

NORTH TEXAS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (NTXBAWF)
Rules & Regulations

RULES OF PLAY

NFHS Baseball rules will apply unless specified by NTBAWF.

- Teams will play 8 regular season games plus the end of the season playoff.
(If teams qualify. No playoffs for T-Ball)
- All games will finish the inning unless the Run Rule has been obtained.
 - T-Ball - 60 minutes drop dead (NO RUN RULES)
 - Coach Pitch - 1:15 time limit
 - Kid Pitch - 1:30 time limit
- Teams that are scheduled for the later games, must be ready to go once the game ahead of theirs ends.
- Home and Visitor are determined by the schedule.
- Travel Teams: If a team enters that is a verified travel team, that team will have to play one division up from their age.
(Example: 12U Kid Pitch team must play up in 13U Kid Pitch.)
- No Metal Spikes!!! (All Divisions)

T-BALL RULES

- Coaches will serve as umpires for the games.
- All players present will bat in order of roster. Each team will bat their complete line up.
- Each batter is allowed 5 attempts to hit the ball into fair territory.
The following is considered an attempted swing:
 - Swing and a miss
 - Foul ball
 - Tapped ball that falls off the tee
 - Hitting or knocking the tee down
 - Ball does not fully cross 10' circle
- A foul on the 5th swing is a strike and the batter is out.
- If the bat makes contact with the ball and the tee falls down, it will be considered a hit if the ball leaves the circle in fair territory.
- At the completion of a play, the ball will be returned to home base and placed on the tee.

T-BALL RULES continued...

- There will be a 10' circle drawn around home plate. A batted ball must go beyond the circle in fair territory or it is a foul ball.
- A batted ball has to go beyond the circle before it can be fielded. If the batted ball is fielded before it is completely out of the circle, a dead ball is called, swing does not count as a strike, and all runner(s) return to their original bases.
- If the batted ball leaves the 10' circle and rolls back into the circle, it is a foul ball.
- **THROWN BAT:** if a bat is thrown with enough force that it completely leaves the circle, that batter will be ruled out. Dropping or carrying the bat outside the circle will not be considered a "thrown bat."
- **RUNNERS:** runners may leave their bases when the ball is hit. **NO LEAD OFFS!!!** (Penalty - runner(s) is out if they leave the base(s) too soon.
- The defensive pitcher must be in the pitching area. The pitcher cannot leave that area until the ball is hit.
- When time is called - each runner must return to the base he/she last touched (in the case of a lead runner - last base he/she touched with all following runners going back). Time is called (except on the last batter) when the ball is thrown from a defensive player toward home and it crosses the 10' circle or the foul lines between 3rd/home and 1st/home thus stopping time.
- If the ball is carried into the circle by the defensive player thus stopping time.
- Defensive players must play in their correct positions until the ball is hit.
- The defensive team may have an outfield coach. This coach must stay in the grass at all times. This coach may give instruction, encouragement, directions, etc. If the coach interferes with any play the play will immediately be called a "dead ball". All runners will be awarded the base they are going to plus one. If there is a second interference, that team loses their privilege of an outfield coach for the remainder of the game.

COACH PITCH RULES

- All ages will receive 6 pitches or 3 swings. (Foul balls count as a swing)
 - 3rd swing foul gets an additional pitch
 - NO BUNTS!!!
- Base Runners “**cannot**” advance on a pass ball that is pitched by the coach.
- A ½ inning will be either 3 outs or 7 runs – whichever occurs first. Run Rule per game – 15 runs after 3 innings and 10 runs after 4 innings or 5 full innings.
- Once a runner is on base he/she cannot lead off until the ball is hit or he/she will be called out. Runners cannot be picked off nor can they steal.
- The 10’ circle serves one purpose: THROWN BAT: if a bat is thrown with enough force that it completely leaves the circle, then the batter will be called out. Dropping or carrying the bat outside the circle will not be considered a thrown bat.
- Defensive players must play in their correct positions until the ball is hit.
- Coach pitching, must pitch overhand with at least one foot in contact with or straddle the 35’ pitching rubber.
- The pitching coach shall not verbally or physically coach while in the pitching position.
- The pitching coach shall position himself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any possible play once the ball has been hit.
 - Penalty: If a coach violates this rule after the ball is pitched, obstruction shall be called. First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Removal of coach as the pitcher for the remainder of the game.
- All play stops once the ball is thrown back to the pitching coach.
 - The pitching coach must catch any ball that is thrown to him/her.
 - Penalty: Verbal warning if first one. Second, removal of the coach as the pitching coach.
- The Pitching Coach shall be an adult at least eighteen (18) years of age.

