



Hampton Athletic Association Call-Up Rules

SOFTBALL

12U: If a team knows in advance that it will be unable to field **ten (10)** players, substitute players may be called up from the 10U league. Call-ups must bat last and be positioned with their safety as first priority. They **may** play the infield, but are not required to.

10U: If a team knows in advance that it will be unable to field **ten (10)** players, substitute players may be called up from the 8U league. Call-ups must bat last and be positioned with their safety as first priority. They **may** play the infield, but are not required to.

8U: If a team knows in advance that it will be unable to field **ten (10)** players, substitute players may be called up from the Shetland or 6U league. Call-ups must bat last and be positioned with their safety as first priority. They **may** play the infield, but are not required to. They are limited to two (2) innings **maximum** in the infield for a completed game. Call-ups are exempt from the 2 innings minimum of playing infield rule.

BASEBALL

BRONCO: If a team knows in advance that it will be unable to field **nine (9)** players, substitute players may be called up from the Mustang league. Call-ups must bat last and be positioned with their safety as first priority. They **may** play the infield, but **may NOT** pitch. They are limited to **two (2)** innings **maximum** in the infield for a completed game.

MUSTANG: If a team knows in advance that it will be unable to field **ten (10)** players, substitute players may be called up from the Pinto league. Call-ups must bat last and be positioned with their safety as first priority. They **may** play the infield, but **may NOT** pitch. They are limited to **two (2)** innings **maximum** in the infield for a completed game.

PINTO: If a team knows in advance that it will be unable to field **ten (10)** players, substitute players may be called up from the Shetland league. Call-ups must bat last and be positioned with their safety as first priority. They **may** play the infield but are not required to. They are limited to **two (2)** innings **maximum** in the infield for a completed game. Call-ups are exempt from the 2 innings minimum of playing infield rule.

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SOFTBALL

- The Call-Up list for softball will be completed each season by the VP of Softball based upon coach recommendation and will include 2nd year players plus those that demonstrate the required ability to play a level up. This list can be edited during the season as needed.
- Players may play up and miss the lower age game on the condition that the VP of Softball and all head coaches involved agree to allow it. A player should not be denied an opportunity to play up if all coaches agree there is no harm. For example if an 8U team has 13 players available, they will not be harmed if their 14th player plays up if the older team needs a player.
- Softball coaches are only permitted to achieve a maximum roster size of ten (10) with the use of call-ups.
- Softball may use Call-Overs as needed, who may or may not be prioritized over Call-Ups, and whose use will be determined by the VP of Softball for any game outside of in-house play.
- In a situation where regular team members show up unexpectedly and the roster with call-ups is now greater than the maximum number allowed, then all kids will be allowed to play but no regular team member should sit more innings than a call-up or call-over.

BASEBALL

ALL CALL-UPS MUST BE A 2ND YEAR PLAYER IN THE LEAGUE TO BE A CALL UP. NO FIRST YEAR AGED PLAYERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE CALLED UP TO THE NEXT LEAGUE.

- No baseball coach is permitted to use call-ups to achieve a roster size greater than the maximum number of fielders allowed for each age group.
- Regular team members should receive priority treatment in assigning positions. Call-up players will be assigned by the League Commissioner of the younger League. No team is permitted to call or show up for a game with their own call-up player.
- For Bronco, no regular team member may play less innings in the infield than a call-up player.
- If a call-up has a game for their own age team on the same day as they are being called up, they must play in their own team game to be eligible to be called up. (i.e. Can't skip your own team's game in order to play up) Skipping their own team game and playing in the call up game that day will make the player ineligible for the rest of the season to be called up.
- In a situation where regular team members show up unexpectedly and the roster with call-ups is now greater than the maximum number of fielders allowed, then all kids will be allowed to play but no regular team member should sit more innings than a call-up or call-over.

