

2024-2025 TEXAS TEENAGE BASEBALL-SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES/CLARIFICATIONS

League Rules

1. *Page 7 – Defined how pitch count works with suspended games.*

C. POSTPONED, RAIN-OUT, AND SUSPENDED GAMES

(d) Pitch Counts in a suspended game:

- Pitch counts recorded up to the point of suspension will carry over to the continuation.
- Any pitcher that is over the limit when the game is suspended will go into days rest at the end of the calendar day and will not be available until the applicable rest period has been completed. If a pitcher is in days rest when the continuation of the suspended game is resumed, that pitcher will not be allowed to pitch and must be removed from the mound prior to throwing a pitch. If a pitcher is in days rest from a different game when the suspended game is resumed, same would apply. Days rest shall not be waived.
- If the pitcher is available to continue pitching in the continuation of the suspended game, the total number of pitches from the suspended portion of the game will carry over, so if the pitcher had 45 pitches before suspension, the first pitch would be #46. The total pitches applicable for the day are still in effect for that game.
- Since a pitcher would have already served days rest for what pitches were thrown in the suspended portion of the game, if they were over 35 pitches, that pitcher will only serve days rest for what pitches were actually thrown in the continuation of the suspended game. So if a 10U pitcher had 36 pitches in the suspended portion and served one day rest the following day, the continuation was played 2 days later and that same pitcher threw the rest of the 75 pitches allowed for the day which would be another 39 pitches, that pitcher would serve one day rest the next day for the 39 pitches thrown in the continuation since he already served one day rest for the 36 pitches he threw 2 days earlier.

2. *Pages 10 thru 14 – League signups, draft rules and define protected and returning players.*

F. LEAGUE PLAYER SIGN UP PROCESS

1. Player sign ups need to be conducted on a fairly administered first come first serve basis. All sign up forms need to be received by an authorized person at a State Director, league approved sign up date. The player sign up forms will need to be numbered in order with a date and time recorded when the form is received by local league officials, or if online signups are utilized, a time and date the form was submitted and received online. The manager/head coach's son(s) or daughter(s) signup form(s) will be pulled out of the sign up order due to being already on the team as a protected player, per TTA rule. All other players, including protected and returning players will need to go through the signup process and rules pertaining to the signup process to be considered a legal player.

2. If more than 15 sign up in a division, but not enough for 2 teams, and all options have been exhausted for making a second team and players must be released because of no room on the roster, the first 14 players that are signed up in order will be on the team, plus the protected manager/head coach's son(s) or daughter(s) to make 15. Players that are signed up past 15 in this scenario must be released, starting with #16, and shall not be protected or considered returning players. The same rules would apply if too many players signed up for multiple teams, the numbers for release would be in groups of 15, so if 31 sign up, the 31st player would be released, if 46 signed up, 46th would be released, and so on. Players that must be released based on sign up order must be released prior to the open draft and shall not be protected or considered returning players on a team roster. If two or more managers/head coaches were selected by the local board in anticipation of multiple teams being formed and the sign up numbers don't allow for what was expected on team numbers, the son(s) or daughter(s) belonging to the manager/head coach selected for the teams that will not form will be inserted into the front of the signup order and be available to be chosen as a protected player, return to a team roster as a returning player or enter the open draft, where applicable. Any player that must be released based on sign up order may be offered the opportunity to play on another team from the closest affiliate town in the same age division or offered to move up a division within their affiliate town.

Per TTA rule, local leagues can elect to start releasing players at 13, if this is utilized, the group of 15 listed above would be 13 or 14, whichever your local league has voted in place. Also note that the grouping number would also change when enough players sign up to form multiple teams.

3. No team may roster more than 8 players of the oldest age in an age division. If more than 8 of the oldest age allowed in an age division sign up, and only one team is formed, the first 8 of the older age players in the sign up order will be on the team, released players would state at #9 in the sign up order, and so on, if there are not enough sign up for 2 teams. Same would go for 2 or more teams, calculated in groups of 8, so the first 16 signed up in order for two teams, first 24 for 3 teams, and so on. Any signed up past the group of 8 calculation would be released based on sign up order.

