Tri-Township Park District Baseball, Softball, & Tee Ball

Official Rules

**REV. 2023**

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# General Rules - Applies to all Division.

## G1. Rule Book

The Tri-Township Park District - Baseball and Softball rulebook shall take precedence over NFHS rules. The NFHS rules shall govern when the TTPD - Baseball and Softball rulebook does not address a situation. If a situation arises that is not covered, or clarification is needed; it will be addressed by the TTPD Baseball Commissioner and the League Coordinator.

## G2. Conduct

* 1. Inappropriate behavior by players, coaches, or spectators **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**. **You will be asked to leave the park as a result of any confrontation with an umpire in this league.**
	2. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his team. This includes assistant coaches, players, and fans. No member of the team (assistant coach or player) other than the head coach may leave the area of the dugout or coaching box to dispute an umpire’s call.
		1. No team member, coach or player, may leave the area of the dugout or coaches’ box to argue a call or ridicule an umpire.
		2. The penalty for this infraction will result in both the offender **and** the head coach being restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
		3. If the offender is a player, this will also result in an out each time his spot in the batting order is due. If the incident is severe enough, the offender may be ejected, with the head coach restricted to the dugout.
		4. If any person threatens an umpire, either physically or verbally, the

game will be forfeited by the offending team, and if the offending person is a player or coach, he will be permanently banned from participating in the league.

* 1. Fighting during a game will not be tolerated. If there is a fight during a game, all persons will be sent to their respective dugouts until the situation is calmed down. All participants in the fight will be ejected from the game. If there are any further alterations during the game, it will be forfeited by the offending team or teams.
		1. If ejected for fighting the resulting penalty is a two game suspension.
		2. If ejected for fighting twice during the same season will result in being banned for the remainder of the season.
	2. After an ejection has occurred for any reason, the ejected person must leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately, and is prohibited from further contact, either direct or in-direct, with the team (distance must be out of sight and out of sound). Failure to comply will result in a forfeit.
		1. If for any reason a player, parent, or coach is ejected from a game, he will receive the following disciplinary action.
			1. 1st offense will result in a one game suspension, serving the remainder of the game and the next played game. If a parent is ejected, the head coach will automatically be ejected also. If there is not an assistant or representative available or willing to coach the game, the game will end in a forfeit against the offending team.
			2. 2nd offense will result in league dismissal for the remainder of the season, with loss of all registration fees.
		2. All suspensions/ejections can be appealed to the league coordinator.

# G3. Official Baseball and Softball

The official baseballs and softball of the TTPD - Baseball and Softball shall be authorized by the TTPD Athletic Committee. The various divisions of the league must use only the designated baseballs or softballs as authorized for each division. The umpires for each game will provide one new ball and one used ball.

## G4. Pitching Outs, Distances, Base Paths, Ball Size, and Time Limit

1. Baseball

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DIVISION** | **PITCHING** | **BASE PATH** | **PITCHING****OUTS** | **BALL SIZE** | **TIME LIMIT -Last inning call** |
| Tee Ball | OFF THE T | 50 ft | 3 Innings | Tee Ball | 3 innings |
| Coach Pitch | Coach and T Back up | 50 ft | 3 Innings | Tee Ball | 3 innings |
| Instructional | 44 ft | 60 ft | N/A | Official Baseball | 1hr 15 min or6 innings |
| Rookie | 42 ft | 65 ft | 12 outs | Official Baseball | 1 hr 15 min or6 innings |
| A | 50 ft | 70 ft | 12 outs | Official Baseball | 1 hr 15 min or6 innings |

1. Softball

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DIVISION** | **PITCHING** | **BASE PATH** | **Circle** | **BALL SIZE** | **TIME LIMIT****-Last inning call** |
| Instructional | 30 ft | 55 ft | **x** | 11 in (white) | 1 hr 15 min or5 innings |
| Rookie | 35 ft | 55 ft | **8ft Radius/16ft circumference** | 11 in (raised seam – yellow) | 1 hr 15 min or6 innings |
| A | 40 ft | 60 ft | **8ft Radius/16ft circumference** | 12 in (raised seam – yellow) | 1 hr 15 min or6 innings |
| AA | 40 ft | 60ft | **8ft Radius/16ft circumference** | 12 in (raised seam – yellow) | 1 hr 15 min or6 innings |

##

## G5. Game Length

1. Before the first pitch is thrown, the umpire will call out the official start time to both coaches and keep track of the official time. Time limits apply to all games, including playoffs, and are as follows:
	1. Based on the pace of the current game, the umpires should declare “last inning” prior to the start of the visiting teams last time at bat based on the time limit in the charts in Rule G4. However, it is up to the coaches as well as the umpires to monitor the time limit. If a coach has any questions during the game as to whether it is the last inning or not it should be directed to the umpire. If the umpire fails to call the last inning due to the inning running extremely long or is busy with game activity, the time limit will still be enforced. Games will not be called in the middle of an inning unless there isn’t an option for the opposing team to win.
	2. No matter the timing or declaration (or lack thereof) of (1.) above, no new innings shall begin on or past the time limit for each division. Innings played during the allotted time will constitute a complete game. During play-offs and/or tournament games, the time limit is still enforced, however in the event of a tie, the game will continue until there is a winner.
2. In the event of rain, lightning or darkness, a complete game will consist of four (4) completed innings or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.
3. A TTPD Baseball and Softball member present and/or a game umpire will make the final decision in regards to weather or nightfall.
	1. Prior to the start of a game, a TTPD Baseball and Softball member will make the final decision in regards to weather or nightfall.
	2. Once the game has started, the umpire will make the final decision in regards to weather or nightfall.
4. In the event of a tie game due to rain, lightning or darkness, the game will end in a tie and be officially recorded as such. For "suspended" and "canceled"

game definitions, see Rule G18 - Inclement Weather.

