



Heritage Baseball Competition Committee Handbook – 2010

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The Competition Committee will be made up of seven (7) members holding the following positions:

Chairman – Heritage Baseball Vice-President
Chief Umpire Coordinator
Coach Pitch Division Commissioner
Machine Pitch Division Commissioner
Minor Division Commissioner
Major Division Commissioner
Babe Ruth Division Commissioner

Responsibilities:

- Develop and outline all pre-draft rules and guidelines, and ensure conformance.
- Review and implementation of all entries in the organizational by-laws pertaining to the 'on-field' policies.
- The Competition Committee will be the official Heritage Baseball protest committee and any protests will be chaired by the Chief Umpire Coordinator.
- Develop, outline, and implement the tournament team selection process for Heritage Baseball post season play.
- Direct and organize any post season intra-league and/or invitational tournaments held at Heritage Park.

Guidelines:

Any and all documentation or proposed by-law amendments produced by this committee must be brought to vote within the committee and carry a majority vote. After a majority vote has been accomplished within the committee, these rules and procedures, whether they are existing by-laws or revisions, must be presented to the President of Heritage Baseball for review and final authorization. Once final sign-off has been accomplished by the chairman of this committee and the President of Heritage Baseball, the changes will be implemented immediately.

Notes and Comments

Any and all proposed changes to existing rules will be brought to the attention of all coaches within the division prior to being voted upon by the committee. Coaches within the affected division will have an opportunity to express their opinions to the appropriate division commissioner on the committee prior to any rule changes. Voting will only be represented by the seven (7) committee members.



Unless otherwise listed in the following amendments, Heritage Baseball will follow the rules and regulations outlined in Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations AND Official Playing Rules rule book.

GENERAL RULES

1. A complete time at bat begins when a player takes position in the batter's box as a batter with a count of no balls and no strikes and ends when that player reaches base safely or is declared out.
2. A batter has (20) seconds to assume position in the batter's box. The pitcher has (20) seconds after receiving the ball to deliver a pitch to the batter or throw to a base.
3. Cal Ripken League will place all participants in the batting order and have free substitution on defense, provided all players play at least (6) outs of defense and one at bat during a regulation game.
4. Illegal substitutes must be noticed by the opposing manager and called to the attention of the umpire immediately upon the illegal substitution entering the game before another pitch is thrown or before another play.
5. Players, managers and coaches of the participating teams shall not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during a game in which they are engaged.
6. In the Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken leagues a team failing to field at least (8) players within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game.
7. If the batter refuses to take position in the batter's box during the time at bat, the umpire shall order the pitcher to pitch and shall call strike on each such pitch. The batter may take a proper position after any such pitch and the regular ball and strike count shall continue, but if the batter does not take proper position before three strikes are called, the batter shall be declared out.
8. Babe Ruth League teams may use a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and the catcher at any point during the game and can choose that runner. Teams should take into account any player that may bat during that inning should be avoided and the use of a bench player is recommended.
9. A manager may not have more than (2) assistant coaches which are to be reported to Heritage Baseball on a team.
10. A player will not be permitted to transfer to another team due to pre-arranged agreements between head coaches and assistant coaches.
11. All Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth players will play (6) defensive outs and get at least (1) complete turn at bat. In Cal Ripken League, all players will be in the batting order and free substitutions will be allowed on defense. There are no exceptions other than a shortened game, i.e. rainouts. In the case of a shortened game, the coaches' integrity will allow those players to start the next game. It is the intent of the Heritage Baseball that players see as much playing time as possible during the season to keep the children interested in the program.

EQUIPMENT

1. Any bats or balls meeting Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Baseball specifications shall be legal for local play.
2. A pitcher shall not wear a shirt with white long sleeves. Shoes must be worn at all times.
3. Face guards on batting helmets are strongly recommended for batters, base runners and on deck hitters during local league play in age 10 and under.
4. Catchers must wear a catcher's mask with a helmet made as part of the mask or a separate unit.
5. Catchers should also wear a protective cup supporter in all games. It is highly recommended that coaches get all players to wear a protective cup while participating in Babe Ruth or Cal Ripken Baseball.
6. In the Cal Ripken League, cleats must be rubber. No metal spikes allowed. Interchangeable cleats are allowed only if rubber spikes are used.

