



# Huntington County Baseball

## BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL HANDBOOK

Revision Date February 2010

## HUNTINGTON COUNTY BASEBALL, INC.

Huntington County Baseball, Inc. is an organization operating in Huntington County providing organized baseball and softball leagues for children age five years old through seventeen years old. It is a non-profit organization created to centralize and coordinate the securing of necessary operating funds, managers, umpires, and other personnel, as well as to provide a single, strong governing body. Its work is administered by a Board of Directors composed of a varying number of individuals selected from all sections of the county.

The mission of Huntington County Baseball, Inc. is to provide the youth of our county expert instruction in the fundamentals of baseball and softball and instill upon them good sportsmanship practices and team spirit. We feel this can be done by providing for them a baseball and softball program properly supervised and directed; always keeping in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill is secondary and that the following qualities are to be emphasized:

- (1) **The will to win:** Urge each participant to give their best all times, but never to take unfair advantage of their opponents.
- (2) **Self-discipline and self-control:** which are signs of maturity and good training.
- (3) **Self-confidence:** this can be developed only in actual competition. Therefore, so long as a participant conforms to the rules of good behavior and is faithful in attendance at games and practices, they should be used as often as possible.
- (4) **Honesty and loyalty:** These must be demanded of each participant so long as they are a member of a team in Huntington County Baseball, Inc.
- (5) **Respect:** for the rights and property of others. This is of prime importance.
- (6) **Each participant behavior must be above reproach.** This is one way of showing their appreciation for what is being done for them and their respect for their managers, coaches, team members and parents.

### Finances and Financial Policy

#### General Financial Policy

The program of Huntington County Baseball, Inc. is strictly voluntary in every respect, including finances. We have no claim on the taxpayers' dollar. Instead, we depend upon fees from team sponsors and fundraising for the major portion of our support. These fees are carefully budgeted to insure that we get the kind and quality of program we feel is necessary for our youth, at the least possible cost.

We feel that our prudent financial policy has played a vital part in whatever success we have achieved in our efforts to make the benefits of our program available to all boys and girls of age in Huntington County.

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Huntington County Baseball, Inc. meets on the third Wednesday of each month throughout the year except for the month of December. The individuals who comprise this board are responsible to that body for the fair and unbiased use of the authority. Members who miss three consecutive meetings, unexcused, will risk removal from the Board of Directors.

The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Baseball Commissioner, Softball Commissioner and up to two at-large members comprise the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. This committee convenes only at the direction of the President of the Board when it is felt immediate action is required on a matter and the entire Board cannot be convened.

Fundraising programs may be designated by the Board of Directors from year to year and sales objectives on a per player basis would be determined according to the type of fundraising program being organized for that given year.

All purchases of equipment must be made from approved sources, which shall be designated each year by the Board of Directors. Either the full Board of Directors or the Executive Committee shall approve payment for purchases of equipment and uniforms.

Each player of all HCB teams will be assessed a player fee. The amount will be determined by the Board of Directors each year. This fee is due before the first regular season game. Fees may be subsidized up to 100 percent through the fundraising program.

Since circumstances change from year to year and rules cannot be written for every possible situation, the President of HCB, Executive Committee or the League Commissioners may render judgements to resolve conflicts, not mentioned herein.

## **General Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors**

### **President**

- Presides at all meetings of the Board
- Appoints committees as needed
- Directs the Board's work of coordinating and promoting baseball and softball in Huntington County.
- Is a member and serves as chair of the Appeals Committee.

### **Vice-President**

- Acts as Chairman of the Board in the absence of the President.
- Responsible for securing sponsors for all leagues.

### **Secretary**

- Takes roll and handles the minutes for all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee
- Responsible for seeing that a suitable meeting place is available for such meetings and that all members are properly notified in advance.

### **Treasurer**

- Maintains the financial records of Huntington County Baseball, Inc. and submits a monthly report to the Board of all receipts and disbursements.
- Oversees the payment of all bills against the corporation. All funds must be deposited in a Huntington County bank and all payments must be made by check.
- Handles the distribution of the sponsor's fee in accordance with the approved budget and distributes the profits realized by the various communities. Except for the expenditures covered by the approved budget, no funds may be disbursed unless authorized by the Board.
- With the exception of the auditing committee, the Treasurer is a member of all committees appointed in connection with financial matters.

### **League Presidents**

- Secure managers for their league teams
- Compile a roster of teams and individuals coming back to play for the upcoming year; this roster should be confirmed with the HCB player agent
- Work with the HCB equipment manager in distributing equipment to league teams
- Organize tryouts with league managers and HCB player agent; tryouts will be conducted by league presidents
- Submit names of coaches to the HCB Commissioners for approval by the HCB Board of Directors
- Work with the HCB Director of Fundraising in supervising the HCB board approved fund raiser
- Work with HCB player agent to organize and conduct the player draft for their league.
- Serve as an arbiter with the HCB Commissioner in disputes and protests
- May suspend managers, coaches and/or players in their league where they think there is sufficient reason.
- Assign and help organize age group all-star teams for their respective leagues.
- Maintain system of team records; report these to the local media on a weekly basis.
- Organize with the HCB Director of Scheduling the HCB Umpire in Chief their league tournament
- Work with the HCB equipment manager in securing and storage of all equipment in their league.

### **Commissioner**

There are two commissioners, the Commissioner of Baseball and the Commissioner of Softball. The commissioner represents their respective league (baseball or softball) at all HCB meetings. Other responsibilities of the commissioner include but are not limited to:

- Serve with the specific league president as arbiter on all protests or appeals within their respective leagues.
- Oversee all league presidents within their respective leagues. They work with each league president on organization of each league, league tryouts, rule changes within each league, playing dates for regular season and tournament, handling disputes, and assists them, as needed, in the areas of equipment, coaching approvals, and player issues.
- Work with league scheduler in scheduling regular season and tournament playing dates for their respective league.
- In the absence of the league president, they will perform any necessary duties for that respective league.

