

South Hill Baseball League Operating Rules (9-3-2024)

1. Birth certificates will be kept secured electronically, uploaded by parents, and managed by the Secretary.
2. All managers will be provided with a copy of the current year official Diamond Youth Baseball (DYB) or Babe Ruth Baseball rulebook, a current copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, League Operating Rules and Local League Options are available online. It is the head coach's responsibility to read and understand all rules along with sharing with all assistant coaches.
3. All umpires used by South Hill Baseball Association, Inc. will be certified umpires and will be issued an official DYB or Babe Ruth Baseball rule book. The Board will have the authority to approve non-certified umpires in the situation that a certified umpire is not available. Umpires will be compensated the following:
 - (A) AA Coach Pitch will be one umpire paid \$50.00 per game. If an umpire is not available for the AA Coach Pitch game the coaches will umpire the game.
 - (B) Minor League will be one umpire paid \$50.00 per game.
 - (C) "O"Zone will be two umpires paid \$50.00 each per game.
 - (D) Mecklenburg Baseball will be two umpires paid \$50.00 each per game.
4. Any purchases over \$25.00 shall be approved by the President or Vice-President.
5. No coach, board member, or league official will receive any pay for work or time lost in connection with South Hill Baseball Association except for work during non-South Hill Baseball travel tournaments only.
6. For Travel Baseball Tournaments only three to four people can be scheduled to work in the concession stand each day. Each person working will be paid \$10.00 an hour for their service. It is recommended that all league members be given an opportunity to work.
7. Anyone paid by the league that makes \$600.00 or more (follow current Virginia tax code) will receive a 1099 form from the league.
8. Game schedules will meet all current DYB and Babe Ruth Baseball guidelines and requirements. Games needing to be rescheduled for reasons other than weather must be arranged at least one week prior to the scheduled game. Both participating managers and commissioner must agree on the proposed schedule change. Games rescheduled due to weather postponement will be rescheduled as soon as possible by the teams involved and baseball commissioner.
9. The League Operating Rules can only be altered by the Board with majority vote. At least two thirds of the board will be required to be in attendance to vote on changes. The President has the right to appoint the 3 person rules committee at their discretion.

10. The league will provide \$50.00 per player, per day for transportation/lodging during all-star tournaments that are 100 or more miles from South Hill, not to exceed \$2500.00 per team.
11. Any player that plays up a division during the whole regular season will not be allowed to play back down a division for all-stars even if the player is age eligible for the lower division.
12. Parents will pay for all-star uniforms, or the current board can vote to approve for part or all uniforms to be paid for by the league.

SOUTH HILL BASEBALL – LOCAL LEAGUE OPTIONS (10-16-2022)

1. At game start, only coaches and players are allowed on field or dugouts. Dugout doors are to be closed, players and coaches are ONLY allowed to leave the field in order to go to the restroom and back. This is the managers responsibility and will be enforced by the umpire on field or board members.
2. An Ozone or Minor team may start or end a game with a minimum of eight players. AA Coach Pitch teams may start or end the game with a minimum of nine players.
3. The team manager may use players from another team's roster in the league to prevent a forfeit. He is only allowed the number of players to be added for any one game to be the number necessary to provide a team with a minimum of players to start a game. The manager can only bring a particular player from another team's roster only one time in a season.
 - a. Any player added to a regular season roster to prevent the forfeit of a game shall not be eligible to pitch during the game.
 - b. No team may bench a player on the team's regular roster while a player added to the roster for one game is in the game, unless the rostered player is sick or injured and cannot continue in the game.
4. A player may be signed up after the local league drafts are completed prior to or on the first game day of a league's regular season. Players signing up after the draft will be assigned to the next team in the draft order unless they are needed to equal the roster of another team.
5. Each team in divisions AA, Minor, and "O"Zone will play a minimum of fifteen games and players must play at least eleven games to be eligible for all-stars.
6. All players aged 4-6 must wear helmet with chin strap when batting. Ages 7-10 must wear a facemask on helmet, but no chin strap is required but can be used. Ages 11-12, facemask is optional but recommended.
7. In the event you are short on coaches, there must always be a coach in the dugout.

