



SPRING 2026 SEASON
8U RULES & POLICIES

REVISED JANUARY 2026

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Haltom Youth Baseball Policies and Rules

01 - General Policies

- 01.01** All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Business Managers must pass the required Haltom City background check to be approved. Coach Applications may be presented by any member of the Board of Directors and shall be approved as Coaches by a majority vote. All head coaches or assistant coaches waiting to claim a team for the following season must do so by January 31st of the following year by coming in during registration hours. Any teams not claimed by this date will be considered open and available for claiming.
01.01.01 Background check will not be run until fee is paid to the league.
- 01.02** The President, Vice President or other Board of Director not directly involved in the game, can suspend play, regardless of the score, players, or fans.
- 01.03** Unsportsmanlike conduct and/or inappropriate behavior WILL NOT be tolerated. A person or persons, whether they are player, coaches, or spectators, will be removed from the park immediately. Action will result in the head coach ejection. Further disciplinary action may be addressed by the board. All incidents will be reviewed by the board and assessed on a case-by-case bases.
- 01.04** No refunds will be given after draft day. All refunds are subject to board approval.
- 01.05** No coach will be denied a team due to race, religion, nationality, or gender.
- 01.06** No player will be denied access to a team due to race, religion, nationality, or gender.
- 01.07** No coach may hold the Head Coach position for more than one team in same or different age groups
- 01.08** All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Business Managers must be at least 18(eighteen) years of age.
01.08.01 Exception: Assistant Coaches may be 17(seventeen) years of age with board approval. Each will be addressed by the board on a case-by-case basis. Said individual will not be responsible for any managerial duties for any team.
- 01.09** No one affiliated with the Haltom Youth Baseball organization will carry a firearm at any time during HYB events while in the presence of minors. This includes games and practices. Alcohol is not permitted at any Haltom City Youth Baseball event.
- 01.10** All teams must use a league photographer to take pictures. No outside photographer may be used until after league pictures are taken.
- 01.11** If all financial obligations are not fulfilled by a player to the league by April 15th of the current season, said player will not be allowed to participate in league games or be selected for the Tournament Team.

02 - Inclement Weather Policies

- 02.01** The Association will be notified via all social media, website, and phone communication by approximately 4 (four) pm on game nights during the week and by 8 (eight) am on weekends that there are games and whenever possible. Weather that develops after these times will be managed in the following manner:
- 02.02** Cold Wind Chill:
When wind chill or air temperature reaches 35 (thirty-five) degrees all outside activities will be cancelled and/or rescheduled. This includes team practices as well.

02.03 Rain no lightning or thunder:

It will be at the board's discretion to cancel the evenings outside activities.

02.04 Lightning policy:

If lightning has been recorded at 10 (ten) miles away and games have begun, play will be suspended for 30 (thirty) minutes. During suspending play no new lightning strikes can be recorded or timer must start over. If after 15 (fifteen) minutes of restarts or lightning reaches the 6 (six) miles away mark, events will be considered unplayable and the evenings events will be rescheduled. Suspended games will follow rainout rules. If timer expires, play will resume at the board's discretion.

REFER TO RULE 7.19 FOR SUSPENDED/PARTIAL GAMES.

03 - Player Allocation

- 03.01** The 4U League shall consist of any child who will attain the age of 3(three) years on or before April 30th of the current year and shall not attain the age of 5(five) years prior to May 1st of the current year, unless approved thru Board of Directors.
- 03.02** The 6U League shall consist of any child who will attain the age of 5(five) years on or before April 30th of the current year. Shall not attain the age of 7(seven) years prior to May 1st of the current year. 4 Year Olds may play in the 6U League at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 03.03** The 8U League shall consist of any child who will attain the age of 7(seven) years on or before April 30th of the current year and shall not attain the age of 9(nine) years prior to May 1st of the current year. 6 Year Olds may play in the 8U League at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 03.04** The 10U League shall consist of any child who will attain the age of 9(nine) years on or before April 30th of the current year and shall not attain the age of 11(eleven) years prior to May 1st of the current year. 8 Year Olds may play in the 10U League at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 03.05** The 12U League shall consist of any child who will attain the age of 11(eleven) years on or before April 30th of the current year and shall not attain the age of 13(thirteen) years prior to May 1st of the current year. 10 Year Olds may play in the 12U League at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 03.06** The 15U League shall consist of any child who will attain the age of 13(thirteen) years on or before April 30th of the current year and shall not attain the age of 16(sixteen) years prior to May 1st of the current year. 12 Year Olds may play in the 15U League at the discretion of the Board of Directors. A player classified as 15-year-old will not be allowed to play in the defensive positions of pitcher or catcher. Said player will not be eligible for the tournament team.