### **Player Agent**

- Conducts the player evaluations for all age groups eligible to participate in the City of Huntington and is responsible for seeing that proper tryouts are held in each of the participating county communities, although the latter are under the supervision of the local board member and the team managers. All player evaluations and tryouts must be given sufficient publicity as to the time, place and date so that all eligible youth in their area has the opportunity to attend.
- Must have a list of all tryout participants in all county communities as well as the city and the dates at which the tryout were held.
- Player evaluations/tryouts for each age group must be held separately. At least two (2) player evaluations/tryouts must be held in all communities and in each age group. The Player Agent will arrange for the printing and distribution of releases which must be signed by the parents or guardian of each participant in the tryouts or who is a member of a team, whether in the city or participating communities.
- The Player Agent will arrange for and conduct the draft for each age group. Drafts are required only where there are two or more teams of the same age group in the community.
- Maintains a record of all participants drafted by each team during the draft.
- Must have on file a copy of each team roster and certify as to each player's eligibility before a team is permitted to begin league play. All participants must attend at least 50% of the player evaluations/tryouts to be eligible to be selected as a member of a team.
- Player evaluations are to be held in the spring. The draft will be held immediately following the player evaluations.
- The Player Agent and the League President of the league involved must approve all trades of players between teams. In addition, the Player Agent shall require a signed release form from the team managers and the parents or guardian of the player involved when the player is being traded to another team or released back to the draft process.

### **Umpire-in-Chief**

- Is responsible for securing and training an adequate number of persons to act as umpires and seeing that umpires are available for all regularly scheduled season and tournament games.
- Is responsible for the proper conduct of all umpires and must attend any Board or Committee meeting held in connection with any of their activities.
- Submits requests for payment of umpires and maintains a complete record of such payments.
- Must see that any equipment used by the umpires and belonging to Huntington County Baseball, Inc. is properly protected and any loss is promptly reported. Umpires' chest protectors, masks, and shin guards will be provided at each playing field by the organization in charge of the field. Shall assign umpires for Tournament and All-Star Tournaments subject to approval of league presidents.
- Is a member of the Appeals Committee, Should attend as many games as possible through out the season.

### **Director of Fundraising**

- Responsible for securing and presenting to the Board, competitive bids from manufacturers of distributors of products and for handling the purchase of products as directed by the Board.
- Will set up and supervise the distribution of products for sale and will maintain the necessary records thereof. Handles the return of any product not sold.

### **Director of Scheduling and Tournaments**

- Responsible for drafting a regular season playing schedule for all leagues.
- Works with league commissioners and league presidents in organizing all season ending tournament schedules.

### **Director of Marketing and Publicity**

- Responsible for all advertising as directed by the Board of Directors.
- Responsible for all press releases issued by HCB.
- Responsible for promoting our league within the local media as directed by the Board.
- Works with the Player Agent in developing publicity and press releases for registration for all leagues.
- Responsible for mailing inquiries to banner advertisers and schedule advertisers. Included in this area is securing artwork and arranging for any new banners to be created.
- Works with HCB treasurer in invoicing banner advertisers and schedule advertisers.

### **Director of Equipment and Inventory**

- Oversees all equipment gathering and inventory procedures for all teams.
- Works with league presidents in securing all league equipment at the conclusion of each season.
- After inventory is completed, will make a report to the Board including recommendations for equipment purchases.
- Works with vendors to secure bids on all equipment and will be responsible for ordering all equipment as approved by the Board of Directors.

### **Community Members-at-Large**

Each community connected with Huntington County Baseball, Inc. will be represented on the Board of Directors by a member-at-large. These members are primarily responsible for bringing before the Board those problems that are of particular interest to their community and to see that the policies adopted by the Board of Directors are carried out in their own area. Other responsibilities include:

- It is their responsibility to see that the fundraiser profits generated players from their community is used to benefit their program
- Responsible, jointly, with the Player Agent to see that adequate and properly conducted tryouts are held in their area for all eligible youth that desire to attend. These tryouts must be held prior to the City of Huntington's player evaluations.
- Responsible for providing approved ball diamond facilities in their community and provides competent umpires for all home games.
- To secure responsible managers and coaches for the leagues in which they have teams. These managers and coaches must be approved by the Board of Directors.

## **General Duties and Responsibilities of Team Managers, Coaches and Umpires**

### **Team Managers and Coaches**

The managers/coaches of HCB are considered the backbone of the leagues. They are responsible for teaching baseball skills, sportsmanship, citizenship, honesty, self-control, self-confidence, dedication, integrity, selflessness and team play. All managers and coaches must adhere to the following rules and regulations as set forth by the Board of Directors of HCB. These managers and coaches must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Manager and Coaches Rules and Regulations:

