

HERTS

2015 Futures Tournament



INTRODUCTION

The Herts Futures Tournament (HFT) has been held every year since 2008 and is now a permanent fixture in the British baseball calendar. It brings together youth teams of all age groups from across the country for a day of baseball at one of the best baseball venues in the United Kingdom. [Grovehill Ballpark](#) is the home of Herts Baseball Club. The venue frequently hosts BBF postseason and GB Team games. During the Herts Futures Tournament additional diamonds are added to accommodate all the age groups.

This year the HFT will take place on Saturday, 26 September 2015.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

In addition to inviting Under-19, Under-14 and Under-12 teams, this year we are exploring the option to add an Under-10 division (coach-pitch).

In previous years the Tournament format included several games in the group stage followed by the finals to decide the winners and the overall standings.

We are considering possible minor adjustments to the format. These amendments will depend on the number of teams entering and if we make changes to the format, participating teams will be informed in due course.

TEAMS

Last year was a record year for the HFT with 15 teams entering the competition. The following are some of the teams which have played in the HFT in previous years:

- Bracknell Tornados U17
- Bracknell Blazers U14
- Brentwood Bucks U14
- Essex Atoms U14
- Essex Atoms U11
- Forest Glade Redbacks U17
- Forest Glade Redbacks U14
- Forest Glade Redbacks U11
- Herts All Stars U11
- Herts Cardinals U14
- Herts Harriers U17
- Horsham Hornets U17
- Horsham Athletics U14
- Horsham A's U11
- Horsham Mets U11
- Horsham Red Sox U11
- London Mets U17
- London Mets U14
- London Mets U11
- LondonSports U14
- London Sports U11
- LYBL Bulldogs U14
- Northstar Polecats U17
- Richmond U11
- SoNo Stars U17
- Tonbridge Bobcats U14
- Windsor Bears U14

SCHEDULE

The full Tournament schedule will be published closer to the date of the event. The first games usually start at around 11am and the finals are usually completed by around 5:30pm.

VENUE

All games will be played at Grovehill Ballpark in Hertfordshire. A large number of car park spaces are available at the venue, all of which are free of charge. For more details about Grovehill Ballpark [click here](#).

CONCESSIONS

Hot and Cold beverages, Hot Dogs, Doughnuts and other snacks will be available at the concession stand. All profits go towards developing baseball facilities at Grovehill Ballpark.

FIRST AID

If there is a need for First Aid assistance please report to a member of Event Staff.

GAMES

Game Balls

The game balls will be provided by the Organisers. Teams are still responsible for bringing their own practice balls. Standard hard balls will be used in U19, U14 and U12 games. U10 games will use soft rubber core baseballs for safety reasons.

Umpires

The umpires will be provided by the Organisers.

Scorers

The two teams must keep a record of, and submit, the final scores of each game which they were involved in.

Pre-Game

Due to the high number of team entries and games which need to be completed, for most games there will be no time for pre-game batting practice or infield/outfield drills on the actual diamonds. Teams will therefore have to make use of playing fields adjacent to the baseball diamonds for their pre-game preparations.

TOURNAMENT RULES

The following rules shall apply to this competition:

1. Under-19 Games

- a. Runners allowed to take a lead and steal bases
- b. Advance on passed ball/wild pitch – allowed
- c. A third strike will count as a strike out unless dropped by the catcher and the batter will only be out if put-out
- d. 5-run limit per inning except final inning
- e. Pitching distance 60ft 6in, Bases 90ft

2. Under-14 Games

- a. Runners allowed to steal bases, but not allowed to take a lead
- b. Advance on passed ball/wild pitch – allowed
- c. Dropped third strike – automatic out
- d. 5-run limit per inning except final inning
- e. Pitching distance 50ft, Bases 70ft

3. Under-12 Games

- a. Runners not allowed to take a lead or steal bases
- b. Advance on passed ball/wild pitch – NOT allowed.
- c. Dropped third strike – automatic out
- d. 5-run limit per inning except final inning
- e. Most U12 teams have sufficient number of pitchers who can throw strikes consistently, but if they run out of pitchers, coaches can act as pitchers. Coach-pitchers will pitch to batters from their own team.
- f. Pitching distance 46ft, Bases 60ft

4. Under-10 Games

- a. Runners not allowed to take a lead or steal bases
- b. Advance on passed ball/wild pitch – NOT allowed
- c. Dropped third strike – automatic out
- d. 5-run limit per inning except final inning
- e. Coaches will act as pitchers, but a player will field the pitcher position. Coach-pitchers will pitch to batters from their own team.
- f. Pitching distance 46ft, Bases 60ft