KID PITCH RULES

- OFFICIAL GAMES:
 - U9 & U10: 5 innings (90 minutes)
 - 11U - 14U: 6 innings (90 minutes)
 - No new innings will start after the above time has elapsed or the 5 minute rule. Time will be noted when the third out is called to end the previous inning. If an inning has started, both teams shall have a chance to bat, unless the home team is leading or the
 - Game Time will be noted on the official score sheet by the scorekeeper once the home team takes the field. The umpire or official scorekeeper will go by his/her watch or cell phone. Start time will be noted at the top of the scoresheet.
 - RUN RULES: (All Kid Pitch Divisions)
 - 7 runs per inning or 3 outs (whichever happens first)
 - 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, and 10 runs after 5 innings
 - Extra innings will take place if the game is tied after regulation innings or time limit has been reached. (*NOTE: Game will not exceed 120 minutes*)
 - Scheduled game time is forfeit. Teams must have 8 players to begin a game. A team that starts with 8 players will have an automatic out in the 9th spot of the batting order. That spot can be filled by a player showing up late.
 - All batting line-up changes/substitutions must be reported to the home plate umpire, then the official scorekeeper.
 - Penalty: 1 out per occurrence will be assessed at the time of infractions. (field switches not necessary if it doesn't affect the batting order)
 - The "Re-entry" substitution batting rule will be used. A player may go in and out of his/her original position in the batting order; the same goes for substitutes. At no time should both the original player and his/her substitute be in the game at the same time either offensively or defensively.
- EXCEPTION - INJURY**
- Batters and base runners must wear batting helmets at all times. The helmet must fit securely or a chin strap will be required. Players "intentionally" throwing helmets off while running will be declared out.
 - All catchers must wear and use: helmet with mask and throat protector, chest protector, shin guards, an athletic supporter, and a cup; catcher's mitts are not mandatory but highly recommended.

KID PITCH RULES continued...

- **BATS:** All divisions will be allowed to use **BIG BARREL BATS**. They must have the Official USSSA stamp.
- **ALL LEAGUES:** one conference per pitcher per inning, second timeout pitcher must be removed. If “time” is called by the offensive team or umpire, a head coach may consult with his pitcher, but must conclude the visit when time is in. The offensive head coach may call only one timeout per half inning.
- The home team must provide the official scorekeeper. If the home team **CANNOT** provide a scorekeeper, that team will forfeit their right to be the home team. The official scorekeeper will be required to sit at the scorer’s table behind the backstop. It is suggested that both scorekeepers sit together.
- **ALL LEAGUES:** automatic walks approved. If a coach wants to walk a batter, he tells his/her pitcher to notify the home plate umpire of the intentional walk. (No pitches need to be thrown)
- **ALL LEAGUES:** Batting Lineups
 - Teams have an option to use the EH (Extra Hitter). Teams that begin with an EH must end with an EH, Exception: if you only have 10 players and one is ejected you may finish the game with 9.
 - Penalty: when his/her (ejected player) turn at bat comes, it is an automatic out. The coach must notify the umpire when using an EH. EH can be anywhere on the batting line-up (substitution process same), any combination of the 10 batters listed may be in the game defensively.
 - Any team that wants to bat all players present and ready to play in the batting lineup, can do so. This must be declared at the plate meeting prior to the game and cannot be changed once the official time has started.
- Only 9 players in the field for all divisions in Kid Pitch

POST SEASON PLAY AND TEAM SPONSORSHIPS:

- All divisions will have playoffs once the regular season ends.
(Exception: T-Ball - NO PLAYOFFS! 8 game season)
- The top 4 teams from each division will be entered into the playoffs.
- All rules & regulations from the season will remain the same.
 - Exception: The Extra Inning rule for games not exceeding 120 minutes. The game must have a winner during the playoffs.
- All Team Sponsorship Fees are due the Friday before the season starts. Any teams that have not paid their Team Sponsorship Fee after the 2nd week of the season, that teams games for the first 2 weeks will be forfeited and any game after that will not be played and will be forfeited until paid.
- Team awards will be given to the 1st & 2nd place teams in each division.

EJECTIONS

- Coaches are responsible for their actions as well as their parents, fans, and players of his/her respective teams. Coaches will be asked to help control and/or diffuse any situations that may arise with anyone associated with their teams before, during, and after scheduled games.
- Anyone who uses profane language or harasses any game umpires, score keeping personnel, NTXBAAF staff, coaches, spectators, and players will be subject to a suspension of the next 3 scheduled games.
- If any threat is made to game umpires (as stated above) or his/her property, those individuals will be permanently banned from the league for one calendar year.
- Parents and spectators are responsible for their own actions and are encouraged to cheer, encourage, and support their team in a positive manner while maintaining good sportsmanship throughout the season. If unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed, those involved could be subject to the above suspension (3 scheduled games) and/or permanent dismissal from the NTXBAAF league.
- If an ejection occurs, those involved must leave the confines of the NTXBAAF property immediately. Ejections will carry an additional next scheduled 1 game suspension and cannot be present for the contest.
- If a second ejection occurs, that individual will have a 1 year calendar suspension from all NTXBAAF league events.

