

HAMPDEN YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

**PLAYING RULES AND COACHING GUIDELINES FOR
INSTRUCTIONAL, MINOR AND MAJOR LEAGUES**

Revised 3-3-10

Index

<u>Section</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page #</u>
A	Drafting Rules - Minor and Major Leagues	1
B	All-Star Selection	2
C	Tournament Team - Coach Selection, Team Selection and Head Coach Evaluations	3
D	Coaches Rules & Guidelines	5
E	Playing Rules - Major and Minor Leagues	6
F	Playing Rules - Instructional League	11
G	Communicable Disease Procedure	15
H	Code of Conduct	18

General

The information and rules contained in this booklet are the playing rules and guidelines adapted specifically for use by the ***H.Y.B.A.*** Unless otherwise stated in these rules, the most recently published or amended Official Regulations and Playing Rules for all divisions of Little League Baseball are applicable.

Section A
Drafting Rules
Minor and Major Leagues

- A. 1.** All registered players will be eligible for the draft.
- A. 2.** Coaches will draw for a team number at a coaches meeting to be held in advance of the time the draft is conducted.
- A. 3.** The draft sequence will be as follows:
- Odd rounds will be low team numbers to the highest. Even rounds will be high team numbers to the lowest. After the last full round and each team has the same number of players, the number of leftover players will be drafted in reverse order, by team number, based on how many players are left. (Example: if 7 players are left after the draft, starting with team 7 and proceeding to team 1, each team will pick an additional player.) Registration will be closed and no players accepted or assigned to a team after the date of the draft.
- A. 4.** The child of the Head coach will be his/her first selection. If no child is involved then a selection will be made by that coach. After placement of a child to all teams, then the actual drafting begins with the low team number. If a coach has a second child eligible to play in the same league, the second child will be the third player placed on that coach's team. This means a coach receives a son/daughter, then a player from the open draft, then the second son/daughter.
- A. 5.** No trading of players is permitted.
- A. 6.** Sibling combinations (other than as covered in A. 4.) will count as consecutive drafting round picks if the parent has not requested that they be on separate teams.
- A. 7.** Any player eligible within a league may be drafted in any round regardless of his/her age.
- A. 8.** Age ratios will be established by the player agent prior to the draft. This is done in an attempt to provide a balance of older and younger players on each team.
- A. 9.** The names of all Tournament Team players, All-Star players and League pitchers who have pitched more than ten (10) innings during the previous year, will be provided to the League Coordinator. This information will be shared with all coaches prior to the draft. Additionally, prior to the draft, the league coordinator shall conduct an open discussion with coaches regarding all players who fail to attend the tryout session. Each coach having knowledge of an absent player shall provide an honest evaluation of the player.

Section B
All-Star Selection

- B. 1.** Eighteen (18) players will represent their respective division as All-Star players in both the Minor and Major Leagues. The objective of an All-Star selection is to provide recognition to the best players from each division and to afford those players the opportunity to participate in a baseball game with their peers. If the number of teams in the League is different than in the examples below, the League Coordinator must decide on the equitable representation from each team by the order of their record within the division.

<u>Division Standings</u>	<u># of Players</u>	<u># of Players</u>	<u># of Players</u>
1st Place	4	4	5
2nd Place	4	4	5
3rd Place	3	4	4
4th Place	3	3	4
5th Place	2	3	N/A
6th Place	<u>2</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total	18	18	18

- B. 2.** All-Star Head Coaches will be chosen based on the record as of ballot date. The Head Coach from each division with the best overall record will be the Head Coach for that division.
- a.** Tie Breakers - If a tie exists between the top teams in a division then the best record in divisional play will be the deciding factor.
 - b.** Should the Head Coach with the best record be unable to coach the All-Star team then the Head Coach with the next best record, within that division, will be offered the opportunity to coach the team.
- B.3.** Head Coaches will select All-Star players from their team. No "alternate" All-Star players are to be selected.
- B. 4.** The remaining Head Coaches from within each division will be the Assistant Coaches for the All-Star teams.
- B. 5.** Each All-Star player selected will receive a trophy.
- B. 6.** Any exceptions to the above rules, such as for disciplinary reason or player injury, will require the approval of the *H. Y.B.A. Board of Directors*.