4. Returning roster players and protected players are not guaranteed placement on a roster and must go through a league approved and fairly administered sign up process to retain their status as a returning or protected player. The sign up process and sign up order takes precedence over protected or returning status. The only player guaranteed a roster position is the manager/head coach's son(s) or daughter(s), since by TTA rule, it is mandatory that such players must be included as protected players once a manager/head coach is determined prior to the player draft. Any deviations or special accommodations shall be submitted to the area TTA State Director for ruling order prior to being initiated.

G. SELECTION OF PROTECTED PLAYERS

1. The selection of players for teams will be accomplished based on the following guidelines.

2. The managers/head coach(s) must be determined prior to each age division player draft. If no person signs up to coach prior to the draft, the local board may appoint someone to draft for the team with the coach vacancy. Once a manager/head coach has been found, follow guidelines outlined below.

3. If the manager/head coach has a son or daughter playing on the team, it is mandatory that such players must be included as protected players. In the case of where the manager/head coach has multiple sons or daughters playing in the same age division, it is mandatory that all such players must be included as protected players. Some leagues have sibling rules in place where if you select a player that has a sibling playing in the same age division, when you pick one, the other is automatically on the team as well. If this is in place in your local league rules, and a coach selects a sibling as a protected player, the automatic sibling pick will be listed on the roster prior to the open draft and be counted in the total number of players. If siblings are signed up in the same age division, and one or both siblings are signed up outside of the maximum roster number allowed, such player(s) will not be an automatic pick and will fall under E. League Player Sign up Process rule #2 and will face release, placement on another team or offered to move up to the next division.

4. Protected player shall be selected by the local boards appointed team manager/head coach(s) prior to the open draft starting. It will be a requirement that the parent or legal guardian of any player selected as a protected player sign a protected player agreement noting their approval for the son(s) or daughter(s) to be listed as a protected player on the roster for the team manager/head coach. Once the protected player agreement is signed by the parent or legal guardian, the player(s) will be protected to that team roster until the protected player(s) move out of the current age division.

(See downloads at texasteenage.org for official protected player agreement form)

5. No team will be allowed to have more than a maximum of 3 protected players. Protected players will be tied to the team roster (not the coach) and will remain protected so long as the same team roster exists in the same age division. A rostered player may only be returned to the open draft if a protected player spot must be vacated for a different manager/head coach's son(s) or daughter(s) to be protected. Must have the approval of the area State Director and the local board. Protected players that lose their protected player status by way of returning to the draft are not considered returning players and must be returned to the open draft. Protected players must be named each year on the team's official roster. A protected player will lose their protected status when moving into a new age division.

Any deviations or special accommodations shall be submitted to the area TTA State Director for ruling prior to being initiated.

H. RETURNING ROSTERED PLAYERS

Returning roster players are not considered protected players, returning roster players are players that were drafted their first year in an age division that are legally signed up and returning to their team roster the following year in the same age division. Returning roster players are also tied to the same team roster (not the coach) remaining in the same age division. Second year returning rostered players in the same age division may not be returned to the open draft. Players moving into a new age division must enter into the open draft and are not considered returning rostered players.

Any deviations or special accommodations shall be submitted to the area TTA State Director for ruling prior to being initiated.

I. TEAM ROSTER

In most circumstances, when a manager/head coach is assigned to a team roster, there will be returning players and/or protected players that are still a part of that team roster from the previous year.

Manager/head coach(s) assigned to a roster will inherit what players remain on the roster from the previous year, as is. Manager/head coach(s) will add protected players as needed or required by rule and add new players through the open draft to re-establish a complete team roster for the current season.

