



# Hamlin Park Baseball Association (HPBA)

## PARENT/PLAYER POLICY AGREEMENT

### BASEBALL & SOFTBALL 2022 VERSION

#### 1. Overview

- 1.1. The goal of the Hamlin Park Baseball Association (hereinafter referred to as “HPBA”) is to provide a safe, structured, fun and competitive environment for children and teens to learn the enjoyment, strategy and competition of the games of baseball and softball. In an effort to create this environment and in the understanding that this will only be possible if the adults involved have a clear understanding and common pursuit of this goal, HPBA has created this **Parent/Player Policy Agreement** for ALL Parents/Guardians, and Players wishing to participate in HPBA Baseball and/or Softball.
- 1.2. This **Parent/Player Policy Agreement** exists in accordance with the **HPBA Conduct, Discipline and Enforcement Policy Agreement**, the **HPBA Coach Policy Agreement**, the **HPBA Travel Teams Policy Agreement** and all other policies, agreements and waivers published within the HPBA Registration systems.
- 1.3. These rules will be enforced every season (from the start of HPBA Player Registration to the end of the last team organized event), and can only be changed by the Board of the HPBA.
- 1.4. Any disputes regarding these **Parent/Player Policies**, or questions regarding interpretation of this **Parent/Player Policy Agreement**, should be directed to the President of the HPBA or a designated alternate member of the Board.
- 1.5. By virtue of participation and/or through the HPBA Player Registration program, every HPBA Player and HPBA Parent/Guardian agrees to be held to all terms within this **Parent/Player Policy Agreement** and agrees to uphold them.

#### 2. Required Forms

- 2.1 All Players are required to have completed the HPBA Registration application at [www.hamlinparkbaseball.org](http://www.hamlinparkbaseball.org).
- 2.2 All new HPBA Players (House league, Baseball and Softball) may be asked to produce a copy of their birth certificate at the time of new player registration or on-demand at any point in the season.
- 2.3 All HPBA Travel league players are required to provide a copy of the Player’s birth certificate to the Head Coach and/or Team Manager.

#### 3. Player in Good Standing

A **Player in Good Standing** is one who meets all of the following *minimum guidelines*:

- 3.1 A Player who has all of the above listed Required Forms on file with the HPBA.
- 3.2 A Player who attends all scheduled practices and games arriving on time, in uniform, with proper equipment and ready/able to play.



- 3.3 A Player who is PAID IN FULL with all outstanding league obligations met; this includes both the REGISTRATION FEE and the Volunteer BUY OUT FEE (if selected), or any volunteer hours fulfilled.

#### 4. Player NOT in Good Standing

- 4.1 If a Player is failing to meet the minimum guidelines as described in **Player in Good Standing** (sec 3.0 of this document), the coach of that player's team has an obligation to research the circumstances, and report the situation to the HPBA Treasurer. The Treasurer will then determine if an Executive Board examination of the situation is warranted.
- 4.2 The status of the player in question, once determined by the Treasurer (and/or the Executive Board if the Treasurer has handed it off), will be reported to player's Head Coach and parent/guardian. This notification can be done by phone, in person or email.
- 4.3 **Note:** The **Player NOT in Good Standing** ruling is a Board decision only, not a coach decision. A Coach, for example, is NEVER to implement punishments to ANY player for missed practices. The Coach's job is to notify the HPBA BOD; consequences of missed practices are HPBA BOD directives ONLY.
- 4.4 Until that player has been officially declared to be a **Player NOT in Good Standing**, and while still under investigation, coaches are required to meet the player's **Playing Requirements** defined by the **HPBA Rules of Baseball** and/or **HPBA Rules of Softball** (which ever applies).
- 4.5 Upon investigation by the HPBA Treasurer, if the Player(s) is found to be a **Player NOT in Good Standing**, then:
- 4.6 **Player(S) Not in Good Standing** can be withheld from participating in HPBA practices and/or HPBA games.
- 4.7 Uniforms can be withheld from the player(s) if the player(s) fees are not paid in full.
- 4.8 The **Player(s) NOT in Good Standing** can be dropped from the League at the direction of the Executive Board, and a replacement Player can be called-up from the WAITING LIST to fill the vacant roster spot.

