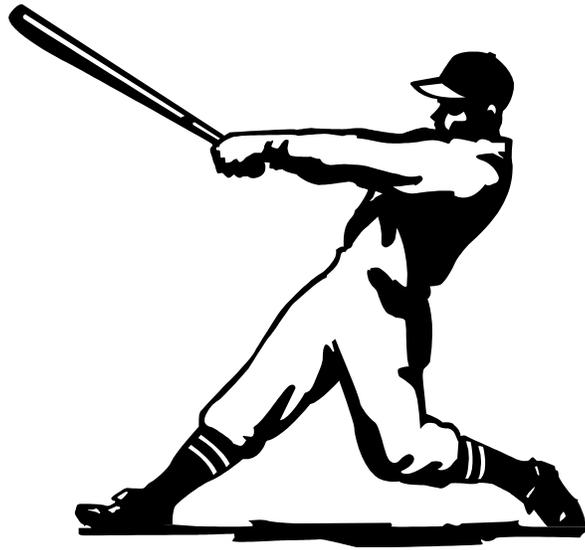


Hudson Youth Baseball Minor League Information



Revised/Approved on: 03/13/2012, Rev 8

For all the latest Minor League news and team information visit our website at:
<http://www.eteamz.com/hybs>

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VISION STATEMENT

Cal Ripken, Jr. and Babe Ruth League have always shared a common vision: To provide every youngster the opportunity to play baseball and have fun. Teaching them to play "The Ripken Way" will assure the accomplishment of that goal.

GOALS

"It's our goal that each youngster who plays in the Cal Ripken Baseball Division will not only learn the basics of the game, but will also experience the same level of excitement Cal Ripken felt every day he put on his uniform to get ready to play. There's nothing else like it!"

OBJECTIVES

The Babe Ruth Baseball and Cal Ripken programs, above all, are of, by and for youth. It especially tries to make better citizens through proper supervision of regulation competitive baseball in addition to promoting mental and physical development. In adopting rules, in establishing standards and in all planning, the primary consideration is the welfare of the participants.

What the players will learn

Hitting

Players will learn to use their hitting skills they have acquired over the past years and apply them to live pitching.

Running

Player will learn to steal bases and proper advancement to 2nd or 3rd base on a passed ball/wild pitch.

Throwing

Players will learn to use the cut offs and proper footing when fielding fly balls.

Fielding

Players will learn to assess each play and react accordingly to the current situation. The focus will be on positional play.

GUIDELINES

Coaches and parents are looked upon as role models. Coaches and parents are to refrain from cursing, arguing or making negative comments about players, coaches or teams. Coaches and parents are expected to conduct themselves properly and promote good sportsmanship at all times. Coaches are to refrain from smoking in front of players.

Sore winners look as bad as sore losers. Players will not be allowed to “rub it in” when another player does not make a good play.

Players must be in full uniform and wear their uniforms (including hats) correctly at all times. Shirts must be tucked in and hats must face forward (not backwards, sideways or inside-out).

Parents, coaches, players and spectators must abide by the “Code of Conduct” guidelines.

NO SMOKING & NO DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY ANYONE IN THE BENCH AREA DURING GAMES

FIELDS

Practices will be held on our fields on the teams scheduled days. The league director must approve usage of other fields and time slots.

Teams must clean up their bench area, equipment after every practice and game. No food is allowed on the benches during the game, only water bottles (or other beverage containers) are allowed. Players are not allowed to climb the fences or dugouts.

Managers and Coaches are responsible for retuning all bases, training equipment to their proper locations. They will also be responsible for raking the infield and cleaning out the base mounts and inserting the base plugs after every practice and game.

Hudson Youth Baseball Rules

Note: ALL CAL RIPKEN LEAGUE RULES APPLY EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) CONCESSION STAND RULE ADOPTED “2002” - Home team must provide one **PARENT** to work the concession stand per home game, failure to do so **WILL** result in a forfeit. Parents may take shifts in order to watch some of the game. No children are allowed in the concession stand.
- 2) To be eligible each player must not be 11 before or on April 30 of the upcoming year, the Minor league is the first introduction to kid pitch and is generally comprised of 9 year olds, with 10’s who have never played baseball. Also those players seen as 8 year olds as a younger player but school grade level in the same grade as older players. See Division Player Qualification Criteria document for further details
- 3) **The coaching staff** will consist of one manager and two coaches. No more than three adults are allowed in the dugout or bench area during games. All coaches must file a CORI form to become part of the coaching staff.
- 4) No parent or siblings may be on the field at anytime unless a coach has requested those individuals to come on the field (**e.g. when an injury occurs**). The field is considered the dugout area as well. If during the season the coaching staff requires additional assistants those assistants must file a CORI.
- 5) No trading of players is allowed. If a player quits or gets injured once the team has been picked or during the season, the Director may fill the roster slot with a player from the Rookie League.

