

Hopewell Youth Baseball

ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Hopewell Youth Baseball Association. Hereon known as HYBBA

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVE

(A) Hopewell Youth Baseball Association admits boys & girls of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to its participants. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, family/parental status or national or ethnic origin.

(B) The objective of the HYBBA shall be to implant firmly in the boys and girls of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and reverence so that they may be finer, stronger and happier boys and girls and will grow to be good, clean, healthy men and women.

(C) The objective will be achieved by providing supervised competition baseball. The Board of Directors and members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or winning of games is secondary and the molding of future men and women is of prime importance.

ARTICLE III - GOVERNMENT

(A) The government of the Hopewell Area Boys Baseball and Girls Softball League shall be under the supervision of the President, the Board of Directors, and the General Membership. The Board of Directors shall consist of all officers and such selected personnel as the President may appoint and as approved by the elected members of the Board of Directors. The General Membership shall consist of all general, volunteer and active members (see Article VII).

(B) At the end of year meeting of each year the active members of the General Membership shall elect from its own members the following officers (1) President; (2) Vice-President; (3) Treasurer; (4) Recording Secretary; (5) Corresponding Secretary; (6) Player Agent; (7) Equipment Manager; (8) Chief Umpire; (9) Director of Boys and Girls Fields; (10) Concession Director, and 11.) Uniform Director. The aforementioned officers shall be elected for a one-year term which will end at the next year's election. Any officer is eligible for re-election.

(C) All matters, including but not limited to the powers set forth in these by-laws to the Board of Directors, concerning management and activities of HYBBA will be decided by a majority vote of the active members of the General Membership, and no motion shall be carried without a majority vote of those present at a regular or special meeting. (No proxy voting is permitted at any time)

(D) One League Director will be appointed by the President and approved by the elected members of the Board of Directors, for each division as set forth in these by laws. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: 1. Attendance of the Board Meetings, 2. Scheduling rainouts in their league, 3. Maintain the win/loss record, 4. Mediate disputes within the league, 5. Disseminate rules to the other managers in the league, 6. Maintain

pool player lists, 7. Additional responsibilities as assigned by the bylaws.

ARTICLE IV - RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OFFICERS

President - He/She shall preside at all General Membership and Board of Directors Meetings of the League, and preserves order. Along with the Board of Directors, he/she assumes responsibility for upholding the By-Laws, rules, and integrity of the League. He/She shall assure the bylaws and rules of HABBGS are carried out, subject to an appeal to the General Membership at a regular or special meeting. He/She shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, subject to approval of the Board of Directors by a majority vote and be ex-officio member of all committees. He/She shall be a non voting member and may only vote if the Board of Directors or members are equally divided. He/She shall enforce these by-laws and Rules of the League. He/She shall call special meetings by a request of a majority of the Board of Directors or by request of a minimum of ten (10) general members.

Vice-President – In the case of the absence or disability of the president, and provided he/she is authorized by the President or Board of Directors to so act, the vice president shall perform the duties of the president and when so acting, shall have all the powers of that office, and shall have such other duties as from time to time maybe assigned by the Board of Directors or the President.

Treasurer - He/She shall receive all monies due the League; deposit same in the designated bank. He/She shall dispense League funds as authorized by the President and approved by the General Membership. He/She shall also keep regular and correct accounts of the League and shall, at all times, have his book open for examination by the Auditing Committee. He/She shall make out various financial reports, as requested by the President including but not limited to: profit/loss statement; checking account summary and reconciliation and report at each meeting the status of the League funds.

Recording Secretary - He/She shall maintain an accurate record of minutes of any meeting of the league. He/She shall maintain a list of all members, active and regular, Directors and Committee members. Perform such other duties as required by the By-Laws.

Corresponding Secretary - He/She is responsible for all League correspondences and forms and acts as the Recording Secretary in his/her absence.

Player Agent - He/She conducts an annual tryout and draft and player registration; assists the President in checking birth records, determines eligibility of the players and shall perform such duties as the League may require. Has the authority on Board approval, to settle any player participation questions and disputes.

Chief Umpire - He/She assigns umpires to all league games, trains all umpires, distributes rule books and any other publications for the proper instruction of umpires, will formulate League playing schedules with approval of the Board of Directors and will be responsible for all equipment used by the umpires.

