



## HILLSBORO BOYS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

**GOAL:** The goal is to develop the skill of each player and provide them with the opportunity to play baseball. Coaches and Parents are expected to role model sportsmanship behavior and provide a positive environment.

**NOTE:** Regular Baseball rules apply with the following exceptions:

### **EQUIPMENT AND FIELDS:**

1. The bat shall not be more than 32" in length and can be either metal or wood. Metal bats must have grips or tape and may be taped up to the trade mark.
2. The ear-flap type batting helmet shall be worn by all batters and runners all the time they are in the "On-Deck" area, at bat or on base. If removed intentionally, the player is out.
3. The home team is responsible for putting away the bases; the visiting team is responsible for picking up litter around the area. Note: peg-type bases remain in place.
4. All players must be in full issued uniform (Hat, Shirt, Pants) when participating in any league game, Jamboree or Tournament.
5. No metal cleated shoes allowed.
6. Pitching distance is 50ft.
7. Base length is 70 ft.
8. First team listed on schedule is home team.
9. Home team will occupy the third base bench. Home team will supply the umpire with a new game ball and an alternate ball.
10. Game start at 6:00 pm. Each team must field seven (7) players by 6:15 or forfeit the game.
11. Home team has from 5:30 to 5:45 to take their infield practice; visiting team has from 5:45 to 6:00.
12. Length of game: All games are six (6) innings with no inning to start after 8:00 pm...No Exceptions! Once an inning is started, it is to be completed. The sixth out of an inning designates the end of one inning and the beginning of the next inning.
13. Three outs or four (4) runs terminates an inning except the sixth inning, in which eight runs can be scored. If the umpire calls the game prior to the sixth inning, the 4-run rule still applies.
14. Umpires will decide to call a game because of rain or darkness after conferring with both coaches. The safety of the players is the determining factor.
15. Pitchers may pitch in only (7) league innings in any seven-day period (including Saturdays and Sundays). They also shall pitch no more than four (4) innings per day.
16. After a pitcher has been removed from the game, he may not return to the mound again in that game.
17. An inning pitched by a pitcher is determined by delivery of one pitch and/or completion of the inning.
18. Every player will play a minimum of three (3) innings defensively in the field. If a player has missed three practices in a row, the coach is not required to play the player. There will be (9) player on the field.

19. A batting order will be made out prior to the start of the game, listing in preferred batting order, all players present on that team. All listed players will bat each time through the batting order. Players on the team who arrive late will be inserted at the end of the listed batting order and take their regular turns.

### **PLAY:**

1. Balks will be called on the pitchers (more warnings at the start of the season).
2. Runners can lead off base.
3. With a runner on base, the pitcher is not required to take a stretch.
4. Batters can run on a dropped third strike.
5. The strike zone is from the shoulders to the bottom of the knees in a normal stance. Umpires may open the strike zone to induce hitters to swing the bat.
6. If a batted ball goes under, between or hits a parked car in the outfield playing area it is an automatic triple.
7. An intentional curve ball thrown by the pitcher is an illegal pitch. The umpire shall automatically award a base –on- balls to the batter immediately after such an illegal pitch.
8. The infield fly rule shall be enforced.
9. No defensive player can dominate a line without the ball; this includes the catcher.
10. When two runners occupy the same base, there is no automatic out. A runner acquires the right to the proper unoccupied base if he touches it before he is out. He is then entitled to this base until he is put out or until he legally touches the next base while it is unoccupied or until a following runner is forced to advance to the base he has occupied.

Example: While fielders try to tag out R1 between second and third R2 advances to second. R1 escapes to second. If one or both are on the base when tagged, which can be put out? Ruling: if both are on the base, only R2, when tagged is out. If only one is on the base when tagged he is not out.

### **GENERAL:**

1. No arguing with the umpires by players, coaches or spectators.
2. If a player misses three practices or games (unexcused) the coach may drop him from the team, but must first contact the coordinator.
3. Players are to direct all remarks to their own players-NOT to the opposing team.
4. Players are to stay in the dugout or bench area, away from the baseline.
5. The coach of each team is responsible for reporting game results to the Hillsboro Argus within 24 hours after their game (648-1131).
6. NO CALL WILL BE MADE TO ANY BOARD MEMBER AFTER 9:00PM.
7. Rainout will be made up when schedule allows. This is up to the coaches involved; they decide on a date, and then contact the coordinator, who arranges for the fields and umpires.
8. The coach is responsible for the conduct of the team's fans. If the fans become unruly, the coach will be given two (2) warnings to control the fan(s). After the second warning the coach will be dismissed by the umpire.
9. The offensive coaches can only coach from the first and /or third base coach's box or their dug-out area. The defensive coach(es) can only coach from their dugout area.

**NOTE: ALL Violations of any rule are to be reported to the Coordinator.**