1. In the event there would be stoppage in play due to necessary field repairs (i.e. broken bases or pitching rubber, backstop fencing) that fall under the TTPD Baseball and Softball control, time will be added to the length of the game equal to stoppage in play. Even with this additional time, games can still be called in the event of rain, lightning or darkness. Games will be considered complete, suspended or canceled based on Rule G4 - Game Length and Rule G 24 - Inclement Weather.
2. At no time will time be added due to weather or other conditions out of the control of the TTPD Baseball and Softball.

## G6. Speed-up Rules

Between innings, five warm-up pitches or two minutes are allowed. New pitchers are allowed eight (8) warm-up pitches. Penalty - if the batting team is delaying the game more than 2 minutes, the umpire will start calling one strike every 20 seconds. If the defensive team is delaying more than 2 minutes, the umpire will call a ball every 20 seconds delayed.

## G7. Delay of Game

Intentional delay of the game by the team in the lead to take unfair advantage of the 1 hour,

15 min. the time limit will result in a warning on the first occurrence and, on the second occurrence in the game, will result in a forfeit (Umpire's Judgment).

## G8. Mercy Rule

1. If during the progress of any game of the TTPD Baseball, except GAA one of the following occurs, the umpire shall end the game in favor of the leading team.
	1. The home team after 3 1/2 (i.e. middle of the 4th inning) is leading by fifteen or more runs, or after 4 ½ (i.e. middle of 5th inning) is leading by 10 or more runs.
	2. The visiting team, after 5 or more innings has been played, is leading by ten or more runs at the end of any completed inning.
2. For GAA, if one of the following occurs during the game, the game will end in favor of the leading team.
	1. 12 run lead after 3 innings.
	2. 10 run lead after 4 innings.
	3. 8 run lead after 5 or more innings.

## G9. Batting Order

1. The official batting order must give the player’s name and number.
2. No players on the same team may have the same number.
3. Round Robin batting is used (all available players are in the batting order).
4. Once a player is in the lineup and leaves for any reason other than injury, illness, or a predetermined reason, that position in the batting order will be an out each time it comes up for the remainder of the game after the player leaves.

a. All predetermined reasons must be communicated to both head coaches and the umpires before the game begins.

1. Players arriving late may be added to the bottom of the batting order at any time before the start of the fourth inning
2. In the event of injury to a player, if the injured player cannot continue when scheduled to bat, the position in the line-up will be dissolved and the injured player will not be

allowed to re-enter the game.

1. Intentional walks will NOT be allowed.

## G10. Equipment

1. Uniforms
	1. All players will be expected to play any scheduled game with uniform issued by the TTPD Baseball and Softball.
	2. All team uniforms will be a tee shirt (must be tucked in), mid- thing/knee-length black shorts, and visor. (No league-issued pants/shorts for T- Ball or AAA ball).
	3. Hats/visors are optional; however only TTPD Baseball and Softball issued hats/visors or sponsor issued hats can be worn during the game.
	4. Players may wear additional garments, e.g., a sweatshirt or jacket for their comfort.

However, the TTPD Baseball and Softball shirt shall be worn on the outside of any other clothing.

* 1. All boys must wear a hard cup supported in baseball league play in Instructional and up.
	2. Shorts are not allowed (except in Tee Ball or Heat Advisory situations).
1. No uniform alterations allowed. Nothing is allowed to be ironed on, silk screened, pressed or attached to league issued hats, pants, shorts or shirts. Examples include personal names, additional numbers, anything that individualizes a person or team. All games will be played as scheduled; however, such uniform alterations will result in an automatic team forfeit (and a loss counted in team standings) until which time proper uniforms can be fielded.
2. Metal spikes: Shoes with metal spikes or metal cleats are strictly prohibited in all divisions. The penalty for wearing them shall be ejection from the game. No exceptions; however, this ejection will not prohibit them from playing in the next game providing proper cleats are worn. Subsequent violations by players will result in an ejection from the game which will prevent them from playing in the next game.
3. Umpires will give players the opportunity to produce any needed equipment, with the exception of players being caught wearing metal cleats. Failure to do so will result in the player being ejected from the game.
4. Catcher's Equipment: Players must wear a facemask with throat protector, helmet, chest protector, and shin guards as provided by TTPD Baseball and Softball for league play. Players warming up a pitcher are required to wear a facemask.
5. Helmets: All players will wear helmets while batting and running the bases. Any oversight on a forgotten helmet will not cause the play to be called out if the helmet falls off accidentally. Time out will be called when noticed and the player will be required to put on a helmet. Any player who intentionally tosses off a helmet while running the bases shall be declared out. All strikes and balls, hits and outs will stand. TTPD does require GA and GAA to wear assigned and issued facemasks.
6. All equipment will be kept behind the benches or out of the playing area. No player, coach or manager may throw any equipment in anger and the umpire may eject the offending person from the game. In the umpire's judgment, a player flagrantly throwing the bat will be declared out and ejected from the game.
7. Balls:
	1. Game balls are to be supplied by the home team.
8. Bats:
	1. The maximum barrel size is 2 ¾” for wood and 2 5/8” for any other material.

##

## G11. Batting/Base Running

1. Bat throwing: Coaches must teach their players to hold onto the bat when swinging through the ball.
	1. The accidental throwing of the bat by the batter will result in a warning by the umpire.
	2. Each team will be given one warning.
	3. In the umpire's judgment, subsequent offenses will result in any batter being declared out and play is dead.
2. Collisions: Base runners must slide to avoid contact; with the one exception of first base.
	1. If the runner goes into a base standing up and runs into the defensive player, the base runner will be declared out for interference provided the defensive

the player has possession of the ball. If the runner interferes with the relay throw to another base the batter will also be declared out.