Section C
Tournament Team Coach Selection, Team Selection and Head Coach Evaluations

- C.1.** Selection of Tournament Team Head Coaches is subject to the final approval of the *H.Y.B.A. Board of Directors*. In order to be considered as a head coach for a Tournament Team, Minor and Major League coaches must apply for the Tournament Team head coach position by indicating their interest to the League Coordinator prior to cut-off date determined by the League Coordinator. A Tournament Team coach selection committee, comprised of an odd number of members from the *H.Y.B.A. Board of Directors*, will review the candidates and make recommendations to the Board. Final coach selections will be made at a special meeting of the full *H.Y.B.A. Board of Directors*. The objective will be to have the Tournament Team coaches in place by the halfway point in the season.
- C.2.** Tournament Player Selection will be made as follows:
- a.** Regular season team coaches will identify a maximum of three players from each team to be considered for play on a tournament team at each age level. (Coaches may elect to recommend more if warranted.)
 - b.** Regular season coaches shall select the first 9 players for each tournament team through a vote of coaches (e.g., each of the league coaches will compile a list of their top 9 picks out of the pool of players recommended. The 9 players with the highest number of votes will be placed on the team.) The remaining players selected to fill each tournament team roster will be selected by the Tournament team head coach from the pool of players nominated by the regular season coaches.
 - c.** No try-outs will be conducted.
 - d.** Of the remaining players not selected for the Little league Tournament teams, six (6) players, at least three (3) of which shall be 9 year olds, shall be chosen for any Clarence Boyd Tournament team. The Boyd Teams coaches, when selected, will fill a complete roster.
- C.3.** Head coaches for Minor and Major League teams will be evaluated each season using the following system:
- a.** The Head Coaches at the Minor and Major League levels will be asked to assess their peers on a scale of 1 to 5 in each of the following four (4) categories:
 - 1. Leadership:**
Control of the game, players and spectators. Respect demonstrated by the players.

2. **Communication Skills:**
How does he communicate with his players, his assistants, and opposing coaches.
3. **Knowledge of the Game:**
Knowledge and application of the rules and strategy employed in the game.
4. **Sportsmanship:**
Role model for his players? Treatment of players and umpires; and emotional control demonstrated during the game.

b. Point scale for each of the above categories will be as follows:

1 Point	Poor in this category
2 Points	Below average relative to his peers
3 Points	Average relative to his peers
4 Points	Above average relative to his peers
5 Points	Excellent in this category

- c. Points for each of the above categories should be totaled to arrive at an individual score for each coach by each of the other coaches.
- d. The high and the low assessment of each coach, as submitted by the other coaches, will be discarded with the remaining assessments averaged to arrive at an overall score.

The evaluation scores will be recorded and used as part of the overall input for future coach selection processes conducted by members of the *H.Y.B.A. Board of Directors*.