#### 5. Practice Attendance

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of all parents or guardians to ensure the full participation of their Player in the baseball and/or softball program be it House league or Travel league. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that every Player must attend three out of every four scheduled practices to be allowed to play in any HPBA game. Failure to attend the required amount of practices (in order to remain a **Player in Good Standing**) will result in the HPBA BOD having the ability to waive the **Playing Requirements** described herein and loss of **Returning Player** status in the following season.
- 5.2 Before the season begins, your Coach will designate practices in accordance with the current HPBA standards as published in the current **HPBA Coach Policy Agreement** and **HPBA Travel Teams Policy Agreement**.
- 5.3 Leading up to and during the season, Parents/Guardians should expect their House league Player to participate in one to two organized team practices per week in addition to the games.
- 5.4 During the regular season, an HPBA House league coach may designate only one scheduled practice per week as being required. (Travel leagues should refer to the **Travel Teams Policy Agreement**).
- 5.5 Players are required to arrive at the park no later than thirty (20) minutes prior to the posted game start times.
- 5.6 Players should arrive ten (10) minutes before all scheduled practices.



## 6. Game Attendance & Minimum Playing Requirements

### 6.1 Game Attendance

- 6.1.1 It is the responsibility of all parents or guardians to ensure the full participation of their child in the baseball and softball programs. This means that every player must attend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their scheduled games to be considered a **Player in Good Standing** for the following season. Failure to attend the required amount of games may, among other consequences, result in **LOSS of Returning Player** status for the following year's registration.
- 6.1.2 The only exception to the eighty percent (80%) scheduled game attendance requirement will be due to injury or illness which prohibits the Player from attending the minimum required games. A request to waive this requirement due to injury or illness must be submitted in writing to the HPBA Treasurer or Director of Registration.
- 6.1.3 Should a Player miss two games or four practices without notifying the coach, the Player does risk being removed from the team and being replaced by a player off the Waiting List. Every attempt will be made by the HPBA BOD to contact the Player before removal.
- 6.1.4 If child needs to drop out of the program for any reason, the coach should be notified immediately. A player will be taken off the Waiting List (WL) to replace a dropped player.

### 6.2 Minimum Playing Requirements

- 6.2.1 The **Minimum Playing Requirements** apply to ALL **Players in Good Standing** who are present at the field and ready to play at least five minutes before the game begins.
- 6.2.2 In the HPBA House league: The **Minimum Playing Requirements** per game are to be applied such that NO player can sit two more innings than the player who has sat the least, e.g., no player should sit out more than one defensive inning in a game than any other rostered player.
- 6.2.3 In the HPBA Travel league: As a general practice, the **Minimum Playing Requirements** per game are to be applied such that no player can sit two more innings than the player who has sat the least. Situations may arise which require such but those situations should be an exception and not the norm.
- 6.2.4 Any Player arriving to a game at the game's scheduled starting time, or later, can be withheld from playing in that game. This determination will be left up the Head Coach or the coach in charge of that game.

## 7. Communication

- 7.1 For the avoidance of doubt, Hamlin Park Baseball Association (HPBA) is an independent 501(c)(3) organization and is not part of the Chicago Park District.
- 7.2 All inquiries regarding games and schedules must be directed to the Head Coach.
- 7.3 The HPBA maintains an up to date website with a full schedule of House league games at [www.hamlinparkbaseball.org](http://www.hamlinparkbaseball.org). Parents/Guardians should frequent the website for any and all information regarding the league schedule.
- 7.4 Parents/Guardians are encouraged to ask the coach after every game for any information that is needed to be passed on.
- 7.5 Coaches are strongly encouraged to use online apps such as (but not limited to) GameChanger, TeamSnap, etc. to communicate practice and game schedules to parents/guardians/players.
- 7.6 Parents/Guardians/Players are encouraged to use the team app as the primary method of communication.



