



FERNDALE- HAZEL PARK - OAK PARK-
PLEASANT RIDGE

BASEBALL PROGRAM





PONY, MINOR & MAJOR RULES

2016

REVISED: APRIL 2016



HAZEL PARK – FERNDALE – OAK PARK- PLEASANT RIDGE

COMMUNITY BASEBALL PROGRAM

2016 RULES FOR PONY, MINOR & MAJOR

PHILOSOPHY

The Youth baseball program is organized primarily for the improvement and development of all players regardless of their skill level; and to promote physical, mental, and moral development for all youngsters.

The Hazel Park, Ferndale, and Oak Park Recreation Departments provide the means through which the player shall receive education and instruction in the sport of baseball. The purpose for developing such a program is to develop a sense of fair play, honest competition and true sportsmanship, with the intent that all youngsters gain good moral character.

Winning is not the focus of this program, but is secondary in the eyes of the staff.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship will be displayed at all times by players, coaches, and spectators. Coaches should be aware of the actions of the spectators for his team and help umpires control any disputes or misconduct.

RULES OF FAIR PLAY

Rules of fair play will be strictly enforced. Heckling of the other team, ridiculing others, throwing equipment, etc., will not be tolerated. These actions, if repeated after umpires' warning, are grounds for removal from a game.

POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES

The League Representatives shall determine the starting or postponement of any scheduled game due to inclement weather, muddy fields, and/or any other conditions that might prove harmful to players and coaches.



Once a game has been started, the umpire or league director can only call it.

Any time lightning is seen, all games will be called at that time and made up at a later date, unless they have played enough innings for an official game. The League Representatives reserve the right not to make up games if time within the league's schedule does not permit.

A. *PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY*

1. Players must register at the recreation office each year during the designated registration period, abide by all rules and regulations set forth in each community and pay the individual fee.
2. Players may not participate in any games, including scrimmages, until their school baseball season is complete.
3. AGE:
 - a. Pony: 9 – 10, Minor 11 – 12, Major 13-14. Contact individual Cities for age control date.
 - b. Mentally or physically handicapped children may be placed in lower divisions prior to the start of the season. Contact individual Cities for specific guidelines.
 - c. Children may be asked to play in a lower division if their skill development places their personal safety in jeopardy. The final decision will be made by each City.
 - d. Children wishing to play up a division need to check with the individual Cities as to their policy and procedure.
 - e. Team placement is left to the discretion of each individual City.

B. *LEAGUE HOUSEKEEPING INFORMATION*

1. The home team keeps the official score. Pages must not be removed from scorebook.
2. Manager of the home team is responsible to see that the official signs the score sheet of both teams at the conclusion of the game. Each manager must call in the game score to their league representative between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. the next day.
3. Team standings shall be kept as follows: zero points for a loss, one point for a tie and two points for a win. Standing for all divisions will be published at the end of the season.
4. In the event of a tie for the league championship, a one game playoff will be scheduled.
5. Home team will occupy the third base bench.
6. Awards are left up to the discretion of each City.
7. **Weather: (Accuweather)**
 - a. Heat: When the heat index reaches ***101 degrees*** or more, all games are canceled. Exception may be for games played under the lights after the sun goes down. Please call your league representative for specific information.
 - b. Heat or Rain: Call the following Weather Hotline numbers after 4:30 p.m. for field conditions:
 1. Hazel Park: 248-547-5535
 2. Ferndale: 248-544-6767
 3. Oak Park: 248-691-7418
8. **Umpires:**
 - a. A 15-minute grace period shall be given if a team does not have eight players. Once a team has eight players, the game must start.
 - b. Once the game starts, any dispute pertaining to ground rules shall be governed by the umpire in charge.



- c. Discussing a decision with an umpire may be done only by the team manager. The team manager may approach the umpire in a respectful manner. At no time are players to discuss an umpire's decision.
9. **Blood Borne Pathogens Rule:**
A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment. Bloodied clothing must be replaced or completely covered. Uniform violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required.
10. **Verbal Intimidation/Physical Attack:**
Any player or coach who verbally intimidates, threatens, or physically attacks any player, coach, spectator, umpire or department representative in any fashion, shall be suspended from the program for an indefinite period.
11. **Removing a Team from the field:**
If at any time a coach takes his team off the field because he does not agree with any umpire's decision, that manager may be subject to immediate dismissal.
12. **Abuse of City/School Property:**
Any team, player or coach found guilty of abusing city and or school property or continued violation of any rule governing the program shall be liable to penalties.
13. **Use of Tobacco, alcohol or Other Substances:**
The use of tobacco, alcohol, or other substances in any form by players and adult leaders on the playing field or in the bench area is strictly prohibited, during, before, or after games and practices.