Section D
Coaches Rules & Guidelines

- D. 1.** Head Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the team, the Assistant Coaches, parents and spectators and shall make reasonable efforts to maintain control. The Head Coaches, by mutual consent, have the authority to suspend play or forfeit a game due to conduct in violation of the *H.Y.B.A.* rules, guidelines or Code of Conduct by their teams. Such action is subject to review by the *H.Y.B.A. Board of Directors*.
- D. 2.** Head Coaches are responsible for the detailed maintenance and general clean up of the fields at the conclusion of each practice or game including raking pitchers mounds, batters boxes and base paths, as well as the clean up of bench and spectator areas.
- D.3.** Head Coaches are required to attend all scheduled coaches' meetings and clinics. These meetings and clinics are open to all assistant coaches, and they are encouraged to attend.
- D.4.** All coaches must set an example for their team. Physical appearance, language, sportsmanship, and sobriety are critical areas of importance.
- D.5.** Any player or coach that abuses *H.Y.B.A.* equipment or facilities will be subject to disciplinary action including the mandatory replacement or repair of the equipment or facility.
- D.6.** Judgment calls by umpires are final and are not to be questioned by any coach. The Head Coach may request an explanation of the call, but it is not to be debated. Umpires should not be approached or harassed before, during, or after the game by any coach, player, or fan. As stated in **D.1**, the Head Coach is responsible for making reasonable efforts to maintain control over the game site. A head coach should not be subject to HYBA disciplinary action due to improper actions of assistant coaches of fans unless his failure to make reasonable efforts to maintain control exasperate the situation.
- D.7.** All players must have a completed Medical Authorization Form submitted prior to participating in any practice or game. Head Coaches are responsible for having the forms in their possession at all practices and games. This requirement may be checked periodically by the League Coordinator or other *H. Y.B. A.* official. Practice may be suspended and games forfeited for any violation of this rule.
- D.8.** No person will be approved to Head Coach more than one (1) team during a season unless the HYBA Board of Directors determines it is necessary.
- D.9.** Violators of the above rules will be subject to reprimand and/or suspension at the discretion of the *HYBA Board of Directors*.

Section E
Playing Rules -- Minor and Major Leagues

Part I: GENERAL

- E.1.** The Official Regulations and Playing Rules for all divisions of Little League Baseball, as published by Little League Baseball, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, will be strictly adhered to UNLESS specified in the following paragraphs in **Section E**.
- E.2.** Teams will have a 15-minute grace period to begin the game if waiting for a ninth (9th) player to arrive. After the 15-minute grace period, if a team is unable to place 9 players on the field, this shall not be grounds for automatic forfeiture, but shall be referred to the league coordinator for a decision. If the league coordinator cannot decide, the matter shall be referred to the Board. If during a game either team is unable to place nine (9) players on the field due to injury or ejection, the opposing manager shall select a player to re-enter the line-up. A player ejected from a game is not eligible for re-entry. If no players are available for re-entry, or if a team refuses to place nine (9) players on the field, this shall be grounds for automatic forfeiture. The only exception to this rule is if during a game the player shortfall is a direct result of injury incurred during the course of the game. In this case, the game will be suspended at the point at which play was suspended and Little League Rule 4.12 will be followed in resuming the game at a later date to be determined by the League Coordinator. Note: a game may not be continued with less than nine (9) players on each team.
- E.3.** Only the League Coordinator, or his designee, can reschedule cancelled or suspended/continued games and notify the coaches of the new date and time. Games should be rescheduled as soon as possible at the discretion of the league coordinator
- E.4.** No Minor League inning may begin after 8:00 p.m., unless the game was scheduled to be played on a field with lights. Also the intent of the game was to be played with the use of lights based on the schedule approved by the Minor League Coordinator. No inning in any League will begin after 2½ hours on Saturdays, or other day games, as interpreted by the umpire of the game.
- E.5.** The Head coach of the visiting team must complete a GAME REPORT form, for each game. This form will list the pitchers played, the number of innings pitched, the number of pitches thrown, and the final score. This form must be signed by both Head Coaches and deposited in the box at the **H.Y.B.A.** concession stand or handed to the League Coordinator after each game.
- E.6.** The respective League Coordinator will establish **H.Y.B.A.** game and practice schedules for his/her League.

- E.7.** The home team Head Coach is responsible for putting out and taking in the bases for each scheduled game. Each Head Coach is responsible for the bases before and after any scheduled practice.
- E.8.** The Head Coach must collect all *H.Y.B.A.* equipment from their players at the end of the season. No alteration of any league issued equipment or uniforms is permitted. All equipment will be returned to the League Equipment Manager at the *H.Y.B.A.* headquarters building at the announced date and time.

Part II: PLAYING RULES

- E.9.** The home team will occupy the first base side of the field.

E.10. MINORS:

Free defensive substitution is allowed at the beginning of any half inning with no defensive substitution from the bench allowed once the inning has begun unless there is an injury.