* 1. If such contact is malicious or flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the game.
	2. Defensive players must have the ball or the ball must be thrown to them. They cannot fake or bait runners into slide to reduce chances of advancing.
	3. Base runners must yield to the fielder when a ball is hit to them. If contact is made with a fielder in the act of catching a ball, it's an out, due to interference.
1. Obstruction:
	1. If, in the opinion of the umpire, a fielder does not give the runner a piece of the base in which to slide prior to the fielder receiving the ball, obstruction will be called on the fielder.
	2. Catchers are allowed to block the plate, but must have possession of the ball prior to blocking the plate. The catcher must give the runner access to the base if they don't have the ball.
	3. Fake Tag: When a defensive player fakes a tag without possession of the ball and impedes the progress of any runner, the umpire shall declare an obstruction and award the runner an additional base. On the second offense, the player will be ejected from the game.

## G12. Scoring

1. The official score will be kept by the home plate umpire.
2. When a team scores five runs in an inning, the inning is over, with the exception of the last inning of the game. In the last inning a team may score until they have made three outs. In the event of extra innings within the time limit of the game, a team may score until they have made three outs. This does not apply to **GAA (See AA2).** ~~boys AA or AAA ball~~. ~~For boys AA or AAA ball refer to Rule G8, para 2.~~

#  G13. Free substitution

Free defensive substitutions are allowed at the half inning only. During an inning a player from the bench may enter the game only as a pitcher or in the case of an injury. In addition, a defensive replacement will be allowed during an inning if a player is warming up to pitch.

## G14. Equitable Playing Time

1. It is to be considered a TTPD Baseball and Softball guideline that all players are given an opportunity to play in every game.
2. All players in league play must participate in a minimum of three innings in a seven- inning game and two innings in a five-inning or six-inning game. Failure of any team to comply with this rule will result in forfeiture of the game. If a game is terminated for any reason (including a ten-run lead) before 5 innings has elapsed, failure of either team to use all of its players shall not be a violation of this rule.
3. It is also considered to be a TTPD Baseball and Softball guideline that all players be given the opportunity to play infield at least one inning per game by the third inning in the Tee Ball, Instructional, Rookie and "A" divisions. Failure by any team in Rookie through "A" divisions to comply with this rule will result in forfeiture of the game. The TTPD Baseball and Softball recognizes the problem with tracking such activity during a game; so if resolution cannot be achieved at the game site, "Rule G20. Protests" can be pursued.

## G15. Pitching

1. Pitchers in the Rookie division will be allowed to pitch up to 12 outs per game. Rest time for pitching greater than 1/2 of the maximum pitched outs is 40 1/2 hours. Pitchers pitching less than or equal to 1/2 of the pitched outs are required to rest 20 1/2 hours.
2. For A, AA, and AAA baseball, pitchers will be limited to a daily pitch count. Refer to Section G - Pitch Count Regulations for A, AA, & AAA Divisions on page 29.
3. Pitching changes:
	1. If a manager or coach calls timeout to talk to the same pitcher more than once in a half inning, a pitcher change must be made.
	2. A pitcher removed from the pitching position cannot re-enter the game in the pitching position.

## G16. Forfeits

1. Failure to have a minimum of eight players available results in a forfeit. A game can be started, continued, and finished with a minimum of eight players.
2. Should either team not be ready to start the game within fifteen minutes after the scheduled game time, the Head Umpire shall forfeit the game to the opposing team. In order for a team to be credited with forfeit victory, the team must be present at game time with the minimum number of players to play a game. Should both teams violate the rule, each shall be charged with a loss.

## G17. Makeup Games

All makeup games will be rescheduled by the Scheduling Director in connection with the Head Umpire and posted at the Concession Stand. Divisions Directors will contact each team with the makeup game date and time.

## G18. Inclement Weather

1. For the most accurate and timely updates, teams are encouraged to check: [TTPD FaceBook Page](https://www.facebook.com/tritownshipparkdistrict/?ref=bookmarks) or www.tritownshippark.org. Links are provided to other parks for off site fields. Any game stopped due to wet or dangerous conditions where 2 or more innings have been completed shall be deemed "suspended."
	1. Any "suspended" game will be continued at a later date from the point of which the game was deemed "suspended."
2. Any game stopped due to wet or dangerous conditions were less than two innings have been completed shall be deemed "canceled" and made up at a later date from the

beginning of the game.

1. If at least 3 1/2 innings have been played and the "home team" is winning at the time of play stoppage, the game shall be deemed completed and recorded as such.

## G19. League Playoff Championship Games

1. Where scheduling and facilities allow, all playoff championship games will waive the 3

1/2 innings rule. Every possible attempt will be made to complete these suspended games, with the league scheduler having the final say on when suspended games will be made up.

1. When original play is suspended, the games will be "frozen in time" with managers signing each other's scorecard and/or scorebook. If and when the game is continued,
	1. Pitchers will still only get up to the original 12 outs in the game; pitchers cannot benefit from the rest rule; as if the game is continued on the same day as when the original game was suspended.
	2. The same lineups for batting and fielding apply.
	3. If any players from the suspended game cannot attend the makeup game, their batting spot is skipped; no out is recorded.
	4. Conversely, if any players attend the makeup game that didn't attend the suspended game, they are added to the bottom of the batting order.
2. Regular season time limits apply to all post season games with the only exception being that play-off games will be played until there is a winner.