5. **Resolving Ties in Group Standings.** In the event of two or more teams finishing in a tie, either by virtue of identical won-lost records or where teams have played an unequal number of games but the “Games Behind” difference between them equals zero, the tie would be broken by using the following criteria in the order given:
 - a. The head-to-head results between the tied teams should be used to establish placings;
 - b. If still level, then the team that has conceded the fewest runs in games between or among the tied teams is placed first, the team that has conceded the next fewest number of runs in those games is placed second, and so on;
 - c. If still level, then the number of runs per game conceded by the tied teams across the whole of the competition should be used to determine placings.
 - d. If still level, the standings shall be determined by a toss of a coin.
6. **Reporting Final Scores.** After every game the two teams are each required to submit the final scores to the Organisers’ tent.
7. **5 Runs Per Inning Rule.** Maximum 5 runs can be scored in any one inning apart from the final inning, when there will be no limitations.
8. **Pitching Restrictions.** Pitching restrictions as per BBF rules shall apply.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Maximum Pitch Count</u>
14-19	95 pitches per day
11-13	85 pitches per day
9-10	75 pitches per day

9. **Rolling substitutions** are permitted i.e. players permitted to re-enter the game after being substituted, provided a player returning to the lineup is placed in his original spot in the batting order.
10. **Continuous batting order** is permitted i.e. bench players can be added to the batting lineup.
11. **Mercy rule.** No Mercy Rule will be in force.
12. **Rules Applicable to Timed Games.** At the start of the game the umpires, will inform both managers at what time the game will stop. Umpires will be the official timekeepers of all games. No new innings to start 15 minutes from the predefined game finish time. If the predefined game finish time is reached, the umpire will allow the inning to be completed. This inning will be treated as the final inning with all the implied conditions including: (i) the bottom of this final inning will be played only if the visitors are leading or the game is tied in the middle of this final inning; (ii) if the visitors are in the lead in the middle of this final inning, but the home team takes the lead in the bottom of the inning, the game will end as soon as the home team takes the lead and this will be the final play and the final score.
13. **Tied games.** If a game is tied after the completion of the final inning, that would be the final score and each team will be awarded 0.5 win and 0.5 loss in the standings.
14. **Disputes.** Any disputes will be ruled by the Organizers, whose decision will be final.
15. **Behaviour.** Team managers are responsible for controlling behaviour of their team’s players, coaches, volunteers and parents. Inappropriate language or intimidating behaviour will not be tolerated and anyone breaching this rule may be requested to leave the venue. Everyone that attends the event is expected to act in a positive manner, no matter what the outcome of a play, call by an umpire, or the game itself. We simply ask the following:
 - a. Let the players play
 - b. Let the coaches coach
 - c. Let the umpires umpire

ENTRY FEE

Teams entering the HFT will need to pay an entry fee. Entering the HFT brings the following benefits:

- Competitive action at high quality baseball facilities;
- Over the course of the day, all teams will play several games giving them between 3 and 4+ hours of game time over the duration of the competition;
- Plate umpires will be provided by the Organisers for every game;
- Game balls will be provided by the Organisers for every game;
- In the event that income from HFT entry fees results in a profit, the Organisers will invest it in improving the facilities so that teams can benefit from this in future HFT and other events at Herts.

The Tournament entry fee has been set at £40 per team.

RAINOUT

If the event is rained out and some, or all, of the games cannot be played, the entry fee will not be refunded. This is due to the need for the Organisers to incur costs in advance of the event.

PAYMENT OF ENTRY FEE

Your entry fee must be received **not later than 13 September 2015**. You can make payment using any of the following methods:

ONLINE BANKING

If you have online or telephone banking facility you can pay by entering the club's bank account details shown below. Please provide your team name as a reference so that the payment can be accounted correctly

Account Name:	Herts Baseball Club
Bank name:	Lloyds Bank Plc
Sort Code:	30-99-21
Account number:	02508279

CHEQUE

Make your cheque payable to "Herts Baseball Club" and post it to: **Herts Baseball Club, 1 Grampian Gardens, London NW2 1JH** Please write your team name on the back of the cheque so that the payment can be accounted correctly

CREDIT CARD

[Click here](#) and you will be taken to our website where you can pay by credit card. *Please note that paying by credit card carries a 3.4%+£0.20 PayPal transaction charge and you would have to cover this if you prefer to pay using this more convenient method.*

WHAT TO DO NEXT?

Your team is kindly requested to email the Organisers **by 6 September 2015**, indicating whether or not you wish to enter one or more teams. If you wish to enter a team(s) please also provide the following details:

1. **Team name**
2. **Contact details of your team's designated contact person(s) (contact name, mobile and email);**
3. **The age group which you wish to enter your team in (U17, U14, U12 or U10)**

TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS CONTACT DETAILS

Organisers: Herts Baseball Club
Website: <http://hertsbaseball.com/events/herts-futures-tournament/>
Contact Name: Mark Caress
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