

HVERFORD TOWNSHIP BASEBALL LEAGUE

OFFICIAL RULES FOR NATIONAL AND AMERICAN DIVISIONS

The Official Rules of Baseball and those augmented or further defined by the latest edition of the Babe Ruth League (13—15) Rules and Regulations will apply to all games. When any rule or its interpretation is in conflict, the HTBL Official Rules and their intent will apply.

ARTICLE I

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY

- A. The area around the backstop will be kept clear of players, coaches, managers and spectators.
- B. After the game is started, pitchers will warm up on the sidelines (in the corners of the outfield). A spotter must be with the pitcher and catcher when they warm-up.
- C. Team management will consist of a manager and a maximum of two coaches who will be officially recognized by the League and eligible for participation in uniforms and awards.
- D. If a player attempts to jar the ball loose or crash into a player at a base or home, he is automatically out and ejected from the game. If, in the opinion of the umpire, the contact was incidental, the player will be permitted to remain in the game.
- E. There will be an Extra Hitter "EH" inserted into the batting order for all regular season games in which a team has 10 or more players present.
- F. There will be a time limit on regular season games only. No new inning may begin more than 2 hours and 15 minutes following the start of that game. Any inning in progress at that same point in time may be completed. There will be no time limit on playoff games.

ARTICLE II

TEAMS, PLAYERS, MANAGERS

- A. The League will provide an adequate period for the registration of all children of League age.
- B. All players entering the League must take part in the League's official evaluations for eventual selection to a team. Such evaluations are conducted under the direction of the Vice-President of Player Personnel. The selection of these players will be in compliance with the League's draft system. All players who miss all of the League evaluations will be rated before the draft begins by consensus of the Vice- President of Player Personnel and the managers for each level in the draft. Players will then be available to be drafted at anytime during the draft by the coaches.
- C. All rosters of players shall be determined and assigned under the direction of the Vice-President of Player Personnel and shall as nearly as possible manifest equal distribution of age groups.
- D. Each player acquired shall, for the duration of his/her divisional career, be a member of the team that selected the player.
- E. The selection of players in the draft shall be according to the following order:
 - All Divisions: the drafting order for each round will be determined by consent of the League Executive Committee prior to the start of the draft to promote parity amongst all teams.
- F. Each team is permitted to preselect the child of the manager and one designated assistant coach prior to the draft. Players of managers and designated coaches will be rated by all division managers. This rating will be approved by the Executive Committee, and will determine the round in which these players are selected.
- G. If a team manager loses one or more players during the season through illness, injury, or other justifiable reason, he will obtain another player, if available, from the Executive Committee.
- H. Personnel replaced on a team for reasons other than disciplinary reasons will remain as an honorary member of the team.
- I. If a player misses any two consecutively scheduled team activities (practice/games) without a valid reason, the player may be withheld from the next scheduled game. In this case, the manager will place the player's name on the lineup card using the letter (D) in

position, and inform the opposing manager.

- J. Regular season, or playoff games take precedence over HTBL sponsored select team practices or games. Any player who skips his regular season or playoff game to attend a select team game or practice will be subject to a one (1) game suspension from the select team. A second violation will result in a three (3) game suspension, and a subsequent violation will result in permanent removal of that player from the select team.
- K. A registration is deemed completed only when it has been approved by the Vice President of Player Personnel. In order to participate, a player must be registered, i.e. must have completed all league mandated registration and consent forms, and paid all league mandated registration fees. Only registered players assigned to a roster may participate in any on-field team activity, practice or game.
- L. All managers, coaches, and directors must complete a league sponsored background check once every two years of service to the league. All new managers, coaches and directors or those returning to league service after an absence of one or more seasons, must complete a background check prior to beginning or resuming service.