- 1) Managers and coaches must have the knowledge and ability to teach young people baseball/softball skills and fundamentals.
- 2) Managers and coaches must accept and follow HCB league rules. They must accept these rules and not promote dissension against the Board or the league as a whole.
- 3) Managers and coaches must demonstrate proper sportsmanship at all times. Their leadership in this area is critical in the development of sportsmanship to the youth of the league.
- 4) Managers and coaches must support all fundraising programs set forth by HCB Board of Directors.
- 5) Managers and coaches must see to it that all equipment is taken care of properly.
- 6) Managers and coaches must attend all manager/coaches meetings, called by their League President, or have a suitable representative attend called meeting, with approval of League President for replacement at meetings.
- 7) Managers and coaches must report to League Presidents weekly reports that are implemented by each League President.
- 8) Each manager is directly responsible to their League President and should take any concerns or problems to their own League President first, before talking to any other Board member.
- 9) Each manager may have two (2) assistant coaches and one (1) scorekeeper, approved by HCB Board of Directors, to assist them with their team. Only approved managers and coaches, listed on the official roster, will be permitted in the playing area during the playing of games unless authorized by league President or Home plate umpire. Adults are to be used as base coaches whenever possible.
- 10) Managers and coaches must attend all player evaluations involving league in which managing or coaching.
- 11) Managers are responsible for assigning three (3) adults to work in concession stand on assigned nights.
- 12) Managers are urged to take precautions to prevent protests.
- 13) Smoking or use of smokeless tobacco products will not be allowed during the playing of games. Managers and coaches are not allowed to stand outside the fence during playing of games for the purpose of smoking.
- 14) Managers and Coaches should remain within dugouts or playing area at all times once game has started. Exceptions: warming up pitchers, using restroom facilities.
- 15) NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE usage (or evidence of same) before, during or after the game while at any HCB game sites. Any detection of same by officials, Board members, or parents is reason for dismissal from HCB.
- 16) No manager or coach shall pull their team from the playing field for any reason except a called or completed game. Violation of this rule will result in the manager or coach being dismissed for the remainder of the season.
- 17) Any manager or coach ejected from a game will receive a one- (1) game suspension. Second ejection in same season will result in three- (3) game suspension. Third ejection in same season will result in dismissal from HCB.
- 18) Profane language by any manager or coach will not be tolerated at any time. Ejection will result for violations.
- 19) All suspensions will be served at next scheduled game.
- 20) The Executive Committee, without exception will suspend any manager or coach, trying to recruit any player or possible player, from the league.
- 21) Upon any suspension of a manager or coach by a league president, the suspended manager or coach has the right to an appeal before the HCB appeals committee. The appeal must be made in writing to the President of HCB within 48 hours of notification of the suspension. The appeals committee consists of the President of HCB, the baseball or softball commissioner of HCB, and the umpire-in-chief of HCB. The committee shall hear the appeal within seven calendar days, inclusive, of receipt of the written appeal. The league president issuing the suspension and suspended manager or coach will be allowed to make presentations before the appeals committee. The appeals committee will issue a final decision within 24 hours after the hearing.
- 22) Any deviation of any of these rules and regulations may result in the possible suspension of one (1) game. Second offense may result in the suspension of three (3) games. Third offense may result in the expulsion from HCB for a minimum of two (2) calendar years.

Statement of Acceptance:

I acknowledge that I have read the manager and coaches' rules and regulations set forth by the Huntington County Baseball Board of Directors. I accept the responsibilities of this position and any punishments rendered if I do not adhere to the rules and regulations set forth above. I also understand that my position may be evaluated on an annual basis and I must reapply to the HCB Board of Directors for approval each year.

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Team* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Name (Printed)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Phone* \_\_\_\_\_

## **Umpires**

Umpires come under the direction and control of the Umpire-in-Chief, with assistance from the League Presidents. They will be paid in accordance with the rates set forth by the Board of Directors on a bi-weekly basis. They will purchase their uniforms and other necessary equipment except for shin guards, chest protectors and masks.

Umpiring carries a number of responsibilities. Each umpire is expected to:

- Be familiar with the playing rules of all leagues in which they are working.
- Be on site of assigned game no less than twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled game time.
- Be in uniform when umpiring: a) approved HCB blue shirt, b) navy blue or black hat, c) ball bag, counter and plate brush.
- Must take complete control of games from beginning to end.
- Must not be afraid to confer with their partner and the managers to avoid protests of rules interpretations.
- Must refrain from criticizing, interfering with, or seeking to reverse a partner's decision except when asked by partner.
- Keep game moving at all times. Avoid long delays by teams walking on and off the field between innings. Allow the pitcher only five (5) warm-up pitches or one minute; whichever takes the least amount of time.

## **Huntington County Baseball, Inc. League Rules and Regulations**

### **Teams:**

- A. Each team will consist of twelve players whenever possible.
- B. A roster must be submitted by the team manager to their league president, at least five days before their first regularly scheduled game. Each roster will contain a listing of each player's full name, address, and phone number and date of birth.
- C. Trading of players between managers of teams in the same area or district will be permitted from the end of the season until prior to the first scheduled game the following season, inclusive, subject to the approval of the Player Agent and League President involved.

### **Players:**

- A. Each participant shall submit an application or release form to the Player Agent before trying out for any HCB league. This form must be signed by the participant's parents or legal guardian and must show their full name, address and date of birth and proof of insurance.
- B. In the event of a question as to the true age of any participant, the Player Agent may demand a birth certificate or school record before presenting the participant to the draft. In those communities where drafts are not required, the manager and the Board members from that community shall be responsible for resolving any questions concerning league age.
- C. Any player in any league of HCB, who uses profanity during a game, is to be ejected from the game without exception. The player will then be suspended for one additional game.
- D. All players will play within their age group. No Exceptions! The following table shows the ages and dates of eligibility for each of HCB's respective leagues:

<b>League</b>	<b>Eligibility Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Must be Age on or before Eligibility Date</b>	<b>May <u>not</u> be Age on Eligibility Date</b>
<u>Baseball</u>				
T-Ball (5&6)	May 1	Boy or Girl	5	7
Clemente (7&8)	May 1	Boy or Girl	7	9
Mays (9&10)	May 1	Boy or Girl	9	11
Reese (11&12)	May 1	Boy or Girl	11	13
Koufax (13 & 14)	May 1	Boy or Girl	13	15
Mantle (15 - 17)	May 1	Boy or Girl	15	18
<u>Softball</u>				
8U Softball (6-8)	Jan 1	Girl	6	9
11U Softball (9-11)	Jan 1	Girl	9	12
14U Softball (12-14)	Jan 1	Girl	12	15
17U Softball (15-17)	Jan 1	Girl	15	18

## **Player Draft for HCB Leagues:**

### **A. Choosing Players**

- 1) The team with the worst previous season record will have the first player selection or draft pick. The team with the second worst record will have the second player selection or draft pick and so on. If a tie exists, the head to head contest of the previous year will decide the tiebreaker. If a tie still exists, a coin flip will determine the sequence.
- 2) All eligible players will be taken from a bona-fide player evaluation, conducted by the Player Agent and/or League Presidents. The Player Agent may also assign players after the draft and will do so according to the draft sequence and current roster size.
- 3) A manager or coach who solicits players not present for the player evaluations and not appearing on the draft list, and adds them to their team roster without approval from the Player Agent and League President, may be relieved of their duties and not allowed to manage or coach in HCB.

