

**PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- Player must be age 9-10 according to the Babe Ruth age charts.
- 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. Players must also wear their Hereford Sports and Wellness baseball cap.
- Rubber cleats or Turf shoes only! No exceptions!
  - Cleats/Shoes with metal spikes are NOT allowed!
- Bats must have the USA OFFICIAL STAMP. NO USSSA stamped bats allowed.
- 11-inch Softballs

**GAME RULES**

- All games will take place at the new John Bunch Sports Complex.
- Each game will have a 75-minute time limit or 6 innings, whichever occurs first. (No new inning after 60 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)
- 7 runs per inning or 3 outs
- You are allowed 2 coaches.
  - When batting, a coach will be at 1<sup>st</sup> base, a coach will be at 3<sup>rd</sup> base
- No drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike. Runners cannot advance on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
- No lead offs. Player may advance after the ball has reached home plate.
- Bunting is allowed. No slash bunting (presenting bunt then pulling back for a full swing).
- If the batter is hit by a pitch, the batter is awarded first base.
- On walks, player may take two at their own risk.
- If a player is called out, they must return to the dugout.
- 3 outs result in the end of the at bat.
- Batter on deck must remain behind the batter.

### **FIELDING**

- 9 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 left, right, center field).
- All infielders must have a face mask. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- You are allowed 2 coaches.
  - When fielding, coaches must be within an arms distance of the dug out. Umpire does have the authority to restrict coaches to the dugout.
- Once the fielding team gets three outs, the fielding team will go to bat.

### **PITCHING**

- Pitching distance is 35 ft.
- Pitchers in any softball league do not have a pitching count limit.
- In all divisions, a pitcher removed from the pitching position may play a different position but can't return to the pitcher position for the remainder of the game.

### **PROHIBITED ACTS**

- Players must slide into home plate if there is a play at the plate.
- Arguing balls and strikes with 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 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.