

WILLIAM S. HART PONY BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

2026 GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

SECTION I - General League Information	Page 2
SECTION II - Parent Responsibilities	Page 4
SECTION III - Team Responsibilities	Page 6
SECTION IV - Managers and Coaches	Page 8
SECTION V - Official Scorekeeper	Page 11
SECTION VI - Evaluations & Draft	Page 12
SECTION VII - Player Shortage	Page 14
SECTION VIII - Umpires	Page 15
SECTION IX - Tournament Team	Page 16
SECTION X - All-Star Teams	Page 19
SECTION XI - Sportsmanship	Page 20
APPENDIX A - Parent's/Manager's/Coach's Code of Conduct	Page 20
APPENDIX B - Batting Cage Rules	Page 22

SECTION I

GENERAL LEAGUE INFORMATION

1. **Hart Complex** - The Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball complex is located on land donated to the Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball Corporation by the Newhall Land and Farm Corporation. It is to be used only for league functions and is not open to the public. As private property, we reserve the right to refuse entry to any person or to revoke permission for entry at any time. There is no trespassing, and violators will be subject to arrest. People granted permission to be on the complex must follow all league rules, regulations, and policies or they will be asked to vacate immediately and at such time will be considered trespassing.
2. **Identification Badges/Background Investigation** - All adult coaches, managers, umpires and team parents will be subject to a background investigation. Upon successful completion of a background check, they will be issued a league identification badge. Only adults with a valid badge visible on their person will be allowed on the field or in the dugout area. Designated adults will be allowed on the field before and after the game only to perform team duties. Umpires will check for badges of all coaches at the plate meeting. If any coach does not have their badge, they may secure their badge or get a temporary badge from the canteen office. They may then show the home plate umpire their badge at the mid inning break and join the coaching staff on the field. Any adult on the field who is not in possession of a badge visible on their person will be required to leave the field/dugout area immediately. It is the responsibility of the manager to ensure that all adult volunteers on the field during games or participating in practice have valid badges and cooperate fully with this policy. If an individual without a badge who refuses to leave the field/dugout immediately when requested and the manager fails to enforce this policy, both the manager and the offending individual in question will be required to leave the complex. People refusing to leave the complex shall be considered trespassing.
3. **Safety Training** is mandatory in the State of California for all youth sports. PONY and USA Softball both require training for all managers, coaches, umpires, team parents and league directors. A link to the online training can be found on the HART website. The following are required prior to the first game of the season:
 - a. Concussion Protocol
 - b. Safe Sport
 - c. Sudden Cardiac Arrest
4. **Complex Supervision** - At least one, and preferably two, members of the Board of Directors, serving as a league duty official, shall be present and supervise all league activities on the complex.

5. **Cooperation** - All persons, players, parents, fans, and spectators are required to follow league rules, regulations, and policies, and to cooperate with the league and the directions of the League Duty Officials at all times.
6. **Prohibited Substances** - There are no alcoholic beverages allowed on the complex, including parking areas. Use of or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any other substance while on the complex is strictly forbidden and the violator will be subject to removal from the complex. Refusing to leave the complex shall be considered trespassing.
7. **Tobacco Products** - Smoking or use of any tobacco product, including but not limited to e-cigarettes/vaping, while supervising or watching any child participating in any activity associated with Wm. S. Hart Baseball/Softball is prohibited.
8. **Code of Conduct** - The Wm S. Hart Baseball/Softball program is designed to provide an experience for the children of the Santa Clarita Valley that is positive, safe, developmental and fun. The Board of Directors has a zero-tolerance policy for violations of the Parent's Code of Conduct and the Coach's Code of Conduct. All parents, managers, coaches, players, spectators, league officials, and umpires will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner while participating in any league activity, on or off the Wm S. Hart Baseball/Softball complex. Any player, manager, coach, umpire, league official, spectator, or other person who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct such as fighting, publicly audible foul or abusive language, violent display of temper or other derogatory action, or whose conduct otherwise is considered detrimental to the best interest of the organization shall be ejected from the complex, and subject to additional disciplinary action by the League Rules Committee.
9. **Litter** - All people on the Wm. S. Hart complex are required to keep the complex free of litter.
10. **Canteen Support** - All people, players, parents, fans, and spectators are asked to support the league by patronizing our canteen (snack bar) while on the complex, as this is a major source of income for the league. You are asked to refrain from bringing on the Wm. S. Hart complex food or drink from outside the complex. Ice chests, glass bottles, or cans are forbidden on the Wm. S. Hart complex.
11. **Insurance** - Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball carries supplemental medical insurance to cover players injured while participating in sanctioned, authorized, and organized games and practices. However, this insurance is secondary insurance only and only covers what your personal medical insurance does not cover. Insurance claim forms are available on the Hart website. These claim forms must be filled out completely and mailed along with all supporting documents to the insurance carrier as soon as possible. Allow 8-12 weeks for processing of your claim. Wm. S. Hart cannot accelerate this processing time.