### **B. The Draft**

- 1) The Player Agent and the League Presidents of Huntington County Baseball, Inc will conduct the draft.
- 2) Player selections must be made within two (2) minutes after preceding team selection. If a manager or representative does not select within the allotted time, the Player Agent will select a player for them.
- 3) If a manager or representative is not present for the draft, the respective League President will select players for them
- 4) Managers will ascertain the number of eligible returning players prior to the draft, and inform their league president who will, in turn, notify the Player Agent. If this is not accurately accomplished, final roster sizes may not be evenly or fairly adjusted.
- 5) Equalization of team size will take place at the end of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) round. When teams are all at equal size the draft will continue as stated in Section A. Choosing Players, 1).
- 6) Newly formed teams:
  - a. The manager or representative of a new team shall receive three (3) available players prior to the first round of the draft.
  - b. The manager shall then receive the last pick in the next two rounds, at which time they will be allowed to select enough players to bring their roster up to the level of the other teams.
  - c. After the proper roster size is achieved, the manager of the new team will again have the last pick in the remaining rounds.
- 7) Dropped Teams:
  - a. When it is determined by the Board of Directors to drop a team due to declining player participation or a sponsor does not renew their contract and another sponsor cannot be found, all eligible players on that team's roster will be instructed, by the Player Agent or League President, to attend the player evaluations.
  - b. Players will be selected through the draft process. No trades with previous managers will be allowed.
- 8) Unusual Losses of Players:
  - a. If, after a manager contacts their players from the previous year, it is determined by the Player Agent and League President that the team roster size is considerably less in total players than that of other teams, the team manager in question will be permitted to bring their roster size up to that of the league average.
  - b. This action will be accomplished after the completion of the second round and prior to the third round of the draft.

### **C. Player Selections**

- 1) Sons, daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of managers will be assigned to that respective team prior to the first round of the draft without forfeiture of a draft pick.
- 2) Brothers or sisters of players already on a roster will be assigned to the respective team without forfeiture of a draft pick.
- 3) Sons, daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of coaches, will be assigned to that team prior to the first round of the draft without forfeiture of a draft pick if that coach has been actively involved and officially recognized as a coach for that team for the previous two seasons. Second year coaches' sons, daughters, etc. are to be selected by the respective team manager as their first round pick. The League President and the Player Agent will be informed of these players prior to the beginning of the draft.
- 4) Selection of players for teams in any area where two or more teams of the same age group are to be formed must do so in accordance with the Player Selection Procedures set forth by the Board of Directors of HCB.

### **D. Player Evaluation Procedures:**

- 1) The Player Agent shall be responsible for advertising and conducting all player evaluations. The League Presidents will assist as necessary.

- 2) Separate player evaluations will be conducted for each league in the presence of all managers or representatives, who should observe the abilities of prospective players.
- 3) At a minimum, two player evaluation sessions will be held for all leagues.
- 4) Any player, who fails to attend at least one player evaluation session, will not be eligible to be drafted. They will be added to a team after the draft is completed.
- 5) Each candidate shall be afforded the opportunity to bat, throw, field and run in competition with their own age group.
- 6) Following player evaluations and prior to the draft, the Player Agent shall make a list, by age group, indicating the name of each eligible player. A copy of this list will be furnished to each manager or representative and the League President.
- 7) No eligible players shall be in attendance at the draft.

Miscellaneous

- A. If a player from the county is released after the city draft, the Player Agent according to the rule listed in Section I will assign them to a team. Once a player is released from a county team they may not play for another county team. Once being released, the player may come into the city and be placed on or drafted to a city team. Once this has been done, that player may not tryout for a county team again unless they move into a different district or change leagues. Special situations may occur at board discretion.
- B. The genuine purpose of the player evaluation and draft process is to afford the teams with the worst previous season records the opportunity to be competitive the following years. These rules are intended to protect the majority of managers and players and not a select few who violate them for personal gain.
- C. Where County tryouts are held, all siblings within the same league will be on the same team. You cannot choose to keep one or more siblings from a team without keeping all of them. You can choose to cut all siblings.

**Admission to Games:**

It is not the policy of Huntington County Baseball, Inc. to permit the charging of admission to any League games. Voluntary donations are welcome.

**Tournaments:**

Suitable tournaments or championship play-offs for all HCB leagues will be held at the conclusion of the regular season’s schedule. Special pitching rules for post-season games will be issued by the Board of Directors where deemed necessary. See [Tournament Rules](#)

**Pitching Rules:**

- A. During a calendar week, Sunday through Saturday, a player may pitch a maximum of:

League	Innings Per Game	Innings Per Week
<u>Baseball</u>		
T-Ball (5&6)	N/A	N/A
Clemente (7&8)	1	None
Mays (9&10)	3	6
Reese (11&12)	6	8
Koufax (13 & 14)	7	10
Mantle (15 - 17)	7	10
<u>Softball</u>		
8U Softball (6-8)	N/A	N/A
11U Softball (9-11)	3	None
14U Softball (12-14)	4	None
17U Softball (15-17)	4	None

- B. Delivery of one pitch will constitute having pitched one inning.
- C. Not more than five (5) pitching changes may be made in any one game. Starting pitcher is considered one of the five changes.
- D. Any innings pitched in games declared “no contest” or in suspended games shall count against a player’s available innings for that week.
- E. Violation of any section of this section **will** result in forfeiture of the game.
- F. If an ineligible pitcher is withdrawn, after being announced, but before they have pitched to a batter, it will not be considered a violation.