## 8. Player Contact Information & Registration

- 8.1 HPBA utilizes online /web-based registration capabilities for player registration via the Registration tab on the main Hamlin Park Baseball Association website ([www.hamlinparkbaseball.org](http://www.hamlinparkbaseball.org)).
- 8.2 It is incumbent upon Parents/Guardians to provide truthful and accurate information during Player Registration. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the league and loss of **Returning Player** Status. This relates to all shared information including but not limited to: Player's date-of-birth, Player's health, planned absences during the HPBA season and Player's Summer CAMP plans that overlap with the HPBA season (April - July).
- 8.3 Within two weeks of team selection (i.e. the House league DRAFT or the Travel Team Tryout selection notification), the Parent /Guardian should verify all Player contact information to ensure the coach has the correct information. All changes must be passed along to the coach and the HPBA Secretary and/or Treasurer as soon as possible.
- 8.4 All Parents, on behalf of himself/herself/themselves, and their child, acknowledge that HPBA utilizes the services of a third-party vendor to host and manage the online player registration process. By registering with HPBA online, the parent and child, assume any and all risk of any kind associated therewith. The parent and child, agrees to hold harmless HPBA, their affiliates and subsidiaries and their respective directors, officers, employees and agents from and against any claims, losses, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, as incurred, arising in any manner out of or related to the collection, use or storage of data or information collected as part of the online registration process. In no event shall HPBA, its third-party vendor or any third-party involved in or related to the offering of this service be liable to the parent or child or any other third-party, for any direct or indirect damages, including, without limitation, any reputation or other incidental or consequential damages arising out of any misuse, dissemination or disclosure (whether intentional or unintentional) of the information submitted through the online registration process regardless of the form of action, even if HPBA, its third-party vendor or any other third party involved or related to the offering of this service has been advised of or otherwise might have anticipated the possibility of such damages.

## 9. Refund Policies

- 9.1. When it comes to refunds, timing matters. Registration fees will be refunded on a pro-rata basis as explained in section 9.3 below for any player dropping out of the HPBA baseball or softball program prior to opening day of the current season.
- 9.2. Refunds will include registration fees only and will not include amounts paid for other aspects of the program including Volunteer BUYOUT FEE or scholarship donations.
- 9.3. **HPBA House League Refund Policy**
  - 9.3.1. One hundred percent (100%) prior to 1/1
  - 9.3.2. Seventy-five percent (75%) prior to 2/1
  - 9.3.3. Fifty percent (50%) prior to 3/1
  - 9.3.4. Twenty-five percent (25%) prior to 4/1
  - 9.3.5. No refund after 4/1
  - 9.3.6. If the player has received their uniform, the uniform must be returned to the coach prior to a refund being issued.



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9.3.7. HPBA House Player SENIOR Division: Refunds will only be issued after Senior opening day of the current season for players who must withdraw due to injury. Senior division refunds will not be issued after July 1 of the current season.

### 9.4. HPBA Travel League Refund Policy

9.4.1. HPBA Travel Players who drop out at any time after their HPBA Player Registration has occurred are not entitled to a refund of any amount.

9.4.2. A HPBA Registered Travel Player who must drop out for the Season due to injury may bring a request to the HPBA Treasurer.

### 9.5. HPBA Fall Ball Refund Policy

9.5.1. HPBA does not register players individually for Fall ball. Therefore, any refund requests must be addressed with the coach.