## G20. Protests

1. The TTPD Baseball and Softball Coordinator and Athletic Committee shall have the authority to act on all rule violations and protests involving teams, players, managers, or coaches under its jurisdiction.
2. If games are to be put under protest because of an infraction of the official rules, the following steps should be taken (no protests will be allowed when it involves a question of an umpire's judgment).
	1. The notification of the intent to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch, concerning infraction of given rule.
	2. The manager of the protesting team must immediately notify the umpire and the opposing manager that the game is being continued under protest.
	3. The umpire will notify both scorekeepers that the game is under protest and both scorebooks will be initiated by the umpire indicating the point at which the protest occurred.
	4. The protest of any game shall be made in writing and filed with a fee of $25 to the

TTPD Baseball and Softball no less than 24 hours after the game in which the alleged rule violation occurred.

* 1. The letter of protest must include the date, names of umpires, and all matters pertaining to the alleged infraction, citing which rule(s) were violated. The letter of intent must be generated by the protesting manager and accompanied by the

$25 fee.

* 1. All specifics relating to a protest must be included in scorebook:
		1. player at bat
		2. inning
		3. balls
		4. strikes
		5. name of pitcher
		6. number of outs
		7. and the bases on which there were runners.
	2. All protests shall be acted upon by the TTPD Baseball and Softball Coordinator and Athletic Committee. The decision of the "Committee" is final.
	3. The $100 protest fee will be applied to the TTPD Baseball and Softball Athletic Fund if the protest is denied. The $100 fee will be reimbursed to the protesting manager if the protest is won.

## G21: Play Area

1. The "Live Ball" area or "Play Area" is defined as the area enclosed by the line that extends from the end of the backstop and runs parallel to each foul line. For safety reasons, spectators will not be allowed in the official playing area.
2. Overthrows: A runner may advance as many bases as they can on an overthrown ball as long as the ball remains in the "Play Area". A runner may advance one (1) base plus the base he is going to when a thrown ball goes out of the "Play Area" and the ball is dead.
3. If a pitched ball delivered by the pitcher goes through or under the backstop or is lodged in the backstop, the runner(s) shall be awarded one (1) base. This does not apply to the Rookie (Girls and Boys) Division.

## G22. Players on Bench

All players will stay on or behind benches when not in the field.

1. Except player at bat and player on-deck batter.
2. Only one coach per coach's box.

## G23. Individuals behind Backstop

No managers, coaches, players, or fans are allowed directly behind the backstop during the progress of games. If in the opinion of the umpire, individual(s) are bothering the pitcher, catcher, or umpire, the umpires on duty have the authority to ask the individual(s) to relocate to another portion of the unofficial area.

## G24. Field Usage Before Game Time

1. The visiting team will have the infield from 30 minutes before game time until 15 minutes before game time.
2. The home team will have the infield from 15 minutes before game time until the game starts.
3. This example will be used for all start times.
4. No batting practice on the infield. All batting practice should be conducted in the outfield. The team will use either the first base side of the field or the third base side.
5. Warm ups will be simultaneous for both teams. ( No pre-game warm ups allowed in the spectator areas). There will be no warming up on the spectator side of the out of play areas on any diamond while spectators are watching an ongoing game.

## G25. Dugouts During the Game

1. The home team is always entitled to the first base dugout.
2. Visitors use the third base dugout.
3. The home team is listed on the game schedule second, whereas the visitor is always listed first. For example, if the game schedule shows 1 vs. 2, then team #1 is the visiting team and #2 is the home team.

## G26. Umpire's Scorecard

Both team managers and umpires must legibly sign and date the official game scorecard. This is necessary to ensure that team standings and umpire pay is recorded correctly.

## G27. Infield Fly Rule

1. The infield fly rule will be enforced for Girls A, AA and Boys A and AA.
2. The infield fly rule will NOT be enforced in all other divisions.
3. The infield fly rule is defined as: The batter is declared out when there is a catchable routine fly ball on the infield, with runners on first and second, or bases loaded and less than two outs. Base runners may advance at their own risks.

G28. Additional Defined Rules

1. NO MODIFICATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED. Plate discussions can be rule clarifications ONLY. No modifications, no differences at different parks. ALL PLAY BY SAME RULES.
2. League ONLY: Borrowing players: Meaning they should field and bat as if they are on that team. Can not Pitch or catch. Must wear the teams Jersey from which they are from. Must be a player in the same division or younger. This does not apply to tournaments.
3. A maximum of three shirted coaches. Parents and others should be welcome to help but only 3 shirted coaches are allowed. A team of 6 shirted coaches is intimidating to teams with one coach that has no help.
4. Sportsmanship rules: no player, coach, or parent may make comments at or about any other player, coach, or parent or purposefully try to intimidate players or coaches. For repeat offenses permanent removal.

# SPECIAL DIVISION RULES

The TTPD Baseball and Softball has developed a program which concentrates on teaching baseball/softball fundamentals in the early years and developing baseball/softball skills in the later years. During the early years, the TTPD Baseball and Softball rules have been modified to help foster learning the game. The intent of the rule modification is to provide all of the younger players with every opportunity to learn the game and to encourage participation in the program in the later years. The Division Summary illustrates how the rules are modified in the early years of the program. It is also provided for quick reference for umpires, managers, and coaches.

RULES BY DIVISION SUMMARY

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **TEE BALL** | **INSTR** | **ROOK** | **A** | **AA** | **AAA** |
| Equitable Playing Time | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Equitable Infield Play | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Keep Score | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Standings | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Innings | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Outfielders | Many | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Pitching | No | Machine | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Stealing | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Stealing Home | No | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Advance on overthrows | No | Yes-\* | Yes-\* | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Dead Ball | Home | Infield | Baseball rules |
| **NOTES:** | \* Advance 1 base on an overthrow (Instructional see Rule I4-3 & Rookie |

see Rule R4-4)

**III. Rules for Tee Ball**

The primary purpose of this division is for instruction into the sports of baseball and softball. It is intended to be a fun introduction into a sport that can provide enjoyment for all involved. Coach pitching, while optional for each player, is allowed in Tee Ball. If coach pitch is desired, batters may receive up to three (3) coach pitches. If after three pitches (regardless of quality or the outcome) the ball is not hit into play, the ball will be placed on the Tee to speed up play. See Rule T4 - Tee Setup.