PITCHING REGULATIONS

1. In Cal Ripken Major and Minor League a pitcher may grant an intentional walk without throwing to the batter. To grant the intentional walk the pitcher tells the umpire of his intentions and the umpire directs the batter to first base. (This is a time saving measure)
2. **Cal Ripken Major Division:** Under no circumstances shall a pitcher be permitted to pitch in more than six (6) innings per calendar week (Monday through, and including Sunday). If a pitcher pitches in more than three (3) innings in one assignment, they are required two (2) calendar days rest prior to pitching again. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment. If a pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, they shall be charged for one inning pitched.*
3. **Cal Ripken Minor Division:** Under no circumstances shall a pitcher be permitted to pitch in more than six (6) innings per calendar week (Monday through, and including Sunday). If a pitcher pitches in more than three (3) innings in one assignment, they are required two (2) calendar days rest prior to pitching again. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment. If a pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, they shall be charged for one inning pitched.*
4. At the completion of every game, each manager will be required to fill out a pitching chart to be turned into the concession stand. Each manager must sign both pitching charts.

****HCRA strongly believes that extreme care be used when calling on pitchers so an individual player is not overextended Protect the players arm! Utilize a pitch count!***

TIME LIMITS AND CURFEWS

Cal Ripken Division: Heritage Baseball shall impose a 1 hr 15 min time limit for the Coach Pitch Division, a 1 hr 30 min time limit for the Machine Pitch Division, and a 1 hr and 45 min time limit for the Minor and Major Division. In addition, a 10:00 PM curfew will be enforced for all league games on lit ball fields where children league age 12 and under are participating. The park will be closed at 10:00 PM, if at this time the second game has not announced or reached the final inning. It will be held that an inning starts the second that the 3rd out is made, completing the preceding inning.

Babe Ruth Division: The Heritage Baseball Department shall impose a 2 hour time limit and 11:00PM curfews on all games on lit ball fields where children league age 13 and above are participating. The park will be closed at 11:00 PM, if at this time the second game has not announced or reached the final inning. It will be held that an inning starts the second that the 3rd out is made, completing the preceding inning.

LOCAL PLAYING RULES

Local divisional Spring and Fall Season playing rules will be updated and agreed upon annually. These rules will be agreed upon by the Heritage Baseball Executive Board as well as EWA, BRC and CGRC. These rules will be considered as addendums to this handbook.

Heritage Baseball Coaching Selection Policy

Note: HCRA reserves the right to perform a background check on any coach wishing to participate in Heritage Baseball.

All coaches must fill out an application prior to being considered for a coaching position within Heritage Baseball.

The following guidelines will be used by the Heritage Baseball Executive Board in determining selection of coaching candidates.

1. Head coaches returning from last spring/fall within the same age group.
 - *This is subject to review of survey and Board approval.*
2. Assistant coaches with a minimum of two years experience coaching (head coach or assistant) at Heritage Baseball. These nominees must have coached (head coach or assistant) the previous spring/fall season in the division applied for.
 - *Board approval required*
3. Spring/fall head coaches from lower level moving up into new age group.
 - *This is subject to review of survey and Board approval.*
4. Assistant coaches from last spring/fall staying in same division (*no minimum years experience required*) / Volunteer at HCRA for four or more years
 - *These two hold equal value and board decision will be required.*
5. Head coaches from previous fall/spring season in same division (*example: coached in minor in fall, but moving to major in spring does not apply*)
 - *Board approval required*
6. Assistant coach from lower level who is moving up into a new age group.
 - *Board approval required*
7. Board review and approval from coaching applications.
 - *New applicants only*

NOTE: Up to two assistant coaches will be selected by the head coach and be dependent on board approval.