- 6) Rainouts are left to the discretion of HYBS president. All attempts will be made to notify the league of cancellations two hours prior to game time (if possible). Coaches should inform their players and parent to visit our website or call the HYBS main line on days in question. If the league has been issued no notification the game will be considered on. League director will decide on make-up game dates. The league director is to be informed on a scheduled make-up so that other coaches can be advised to leave the field open.
- 7) Game dates, time and locations are listed on the Minor League Schedule.
- 8) Six (6) inning games, subjective to weather and daylight
- 9) Minimum of eight (8) players will constitute a full team. If a team is unable to field a sufficient number of players at starting time, the team will forfeit the game. Use of players other than those on the official team roster or those loaned from the opposing team is not allowed.
 - A sportsmanship game will be played by all attending players following the same rules and guidelines of an official game. Under these conditions it's not about winning, it's about playing time.
- 10) There will be no Jewelry allowed what so ever, all necklaces and ear rings should be removed prior to taking the field for practice and games, this also includes elastic style wrist bands, the only exception is to be medically necessary identification.
- 11) NO METAL SPIKES ARE ALLOWED.
- 12) **Official/Completed Game:** Three and one-half (3 ½) innings completed with the home team ahead, or four (4) full innings with the home team behind will be considered a complete game in the event that a game is "called" due to darkness, weather, etc. Any inning played beyond this and not completed, the score will revert back to the previous full inning. Example: Score is tied after 4 complete innings. Visitors take the lead in the Top of the 5th. While home team is at bat in the bottom of the 5th, ump calls the game due to rain. Result: The 5th inning never happened. The score was tied after 4 full innings. 4 full innings is considered a complete game, so the game ends in a tie.
- 13) **Suspended Games:** If a game needs to be stopped due to weather or darkness before a complete game is played, the game will restart at a later date. When the restarted game is played, it will start exactly where the game was stopped including the player at bat, balls, strikes and outs. Example: Ump calls the game in the 2nd inning. This does not meet the complete game standard, so the game is suspended and picked up from this exact point when the makeup is scheduled. Both coaches should note their scorebooks accordingly. It is the responsibility of the two managers to contact the league director with the rescheduled date. Games will be made up during practice slots at the next available day, Memorial Day Weekend will also be used as make up slots. Games will be made up as soon as the schedule allows, umpire scheduling will need to be taken into consideration. Rescheduled game must be made up within (7) calendar days.
- 14) When a coach knows that he will be missing players, which may result in a forfeit, that coach must contact the League Director.
- 15) A coach wishing to reschedule a game may do so once the approval of the opposing head coach and the league director agree. This should be done at the next available practice days and as the umpire schedule allows. If the head coaches cannot agree on a new date, the league director will make the final decision.
- 16) Games, date and fields are listed on the Official League calendar. Only the Director can change this schedule.