Each player must play a minimum of three (3) innings defensively, which do not have to be consecutive. Exceptions will be allowed in the case of rain-shortened games, injuries, disciplinary action, or when the away team is losing after five and one half (5 1/2) innings.

All players must be in the batting order a minimum of three (3) consecutive innings **and bat one time**. Should the game be shortened as a result of darkness or shortened as result of the visiting team losing after five and one half (5 1/2) innings, **it is still required that a player bat once during his/her time in the batting order**. The only exception to this rule would be in the case of rain-shortened games, injury or disciplinary action.

Players who do not start both defensively and offensively in a game must start both defensively and offensively in the next game if they were present for the complete first game.

E.11. MAJORS:

Players must play a minimum of 9 defensive outs and bat at least 1 time. A player that starts the game can re-enter the game 1 time at any point during the game, provided his/her substituting player has batted at least one time. A player that does not start the game may not be substituted for once he/she has entered the game

Players that do not start the game must play defensively in at least three (3) complete and consecutive innings, and bat at least one (1) time. Exceptions would be allowed in the case of rain-shortened games, injuries, disciplinary action, or when the away team is losing after five and one half (5 1/2) innings in

the case of the defensive inning minimum and in the case of rain-shortened games, injuries or disciplinary action when applying the one-at-bat minimum.

All substitutions can only take place at the half of the inning. Exceptions would be allowed in the case injuries, or disciplinary action.

Players who do not start both defensively and offensively in a game must start both defensively and offensively in the next game if they were present for the complete first game.

In the case of suspended games, a player who was not present at the time of the game being suspended may not participate in the game at the time the game is resumed.

- E.12.** For violation of the any of the rules included in Section E.10 or E.11 (minimum playing time rules), the player(s) involved shall start the next scheduled game, play any previous requirement not completed, and fulfill the playing requirements for this game before being removed from the current game.

The Head Coach shall for the:

- a. FIRST OFFENSE – receive a written warning.
- b. SECOND OFFENSE – receive a suspension for the next scheduled game.
- c. THIRD OFFENSE – receive a suspension for the remainder of the season.

If the Board of Directors determines the violation to have been intentional, the Board may assess a more severe penalty, but may not impose forfeiture of the game. The Board of Directors will consider any violation of any rule by a Head Coach that occurred during the past two (2) seasons in determining a penalty.

- E.13.** Violation of any of the rules in Section E.18 or E.19 can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Little League Playing Rule 4.19. A coach's failure to protest a violation of Section E.18 or E.19 rules does not prohibit the Board of Directors from taking action against a Head Coach for the violation as follows:

The Head Coach shall for the:

- a. FIRST OFFENSE – receive a suspension for the next scheduled game.
- b. SECOND OFFENSE – receive a suspension for the remainder of the season.

If the Board of Directors determines the violation to have been intentional, the Board may assess a more severe penalty. The Board of Directors will consider any violation

of any rule by a Head Coach that occurred during the past two (2) seasons in determining a penalty.

- E.14.** The scorebooks distributed by *H.Y.B.A.* must be kept to show innings played and times at bat for every player. The scorebooks are subject to review by League Coordinator or other *H.Y.B.A.* official.
- E.15.** The ball is dead when a player is injured at the Minor league level and at the umpire's discretion at the Major league level. The Head Coach will immediately notify the player's parent(s) if a player is injured during a practice or game. The parent(s) must notify the *H.Y.B.A.* League President to obtain appropriate forms for the filing of an insurance claim.
- E.16.** Two (2) new game balls will be provided by the Home Team Head Coach. Vinyl covered balls will not be used in league games.
- E.17.** The "*infield fly*" rule **will not** apply to Minor League games.
- E.18.** Pitching rules: Minors

Pitching rules defined in Section VI of the Official Little League Playing Rules will apply except that a nine (9) year-old must pitch at least one (1) entire inning from beginning to end (3 outs or 5 runs in a single inning) before the fifth inning of each game. The Home Team will maintain the official pitch count. A pitcher once removed as a pitcher for any reason cannot pitch again in that game. A player that is League age eight (8) is considered a nine (9) year-old for purposes of this Rule. A player that is a second year nine (9) year-old is considered a ten (10) year-old for purposes of this Rule.