## T1. General Rules

The following rules are additions or substitutions to the baseball and softball rules. All baseball and softball rules not mentioned herein apply to the Tee Ball Division. Any rule not stated will be determined by the TTPD Baseball and Softball and Athletic Committee.

## T2. Playing Field

* 1. Bases will be 50 feet apart.

## T3. Length of Game

1. A game consists of three 3 innings.
2. An inning shall be defined as each child batting once through a team's lineup.
3. The last batter runs all the way around the bases until the catcher has tagged home plate for the final out of the inning.
4. All games end in a tie.
5. No records of game scores will be kept.

## T4. Tee Setup

1. The tee will be set up and removed by the manager or coach whenever a potential play at home plate exists.
2. One coach is allowed at first base, third base, and home plate.
3. Baseballs are supplied by the home team.

## T5. Hitting/Bunting

##

## There are no strike-outs in Tee ball.

1. 1st Year Tee Ball will utilize the Tee. Later in the season the coach can pitch at practices, but games will be off the tee.
2. If the batter ball rolls into foul territory on the third strike, it is considered a foul ball.
3. If a fielder touches the ball before it crosses the arc, the batter is awarded first base.
4. No other base runners may advance unless forced.

##

## T6. Stealing

1. There will be no stealing for Tee Ball. The base runner may only advance on a batted ball.
2. If a runner leaves the base before the bat contacts the ball or hits the tee below the ball, the ball is dead. At that time, all runners must return to their base.

## T7. Overthrows and Base Running

1. Runners may leave a base when the batter makes contact with the ball on the tee.
2. When a fielder throws the ball home, it must cross the arc before the play is ruled dead.
3. When the ball is delivered to the arc and stops play, runners on the base path may advance to the next base they are heading.
4. On an overthrow at any base whether in fair or foul territory, the runner(s) advance one base and play is ruled dead.
5. After the ball is hit, the batter and base runners may attempt to take as many bases as possible, until the coach declares the play dead.

## T8. Defensive Positions

1. Each team will field all available players defensively at one time.
2. Children may never play the same defensive position in two consecutive innings.
3. The infield will have six (6) fielders with the sixth player positioned a few steps in front of second base.
4. The remaining players shall be positioned in the outfield.
5. Outfielders cannot stand on the foul lines.
6. As stated in the General Rules section, it is to be considered a TTPD Baseball and Softball guideline that all players be given the opportunity to play both infield and outfield (Particularly in the Tee Ball, Instructional, and Rookie Divisions).

## T9. Defensive Coach on the Field

Two (2) coaches will be allowed on the playing field to assist with defense. They must be positioned in the outfield or in the bench area. No infield coaches are permitted.

## T10. Logical Play

1. When a ball is hit back to the pitcher, the pitcher can run home to get the force out; however, teach the children to throw base runners out.
2. Players should not be encouraged to make an unassisted out unless it is a logical baseball play.
3. The play should throw the ball if it is the logical play. This rule is intended to apply to all positions
4. so that appropriate plays are developed

#

# III-C A. Rules for Coach Pitch

The primary purpose of this division is for instruction into the sports of baseball and softball. It is intended to be a fun introduction into a sport that can provide enjoyment for all involved. Coach pitching, while optional for each player, is allowed in Coach Pitch Ball. If coach pitch is desired, batters may receive up to three (3) coach pitches. If after three pitches (regardless of quality or the outcome) the ball is not hit into play, the ball will be placed on the Tee to speed up play. See Rule T4 - Tee Setup.

## CP1. General Rules

The following rules are additions or substitutions to the baseball and softball rules. All baseball and softball rules not mentioned herein apply to the Tee Ball Division. Any rule not stated will be determined by the TTPD Baseball and Softball and Athletic Committee.

## CP2. Playing Field

* 1. Bases will be 50 feet apart.

## CP3. Length of Game

1. A game consists of three 3 innings.
2. An inning shall be defined as each child batting once through a team's lineup.
3. The last batter runs all the way around the bases until the catcher has tagged home plate for the final out of the inning.
4. All games end in a tie.
5. No records of game scores will be kept.

## CP4. Tee Setup

1. The tee will be set up and removed by the manager or coach whenever a potential play at home plate exists.
2. One coach is allowed at first base, third base, and home plate.

## CP5. Hitting/Bunting

1. There are no strike-outs in Coach Pitch ball.
2. If the batted ball is not hit beyond the arc on the third strike and remains in fair territory, the batter shall take first base.
3. If the batter ball rolls into foul territory on the third strike, it is considered a foul ball.
4. 2nd Year Tee Ball will be Coach Pitch. You will be given a tee for practices and training. Game will be coach pitch. If the player is having trouble after 6 pitches, a Tee can be placed to facilitate. The beginning of the year this may be needed, but by the end this should not.
5. **Suggestions-**A ball in the air is a home run, a ball hit past the bases is a double. Discuss with the other coach prior to the game.

## CP6. Stealing

1. There will be no stealing for Coach Pitch Ball. The base runner may only advance on a batted ball.
2. If a runner leaves the base before the bat contacts the ball or hits the tee below the ball, the ball is dead. At that time, all runners must return to their base.

