visiting team is responsible for providing field umpire(s) (one or two). It is the field umpire's responsibility to call force outs and the rules outlined above for base runners.

9. Parents: You are responsible for getting your child to practice and games on time and being at least ten minutes early to pick them up. Please support your coaches, as they are volunteers and we could not provide this opportunity for your children without them.

10. Last but not least: ALL COACHES, PARENTS AND PLAYERS MUST OBEY THIS RULE!!!! "BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN!!!"