

Mountain League Information and Rules 2011

ALL HYAA COACHES MUST PROMOTE THE FOLLOWING HASTINGS YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OBJECTIVES:

- Promote the concept of equal participation
- Promote the teaching of basic fundamental skills
- Promote the fun aspect of participating in team sports
- Promote the positive self-concept in youth by emphasizing the good things participants do
- Promote good sportsmanship behaviors
- Promote the concept of **ATHLETES FIRST – WINNING SECOND**
- Provide and promote a “safe learning environment”

1. HYAA has adopted the City of Hastings Field condition cancellation policy. The City Recreation Coordinator will determine if the city ball fields are in playable condition due to heavy rain **by 2:00 pm**. Please **call 651-480-2393 option #5** to determine if weather conditions will impact evening practices and games. Cancellation of games due to heavy rain or threatening weather after that time is to be handled by the coaches. Coaches or their calling committee must call players to inform them. When lightning occurs, practice or games must be called immediately. Games may be rescheduled for the same field on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

Lightening can strike 10 miles outside of a thunderstorm. **Remember the 30/30 rule.** If you see a bolt of lightening and hear the thunder in 30 seconds or less, seek shelter and wait 30 minutes before resuming activity or cancel the event. Severe weather can produce high winds, hail, heavy rain, lightening and/or tornados. If a severe storm approaches the ball field, suspend play and seek shelter.

2. Remember, **ATHLETES FIRST**, winning second. Let's make this a positive learning experience for everyone.
3. Tobacco use and alcohol consumption is strictly prohibited. This applies to players, coaches, parents, and spectators. The softball program exists for the benefit of our kids.
4. An 11-inch softball is to be used. Base length is 60 feet and pitching distance is 35 feet.
5. Batting. Have your lineup ready with the start of each game. Coaches can adjust their batting order with each game.
6. There are 10 defensive positions on the field (4 outfielders). Rotate the players as necessary. It is permissible to play a player at the same position for more than one inning, suggested rotation every 2-3 innings. Only 10 players on the field at one time the others should remain on the bench. There are unlimited free substitutions. A player pulled from the game can substitute back in at any time.
7. Keep the games moving by reminding girls of their positions before they go on the field for defense and have them **run** out to those positions.

8. Have a parent help the catcher with their equipment. A pinch runner can go in for the catcher when there are two outs to give them time to get their equipment on.
9. *All players should practice pitching at each practice/game.* Only those interested should pitch during a game. It is OK to have a pitcher pitch more than one inning (up to 3). However, coaches should use common sense so as not to put the health of the pitcher (or opposing players) at risk.
10. Coach of the **home** team should send score of game to staci.ahrens@hyaa.info by 5 PM the night following the game (either Tuesday or Thursday).
11. The parent of any participant who develops HEAD LICE must inform the coach, who in turn must contact all parents on the team and indicate a player has head lice. The coach should clean up all batting helmets. Parents of the infected player should follow the treatment procedure and **KEEP THEIR CHILD OUT OF SOFTBALL UNTIL THE PROBLEM IS CLEARED UP.** Sharing of combs/brushes by players is discouraged. Your cooperation is needed to stop the spread of head lice.
12. Coaches should be flexible on working out any other situations that arise. Remember the game is for the kids – **LET THEM PLAY AS KIDS.**
13. Metal spiked shoes are not allowed.
14. If serious injury occurs fill out the injury form and return to Staci Ahrens, In-House Softball Director (651-437-8838, option 3) within 24 hours after the injury.
15. At the end of the season, clean up the equipment, wipe down the helmets inside and out, clean out and empty equipment bags. Catchers shin pads can be scrubbed with a brush and water if needed. Turn in **cleaned** equipment at the end of the season on August ___th or ___th (between 6:30-7:30) at the HYAA shed (by Middle School south parking lot).
16. Schedule your team party for the end of the year. Each team will get \$25 from HYAA for their party.
17. **Playoffs** will be scheduled at the end of the season, July 26th and 28th. Umpires will be provided for the playoffs. Games will be 5 innings and cannot end in a tie. The 5 run rule applies in the first 4 innings. There is no 5 run rule in the 5th or extra inning. Home team will be chosen by a coin toss prior to the game. Seeding will be determined by win-loss record and runs scored/allowed.
18. **Playoff format:** 1st and 4th seeded team will play each other. 2nd and 3rd seed will play. The losers of the games will play a consolation game; the winners will play each other in a championship game. Tournament format will be handed out prior to the playoffs and will be available on the HYAA website.
19. Any and all questions or comments should be directed to Staci Ahrens, In-House Softball Director by phone (651-437-8838, option 3) or via e-mail at staci.ahrens@hyaa.info.

HYAA may be contacted by visiting the website at www.hyaa.info or by calling 651-437-8838. Thank you for your help and support!

Mountain Playing Rules

1. Starting time for all games will be 6:15. Length of game is to be 1 hour and 30 minutes or five (5) innings. No inning will start 1 hour and 30 minutes after the game begins. If behind, the home always bats before the time limit is enforced. Games ending in a tie remain a tie. ***Please start on time and don't end games early.***
2. Pitching will begin with the first game. The player will pitch a **maximum** of 6 pitches to each batter before the coach will take over. A coach will pitch to his/her OWN team. This same rule will carry into the playoffs. If the coach takes over pitching, the batter's count remains the same.
3. Three strikes and the batter is out. Player cannot strike out on a foul ball, unless the foul ball is caught by the catcher or another player before the ball hits the ground. Umpires will be provided to call strikes. *****Do not argue with the umpires. They are a privilege to this division, not a necessity***** If you have a problem with the way an umpire is calling the game, please call Staci Ahrens at 612-770-2628. *Encourage the batter to swing, not wait for the coaches to pitch.*
4. Strikes, Balls, and Walks: As in rule 3 above, three strikes and the batter is out. However, there are no bases on balls. A ball will count toward the 6 pitch count only. The only exception to the walk rule is if the batter is hit by a pitch. If this happens, it is up to the batter and coach to take first or stay in and continue hitting. A pitch that hits a batter counts towards the 6 pitch total.
5. Only the next batter is allowed to swing the bat in the on-deck area. For safety reasons have the on-deck circle on the side behind the batter. The on-deck batter must wear a helmet. All other players must be on the bench.
6. All batters and base runners must wear helmets with chinstraps.
7. Batter cannot advance to first on a strike 3 passed ball or ball dropped by catcher.
8. One base on an overthrow when the ball is goes **out of play** (past the fence line). If the ball is in play, runners advance at their own risk. A runner cannot score from third on an overthrow unless the player is already heading for home AT THE TIME OF THE THROW (it doesn't matter what base the ball was thrown to or if it stayed in play or not).
9. Base-running: Runners are free to advance when the ball is hit. They can advance until the ball is thrown into and secured by the pitcher, or when the umpire calls time-out. The pitcher must be within the 8-foot pitchers circle and have control of the ball. The runner may continue to the next base, however if the base runner stops they must go back to the previous base.
10. There is no leading off, infield fly, third strike dropped ball advance to first or stealing. Base runner may leave the base when the pitch crosses the plate.
11. There is a 5 run rule per inning, except during the last inning, when the "run rule" does not apply.
12. No coaches are allowed on the field when on defense. First and third base coaches are allowed on the field when batting.
13. A player will automatically be ejected from the game for flagrantly throwing a bat or helmet or displaying poor sportsmanship.