Equipment Manager - It shall be the duty of the equipment manager to have charge of all league equipment, subject to the direction of the Board of Directors.

Director of Fields - To make sure that all the fields are in proper playing condition at all times.

Concession Director – He/She shall be responsible for the operations of the all concession stand(s), be responsible for the procurement of the necessary goods to sell, be responsible for the financial operations of the concession stand(s) and be responsible for the scheduling of members to assist in the manning of the concession stand during hours of operations.

Uniform Director – He/she shall be responsible for the procurement of uniforms for all divisions of the league, including hats, shirts and pants. Bids for the manufacturing of uniforms will we be solicited by at least three vendors. The uniform director’s duties are to order and distribute all uniforms for regular season, All Stars, Memorial Classic, Spring camp, and Fall ball.

ARTICLE V - FINANCIAL POLICY

(A) The Board of Directors, upon approval by the General Membership, shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the League and it shall place all income in a common league treasury, directing the expenditure of same in such manner as will give no individual or team within the same division an advantage over the other, as to equipment, or other matters.

(B) The Board of Directors shall not permit the contribution of funds to individuals or teams and shall solicit same for the common treasury of the League. The above regulation is to discourage favoritism among teams and to equalize the benefits of the League.

(C) No contributions to outside organizations will be permitted.

(D) The Auditing Committee shall consist of three (3) members and shall be appointed by the President on an annual basis. Its purpose shall be the auditing of the League treasury books and accounts immediately after the annual election of officers and at such other times it is deemed necessary.

(E) All checks shall be signed by two (2) of the following three (3) officers: President, Vice-President and Treasurer.

(F) No director or officer of HYBBA shall have any business dealings, directly or indirectly, with the league. This includes but is not limited to , any salary, compensation or benefit from the operation of the league

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

(A) A meeting of the General Membership shall be conducted in August of each year for the reading of reports and the election of officers. There will be a standing regular meeting of the General Membership on the first Wednesday of each month except for December and January.

(B) Special meetings may be called by the President at any time or by a request of a majority of the Board of Directors or by request of a minimum of ten (10) general members. (C) Notice of all regular meetings shall be given in advance thereof to all members of the General Membership unless waiver of such notice is received. Notice for all special meetings shall be posted on the league website and the concession stand(s) area.

(D) A majority of the Board of Directors constitutes a quorum at any meeting and a majority vote shall govern, except as otherwise provided herein.

(E) Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all league meetings.

ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP

(A) General {parent-guardian} Members: Any parent or guardian may be considered a regular member upon payment of all registrations fees for the current league season identified as January 1 to December 31 of each year.

(B) Volunteer Member Participants (Not a parent or legal guardian of any registered player in (HYBBA) This includes any active coaches, managers, assistant coaches or Board members.

(C) Active Members: Any general or volunteer member that has attended at least two meetings in the current or prior league season. Only active members can vote in any general or special meeting of the league. All members of the Board of Directors are active members upon election or appointment. A list of active members shall be provided by the recording secretary on a monthly basis at each meeting. It is the member's responsibility to comply with the recording secretary's method for verifying attendance.

(D) Only residents of the Hopewell Area School District can be an Active member

(E) Membership may be terminated by resignation. The Board of Directors, by two thirds vote of those present (which must be two thirds of the elected Board of Directors) shall have authority to suspend any general, volunteer or active member whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest of the League. The member involved shall be informed of the general nature of the charges and given the opportunity to appear at a meeting to answer such charges. The deliberations and subsequent vote of the Board of Directors shall be conducted in a closed session.

ARTICLE VIII - LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

The League organization will consist of Spring and Fall Baseball. Leagues shall be known as: T Ball (4-5), Modified T Ball (6), Coach's Pitch (7-8), Minor League (9-10), Little League (11-12) Pony League (13-14) and Colt League (15-16), Spring and Fall Softball for players 18 and under (The numbers of teams per League will be determined by the Board of Directors, based on the number of registrants per league .