## 10. Family Volunteering

- 10.1. HPBA is committed to providing a quality baseball and softball experience, and we rely on regular active participation from parents/families to make it happen. Parents/Guardians of Players are required to assist by giving their time and effort to the HPBA program. Examples of volunteer dependence include: the readiness of the baseball and softball fields, and the popular HPBA Grill (shopping, set-up, service, cooking, break-down), annual equipment disbursement & collection, All Star weekend, the Banquet, etc. Inquiries should be directed to [Volunteers@hamlinparkbaseball.org](mailto:Volunteers@hamlinparkbaseball.org). Every 24 months the HPBA board also sends out requests for volunteers to serve in positions from webmaster to Board President.
- 10.2. At least three (3) hours of VOLUNTEER service are required from each HPBA family.
- 10.3. This service time (three hours) is the same regardless of the number of Players a family has participating in the House or Travel programs.
- 10.4. Only one parent/guardian per household needs to fill the service time requirement.
- 10.5. A parent/guardian may opt-out of this HPBA volunteer commitment time by purchasing a Volunteer BUYOUT FEE with their Registration Fee. The BUYOUT FEE will be set by the HPBA Treasurer each year and will be made available at the time of Player Registration.
- 10.6. Parents/Guardians may reschedule their scheduled volunteer event one time only. Failure to volunteer at the second scheduled event will result in having to pay the current BUYOUT FEE.
- 10.7. HPBA reserves the right to increase the BUYOUT FEE as the season progresses.
- 10.8. All outstanding Volunteer BUYOUT FEES must be paid in full before November 15th the corresponding Player(s) will be removed from Returning Player status for the following relevant baseball or softball season.
- 10.9. Any past-due Volunteer BUYOUT FEE must be paid in full before a player(s) can be officially registered for the following season.
- 10.10. NOTE: volunteer hours not fulfilled by the end of each season will result in the highest-level Volunteer BUYOUT FEE being applied for the past season. ALL FEES MUST BE PAID AT TIME OF REGISTRATION unless specific arrangements have been made with the HPBA Treasurer (Treasurer@HamlinParkBaseball.org).
- 10.11. **EXEMPTIONS** to HPBA Volunteer Requirements
  - 10.11.1. HPBA BOD Members, League sponsors, team sponsors, and Head Coaches shall be **EXEMPT** from these Volunteer requirements by virtue of the inherent demands in their HPBA positions as sponsors and coaches.



## 11. Family Fundraising

- 11.1 HPBA is a nonprofit league consisting of volunteers; you should expect to do fundraising at HPBA. It is part of our charter for each family, whether baseball or softball, should expect to participate with their time, treasure and/or talents within the HPBA.
- 11.2 Active parent/guardian participation in all league fundraising activities is required whether volunteering in the HPBA Grill, recruiting team sponsors, serving as a Head Coach, etc. This applies to baseball and softball families.
- 11.3 Volunteering is especially important for all families in our HPBA Travel leagues, and HPBA Travel families should plan on regular rounds of fundraising and volunteering EACH season. Additionally, some season may require additional funds to cover shortfalls.

## 12. Rules of Baseball & Rules of Softball

Parents/Caregivers/Guardians of HPBA Baseball Players and/or HPBA Softball Players agree to read the **HPBA Rules of the Game**. The **HPBA Rules of the Game** are available through the Hamlin Park Baseball Association website (<http://www.hamlinparkbaseball.org/>), and copies can also be requested from the HPBA Commissioner ([commissioner@hamlinparkbaseball.org](mailto:commissioner@hamlinparkbaseball.org)). Familiarity with the division-specific rules can avoid many misunderstandings throughout the season.

## 13. Field of Play, Dugouts, and “No Sit / No Stand” Zones

- 13.1 Only HEAD and ASSISTANT Coaches and players of that team are allowed on the fields during warm-ups (before a game), during a game, and after a game.
- 13.2 Dugouts are for the coaches and players only. All parents, players from other teams and children are to remain out of the dugouts at all times before and during games.
- 13.3 The HPBA has created **No Sit/No Stand Zones** designated by white chalk lines behind each of the fields’ backstops. No parent, child or player from another team may occupy the designated No Sit /No Stand zones at any time during ANY HPBA game.
- 13.4 For the safety of our players and families, NOBODY is allowed to enter or cross across fields at any time before, during, or after the games or during warm-ups. The paved walkway around the perimeter of the fields should be the main path at these times.

## 14. Parents/Fans Umpires Interaction

- 14.1 All Parents and supporters are obligated to familiarize themselves with and uphold the **HPBA General Policy, Zero Tolerance Rule** and **Good Sportsmanship Rule** as outlined in the *HPBA Conduct, Discipline and Enforcement Policy Agreement* provided on the HPBA website and during the Player and Coach Registration programs.
- 14.2 As further defined in the documents considered in 14.1, at no time is any parent or fan to engage in any conversation with ANY umpire during any HPBA game.
- 14.3 As further defined in the documents considered in 14.1, at no time is any parent or fan to exhibit intimidating or condescending behavior towards ANY umpire during or after ANY HPBA game.
- 14.4 As further defined in the documents considered in 14.1, any parent or fan that engages in inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave the park immediately and may have their player removed from the program permanently without a refund and with loss of Returning Player status for the following season.