04 - Draft Procedure

- 04.01** Head Coaches shall keep existing teams intact except for a player moving to a higher League or has completed eligibility in the Association. Other provisions of these rules and policies notwithstanding, exceptions to this section and paragraph may be approved by the Board in accordance with the following:
A 2/3(two-thirds) majority of the Board in favor of the exception shall be required.
- 04.02** Draft order shall be as example 1, 2, 3, 4 then return to 1 as follows. Options will count as 1, 2, 3 rounds and 5, 6 for sibling options.
- 04.03** 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U and 15U League Head Coach drawing positions will be determined by ending places the previous year. The number of draws per Head Coach will be determined by the respective League Commissioner compatible with Section 3, paragraph A of this Article. 4U draw is at the discretion of the Board and League Commissioner.

- 04.04** Head Coaches will draft according to number (one player per draw except for siblings) and the draft will rotate until each team attains its allotted number of players as determined in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws.
- 04.05** No Coach may drop or remove a player from the roster without the consent of the Board of Directors. No trading players. No exceptions.
- 04.06** Any players signed up late will be determined by blind draw of lowest roster teams in respective age group or League. That League will have a supplemental draw consisting of teams with the lowest roster, if necessary.
- 04.07** If necessary, to delete a team, the team with the least amount of returning players may be deleted. If 2(two) teams are tied, it will be determined by a draw. A determining factor may also be coaching experience. Players will return to the player draw. The Board of Directors may choose to delete a team with no Coach if teams with few returning players have a Coach in place.
- 04.08** Optioned players:
- 04.08.01** Each team shall be allowed 3(three) option players including the Head Coaches child if said child is not classified as a returner. Of the 3(three) options, only two may be of the older age in any League.
04.08.01.01 4U have open options at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 04.08.02** An option player cannot have previously played on a team in that League or age group. A player shall be eligible to be an option player if he is going to the next League or age group or a new child in the Association. Siblings of the same League or age group will count as a fifth-round draft pick. Under no circumstances shall any team be allowed more than 3(three) options unless specifically approved by the Board of Directors. Such an exception only shall be granted in cases where no other alternative exists to allow the player in question to participate in this Association.
- 04.08.03** Head Coaches must sign approval for option player.
- 04.08.04** All options must be signed by the Head Coach by the end of the final signup prior to draft.
- 04.08.05** If a player is classified as a 15-year-old. Player can only be optioned if said player's parent or guardian will be the head coach.
- 04.08.06** A player moving into a League or age group where a sibling is an established returning player automatically goes to that team. Said player is not considered an option player but is considered a fifth-round draft pick.
- 04.08.07** Players can return to the draft the following year instead of returning to their previous team at the request of the parent. Said player may not be optioned.
- 04.09** Un-Optioned players:
- 04.09.01** Un-Optioned new players and upgraded players for all Leagues shall be allocated by an open draft method as follows:
- 04.09.02** The number of 3 & 4 year olds in the 4U League, the number of 5 & 6 year olds in the 6U League, the number of 7 & 8 year olds in the 8U League, the number of 9 & 10 year olds in the 10U League, the number of 11 & 12 year olds in the 12U League, and the number of 13, 14 & 15 year olds in the 15U League shall be determined by the respective League Commissioner and be distributed as evenly as possible.
- 04.09.03** In 15U, all players classified as 15-year-old players, will not return to their previous year's teams unless they played in the league as a 14-year-old the previous year and their parent or guardian will be the head coach for the season they are considered a 15-year-old player, then said player will be classified as a returner. All 15-year-olds, with exceptions to players who fall under sibling rule, will be placed in a draft to be drafted from.

05 - Coaches

- 05.01** All Head Coaches are responsible for their Team Business Manager, providing a League Sponsor and returning League

issued equipment in good condition except for normal wear and tear. Also, for ensuring that their Assistant Coaches, Team Business Manager, players, and player parents conduct themselves in such a way as to attain the objectives and purposes of the By-laws, rules, and policies.

