

HUDSON KIWANIS BASEBALL A (5/6) LEAGUE RULES

A. SPIRIT AND PURPOSE OF THE GAME

The primary goals of the Single A League of Hudson Kiwanis Baseball are fun and learning. While hits and outs will be played as they are at higher levels of baseball, no official score will be kept. Coaches and spectators are expected to uphold this spirit at all times.

B. FIELD DIMENSIONS AND EQUIPMENT

- 1) **Base Path Distance:** 45 feet
- 2) **Dead Ball Zone (Tee Ball Only):** A 15-foot arc from home plate will define a "Dead Ball Zone." Balls that do not travel beyond this area will be replayed at the discretion of the coaches.
- 3) **Coach Pitch:**
 - Coaches may pitch from any distance and in any manner that facilitates successful batting.
 - The transition to "Coach Pitch" will be determined by the commissioner, and all coaches will be notified prior to the season.
- 4) **Safety Base at First:**
 - Two first bases will be used. The fielder should use the inside base, while the runner must use the outside base to avoid collisions.
- 5) **Fielder Positioning:**
 - Infielders must be positioned **inside** the base paths to provide runners a clear lane to advance.
- 6) **Bats and Balls:**
 - Bats must have a **barrel diameter of 2 1/4 inches or smaller**.
 - Only **Level 5 (Soft Compression) baseballs** will be used; hardballs are not permitted at any time.

C. GENERAL GAME RULES

- 1) **Game Attendance and Duration:**
 - Games will be played regardless of the number of players in attendance.
 - No new inning will begin **after 1 hour and 15 minutes** from the scheduled start time.
 - Games will typically last **three innings** at the Single A level.
- 2) **Batting Order and Inning Structure:**
 - Each inning, all players on each team will bat once.
 - The lineup **may change between innings**, but the batting order **within an inning must remain consistent**.
 - Late arrivals must bat at the end of the order.
- 3) **Home Team Assignment:**
 - The **home team** will be listed second in the scheduling app and will bat last.

D. DEFENSIVE PLAYER RULES / POSITIONING OF COACHES

- 1) **Fielding Positions:**
 - All players will be in the field.
 - Infield positions: P, C, 1B, 2B, SS, and 3B.
 - All remaining fielders must be at least **15 feet behind the base paths** in the outfield.
 - No fielder should be positioned **directly behind second base**.
- 2) **Player Rotation:**
 - Players should rotate between infield and outfield positions to ensure equal opportunities.
 - Catcher does not count as an infield position.

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- While rotations are encouraged, coaches should position players in roles where they are most likely to succeed.

3) Bench Conduct:

- Players not batting or running must remain seated in an orderly fashion on the bench.
- Only **coaches, players, and assigned parents** may be in the bench area.
- A designated coach or parent is responsible for maintaining bench discipline.
- Players **violating bench rules will not be allowed to bat** during that inning.

4) Coach and Adult Positions:

- **Batting team:**
 - Bench coach (organizing batters, helmets, etc.)
 - 1B coach
 - 3B coach
 - Batting coach (assisting at the tee or pitching during Coach Pitch)
- **Fielding team:**
 - Coaches should position themselves in **left-center and right-center field** to instruct players.
 - Coaches must **not** interfere with a ball in play.
- **Safety Note:** No children under **18 years old** may act as a coach or be inside the fenced area during play.

E. BASE RUNNER RULES

1) Advancing Bases:

- A runner may advance up to **two bases** only if the ball is in the outfield and uncontrolled by a fielder.
- Once a fielder gains control, the runner must **stop advancing**.
- If the ball is in the infield, runners may advance **only one base**.
- No advancement on an **overthrow**.

2) Standard Baseball Rules Apply:

- Force plays and tagging-up on caught fly balls will be enforced.
- Runners who are put out must leave the base paths.

3) No Lead-Offs or Stealing:

- Lead-offs and stolen bases are **not permitted**.
- Headfirst slides are **not allowed**.

F. BATTER RULES

1) Helmet Requirement:

- Batters and base runners **must wear protective helmets** at all times.
- Only the current batter may hold a bat; no on-deck batters.
- Bat boys/girls are **not permitted**.

2) Tee Ball Phase:

- Batters have **unlimited swings** to put the ball in play **beyond the Dead Ball Zone**.
- Before placing the ball on the tee, the offensive coach must:
 - Ensure the fielding team is ready.
 - Announce, "Ball in Play."

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3) Coach Pitch Phase:

- Batters will receive a **maximum of six (6) pitches**.
- If the batter does not put the ball in play within six pitches, the **tee will be used** to keep the game moving.

G. CONDUCT OF COACHES, SPECTATORS AND PLAYERS

1) Sportsmanship:

- Coaches and managers are expected to demonstrate a **high level of sportsmanship** at all times.

2) Substance Use Policy:

- No manager, coach, or staff member may appear at a game or practice under the influence of **drugs or alcohol**.
- Violation will result in **immediate suspension** and **review by the Hudson Kiwanis Baseball Coaches Committee**.
- Smoking and chewing tobacco **are strictly prohibited** at Oak Grove Park, including near picnic areas and the Pavilion.

3) Manager's Responsibility:

- The team manager is responsible for the conduct of:
 - Coaches
 - Players
 - Spectators
- If a spectator behaves inappropriately, the manager should address the issue. If necessary, the spectator **may be asked to leave**.

4) Supervision of Players:

- Players and other children must **always be supervised by an adult**.
- If a parent/guardian leaves, they must ensure their child is under the care of an adult and inform the manager or coach.

5) Encouragement and Inclusivity:

- Coaches, parents, and spectators **should support and encourage all players**, regardless of the team.

6) Restricted Areas:

- No player, coach, or spectator is allowed within **25 feet of the backstop** to prevent interference with the game.