HERITAGE BASEBALL DRAFT/TEAM SELECTION POLICY

SPRING SEASON

COACH PITCH DIVISION

1. All requests during signups will be considered by team managers.
2. Guarantees for team placement are not permitted.
3. After requests are considered, team placement will be accomplished through luck of the draw.
4. Each Manager will draw a number from a hat to determine draft order.
5. After requests are considered, each remaining players name will be placed in a hat to be drawn for team placement.

MACHINE PITCH, MINOR & MAJOR DIVISIONS

1. Assessment try-outs will be held for all players in the Machine Pitch, Minor and Major Divisions.
2. Requests for a specific team/manager will be accepted; however this does not guarantee that these requests will be honored during the team selection process.
3. Team managers will be afforded the opportunity to accept up to **five** player requests to participate on their team.
4. Manager and Coach's sons/daughters *will* count as a request to participate on their roster.
5. Siblings will play on the same roster.
6. Special consideration request's to *not* play for a particular coach due to a past issue will be placed back in the draft.
7. Team Managers, as always, will be set by the board prior to assessment try-outs.
8. Each Team Manager will select two coaches for their roster.
9. At the conclusion of the assessment try-outs, managers and coaches will meet for the team roster draft selection.

DRAFT ORDER

All Divisions

1. Roster with the least amount of players will select first until they have the same amount of players on their roster as the team with the second least amount of players. This may include several teams.
2. At this time, a coin flip will decide which of the teams with the least amount of players select next. If there are more than two teams which fall into this category, numbers drawn from a hat will decide the order in which these teams select next.
3. Once all teams have the same amount of players on their roster, numbers will be drawn from a hat to determine the order in which the draft will continue until all players have been placed on a roster.
4. The first round order in which the draft will take place will be 1 through the highest number, and the second round will then be from the highest number to the least number with the third round then being from the least number to the highest number. This process will continue until all players have been chosen.
5. The names of the players that did not attend assessments will be drawn from a hat in the order of the current draft selection.

Babe Ruth Division

1. It is permissible to enter the Babe Ruth level with an existing roster
2. Each player that is a member of an existing roster must declare the team they are on during sign-ups, and they must be verified by the team manager.
3. Players which do not declare an existing roster will be placed into the draft for open team selection.
4. Team selection order will follow the same procedure as outlined above.

FALL SEASON

COACH PITCH DIVISION

1. All requests during signups will be considered by team managers.
2. Guarantees for team placement are not permitted.
3. After requests are considered, team placement will be accomplished through luck of the draw.
4. Each Manager will draw a number from a hat to determine draft order.
5. After requests are considered, each remaining players name will be placed in a hat to be drawn for team placement.

MACHINE PITCH, MINOR & MAJOR DIVISIONS

1. Requests for a specific team/manager will be accepted; however this does not guarantee that these requests will be honored during the team selection process.
2. Team managers will be afforded the opportunity to accept up to **five** player requests to participate on their team.
3. Manager and Coach's sons/daughters *will* count as a request to participate on their roster.
4. Siblings will play on the same roster.
5. Special consideration request's to *not* play for a particular coach due to a past issue will be placed back in the draft.
6. Team Managers, as always, will be set by the board prior to assessment try-outs.
7. Each Team Manager will select two coaches for their roster.
8. Managers and coaches will meet for the team roster draft selection.

DRAFT ORDER

All Divisions

1. Roster with the least amount of players will select first until they have the same amount of players on their roster as the team with the second least amount of players. This may include several teams.
2. At this time, a coin flip will decide which of the teams with the least amount of players select next. If there are more than two teams which fall into this category, numbers drawn from a hat will decide the order in which these teams select next.
3. Once all teams have the same amount of players on their roster, numbers will be drawn from a hat to determine the order in which the draft will continue until all players have been placed on a roster.
4. The first round order in which the draft will take place will be 1 through the highest number, and the second round will then be from the highest number to the least number with the third round then being from the least number to the highest number. This process will continue until all players have been chosen.