- 12. Photography** - No photographers of any kind will be allowed on the playing field. Team photographers can be in the dugouts while a game is in progress if given prior approval by the Director on Duty. No cameras/go-pros will be allowed inside of the score booths.
- 13. Animals/Pets** – No animals or pets are allowed on the Wm. S. Hart Complex at any time. The only exception to this rule is service animals with valid credentials.
- 14. Wheeled Conveyances** - No scooters, skateboards, roller blades, bicycles, Heelys™, hover boards, or any other related item is to be used on the Wm. S. Hart Complex.
- 15. Disruptive Activities** - No artificial noisemakers are allowed during games, warm ups, or practices, with the exception of walk-up music where the volume does not disrupt other fields. Conflicts due to volume will be handled at the discretion of the Director on Duty.

SECTION II

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Wm. S. Hart Baseball & Softball is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the highest quality youth sports program possible to the children of the Santa Clarita Valley. This organization relies entirely on volunteers to manage, supervise, organize, and maintain the business affairs of the corporation, its facilities, and the everyday operation of the league. As such, parental participation is essential to the success of our league and organization. We ask that every parent get involved in the league in some capacity, as a full-time member of the Board of Directors, as a manager, coach, team mom, scorekeeper, or team or event sponsor. Skills of construction workers, welders, painters, plumbers, mechanics, gardeners, and others are especially needed, and donation of your time will ensure a continuing success for the league. If you are **unable** to commit the time required on a full-time basis, but can help out on a weekend, your assistance will be appreciated. **Remember...IT IS YOUR LEAGUE and YOUR CHILDREN...GET INVOLVED... VOLUNTEER...MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

In addition to the volunteer participation, there are some specific parental responsibilities we all need to follow in order to ensure a fair, positive, and enjoyable experience for all of our children in the league. These responsibilities are noted below.

- 1. Code of Conduct Form - *A copy of the Code of Conduct form will be provided to each parent. (See Appendix A).*** The form can also be found on the Hart website.

2. **Parental Responsibilities Handout** - Parents of players must read and be acquainted with the "Parental Responsibilities" section in these rules. Registering the player constitutes agreement with all the terms of "Parental Responsibilities."
3. **Parental Consent** - When registering players online, parents/legal guardians agree that they will sign the "Parental consent for emergency medical treatment" which authorizes any adult (Manager, Coach, Team Mom, or League Official) to seek medical treatment in the event of an injury or illness when a parent or legal guardian is unavailable. *This form will be provided to you by your team manager copy for parents to sign for managers to have.* Additionally, parents/legal guardians upon registering online agree to the waiver/ release, absolving, holding harmless, and free from liability, Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball, its officers, sponsors, organizers, managers, coaches, team moms, umpires, or any other adult volunteer, for any league related activity including transportation.
4. **Attendance** - It is the parent/legal guardian's responsibility to:
 - a. To see that your player arrives at games and practices, properly dressed and equipped, ready to play at the time and place specified by the team manager.
 - b. To ensure that your player is picked up promptly at the time specified by the manager.
 - c. To call the manager or coach as soon as possible if your player is unable to attend a game or practice or other team function due to an illness or other reason.
5. **Team Cooperation** - To cooperate with team managers and coaches and be supportive of their decisions. Follow team rules as set by the manager.
6. **Encouragement** - To encourage your child to do their very best at all times, and to promote positive encouragement and good sportsmanship.
7. **Fan Demeanor** - To attend and participate in your player's games and be supportive of your team. To **"CHEER"**, not **"JEER"**, or be negative towards your player, your team, the umpires, or the opposing team. No artificial noisemakers are allowed.
8. **Conduct** - To conduct yourself in a responsible and sportsmanlike manner while on the Wm. S. Hart complex or during any league activity. Each team Manager shall be responsible for ensuring that all parents and other spectators at team games and other events comply with League standards of appropriate conduct.
9. **Litter** - To pick up and dispose of all litter around your team's dugout and stands after each game. Help keep the complex looking good.
10. **Child Supervision** - To supervise and be responsible for the activities and conduct of your children (players and non-players) while they are on the Wm. S. Hart complex.
11. **League Cooperation** - To cooperate with league officials, and follow all league rules, regulations and policies while on the Wm. S. Hart Complex or when participating in league functions.

12. **League Support** - To be supportive of and participate in all league activities, games, tournaments, and fund-raising events. This includes patronizing our canteen (snack bar).
13. **Rules Familiarization** - To read, understand, and become familiar with the Wm. S. Hart Baseball & Softball rules, regulations, and policies for the current season. Wm. S. Hart Rule books are available online on the HART league website.
14. **Assistance** - To assist our league in making the baseball/softball season a rewarding, positive, and enjoyable experience for your son or daughter, and all the boys and girls in the Wm. S. Hart League. Remember, we are all here for our children, and it's only a game, after all.
15. **Volunteer Fee Refund** - Parents are responsible during the season to volunteer for at least one shift during the season (3-hour shift in Fall, 4-hour shift in Spring) in the canteen or on the fields in order to receive their volunteer fee refund. Parents must schedule themselves by signing up on the league website for a shift that is convenient for them.