ARTICLE IX - TEAM MANAGERS

(A) Team managers shall be annually appointed by the Selection Committee, which shall consist of the President, vice President the Player Agent, and approved by the Board of Directors. The selection committee shall advance the choices of the committee for managers to the Board of Directors for approval of majority vote. Team managers shall have the discretion to select their assistant coaches and scorekeeper, provided they comply with the proscribed conduct below.

(B) Conduct of Team Managers, Assistant Coach(es) and scorekeeper:

1. Shall be responsible to teach the fundamentals of baseball /softball and good sportsmanship to their players.
2. Shall distribute playing time (per league rules) and positional play in a fair manner.
3. Shall attempt to maintain a safe environment for their players.
4. Shall issue and or collect uniforms and equipment distributed by the organization as requested by the league director(s) and equipment manager.
5. Shall comply with the guidelines of (HABBGS)
6. Shall be responsible for the actions of the players that are assigned to their team.
7. Shall be responsible for maintaining the field and the surrounding area.
8. Shall make every effort to attend monthly meetings of (HABBGS).
9. Shall refrain from use of any abusive or foul language, smoking or alcohol use during any (HABBGS) event.

(C) Application for Team manager shall be submitted to the Player Agent according to the following rules:

1. Application must be made annually in writing by all candidates for managerial positions, on a form proscribed by the league.
- 2.. All applications must be received during the approved Spring and Fall Registration periods.
3. Exceptions to rules one (1) and two (2) will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

(D) Only four (4) people are permitted on the field during the games: Manager, Assistant Manager, and two (2) coaches.
(Includes the scorekeeper)

(E) The primary criterion for the selection of team managers shall be seniority. Seniority is defined as set forth below. Past conduct, picking up and turning in equipment by designated dates and acceptable performance of responsibilities (including but not limited to (B) above).

1. In order for managers to obtain and maintain seniority, you must be credited for six (6) meetings per year. The accrual of seniority shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 each year, and continue cumulatively and consecutively. The six (6) meetings may be attained by the following:

- a. attend six (6) regular meetings.
- b. attend five (5) regular meetings plus one (1) make-up.
- c. attend four (4) regular meetings plus two (2) make-ups.
- d. attend three (3) regular meetings plus three (3) make-ups.

A maximum of one make-up credit may be attained in each of the following categories:

- a. Work one (1) full registration.
- b. Work at a scheduled field workday.
- c. Work as a head coach (manager) for Spring or Fall Season - 1 credit.

2.) Managers that were selected the prior year, who wish to remain in the same league as a manager, shall have first choice to remain as the manager of that same team – provided that they have met the criteria set forth above.

3.) In the event a manager position is available in the next sequential league, for a manager who desires to advance to that league, active members with managerial experience shall be given preference over those with no managerial experience.

(F) All managers of Little League teams shall act as the plate umpire for one Minor League game during the regular season. Managers of Minor League teams shall act as the plate umpire for one Little League game during the regular season.

Article X – DRAFT

Only managers or a representative approved by the player agent can attend the draft. Team managers are responsible for the selection of their team.

(A) Within league age restrictions, all returning players excluding the team manager's child will be redrafted.

(B) Managers may not select assistant coaches until after the draft.

(C) Sponsors of Teams will not be assigned until after the draft.

(D) Required players must try out to be eligible for the draft. Placement of players who do not tryout will be 1.) Permitted to be in the general draft if a majority of managers can agree to rank that player; or 2.) In the event a majority of the managers cannot agree as to a rank, the president and player agent will assign the said player a ranking.

(E) A manager's child will be ranked and assigned a round to be picked. 1.) Ranking and round will be determined by a majority of managers; or 2.) In the event a majority of the managers cannot agree as to a ranking and draft round, the president and player agent will assign the manager's child a ranking and round to be drafted.

(F) Players ranking will be agreed upon by the managers. A ranking of 1, 2, or 3 (3 being the highest rating) will be assigned to ensure equality during drafting. 1.) The returning age players will be drafted before the players that are entering the league for their first year. 2.) Rated players with a 3 will be drafted first, then the rated players as 2s, etc. 3.) Managers will repeat this process for the players entering the league for their first year.

(G) Brothers and sisters must play on the same team unless drafted into different leagues or requested by a parent.

(H) Siblings drafted in the same league will be drafted according to their rating.

