

**PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- Player must be age 9-10 according to the Babe Ruth age charts.
- At any time during the season, Hereford Sports & 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 & 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 & Wellness baseball/softball dri-fit tee. Players must also wear their Hereford Sports & 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.
- Ages 7 and up are strongly advised to wear a protective cup.
- Minor leagues and up all catchers must wear a protective cup.

**GAME RULES**

- All games will take place at the new John Bunch Sports Complex.
- Each game will have a 90-minute time limit or 6 innings, whichever occurs first. (no new inning after 75 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 & Wellness provided balls will be used during the game.

## **BATTING**

- Must submit line up sheets that include players first name, last name, and player's number.
- Bat entire line up. (If there are 12 players on 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).
- You are allowed 2 coaches.
  - When fielding, coaches must be within an arms distance of the dugout.
- Umpire does have the authority to restrict coaches to the dugout.
- Once fielding team gets three outs, the fielding team will go to bat.

## **PITCHING**

Age	Daily max	Rest period	0 days	1 day	2 days
9-10	75 pitches	-----→	1-40 pitches	41-65 pitches	66+ pitches

- Pitching count will be taken by the home team.
- This is only for league play. Does not include tournament play.
- Pitching distance is 46 ft.
- Balks will not be called in the minor division.
- 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. In 8u it is best practices to begin teaching players the fundamentals of sliding.
- 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 shelled 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 & 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 & 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 & 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 & Wellness event.
- No firearms or weapons will be permitted at any Hereford Sports & Wellness event.

At any time, at the sole discretion of Hereford Sports & Wellness, violation of the code of conduct is subject to suspension or expulsion from our program.