## CP7. Overthrows and Base Running

1. Runners may leave a base when the batter makes contact with the ball on the tee.
2. When a fielder throws the ball home, it must cross the arc before the play is ruled dead.
3. When the ball is delivered to the arc and stops play, runners on the base path may advance to the next base they are heading.
4. On an overthrow at any base whether in fair or foul territory, the runner(s) advance one base and play is ruled dead.
5. After the ball is hit, the batter and base runners may attempt to take as many bases as possible, until the coach declares the play dead.

## CP8. Defensive Positions

1. Each team will field all available players defensively at one time.
2. Children may never play the same defensive position in two consecutive innings.
3. The infield will have six (6) fielders with the sixth player positioned a few steps in front of second base.
4. The remaining players shall be positioned in the outfield.
5. Outfielders cannot stand on the foul lines.
6. As stated in the General Rules section, it is to be considered a TTPD Baseball and Softball guideline that all players be given the opportunity to play both infield and outfield (Particularly in the Tee Ball, Instructional, and Rookie Divisions).

## CP9. Defensive Coach on the Field

Two (2) coaches will be allowed on the playing field to assist with defense. They must be positioned in the outfield or in the bench area. No infield coaches are permitted.

## CP10. Logical Play

1. When a ball is hit back to the pitcher, the pitcher can run home to get the force out; however, teach the children to throw base runners out.
2. Players should not be encouraged to make an unassisted out unless it is a logical baseball play.
3. The play should throw the ball if it is the logical play. This rule is intended to apply to all positions so that appropriate plays are developed.

**III-D A. Rules for Instructional Division**

## i1. General Rules

The following rules are additions or substitutions to the Baseball/Softball Rules. All Baseball/Softball Rules not mentioned herein apply to this division. Any rule not stated will be determined by the TTPD Baseball and Softball Board. Use of the pitching machine is intended to develop and enhance the skills of hitting, catching, and throwing the baseball.

## i2: Inning Length

* 1. An inning is three (3) outs, or five (5) runs, whichever occurs first, with the exception of the last inning. A game is 5 innings.
	2. In the last inning a team may score until they have made three outs.
	3. **At 1:15 last innings will be called and one UNLIMITED last inning will be played. If after the visiting team bats and does not lead, the game is considered over.**

## i3. Pitches, Walks, and Strikeouts

1. No base on balls (walks) will be allowed.
2. Except as otherwise provided herein, three swinging strikes constitute an out.
3. The batter is still at bat when hitting a foul ball on a third strike.
4. No strikes will be called unless the batter doesn't make any attempt to swing after three quality pitches.
5. A quality pitch is defined as a pitch in or reasonably near (i.e. a hittable ball) the batter's strike zone.
6. Pitching:
	1. Pitching will be done by pitching machines.
	2. The pitching machine will be set to deliver the ball at a mutually agreed upon speed that maximizes the development of batting skills in both baseball and

softball.

* 1. The balls will be fed into the pitching machines by the manager or an adult designated by the batting team.
	2. The pitching machine operator is allowed to adjust the delivery of the ball.
	3. The pitching machine operator is allowed up to five (5) practice pitches to adjust the delivery of the ball as needed at the start of the game.
	4. The coaches are responsible for setting up the pitching machine before the game starts and returning it to the storage shed next to Field #3 or #6.
	5. If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine or the operator, the coaches shall automatically declare a ground rule single and all other base runners will advance one base.
	6. If a batted ball is deflected by a fielder prior to striking the machine or operator, or if a thrown ball hits the machine or operator, the ball will be considered live and in play.
	7. If the pitching machine operator intentionally interferes with a live ball, the batter will be declared out and all runners must return to their previously occupied base.
1. Bunting or any deliberate attempt thereof will not be allowed. (i.e. swinging bunts, half swings, etc.)
2. Baseball: 7/3 Instructional– 7 max pitches or 3 swinging strikes. Pitch Speed 36 Instructional-Tutorial on the pitching machine will be given at the April 10 Meeting. Dropped balls in as a 4 seam fastball for consistency. Some of the machines had black marker lines on them indicating that’s where they should be locked in.
3. Drop third strike is not applicable in Instructional.

## i4. Overthrows, Base Running, Stealing, and Time Outs

1. No stealing of bases will be allowed.
	1. No Lead offs Softball and Baseball
	2. No stealing of bases will be allowed in Softball and Baseball
	3. No stealing of home in Softball and Baseball
	4. No advancing on passed balls in Girls Instructional
2. If the catcher attempts a pick off at 2nd runner cannot advance if overthrown in Girls Instructional
3. A base runner may not lead off from a base; however, a base runner may leave a base when the pitched ball crosses the plate.

a. If a base runner leaves a base before the pitch is across the plate, play shall be called dead and the base runner shall return to the base.

* 1. Both coaches should educate the players on the rule.
1. Runner can advance one (1) base on an overthrow and the ball will be considered dead. You can not advance to home unless you are hit in.
2. In the play area, fielders are encouraged to make plays at any base or runner until play is dead. There is no restriction to the number of outs that can be recorded.
3. If an overthrow occurs, the runner is awarded the next base and the play is dead. Balls thrown back to the pitcher from the catcher will not be counted as overthrows.
4. If a double-play is attempted and an overthrow occurs, the runner is awarded the next base and the play is dead.
5. After the ball is hit, the batter and base runners may attempt to take as many bases as possible, until the ball has reached the infield. (Player possession is not required in the Instructional leagues for stoppage in play.)
6. Runners are awarded the next base if they are beyond the half-way point between bases, otherwise, the runner must return back to the previous base.
7. Any intentional overthrows into foul territory will result in all base runners being awarded two bases.
8. No coach/player can ask for a time out until ALL play activity has stopped.