Only current coaches, assistant coaches, or board members are allowed to be used as a substitute for replacing a coach.

8. “O”Zone and Minor Local League Options.

- a. A one hour forty-five minute time limit will be enforced for all “O”Zone and Minor division games.
- b. Continuous batting will be used in “O”Zone and Minor with all players required to play a minimum of two defensive innings with free substitution on defense afterward.
- c. Minor league will play 9th batter rule. When 9th batter comes to the plate it will automatically go to two outs. In order to end the play, the defense MUST:
 - i. Make an out on the batter or any other base runner.
 - ii. Control ball at home plate by any defensive player.
 - iii. Control ball between any runner and his next base.

9. "AA" Coach Pitch Local League Options:

- a. AA Coach Pitch will play DYB Coach Pitch Tournament Rules except for the following.
 - i. Continuous batting will be used with all players required to play a minimum of two defensive innings with free substitution on defense afterward.
 - ii. A maximum of seven (7) runs per inning allowed per team. A team may score more than seven (7) runs on a ground rule double or an over the fence home run.
- b. A one and a half hour time limit will be enforced for all Coach Pitch league games.
- c. Pitching will be no less than 40' from back point of home to coach pitching.
- d. There shall be two defensive coaches on the field.
- e. Maximum number of people allowed in the dugout is 4 approved managers or coaches.

10. "A" Coach Pitch Local League Options:

AGES-5 and 6 (This division is mandatory ages 5 and 6, players cannot play down or up a division)

- a. PLAYING FIELD Base Path 50'
- b. Pitching will be 40' from back point of home to coach pitching.
- c. Balls will be R.I.F. Tee Balls.
- d. Bats must meet all requirements in the most current DYB Rule Book. Bats must also be Tee ball only.
- e. Pitch limitation to batters is 4 from the Coach, and then the final pitch using the tee.
- f. Coach will pitch over hand.
- g. Player pitcher must wear helmet with face mask and chin strap.
- h. Player pitcher must be even with or behind Coach until ball is hit.
- i. Teams will play positions and when 3 outs are reached, next team bats. If 3 outs are not reached by last batter of a team, last batter is announced and other team bats after that batter finishes.
- j. Play will stop when an attempt at a put out is made. (Ex. Runner on first, ball is hit to third, third baseman picks up ball and throws to second, play stops even if no one catches ball). If ball is hit to outfield, play stops when ball is thrown in and controlled by any infielder. If runner has passed a base and keeps going, he gets next base.
- k. Play stops for last batter of inning when ball is controlled at a base in front of lead runner.
- l. All players will play on defense but only 5 players can be on infield (6 if catcher is used).
- m. Remaining players must be in outfield at least 10' behind base line.
- n. 2 coaches will be on field with defense.
- o. Game ends when both teams have batted around twice.
- p. Coach pitching will be umpire.
- q. 4 coaches per team mandatory
- r. Catcher position is optional if coach has a player that wishes to play that position, but not mandatory. Catcher must wear full catcher protective equipment as approved by DYB Baseball.
- s. Base stealing is not allowed.
- t. The infield fly rule is NOT applicable.
- u. Teams will use scorebooks to keep score and outs.
- v. DYB Rules will be used to cover any rules not covered in the above rules.

10. T-Ball Local League Options:

AGE 4 (This division is mandatory age 4, players cannot play up a division)

- a. See Dixie Youth T-Ball book rules.
- b. Batters will bat from the tee.