During games designated as "No Count" games, nine (9) year-old pitchers are to pitch a minimum of four (4) complete innings per game. Two innings per game can be pitched by ten (10) year-olds.

E.19 Pitching Rules – Majors

Pitching rules defined in Section VI of the Official Little League Playing Rules will apply except that an 11-year old must pitch at least one (1) entire inning from beginning to end. The Home Team will maintain the official pitch count. A pitcher once removed as a pitcher for any reason cannot pitch again in that game. A player that is League age ten (10) is considered an eleven (11) year-old for purposes of this Rule. A player that is a second year eleven (11) year-old is considered a twelve (12) year-old for purposes of this Rule.

- E.20.** Minor League innings one through five will end when three (3) outs are made, or five (5) runs have scored, whichever occurs first. The sixth inning will end when three (3)

outs are made or ten (10) runs have scored, whichever occurs first. No game shall be terminated due to the score of the game.

Major League “no-count” game innings one through five will end when three (3) outs are made, or five (5) runs are scored, whichever occurs first. The sixth inning will end when three (3) outs are made or ten (10) runs have scored, whichever occurs first. No-count games shall not be terminated due to the score of the game.

- E.21.** Minor League players cannot steal home, or advance to home on a passed ball. To score, the ball must be hit or a force situation must exist, such as a bases loaded walk, or a hit batsman. A direct attempt to make a play on a runner on third base will not enable that runner to advance to home.

- E.22.** Long pants must be worn for all practices and games.

- E.23.** Minor and Major Divisional Champions will be determined as follows:
 - a.** The best overall won/loss record within each division wins that divisional championship. All league games will count towards the overall won/loss record. If teams play an uneven number of games, then the team with the best winning percentage will be declared the division champion.

 - b.** If the best overall won/loss record is identical within one division, then the tied team with the best record in that division will be the divisional champion.

 - c.** If a tie still exists after Rule E.23.b is applied, then the team with the best won/loss record based on "head to head" play between the tied teams will be the divisional champion.

 - d.** If a tie still exists after Rule E.23.c. is applied, then a playoff game will be scheduled by the League Coordinator and played within five (5) days after the close of the regular season. However, if in the judgment of the league coordinator, it is not feasible, based upon weather, field availability or playoff schedule, to have a playoff game, the tie-breaker will be as follows: the team with fewest total runs allowed in head-to-head count games between the tied teams will be division champs. If there is still a tie, the team with the fewest runs allowed in all division count games will be division champion.

 - e.** Only the League Divisional Champions will receive trophies, there can be no co-champions. No playoff game between divisional champions will be authorized or played.

- E.24.** Intentional walks will not be issued in the Minor/Major League.

- E.25.** The 10-run mercy rule will not be applied to end a Minor/Major League game prematurely.

Part III: CONDUCT

- E.26.** Any Head Coach or Assistant Coach of record may discipline a player by benching him.

If disciplinary benching results from an action occurring prior to the beginning of a game and the coach does not intend to meet the minimum play rules identified in rules **E.10** or **E.11** above, the coach must inform the League Coordinator and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game, if that player is present for the game.

If disciplinary benching occurs as a result of an action occurring during a game the coach must notify the opposing coach and substitution rules defined in Little League playing rule 3.03 must be followed as if the player were ejected. The player removed as the result of a coach's disciplinary action is not eligible for re-entry in that game

In such instances, the coach imposing discipline must inform the League Coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours of the infraction and imposed discipline. In situations where immediate disciplinary action is not required, the coach should obtain the approval of the League Coordinator.

- E.27.** Players that miss practices with no excuse will be disciplined according to the discretion of the coach.

