

**PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- Player must be age 5-6 for the current school year.
- At any time during the season, Hereford Sports and Wellness may request proof of eligibility (school records, birth certificate, etc.)
- Players must register within their specific age level.
- Players may play one age group up. A player MAY NOT play up two age groups.

**EQUIPMENT**

- Hereford Sports and Wellness will furnish the following equipment for teams
  - Baseball/Softball Tee
  - 4 helmets
  - 1 catching gear
- Please return all equipment immediately following the seasons last game.
- Players must wear their assigned Hereford Sports and Wellness baseball/softball dri-fit tee.
- Rubber cleats or turf shoes only! No exceptions!
  - Cleats/Shoes with metal spikes are NOT allowed!
- For Softball -- face masks must be worn by all infielders.
- Bats must have the official t-ball bat stamped on the bat.

**GAME RULES**

- All games will take place at the new John Bunch Sports Complex.
- Each game will have a 60-minute time limit, finish the batter. (No new inning after 50 minutes.)
- Score will be kept. This league is to focus on skills, development, and fundamentals in multiple positions for all players.
- Play the game fair and with integrity.
- ALL players must receive fair playing time which includes playing the field and have at least 1 at bat. No exceptions.
- When switching sides please do it quickly to ensure everyone gets to play and have an at bat.
- Only Hereford Sports and Wellness provided balls will be used during the game.

## **BATTING**

- Bat entire line up. (If there are 12 players on the roster, all 12 will bat.)
- 5 runs per inning.
- You are allowed 3 coaches.
  - When batting, a coach will be at 1<sup>st</sup> base, a coach will be at 3<sup>rd</sup> base, and a coach will be on the pitching mound.
- Batter will receive 5 total attempts to hit the ball (Coach will pitch 3 balls and if no in play contact has been made, the batter will receive a tee for 2 more attempts). If the ball has not been put into play by the 5<sup>th</sup> attempt the batter is OUT!
- No lead offs. No stealing. No bunting.
- If the batter is hit by a pitch, it is considered a no pitch and the batter does not lose an attempt.
- If a ball is put into play and it hits the pitching coach, the ball is dead and the players advance one base.
- If a player is called out, they must return to the dugout.
- 3 outs result in the end of the at bat.

## **FIELDING**

- ALL players will be on the field (pitcher, catcher, 1<sup>st</sup> base, 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, short stop, and all the other in the outfield).
- You are allowed 3 coaches.
  - When fielding, 2 coaches can be in the outfield and the last coach will be assisting the opponent team with tee placement and removal.
- Once an infield player has control of the ball runners may not advance. (If in between bases the runner may advance to next base.)
- A player may only advance one base if a ball is overthrown.
- Highly encourage players to throw the ball to players. No rolling the ball!
- Fielding coaches will call outs on the field.
- Once fielding team gets three outs, the fielding team will go to bat.

## **PROHIBITED ACTS**

- A fielding player may not run and tag a player out beyond the respected position of the player. They must attempt to throw the ball to the base player to get the out.
- Coach assisting with the tee should not leave the tee on the home plate when a player is coming in to score.
- Arguing balls and strikes with the umpire is prohibited. You may ask the umpire questions or clarifications of rules.

- No gum is allowed in the dugouts or on the field.
- No colored drinks on to the field. They may be in the dugout.
- No shell seeds are permitted in the sports complex.
- Interfering with the game of play is frowned upon. Please stay out of the way of play as best as possible.

## **COACHES**

- The head coach is responsible for
  - The physical and mental wellbeing of all children while entrusted to their care.
  - Maintaining an adequate level of discipline on his or her team.
  - The conduct and control of their team's fans and spectators.
  - Ensuring minimum playing time is met for all players.
- All assistant coaches must be listed on the roster and have a background check on file. If no background check is on file, the coach will be removed from the field.
- The background check also applies to any individual assisting during practices.
- Should any coach on the roster violate any Hereford Sports and Wellness playing rules or directives, they may be subject to disciplinary actions.
- Coaches are responsible for cleaning up dugouts and bleachers after each game.
- If a coach walks into a dugout with trash after a game has been played, please inform the Hereford Sports and Wellness Staff.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

- The Code of Conduct applies to parents, coaches/volunteers, spectators, parents, contracted employees, officials, and professional staff.
- Profane, obscene, abusive, degrading/threatening language, gestures and/or taunting in the presence of anyone attending a Hereford Sports and Wellness event is prohibited.
- Do not handle a child/participant in an aggressive or abusive manner.
- Any act of violence is prohibited.
- Accept the decision of the game officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
- Do not knowingly permit an ineligible player to play the game.
- Please use good sportsmanship.
- The use of drugs, alcohol, vaping, or tobacco in any form is not permitted while attending any Hereford Sports and Wellness event.

- No firearms or weapons will be permitted at any Hereford Sports and Wellness event.

AT ANY TIME, AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF HEREFORD SPORTS AND WELLNESS, VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT IS SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM OUR PROGRAM.