## i5. Defensive Position

1. A 10th defensive player (4th outfielder or rover) will be used in the field.
2. All outfielders, including the rover, must start each play on the outfield grass past the infield. These four fielders must remain on the outfield grass until a ball is batted.
3. A defensive player will be positioned on either side of the pitching machine to field the pitcher's position. At no time will a defensive player be allowed to be in front of the pitching machine prior to a pitch being hit by the batter.
4. Defensive players cannot block or stand in the baseline. If the runner hits the fielder when there is a play on the ball, the runner is out.
5. The infield fly rule will NOT be enforced for Girls Instructional Divisions.
6. League ONLY: Borrowing players: Meaning they should field and bat as if they are on that team. Can not Pitch or catch. Must wear the team's Jersey from which they are from. Must be a player in the same division or younger. This does not apply to tournaments.
7. Drop third strike is not applicable in Instructional.

## i6. Umpires

1. Instructional games will be umpired by the coaches of the team that is batting.
2. The first base coach shall call play at 1st and 2nd base and the third base coach shall call plays at 3rd base and home plate.

## i7. Defensive Coach on the Field

1. Two coaches will be allowed on the playing field to assist with defense. They must be positioned in the outfield.
2. Except during periods of non-play where the coach needs to properly position a play prior to play or to provide player instruction, no coach is permitted on the infield.

**I8. Courtesy Runner**

1. Teams must get a courtesy runner for the catcher if there are two outs (optional with less than
2. outs).
3. This runner must be the last player that made an out while batting.
4. No courtesy runners will be allowed in the 5th inning.

**I9. Borrowing Players**

1. Teams may borrow up to 2 players to get up to eight, the minimum needed to play during regular season games.

2. These players must come from a TTPD “Instructional” Division team or younger. Must wear the team's Jersey from which they are from.

3. The Borrowed players must bat at the bottom of the order. These arrangements must be made before the official start of the game to avoid a forfeit.

**I10. Post Season Playoffs-INSTRUCTIONAL:**

1. If after 7 balls have gone thru the pitching machine, the umps will start calling strikes and balls.
UMP Calls batter out or safe on all bases.
2. UMP Stands at the pitching machine.

#

# III –E. Rules for Rookie Division

## R1. General Rules

The following rules are additions or substitutions to the Baseball/Softball Rules. All Baseball/Softball rules not mentioned herein apply to this division. Any rule not stated will be determined by the Tri- Township Park District Baseball and Softball Board. All playoff games shall be governed by regular season rules.

## R2. Innings

1. An inning is three (3) outs, or five (5) runs, whichever occurs first, with the exception of the last inning. A game is six innings.
2. In the last inning a team may score until they have made three outs.

## R3. Pitches, Strikeouts, and Walks

1. Rookie league is the beginning stages of pitching for Tri-Township Park District Baseball and Softball players, stressing the fundamentals of throwing the ball over the plate, (pitching strikes).
2. There will be a liberal strike zone. Umpires will be calling strikes in an area they feel is good enough for a batter to hit the ball. This will give young pitchers confidence.
3. Strikeouts and walks will be called; however, there will be no dropped 3rd strike rule. Bunting or any deliberate attempt thereof will not be allowed (i.e. swinging bunts, half swings, etc.).
4. Pitchers are not allowed to re-enter the game as a pitcher after they have been removed from the position. They are allowed to re-enter at another position in the field.
5. 42ft for Mound Distance.
6. Illegal pitches: Balks, no rule in BR, one warning in BA
7. Girls Rookie-
	* no dropped 3rd strike rule.
	* The pitcher will pitch to a single batter until the batter strikes out, hits the ball or reaches a four (4) ball count. In the case where the batter reaches a four (4) ball count, a coach from the batters team will move quickly to the mound not using this as an opportunity to delay the game) and throw a maximum of three (3) pitches. The strike count will carry over throughout the batters time at the plate. The batter will either hit the ball or strike out. (the umpire will continue to call strikes when the coach is pitching i.e. if the coach enters with a (2) strike count and the first pitch from the coach is in the strike zone or swung at and missed, the batter is out). A foul ball hit on the third pitch will not constitute an out
	* "Players may lead off after the ball has left the pitcher's hand. If a player leaves the base before the ball has left the pitcher's hand, the runner is out. The umpire may warn both teams before calling a player out. Stealing is NOT allowed. This includes passed balls, wild pitches, etc."
	* The pitcher must START with one foot on the rubber.
	* No Stealing in GR. No lead offs. If the ball goes past the catcher, 1 base may be attempted.
	* **The play is considered dead when an infielder has possession of the ball on the infield.**
	* The infield fly rule will be enforced for Girls Rookie.
	* **Defensive players cannot block or stand in the baseline. If the runner hits the fielder when there is a play on the ball, the runner is out.**

## R4. Base Running, Overthrows and Time Outs

1. Stealing and secondary leads are allowed, however, the base runner can only leave the base once the pitch has left the pitcher’s hand. Stealing home is NOT allowed.

2 . If while attempting to make a play at first or third an overthrow occurs and goes out of play the runner is awarded the next base, and the play is dead.

1. Runners can advance one (1) base on an overthrow and the ball will be considered dead.
2. After the ball is hit, the batter and base runners may attempt to take as many bases as possible, until the umpire declares the play is dead.
3. The play is considered dead when an infielder has possession of the ball on the infield.
4. Runners are awarded the next base if they are beyond the half-way point between bases, otherwise, the runner must return back to the previous base.
5. Any intentional overthrows into foul territory will result in all base runners being awarded two bases.
6. No player or coach can ask for time out until ALL play is stopped.