- E.28.** Any Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Scorekeeper, or Umpire whose conduct brings discredit to **H.Y.B.A.** including the violation of any playing rule or by-law is subject to discipline by the **Board**. Any improper conduct or violation of any playing rule or bylaw, shall be reported to the President of HYBA. The President shall then refer the matter to the HYBA Code of Conduct Committee. The Committee shall, within 5 days of receiving notice of the alleged infraction, conduct an investigation, which may include meeting/discussions with all parties that the HYBA board may determine are relevant to the matter. The Committee shall then take appropriate disciplinary action..

Section F
Playing Rules - Instructional League

PART I: GENERAL

- F.1.** The official Little League Rules as published by Little Leagues Baseball, Williamsport, Pennsylvania will be adhered to unless specified in the following supplemental rules of the *H.Y.B.A.*
- F.2** The primary goals of the instructional league games are to teach baseball fundamentals and skills, have fun, and improve the skill and confidence level of all of the players. Safety and sportsmanship are also paramount considerations. Accordingly, all of the rules should be interpreted in a manner consistent with these goals. Any flagrant violation by specific coaches, parents or players shall be brought to the attention of the League Coordinator.
- F.3** All games will begin at time specified on schedules established by the League Coordinator. NO game will be cancelled for any reason except inclement weather or unsafe or unplayable field conditions. The safety of Hampden's Youth should be the governing consideration in determining to play or not.
- F.4** Games shall not exceed 90 minutes in duration. No new inning should be started if it appears likely that it will not be fully completed within the aforementioned time limitation.
- F.5** No game score should be kept and no win/loss standings will be maintained.
- F.6.** Long pants must be worn for all Instructional League games and practices.
- F.7.** The League Coordinator will determine if games are to be cancelled and shall be responsible for notifying the coaches as soon as possible prior to 5:00 p.m.
- F.8.** The League Coordinator is responsible for rescheduling cancelled games. All games will be rescheduled and played within ten (10) days, unless approved by the League Coordinator.
- F.9.** Practice, other than those on a regularly scheduled, must be cleared through the League Coordinator.
- F.10.** The Home Team Head Coach is responsible for putting out and taking in the bases for each game.
- F.11.** Team Head Coaches are responsible for collecting all *H.Y.B.A.* equipment from their players at the end of the seasons. There shall be no alteration of any *H.Y.B.A.* issued equipment or uniforms. All equipment must be returned to the Equipment Manager at the equipment building at the time and date scheduled.

F.12. Each player must play three (3) innings per game. All players on the roster will bat in rotation regardless of whether or not they are in the game defensively. The alternating of players in different positions and in or out of the playing field is encouraged; this is left to the judgment of the head coach. Teams are permitted to play four (4) players defensively in the outfield positions.

EXCEPTION: Sickness, injury or games shortened as a result of darkness or weather. All disciplinary action prior to game time must be cleared by the League Coordinator before action is taken.

F.13. The scorebooks distributed by the Association must be kept to show innings played and times at bat for every player and are subject to review by the League Coordinator or a committee appointed by the League Coordinator. The scorebook and/or other report can be utilized to verify an individual's playing time.

F.14. Any player injured in practice or game shall receive prompt attention. The ball is dead when a player is injured. The responsible coach shall immediately notify the player's parent(s). It will be the parent(s) responsibility to contact the league president in order to obtain appropriate forms to file an insurance claim.

F.15. Game balls will be furnished by the home team coach and at least one (1) shall be new.

F.16. Maximum length for any bat is 28 inches. Aluminum, wood, or some composite material bats are allowed to be used.

F.17. The Head Coach, Assistant or parent, will be allowed to coach on first and third bases. The first and third base coaches will be responsible for acting as umpires on the field of play.

F.18. No leading off or stealing of bases is allowed.

F.19. When any infielder gets control of the ball in the **infield dirt**, the ball is to be thrown to the pitcher (coach). No runner can advance once an **infielder** has control of the ball in the infield dirt area. Control is considered having **baseball in glove or hand**. When overthrows occur, the runner can only advance to that base he/she is running to and not beyond it.

F.20. Catchers **must** wear an athletic supporter, with a cup, at all times during games.

