

RULES APPLYING TO ALL LEVELS

1. After the start of the season, teams must be off the playing fields by 2:30 p.m. in order to give the grounds crew time to set up the fields for the games that evening.
2. The destruction or damage of any equipment, intentionally by a player, will not be tolerated. This includes fences, dugouts, washrooms, bleachers and the playing fields themselves.
3. Food should be kept out of the dugouts on game days. Each team is responsible for picking up the dugouts after their game.
4. Any abusive language or gestures toward umpires, managers, coaches or other players will result in removal from the game and possibly removal from the grounds.
5. At the end of the season, each manager is responsible for the safe return of the Harvard Boys League equipment.
6. No person other than players, 1 manager, 2 coaches and 1 scorekeeper will be allowed in the dugout or on the playing field.
7. All team personnel are to remain in the dugout, except the defensive team, the offensive runners, 2 coaches, the batter and the man on deck.
8. All teams must keep a legal scorebook on his team as well as his opponents.
9. Legal games in case of rain will be four (4) innings for Pony League, three (3) innings for A & B Minor and Bronco.
10. All managers are required to have their team on the field and ready to start the game by the time designated on the schedule.
11. All equipment not in use shall be kept in the dugout.
12. Rain outs, make-up games and suspended games will be played on Friday of the same week or scheduled with the commission within 1 week. Contact Dave Helmeid or Todd Ramberg if your game is rained out.
13. If a game is postponed (suspended) due to weather or any other circumstance, each head coach will sign each other's scorebooks and resume the game where it was left off according to the scorebook. If possible the League Rep or a HBL Commissioner will also sign the scorebook(s). If a player(s) was not in attendance during the suspended game, they CAN be added to the resumed game, batting at the end of the line-up. If a player is absent during the resumed game, they will be scratched out from the resumed game and skipped in the line-up with no penalty to that team.
14. Time limit for the first game- no inning to start after 7:45 p.m. unless delay of 6:00 p.m. starting time was caused by umpire. In this case, no inning will start more than 1 hour and 45 minutes from commencement of game. The second game will start ten (10) minutes after the first game and no inning will start more than 1 hour and 45 minutes from commencement of the game.
15. If a game is tied after the time limit or normal innings of play, the following tiebreaker will be used: In the first extra inning and every 1/2 inning thereafter, each team will start with a runner on second base and one out. The baserunner will be the last batted out from the previous

inning. Each batter will start with a 1 ball, 1 strike (1-1) count. The game will continue in this format until a winner is determined. If a winner is not determined after three (3) extra innings, the game shall be recorded as a tie. Likewise, if weather prevents a tie game from being completed, then the game will be recorded as a tie.

16. Any boy destroying Boy's League equipment or property can be expelled from the team and will be held liable for same. Any boy throwing or mistreating bats, helmets, or other equipment will be expelled from the game at the discretion of the umpires. This rule will be strictly enforced. The riding of bikes on Harvard Boys League property, while games are in progress, will not be allowed, as well as skateboards.

17. The commission will not tolerate any yelling or shouting sarcasm at the umpire or opposing players, and in general, unsportsmanlike conduct by team personnel or fans. Managers are requested to correct this problem. Not that an umpire cannot, or will not, tolerate criticism, but this type of conduct should not be encouraged. If the action is not corrected, the umpire will take the appropriate action.

18. PROFANITY: There will be NO PROFANITY on the field or in the dugouts by players, managers, or coaches. There will be NO WARNING by the umpires. Violators to this rule will be immediately expelled from the game. The individual will leave the premises. If he does not leave his team may have to forfeit the game.

19. A batter coming to bat must wear a batting helmet which will remain on until he or his team is retired.

20. All players must be in full league uniform, being worn correctly, with shirt tails tucked in at all times. Players will be given one (1) warning on improper wearing of the uniform by the umpire. The second warning to the same player will constitute the player being called out. Any other warnings to the same player will result in ejection from the game. At the Pony League level, all pitchers and catchers are required to wear an athletic cup. All players at this and other levels are encouraged to also wear an athletic cup.

21. The Harvard Boys League will allow metal spikes in the Pony League ONLY. However, metal cleats may not be worn by the player pitching. No metal cleats on the mound.

22. A player will be expelled from the games if he maliciously runs over a fielder that is holding the ball.

23. The runner will be called out, if in the umpire's judgment, a slide is necessary to avoid contact with the baseman, or to assure safety of both players. This is the rule for all bases except first base.

24. The Commission has the right to amend or change the rules at any time.

25. NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON PROPERTY.

26. No player who is pulled up a level to play as a substitute player is allowed to pitch or catch in the higher level game.

27. No tobacco use of any kind (smoking or smokeless) is allowed on the field or in the dugout during pre-game warmups or during games.

28. Each Team Manager is required to hold a 'Parent's Meeting' prior to the first game to explain the league rules, team expectations, coaching philosophy, etc.

29. Free substitution of pitchers repealed at all levels. Once a pitcher has been removed from a game, they may not re-enter as a pitcher (except at the B Minor Level where pitching does not actually occur).

30. All HBL Board Members, Coaches, Asst. Coaches Parents and players will refrain from using social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) as a venue for airing grievances or as a place to criticize coaches, other parents, or youth participants. If there is a problem, the person(s) with the grievance will always seek out a HBL board member when there are issues. Not following this rule can result in a suspension deemed necessary by the HBL Board.

B-MINOR RULES

1. This is an instructional league. Pauses in action to help develop understanding of the game are accepted and expected.

2. Coaches should use all effort possible to allow players to play multiple positions and to NOT lock any player into any one position.