- 17) Rainouts are left to the discretion of HYBS president. All attempts will be made to notify the league of cancellations two hours prior to game time (if possible). Coaches should inform their players and parent to visit our website or call the HYBS main line on days in question. If the league has issued no notification the game will be considered on. League director will decide on make-up game dates. Games will be made up during practice slots at the next available practice day, Memorial Day Weekend will also be used as make up slots. Games will be made up as soon as the schedule allows, umpire scheduling will need to be taken into consideration. The league director is to be informed on a scheduled make-up so that other coaches can be advised to leave the field open
- 18) A Game may be **protested** when a coach believes an umpire has misunderstood a rule. An effort must be made by the umpire to clarify a ruling for the coach. If the coach still disagrees with the rule interpretation, that game is under protest from the point of dispute. The game is to be completed. If at the end of the contest the game is still under protest, it will be reported to the League Director and Head Umpire within 24 hours. League officials will make a decision and report back to the coaches. at the time of the protest everything must be noted; pitcher, batter, batter's count, runners base position, number of outs.
- 19) Under **NO** circumstances may a coach or a player dispute a ball, strike, out, safe, fair or foul ruling by the umpire. Any show of poor sportsmanship may result in expulsion from the game.
- 20) Stopping and postponing of games due to field conditions of lightning is the total responsibility of the umpire.
- 21) Games during the regular season can end in a tie.
- 22) League standings will be based on 2 points for win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for loss. If there is a tie for a standing the tie breaker will be head-to-head between the teams, if still a tie then runs against for the season, if still a tie then run differential between the games played between the tied teams. A combination of the above items may need to apply if there are 3-way ties or more.
- 23) **Game Duration.** No new inning can begin 1 hour and 45 minutes (1:45) from the scheduled start. Note, "scheduled start" is the time the game was supposed to begin per the schedule, not the actual start time. The 1:45 game duration standard can instead be applied to actual start time (rather than scheduled start time) only if the start is delayed by weather or other league-sanctioned delay (and not by a delay caused by either of the two teams). Makeup games, regardless of the day/time scheduled, will also adhere to this game duration rule.
- 24) Batting Helmets and Bats:
- a) Batting helmets with approved face guards **MUST BE WORN** by: (1) on deck batter, (2) batter, (3) all base runners, (4) any player coaching bases.
 - b) **ANY PLAYER REFUSING TO WEAR APPROVED HELMET CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY.**
 - c) Cal Ripken – Babe Ruth / Little league-approved 2 ¼ baseball bat will be allowed. **A PLAYER CAUGHT USING AN ILLEGAL BAT WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY CALLED OUT. THE UMPIRE MUST DO THIS BEFORE THE FIRST PITCH IS THROWN TO THE NEXT BATTER.** If there is a second infraction, the player will be tossed out of the game.
- 26) Athletic protective cup **MUST BE WORN** by all catchers.
- 27) NO METAL SPIKES ARE ALLOWED.
- 28) Distance from pitching rubber to home plate will be 45'0"; pitcher may not pitch from anything else.
- 29) **PITCHING:** Any player may pitch up to two continuous innings in one game. An inning is defined as one pitch thrown from the pitcher's mound even as a warm up. Any player once removed from the

pitcher's position cannot return as a pitcher. If a pitcher hits (2) batters in a game, and player safety is an umpire concern, the umpire may instruct the coach to remove the pitcher. No intentional walks are allowed. To expedite games, four (4) consecutive walks by the same pitcher in the same inning will require that pitcher's removal. Pitching allowances described in this section shall never take priority over the substitution and playing time rules.

30) **SUBSTITUTIONS:** No player will sit twice until every player has sat once. By the end of the fourth inning, all players must have played a minimum of two (2) innings; by the end of the sixth inning, all players must have played at least four (4) innings. Each player must play a minimum of two (2) innings in the infield and two (2) innings in the outfield. These requirements apply weather permitting. Coaches will exchange a "player position plan & batter order" sheet (template on HYBS website) prior to the start of each game. Free substitution-players may be taken out or re-entered into a game at anytime, except for pitcher, which has specific governing rules.

31) **COURTESY RUNNER FOR CATCHER:** When there are two outs and the player who will play C the next inning is on base, the offense shall substitute that runner for the last player who made an out.

32) **Base-Stealing & Catchers**

- a. **Stealing:** The runner on 1st base may ONLY steal 2nd after the pitch has passed home plate. If the Runner leaves early, the Runner will be forced to return to the base if the base is unoccupied. It will not force a batter to return if he has hit the ball and reached safely. The runner will only be given the next base if the umpire rules that base he would have earned on the hit.
- b. **On a steal, NO extra bases may be taken by a runner on an overthrow by the catcher.** Delayed steals are not allowed. However the runner can advance at his own risk from 1st to 2nd if the ball has not returned to the pitcher on the rubber by the catcher after the batter was walked on ball four.
- c. **Picking player off:** One base may be taken with the risk of being put out on an overthrow by the catcher or any player when **attempting to pick off** a runner on base.
- d. **Pass Ball Line:** Line will be drawn from the umpire toward the fence on some angle. Catcher blocking the ball and keeping the ball in front of the line will cause a base runner stealing from 2nd to 3rd or 3rd to home to revert back to their previous base unless the player gets put out in which case the out would stand.

32) **SLIDING RULE:**

Base runner is required to slide anytime there is a play at the base. No sliding into first base. No head first sliding is permitted except for runners that are returning to a base from a lead or from an overrun. Penalty will be a dead ball out. Whether there is a play at the base is dependent solely on the judgment of the umpire.

33) **Batting:** Batting must be consecutive – for example: if 12 players are on a team, all will bat in order, regardless of whether or not they are playing in the field.

Late arriving players will be placed at the end of the batting order or before any batter that has not already been up to bat in the order. If all batters have batted and a player shows up late that player will be placed at the end of the batting order regardless of where the team is at in their batting order. Coaches will notify the opposing team of late arrivals and where they are being placed in the order.

Bunting

- a) There will be NO slash bunting. If this occurs, batter will be automatically called OUT.