**Pitching Rules (cont):**

- G. Intentional walks will be handled by just putting the batter on base by defensive Manager or Coach. You do not have to pitch four (4) balls.
- H. Coaches/Managers are only allowed one trip per inning without being required to remove their pitcher. A pitching change is not considered a trip.

**Special Games:**

- A. Unless expressly authorized by the Board of Directors of Huntington County Baseball, Inc., games played for any purpose other than to establish a league champion or as part of an authorized tournament, are prohibited.
- B. Practice games may be played between HCB teams only after the draft and before opening of the regular season games.
- C. In the event of a play-off game or games, such play-off shall be considered separate from the regularly scheduled games and all pitchers of the contending teams shall have all eligibility to pitch the same as the beginning of the calendar week.

**Inning/Time Limits:**

- A. All games, including doubleheader games, have time limits. There shall be NO EXCEPTIONS
- B. Games shall begin with the home plate umpire providing the official start time to each team manager
- C. An inning is deemed to start immediately upon completion of the final out of the preceding inning.
- D. In the case of a weather-shortened game, the game will be deemed complete after 4 innings for 6 inning games and 5 innings for 7 inning games. See [Regulation, Tie, and Suspended Games](#)
- E. The following table references the various inning and time limits along with the mercy run rules by league:

League	Innings Per Game	Mercy Run Rule (After Inning)			Time Limit
		3	4	5	
<u>Baseball</u>					
T-Ball (5&6)	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 Hour <sup>a</sup>
Clemente (7&8)	6	15	10		2 Hours
Mays (9&10)	6	15	10		2 Hours
Reese (11&12)	6	15	10		2 Hours
Koufax (13 & 14)	7	20	15	10	2 Hours
Mantle (15 - 17)	7	20	15	10	2 Hours
<u>Softball</u>					
8U Softball (6-8)	6	10			1 Hour 30 min <sup>b</sup>
11U Softball (9-11)	6	15	10		1 Hour 30 min
14U Softball (12-14)	7	20	15	10	1 Hour 30 min
17U Softball (15-17)	7	20	15	10	1 Hour 30 min
a. No new inning may begin after 50 minutes					
b. No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes					

## Ground Rules:

Ground rules for each field used for games in HCB, shall be published by Huntington County Baseball, Inc. and made available to all managers, coaches and umpires before the start of the season.

The person in charge of maintaining the field, thirty minutes prior to the game starts shall determine the fitness of the playing field. After that, a League President or other designee will determine if at the site.

The following table represents how each of the fields will be set up for play by league:

League	Bases	Pitching Distance From Plate
<u>Baseball</u>		
T-Ball (5&6)	60 Feet	40 Feet
Clemente (7&8)	60 Feet	40 Feet
Mays (9&10)	60 Feet	46 Feet
Reese (11&12)	70 Feet	50 Feet 6 Inches
Koufax (13 & 14)	80 Feet	54 Feet
Mantle (15 - 17)	90 Feet	60 Feet 6 Inches
<u>Softball</u>		
8U Softball (6-8)	60 Feet	40 Feet
11U Softball (9-11)	60 Feet	35 Feet
14U Softball (12-14)	60 Feet	40 Feet
17U Softball (15-17)	60 Feet	43 Feet

## Playing Rules for Huntington County Baseball, Inc.:

All Huntington County Baseball, Inc. leagues will be governed by the current baseball playing rules as published by the High School Rule Book, with the following exceptions and subject to any further revisions as made from time to time by the Board of Directors of Huntington County Baseball, Inc.

### Minimum Play and Roster Rules:

All players in HCB Leagues must play at least two (2) complete innings and bat one time<sup>1</sup>. If a shortened game is played and a player does not meet the minimum playing standards, that player must start the next game and play their minimum two (2) complete innings and bat one time. If in a complete game is played and the manager has not made an effort to meet the minimum playing standards for all their players, the manager may be suspended for one (1) game by the League President, of their League, and the player(s) in question will start the next game and play their minimum standards. The team manager may waive this penalty should the player not abide by HCB and/or team rules<sup>2</sup> as presented to the League President. This rule applies only to regular season games. See [Tournament Rules](#). Teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players at their scheduled start time to start a game and a minimum of eight (8) players on the field to continue play. Forfeiture of game will result if these minimums are not met. An out will be taken for the absent ninth player somewhere in the batting order. This position is up to Manager of team with eight players if starting game with only eight players. The out will be taken in the batting position of a player that is ejected or leaves the game for any reason other than injury or mandatory school function leaving said team to finish with only eight players. If ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) player shows up, they may enter game in top of inning only and must be entered into lineup in open spot in batting order and reported to opposing team manager before entry into game.

If a player is injured or otherwise indisposed; Manager/Coach may take an out when that player's next turn at bat comes up if they want the option to return that player to the game at a later time. If the Manager/coach chooses not to take an out, then that player may not return. If an injured player is unable to run the bases, the last person to make an out takes his/her place.

<sup>1</sup> For those leagues referencing a rolling lineup – All players present are entered into the batting order and free defensive substitution is allowed.

<sup>2</sup> All team managers must furnish team rules to each player and to the League President prior to the season.

### Equipment:

Each player is furnished with a uniform consisting of an approved HCB hat, team shirt and pants or shorts. Players **must** wear the **HCB provided uniform**. Black or grey baseball pants may be substituted for league provided shorts in girl's softball leagues. Sliding shorts or leg guards are recommended for girls wearing shorts.

They must furnish their own shoes, glove and any other equipment. Each team will be furnished batting helmets and catcher's gear, including catcher's mitt (baseball only).

**Protective batting helmets** provided each team shall be worn by all batters, batters in the on-deck circle<sup>3</sup> and base runners. Runners shall not intentionally shake their helmets off. A warning will be issued the first time, with an out call on the second offense. Softball also requires helmets to have protective face mask.