J. OPEN DRAFT RULES

1. A team drafting order must be an alternating pick format, drafting order will be determined by the local board.
 2. Each team will have 1-3 protected players listed on their roster prior to the open draft beginning. Returning team rosters will also have returning players listed on their roster. The total number of protected, returning players and any automatic sibling rule players needs to be calculated and totaled for each team.
 3. Teams with the lowest number of players will get to equal up on the number of players to the next closest team. Once two (2) or more teams are equal on the number of players, then alternating picks will start between the teams that are equal. This will continue until all teams are equal on the total number of players per team and then alternating picks until all players have been selected.
 4. Parents requesting for their son(s) or daughter(s) to play or not play for a certain manager/coach or team is not allowed. Any player refusing to play for a team when chosen in the selection process is ineligible to play for any team.
 5. It is the responsibility of each affiliate to govern their leagues to prevent the stacking of teams. Any and all teams that are determined to be an illegally drafted team by a TTA State Director(s) or the Affiliate Local Board will not be allowed to participate in tournament play.
 6. Any manager/coach who violates the player selection system in any way, shall be suspended from participation in TTAB/TTAS for any period of time, not to exceed three (3) years. Likewise, the affiliates/league with whom the coach is associated with, shall be subject to the same penalty.
- Any deviation or special accommodations shall be submitted to the area TTA State Director for ruling prior to being initiated.

3. *Page 15 – Rosters submitted after 1st league game results in a forfeit of played games.*

K. PLAYER AGREEMENTS

6. Team rosters must be submitted to the TTA State database prior to the league's first scheduled game for that team. Failure to submit a team roster prior to the first scheduled game will result in forfeit of any game played prior to submission of the roster.

4. *Page 18 – Scorekeeper may notify about improper batter.*

O. SCOREKEEPERS/STATISTICIAN

The scorekeeper may notify of an improper batter only before the first pitch is thrown in the at bat. If not discovered before the first pitch is thrown, an appeal by the opposing coach may be made once the batter becomes a runner or before the at bat is completed and the proper batter will assume the count and finish the at bat.

5. Page 21 – Added wording for on deck circle.

10-4. ON DECK CIRCLE

On-deck hitters will be allowed to utilize either on deck circle in all softball and baseball divisions. Exception: HSE Girls and Boys

6. Page 23 – Excessive offensive charged conference.

10-6. CHARGED CONFERENCES

(a) A charged conference is defined as when a coach, player, or team representative calls timeout from the dugout and stops play to confer with one or more of the defensive players.

1) If a coach walks across the diamond between innings and talks to a player as he returns to his dugout and does not delay the game in any manner, it is not a charged conference.

2) Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player will not constitute a charged conference. Nor will a conference be charged whenever the pitcher is removed.

(b) Baseball – Three (3) charged conferences per game; only one (1) charged conference is allowed per inning without penalty.

(c) Softball – Refer to USA Softball rules.

(d) PENALTY: for (b) and (c), Removal of pitcher from the mound for the duration of the game.

(e) In any extra inning game, each team will be permitted one charged conference each inning while on defense without penalty. The number of charged conferences permitted in not cumulative.

A coach, player, substitute, or attendant may make a request for time. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player will not constitute a charged conference nor will a conference be charged whenever the pitcher is removed as pitcher.

(f) Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning to permit the manager or any of that team's personnel to confer with base runners and/or the batter. The umpire shall deny any subsequent request for charged conferences. Violation may result in removal of the manager from the field of play.

(g) Each manager should be notified when he is charged with a charged conference.

7. Page 23 – Jewelry is allowed, providing it's not deemed dangerous.

10-8. JEWELRY

Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert info remains visible.

8. Page 24 – Slinging the bat rule for all age divisions.

10-13. SLINGING THE BAT RULE APPLICABLE TO ALL AGE DIVISIONS, GIRLS AND BOYS

If the batter slings the bat, anything other than malicious in intent, a delayed dead ball will be indicated and the player will receive one warning. Second offense, the ball is dead and the batter is out. No runner may score or advance and must be returned to the base occupied at the time of the dead ball play/pitch.

9. Page 25 – Better wording/explanation for shorthanded rule.

10-16. SHORT HANDED RULE

Now applies to all TTA teams in both TTAB and TTAS.

(a) If a team begins play with the required number of players, 9 or 10 They can continue with one or two less players. Whenever a player(s) leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. Under no circumstances will a team be permitted to bat less than eight.

PENALTY: The game is forfeited for any violation.

(b) When the player(s) who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out will be declared for each turn at bat. The player who has left the game cannot return to the lineup. Exception: A player who has left the game under the blood rule, may return even after missing a turn at bat.

