

Hawthorne Baseball Softball Association

2020

Junior Baseball Division

Rules in this section apply to the junior division (3rd and 4th grades)

Rosters

- Each roster has a maximum of 15 players
- Each roster has a minimum of 12 players when registration numbers allow
- A team will be permitted to play with eight (8) players. If/when a ninth player shows up, they must be placed into the ninth spot in the batting order.
- All players on the roster must play a minimum of two (2) full innings in all regular season six (6) inning games (including all playoff games)

Length of Play

- All games will consist of 6 innings of play, unless a run rule is implemented.
- There will be a 6 run limit per inning with the exception of the 6th inning (or last inning as determined by coaches & umpires), in which a no run limit will be in place.
- When a team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 4 complete innings (3 ½ if home team is winning) the game is considered complete.

Pitching

- A pitch count will be instituted according to Pitch Smart recommendations and regulations. There will be no inning limit. There will only be a pitch count. Pitch counts will be submitted after each game.
- There will be a 8 warm up pitch count for a new pitcher and a 5 warmup pitch count in-between each inning following.
- A player who is removed from pitching to play another position cannot return to pitching in the same game.
- Any pitcher who hits three (3) batters in any inning must be removed from the pitching position
- No balks will be called

Batting

- All players in attendance at a game must bat.
- All players are required to use USA stamped/approved bats or wooden bats only.
- Teams are permitted one bunt per inning. No slap bunts/slashing/fake bunts permitted. 1st offense a warning will be issued, second offense the batter will be out.
- The batter is not permitted to go to first base on a dropped third strike.
- There will be no infield fly rule.
- If a batter is hit by the ball the play is called dead and the batter takes first base. If the home plate umpire rules that the batter made no attempt to get out of the way of the ball, the player will not be awarded first base. A ball will be called.

Base Running

- Stealing will be permitted to second base only after the ball has reached the catcher. Up to 4 steals per inning. The catcher must attempt to throw down to second base, but the baserunner is not permitted to advance to third base on an overthrow.
- A base runner may not leave the base until after the pitched ball reaches the batter.
- A base runner is automatically out if he leaves the base before the ball reaches the batter. In the event that the base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball reaches the batter, a “no pitch” shall be called.
- No headfirst sliding. Should a player slide headfirst the baserunner will be called out.
- Players must slide to avoid contact.
- Courtesy runners are permitted for the pitcher or catcher at any time. Courtesy runners can also be used in the case of an injured player.

Equipment/Safety

- All games will be played on 42/60 field (pitching mound 42 ft distance; base distance 60 ft)
- All players must wear uniform jersey and hat provided and baseball pants in the color associated with the team which they are on.
- All players are required to wear a batting helmet while batting and on the bases. Helmets with face guards are highly recommended
- All players are recommended to wear a protective cup and heart guard
- Any player who is catching must wear a catcher’s helmet, chest protector and shin guards in order to catch in a game
- All players are required to wear cleats