14. **Protests:**

- a. Protest based on a play, which involves an umpire's judgment, such as safe or out, or fair or foul, is not permissible. Only playing rule violations can be protested.
- b. Protest allowed must be based on an interpretation of the rules. If this type of protest were to occur, the objecting manager must notify the opposing manager that the game is being played under protest at the time of the infraction and before the next pitch is thrown.
- c. All protests must be filed in writing with the baseball league director within 24 hours of the day it occurred. Contact individual Cities for specific guidelines.
- d. If the protest is upheld, the game will be resumed from the point of the infraction. The league director will settle any questions regarding the game.

15. The League Representatives will make final decisions on all matters.

C. EQUIPMENT: Will be provided by the individual Cities.

1. Metal spikes are not allowed.
2. Players and coaches must wear an official uniform at all games. Players not in uniform, except in the case that the Blood rule is in effect will not be allowed to play. Uniforms for players are determined by the individual City.
3. All male players must wear a cup and support. Umpires will check catchers for cups before the game starts.
4. Catcher's equipment must be worn when behind the plate. Catcher's equipment includes: facemask, throat protector, helmet, catcher's mitt, and chest protector and shin guards. No player may catch if missing any of the above equipment. When warming up a pitcher, player must wear a helmet and mask.
5. Runners and batters must wear helmets at all times while involved in the field of play. If a runner's helmet accidentally falls off, the runner shall not be called out. However, if the umpire calls that the helmet was intentionally knocked off, the runner will be out. Helmets must remain on until the player enters the dugout.
6. Authorized, aluminum bats are allowed. **No altered bats will be allowed.** Coaches are responsible for checking and removing all bats that do not conform. Coaches must check all bats in the beginning of the season and before each game. Pony & Minor max. 33 inches in length, and no more than 2 ¼ barrel. Major league max. is 34 inches in length no more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter. Pony/Minor: Labeled with BPF (Bat Performance Factor) of 1.15 or less. Major: Labeled with BBCOR (Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution) Certification mark.
7. Jewelry: Jewelry cannot be worn during any practices or games. This includes rings, necklaces, earrings, bracelets and watches.
8. Balls: Must use a Regular Size and cored baseball.

D. GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

National Federation of State High School Association Baseball Rules shall be in effect, except as modified below:

1. The only individuals other than players allowed on the field or player's bench at any time are head coaches, three assistant coaches and one scorekeeper. Umpires will remove all unauthorized personnel from the playing field or the player's bench. All coaches shall be recorded in the teams' scorebook.



2. No one, other than the on-deck batter, is allowed on the field in the area between the end of the bench and home plate.
3. Players do not have to slide but, at the umpire's discretion, if malicious contact is made by the player not sliding, he will be thrown out of the game.
4. Overthrows – When a thrown ball (not Pitched) leaves the field of play the umpire shall immediately call the ball out of play and award all base runners one base. The ball is dead and runners may not be put out when advancing to awarded bases.
5. A player may not charge into another player who is trying to tag the player at any base. The runner must slide or avoid that player. The runner is out for charging and may be removed from the game.
6. **Major:** Players do not have to slide but if malicious contact is made (the umpire's discretion of malicious) by the player not sliding, he will be thrown out of the game.
7. Pony (9-10) must have a minimum of eight players to start a game.
8. In Pony (9-10) teams must play with 10 players if available. The use of the tenth player is limited to an outfielder only. The position of the four outfielders must be in a uniform arc from home plate and must be in fair territory.
9. **Illegal Directions**
 - a. No one on the batting team, including spectators, may at any time tell or otherwise give directions to the team in the field for the purpose of confusing them, (such as yelling for the fielders to throw to the wrong base.) Any violation will result in the batter being called out and the runners being sent back to where they started that play. The person guilty of the violation shall be ejected from the game and suspended that game plus one more.
 - b. When the opposing team is on the field, no coach is allowed behind the backstop. They may be behind the bench, on the bench or down the outfield line past the first or third base coaches.