F.21. When a runner is confronted with the possibility of a tag situation, the runner must remain within the base path and avoid upright direct contact with the defensive player. Deliberate (non-sliding) contact can be punishable by expulsion from the game, the runner is out and no other runner may advance

- F.22.** Teams may use ten (10) defensive players. One (1) of whom must be the pitcher as defined in Rule F.11.a., and one (1) of whom must be a catcher. Coaches are required to position the remaining eight (8) defensive players as four (4) infielders and four (4) outfielders with **NO** short fielder permitted.
- F.23** In the absence of a sufficient number of players for any team (less than 10), the coaches shall come to an agreement so as to make every effort to allow the game to be played either by sharing players or reducing the number of defensive players. No game shall be rescheduled for lack of a sufficient number of players, unless approved by the League Coordinator.
- F.24** All players must have a completed Medical Authorization Form submitted prior to participation in any practice or game. Head Coaches are responsible for having the forms in their possession at all practices and games. This requirement may be checked periodically by the League Coordinator or other **H.Y.B.A.** official. Practice may be suspended and games forfeited for any violations of this rule.

Part II: Playing Rules –

F.25 Specific Rules to 6-7 Year Old League

- a. A coach or his designee assistant coach or parent will pitch to his own team. They may pitch from in front of the mound, but must pitch overhand, from a standing position.
- b. A player will stand in the mound area to field the position of pitcher.
- c. No walks will be allowed
- d. A player will get four (4) strikes to hit the ball. After three (3) strikes the player may elect to hit off the batting tee, in which case the player will be given three (3) more strikes.
 - i. Please Note: Three (3) foul balls will count as three (3) strikes. A fourth (4th) foul ball will not be considered a strikeout (unless a bunt is attempted).**
- e. The proper use of the batting tee is mandatory in pre-season practice. Stress solid contact with the ball, do not stress upper cutting. A primary goal of the Instructional League is to teach a proper batting stance, **exaggerated "open" or "closed" stances for the purpose of hitting to a particular section of the paying field is against the intent of the League and is not permitted.**
- f. Instructional League innings will end when three (3) outs are made or four (4) runs have scored, whichever occurs first.

- g. A maximum of two (2) coaches per the defensive team may be stationed on the playing field to assist players and ensure safety.

F.26 Rules Specific Rules to 7-8 Year-Old League

- a. Players pitch for the first three (3) innings; coaches will pitch for the last three (3) innings and each pitcher may pitch only one inning. Pitching rules defined in Section VI of the Official Little League Playing Rules will apply. The Home Team will maintain the official pitch count.
- b. There will be no walks. If the pitcher throws 4 balls, the coach will finish pitching to the batter until he strikes out (swinging or looking) or hits the ball into play. At this point the pitcher will return to face the next batter unless the pitcher has thrown 4 balls to 4 batters or hit two batters, at which time the coach will finish that inning as the pitcher. A batter who is hit by pitch will be given the choice as to whether he wants to take first base or finish his at-bat at which point the coach will finish the pitch count. This will count toward one of the four walks allowed for the pitcher in that inning.
- c. If a pitcher hits two (2) batters in any given inning, he also must be removed. A coach must finish that inning as the pitcher.
- d. The batting team will provide an umpire to call balls and strikes from behind the pitching area and the strike zone shall be very liberal (ankles to eyes). Batters should not be taking pitches or looking for walks.
- e. Use of the maximum number of players who have the ability to pitch or learn to pitch is strongly encouraged. In other words, at least one player per inning and not the same two or three players every game, if possible.
- f. Pitcher will pitch from a mound, if available. If not available, pitchers will pitch from a temporary throw-down pitching rubber, approximately 40 feet from the plate.
- g. Innings will end when three (3) outs are made or five (5) runs have scored, whichever occurs first.
- h. No defensive coaches are allowed on the field, unless by agreement of both coaches.
- i. In the innings when coaches are pitching, the pitching should be slightly upgraded from the 6-7 year old level and based upon the age and ability of the batter. In other words, the pitching should be designed to challenge and improve the skills of the batter, and not simply to allow the batter to tee-off on pitched balls.