ARTICLE III

GAME PRELIMINARIES

- A. The home team shall have the field for TEN (10) MINUTES prior to the starting time and the visiting team for the preceding TEN (10) MINUTES, if reasonable.
- B. Team managers shall exchange lineups before meeting with the umpires. The home team is the official scorer for all games. All scoring is to be recorded in the league supplied scorebook. Each team shall present the full names of each player in the starting lineup, as well as all other players who will be participating in a game. Once the lineups are exchanged, they are official.
- C. The umpires shall proceed directly to home plate where they will be met by the manager of each team.
- D. The plate umpire, as soon as the rules conference begins at home plate, has sole authority over the game. He now determines when a game shall be called, halted or resumed on account of weather and the condition of the playing field.
- E. All games will begin promptly. There shall be a permissible delay of fifteen (15) minutes

if a team does not have the required nine (9) players. The availability of nine (9) players shall compel the start of the game.

F. **Rules for Player Sharing to Avoid Regular Season Forfeits:**

If the manager of a team knows, or reasonably believes, that he will not have at least nine players for a scheduled game, his first step must be to contact the manager of the opposing team to determine whether that manager expects to have at least eight players. If so, the manager of the team that is short players (the “short team”) must utilize player sharing under the rules defined below.

1. The “short team” must have at least eight of its regular players. It is acceptable to play a game in which both teams have eight regular players in attendance.
2. For each “short team” defensive inning, the other team will lend the “short team” a **fielder** that the “short team” can deploy at any position other than pitcher or catcher.
3. The lent player **will not** bat for the “short team.”
4. The “short team” will have a lineup/batting order for its eight players, and **will not** be charged an out whenever the ninth position in the batting order is due up.
5. The lent player will be selected by the manager of the lending team according to the process below, but must be changed for at least every “short team” defensive inning; however, the lending manager may change the player during a “short team” defensive inning if the lent player’s spot comes up in the batting order. The manager may make this switch when the lent player is “in the hole” to bat for his own team.

The process for identifying the player to be lent will vary depending upon the number of players the lending team has at the game:

1. If the lending team has 8 or 9 players, or has and is playing 10 players: the lent player shall be the last player in its batting order in the first inning. After the first inning, the lent player will be the last player to bat for the lending team in the previous inning. If that lent player's turn to bat is approaching while he is still in the field for the "short team", the lending manager must let that player bat for his own team, and lend the "short team" another player from his bench, who will be the last player to have been put out before the switch becomes necessary.

2. If the lending team has 11 or more players: the manager of the lending team can lend any of his players for a defensive half-inning, or less. The lent player is not required to be a player currently out of the game, and the lent player may be switched by his manager during an inning. Lending does not, nor should it, have an impact on the lending team's lineup, substitutions, etc. If the lending team wants to make a game decision that affects a lent player, the manager will simply "recall" the lent player, and lend a different player to the short team.

National Division only:

In situations where a manager of a National Division team knows or reasonably believes that he will have only seven players in attendance for a scheduled game, that manager **is permitted** to "call up" a player from the American Division. No more than one "call-up" player may be used, bringing the total number of available players to eight, thus enabling the implementation of player sharing as previously described. To use a call-up player, a manager must, **prior to** contacting the prospective call-up player, notify the opposing manager of his intent, and obtain the permission of the call-up player's American Division manager. If a National Division team using a call-up player ultimately has nine or more of its assigned players attend the game, the call-up player must play the minimum number of required innings. However, the call-up player **may not** play more innings than any assigned player on the National Division team. No call-up player may be used as a pitcher or catcher in a National Division game under any circumstances.

Note for American and National Division teams:

If a team cannot field eight players (seven plus one call up for a National Division team), the Director of Operations must be notified by the manager of the team that is unable to play the game **at least six hours** prior to the scheduled start of that game. In such a case, the game will be postponed for that time, and rescheduled (if feasible) for a later date. A team that fails to notify the Director of Operations of its inability to field the requisite number of players will automatically **forfeit** the scheduled game.

Playoffs:

Neither player sharing nor the use of call-up players is permitted without the explicit consent of the League's Executive Committee, said consent to be **requested and obtained no less than 24 hours prior** to the scheduled start of the game.