Babe Ruth Division

1. It is permissible to enter the Babe Ruth level with an existing roster
2. Each player that is a member of an existing roster must declare the team they are on during sign-ups, and they must be verified by the team manager.
3. Players which do not declare an existing roster will be placed into the draft for open team selection.
4. Team selection order will follow the same procedure as outlined above.

**Heritage All-Star
Selection Process and Administration Requirements
for
Coach Pitch, Machine Pitch, Minor, Major and Babe Ruth Divisions**

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Tournament – Post Season Team Manager will be elected prior to the start of the Spring Season. Applications for this position can be accepted at any time, but all nominations must be received prior to March 27, 2010. A form will be provided to all coaches and managers during league sign-ups if they wish to nominate themselves. A vote will be held by all division rostered coaches, division managers, and board members on or before April 5, 2010 to determine the Tournament Team – Post Season Manager for Coach Pitch, Machine Pitch, Minor, Major, and Babe Ruth Divisions. *Any person who is nominated for the tournament team coaching position will not be permitted to vote in the process, regardless of whether they are a board member or an existing coach.* A weighted voting system will be implemented, which is outlined below.

Weighted voting system for All-Star Managers:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Division Managers | = 3 points |
| Divisions Coaches (rostered only) | = 2 points |
| HCRA Baseball board members | = 1 point |

2. Try-outs will be conducted by all division managers and coaches within that division, as well as supervised by the elected All-Star Manager on April 24th and if needed on April 25th, May 1st and 2nd with the team selection being announced on or before May 10th. Managers are encouraged to meet prior to the start of try-outs (chaired by the division commissioner and All-Star Team Manager) and develop a procedure to use during try-outs. Managers and coaches will conduct the tryouts and the All-Star Team Manager will supervise. Try-outs will be done over two weekends and each session will be two hours in length.
3. At the end of the final try-out session, the All-Star Team Manager will make the final selection for twelve (12) players to represent Heritage Baseball during Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth post-season and/or tournament play. In addition, the All-Star Team Manager will select two coaching assistants at this time*.
**Note: If the elected All-Star Team Manager is currently a Division Manager, one coaching selection must come from another team roster. This selection can be a rostered team manager or coach, but it must come from within the division.*
4. Practices and/or tournament play will begin at the discretion of the elected All-Star Team Manager in conjunction with league play.

ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Following is a summary of the administrative requirements for Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken division all-star teams. Please refer to section 11.00 of the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules for complete details.

1. The all-star team manager must place in the custody of the tournament officials the following documents prior to the start of competition:
 - a. Birth document or records as specified by Rule 0.04, paragraph 1 for each of the tournament team players.
 - i. **Certified** copy of original record of birth *or* Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. laminated I.D. Card.
 - b. Accord Certificate of Coverage of Group Accident Insurance Policy.
 - c. Accord Certificate of Coverage of league's Commercial General Liability Insurance Policy.
 - d. Tournament team roster certified and signed by League President.
 - e. Babe Ruth League, Inc. Letter of Tournament Eligibility Form.
 - f. Consent for Treatment Form (Starting at state level of play).
 - g. Four 5x7 or 8x10 color team photographs with identification. (Send photo to State tournament host, Regional tournament host, **Babe Ruth Headquarters** and one remains with Tournament Team).

Note: These documents must stay in the possession of the Tournament Director during each tournament level. These documents shall accompany the team as they advance in tournament competition. It is recommended that these "credentials" be placed in a 3-ring binder and be kept by the Tournament team manager through-out tournament competition.

2. Shoulder Emblems (All Divisions)
 - a. All team participating in Babe Ruth Local League and Tournament competition are required to wear the Official Cal Ripken Baseball (5-12 year olds) or Babe Ruth Baseball (13-18 year olds) Shoulder Emblem (shown in Official Babe Ruth Supply Catalog) on their left uniform sleeve.

In Cal Ripken State Tournament play, all coaches will be required to wear a full uniform, consistent with that worn by the players. Currently, a full uniform is not required in Cal Ripken District play.