SECTION III

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Home Team Responsibilities** - Responsibilities of the **HOME TEAM** as designated by the playing schedule:
 - a. Prior to the game, prepare the field. This includes marking the baselines and batter's box, resetting the pitching rubber if needed, watering the infield if necessary, raking the pitching mound, batter's box, and baselines. They are to see that their side of the field, including dugout and field bleachers, is cleaned up.
 - b. Verify that the team's official scorekeeper is present in the scorekeeper's booth and that the official scorebook and scoreboard controller are present.
 - c. Prepare a lineup card for their team for each inning and furnish one copy to the official scorekeeper and one copy to the opposing manager. For softball, a copy is also provided to the umpire.
 - d. The home team is responsible for paying the plate umpire fee in cash at the plate meeting. Any game involving only one umpire, the home team is responsible for paying one-half of the plate umpire fee in cash at the plate meeting.

- e. After the game, ensure the return of the official scorebook to the canteen.
- f. After the game, clean up their dugout.
- g. After the last game of the day, ensure that the scoreboard controller is returned to the canteen office by the home team/official scorekeeper.

2. **Visiting Team Responsibilities** - Responsibilities of the **VISITING TEAM** as designated by the playing schedule:

- a. Prior to the game, see that their side of the field, including dugout and bleachers, is cleaned up. Assist in any way to get the game started on schedule.
- b. Prepare a lineup card for their team for each inning and furnish one copy to the official scorekeeper and one copy to the opposing manager. For softball, a copy is also provided to the umpire.
- c. The visiting team is responsible for paying the base umpire fee in cash at the plate meeting. Any game involving only one umpire, the visiting team is responsible for paying one-half of the plate umpire fee in cash at the plate meeting.
- d. The visiting team will provide a scoreboard operator when requested by the official scorekeeper.
- e. After the game, drag, rake, and water the field.
- f. All pitching plates and bases, which have been moved/removed at the start of the game, must be returned to their normal position at the end of the game. At the end of the last game of the day, the bases must be removed from their anchors and placed in the home team's dugout and insert base plugs.
- g. After the game, clean up the dugout and bleacher area.
- h. The after-game responsibilities should be completed within 15 minutes of game completion.

3. **Joint Team Responsibilities** - The managers of **BOTH TEAMS** will be responsible for:

- a. The conduct of all players on their team, the parents of the players, and the spectators on their side of the field. The managers will comply with the umpire's request to control the parents if necessary. If the manager cannot control offending parent(s), he shall request that a League Duty Official be brought to the field to handle the situation. Refusal to comply with the umpire's request will result in an immediate ejection of the manager.
- b. Familiarizing themselves with the field rules for the current year.

4. **Penalties** - Failure to comply with the responsibilities as outlined herein shall result in the suspension of the manager for a minimum of one (1) game.

SECTION IV

MANAGERS AND COACHES

1. **Application** - Anyone desiring to manage a team must submit a manager's application and volunteer disclosure form online via the Hart website registration system. Anyone desiring to manage a team is subject to an interview and background investigation. The League Director will submit all names to the League Rules Committee for approval. Prospective managers should verify via email that the League Director received their application.
2. **Approval Criteria** - All managers must be approved by the League Rules Committee using the following criteria:
 - a. Ability to relate and work with children.
 - b. Baseball/softball knowledge and teaching ability.
 - c. Past experience with potential managers, including ejections, past success, problems, parental complaints, following rules, etc.
 - d. The potential manager's past support of the league (sponsors, fund-raisers, etc.)
 - e. The potential manager's display of sportsmanship and competitiveness.
3. **Manager Selection Process** - Once approved by the League Rules Committee it is the responsibility of the League Director to select the managers that will manage in their respective divisions. The League Director should use the criteria listed above to select their respective managers. If the League Director determines that more than one candidate is equally qualified to manage under the above criteria, the following order will be used as a "tiebreaker":
 - a. Returning listed manager.
 - b. Prior experience managing the same league.
 - c. Recommendation(s) of the Board of Directors.
4. **Manager Status** - A manager or coach will not be considered permanent or "listed" if he/she has taken over a team during the season. No manager changes will be made official until approval of the League Rules Committee. Commitment - All league and tournament managers and tournament coaches are required to fulfill and complete their league duties for the entire season. Any manager or coach that abandons their duties/commitments to their team or the league during the regular or post season shall not be eligible to manage or coach at Wm. S. Hart for a period of one (1) year.