E. TIME LIMITS

1. **Pony – Seven innings or 1.5 hours.**
 - a. If a game starts late due to 15-minute grace period, the 1.5-hour game time is from the scheduled game time, NOT start time. **NO innings will begin after 6:45pm for 5:30pm games; No innings will begin after 8:45pm for 7:15pm games.** If in the middle of an inning, that inning may be completed.
2. **Minor- Seven innings or 2 hours**
 - a. No innings begin after two hours from the start of the game. If in the middle of an inning, that inning may be completed.
3. **Major- Seven innings or 2 hours**
 - a. No innings begin after two hours from the start of the game. If in the middle of an inning, that inning may be completed.
4. **PLAYOFFS ONLY – Final games are played in completion**

F. MINIMUM INNING RULE

1. **Pony and Minor:**
 - a. Each player must play in the field at least two innings
2. **Major:**



- a. Each player must play a minimum of 2 or 3 innings and is left up to the discretion of each city.

G. SUBSTITUTIONS

1. **Free Substitution Rule:**
 - a. In Pony and Minor there will be no limit, except as stated in Section F, on how many times a player may enter or re-enter a game, except in the case of a player who has pitched during a game.
2. Players who re-enter the game must bat in their original batting order in the line-up.
3. All pitching and fielding changes must be recorded in both teams' scorebooks.

H. BATTING

1. All players on Pony, Minor, and Major teams will bat in a continuous order throughout the game, whether the player is on the field or on the bench.
2. Adding a Player to the Batting Order. Players arriving after the first pitch of the game will be added to the official score sheet at the bottom of the batting order.
3. Limitations on Batters Per Inning
 - a. Pony and minor will bat 12 batters per inning or three outs whichever comes first.
 - b. Last batter each inning must hit or strike out. He may not be walked.
 - c. No players may be intentionally walked at any time.
5. Bunting: If the batter attempt to bunt on a third strike and the batter misses or fouls it off, the batter is out.
6. Injured players will pass in batting order, (not an out).

I. BASE STEALING

1. **Pony:**
 - a. Runners may not advance on a passed ball, if the ball is still in play players can continue to run.
 - b. Runner may come home on a batted ball that remains in continuous play or when forced to advance by a walk.
 - c. Runners may not steal. Players may not lead off.
 - d. Runners may not run on a dropped third strike.
 - e. A 10 run lead after 5 will be a mercy.
2. **Minor:**
 - a. May steal any base after pitch leaves pitchers hand. Players may not lead off.
 - b. May not run on a dropped third strike.
 - c. May advance on a passed ball, except home. If the ball is in play off a batted ball the players may advanced, including home.
 - d. When a team is ahead by 10 or more runs there is no stealing until the difference falls below 10 runs. (I.e. cannot advance unless ball is hit.)
 - e. A 10 run lead after 5 will be a mercy.
3. **Major:**
 - a. A 10 run lead after 5 will be a mercy.



J. BASE COACHES

1. The batting team may have two coaches on the field. One each in the coaching box near first and third base.
2. If the coach touches, pushes, holds, or otherwise physically restrains or directs the base runner while the ball is in play, that runner shall be called out.

K. PITCHING AND BASELINE DISTANCES

League	Pitching Mound	Baseline
Pony: 9 – 10	40 feet	60 feet
Minor: 11- 12	46 feet	65 feet
Major: 13-14	54 feet	75 feet

L. PITCHING RULES (Calendar week begins Mon. Noon – Monday 11:50 a.m.)

Pitching rules are meant to protect developing young arms and are to be strictly enforced. It is the coach’s duty to enforce these rules. Penalties will be given out whether the violation is intentional or unintentional.