## 15. Behavior

- 15.1 All Parents and supporters are obligated to familiarize themselves with and uphold the **HPBA General Policy, Zero Tolerance Rule and Good Sportsmanship Rule** as outlined in the *HPBA Conduct, Discipline and Enforcement Policy Agreement* provided on the HPBA website and during the Player and Coach Registration programs.
- 15.2 In the event a Parent or fan observes behavior by someone that is inconsistent with these guidelines or could be considered dangerous to others, a League Official or HPBA Board Member can be summoned to observe the person in question. There is always at least one board member at Hamlin Park officiating during games that can be summoned by asking a coach or an Umpire if it is not readily clear by their badged uniform.
- 15.3 For the avoidance of doubt:
- 15.3.1 As further defined in the documents considered in 15.1, any parent or fan who is asked to leave the park by any HPBA official, Board Member or Umpire will face a conduct review by the Board. In the event this situation arises, the participation of the offending parents or fans player in the HPBA will be in jeopardy.
- 15.3.2 As further defined in the documents considered in 15.1, all disciplinary rulings by the HPBA Executive Board are final.
- 15.3.3 As further defined in the documents considered in 15.1, must be submitted in writing via the Incident Report Form. This form can be obtained on the HPBA website or from a coach.

## 16. Incident Report

- 16.1 An Incident Report Form (IRF) is the official way to file any behavioral or rules interpretation complaints or concerns that arise during a game or practice. If more forms are needed, contact a coach or visit the HPBA website.
- 16.2 As further discussed in the documents outlined in 15.1, forms should be filled-out as soon as possible after the incident and submitted to any member of the HPBA Board. Any report received after 14 days from the date-time of incident/infracton will be discarded and the incident/infracton will not be investigated.
- 16.3 As further discussed in the documents outlined in 15.1, and *without* exception, after receiving an IRF, the Board will seek out verification of the incident and formally present the incident **to those named therein** who will submit their account or respond in writing within 48 hours. After such time, a full Executive Board review of the incident will determine the next course of action.
- 16.4 As further discussed in the documents outlined in 15.1, all Executive Board rulings are final.
- 16.5 As further discussed in the documents outlined in 15.1, courses of action can be, though are not limited to, one or more of the following:
- 16.5.1 An informal, pre-game conversation with those involved.
- 16.5.2 A formal hearing before the HPBA Executive Board with all those involved
- 16.5.3 in extreme cases, legal action.

## 17. Coaching

- 17.1 All HPBA Coaches (Head and Assistant, as well as Baseball and Softball) are obligated to familiarize-themselves-with and uphold the **HPBA General Policy, Zero Tolerance Rule and Good Sportsmanship Rule** as outlined in the *HPBA Conduct, Discipline and Enforcement Policy Agreement* provided on the HPBA website and during the Player and Coach Registration programs.



- 17.2 Every HPBA Coach will apply for a position as a Head Coach or an Assistant Coach using the HPBA Coach Registration program on the HPBA website; in accordance with HPBA By-Laws, all applicants will be reviewed by the HPBA Vice President prior to awarding coaching positions.
- 17.3 All coaches will make available to their players' parents/guardians their contact information. This includes home and cell phone numbers and email address.
- 17.4 Parents/Guardians and Players are entitled to have access to their Head Coach for feedback. Your HPBA coaching staff should be approachable and reasonably responsive (understanding they are volunteers with many demands on their time).