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- If at the start of a game, a team is unable to fill the **minimum** number of players required to start a game per HAA rules due to an unforeseen injury/illness/absence, a coach may borrow a player from their opposing team to fulfill a defensive position. The borrowed player(s) should be the last batter(s) in batting order at start of the game, and the last out(s) from prior inning at the start of a new inning. The borrowed player(s) will only bat for their own team but will play defense for the opposing team. Alternatively, and only if agreed upon by both coaches, if an age group **lower** player is ready and available to play (even if they are not on the call-up list or next in line on the call-up list), he/she may join the shorthanded team to fulfill the requirement of meeting the **minimum** number of players to start a game. He/she will bat and field for the shorthanded team and play under the call-up rules outlined per the age groups above. In this circumstance, no additional players beyond the **minimum** required to start a game will be permitted.
- Remind the parents that their child may not skip their own team game in order to be able to play in the call-up game.

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL CALL-UP LISTS

League Commissioners / VPs will compile a list for call-ups from their age group at the beginning of the season. Commissioners are responsible for the management of call-ups. While each commissioner can develop their own process for such management, a best practice to consider would be as follows:

- Before the season starts, send a message to every coach in your league, requesting a list of “older” players who should be in the call-up pool. These players should all be capable of participating in the next-league-up, and contributing in the game.
- Reach out to parents of all players on that list, and let them know that their players are on the list. Allow them to opt out. Inform the parents that the call-up spots will be filled on a first to respond basis so the contact information provided should be something that is checked regularly.
- Send a message to all coaches in the next-league-up, giving them your contact info. Let them know that you are managing the call-ups for their league, and that they should request call-ups as far in advance as is possible. In the call-up request, the coach should provide the date, time, and location of the game as well as the jersey color of the team.
- When a call-up is requested from a coach, send a blast text message (or email) to the call-up list, with the date and time when a call-up is needed.



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- The first affirmative response to that request gets the spot. Respond quickly to the acceptance message, providing info on the date, time, location and jersey color, along with contact info for the head coach of the team requesting the call-up.
- Let the head coach of the team requesting the call-up know the name of the call-up, and provide parent contact info.
- In an effort to give call-up opportunities to as many kids as possible, once a player has accepted a call-up opportunity, temporarily remove him/her from the call-up pool.
- The next time a call-up is requested, send a blast text message (or email) to the call-up list [excluding those temporarily removed from the call-up pool].
- If there is no affirmative response from the call-up list within a reasonable amount of time (~15-30 mins), then reset the call-up pool, and send the invitation to those previously removed. The call-up pool is now reset.
- Once an affirmative response is received, remove him/her from the new, reset call-up pool.

Regardless of the method the commissioner / VP chooses, the goal should be to get every player on the call-up list an equal opportunity to be called up. It is the League Commissioner's / VP's responsibility to make sure this list is maintained and the rules herein are followed.

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT TEAMS

- Coaches of tournament teams are free to ask **any** age eligible player to be a substitute player as they feel necessary for a position of need. The player must have been enrolled in HAA's current in-house spring season in order to be eligible to play.
- **Substitute players for tournaments:** Players are allowed to play as a sub "up", "over", or "down" if rosters are depleted due to injury or vacations and if the player(s) is age eligible. This assumes the player's current tournament team does not have scheduled games and is available to play with the other team.
 - **Players cannot miss their current tournament team games to be a fill in substitute on another team, unless the VP of Baseball/Softball and all head coaches involved agree to allow it.**
 - Abuse of this rule will be considered as double rostering a player, and will be grounds for disciplinary action to the coaches of the teams involved and player(s) filling in.
- Since tournament teams are formed with winning as a priority, there are no limitations to the substitute player playing positions in the field, sitting innings, or slotting in the batting order.

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- Tournament team coaches shall not schedule tournament team games that conflict with HAA's Spring season games. Therefore players are not permitted to skip HAA Spring season games to be a call-up, call-down, or call-over to play in a tournament team game.
- Players are permitted to skip HAA Fall season games to be a call-up, call-down, or call-over to play in a tournament team game but must, with adequate forewarning, notify their coach.

Any violation of these rules above will be subject to an automatic three (3) game suspension for the coach and will be considered a Level 2 Conduct Violation. Players in violation of these rules will be ineligible for the rest of the season to be called up / called over.