5. General Information and Responsibilities

- a. Evaluation - Attendance and Draft Confidentiality - Managers will attend player evaluations and will grade all players based on ability, hustle, fielding, arm range and accuracy, batting, and speed. Managers will then participate in a draft to select their team. This information is to remain confidential, and the draft order is not to be disclosed.
- b. Initial Team Meeting - Upon selecting their team, managers must contact their players within 48 hours of the draft/receipt of their rosters and set up the first practice and a parent's meeting.
- c. Practice Fields - Hart will reserve as many City fields and School fields as they are able to. These fields will be distributed to managers who wish to rent them via a lottery. Practice fields at Hart can be rented prior to the start of the season and during the season when open game times are available. (See appendix B for field rental rules). League Directors in good standing have the priority of renting the Hart Fields based on the number of shifts worked the prior month.
- d. Complete all league required tasks (completing background checks for all coaches and completing all required safety training prior to the release of league game schedules).
- e. Parent's Meeting - At the parent's meeting, it is recommended that managers get all their parents involved with the team. Managers will need at least two coaches, possibly two or three assistants to help at practices, a team parent, and at least two scorekeepers. Managers are required to keep the league official scorebook and scoreboard. The parent's meeting provides an excellent opportunity to inquire if anyone would like to sponsor his or her team or knows someone who would. The parent's meeting is the time for managers to hand out their written team rules and goals for the season. It provides an excellent opportunity for managers to get acquainted with their players' parents and for them to get to know the manager.
- f. Team Calendar - A calendar schedule should be given to all players listing game and practice times, dates, and locations. This can be done through apps such as GameChanger.
- g. Practices - At practices, it is important that managers remember that they are responsible for all players and league rules require that a manager or coach remain at the practice field until all players have been picked up by their parents, unless prior arrangements have been made. ***In addition, managers should keep with them at all times, the signed medical waiver***, which provides a medical waiver for you to request medical treatment on behalf of the parent in case of an injury and the parent/legal guardian is not present.

- h. Team Equipment - Managers may check out team equipment for which they will sign and be held financially responsible. Care should be taken to ensure that the equipment is not lost, stolen, misplaced, abused, or damaged. Equipment must be returned to the canteen following the last game of the season. (If you are a tournament or All-Star manager then the last game of the season will be the completion of the All-Star game or tournament season. Notify your league director immediately if the canteen is closed and you are unable to return your equipment bag.) **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Managers who do not turn in their equipment in good condition shall be charged the value of the issued equipment. In addition to being financially liable for the equipment, managers who fail to return league equipment will be ineligible to manage in the following season and their child will not be allowed to register at Wm. S. Hart until the equipment is returned or payment for missing equipment is received.
- i. Team Sponsor - Managers are encouraged to obtain a team sponsor. The Sponsorship fee is payable to Wm. S. Hart Baseball. The Sponsorship link on our website will provide potential sponsors with all of the options available to them. It is possible someone on your team owns a business and would like to sponsor your team or knows someone who would. Restaurants and retail stores are good places to seek a sponsor. Sponsorship forms are available on the Hart Website/Sponsorship. If you obtain a sponsor, it is always a good idea to patronize your sponsor as much as possible, thank them in person, and provide them with a game schedule and invite them to attend your games. We ask that all teams patronize and support all of our sponsors.
- j. Roster Changes - Due to the possible existence of a wait list, managers are obligated to immediately report to the league director any roster changes including player withdrawals or players suspected of withdrawing from the league (i.e., has not been heard from for over a week). Failure to do so will be considered an act of unsportsmanlike conduct and may result in suspension, or other disciplinary action.
- k. Umpires - Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball will do everything possible to ensure we have umpires at every game. However, in the absence of an umpire, the managers will agree on an individual or individuals to serve in their absence. This individual or individuals will not be paid, and the game will be considered a legal game.
- l. Coaches Clinics - It is the responsibility of all managers to attend any Wm. S. Hart sponsored "Coaching Clinic." The intent of these clinics is to further the knowledge and abilities of each individual manager and coach.

SECTION V

OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER

- 1. Home Team Responsibilities** - The team designated as 'HOME TEAM' must provide the official scorekeeper who will have the following duties:
 - a. Keep the official score (in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball, Rule 9 – The Official Scorer or Rules of USA Softball, Rule 11) in the scorebook designated as the Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball official scorebook.
 - b. The official scorekeeper shall sit in the scorekeeper's booth provided by the league so that each of the opposing managers will have equal ease of access for submitting lineups and confirming changes in same; checking the score as the game progresses; to be able to easily confer with the umpires, as to runs scored, count on the batter, etc.
 - c. Complete the scoring of each game by filling out the totals, i.e., runs, hits, errors, pitchers and innings pitched for each of the teams in the game. Write the final score in red and circle at the top of the home team's page. All defensive changes must be listed in the official scorebook.
 - d. Replace the official scorebook in the place designated by the league following each game.
- 2. Visiting Team Responsibilities** - The visiting team will provide a scoreboard operator when requested by the official scorekeeper. The scoreboard operator will return the score box to the canteen after the last game of the day on that particular field.
- 3. Additional Scorekeepers** - Each of the teams playing in the game may have their own scorekeeper who may sit in the scorekeeper's booth.
- 4. Official League Scorekeeper** - All official scorekeepers are under the jurisdiction of the Official League Scorekeeper. Questions and scorekeeping procedures will emanate from and through the Official League Scorekeeper.
- 5. Manager Responsibilities** - Both home and visiting managers shall report all changes of their team's line up to the official scorekeeper before the start of each inning.
- 6.** If a team does not have a parent that would like to keep score, a scorekeeper can be hired through the League's Official Scorekeeper. It is highly encouraged to have parent's score keep keeping the costs to the team to a minimum. Training can be requested from the official scorekeeper.