## R5. Defensive Positions

1. In Boys Rookie there are only 3 outfielders.
2. n Girls Rookie a 10th defensive play (4th outfielder or rover) will be used in the field.
3. All outfielders, including the rover, must start each play on the outfield grass past the infield. These four fielders must remain on the outfield grass until a ball is batted.
4. Max of one coach unless they are manning a base and only while their team is batting otherwise the coach/es should not be on the field.
5. **Defensive players cannot block or stand in the baseline. If the runner hits the fielder when there is a play on the ball, the runner is out.**

## R6. Borrowing Players

1. Teams may borrow up to 2 players to get up to eight, the minimum needed to play during regular. Season games, as well as tournament/playoff games.
2. These players must come from a TTPD “Rookie” Division team and **Must wear the team's Jersey from which they are from. Must be a player in the same division or younger.**
3. The Borrowed players must bat at the bottom of the order. These arrangements must be made before the official start of the game to avoid a forfeit.

#  R7. Courtesy Runner

#  1. Teams must get a courtesy runner for the catcher if there are two outs (optional with less than 2 outs).

# 2. This runner must be the last player that made an out while batting.

No courtesy runners will be allowed in the 6th inning.

## R8. Post Season Playoffs

1. There will be a post-season play-off tournament.
2. The playoffs will be seeded according to the regular season record. The higher seed will be considered the home team

# III-F Rules for A Division (and GAA Girls)

## A1. General Rules

The following rules are additions or substitutions to the Baseball/Softball Rules. All Baseball/Softball Rules not mentioned herein apply to this division. Any rule not stated will be determined by the TTPD Baseball/Softball Board.

## A2. Inning

1. An inning is three (3) outs, or five (5) runs, whichever occurs first, with the exception of the last inning. A game is 6 innings.
2. In the last inning a team may score until they have made three outs.

## A3. Base running and Pitching

1. Lead-offs and stealing of all bases is permitted, including home base. In baseball and softball.
2. In softball, the runner cannot lead off or steal until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. If the umpire declares the runner left early the runner will be called out.
3. Dropped Third Strike: The batter/runners can advance on a dropped third strike, if first base is not occupied with less than two outs, or with two outs and any base occupied. The third strike rule is in effect. If the batter “commits” to going to his dug out he will be called out. (Committing is defined as leaving the batter’s box with the intent of returning to their dugout.)
4. Pitching Rubber: For softball, the pitcher must start their wind-up with one foot on the pitching rubber. The other foot may be behind or touching the rubber.
5. Runners must slide to avoid collisions.
6. Illegal pitches: Each pitcher will be given one warning for a balk and no runners will advance. After a warning has been issued, if another balk is called, all runners will advance one base.
7. Max of one coach unless they are manning a base and only while their team is batting otherwise the coach/es should not be on the field.
8. The play is considered dead when there is no more advancement on plays.

## A4. Defensive Positions

1. Baseball: There will be nine defensive players used by each team.
2. Softball: A 10th defensive player (4th outfielder or rover) will be used in the field.

a. All outfielders, including the rover, must start each play on the outfield grass

past the infield. These four fielders must remain on the outfield grass until a ball is batted.

## A5. Courtesy Runner

1. Teams must get a courtesy runner for the catcher if there are two outs (optional with less than 2 outs). This runner must be the last player that made an out while batting.
2. No courtesy runners will be allowed in the 7th inning.

## A5. Borrowing Players

1. Teams may borrow up to 2 players to get up to eight, the minimum needed to play during regular season games, as well as tournament/playoff games.
2. These players must come from a TTPD “Rookie” Division team.
3. The borrowed players cannot pitch or catch, and they must bat at the bottom of the batting order. These arrangements must be made before the official start of the game to

avoid a forfeit. This does not apply to tournaments.

1. All team rosters will be maintained by the TTPD to approve these arrangements.

## A6. Post -Season Playoffs

1. There will be a post-season playoff tournament.
2. The playoffs will be seeded according to the regular season record. The higher seed will be considered the home team.
3. Brackets will be available at the concession stand or by calling your Division director.

# III-G. Rules for AA Division

## AA1. General Rules

The following rules are additions or substitutions to the Baseball/Softball Rules. All Baseball/Softball Rules not mentioned herein apply to this division. Any rule not stated will be determined by the TTPD Baseball/Softball. Pitchers in the AA Division will be given a mandatory pitch count. Refer to Section G – Pitch Count Regulations.

## AA2. Inning

Baseball/Softball: An inning is three (3) outs; there is no limit to the number of runs scored during an inning.

## AA3. Stealing

1. Stealing all bases is permitted.
2. In softball, the runner cannot lead off or steal until the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand. If the umpire, declares the runner left early the runner will be called out.
3. Each pitcher will be give one warning per game on a balk and no runners will advance.
4. Subsequent balk rulings will let the runners advance one base.

# AA4. Defensive Positions

1. Baseball: There will be nine defensive players used by each team.
2. Softball: A 10th defensive player (4th outfielder or rover) will be used in the field.
	1. All outfielders, including the rover, must start each play on the outfield grass past the infield.
	2. These four fielders must remain on the outfield grass until a ball is batted.

## AA5. Borrowing Players

1. Teams may borrow up to 2 players to get up to eight, the minimum needed to play during regular season games, as well as tournament/playoff games.
2. These players must come from a TTPD “A” Division team.
3. The borrowed players cannot pitch or catch, and they must bat at the bottom of the batting order. These arrangements must be made before the official start of the game to

avoid a forfeit.

1. All team rosters will be maintained by the TTPD to approve these arrangements.

## AA6. Courtesy Runner

1. Teams must get a courtesy runner for the catcher if there are two outs (optional with less than 2 outs).
2. This runner must be the last player that made an out while batting.
3. No courtesy runners will be allowed in the 7th inning.

## AA7. Post-Season Playoffs

1. There will be a post-season playoff tournament.
2. The playoffs will be seeded according to regular season record. The higher seed will be considered the home team.
3. Brackets will be available at the concession stand or by calling your Division Director.