***5-6 Clinic Rules***

**FIELD DIMENSIONS**

* The distance 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 2nd team listed on the schedule is the home team.
* 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.
* Both teams should place all trash including debris left by others in designated trashcans.

**VISITING TEAM**

* 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, preferably from a kneeling position.
* If after 6 pitches, the batter has not hit the ball, a tee should be used to keep the pace of the game moving.

**PLAYING RULES**

* Safety is the responsibility of each coach. Make certain that no one is swinging a bat around the players. There are no on deck hitters.
* Take care in positioning fielders; first baseman should be able to catch, infielders need to watch for batted balls. All players must play the field each inning and bat. There is no restriction to the number of fielders or batters. 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. 2
* Generally speaking, all batters will advance one base at a time. If the ball reaches the outfield grass runners may advance one more base.
  + The last batter of each half inning will hit a homerun, all runners on base will score.
* Games will consist of three innings.
  + 1 hour time limit
  + A 4th inning may be played if coaches agree and feel you can get it in within the time limit
* There will be no catcher.
* 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 the opposing team advances a second base due to the ball reaching the outfield, the fielding player can throw to the lead base instead of first base.
* 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 games will officially end in a tie, no standings will be maintained.
* No sliding at 1st base or headfirst sliding.

**STEALING**

* No stealing

**BUNTING**

* No bunting

**COACHES and PARENTS**

* Games and practices should be approximately 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.