The **catchers** must wear a special protective helmet with ear guards and a mask with throat guard. This includes any player warming up the pitcher between innings or in the bullpen. Catchers for T-Ball and 8U softball are required to wear a protective batting helmet only.

The use of a **protective cup-supporter** is required by any player pitching or catching in all baseball leagues Clemente (7&8 year olds) and older. The home plate umpire will enforce this rule. All infielders are encouraged to wear protective cup-supporters as well.

Players may not wear **jewelry** during any HCB practice or game.

<sup>3</sup> The on-deck batter shall be the only player other than defensive players and player-coaches, in their designated areas, out of the dugout in the playing area.

### Slide/Collision Avoidance rule:

#### ***Sliding is not mandatory.***

Any runner at any base where the ball is in the glove (in possession) of the fielder and he/she is attempting to make a tag, **THE RUNNER MUST SLIDE OR ATTEMPT TO AVOID A COLLISION WITH A FIELDER**. If not, the runner is declared out. It should be noted that a fielder while **NOT** in possession of the ball and not attempting to field the ball, may be guilty of obstruction if that fielder impedes the progress of a runner. It is entirely up to the judgement of the umpire as to whether a fielder is in the act of obstructing a runner.

If contact of a malicious nature is made, the runner shall be called out and ejected from the game immediately. A one game suspension will follow and be served at the next scheduled game.

Head first slides are only allowed in the Koufax and Mantle baseball leagues. Runners in other leagues will be called out. Diving back to a base does not constitute a head first slide.

Head first slides at home plate are not allowed in any league. Runner will be called out.

### T-Ball League Rules:

- 1) Play stops when the ball passes throughout the plane of the circle, unless that player without hesitation makes a play on the opposing team. This is at the discretion of the umpires.
- 2) If the batter should throw the bat, a warning will be issued on the first offense. On the second offense by the same batter the batter will be called out.
- 3) There shall be no infield fly rule.
- 4) All players shall hit every inning.
- 5) Each team shall have all players on defense.
- 6) All base runners have the option of advancing one base on a hit back to the pitcher if the pitcher chooses not to make the play.
- 7) A line will be drawn seven feet from the back part of home plate in a semi-circle from both foul lines in fair territory. A batted ball will be declared foul if the ball does not go outside this circle.
- 8) Bat size is limited to 28 inches or smaller.
- 9) No bunting, base stealing, sliding or lead offs are allowed.
- 10) The League President will select teams. Whenever possible an equal number of five and six year olds will be placed on a team.
- 11) Outfielders must have both feet behind the bases until the ball is hit.
- 12) Infielders must have both feet behind the direct line between first and third base until the ball is hit. This does not include the pitcher or catcher.
- 13) Only two coaches should be on the field on defense if possible.
- 14) A coach, at their discretion, may choose to pitch to a batter in lieu of using a tee. That batter must use the tee if the ball has not been put into play after 4 pitches.

#### Clemente League (7&8 year olds) Rules:

- 1) [Rolling lineup](#) is used with free substitution.
- 2) Each team will have ten (10) defensive players on the field (four outfielders).
- 3) Each inning will consist of three (3) outs or ten (10) batters, whichever comes first (no batter may bat more than once per inning). See [Time limit/mercy rules](#)
- 4) On the last batter of the inning, the play is deemed over once the lead runner is stopped or the third out is made. Force out is in effect on the lead runner on the last batter. For example, if there is a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and the last batter hits the ball to the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman, the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman may step on 3<sup>rd</sup> base to end the inning.
- 5) Pitching will be as follows: Coach pitching 1<sup>st</sup> three (3) innings and players pitching remaining three (3) innings. See [Pitching rules](#)
- 6) Safety balls will be used at all times.
- 7) Bat length shall not exceed 32 inches and not have a diameter larger than 2 ¼ inches.
- 8) No more than six (6) pitches to hitter by coach.
- 9) No strikeouts by coach. If sixth pitch is fouled off, one (1) more pitch only.
- 10) After a batter has received five (5) balls, they will be awarded first base, with player pitching only.
- 11) No base stealing will be allowed.
- 12) No advancing on passed balls.
- 13) No balks in Clemente League.
- 14) No player shall sit more than one (1) consecutive inning at a time – See [Playing rules](#)
- 15) If the catcher drops the third strike, the batter shall be out.
- 16) Once a pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning, that pitcher must be removed from the mound.
- 17) If the game goes into extra innings, the players will continue to pitch during those extra innings.
- 18) No infield fly rule.
- 19) The pitcher must stand in the pitching area during coach's pitch.
- 20) A Courtesy runner for the Catcher with 2 outs will be allowed. ***You must use the last person to make an out as the courtesy runner.***

#### Mays League (9&10 year olds) Rules:

- 1) When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's rubber, with the ball in their possession, and the catcher is in their box ready to receive delivery of the ball, any base runner who leaves their base before the ball has been delivered and reaches the batter, shall be declared out. It is an immediate dead ball, with no pitch recorded.
- 2) The following equipment rules shall apply:
  - A. Balls may be of any manufacturer approved by HCB Board and need not be Official High School.
  - B. The bat length shall not exceed 32 inches and not have a diameter larger than 2 ¼ inches.
  - C. If the catcher drops the third strike, the batter shall be out.
- 3) See [Pitching rules](#)
- 4) A Courtesy runner for the Catcher with 2 outs will be allowed. ***You must use the last person to make an out as the courtesy runner.***
- 5) [Rolling lineup](#) is used with free substitution.

#### Reese League (11&12 year olds) Rules:

- 1) A Courtesy runner for the Catcher with 2 outs will be allowed. ***You must use the last person to make an out as the courtesy runner.***
- 2) [Rolling lineup](#) is used with free substitution.

