

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- Player must be age 7-8 for the 2024-2025 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
 - 4 helmets
 - 1 catching gear
- Please return all equipment immediately following the seasons last game or the exit of the end of the year tournament.
- Players must wear their assigned Hereford Sports and Wellness baseball/softball dri-fit tee.
- Face mask for all players.
- Rubber cleats or turf shoes only! No exceptions!
 - Cleats/Shoes with metal spikes are NOT allowed!
- Bats must have the USA OFFICIAL SOFTBALL STAMP.
- 11 inch softballs

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.)
- Home team will be required to keep the scorebook.
- Home team will also be required to run the score board.
- This league is to focus on skills, development, and fundamentals in multiple positions for all players.
- 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

- Must submit line up sheets that include players first name, last name, and players number.
- 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 1st base, a coach will be at 3rd base, and a coach will be on the pitching mound.
- Pitching coach will pitch from 35 feet.
- Pitching coach is not allowed to talk to, reposition, or direct the batter in any way. Assistants may talk to, reposition, or direct the batter.
- Batter will receive 5 total attempts to hit the ball or 3 strikes, whichever comes first. If the ball has not been put into play by the 5th attempt the batter is OUT!
- No lead offs. No stealing.
- Bunting is allowed. No slash bunting (presenting bunt then pulling back for a full swing).
- 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, 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, short stop, and all the other in the outfield).
- All infield players must be equipped with a face mask to protect face from potential injury.
- 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.
- The player in the pitcher position must be positioned slightly to the side or behind the pitching coach for the safety of the player.
- The player in the pitcher position is allowed to run down the runner going to first or home only. All other plays to the pitcher must have a thrown ball to base players.

- Time will be called once the fielding team has stopped the lead runner or the pitcher has control of the ball.
- Once time has been called runners may not advance. (If in between bases the runner may advance to next base.)
- Highly encourage players to throw the ball to players. No rolling the ball!
- Once fielding team gets three outs, the fielding team will go to bat.

PROHIBITED ACTS

- Players must slide into home plate if there is a play at the plate. In 8u it is best practices to begin teaching players the fundamentals of sliding.
- 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 the 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.
- At the end of EVERY game, you will circle a player on the opposite team in the scorebook for all-star selection. This player should represent the best of the best to be considered for all-star selections.

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.