- G. If a player is ejected or has to leave for any reason other than illness or injury, a team will be allowed to complete the game with less than nine (9) players but no less than 7 players. An out will be recorded each time that spot or spots in the batting order comes to bat. When a team has less than (9) players as a result of injury or illness during the game, an out **will not** be recorded when that spot or spots in the batting order come to bat.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICIAL SCORING

- A. It is the responsibility of the home team to have an Official Scorer at each game. Each team is responsible for informing the other team of any lineup changes before they are made.
- B. The League Score Book shall be deemed the Official League Record and shall be the basis for the settlement of all pitching eligibility disputes and other related scoring matters. The home team shall be responsible for keeping the League Score Book and the winning team shall be responsible for reporting the results of the game to the Vice President of Operations within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game.
- C. The Official Scorer shall record the names of all players available when the game starts so as to check player participation when the game is completed. The managers of both teams shall make this list available prior to the start of play.
- D. If a game is protested, play suspended, or a tie occurs, the Official Scorer shall make note of the exact situation at the time of the protest, suspension, or tie game, including the score, number of outs, the position of the runners, and the balls and strikes on the batter. The plate umpire will assure the accuracy of the information and sign the score sheets. Games may end in a tie and each team will be awarded one point.
- E. The Official Scorer shall not make any decisions concerning the official playing rules, an umpire's decision, or a game under protest.

ARTICLE V

PLAYER PARTICIPATION RULES

- A. If a player arrives late, he/she can play at the manager's discretion.
- B. A player has officially played when he/she has completed three (3) defensive innings nine (9) outs and at least one (1) turn at bat.
- C. Exceptions to the above rule:
 - 1. If only 6½ innings are played as a result of the home team leading, any

player of the home team who has played two (2) defensive innings will satisfy the playing requirement, if this player is one of the first three (3) scheduled batters in the bottom of the final inning, and this would have been their normal time at bat.

2. If the player does not bat, the player must officially bat in the next scheduled game. These players do not have to start the next game.
 3. Any player on the visiting team who has completed a minimum of one (1) turn at bat and at least two (2) defensive inning will have officially played provided that this player would have been at his/her position at the conclusion of the game in the bottom of the final inning. If these rules are not followed, the player will be determined as not having participated.
- D. No player shall be withheld from a game when he/she is physically able to play at the start of the game, subject to Article II, Section I.
- E. The penalty for failure to observe the player participation rule shall be automatic forfeiture of the game upon written protest by the offended manager to the President within forty-eight (48) hours.
- F. The Rules Committee will review the official score book and verify if a violation has occurred. If a violation has occurred, they will award the win to the protesting team. No meeting of the Board of Directors will be necessary.
- G. A substitute runner may be made for the catcher with two (2) outs in an inning. The substitute will be a player not currently in the game, or in the event that there are no substitutes on the bench, the substitute shall be the player who made the last out.
- H. Any of nine (9) starting players or any substituted player may withdraw and re-enter once, provided the player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the line-up. Any pitcher who is removed from the game or the pitching position can return as a pitcher one time at a later point in the game. NOTE: If a player re-enters illegally as a pitcher, fielder or runner, there is no penalty except that he must be removed immediately when discovered. If he re-enters illegally as a batter, such illegal re-entry is penalized according to official baseball rules.
- I. For each defensive inning, a manager may field any nine players from the lineup (as defined in Article III, Section B) whether or not those players are currently in the batting order. Players, with the exception of the pitcher or in the event of an injury, must play a complete inning in the field. Minimum player participation requirements and all other

rules of play apply.