05.01.01 Head Coaches must be involved and making game decisions if present at game.

05.01.02 Tournament team head coach must return equipment by August 1 of the current season. All other head coaches must return equipment after the last regular season game has been played.

05.02 Head Coach shall be responsible for only using approved volunteers at practices and games. All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Business Managers must pass the required Haltom City Youth Baseball background check to be approved. Coach Applications may be presented by any member of the Board of Directors and shall be approved as Coaches by a majority vote.

Head Coach caught using unapproved coach will be suspended for that game and next game.

05.03 Each Head Coach is responsible for selecting a Team Business Manager for his/her team and they will share responsibility for the team's funds. Team must supply financial statement to **Player parents and/or League if requested.**

05.04 No person shall participate on the field as a Coach or Assistant Coach during a season unless such person has received specific approval from the Board of Directors. Any approved Coach can temporarily assist another team if they have the approval of 2(two) Board Members.

05.05 *Any Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or player, removed from the game by an umpire or causing a game to be suspended by the proper authorities will have an automatic 1(one) game suspension. The suspended Coach or player is forbidden to be on the field where the game is being played. A second such offense will be dealt with by the Board of Directors and could end with the suspension of said Coach or player for the remainder of the season. Other acts of un-sportsmanlike conduct by Coaches, players, or fans on and off the field, will be dealt with by the Board of Directors. Coaches not adhering to these rules will be suspended for 1(one) game. Said Coach or player cannot be around the stands and may not participate in the game. This includes communication with coaching staff during game via electronic devices. If said Coach is a member of the Board of Directors, a 2(two) game suspension will be assessed.*

05.06 A penalty, to be determined by the Board of Directors can and will be given to a Coach if they do not abide by any Board decisions.

05.07 Each Head Coach is required to ensure his team is represented at Elections, by-laws, business managers and coach's clinic meetings by himself/herself and/or a qualified coaching staff when required.

05.08 All Coaches shall always conduct themselves in such a manner as to present a proper example for players. **Severity of offense and penalty shall be determined and assessed by the board.**

05.09 Fighting, swearing, hand gestures or general poor sportsmanship on or around the field will not be tolerated. **The penalty is removal from the game and a 1(one) game suspension. The Board decision is final.**

05.10 No coach can make extra activities and/or extra equipment a mandatory expense for parents. This includes batting cages. **Severity of offense and penalty shall be determined and assessed by the board.**

05.11 Coaching Helmets are recommended for all base Coaches.

06 - Practices

06.01 Prior to opening day, Head Coaches of 6U – 15U teams Coaches shall conduct a minimum of 2(two) practices and a maximum of 5(five) practices a week. After the season starts, the number of practices shall be left to the discretion of each Coach with a limit of a total of 5(five), 2(two) practices and 3(three) games per week or 3(three) practices and 2(two) games per week. There must be a minimum of 1(one) practice each week. Teams can practice on Wednesday, but during Monday through Thursday 1(one) day must be off. No Sunday practices. 4U must practice at least one day a week, but not more than two days a week. Teams cannot meet more than three consecutive days.

- 06.02** A Head Coach having habitual problems with one or more players missing practice may come before the Board of Directors, with parents of said player or players, to seek penalty.
Upon review by the Board, the said penalty shall be determined.
- 06.03** No practices shall be held at the game fields during the regular season except 4U.
- 06.04** A Head Coach that habitually misses or fails to conduct enough practice sessions shall be subject to dismissal by the Board of Directors.
- 06.05** No practice can be held under lights. Exceptions will be allowed for 4U and indoor facilities practices such as batting cages.
- 06.06** Teams cannot practice with or scrimmage any team out of their age group. **Upon review by the Board, the said penalty shall be determined.**