(c) If a player leaves the game as a runner, player will be declared out.

10. *Page 27 – Included rule for rostered player arriving late & added to scorecard.*

10-18. TEAM ROSTER

(d) If a legal rostered player is not present at the start of the game, thus not listed on the lineup card or the books, and shows up after the game has started, that player(s) may be added to the lineup without penalty. During tournament play: any player added to the lineup after the game starts will fall under the participation rule (page 64 200-3)

11. *Page 29 – Protective equipment & if not corrected.*

10B-5. EQUIPMENT RULES IN TTAB:

(a) METAL SPIKES OR METAL CLEATS ARE PERMISSIBLE IN BOYS 14U AND HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBLE DIVISION ONLY. The penalty will be ejection from the game. All male catchers are required to wear protective cups (Except Boys 6U T-Ball). All catchers must wear helmets with protective ear flaps and throat guards (Except Boys 6U T-Ball). Penalty is removal from the game until violation is corrected, if not corrected, the game will result in a forfeit.

12. *Page 35 & 54 – Tball may bat 9, may bat 10 & play 9 in field or bat 10 and field 10 (4 in outfield).*

20-8. OFFICIAL TEAM LINEUP

100-8. OFFICIAL TEAM LINEUP

T-Ball divisions may (optional) play with 10 in the batting lineup with the 10th player being either a 4th outfielder or play with 9 in the field with an EH (extra hitter)

13. *Page 35 & 54 – Define penalty for improper positioning of defensive players.*

20-9 GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO BOYS 6U

T-BALL BASEBALL

100-9. GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO GIRLS 6U

T-BALL SOFTBALL

(c) All defensive infield players must remain behind the thirty (30) foot halfway line until the ball is hit.

(d) All outfield player positions must be behind the base line until the ball is hit.

(e) The pitcher must remain in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is hit. Continued violation shall be removal of the pitcher from the pitching position.

Penalty for (c), (d) & (e)

- If the ball is not hit fair or in play, move the defensive player(s) back to their correct position and tell them not to move forward before the ball is hit.
- If the ball is hit fair and in play, and the player in violation makes the initial play on the ball, let the play continue and once the play has stopped, the umpire will put runner(s) in the position, in his opinion, the runner(s) would have reached if the violation would not have occurred.
- If the ball is hit fair and in play, and the player in violation does not make the initial play on the ball, the play is live, and no penalty will be enforced.
- In addition to the above penalties, give the defensive coach a warning. If the violation continues after warning the coach, the coach may be ejected.

14. *Page 38 & 57 – Coach must pitch from standing position.*

30-4. GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO BOYS 8U

COACH PITCH

(k) The Pitching Coach must keep one foot on or straddle the pitching rubber. The pitching coach must be in a standing position.

110-3. GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO GIRLS 8U

COACH PITCH DIVISION

(n) The Pitching Coach must be standing and keep one foot on or straddle the pitching rubber.

15. *Page 44 – Boys 15U for 2024 in Boys 14U*

60-1. AGE ELIGIBILITY RULES

(b) Players who turn age 15 between May 1st and August 31st in 2024 will be allowed to play Boys 14U in 2024. This exemption is only applicable for 2024. Players who turn 15 on or before August 31st of 2025 are not eligible for 14U in 2025.

16. *Page 46 – HSE bat rule and pitcher may finish the batter.*

70-3. TEAM EQUIPMENT

(b) Bats may be of wood, approved BBCOR aluminum, or BBCOR graphite.

70-5. PITCHING RULES

(a) HSE State Tournament Pitching Rules: All pitchers will be limited to 110 total pitches in the tournament. The pitcher may finish the batter.

17. *Page 48 – Girls age date changed from Dec 31 of previous year to Aug 31 of previous year.*

10S-1 TTAS PLAYING AGE DATE

TTAS (Softball) playing age will be the age of the player as required by USA Softball currently August 31st of the previous year.