(I) Teams' draft order will be decided by chance. Draft will be conducted in a snake format.

(J) Once the 2nd year players are drafted in a league the snake draft will reverse order for the 1st year players in said league.

(K) Any dispute not covered by the by-laws will be decided immediately by the president and player agent of the HYBBA.

ARTICLE XI - TEAM PLAYERS

(A) Any player meeting the requirements as to the age and the residence and monetary assessment as set forth in these by-laws and the rules of the Little League, Pony, Colt, Baseball Inc. shall be eligible to compete for and participate in HYBBA.

(1.) Residence is defined as the physical boundaries established as the Hopewell Area School District.

(2.) Players from neighboring areas, not offering a team, shall be eligible to participate in HYBBA.

(B) Players affiliated with any other organization or sponsoring group must give priority to their HYBBA team.

(C) Upon evidence of misconduct, the Board of Directors shall have the full power to suspend or revoke such players' right to future participation.

(D) Any debts owed to the organization must be paid in full prior to the start of the forthcoming season. Unpaid debts will render the child ineligible to participate.

(E) All fees for the current season must be paid in full before a player can begin regular season play or receive a uniform.

(F) Player conduct:

Players shall:

- . Display good sportsman ship and team play at all times.
- . Follow the direction of the coaching staff.
- . Respect all coaches, players, league officials, umpires and spectators.

Players shall NOT:

- . Use abusive or profane language
- . Taunt or humiliate any other player
- . Argue an umpires call
- . Abuse, mistreat or mishandle any HYBBA equipment or property.

(G) A League Director shall be designated by each division to manage the affairs of the division including scheduling of make-up and playoff games and reporting game results to the webmaster.

(H) Rain out games will be scheduled on a first open date, in order of rain out, by the League Director.

(I) League curfews for games: NO INNING SHALL BEGIN AFTER 8:30 p.m. If curfew is involved the teams will complete the inning in progress if home team is behind

(J) The home team has the right to the field for practice from 5:00 PM to 5:25 p.m. The visiting team has the right to the field from 5:25 p.m. to 5:55 p.m. Game time is at 6:00 p.m. Except T-Ball.

(K) All managers must have signed medical release forms present at each game.

(L) Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of three (3) defensive innings, and bat at least once per game. Batting order will be continuous. Penalty for breaking this rule is forfeiture of the game. Every one of the three (3) innings must be played. Rain completed games are exceptions. (M) Any player deliberately throwing a bat or helmet will automatically be ejected from the game by the umpire.

(N) Players missing two (2) practices or games without a legitimate excuse will result in the manager notifying the Player Agent. A third game or practice missed without a legitimate excuse will result in a one game suspension to be imposed by the player agent.

(O) Player Pools are to be established in the minor league, little league and Pony Leagues as follows:

Minor league: Three (3) players from each team of exceptional ability from the oldest age group to be used for the Little League. All other players are eligible for Intra league play.

Little League: Two (2) players from each team of exceptional ability from the oldest age group for use in the next higher age bracket league.

1. Players selected by the team managers are to be reported to the appropriate league directors. Lists will be approved by the Board of Directors before use. Lists must be prepared and submitted before the start of the regular season.

2. Pool players must play the outfield and bat last.

a. Ponies, Little league and Minor League - When using the pool players, a manager may only have a maximum of ten (10) players.

Of the ten (10) no more than three (3) can be pool players.

Examples: 8 roster + 2 pool = 10

7 roster + 3 pool = 10

6 roster + 3 pool = 9

3. A pool player can only be called to play one game per week.
4. A player cannot be called the day they have a game in their own league.
5. A pool player cannot play more innings than a roster player, except in case of an injury.
6. Pool players must be selected on a rotation basis from the list as established by the league director. See rule N(1).
7. Penalty for breaking these rules is forfeiture of the game.

(O) Safety

1. Lightning – If lightning is observed in the area, the game will be suspended temporarily for fifteen (15) minutes. If no further lightning is observed, the game may continue. If lightning is subsequently observed after the initial observation, the fifteen-minute suspension shall re-start with each subsequent observation.

(P) Only the team manager shall address the umpire or opposing team manager on the field in matters of dispute.

