



2021

JR. PEE WEE

LOCAL LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

INCLEMENT WEATHER – (910) 424-4500

Coaches are to read and be familiar with all rules.

1:00 AGE REQUIREMENTS

1:01 Players, age 6 are eligible for the Jr Pee Wee League.

Minimum Age: 6 years old - players must be 6 years old prior May 1st of current playing year.

Maximum Age: 6 years old - players cannot turn 7 years old prior to May 1st of the current playing year.

2:00 EQUIPMENT

2:01 The head coach of each team will be issued equipment, if requested. This equipment will include the catcher's helmet with mask & throat guard, chest protector, leg guards, batting helmets with facemask, bats and balls. A hard, plastic protector manufactured for the purpose of protecting the throat shall be securely attached to the mask even if the mask has an extension at the bottom.

2:02 In order to be considered for future coaching positions, all HMPR issued equipment *must be returned within 14 days* of a team's last game.

2:03 **STEEL SPIKES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.** Only rubber molded cleats or tennis shoes will be allowed.

3:00 COACHES

ALL PROSPECTIVE COACHES MUST COMPLETE A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION / RELEASE OF INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK FORM. COACHES MUST HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE BACKGROUND CHECK IN ORDER TO BE APPROVED.

3:01 A maximum of 5 coaches (1 head coach and 4 assistants) will be allowed per team. Only these 5 coaches will be allowed in the dugout.

Coaches will be limited to the following positions:

- Coach Pitcher
- One (1) dug-out coach
- Two (2) base coaches
- One (1) defensive outfield coach who is allowed to stand in the outfield and assist the players.

3:02 All coaches should understand and agree to carry out the duties, responsibilities, and policies as established by *HMPR*.

3:03 Coaches are expected to closely observe their players at all times to be certain that the players do not become overly fatigued.

3:04 Coaches must set good examples of sportsmanship.

3:05 Coaches will not use profane language or smoke on the field or in the dugout during practice or games. Staff will investigate accusations. If verified, coaches will be suspended accordingly.

3:06 *Coaches are expected to have a meeting with the parents to discuss team rules and the expectations that he/she expects the players and parents to follow.* These rules should cover items such as the practice schedule, attendance policy, disciplinary actions, providing refreshments, whom to call in case of rain, etc. These guidelines must meet the approval of, and a copy on file, with the recreation center before they will be considered valid. Coaches must use discretion and good judgment if they feel it is necessary to suspend a player for violation of team policy.

4:00

OFFICIALS AND SCOREKEEPERS

4:01 Since this is in an instructional league, the decisions of the umpire are final. **Protests are not allowed.**

4:02 The official scorebook will be maintained by the home team in the event there is no official scorekeeper.

5:00

SPORTSMANSHIP

PLEASE REFER TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DETAILS.

5:01 No alcoholic beverages are allowed on school or recreation property. This includes athletic fields. This is a **STATE LAW**. If necessary, proper legal action will be taken to observe this rule. **NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS ARE ALLOWED ON THE PLAYING FIELD, IN DUGOUTS, OR IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PLAYERS AT ANY TIME.**

5:02 A coach, player, or spectator with the presence of alcohol on their breath will be asked to leave the school or recreation area.

5:03 Any coach or player ejected from a game will be suspended for at least **10 days**. The suspension could be longer depending upon the severity of the infraction.

A coach who is ejected from a game must leave the recreation property immediately. Failure to comply will result in a longer suspension. Ejected players will be allowed to remain in the dugout if their parent is not in attendance.

Suspended coaches will not be allowed on recreation premises until the suspension is completed.

5:04 Fighting and/or unsportsmanlike conduct **WILL NOT** be tolerated before, during, or after the game. If a player or coach pushes, shoves, or strikes a member of the other team or any recreation personnel, ***he/she shall be suspended from play immediately and subject to Code of Conduct penalties.***

5:05 Members of one team shall not ride, kid, heckle, poke fun at or in any other manner do anything that in the opinion of the umpire distracts the opposing team. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the removal of the guilty player, players, and/or coach from the game and from the dugout. As a point of clarification, players will not be allowed to chant, “hey batter, batter”.