SECTION VI

EVALUATIONS AND DRAFT

1. Evaluations

- a. League Director Responsibilities - Evaluations will be held prior to the drafting of players. Each League Director will be responsible for conducting the evaluations for his/her league and notifying the managers of the schedule.
- b. Evaluation Schedule - Evaluations will be on days and at times designated by the Board of Directors.
- c. Evaluation Participation - ALL prospective players (including manager's sons and daughters) who registered in the League prior to tryouts are encouraged to participate in the appropriate Evaluation for their age bracket.
- d. Evaluation Roster - Each manager will receive a complete roster of the players who will be evaluated in their league.
- e. Draft Eligibility - Only those players who attend evaluations will be eligible to be drafted to a team unless added to the draft per rule 2.1.
- f. Concurrent League Play - All players playing in other leagues concurrently with the Hart's season must announce this fact prior to evaluations. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the league.
- g. Tournament Team Eligibility - Any player playing for other PONY leagues concurrently with the Hart season may not be eligible for consideration to be placed on a Hart tournament team. (See PONY rules to determine player eligibility). Any player playing for other USA Softball leagues concurrently must declare which one league they would like to be considered for tournament play. (See USA Softball of SoCal yellow book for complete rules pertaining to tournament team selection)

2. Drafting

- a. Draft Schedule - A player draft will be conducted by each League Director at a time and place designated by the Baseball and/or the Softball Commissioner. Draft order and player draft selection is **CONFIDENTIAL** and must not be discussed with anyone outside of the draft or at any time after the draft.
- b. Draft Participation - All designated managers should attend their league draft. In his or her absence, they may have a representative attend, and this person will have the authority to speak for the manager. Only listed manager or representative (approved by the rules committee) for each team may attend the draft. A minimum of two (2) Rules Committee members must be available at the draft location.

- c. Draft Attendance Exclusion - Other than the listed manager or designated representative, no person may attend a draft in which his/her child is being considered.
- d. Draft Absences - Should there not be enough managers in attendance at the draft (one for each team to be drafted) the draft may be postponed until such time as there are enough managers or at the discretion of the League Director and/or Commissioner, he/she may designate someone to draft each of the teams not represented.
- e. Players per Team - The number of players that constitute a full roster will be determined and set prior to the draft by the appropriate Commissioner with approval by the board and may vary from league to league. Unless approved by the Commissioner and League Director and based on the number of registrants and managers in any given division, a roster may consist of 13 players.
- f. Draft Order - The order of draft will be decided by random drawing. In baseball and softball, National League teams will draft first followed by the American League.
- g. Serpentine Process - Teams will draft in serpentine order. Example: Following is an example of the serpentine method using a six-team league.

	1 st pick	2 nd pick	3 rd pick	4 th pick	5 th pick	6 th pick
Round 1	A	B	C	D	E	F
Round 2	F	E	D	C	B	A
Round 3	A	B	C	D	E	F

- h. Continue until rosters are full. Team A drafts first, then drafts 12th, 13th, 24th, etc. Team B drafts second, then 11th, 14th, 23rd, etc., and so forth until all rosters are full.
- i. Manager's Sons and Daughters - Prior to the draft, and before the draft order is selected, each manager will indicate to the other managers in the league the round in which he/she wishes to draft his/her child. This is to place the child in the draft in the same manner as other players - based on his or her ability. If the other managers agree, the child will be drafted on the designated round. If the managers cannot reach unanimous agreement, the League Director will designate in which round the manager's child shall be placed.
- j. Siblings - Siblings registered in the same league will be drafted on the same team roster unless the parents request, in writing, to the League Director, Commissioner, or Registrar that they may be drafted on different teams. Prior to the draft, the ability of the siblings will be compared to each other to determine if they must be selected in back-to-back rounds or to determine how many rounds should separate their selection (by manager majority). Once the

sibling with the greater ability is drafted, the sibling with lesser ability will then be assigned to the team roster at the round specified by the manager majority, unless this interferes with the draft of a manager's child (See "j" above); then the sibling will be drafted on the next open round. If there are no available rounds left, then that manager may not draft the stronger sibling unless the parents have authorized in writing that they may be drafted to different teams.