1. **Pony & Minor only:** Pitchers may not pitch on two consecutive calendar days.
2. Inning limits
 - a. **Pony & Minor:** Pitchers may only pitch four innings per game or eight innings per week
 - b. **Major:** Pitchers may only pitch five innings per game or ten innings per week
3. If there are three games scheduled in a week, pitchers may pitch an extra four innings
4. Tournament Exceptions:
 - a. Regularly scheduled games and make-up games preceding a tournament must be completed two days before tournament begins.
5. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after he has warmed up, but before he has thrown a legal pitch shall not be considered a violation.
6. Pitchers shall be allowed a seven-pitch warm-up between innings. Ten pitches at the start of the game
7. **Pony/Minor only:** A pitcher once replaced as a pitcher may not re-enter the game as a pitcher. Pitchers removed from the mound may stay in the game at any other position. One exception, if a pitcher is removed from a game to attend to any injury or cut (Blood Rule) he will be allowed to re-enter as a pitcher as soon as the injury is under control.
8. Balks:
 - a. **Pony:** balks are not called, but pitchers are told by the official that he has balked.
 - b. **Minor:** balks will be called but no base will be awarded.
 - c. **Major:** pitcher will receive a warning
9. No curve ball is allowed in either Pony or minor.
10. Pony will use the three balls, two strike rule.
11. If a pitcher hits a player 2 times in one inning, or 3 hits during a game, he shall be pulled.

M. EJECTION AND/OR SUSPENSION

1. Players, coaches and scorekeepers will be ejected from that game and suspended from one additional game for any of the following:
 - a. Fighting
 - b. Use of profanity or abusive language
 - c. Unsportsmanlike conduct



- d. Harassment of players, coaches, umpires, or spectators before, during or after a game.
 - e. Consumption of alcoholic beverages.
 - f. Smoking in vicinity of field.
2. Spectators will be ejected from the park for violation of any of the items in Section#1 sub-section a-f above.
 3. Players suspended from a game will dress, attend and sit the bench during the game from which they are suspended.
 4. All ejected individuals, except players, must leave the ball field, park or school property immediately upon ejection by the umpire. Players must exit the ball field but will sit on the player's bench for the remainder of the game. Failure to leave the property will result in forfeiture of that game.
 5. Ejected players are considered an out each time their position comes up in the batting order

N. DISCIPLINE

1. The use of corporal punishment is prohibited. Violators will be dismissed from the league subject to a hearing before the Baseball league.
 2. Players should attend all practices. Coaches have the authority to refuse to allow a player to play in a game if he fails to show for practices. (Attendance must be kept.) Attendance at a special practice other than the original scheduled practices shall not be mandatory and will not be used as an excuse to bench a player in the next game.
 3. If a player is not participating in a game due to disciplinary action, the opposing coach must be informed before the start of the game that the player is sitting the bench.
 4. Before any disciplinary action is taken against any player, the manager must:
 - a. Inform the parents of the player as to why the disciplinary action is being taken.
 - b. Inform the parents of the player how long it is in effect.
 - c. The player is then informed of the disciplinary action and told why that action was taken.
 - d. The manager must inform their League Representative within 24 hours of all disciplinary action taken.
 5. All questions regarding conduct or discipline shall be directed to the League Director. The League Director shall take all action.
- O. COACHES:** Coaches shall be selected and trained by the individual cities

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

1. Right to the opportunity to participate in sports regardless of ability.
2. Right to participate in the level that commensurate with each child's development level.
3. Right to have qualified adult leadership.
4. Right to participate in a safe and healthy environment.
5. Right of each child to share in the leadership and decision making of their sport participation.
6. Right to play as a child and not as an adult.
7. Right to proper preparation for participation in the sport.
8. Right to equal opportunity to strive for success.
9. Right to be treated with dignity by all involved.
10. Right to have fun through sports.



CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

1. I will treat each player, opposing coach, official, parent and administrator with respect and dignity.
2. I will do my best to learn the fundamental skill, teaching and evaluation techniques, and strategies of my sport.
3. I will become familiar with the rules of my sport.
4. I will become familiar with the objectives of the youth sports program with which I am affiliated. I will strive to achieve these objectives and communicate them to my players and their parents.
5. I will uphold the authority of the officials assigned to the contests in which I coach and I will assist them in every way to conduct fair and impartial competitive contests.
6. I will learn the strengths and weaknesses of my players so that I might place them into situations where they have maximum of opportunity to achieve success.
7. I will conduct my practices and games so that all players have an opportunity to improve their skill level through active participation.
8. I will communicate to my players and their parents the rights and responsibilities of all individuals on our team.
9. I will cooperate with the administrator of our organization in the enforcement of rules and regulations and I will report any irregularities that violate sound competitive practices.
10. I will protect the health and safety of my players by insisting that all of the activities under my control are conducted for their psychological and physiological welfare, rather than for the vicarious interests of adults.

As a volunteer coach, I have read the philosophy statements above and plan to follow them to the best of my ability.

Coaches Signature _____ Date: _____