5:06 ***Spectators must display good sportsmanship. Unruly spectators will be asked to leave the recreation premises.***

- Please do not argue with the officials.
- Please do not communicate threats to the officials.
- Please do not use profanity towards the officials.
- Please do not display unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Please do not enter the playing area in a hostile manner.
- Please do not consume alcoholic beverages at recreation sites.
- Please do not bring any weapons to recreation sites.
- Please do not create a hostile environment.
- Please do not generate ill will amongst the spectators.
- Please do not forget this is an amateur program.
- Officials will make mistakes as they learn and grow.
- Officials are not expected to and will not make every call correctly.
- Only head coaches may address the officials.

6:00

POSTPONED GAMES/INCLEMENT WEATHER

6:01 In case of inclement weather, coaches and parents should call the following number for a decision as to whether or not the game will be played:

(910) 424-4500

If no decision is made before 5:00 p.m., teams *should* report to the field and wait for the umpires or field supervisors' decision.

- 6:02 Prior to the start of the game, the field supervisor or *HMPR* staff on duty will have sole authority to postpone or play the game. After the game begins, the umpire-in-chief will have the sole authority to postpone or play.

7:00

PRACTICE POLICY

- 7:01 Practices *should not exceed* 3 hours per week. Practice must be over by 9:00 p.m.
- 7:02 Due to a request by school principals, players must not arrive to practice earlier than 10 minutes prior to scheduled practice time and must leave school grounds promptly after practice.

8:00

PLAYING RULES:

- 8:01 Ten (10) players will be allowed in the defensive line-up. The defense must use four outfielders who are to play at equal depths (no short fielders allowed). Outfielders will be positioned in the grass prior to each pitch being thrown. **All players present must play a minimum of 3 outs on defense.**
- 8:02 The player-pitcher must wear a face mask or batting helmet with attached guard. This player should be positioned no closer than the 25' pitching rubber and behind the coach pitcher.
- 8:03 **THE BATTER:**
- Batting order shall be 1-15 (or maximum number present)
- All players will bat in this order throughout the game.
 - Teams will follow standard (3) outs per inning.
 - Batter #1 will not bat again until batter #15 (or maximum number present) completes his/her turn at bat.
 - All players will be placed on a line-up card in the order they will bat.
 - Late players will be added to the bottom of the line-up.
 - Players that become unable to play will be skipped in the line-up with no penalty. If players are able to continue later in the game then they will assume their position in the line-up.
 - Players who are injured while at bat and cannot continue will be replaced by the next batter in the line-up with no penalty.
 - Players that become injured or cannot continue after reaching base will be replaced by the last player to make an out.
- 8:04 All batters must wear batting helmets **WITH** attached face guard.
- 8:05 Each batter will be allowed 3 swings **OR** 4 pitches to put the ball in play. After 3 swings **OR** 4 pitches, the ball will be placed on a Tee for 1 attempted swing before being called out. The ball must be hit at least 3 feet in front of the home plate and in fair territory or the batter will be called out.