HERITAGE BASEBALL SELECT DRAFT TEAM GUIDELINES

Heritage Select Draft Baseball is an extension of Heritage Baseball and is not a part of the Recreation Program

HERITAGE SELECT DRAFT BASEBALL PHILOSOPHY

Heritage Select Draft Baseball is an extension of the Heritage Baseball program, which is designed to promote the development of strong character, a good attitude, a sense of responsibility and citizenship in youngsters, using the game of baseball as a vehicle. It is the intent of the Heritage Select Draft Baseball program to achieve this goal through fair play, good sportsmanship, congenial fellowship, and a level of competitive baseball that meets the needs of a select group of kids and their families.

Heritage Select Draft Baseball provides a unique opportunity for kids to experience competitive baseball at a level beyond the recreational leagues. However, developing players in terms of baseball knowledge, skill, character, love of the game, and sportsmanship remains our top priorities above winning.

Heritage Select Draft Baseball welcomes players and families who desire to play on one of our select baseball teams. However, it is strictly against the policy of Heritage Select Draft Baseball program for any coach, player or parent to recruit players away from neighboring communities or teams. It is strictly against the policy of Heritage Select Draft Baseball Program for any person, either as a participant or a spectator, to engage in arguments, to use abusive language, to harass umpires, or to exhibit any behavior not in concert with the general intention of this policy statement. As representatives of the Heritage community, team coaches, players and parents are required to abide by this policy statement as well as additional codes of conduct since we represent our Heritage community across the Southern Williamson County area during the season.

All Heritage Recreational Baseball rules will govern, unless otherwise noted. All select teams will follow the local Heritage Recreational Baseball rules as any other team participating at Heritage Baseball. As an example, game and practice schedules for Select Draft Teams will fall into a rotation along with all recreational teams. It is permissible for Select Draft teams to schedule games against non-Heritage local organizations. This will include but will not be limited to teams in the GNABA, MSABA, or other Babe Ruth Division teams.

HERITAGE SELECT DRAFT BASEBALL COMMITTEE

The Heritage Select Draft Baseball program will have a Select Draft Baseball Commissioner who will be appointed by the Heritage Baseball President. This position will sit on the Heritage Baseball Executive Board and be responsible for overseeing all Heritage Select Draft Baseball activities.

The Heritage Select Draft Baseball Committee will consist of three officials to oversee all select coach and team selection. This committee will consist of the Select Draft Baseball Commissioner, Heritage Baseball Vice-President, as well as the Head Umpire Coordinator. All decisions will be by majority vote; in case of a tie the Heritage Baseball President will make the final decision.

COACH SELECTION

1. Coaching candidates (including coaches currently coaching Heritage Select Draft Baseball teams) must complete a Heritage Select Draft Baseball Coaches application form unless there is one already on file. Candidates will indicate whether they are interested in a head coach or assistant coach position and identify preferences if they want to coach with a specific person. The current coach will be given first consideration to move up with his/her age group to maintain Heritage Select Draft Baseball's "core team" philosophy unless the Heritage Select Draft Baseball Committee feels the need to select a new manager.
2. In addition, candidates will provide additional information (via a separate form) in the following areas:
 - Coaching Experience
 - Coaching Philosophy
 - References
 - *Provide 3 references that we can contact in regard to your coaching background/experience. At least 1 must be from a coach that you have never coached with.*
3. At the end of each season, coaches will review feedback on the prior season with the Select Draft Baseball Commissioner. Parents will be encouraged to provide feedback during the season but at least at the end of the season as well. Parent feedback is intended to be for the Select Draft Baseball Commissioner's benefit.
4. Once selected, coaches will hold an open try-out with the assistance of a Select Draft Baseball committee member. Coaches are required to hold a minimum of three (3) with a maximum of (5) tryouts. This rule may be modified by a majority vote within the Heritage Select Draft Baseball Committee.