3. No more than six (4) runs may be scored per half inning by the batting team. Once the 6th run has scored safely, that half inning will end. There is no 9th batter rule. 3 outs or 4 runs, whichever comes first.

4. Catchers must wear full catchers gear (Mask, Chest, Shin guards, glove)

5. No bunting. A ball stopped inside the 15ft. circle is treated the same as a foul ball.

6. Boys legally assigned to a B-Minor team must play at least three (3) defensive innings. All games will be seven (7) innings in length.

7. All players are to be listed on the scorecard, and each team will bat in this order whether player is on defensive team or not. The minimum required defensive innings played do not need to be in succession. For instance, a boy may play the first, third, and sixth innings in a regularly scheduled seven (7) inning game.

8. If a player comes late, insert his name after the last boy in the batting order.

9. Players must not leave their base until the ball is hit by the batter. If the player leaves the base early, the base runner will be called out.

10. Players on the defensive team may be substituted freely, as long as the minimum number of innings is played.

11. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter is throwing the bat, he should be warned. If this happens again, the boy may be called out.

12. Any over throw on an attempt to first base to get batter out may allow a maximum of (1) base advancement for all base runners unless a follow up attempt at an additional base is made (in which case normal baseball rules will apply).

13. When the ball is in play and the ball enters the 15 ft. circle at home plate, the runners must be over half way to the next base to advance. If they are not over half way, they will be ordered to return to the base they came from. This is enforced by the judgment of the umpire. ** For simplicity, an imaginary line running from 1st base to 3rd base may be used in place of the 15 ft. circle as the cutoff point for play to end. **

14. There is no 'slaughter rule' in effect for B Minor games.

15. If a B Minor League team is unable to field the minimum number of 8 players needed, they may play a first year player from another B Minor team on their team provided they are not from the opposing team.

16. A batter will have 2 pitches from the pitching machine. If no ball is hit into play, he will then receive two swings off of a Tee to put the ball into play. If he fails (swings and misses), he will be called out

A-MINOR RULES

1. No more than six (6) runs may be scored per half inning by the batting team. Once the 6th run has scored safely, that half inning will end. There is no 9th batter rule. 3 outs or 6 runs, whichever comes first.

2. All players must be listed on the score card, and each team will bat in this order whether player is on defensive team or not.

3. Base-runners may not leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. If he does, he will be called out.

4. PITCHING RULE: All boys assigned to the A Minor League are allowed to pitch three (3) innings per game. Once a pitcher has been removed from the game as a pitcher, they may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.

5. If a player comes to the game late, insert his name after the last boy in the batting order.

6. If a manager is unable to field nine (9) of his legally assigned players for a game, he may recruit players from the B Minor League, but he may not play these B Minor players while his legally assigned players are sitting on the bench and are physically capable of playing. No B Minor player may pitch or catch in an A Minor game. If a player is used in violation of the proceeding, the game will be declared a forfeit.

7. Boys legally assigned to an A Minor team must play a minimum of 2 defensive innings. Games are six (6) innings in length. Players on the defensive team may be substituted freely as long as minimum number of innings is played.

8. The runner at 3rd base cannot score unless walked in or ball is hit in play. If there is a defensive attempt on the runner at 3rd, the runner may attempt to score. (Normal Baseball rules apply)

9. Batter is out on a dropped third strike

10. Runner stealing 2nd may advance to 3rd on an overthrow as long as 3rd is not occupied. He may not score. If the catcher throws the ball to 3rd base in an attempt to "pick-off" the runner, the runner may attempt to score. Any additional runs cannot score on this play.

11. No infield fly rule: REMIND UMPIRE

12. 'Slaughter rule' is in effect if a team is leading by 10 or more runs after 5 innings.

13. At the A Minor League level, all pitchers and catchers are required to wear an athletic cup. All players at this and other levels are encouraged to also wear an athletic cup.

14. As long as the catcher has retrieved the ball before a walked batter reaches 1st base, the batter is only awarded 1st base.

15. If a B-Minor player (is moved up due to numbers) is at bat and gets two strikes, the tee will be pulled out and allowed for two hits off the tee. (1 of which can be a foul ball).

BRONCO LEAGUE RULES

1. Games will be six (6) innings in length.

2. All players assigned to a Bronco League team are to be listed on the scorecard, and each team will bat in this order whether player is on defensive team or not, regardless of the number of batters. Players on the defensive team may be substituted freely as long as minimum number of innings is played. Each player must start and play a minimum of 2 full innings defensively.

3. If a Bronco team manager is unable to field nine (9) of his legally assigned players for a game, he may recruit players from the A Minor league, but he may not play these A Minor players while his legally assigned players are sitting on the bench and are physically capable of playing. No A Minor player may pitch or catch in a Bronco league game. If a player is used in violation of the preceding, the game will be declared a forfeit.

4. Dropped third strike rules are in effect, runners may advance according to baseball rules.

5. PITCHING RULE: All boys assigned to the Bronco League are allowed to pitch three (3) innings per game. Once a pitcher has been removed from the game as a pitcher, they may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.

6. 'Slaughter rule' is in effect if a team is leading by 10 or more runs after 5 innings. Home team will still have a chance to bat/score for their half of the inning once the 10 runs take place.

7. At the Bronco League level, all pitchers and catchers are required to wear an athletic cup. All players at this and other levels are encouraged to also wear an athletic cup.

8. Bases for the Bronco League shall be set at 70 feet apart with the pitcher's mound being 50 feet from home plate.

9. When runners are on base and it is a stretching situation, the managers should have their pitchers delivering from the stretch.

10. There will be a (1) week grace period for which pitchers will receive (1) warning if a balk is committed at the Bronco League Level. After this grace period, balks will be called when they occur.