- j. A batter cannot be thrown out at first base from a ball hit to the outfield. Outfielders should be taught to throw the ball to the cutoff man or appropriate base. Force plays or tag plays can be made at any base other than first. Defensive coaches are to position the outfielders no less than 15 feet from the edge of the infield dirt. If an attempted put-out is made by a defensive player who is inside this area, the runner will be called safe.

Section G
Communicable Disease Procedures

- G.1.** While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 1.a.** The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is blood on the uniform it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
 - 1.b.** Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
 - 1.c.** Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
 - 1.d.** Clean all blood contaminated surfaces and equipment with a solution made from a proper dilution of household bleach (CDC recommends 1-1000) or other disinfectant before competition resumes.
 - 1.e.** Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
 - 1.f.** Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
 - 1.g.** Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
 - 1.h.** Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
 - 1.i.** Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards and other articles containing body fluids.

Section H
Code of Conduct

Part I CODE OF CONDUCT - MISSION STATEMENT

H.1. *H.Y.B.A.* has adopted a "Code of Conduct" to serve as a standard for the entire organization. In conjunction with the *H.Y.B.A.* Bylaws and "Playing Rules", *H.Y.B.A.* endeavors to:

- a. Promote sportsmanship at all levels of play, both on and off the field.
- b. Help players develop a sense of fair play.
- c. Provide an atmosphere consistent with learning the principles of baseball.
- d. Enhance technique/skills of players and coaches at all levels of play.
- e. Provide a safe playing environment.

Part II CODE OF CONDUCT

H.2. Players, coaches, fans - Home and Away

- a. Coaches in conjunction with the umpire and opposing coach, are in charge of and responsible for their games.
- b. Players, coaches and fans will hold themselves to a high standard of conduct, whether on or off the field, home or away and will be required to agree to the attached H.Y.B.A Youth Sports Code of Conduct when registering each year. See Appendix A to this document.
- c. Coaches will conduct themselves as an example to all players and parents; provide a positive reinforcement to players in cooperation with parents.
- d. Players will be respectful of all coaches, team members and parents; players will display good sportsmanship to all opponents, umpires, etc.

H.3. Infraction/Violations

- a. **Major** - Examples such as fighting; profanity towards an umpire, coach, player or fan; use of tobacco, alcohol or a controlled substance on or near the playing field; promoting unsafe play or poor sportsmanship.
- b. **Minor** - Examples such as arguing with umpire, players, coaches, parents or fans.

Part III INFRACTION MEASURES

Major or **Minor** Infraction - 1st offense - Action subject to umpire's judgment and/or coaches discretion during the course of the game.

Subsequent offenses are subject to corrective or disciplinary action at the discretion of the coach, League Coordinator and ultimately the **H.Y.B.A.** Disciplinary Committee. (An ad hoc committee appointed by **H.Y.B.A.** Board President).

Habitual offenders are subject to dismissal from **H.Y.B.A.** participation.

Coaches have the primary responsibility to report any and all problems directly to their League Coordinator. Each coordinator will be responsible for reporting all major violations to the **H.Y.B.A.** Board. Any issues regarding a coordinator will be reported directly to the **H.Y.B.A.** Board President.

Any coach, parent or player involved in providing, serving or condoning any **H.Y.B.A.** players use of alcohol, drugs or illegal tobacco products will be reviewed by the **H.Y.B.A.** Board for immediate dismissal.

PART IV GENERAL POLICY

All rules of the **H.Y.B.A.** conduct are in addition to respective league rules.

Appendix A - CODE OF CONDUCT

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.” To that end, all parents, players, and coaches will abide by *H.Y.B.A.*’s following Code of Conduct:

- a. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- b. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- c. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- d. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- e. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or sporting event.
- f. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
- g. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
- h. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- i. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- j. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- k. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.

- l.** I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- m.** I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- n.** I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- o.** I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- p.** I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
- q.** I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.