ARTICLE VI

REGULATION GAMES AND POSTPONEMENTS

- A. The regulation game shall consist of seven (7) innings, unless extended by a tie. Any game reaching the minimum requirements of a complete game (4 ½ - 5 innings) and is stopped in the middle of an inning, the game reverts back to the last completed inning. The score of that completed inning will become the official final score, including ending in a tie. Any coach or team intentionally delaying the game to cause this to happen will automatically forfeit the game. This will be in the judgment of the umpire and only the umpire. Any game not meeting the minimum requirements of a complete game (less than 4 ½ innings) at time of stoppage will begin over. No pitching, batting or scores will be recorded.
- B. When a game is called because of inclement weather, or for any other reason before a regulation game has been played, it will be considered an official game if five (5) innings (complete) have been played and the home team is behind at that point. If the home team is ahead at the end of four and one half (4½) innings, the game will be declared an official game. Any game not meeting the above inning requirements will be considered a suspended game, and will be resumed at the point which it was suspended. The home team is responsible for recording the game situation at the time of the suspension, and to review the status with the away team before the suspended game is resumed. All players on the roster of each team are eligible to participate in the resumed game. League mandated playing time rules remain in force for resumed games.

Managers will work with the Vice President of Operations to schedule the resumption of a suspended game at a time that is agreeable to both teams, and, whenever possible, to be resumed immediately before or after another scheduled league game.

- C. All postponement decisions, up to game time, shall be made by the President, Vice Presidents, or Secretary. If they are not present, both managers will make the decision and the managers will advise the Vice President of Operations to reschedule. If the managers cannot agree, the plate umpire for the game will have the final authority.
- D. Once the game has been placed in the hands of the umpires, the umpires shall make all decisions.

- E. Any postponed game shall be replayed as soon as reasonably possible under the direction of the Vice President of Operations.
- F. Requests to reschedule games must be made to the Vice-President of Operations at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled game. If approved, the rescheduled date and or time will not be official until confirmed by the Vice-President of Operations.
- G. If there is a ten (10) run differential after the trailing team has completed their fifth (5th) inning at bat, the game is complete.

ARTICLE VII

PITCHING RULES

- A. It is urged that managers and coaches thoroughly familiarize themselves with the section in the Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations regarding the use of pitchers.
- B. Each pitcher will be given a warning for the first balk he commits in a game. The Official Rules of Baseball will apply for all succeeding balks.
- C. A pitcher must be removed from the game if he hits three batters in an inning or five batters in a game.
- D. Pitchers may not wear white sweatshirts or exposed white undershirts.
- E. The eligibility of players to pitch in a game will be determined based on the following pitch count chart:

Age Group	Max Pitches per Game	Max Pitches per Week	Required Rest/Pitches			
			0 Day	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days
13-14	95	130	1-35	36-50	51-65	+66
15-16	95	150	1-45	46-60	61-75	+76

- F. For the purposes of interpreting this chart, a week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. If a pitcher reaches a maximum number of pitches during an at bat, the pitcher will be permitted to continue pitching until that at bat is complete. It is the responsibility of the team's manager to ensure that pitch counts are recorded in the team scorebook, and are made available to be shared with opposing managers and/or league officials. Only the team's manager is permitted to challenge an opposing pitcher's pitch count or pitching

eligibility.

- G. Violation of any section of this article shall result in forfeiture of the game in which the violation occurs, subject to the rules of protesting games. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after he is announced, but before he has pitched, shall not be considered a violation. Officials and managers are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest may arise out of this situation, the potential offender should be notified immediately and any corrective measures should be taken.

ARTICLE VIII

PROTESTS

- A. Protests shall be considered only if based upon the violation of a playing rule or the use of ineligible players. No protest will be allowed if based upon a decision involving an umpire's judgment. Equipment, which does not meet League specifications, must be removed from the game and shall not be the basis of a protest.
- B. The manager of the offended team solely has the right to protest a game.
- C. Protests shall be made as follows:
 - 1. The protesting manager shall immediately and before any succeeding play begins, notify the plate umpire that he is now playing the game under protest.
 - 2. Following such notice, the umpire shall consult with his associate umpires. If he is convinced that his decision is in conflict with the rules, he shall reverse his decision. If he decides that his decision is correct, he shall announce that the game is being played under protest.
 - 3. If it is discovered that an ineligible player is being used, such player shall be removed from the game and the game shall resume under protest and not depending upon the will or decision of the offended manager. If the ineligible player is recognized at the conclusion of the game, the manager may still submit his protest after having the official scorer concur.
 - 4. The protesting manager shall have forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the game to submit his protest in writing.
- D. All protests shall be submitted in writing to the President.