- 8:06 There will be no bunting. Penalty – if the ball is hit, the batter is out and the ball is dead. If the ball is not hit, a strike will be called.
- 8:07 “7 runs equals 3 outs”
Each team will be limited to 7 runs per inning. After scoring 7 runs in an inning, that team’s at-bat is concluded, regardless of the number of outs. If a team commits 3 outs before scoring 7 runs, the at-bat is concluded. In other words, “7 runs or 3 outs, whichever comes first”.
- 8:08 REGULATION GAME DEFINED: All games will be five (5) innings. Games will last for (1) hour and 15 minutes. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes
- 8:09 **Time shall be called and the ball shall be declared dead immediately by the umpire when the lead runner is stopped or abandons any effort to advance further, if the ball is within the infield area.** The player will hold up the ball and call “time.” The umpire should look at the other runners to determine if they are to advance to the next base or return to the last base touched. If any subsequent runner has not passed the half way mark, the runner must return to the previous base. A play on any other runner will release the lead runner if the ball has not been declared dead. Players will not be allowed to call time out to stop a play. Players may call time out while the Player Pitcher has possession of the ball in the mound area.
- 8:10 When a player is struck by a thrown or batted ball and, in the opinion of the umpire, the impact of the ball striking the player is sufficient enough to injure or incapacitate the player, the game will cease. At that point, immediate attention will be given to the injured player. All runners will advance one (1) base, if the umpire feels the runners would have advanced to that base had not an injury occurred and play will resume.
- 8:11 A three foot (3’) chalk line will be drawn perpendicular to the base path, halfway between 1st and 2nd bases and halfway between 2nd and 3rd bases. When the ball is declared dead, runners will be allowed to advance to the next base, if they are past the halfway point and that base is unoccupied.
- 8:12 **THE PITCHER:** An offensive coach will pitch to their own team. This person is referred to as the “Coach Pitcher.” The Coach Pitcher will do the following:
- Pitch over hand or underhand.
 - Pitch along a straight line from the center of the pitching plate to the home plate, while keeping one (1) foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate.
 - Pitch from the 25’ pitcher’s plate. (measured from the back point of home plate)
 - Will not touch a batted or thrown ball until said ball is declared dead.
- Interference will be declared at the discretion of the umpire.
- PENALTY:** Intentional – Batter is out and the ball is dead.
Unintentional – Ball is dead and pitch is replayed.

- Exit the playing field immediately after a hit to prevent distraction and/or be an obstacle. If struck by a thrown ball- the ball is dead, batter is out, and all base runners must return to previous base they occupied.
- 8:13 If a runner fails to touch base, the coach of the defensive team must make the appeal to the umpire. If an umpire saw the runner miss the base, then the runner shall be called out on the appeal. This must be done before another pitch has been thrown, but the appeal may be made while time is out.
- 8:14 **THROWN BAT**; the penalty for a thrown bat will be as follows:
- 1) Incidental:
- first offense - team warning.
 - following offenses - dead ball, batter out, runners may not advance.
- 2) Flagrant (intentional):
- dead ball, batter out, batter ejected, runners may not advance, no warning
- NOTE: It will be up to the umpire to determine if a player intentionally throws a bat.
- 8:15 There will be no:
- “Infield fly rule”
 - Walks
 - Base Stealing
 - Called Strikes (Exception: Bunts, see below)
 - Bunts - **PENALTY**: If the ball is hit, the batter is out and the ball is dead. If the ball is not hit, the attempt is considered a strike.

Fun Facts About Kids and Sports

- ☺ Sports can build character in kids **if** their social environment encourages moral and ethical behavior.
- ☺ The most common reasons kids play sports are to have fun and hang out with friends.
- NCAA fact: 3-5% of high school athletes will play college sports (3-5 per 100).
- NCAA fact: .02%-.09% of college athletes will be drafted by a professional team (2-9 per 1000).
- 70% of kids drop out of sports by the age of 13.
- 15-20% of youth sporting events involve some kind of behavior that requires a written notice (National Alliance of Youth Sports).
- The least favorite aspect of the game for kids is the ride home with parents.
- ☺ A child’s behavior is a reflection of what they have seen an adult do before. Please be a positive example to your children and players.

Code of Conduct

The Town of Hope Mills' recreational sports and activities are made available to youth and adults to enjoy fun and wholesome recreational programming that teaches character and sportsmanship. The Town of Hope Mills supports the belief that all recreational programming and experiences should be positive and safe with sportsmanship and enjoyment the primary goal. To achieve this goal, The Town of Hope Mills strives to provide a safe environment for participants of these programs and to protect them from harm to the best of our abilities. To that end, all participants and spectators must be held accountable for their behavior and zero tolerance given for intentional violation of this Code of Conduct.

EXPECTATIONS

- Treat all parties involved with dignity and respect.
- Use appropriate language, tones and volume when communicating. When in doubt, remain silent.
- Become knowledgeable, understanding and supportive of all established guidelines, rules, policies and procedures applicable to related programming.
- Recognize/acknowledge HMPR programming as a privilege that can be rescinded for the greater good.