- k. Non-Tryout Players - Players who did not participate in evaluations cannot be drafted and will be assigned to teams by random drawing after all other players have been drafted. An exception to this rule may be made if a player's abilities are well known to a two-thirds majority of the drafting managers and if the player being assigned by drawing may adversely affect the competitive balance of the league. Exceptions to this rule will be approved by the Commissioner and League Director present at the draft.
- l. Hat-Picks - All random drawings shall contain a sufficient number of players such that there is a complete round of hat picks. For example, if there are 24 teams in the draft and only 10 players did not try out, then the last 14 players eligible for drafting will also become hat picks.
- m. Trades - Trades will only be allowed for a ten (10) minute period immediately following the draft. A Rules Committee member must approve all trades. Only drafted players may be traded (Hat-Picks may not be traded - Rule 21 players above). Players being traded may be separated in the draft by a maximum of one round.
- n. Manager Exclusion - A parent may request that their player not be drafted by a certain manager/coach, only if that player has played at least one full season, either spring or fall, with that manager or coach and by notifying the appropriate League Director, Commissioner, or Registrar. This rule does not apply to the selection of the tournament team.

SECTION VII

PLAYER SHORTAGE

1. **Player Shortages** - In the event that a team has nine (9) or fewer players available for a game:
 - a. Player Farm Usage - A manager may fill their roster with up to ten (10) players if they have nine (9) or fewer players. If the farm team player is the tenth (10th) player, they must play every other inning on defense beginning in the second (2nd) inning - no more and no less. If multiple farm players are being used (for example, as the 9th and 10th players) none of the team's

regular players may sit out. Substitute farm player(s) must play the outfield. Absent players and farm team players must be reported to the opposing manager and official scorekeeper prior to the start of the game with the exception of 2b below. If a player is called to be a farm player and comes to the field in uniform ready to play, they must play in the game.

- b. Late Arrivals** - When a farm team player is called up, they must play every other inning, as stated in Section VII.1.an even if the player they are substituting for arrives.
- c. Minimum Players** - A team may play with eight (8) players, but not less than eight (8). No out will be recorded when the missing 9th player is reached in the batting order.
- d. Postponement** - **No manager or coach may postpone a game for any reason.** Farm team substitute players are available and should be acquired and utilized in the manner described in Rules of Play.

SECTION VIII

UMPIRES

- 1. Umpires per Game** - There will be at least one (1) league certified umpire on the field of play for every regularly scheduled game, and any playoff games, whenever possible.
- 2. Training and Certification** - They must be trained and certified under the direction of the Chief Umpires of this league. Baseball umpires are required to register with PONY Baseball, Inc. Softball umpires will register with USA Softball. Assignment of the umpires to a certain league will be made after careful consideration by the Chief Umpires, according to ability and knowledge of the game.
- 3. Umpire Protest Involvement** - Any protest involving an umpire will be considered by the League Rules Committee.
- 4. Umpire Attire** - Umpires shall be properly attired according to the standards set by the Chief Umpires of the league. PONY registered umpires will wear the PONY patch on the right sleeve, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the shoulder seam. Baseball Umpires may not wear any type of earrings and PONY registered umpires will follow the no jewelry rule (rule 8-J of the PONY rule book). Softball umpires must wear a USA hat and a USA shirt.
- 5. Division Exclusion** - No one may umpire a game in a division in which they or an immediate family member are affiliated. The Umpire Assignors will pay close attention to this.
- 6. Insurance and Liability** - Umpires are required to carry proof of insurance.

7. **Calling Games** - Umpires shall call games by the time limits and rules for each respective league. When a game is called due to time limits, no last batter shall be declared, and the game will be called promptly at the completion of the current at bat.
8. **Inclement Weather** - In the event of inclement conditions, the umpire may halt the game and direct players into their respective dugouts. The Director on Duty will make the judgment as to whether the game will be delayed or postponed. However, an adult umpire may postpone the game if, in their judgment, the conditions are hazardous to a player, coach, or umpire. When a junior umpire deems conditions to be unsafe, he may consult with any adult umpire on the complex, and the adult umpire will decide whether or not to postpone the game.

SECTION IX

TOURNAMENT TEAM

1. **Tournament Authority** - All Wm. S. Hart tournaments will be conducted in accordance with Baseball/Softball Rules and Regulations for with PONY/USA Softball Tournament Play as appropriate.
 - a. To be eligible for Post-Season (Pony/USA Softball Sanctioned Tournament) players must sign a letter of intent (or eligibility statement) declaring their availability for post-season play. This letter of intent must be submitted to the Director of the player's division, prior to the tournament draft meeting. Each League Director is responsible for distributing, collecting and determining the eligibility for each league player.
2. **Tournament Team Managers** - A three (3)-person panel will select the baseball tournament team managers. This panel will consist of the Baseball Commissioners and the League Director. If one of the panel members is coaching or managing in the division in question or there is only one baseball commissioner, the Executive Vice-President will serve as the third member of the panel. The League Director, softball Commissioner, and softball Chief Umpire will select softball managers. This panel/committee will select each tournament team manager taking into consideration the recommendations of the Softball Commissioner, League Director, League Managers, and League Umpires. Managers being considered will be judged on their personal conduct, teaching skills, and their knowledge of the game. In all cases the tournament manager will be selected to serve the best interest of the Hart program, the respective League and the League Tournament team. The Rules Committee will then approve all tournament team managers. Any softball manager wanting to be considered for a Gold or Silver Tournament Team shall attend the current year's annual USA Softball Clinic.

