

# 4-6 Age Group

## **FIELD DIMENSIONS**

- The distances between the bases shall be 50 feet apart. Distances to the bases are measured from the point at the rear of home plate to the back edge of the base (or in the case of second base, to the point of the base pointing toward the outfield).
- The distance to the pitcher's mound shall be 30 – 35 feet.

## **HOME TEAM**

- The home team must supply a new ball for each game (RIF5).
- The home team is responsible for the set up and take-down of the field including setting the bases and any infield repair due to ruts or standing water.
- They must assist with the cleanup of all trash including debris left by others in designated trash cans.

## **VISITING TEAM**

- The visiting team must supply a game ball (RIF 5).
- They must assist the home team in setting up and taking down field.
- They must assist with the cleanup of all trash including debris left by others in designated trash cans.

## **PITCHING**

- Coaches will pitch to the batters.
- After 6 pitches, the ball will be placed on a Tee to move the game along.

## **PLAYING RULES**

- Safety is the responsibility of each coach. Make certain that no one is swinging a bat around the players.
- All players will be on the field each inning. However, a coach may run through basic throwing/catching drills on the field to minimize downtime for outfield players.
- Positions should be rotated (i.e., Infield to outfield, outfield to infield). Regular infield positions should be used (except catcher) with the rest of the players spread out in the outfield.
- All batters will advance one base at a time, except for last batter of each half inning who will hit a home run.
- Games will consist of at least two innings; they may be extended if agreed upon by both coaches. Games will be no longer than 1 hour.
- There will be no catcher in the 4-6 age group.
- Fielders may not stand on the base and should be taught how to cover a base when a play is being made or to clear a base when no play is being made.
- If an out is recorded, the runner is permitted to stay on the base. All players will bat each inning. Coaches are permitted on the field to offer instruction to the players.

- Coaches are encouraged to call time-out and instruct the players and teach the players while the team is being played. Parents are not allowed on the field. All players will be pitched to from the start of the year.
- All games will officially end in a tie, no standings will be maintained.
- No sliding at 1st base or head first sliding.

### **STEALING**

- No stealing in 4 - 6.

### **BUNTING**

- No bunting in 4 - 6.

### **COACHES and PARENTS**

- 4-6 games and practices should be target to 50-60 minutes in length.
- Coaches are responsible for the actions of their fans. Every effort should be made to make the game of baseball at Hickory Fountain Green a positive experience. Parents are reminded that this is a non-competitive clinic and is meant to teach the fundamentals of the game and skills involved with playing. By making participation a positive experience their children will build an appreciation for the game and can experience the joy of playing the game of baseball.