PLAYER/TEAM SELECTION

1. Heritage Select Draft Baseball teams are sponsored by Heritage Baseball. Coaches are selected and confirmed annually and shall be viewed as custodians of the team for each season.
2. All Heritage Select Draft Baseball teams will hold open tryouts prior to the upcoming season.
3. The Heritage Select Draft Baseball Commissioner will oversee the team/player selection.
4. The ***Heritage Baseball Executive Board*** will determine the final number of select draft teams that will be sponsored. The number of Select Draft Teams will be determined for each age group each year based on a number of factors which will include but not limited to the following:
 - player/parent interest
 - number of qualified coaches
 - the ability to field multiple competitive teams
 - competitive balance with the recreational teams/program
5. Heritage Select Draft Baseball has adopted a “core team” expansion philosophy. We believe this balances the desire to field competitive teams and also develop players. This also incorporates the need to have strong parental participation (as coaches and supporting fans). Player composition on a specific select team may change from year to year as families/players move, players develop and different managers decide to change rosters, etc. When forming or selecting teams, the Heritage Baseball Executive Board will work with the Select Draft Baseball Commissioner, in order to determine whether multiple teams can be supported within a specific age group. If so, we will respect the Commissioner’s, Head-Coach, and parents’ desire to maintain a “core team” of players or preference to play on a different team. We expect coaches to work together in a supportive manner and avoid recruiting players from one team to another.
6. The Select Draft Team registration fee is voted upon by the Heritage Baseball Executive Board annually. This fee will be due at the time the team are selected, and is non-refundable.
 - *Due to the philosophy of select draft teams’ commitment to compete beyond the recreational level, there may be additional fees required from participants for travel fees and special game scheduling.*

Deleted: Interested players must attend at least two (2) of the tryouts held.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

100% of the players on each team must be a “Heritage Baseball Player”. A Heritage Baseball player is defined as:

- 1) Any player that has played Heritage Baseball for the past two years (*fall or spring season*).
- 2) Any player that lives within the Thompsons Station, Spring Hill area and meets the following criteria:
 - Attend or will attend Heritage, Longview, Chapman’s Retreat, Bethesda, Spring Hill, or Marvin Wright Elementary.
 - Attend or will attend Heritage Middle School, Page Middle School or E. A. Cox Middle School
 - Attend or will attend Independence, Page or Spring Hill High School.
 - Any child that attends private school or is home schooled that would attend the schools mentioned above should they elect to attend public school.
- 3) A child of a selected head coach.
- 4) The above criteria must be met each year.

The Heritage Baseball President has the right to waive or revise any rule if it is in the best interest of Heritage Select Draft Baseball’s ability to field a competitive team.

SPONSORSHIP/FUNDRAISING

Select Draft Baseball Teams require a substantial financial commitment in terms of uniforms, league sponsorships fees, travel/lodging expenses and tournament and regular season fees. All Select Draft Teams will conduct all finances through the Heritage Baseball Treasurer. Heritage Select Draft Baseball teams will adhere to the following fundraising guidelines:

1. In order to remain competitive with other parks in the pursuit of hosting tournament play, the Heritage Baseball President's approval of the use of vendors will generally be reserved for sanctioned Babe Ruth, BPA, or USSSA baseball/tournaments involving teams from outside the local league. This is intended to minimize the appearance of excessive or conflicting fundraising efforts from our existing sponsors and families.
2. Prior to soliciting any funds to support select draft teams or beginning fundraising efforts of any kind, select draft teams will submit their fundraising plans to the Heritage Baseball President. At a minimum, the plans will:
 - Describe the nature of fundraising event(s)
 - Location, dates/times
 - Brochure/materials to be distributed, web ads, etc.
 - Identify plans to hang advertising banners on field dugouts
3. Select Draft Team fund raising efforts (including ad material, brochures, web sites, etc.) must have full disclosure statements that clearly state that they are soliciting funds for a specific team, not Heritage Baseball or HCRA in general. Checks from individual sponsors shall be made out to Heritage Baseball, not the individual team.
4. Prior to conducting any fund raising activities at HCRA sponsored events or on Heritage Park locations, select draft teams will require advance approval from the Heritage Baseball President. The executive board will have the final authority to resolve any disputes for Heritage Select Draft Baseball fund raising issues or failure to adhere to the above stated guidelines.