07 - General Playing Rules

- 07.01** Two playable balls will be provided by the league for each game. In the case of a ball that is hit over the fence for a home run, the league will furnish a new game ball.
- 07.02** The home team of the first game is responsible for marking the field of play (when applicable) and setting out the bases.
- 07.03** The home team of the last game is responsible for picking up bases and raking pitching mound, if applicable.
- 07.04** Each team is responsible for cleaning up their dugout, sidelines and stands after each game. **Failure to do so could result in the suspension of the Head Coach for the next game. The final determination will be at the discretion of the Board.**
- 07.05** The home team responsible for providing scorekeeper (must be 18 years of age or approved by board of directors) to keep the League Assigned Scorebook. The visiting team shall be responsible for providing a scoreboard operator (must be 16 years of age).
- 07.06** If during a game it is discovered that the bases have been placed on the incorrect base path, the inning will be finished, and the bases will be adjusted to the correct base path.
- 07.07** No artificial noisemakers allowed.
- 07.07.1** Walk-up music is permitted for batters only and may be played for a maximum of 10 seconds. The music must stop immediately once the batter enters the batter's box and may not be played during live play. All walk-up music must be clean and appropriate for all ages; explicit language or references to drugs, alcohol, violence, or sexual content are strictly prohibited. Music volume must be kept at a reasonable level and may not interfere with game play, umpire communication, or announcements. The umpire or an HYB representative reserves the right to stop or prohibit walk-up music at any time. Failure to comply may result in loss of walk-up music privileges.
- 07.08** No camera with flash allowed.
- 07.09** All protests must be filed in writing with the League Commissioner within 24(twenty-four) hours of the start time of the game. A fee of \$20.00 (twenty dollars) is payable at time of protest.
- 07.10** Steel or metal cleats at NOT allowed in any League, except 15U.
- 07.11** All players and coaches are to be in complete League issued uniforms. No fitted caps for players. At least 2(two) board members must approve exceptions.
- 07.12** A team may score 5(five) runs per inning before the side is retired as long as 3(three) outs have not been made.

Continuation of the play is not allowed unless Home Run is hit over the fence.

Run Rule- 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U and 15U - 9 after 4.

- 07.13** Round robin batting. Everyone will bat.
- 07.14** Bats used during game play are not to exceed 2 3/4" according to USSSA rules. All bats must be compliant with current USSSA bat rules and/or USA bat rules. 4U is only allowed to use T-ball bats.
- 07.15** It is recommended that all players wear a protective cup. Exceptions will be listed in league specific rules.
- 07.16** A roster will be made available to the scorekeeper for record keeping purposes at least 10(ten) minutes before scheduled game time.
- 07.17** All schedules (regular, rainouts, postponements, or ties) will be done by an appointee of the Board of Directors. All schedules are final. Rainouts will be rescheduled on the next available day to schedule games. This could include Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoon. There will only be one reschedule per game. If the game cannot be played after rescheduling it will be recorded as a tie.
- 07.18** Coach must give Board of Directors 1(one) week notice in writing of school function that would prevent team from playing. This would mean the team would have to forfeit due to not having enough players. (MUST BE A SCHOOL FUNCTION) This does not apply to 4u.
- 07.19** Play may occur with 8(eight) players and take 9th (ninth) player out. No out will be taken until the line falls below 9(nine) players. All players who start must bat the entire game except for injury and illness. This does not apply to 4U. In cases of pandemic, coaches may agree to forego the out. This must be agreed upon at the umpires meeting at the plate.
- 07.20** Tie Games: If at the end of allotted number of innings, the game is tied AND there is at least 5(five) minutes of game time left on the play clock, one more inning of play will be added. If still tied at the end of the extra inning the game will be scored as a tie. In the event of a tied score at the end of regulation playtime, the result will be a tie game and scored as a tie. Standings calculator will accommodate the Tie score into the standings.
- 07.21** In the event of inclement weather suspension/cancellation, the game will be rescheduled. If said game 1st inning has not completed, the entire game will be rescheduled. If said game 1st inning has been completed, the rescheduled game shall start exactly as it was stopped. (I e., same inning, score, pitchers, fielders, etc.). Pitching rules do not apply to the rescheduled game but are in effect for the original game time and date, (i.e., if a pitcher was ineligible for the start of the game on its original date, he/she is also ineligible for play on the rescheduled date).
- 07.22** Season: If two or more teams are tied at the end of the season, the first tiebreaker is a head-to-head competition. The playoff game will be standard regulation game time for the age group. If at the end of regulation time in this playoff game, there is still a tie; one inning will be added until a winner can be declared. Continuous Tie innings will result in additional innings to be added. Game will end upon winner being declared at the end of regulation time or end of each extra inning."
- 07.23** The Field
- 07.23.01** The pitching rubber is 40(forty) feet from home plate.
- 07.23.02** Bases are at 60 (sixty) feet.
- 07.23.03** There will be no 10 ft arch in front of home plate. Any ball hit in front of home plate will be considered fair if it is in fair territory.
- 07.24** Game time
- 07.24.01** Playing time is 5(five) innings or 1(one) hour and 30(Thirty) minutes, whichever comes first. Run
Rule-9 after 4.
- 07.25** The batter
- 07.25.01** There are no walks.