(Q) Runners must slide OR avoid contact.

(R) Free substitution of players is permitted except as noted in the specific division rules.

ARTICLE XII - LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

(A) Final record at season's end will determine the League Champions.

(B) If a two (2)-way tie occurs, the league champion will be determined by a one (1) game play - off.

(C) If a three (3) way tie occurs, a lottery will be conducted to determine a play-off system. One team will receive a bye. The winner of the two remaining teams will play the team that received the bye. There will be a three (3) day period between games. The two- (2) team managers, upon mutual consent, may waive the three (3) day waiting period. (not applicable to t-ball or coaches pitch).

(D) Play-off games will affect the teams' final record for purpose of the draft (section only) (not applicable to t-ball or coaches pitch)

(E) Little league and Minor League championship will be determined by single elimination tournament to determine champion. Seeding to be determined by regular season finish. The results of this tournament will not effect the draft rules which will be based on season finish.

ARTICLE XIII– TOURNAMENT TEAMS (All Stars)

It is the mission of HYBBA to involve as many children as possible in tournament baseball. Since this is a higher level of playing ball, it is HYBBA goal to instill in these players what competition involves. This will raise the standard of playing and prepare them for competition at the Junior High and High School level. The following selection process will be implemented:

1. Explanation of the system will be posted on the website.
2. Any person interested in managing a team will apply to the HYBBA board at registration or during the spring practice session.
3. The “Board of Directors” will vote on managers in ages 8 –14. For age 7 the board will elect the 7U All Start manager. This manager will be responsible for scheduling the tryouts. This is the only age group that will have a tryout.
4. The manager will appoint his coaching staff for each respective team.
5. In age groups managers pitch and above players in good standing with the league will be given the opportunity to represent HYBBA in All Stars. Players who are up for consideration are as follows:
 - 7U: player who is of the right age and play a full spring season
 - 8U: player who is of the right age and play a full spring season
 - 9U: player who is of the right age and play a full spring season
 - 10U: player who is of the right age and play a full spring season
 - 11U: player who is of the right age and play a full spring season
 - 12U: player who is of the right age and play a full spring season
 - Pony: player who is of the right age and play a full spring season
 - Colt: player who is of the right age and play a full spring season
6. Selection of All Star players will be voted on by Managers and assistants from each age group. The voting will consist of 2 votes per team per age group. Each Manager and 1 assistant coach will submit to the board or player agent their top 12 players in their respective age groups. The All Star manager will have final say on the roster. The top 9 players will be selected leaving the final spots being selected at the sole discretion of the All Star Manager.
7. During the first week of May, the board will disclose the top 9 players from their age group, based on the voting. The final selections will be at the sole discretion of that team’s manager based on above requirements. These 10-12 players would make up the all-star team and represent our league in various tournaments around the area.
8. HYBBA would pay fees for up to (3) three tournaments per age group. This consists of 1 home tournament and 2 away tournaments. Managers have the option to find other tournaments but are the responsibility of each team out of pocket.
9. Each manager will be responsible for the conduct of his players. Any misconduct by a manager or player while representing HYBBA will not be tolerated and could lead to dismissal from the organization. Code of conduct is located within the player/parent code of conduct rules.
10. Each manager will be responsible for the selection and scheduling of practice, games, tournaments and times and places needed for HYBBA funded tournament.
11. The Uniform Director shall be responsible for selecting, with board approval, and distributing all all-star uniforms.
12. It is the responsibility of each manager to notify the Director of Concessions when his games would be scheduled at Hopewell’s fields.
13. Parents of players selected to an All Star team will be responsible for the cost of the player’s uniform and any other tournaments the team wishes to participate in.

14.No All Star practices or games may interfere with league games or play-offs.

ARTICLE XVI - AMENDMENTS

These By - Laws or any section thereof may be amended or repealed by a two - thirds vote at a duly constituted General Membership meeting; provided that the proposed change shall be presented to and read at a meeting, at least, one month prior to the meeting at the which the proposed change is to be submitted to vote.

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12/97, mrd

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10/00,cbf

03/03, jaf

04/07 mac

02/08 mac

02/08 mac

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4/08 mac

3/09 mac

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