## 18. Practices

- 18.1 One regularly scheduled practice per week (of at least one hour in length) is REQUIRED for all Players/Teams in the Rookie through Midget Divisions. This REQUIRED practice cannot be on the same day as a game unless that game is a make-up game. Liberty and Senior teams are exempt from the minimum practice requirement.
- 18.2 A regularly scheduled practice is one where at least a 72 hours' notice is given.
- 18.3 Practices can be held at any of the parks, open fields or batting cages located within seven (7) miles of Hamlin Park. These parks include but are not limited to Revere, Horner, Brands, Warren, etc.
- 18.4 Practice times and locations are up to the coach.
- 18.5 Athletic supporters and cups must be worn by boys to all practices.
- 18.6 Because of the current Chicago Park District policy of charging for field time, parents might be requested by the coach to give an OPTIONAL nominal amount to offset the cost of practice at other parks. Must be OPTIONAL.
- 18.7 Note: Section 5 of this **Parent/Player Policy Agreement** describes additional requirements regarding Practice Attendance. A child's attendance at HPBA practices should not be viewed as optional, and excessive missed practices may have unfavorable consequences from the HPBA BOD.

## 19. Schedules and Changes

- 19.1 The entire HPBA game schedule for all teams will be posted on the HPBA website as soon as it becomes available.
- 19.2 HPBA has regularly scheduled House league games on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. However, rainout make-up games can be held on any day of the week and at any time of the day depending on field availability. Also, games may not be held exclusively at Hamlin Park. Other fields, such as those listed below, may be used to accommodate Hamlin Park Baseball: NEIU, Smith Park, Loyola Park, Chase Park, and Warren Park, etc. HPBA Travel league games may also use fields such as Humboldt Park, Thillens Field, Comm Ed Rec Center, etc.
- 19.3 All scheduled games versus other local baseball or softball programs (e.g. Loyola Park) are required and are to be considered part of the baseball or softball season. Please remember you are representing HPBA. Be on time and ready to play.
- 19.4 Coaches will notify all players of schedule changes no later than 72 hours prior to newly-scheduled games and no later than 48 hours prior to a regularly-scheduled game which has been given a new game start time. This is a mandatory requirement of all Head Coaches, even in the event a player has notified the Head Coach of an absence that would prevent the player from attending the newly-scheduled game.
- 19.5 All games are scheduled through the President or whoever has been assigned the task of scheduling.
- 19.6 See also Section 7, Communication.



## 20. Uniforms

- 20.1 A new, complete uniform will be issued to all players who have fully paid. A uniform consists of a hat, jersey, belt, pant, and socks. All boy players must wear a cup (not provided).
- 20.2 Players are required to attend all games in full uniform. Players will not be permitted to play without a complete, current uniform unless by fault of the league.
- 20.3 If a replacement uniform is needed due to loss or destruction, pre-payment is required.

## 21. Equipment

- 21.1 All equipment issued by the league shall be safe and in undamaged condition. Should equipment be rendered unusable during the course of the season, the Head Coach must be notified and the equipment will be replaced.
- 21.2 Players are to supply their own glove and cup.
- 21.3 All bats must follow the current **HPBA Bat Rules** which can be found on the HPBA website (HalminParkBaseball.org). Bat weights and other relevant markings must be clearly visible on the barrels or they will be disallowed.
- 21.4 Senior Division bats are limited to wood bats only; the HPBA will supply a limited number of bats per team.

## 22. Fields

- 22.1 To the best of the HPBA's ability, the fields shall be maintained to be safe and playable.
- 22.2 Parents/Guardians and Players are encouraged to volunteer to help keep our fields in order.

## 23. Picture Day

- 23.1 Full team and individual pictures will be taken during a designated picture day whenever possible in the season.
- 23.2 Although individual player pictures are always optional, the team picture is not. All players must be in attendance for their team picture.
- 23.3 All Picture Day forms will be distributed online or in-person at the picture taking event.

## 24. Banquet Days

- 24.1 Following the regular season, a Player Appreciation Day is held for the lower four divisions baseball and softball. This event is free to players and coaches. Parents and attending families might be asked to pay a small fee to offset costs.

