

HIAWATHA KIDS LEAGUE RULES Boys/Girls Coach Pitch/T-Ball Division

A. THE GAME

- 1) Game time is 6:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Forfeit time for any game is ten (10) minutes past the scheduled starting time. The first game must be in progress by 6:10 so as not to impede the 2nd game start time. Start time should be recorded by the official scorekeeper. **No new innings may begin after 50 minutes of play.** All diamonds are reserved one hour before game time for those teams scheduled to play. All other teams must vacate the diamond for those teams playing.
- 2) A maximum of 4 innings will be played. **No new inning may begin after 50 minutes of play.** If a game is called due to darkness or weather before the game has reached 30 minutes of play, the game will be rescheduled as needed by the HKL Board. If the game is called after 30 minutes of play the game will be considered complete.

B. RULES FOR BATTERS/BASE RUNNERS (OFFENSE)

- 1) Batters are not permitted to bunt. The batter must take a full, firm swing at the ball. The penalty is, the batter must return to the plate and bat again, and a strike is called for a poor swing.
- 2) The batted ball must travel past the ten (10) foot line for a fair ball. A ball that does not travel past this line will be considered a foul ball. A foul ball on the third strike is not an out.
- 3) Players are not allowed to steal or take a leadoff from a base. For either of these violations, the player will be corrected but not called out.
- 4) Runners may not advance until the ball is hit.
- 5) Three (3) outs or a maximum of eight (8) runs constitutes a complete inning.
- 6) The home team must provide an official scorekeeper to indicate when the run limit has been reached and signal the end of the inning.
- 7) Batting out of order is when the incorrect batter is ready to hit the ball. When batting out of order is called, the correct batter is inserted, and play continues. The official scorekeeper can call batting out of order. No out will be called.
- 8) Base runners must avoid contact/collision if the defensive player has the ball and is waiting for the base runner. If contact/collision occurs with the defensive player in possession of the ball, the runner will be out.
- 9) There will be no advancement of the runner to the next base on an overthrow. The baserunner will be entitled to the base they were running toward at the time of the throw.
- 10) When a batted ball contacts a baserunner, a dead ball will be called, but the runner will not be called out. The baserunner will be awarded the next base and will be counselled on the rule, explaining a baserunner is out when hit by a batted ball and that the rule will be enforced in other Leagues/Divisions.

C. RULES FOR PLAYERS IN THE FIELD (DEFENSE)

- 1) The infield fly rule will not be enforced. Balls hit in the air must be caught to produce an out.
- 2) Ten (10) players constitute a team, (4 outfielders and 6 infielders). Games will not be played with less than seven (7) players. If teams play with seven (7) players, they shall not be penalized with automatic outs for missing players in their lineup.
- 3) When a batter is ready to take his/her place at bat, all fielders must be in NORMAL POSITION in the field. The normal position for all outfielders is in the grass area behind the base paths. The fielding pitcher must be in the pitching area. All infielders must take their position in the normal position an infielder would take in a normal situation of play.
- 4) The catcher will be behind the backstop until the batter puts the ball in play.
- 5) Play stops when the lead runner stops advancing to the next base and/or the pitcher or cutoff player has control of the ball in the pitching area.

HIAWATHA KIDS LEAGUE RULES Boys/Girls Coach Pitch/T-Ball Division

- 6) All outfielders must remain in the outfield grass. Outfielders may not field a ground ball on the infield or record a put-out at any base. If an outfielder does make a play in the infield the player will be corrected by a coach or umpire.
- 7) If a fielder charges a ball that has been hit and touches it before it reaches the ten (10) foot line, the ball is dead, and the entire play is done over. This dead ball is considered a foul ball. However, a fly ball may be caught anywhere for an out.
- 8) If a batted ball hits the adult pitcher, the ball will be declared dead. The batter will be awarded 1st base.
- 9) To offer all players a chance to learn all ten (10) positions on the field, a player may not play the same position twice in a game. Mandatory player rotation is in effect. A player **must** be rotated from the Infield to the Outfield (Catcher is considered an outfield position and Pitcher is considered an infield position) each inning. Refer to Appendix A for HKL recommended player rotations.

D. PITCHING

- 1) Players/Equipment Rules
 - a) Only HKL batting tees (if required) will be used during all games. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - b) An Incredi-ball will be used (vs. a regulation little league baseball or softball).
- 2) A Coach/Adult will pitch to their team throughout the game over or underhand for boys and underhand only for girls. A maximum of three (3) pitches will be given to the batter and, if no hit is made, the batter will get three (3) swings off the batting tee. If no hit is made off the tee, the batter will be out.
- 3) A (dead ball) single will be awarded when:
 - a) Ball is hit and strikes the adult pitcher.
 - b) All base runners will return to the base occupied prior to the pitch, unless they are forced to move up a base.

E. COACHES

- 1) Coaches will act as umpires for each team.
- 2) On offense a maximum of four (4) coaches are allowed. One (1) coach/adult is allowed to be pitching and one (1) adult will catch. The other two (2) coaches/adults should be in the first and third base coaching boxes.
- 3) On defense a maximum of two (2) coaches are allowed. Both of these coaches need to be positioned in the outfield area and are only allowed to talk to the defensive players to keep them alert and get them positioned correctly. They may not interfere with play in any way.
- 4) One (1) additional adult volunteer is allowed in the dugout to monitor team behavior.

F. GENERAL CONDUCT

- 1) Coaches may not, by their actions, influence, distract or intimidate opposing players or the umpire. Coaches and other adults may not go behind the backstop to watch the umpire. Coaches may not protest a judgement call made by an umpire. If you dispute a call, know that the umpire's decision is still final.
- 2) Players are not allowed to use personal name calling of opposing players or profanity. Catching and infield players may not distract the batter. Base runners may not distract the pitcher.
- 3) **No unapproved persons allowed in the dugout/bench area during any game.**

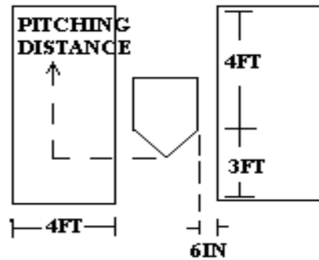
HIAWATHA KIDS LEAGUE RULES
Boys/Girls Coach Pitch/T-Ball Division

G. FIELD

- 1) A line will be measured ten (10) feet from home plate. This line will arc from the first base foul line to the third base foul line.
- 2) An eight (8) foot circle centered on a point 35 feet from home plate on a line between home plate and second base will designate the pitching area.
- 3) The out-of-play line is a line drawn, or an imaginary line, from the side of the backstop and parallel with the foul lines.
- 4) Batter's box dimensions and base path/pitching rubber distances are as follows:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Between Bases</u>	<u>Pitching Distance</u>
BOYS COACH PITCH/T-BALL	50 FEET	35 FEET
GIRLS COACH PITCH/T-BALL	50 FEET	35 FEET

BATTER'S BOX DIMENSIONS



Hiawatha Kids League Coach Pitch/T-Ball rules not outlined above will revert to the Hiawatha Kids League General Rules.