- 34) **Fielding:** When a catcher drops the ball on the third strike, the batter is out. He/she cannot attempt to advance to first base.
- NO INFIELD FLY RULE will apply fielder must make the out.
 - one** (1) base **per** throwing **error** is allowed with the risk of being put out, regardless of whether the ball is in fair or foul territory.
 - Fielding team must be placed in normal positions. Teams cannot overload any one particular playing position.
- 35) **Mercy Rule:** Each team may score a maximum of six (6) runs in any inning. Games during the regular season can end in a tie.
- 36) Managers or coaches are NOT allowed on the playing field during a game (except during time outs)
- 37) Common Sense and Cooperation must be emphasized in the enforcement of these baseball rules. WINNING IS NOT THE TOP PRIORITY!! Teaching them how to play the game and having fun are the top priorities!!
- 38) **PLAYOFFS**
The team with the most points or finished higher in the standings during the regular season has home field advantage in the playoffs. (Example: if the 1st place team plays the 2nd place team, the 1st place team has home field advantage).
- 39) All Coaches will receive a copy of their division rules and will sign or initial one master copy of that seasons rules. This is to indicate that the coach received a copy of the season rules. This should be done at the time the teams are formed and the 1st coaches meeting has taken place.
- 40) The only modification to the rules that can take place would be in reference to the pitching and the number of innings in a week. This rule can have an exception to it because of game make-ups due to weather. The exception needs to be reviewed by the Director, VP of Baseball and President for approval.
- 41) Other rule modifications will not be allowed unless it has been deemed as a safety issue. All other wanted changes will be noted by the Director during the season and reviewed at the end of the season with the VP of Baseball for the following season if rule changes are to be made.

GROUND RULES FOR THE FIELDS

- Boutwell Fields
 - Over the fence on a fly is a homer
 - Over the fence on a bounce is a double
 - Double foul line. Any ball caught with a foot on or across this line is out of play. (The double foul line, lines up with the front of the players' benches, parallel to the 1st and 3rd base foul lines.)

COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES

- Managers are fully responsible for the equipment that is issued to their team. All equipment MUST be returned to the League Director at the end of the scheduled season. All equipment will be signed

out and signed in upon return.

- 2) Both team manager's are responsible for the bases to and from the game. Bases are located at: Boutwell concession stand and at most field located in the storage boxes, Light & Power building on Cherry Street Field).
- 3) Managers will provide won/lost records within 24 hours to the League Director for posting.
- 4) Managers from both team's field responsibilities:
 - 1) Lining the fields for the games.
 - 2) Mowing the fields as required.
 - 3) Cleaning up the bench area.
 - 4) Cleaning out the base boxes and installing the plugs.
 - 5) Raking/ Dragging the infield after every practice and game.
 - 6) Helping to close the shack including but not limited to: cleaning, stocking the shack for the next scheduled games, emptying the trash at the fields you have played on and in the Shack. Also bathrooms need to be cleaned.

MANAGERS, COACHES, AND PLAYERS CODE OF ETHICS

- 1) It is the duty of the manager and coach to be in control of his/her players at all times in order to prevent any unsportsmanlike act toward opponents, officials and/or spectators.
- 2) Managers and coaches are expected to comply wholeheartedly with the intent and spirit of the rules. The deliberate teaching of players to violate the rules is indefensible.
- 3) Managers and coaches should teach their players respect and dignity of the game, officials, opponents and their teammates.
- 4) Managers and coaches should confine their discussions with the game officials to the interpretations of the rules and not challenging umpire decisions involving judgment.
- 5) Whereas friendly banter is not to be prohibited, cursing, obscene language, and malicious or personal remarks should not be tolerated at any time. Rather, the players should spend their energies toward encouraging their teammates to better efforts.
- 6) Managers and coaches should emphasize the fact that their base coaches and players must confine their remarks to their own teammates and not to “ride” the opposing pitcher or hitter.
- 7) Managers and coaches, themselves, should refrain from any personal action that might arouse players or spectators to unsportsmanlike behavior.
- 8) Managers and coaches should except from the umpires a courteous and dignified attitude toward players and themselves.

Please note: All-star tryouts are scheduled to be held as the tournament process allows. Times and locations will be announced according to the Tournament process, prior to the try-out or voting process. It is strongly recommended that players attend any and all try-outs as directed by the Tournament Director(s).

Hudson Youth Baseball and Softball contact information



P.O. Box 29 Hudson, MA 01749



978-562-6199

To contact a board member please see the web for board member information.

Web address:

<http://www.hybs.org>