- c. 1 hour time limit will constitute a complete game. No new inning started after the 1 hour time limit reached.
- d. Continuous batting will be used with all players batting each inning.
- e. All players may play on defense. All defensive outfielders must play at least 10 feet behind the bases.
- f. There shall be two defensive coaches on the field and a total of 3 offensive coaches on the field. One pitching, one coach in each of the coach's boxes, and one at the plate with batter.
- g. The scoreboard will NOT be turned on.
- h. Maximum number of people allowed in the dugout is four approved managers or coaches. There will be a minimum of 1 approved managers or coaches in the dugout.
- i. The player pitcher must wear a batting helmet with chin strap.

South Hill Baseball Fall Local League Options:

- a. All DYB and Babe Ruth rules will be used unless stipulated below.
- b. All regular season South Hill baseball local league options must be followed unless stipulated below.
- c. Game times are as follows:
 - i. T-ball and "A" Coach Pitch..... 1 hour
 - ii. "AA" Coach Pitch, Minor, and "O"Zone 1 hour 30 minutes
 - iii. Mecklenburg Baseball 13-15 and 16-18 1 hour 45 minutes
 - iv. No new innings can start after time limit expires.
- d. No players will be benched for consecutive innings.
- e. Teams will pitch players in consecutive innings, no more than six outs in a game while still following pitch count if reached before six outs, this allows new pitchers practice time in the off-season.
- f. Catchers need to be substituted to allow new catchers to train.
- g. Coaches should rotate players around positions, while keeping safety first, but allow players to learn infield and outfield positions.

Abuse / Molestation Risk Management Program

This sports organization has adopted and will implement the following risk management elements:

1. Criminal Background Checks

Criminal background checks will be run with a third-party vendor on all paid and volunteer staff with access to youth. Any background check that indicates that a potential staff member is unfit to work with youth will result in disqualification of such staff member.

Prior to running background checks, the following steps should be taken*:

- All prospective staff to complete written application to include question about whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a crime involving physical violence / sex offenses, and a consent provision to run a background check.
- Determine disqualification criteria
- Protect confidentiality of records
- Comply with all state and federal laws

* (More information is available from background check vendor or Sadler Sports Insurance under Risk Management section of website.)

2. Warning Signs of Abuse / Molestation

The following warning signs will be communicated to all paid and volunteer staff:

- Attitudes/behaviors expressed on the part of an adult that may be associated with inappropriate or abusive behavior (racist, poor sense of athlete development, raging temper, extremely controlling, jealous, hypersensitive, poor sexual boundaries, bullying, intimidating manner, unrealistic or inappropriate training practices and risks, etc.)
- Unexplained/unlikely explanation of injuries.
- Extreme fear of a league volunteer.
- Extreme low self-esteem, self-worth.
- A child's attachment to a coach/staff to the point of isolation from others'
- A coach/staff with an interest beyond caring concerns, special interest in a child (Time, gifts, attention, obsession, unrealistic expectations)
- A child's desire to drop out without a clear explanation, or without one that makes sense; A child that misses a lot of practices or games with suspicious explanations or excuses.

3. Policies to Protect Against

The following policies will be communicated to all paid and volunteer staff:

- Limit one on one contact between a single unrelated child and adult by use of buddy system where two adults are always present.
- Prohibition of overnight sleepovers
- Touch is acceptable only if it is “respectful and appropriate”
- Inappropriate comments of a sexual nature and suggestive jokes are prohibited
- Take home / pick up of athletes by league personnel is strongly discouraged because of difficulty in limiting one on one contact

4. What Is Required In Event of an Allegation

Appropriate league official and police will be immediately contacted. Police will handle investigation.

Staff member will be immediately suspended or reassigned to alternative duties that don't involve access to youth pending the outcome of the police investigation.

League officials will not comment on the allegation or police investigation until it has been concluded.

5. Communication of Information

The information in this risk management program can be communicated by pre-season staff meeting and/or by distribution of this document to all paid and volunteer staff.

Our sports organization has adopted this program and incorporated it into our written policies and procedures.