3. **Player Intent** - Tournament players must have submitted the signed eligibility statement to be available for post-season play. All managers in consultation with the League Director and the Baseball/Softball Commissioner select tournament players. Managers shall nominate players from their team whom they feel are among the top players in the division. Pony rules require a maximum of fifteen (15) per team and a minimum of twelve (12) per team. The Tournament manager will determine the exact number of players on each team. No alternates will be chosen at the time of the original selection. The league director and at least three (3) Rules Committee members will be present at the tournament team selection, and all managers will be advised of this scheduled meeting.
 - a. Baseball National Leagues - In all National divisions, the division managers will pick the first nine (9) players by unanimous vote during the selection meeting. The tournament team manager will select the balance of the players with a majority of the division manager's approval.
 - b. Softball Divisions – Each year, the intent will be to field tournament teams in all divisions. Players from both the National and American Leagues will be eligible for tournament selection.
 - c. For softball, the first 9 players will be selected by a 75% vote. If a player chooses not to play on their selected team, they will not be eligible to participate on another Hart tournament team. ***All softball tournament teams will have a minimum of 12 players.*** The tournament team manager will select the balance of the players with a majority of the division manager's approval.
 - d. ***Softball tournament and select teams will wear league issued jerseys and their team name will be designated as their division and gold/silver/bronze.***
4. **Number of Tournament Teams** - The number of tournament teams for each league will be determined by the respective Commissioner(s) with the approval of the Board of Directors.
5. **For Baseball: American League Tournament Teams** - At the discretion of the Commissioners, the League may agree to have tournament teams selected from the American League. Players for the American League tournament team will be selected after the National League tournament teams have been selected. The selection of players will be in accordance with the rules set forth for the selection of tournament teams with the exception that the first nine (9) players will be selected from the American League. These selections will be made by a unanimous vote of the managers present at the tournament selection meeting. The remaining players may be added by the manager from either the American or National League with a majority of the attending division manager's approval.
6. **Shetland/Filly Tournament Teams** – At the discretion of the Commissioner(s), the league may agree to have teams from the Shetland/Filly Division participate in tournament play. The selection of the players will be in accordance with the rules set forth for the selection of tournament teams in each age group.

7. **Advanced Baseball League (ABL) Tournament Teams** – At the discretion of the Commissioner(s), and with approval of the Rules Committee, the League may agree to have club/ABL team(s) participate in Tournament Play. This arrangement shall be made prior to the deadline stated within PONY rules for sanction play. To be eligible for play all players must register and participate in regular season play and live within league boundaries as well as satisfy all other PONY requirements. In cases where a team needs to add players, the club/ABL team (who shall play as a "Hart Tournament Team") shall not select players until the regular league tournament team players have been selected and approved per the tournament selection process. Players selected for the league tournament teams shall not be eligible to play on the selected team(s) whether or not they have agreed to participate in tournament play. The team will wear official Hart tournament jerseys. All costs associated with tournament play (including registration fees, uniforms, etc.) shall be the responsibility of the club/ABL team.
8. **Special Arrangements** - All special arrangements for tournament play will be made by the tournament/ Rules Committee, with approval of the Board of Directors.
9. **Player Team Eligibility** - League players shall play on only one tournament team in each respective league (sanctioned teams selected first). A player may not play on both a tournament team and an All-Star team.
10. **Tournament Entry Fees** – Tournament teams are responsible for all non-sanctioned Tournament entry fees.
11. **Tournament Finances** - Generally, tournament teams will be financially responsible for all expenses including uniforms, travel, lodging, meals, and entertainment while participating in tournaments. These expenses are generally paid by parents, tournament team sponsors, and tournament team fund-raisers. The league may grant tournament teams traveling to a sanctioned tournament which is in excess of 100 miles, a onetime grant of \$1,000 to be used for player's and coaching staff's expenses only. Receipts documenting valid expenses will be required.
12. **Tournament Team Notebook** - Tournament teams must immediately prepare a notebook, maintained by the business manager, which will include the following:
 - a. A team roster including team manager, one coach and a business manager (who may also serve as a second coach).
 - b. Photostat copies of certified birth certificates for all players (baseball only).
 - c. Individual player pictures (preferably the league's picture) (baseball only).
 - d. A current major utility bill (e.g., gas, water, electric) showing the player's last name and address on it. If a player's last name is different than that on the utility bill, then additional documentation must be provided (baseball only).
 - e. Typed and signed affidavit and registration form (baseball only).
 - f. A team picture (5 x 7).
 - g. Proof of league insurance and claim forms. Forms are available on the Hart website.

- h. Signed medical release forms for each player. Forms are available on the Hart website.
- i. School Report Cards (baseball only).
- j. USA Softball Player Photo ID cards (softball only).
- k. And any other requirement stated within current PONY or USA Softball rules.