ARTICLE IX

EQUIPMENT

- A. The complete uniform supplied by the League must be worn at all games by all participating players. Players coming directly from a school game will be permitted to wear their school team's pants and socks.
- B. All batters, base runners and on-deck hitters must wear the League supplied batting helmet.
- C. All catchers must wear a catcher's mask during practice and pitcher warm-ups. All catchers must wear athletic supporters with protective cups.
- D. Metal spikes are permitted to be worn, except at the Haverford Reserve, or any other township facility where they have been expressly forbidden.
- E. All equipment belongs to the League. Each manager is responsible for its reasonable care during the season of play and shall be responsible for its return. This shall include the uniforms, pants and shirts.
- F. Requests for additional equipment or replacements must be made in writing to the Equipment Manager.
- H. Metal bats, which meet the provisions of Official Baseball Rule 1.10, are approved for use in the League.

ARTICLE X

FIELD DECORUM

- A. The action of players, managers, coaches, umpires and League officials must be above reproach.
- B. Uniformed players, managers, coaches and umpires only shall be permitted within the confines of the playing field prior to and during the games. All players, managers and coaches shall remain in the dugout area unless actively participating. One (1) player will be permitted in the on-deck circle at a time. The first infraction results in a bench warning. The second infraction results in the removal of the offending player.

- C. Incessant derisive remarks or behavior directed at the opposing team or the umpires will not be tolerated. Should anyone (player, manager, coach, etc.) continue after a warning by the umpire, president or vice-presidents, to hurl insults at anyone, that person will be removed. If the team participates, forfeiture may result.
- D. No player shall circulate among the spectators or converse with them while the game is in progress.
- E. Managers will be given one (1) warning by the plate umpire to inform any parent of his/her unsportsmanlike conduct. If the parent refuses to cooperate, the game will be an automatic forfeit.
- F. A manager or coach may not come onto the playing field to question a judgment call made by an umpire. The manager or coach may have a player who is in the game request an appeal by the umpire who made the call. However, the decision to request assistance from another umpire is solely at the discretion of the umpire who made the call. A manager or coach who comes onto the playing field to question a judgment call is subject to removal from the game and the dugout area.
- G. The throwing of helmets, bats or any equipment by a player, manager or coach, whether in disgust or not, will not be tolerated. No warning will be given and that person will be removed from the game.
- H. Smoking/chewing of any tobacco items will not be permitted, by anyone, inside the fenced-in boundaries of the playing field during pre-game preliminaries and games.
- I. Alcohol will not be permitted inside the fenced-in boundaries of the playing field at any time.
- J. Any player, coach, or manager that is ejected from a game for any reason will be subject to a mandatory review by the executive committee. Such offenses may result in suspensions from game(s) with the possibility of permanent removal from the league.

ARTICLE XI

AWARDS

- A. The value of awards and material gifts shall be determined, sanctioned and presented by the Board of Directors only. No awards shall be made on the basis of individuality, comparable skills, or individual accomplishments.

ARTICLE XII

PLAYOFFS

- A. All teams in all divisions will be in the playoffs.
- B. Playoff structure will be determined before the start of each season by the Board of Directors.
- C. Should ties exist for playoff positions, head-to-head competition during the regular season will be used to resolve any tie. If head-to-head competition does not resolve the tie, then a coin toss will be used to resolve the tie.
- D. Playoffs will be scheduled in accordance with the division structure of that year.
- E. Article VII applies to the playoffs, the start of which constitutes a new season.
- F. All playoff games must be played to their conclusion. Games stopped due to weather, darkness or any other reason will be rescheduled and resumed from the point at which the game was stopped. The 10 run rule still applies.
- G. Playoff standings will be determined by the win/loss/tie point system. Three points will be awarded for each win, one point for each tie, and zero points for a loss.