#### Koufax League (13&14 year olds) Rules:

- 1) See [Pitching rules](#)
- 2) A Courtesy runner for the Catcher with 2 outs will be allowed. ***You must use the last person to make an out as the courtesy runner.***
- 3) See [Time limit/mercy rules](#)
- 4) [Rolling lineup](#) is used with free substitution.

Mantle League (15 thru 17 year olds) Rules:

- 1) Will follow High School Rule Book with the HCB, Inc. mentioned exceptions.
- 2) See [Pitching rules](#)
- 3) A Courtesy runner for the Catcher with 2 outs will be allowed. ***You must use the last person to make an out as the courtesy runner.***
- 4) See [Time limit/mercy rules](#)
- 5) [Rolling lineup](#) is used with free substitution.

Softball 8U (6 thru 8 year olds) Rules:

- 1) Coaches will umpire the game.
- 2) Score will be kept; a game ending in a tie remains a tie.
- 3) If a game is called by rain before 4 innings are played, the game picks up where it was left off.
- 4) Each team will be limited to 10 batters per inning or 3 outs. No batter may bat more than once per inning. On the last batter of the inning, the play is deemed over once the lead runner is stopped or the third out is made. Force out is in effect on the lead runner on the last batter. For example, if there is a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and the last batter hits the ball to the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman, the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman may step on 3<sup>rd</sup> base to end the inning.
- 5) Each team will field 11 players, but must field a minimum of 8 players to start the game. There will be 5 outfielders instead of 4.
- 6) [Rolling lineup](#) is used with free substitution.
- 7) Two defensive coaches are permitted on the field, but must stay behind the baseline out of the players' way.
- 8) Pitching coach may not stand closer than 25 feet from home plate.
- 9) Over-hand pitching is not permitted.
- 10) Each batter will get 6 attempts to put the ball in play. It will be the Coaches Choice as to how a batter attempts to hit, either by pitches thrown from adult coach or off of a tee. Once the tee has been selected then coaches' pitching may not be attempted during that at bat. An attempt is defined as either a pitch from the coach or a swing at the ball on the tee. Three missed swings will be a strike out. Foul ball on the 6th attempt entitles batter to a 7th and final attempt. This attempt must be hit fair or batter is out.
- 11) Player in pitching position will have to stand behind the adult who is pitching or with one foot of the 40' pitching rubber.
- 12) An unavoidable hit ball that hits the pitching coach will be called a dead ball and no pitch, no runners may advance.
- 13) The following playing rules apply in this league:
  - a. There shall be no stealing
  - b. There shall be no infield fly rule called
  - c. There shall be no sliding into first base nor there head first sliding at any base.
- 14) Base runner struck by a fair ball is out.
- 15) With an overthrow, runners may advance only one base.
- 16) A base runner less than ½ way between bases at the time defense gains control of the ball in the infield must retreat back to the closest base upon infield defensive ball control. The runner may be tagged out during this retreat.
- 17) A base runner more than ½ way between bases at the time defense gains control of the ball in the infield, may attempt to advance to the next base at her own risk of getting tagged out.
- 18) A play is dead when the defensive team has control of the ball in the infield and all runners have settled on a base.
- 19) No infield fly rule.
- 20) A Courtesy runner for the Catcher with 2 outs will be allowed. ***You must use the last person to make an out as the courtesy runner.***

Softball 11U (9 thru 11 year olds) Rules:

- 1) See [Time limit/mercy rules](#)
- 2) No metal cleats
- 3) [Rolling lineup](#) is used with free substitution.
- 4) 11" balls will be used
- 5) Pitchers must begin with the pivot foot on the rubber; the non-pivot foot may be on or behind the pitching rubber. Pitchers may step back before hands are placed together. Hands set for at least one second – no more than ten at any time during the motion (High school rules)
- 6) There is no dropped third strike rule
- 7) Infield fly rule applies
- 8) Runners may leave base once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand
- 9) Runners may have unlimited opportunity to advance
- 10) There will be a maximum of 6 runs scored each ½ inning – except for the last inning where there would be no limit. In all other innings the 6<sup>th</sup> run ends the ½ inning. Runners left on base after the 6<sup>th</sup> run do not score – the at bat is over.
- 11) Courtesy runners for catchers may be used when there are two outs by player making the last out (at coach's discretion.)
- 12) 10 players on the field – 4 outfielders

Softball 14U (12 thru 14 year olds) & 17U (15 thru 17 year olds) Rules:

ASA rules will apply with the following league rules exceptions:

- 1) [Rolling lineup](#) is used with free substitution.
- 2) See [Time limit/mercy rules](#)
- 3) 12" softballs will be used.
- 4) No metal cleats are allowed.
- 5) See [Pitching rules](#)
- 6) Runners may leave base once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- 7) Runners may have unlimited opportunity to advance.
- 8) Pitchers must begin with the pivot foot on the rubber; the non-pivot foot may be on or behind the pitching rubber. Pitchers may step back before hands are placed together. Hands set for at least one second – no more than ten at any time during the motion (High school rules).
- 9) Courtesy runners for catchers may be used when there are two outs by the player making the last out (at coach's discretion.)
- 10) Dropped third strike rule applies.
- 11) Infield fly rule applies.
- 12) 9 players on the field – 3 outfielders.

## **Regulation, Tie and Suspended Games**

A regular game in the Clemente, Mays, Reese, 8U softball and 11U softball leagues is six innings; in Koufax, Mantle, 14U softball and 17U softball leagues it is seven innings. A regulation game in T-ball consists of 5 innings or one hour whichever comes first. See [Time limit/mercy rules](#)

If a regular season game is suspended after three and one half or four innings in Clemente, Mays, Reese, 8U softball and 11U softball leagues, it will be considered a complete game. In Koufax, Mantle, 14U softball and 17U softball leagues, four and one half or five innings will constitute a complete game if suspended.