SECTION X

ALL-STAR TEAMS

1. All-Star Teams

- a. All-Star Team Determinations - The leagues fielding All-Star teams for *intraleague* play, and the number of games played will be determined each year by the Baseball and Softball Commissioner(s). The number of players per team and the method of selection will be determined by the league director with the approval of the Commissioner(s). Only American League players are permitted on the All-Star Teams. National league players are not permitted on any All-Star team.
- b. All-Star Selections - All Stars will be selected by the team manager to represent his/her team. The appropriate Commissioner(s) will determine the number of All Stars (total & per team). All Star players should be the best ball players from each team. No player shall be on both a sanctioned tournament team and All-Star teams.
- c. Team assignments to each All-Star team are based on overall season records for each team within their respective league. (Players from the 1st Place team with players from the last place team and so on.)
- d. Managers from within the league or division, selected by the League Director(s) and the Commissioner(s), will manage each All-Star team. Usually, the first-place manager is selected followed by the second-place manager and so on. Remaining managers will serve as coaches.
- e. All players on the All-Star team will play, utilizing free substitutions and rotation in the lineup. No player shall play more than 2 innings in any one position. All Star games are for exhibition only.
- f. Leagues with No All-Star Teams - There will be no All-Stars in Shetland or Filly Leagues.
- g. For Softball All-Star games, the time limit will be no new inning after 1:30.

SECTION XI

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

1. Sportsmanship Awards

- a. The sportsmanship award is one of the most important awards the league provides. It is awarded to the one player from each team who demonstrates good sportsmanship throughout the season. This is the player who always smiles, always hustles, does whatever he/she is asked to do, the player who never complains, the player who cheers on their fellow teammates, never argues a play and never criticizes other players on their own or opposing team. This award has nothing to do with a player's ability, only their attitude toward the game and their fellow players.
- b. Sportsmanship awards should be presented at the Award Ceremonies on All-Star game day.

APPENDIX A

PARENT'S/MANAGER'S/COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Parent's Code of Conduct

1. I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in the William S. Hart Baseball/Softball league, by following the **HART Parent's Code of Conduct**:
2. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, umpires and any league officials at every game, practice or associated event.
3. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.
4. I will insist that my child plays in a safe and healthy environment.
5. I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
6. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

7. I will remember that the game is for youth – not adults.
8. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
9. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
10. I will help my child enjoy the Hart experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectful fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation or assisting the William S. Hart Baseball and Softball program as a volunteer.
11. I will abide by the all of the rules and regulations of William S. Hart Baseball and Softball and know that I am responsible for reading and knowing them.

Manager's and Coach's Code of Conduct

As a condition for coaching or managing a team for the William S. Hart baseball and Softball program I will abide by the following Code of Ethics:

1. I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of my players ahead of my personal desire to win.
2. I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
3. I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
4. I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
5. I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
6. I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
7. I will be knowledgeable in the rules of baseball or softball, and I will teach these rules to my players.
8. I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for all of the skills that I teach.
9. I will remember I am a youth softball or baseball coach, and that the game is for the children and not adults.
10. I promise to review and practice basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.

11. I understand that in addition to my own actions, I am also responsible for the actions of the other team coaches, the team parents and other team spectators.
12. As a Manager I will complete concussion training, SafeSport Training, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training and ensure that any additional coaches/adults/team parents interacting with the players have also completed the training.
13. As a Manager, I will ensure that all adults in contact with the players have completed a background check and secured a Hart league issued badge.
14. As a Softball Manager, I will ensure that 4 adults will have completed the USA Softball background check.

APPENDIX B

BATTING CAGE RULES

HART BASEBALL & SOFTBALL BATTING CAGE RULES

General Rules

1. All players, of all levels, must wear batting helmets when in the batting cages.
2. Any pitcher under the age of 18 must also wear a helmet while in the cage.
3. 30-minute time limit per team
4. Lights may only be used after sunset.
5. Lights must be shut off after use.
6. LiveScan badges are mandatory and must be worn by all adults when in the cages.
7. Metal spikes, sunflower seeds and chewing gum are not permitted.
8. A cage may be used by a team on the day of their scheduled game or practice (FALL ONLY).
9. One team per cage. A team may use more than one cage only if no other team is using or waiting for the cage.

10. Teams may use a single cage for no more than 30 minutes on non-game days, only if a cage is available. Non-game teams may only use a cage from 7:00PM to 8:30PM on weeknights. Weekends are NOT available for non-game day teams.

Game Day Rules

- 1.** All cages are marked by field (i.e., Pony, Colt, Softball11, etc.). There are no batting cages for games on SB3 or Shetland.
- 2.** Teams may use the cage marked with the field they will be playing on.
- 3.** The home team has the cages first, so they are available to prep the field prior to their game.
- 4.** Prior to the game,
 - a.** The home team will have the cage 1hr and 15mins prior to game time. The time limit is 30 minutes.
 - b.** The visiting team will have the cages 45 minutes prior to the game time. The time limit is 30 minutes.
- 5.** Teams are to report to their assigned playing field 15 minutes prior to game time. Games will start on time.