MISCELLANEOUS GAMES OR ACTIVITIES:

- No miscellaneous games or activities are allowed on the NTXBAWF premises at any time, which may include Wall Ball, football games, or playing catch. These activities can endanger spectators actively walking through the NTXBAWF complex or currently watching NTXBAWF sanctioned games or practices. Any spectator participating in any activity deemed to be possibly hazardous to the spectator, or others, shall be asked to refrain from such activities by any member of the Board of Directors of NTXBAWF. These activities shall include hanging from or playing on field equipment such as fences and batting cages, performing acrobatic maneuvers off of stands, or any other such activity deemed hazardous by a member of the Board of Directors of NTXBAWF. The member of the Board of Directors is asked to be as courteous as possible while informing the spectator that such activities are not allowed.

MISCELLANEOUS GAMES OR ACTIVITIES continued...

- However, if the offender does not comply with the Board of Directors member's request, the spectator/spectators parents may be asked to remove themselves from NTXBAWF premises.

PARKING:

- Parking for "ALL" games scheduled to be played on fields 1 - 8 please park in Memorial Stadium's parking lot. There is "NO PARKING" anywhere other than in the parking lot designated as such by the WFISD. ANY PERSONS VEHICLE OCCUPIED OR NON-OCCUPIED WILL BE FIRST ASKED TO PROMPTLY MOVE TO THE DESIGNATED PARKING AREA. IF STILL NON COMPLIANT, THE VEHICLE WILL BE TOWED AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.
- ******NO PARKING ON THE GRASS or THE DRIVES LEADING UP TO MEMORIAL STADIUM******

PRACTICES: Team Practice on NTXBAWF Fields

- Teams may earn practice time on the NTXBWF fields provided that team coaches, parents and/or players come out and put time in working on the fields. It will be the Field Directors and Vice President's responsibility to determine practice times and dates, based on each team's total man hours spent working on the fields prior to the start of the season. Unscheduled practices will not be tolerated and can lead to forfeiture of scheduled games.
- For every 9 man hours of work done on the fields, a team earns 1.5 hours of practice time on the fields. (Ex. 3 coaches/dads from the Tigers team come out and work Saturday morning from 9-noon...they have worked a combined 9 hours, and have earned a 1.5 hour practice on the fields.)

RESCHEDULES/INCLEMENT WEATHER:

- **Games Called Due To Rain / Lightning:** In the event of rain/lightning during a game; a minimum of 15 minutes will be allotted prior to receiving the all clear signal from the field director before games can resume. If 20 minutes pass and the all clear signal has not come from the field director, the game will be called. In the event of rain, it will be up to the appointed field director to determine if the field is safe to continue play.

RESCHEDULES/INCLEMENT WEATHER continued...

- If the game is over the 1/2 way point of your game time (based on your division), the game will be considered complete, no matter which team is up or where you are in the batting line-up. If the game is less than 1/2 over, the game will resume with everyone back in place where they were when the game was called. The game will be rescheduled for the soonest available time slot in the schedule. If there is lightning inside 10 miles of the NTXBWF fields where games are being held, we must stop play. The field director for that day's game will let the umpires know, and they in turn will notify the teams.

SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE:

- North Texas Baseball Association leases our current facility from the Wichita Falls Independent School District, and we must comply with their Smoking and Tobacco policies. No one is permitted to smoke or use tobacco, including “Vapor” devices, on NTXBAWF premises; which include the corresponding parking lots adjacent to the NTXBAWF facility and Memorial Stadium.

RULES POSTED AT NTXBAWF COMPLEX:

- Rules Posted at Complex included in this addendum are in addition to and in conjunction with the rules currently posted on signage at the NTXBAWF complex. The current rules posted at the entrance to the complex are:
 - 1. No Alcohol, Smoking, or Tobacco products are allowed inside the park.
 - 2. No skateboards, bicycles, or scooters on sidewalks.
 - 3. No swinging bats outside of the field at any time or soft toss into the fence.
 - 4. No PETS.
 - 5. Please NO LITTERING. Use Trash Receptacles. Each team is expected to CLEAN UP their dugout and bleacher area after their game. **(Penalty: Forfeiture of game)**
 - 6. Supervise your children, no climbing fences, bleacher covers, screens, etc...
 - 7. These fields are for use by NTXBAWF and NO PRACTICE or games allowed at any time except as scheduled and approved by the Board of Directors. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
 - 8. Trespassing and vandalism will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

FAILURE TO COMPLY:

- Failure to Comply with requests from Field Directors or NTXBAWF Board of Directors could result in suspension and/or permanent ban from all NTXBAWF events. All spectators, participants, and others must comply with requests given by a Field Director or NTXBAWF Board of Directors. If the spectator, participant, or any other person at the NTXBAWF Complex does not comply with any request, that person shall be asked to leave the NTXBAWF Complex for the remainder of that day. If the person refuses to leave the NTXBAWF Complex when instructed, the Wichita Falls Police Department shall be notified and a possible barring could incur.

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