## 23. Use of Photographs / Videos and Release

- 23.1 Parents and players (the "Participants") participating in Hamlin Park Baseball Association (HPBA) functions may be included in photographs and/or videos (the "Photos") taken by spectators, parents, coaches, staff members, and/or by professional photographers.
- 23.2 Participants grant HPBA the right to use the Photos as well as name, child's name (first names only), and likeness in any manner, and waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the Photos.
- 23.3 With participation in HPBA, a parent waives any right to review, inspect, or approve the final version of the Photos and/or any accompanying written materials, such as a description of the applicable Photos.



- 23.4 Photos can be used in a variety of ways, including but not limited to on social media, in marketing materials (printed or electronic), on the HPBA website, on signage, and on other materials used to promote HPBA.
- 23.5 There is no time limit on the validity of this release nor is there any geographic limitation on where these materials may be used or distributed.
- 23.6 HPBA does not provide player or volunteer photos to sponsors or third-parties for commercial use.

#### 24. Social Media and Electronic Communications Usage

- 24.1 For the purposes of this policy, social media and electronic communications refer to any facility for online publication and commentary including, without limitation, all communications (including email, text messages and postings) from HPBA website team pages; non-HPBA-administered team pages (such as Team Snap, GameChanger and Shutterfly); public blogs, wiki's, social networking sites (such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Flickr, Instagram); and YouTube.
- 24.2 HPBA members are subject to this policy to the extent they identify themselves as an HPBA member (other than as an incidental mention in a personal blog or communication on topics unrelated to HPBA). Before establishing and engaging in league-related social media, members must obtain the permission of the HPBA Webmaster.
- 24.3 Any use of the HPBA website, email or other HPBA-provided communication medium is subject to unrestricted review by HPBA.
- 24.4 Any member communication to an organized HPBA team or division, from any source or via any medium, is subject to unrestricted review by HPBA.
- 24.5 All social media postings and communications must demonstrate appropriate respect for all HPBA members (including Board members, coaches, umpires, players and families). Dissent regarding HPBA must be presented in an appropriate manner and format, and not as part of a posting or communication for mass consumption.
- 24.6 All social media postings and communications must respect the privacy of other HPBA members. It is unacceptable to publish confidential information of any kind.
- 24.7 Members should not blog anonymously; using pseudonyms or false screen names. Postings and communications should not be dishonest, untrue, or misleading.
- 24.8 Members must show proper respect for the laws governing copyright and fair use or fair dealing of copyrighted material owned by others, including HPBA owned copyrights and brands.
- 24.9 The public, in general, and HPBA's members, reflect a diverse set of customs, values and points of view. Members are expected to be respectful of others at all times. This includes not only the obvious (no ethnic slurs, offensive comments, defamatory comments, personal insults, obscenity, etc.) but also the proper consideration of privacy and that some topics may be considered objectionable or inflammatory - such as politics and religion.
- 24.10 Using social media or electronic communications for the coordination of team outings is acceptable, but discussion on alcohol, the use of alcohol, and the alcohol to be purchased for use at or around games is strictly prohibited in team communications.
- 24.11 Sponsors, partners or suppliers should not be cited or obviously referenced without their approval. Never identify a sponsor, partner or supplier by name without permission and never discuss confidential details of a sponsor engagement.
- 24.12 Any misrepresentations made about HPBA in social media may be addressed by its members. Responses must always be handled with respect. Response statements must also be factual and not disparaging in any way. Arguments are to be avoided and members shall not seek to settle scores or goad others into inflammatory debates.



- 24.13 Errors posted or communicated in any form must be acknowledged and corrected quickly. Notifications of errors or inappropriate communications (such as copyrighted material or defamatory comments) must be addressed and/or removed immediately.
- 24.14 Wherever practical, members must use a disclaimer advising that anything published in social media is the member's personal opinion, and does not necessarily represent the opinions or official view of HPBA.
- 24.15 Any improper, unethical, slanderous, malicious or morally inappropriate usage of the HPBA provided social media tools, as deemed by the HPBA, will be punished to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- 24.16 Policy violations will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination as a member of HPBA.

### Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all aspects, expectations and consequences discussed within this **Parent/Player Policy Agreement**. I will abide by these Guidelines & Rules and accept any penalties incurred for infractions of these Guidelines & Rules.

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Parent/Guardian

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HPBA Player

END OF DOCUMENT