Unfortunately, aggressive behavior is on the rise in recreational programming. Negative attitudes, verbal abuse of officials, poor sportsmanship, profanity, child predators and violence are casting a negative light in our arena. It is for that reason penalties have been assessed and will be enforced for acts perceived by HMPR as intentional violations.

PROCEDURES

- When an incident occurs at a Town of Hope Mills activity/event, the Town officials have the authority to institute immediate suspensions. The Town of Hope Mills officials will offer to escort the offending individual(s) from the facility. If the offending individual(s) refuses to leave the premises, local authorities will be contacted immediately and asked to enforce the ruling.
- Individual(s) removed from the facility in this manner will be sent a registered letter stating the violation of policy and the penalty in effect. The individual(s) will then have forty-eight (48) hours from receipt of the letter to respond to the Town of Hope Mills Recreation Department with a written appeal.
- After the written appeal is received, an investigation will be conducted and the Town of Hope Mills Recreation Department will render a final decision within ten (10) working days from receipt of the appeal.
- A panel consisting of the facility supervisor, program supervisor, immediate supervisory staff and a department superintendent will conduct the investigation. During the investigation, the individual(s) will be suspended from all Town of Hope Mills activities/events/facilities. Individual(s) requesting the appeal may be asked to appear before an appeal review committee led by the Parks and Recreation Director. This decision will be final.
- Suspensions of less than ten (10) days cannot be appealed.

It is Parks and Recreation Department's sincere desire that situations never warrant the removal of an individual from any activity, event or facility. However, it is our obligation to maintain a controlled, safe and healthy atmosphere for everyone. Recreational activities are designed to foster qualities such as character building, social interaction, enjoyment and relaxation while educating the general public and promoting healthy lifestyles. These

activities are not designed to be overly competitive and the Town of Hope Mills Parks and Recreation Department does not promote this contention.

OFFENSE & PENALTY (to include but not limited to:)

Level 1 - *Standard*

- Offense - Failure to follow departmental established guidelines, rules, policies and procedures as applicable to related programming; failure to comply with a Town of Hope Mills official's decision; taunting/mocking/harassment of players; disgruntled expressions such as rude gestures or comments, screaming and loudly disagreeing with others or obscene/profane/vulgar language; throwing/kicking/striking of bats, balls and other miscellaneous equipment; unnecessary roughness among participants.
- Penalty - Not necessarily preceded by a warning...immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum ten (10) day suspension.

Level 2 - *Verbal*

- Offense - Malicious obscene/profane/vulgar verbal abuse directed towards another individual; verbal epithets related to race, color, religion, creed, gender or sexual orientation; verbal communication of threats, physical violence or acts of insulting another with intention to offend, defame or embarrass.
- Penalty - Not necessarily preceded by a warning...immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum thirty (30) day suspension.

Level 3 - *Physical*

- Offense - Physical aggression towards another; pushing, shoving, striking or touching another individual with the perceived intent to incite, inflict or cause harm; invading another individual's personal space during a dispute.
- Penalty - Not necessarily preceded by a warning...immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum one hundred eighty day (180) day suspension.

Level 4 - *Unlawful*

- Offense - Any violation of North Carolina law; possession of firearms, knives, explosive devices weapons or under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, controlled substances, chemical or drug paraphernalia; assault with or without a weapon.
- Penalty - Not necessarily preceded by a warning...immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum one (1) year suspension.

***** PLEASE NOTE: Suspensions will be tracked and monitored. Individuals who have been suspended will be immediately placed on probationary status for a period of one (1) year from the date of the offense. A second offense by the same individual within one (1) year, regardless of nature, will result in double the term of the penalty and an extension of probationary period from the date of the second offense. A third violation by the same individual within one (1) year, regardless of nature, will void all Town of Hope Mills Parks and Recreation Department's privileges indefinitely. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in legal action. *****

Effective Implementation - January 2007
HMPPR Advisory Board