Tournament Rules

1. *Page 65 – Boundary line dispute settled before end of season; Eligibility of player at any time.*

200-4. TOURNAMENT TEAM ROSTER

(d) All boundary line protests must be settled before the TTA end of season date. No TTA tournament will allow protests over boundary line issues. All protests over the legality of a tournament team roster/player must be made immediately to the Tournament Director and then presented to the area TTA State President immediately for ruling. If a protest is made during a game based on the legality of a tournament team roster/player, the game will continue under protest pending the ruling from the TTA State President.

2. *Page 66 – Increase player participation in tournament.*

200-5. PLAYER PARTICIPATION – DISTRICT & STATE

Every player attending the tournament must play in one of the players first two (2) games in every post season tournament.

(a) Option 1 – Play 3 consecutive outs in the field in the same inning.

(b) Option 2 – Complete one at bat, whereas the batter becomes a batter/runner or is put out.

3. *Page 69 - Coin flip for home in all games including championship & if needed game.*

200-13. STATE APPROVED SPECIAL RULES

(b) Coin flip for home team will occur prior to every game, including the championship and the if needed championship game

4. *Page 69 - 10u boys time limit decreased from 2 hour to 1 hour and 30 mins.*

(c) Time Limits District & State Tournaments

- All Girls – 1 hr 30 min
- Boys 6U, 8U & 10U – 1 hr 30 min
- Boys 12U & 14U – 2 hr

5. Page 72&73 - Redefined bracket draw for district and state games.

200-16. TOURNAMENT BRACKET DRAW

Tournament Directors will use these steps to draw for their tournaments:

Bracket Draw for tournaments with no byes:

- 1) Place all 1st place teams in a hat. Starting at the top of the bracket, draw and fill a 1st place team on the top line of the first game. Then alternate to the bottom of the bracket, draw and fill 1st place team on the top line of the last game in the first round. Continue alternating from the top of the bracket, to the bottom, skipping to the next game until all 1st place teams have been selected.
- 2) If there are any 3rd place teams, draw them next. Start at the top of the bracket, draw for the bottom line. Then drop to the bottom of the bracket, draw for bottom line. Continue alternating top to bottom until all 3rd place teams have been drawn. 3rd place teams will match up with the 1st place teams in the first round, where applicable. In some larger state tournaments, there may be 4th place teams, if this is the case, start with any 4th place teams, then work in the 3rd place teams.
- 3) Finish out the bracket by drawing 2nd place teams. Work down from the top of the bracket to the first empty line and draw. Then work up from the bottom of the bracket to the first empty line and draw. Continue this until all 2nd place teams are drawn to finish out the bracket.
- 4) When applicable, teams will not match up with a team from their same league in the first round in District tournament or same District tournament at the State Tournaments.

Bracket Draw for tournaments with bye/s:

- 1) Put all 1st place teams in a hat to draw for bye/s on the bracket. All byes will be drawn in number order.
- 2) Put the remaining 1st place teams in a hat. Starting at the top of the bracket, work down to the first game that does not filter into a bye 2nd round opponent, draw and place 1st place team on the top line. Repeat starting at the bottom of the bracket, work up to the first game that does not filter into a bye 2nd round opponent, draw and place 1st place team on the top line. Continue alternating from the top of the bracket, to the bottom, skipping to the next game while repeating the steps listed, until all 1st place teams have been selected.
- 3) If there are any 3rd place teams, draw them next. Start at the top of the bracket, work down until you get to the first game with a 1st place team, draw a 3rd place team for the bottom line. Then drop to the bottom of the bracket, work up until you get to the first game with a 1st place team, draw a 3rd place team for the bottom line. 3rd place teams will match with 1st place teams in the first round. In some larger state tournaments, there may be 4th place teams, if this is the case, start with any 4th place teams, then work in the 3rd place teams following the steps listed.
- 4) When applicable, teams will not match up with a team from their same league in the first round in District tournament or same District tournament at the State Tournaments.

6. Page 75 – Official ball for softball & baseball (Diamond DOL 1, Dudley Thunder Heat).

200-21. OFFICIAL BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

All towns hosting a Boys District or State Tournament must use the official TTAB approved baseball.

- Diamond DOL-1

All towns hosting a Girls District or State Tournament must use the official TTAS approved Softball.

- Dudley Thunder Heat