The umpires and/or League Presidents, because of weather, darkness or the stated time limit can suspend any regular scheduled game or tournament game. The suspended game will resume at the exact point of suspension and must be completed at a scheduled time agreeable to both managers and their league president if enough innings for a complete game has not been reached. The same players should be used if possible to complete the game as long as the same line-up does not violate the number of innings limit for a pitcher during a calendar week. In the event a player in the original line-up at the time of suspension is injured or on vacation, a substitute may be used to complete the game.

The home plate umpire, if in their judgment, determined that, for safety of the players, the lights need to be turned on, may do so at any time during the game.

## **Postponed Games**

Any games rained out are expected to be made up no later than the following Saturday, weather permitting, or the next available date. The league president shall be responsible for rescheduling rainout games. Failure to field a team for the rescheduled rainout game could result in a forfeit.

## **Protests and Complaints**

Protests are not permitted on plays involving only an umpire's judgment. **Protests on interpretation of rules must be filed verbally with the umpire in charge of the game and with the opposing manager at the time of the occurrence. It must then be made in writing to the League President within 24 hours. A protest fee of \$20.00 cash must accompany the written protest.**

Protests received by the League Presidents must be turned over to the Commissioner at once. If the protest is disallowed, the league will retain the protest fee. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned to the protesting manager.

Protests on the use of an ineligible player must be made before the final out of the game.

Complaints regarding any other phase of the operation of Huntington County Baseball, Inc., may be made in person or in writing directly to the Board of Directors.

## **Tournament and Tournament Rules**

### **Baseball**

The type of post-season tournament or play-off times and playing sites, as well as any special playing rules to apply is determined by the Board of Directors.

Generally, the followed rules will apply to all league tournaments or post-season play-offs, unless changed by the Board of Directors:

- 1) All pitchers will be eligible at the start of the tournament.
  - a) Tournament pitching rules will be the same as the regular season pitching rules.
- 2) No protests will be permitted. All questions must be settled before the game proceeds.
- 3) Games will consist of same # of innings as in regular season. See [Time limit/mercy rules](#). Games tied after time limit will continue until one team wins.
- 4) Huntington County Baseball, Inc will furnish all umpires for tournament games.
- 5) All game balls will be provided by HCB and will be returned to the league officials upon completion of the games.
- 6) Appropriate league presidents or their assistants will assist the game umpires with any protests or complaints during all tournament games.
- 7) All HCB tournaments will be double elimination format.
- 8) All leagues will play the tournament the same as the regular season in regards to playing rules for players.
- 9) Pitching forms indicating the number of innings pitched must be signed by both managers and the home plate umpire and turned into the league president after each tournament game.
- 10) In a non-shortened tournament game, violation of the minimum play rule will result in a forfeit. This violation must be brought to the umpire's and violating coach's attention prior to the last out of the game.
- 11) The home team will be determined by the higher seed for all tournament games.

### **Softball**

- 1) Games will consist of same # of innings as in regular season. See [Time limit/mercy rules](#). Games tied after time limit will continue until one team wins.
- 2) Seeding for the tournament will be based on the standings at the end of the season.
  - a. If two teams are tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place teams will be seeded as follows:
    1. Head to head record
    2. Total runs scored between the two teams
    3. Coin toss
- 3) The home team will be determined by the higher seed for all tournament games.

***\*\*REVISION DATE IS FEBRUARY 2010***

## **Huntington County Baseball Boundaries as of February 17, 2010**

**Andrews Player:** Starting at the intersection of County Road 1000 West and 1200 South, includes all eligible players east of County Road 1000 West in Huntington County, going north to County Road 700 North, then south of County Road 700 North going east to County Road 600 West, then west of County Road 600 West going south to State Road 16, then north of State Road 16 going west to County Road 635 West, then west of 635 West going south to 500 North, then south of 500 North going east to Rangeline Road, then west of Rangeline Road going south to US 24, then south of US 24 going east to State Road 9 bypass, then west of State Road 9 going south to County Road 1200 South, then north of County Road 1200 South going west to County Road 1000 West (point of beginning) .

**Clear Creek Player:** Starting at the intersection of County Road 1000 West and 700 North, includes all eligible players east of County Road 1000 West in Huntington County, going north to South of State Road 114), then south of State Road 114 going east to Meridian Road, then west of Meridian Road going south to County Road 600 North (also known as State Road 16), then north of State Road 16 going west to 600 West, then east of 600 West going north to 700 North, then north of 700 North going west to 1000 West (point of beginning).

**Huntington City Player:** Starting at the intersection of 600 West and 500 North, includes all eligible players east of 600 West going south to 500 North, then north of 500 North to Rangeline Road, then east of Rangeline Road going south to US 24, then north of US 24 going east to State Road 9 Bypass, then east of State Road 9 going south to 600 South (also known as State Road 124), then north of State Road 124 going east to I-69, then west of I-69 going north to 300 North, then south of 300 North going west to 200 East, then west of 200 East going north to US 24 then west of Meridian going north to 600 North, then south of 600 North to 600 West (point of beginning).

**Roanoke Player:** Starting at the intersection of Meridian Road and State Road 16, includes all eligible players east of Meridian Road going south to State Road 16 (also known as 600 North), then north of State Road 16 going east to County Road 200 East, then west of County Road 200 East going south to County Road 300 North, then north of County Road 300 North going east to County Road 600 East, then west of County Road 600 East going north to County Road 1200 North (also known as State Road 114), then south of State Road 114 going west to Meridian Road (point of beginning).

**Warren Player:** Starting at the intersection of State Road 9 and 1200 South, includes all eligible players east of State Road 9 going south to County Road 1200 South, then north of County Road 1200 South going east to County Road 600 East, then west of County Road 600 East going north to County Road 300 North, then south of 300 North going west to Interstate 69 (I-69), then East of I-69 south to County Road 600 South (also known as State Road 124), then south of State Road 124 going west to State Road 9 (point of beginning). If Warren cannot fill a team, then player will automatically become a Huntington City Player.