- 07.25.02 The batter will be given 5(five) pitches or 3 strikes.
- 07.25.03 An at bat does not end in a 5th (fifth) pitch foul.
- 07.25.04 Player must make valid attempt to swing at the ball. No bunting allowed.

07.26 The Base Runner

- 07.26.01 No headfirst slide.

07.27 The Pitcher

- 07.27.01 **Player**
 - 07.27.01.01 Is not subject to normal pitching limits.
 - 07.27.01.02 Play ends by stopping the lead runner.
 - 07.27.01.03 Player in pitching circle must have one foot inside the circle and behind the coach pitcher.
 - 07.27.01.04 Player pitcher must wear heart guard vest and protective mask.
- 07.27.02 **Coach**
 - 07.27.02.01 If hit by the ball, it is still in play.
 - 07.27.02.02 Must be engaged on the rubber from start of pitch till the release of ball.
 - 07.27.02.03 The pitcher must come set before releasing ball.
The penalty will be removal of coach from pitcher mound.
 - 07.27.02.04 Coach pitcher may not coach to players or other coaches till the third out is made.
The penalty will be removal of coach from pitcher mound.
07.27.02.04.01 – Coach pitcher may talk to base coaches.
 - 07.27.02.05 Pitcher comes out of a game, she/he may not return as pitcher in that game.
 - 07.27.02.06 The pitcher must leave the field after the ball is put in play.
The penalty will be removal of coach from pitcher mound.

07.28 Defense

- 07.28.01 All players must play 6(six) defensive outs except in the case of a rain delay or run rule, all players must play 3(three) defensive outs.
Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game.
- 07.28.02 It is recommended that all players wear a protective cup. If the catcher squats, they must wear a protective cup.
- 07.28.03 Defense will field 10(ten) players.
- 07.28.04 The outfielder must throw the ball to the infielder to stop the runners.
- 07.28.05 Defensive Outfielders must play in the grass. Outfielders cannot make tagged or forced outs in the infield.

07.29 Coaches

- 07.29.01 Allowed only 4(four) coaches on the field or in the dugout.
- 07.29.02 Head Coaches must be within arm's length of their respective dugout. Assistant coaches must be in the dugout or concrete area outside dugout.
- 07.29.03 **Penalty: Head Coach suspended for that game and the next game.**

- 07.30 Protests will be allowed.

08 - Interlock Rules

- 08.01 Each organization will set up their own fields for play.
- 08.02 Play by rules of that organization that the game is played at.
HYB plays 5 runs, no continuation unless Home Run over the fence.

08.03 Only League games count towards standings.

08.04 Steel Cleats allowed in 15U.

09 - Tournament Play

09.01 Tournament teams must only play in tournaments for their age group. (Example: 12U tournament team may only play in 12U tournaments)

09.02 The Head Coach of the First-place team has first option to the Tournament Team with the exception that he must be in good standing with League, final decision is at the discretion of the Board.

09.03 Any coach caught acquiring players from the league for their own personal tournament team will not be allowed to coach at Haltom City Youth Baseball for a penalty to be determined by the Board.

09.04 Head Tournament Coach must turn in a proposed list of Tournament players for approval before players are asked to be on the team. If a tournament coach is caught using an unapproved player during tournament play, will not be allowed to coach at Haltom City Youth Baseball for a penalty to be determined by the Board.

09.05 Players that do not complete tournament play must reimburse the League the cost of the uniform immediately, if tournament uniforms are purchased by the league.

09.06 If provided by the league, all tournament teams must wear league issued uniform in game play unless approved by Board of Directors.

09.07 Any coaches caught soliciting players for a tournament team before the tournament team has been selected and formed will not be allowed to coach for a period deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

09.08 All tournament teams sponsored by HYB are required to include the name "Haltom" in the team's name (e.g., *Haltom Buffaloes*)

09.09 Tournament teams sponsored by HYB must include an "H" on their team cap as part of the official uniform.

10 - Awards and Sponsorship

10.01 The Association will accept sponsors for the teams provided. Said sponsors must adhere to these rules and must not be alcohol or tobacco related. Each team is eligible for a max of 1 League Sponsor award.

10.02 All teams will receive awards regardless of placement at the end of the season. All awards and special recognition shall be as determined by the Board of Directors.