

2017 Tri-City Youth Baseball Rules

TRI-CITY LEAGUE (East Alton, Wood River, Roxana, Boys & Girls Club of Bethalto)



1. MEMBERSHIPS:

A. Rookie (8-9 year olds)

Includes all male players who have not attained the age of 10 years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

B. Minor (10-11 year olds)

Includes all male players who have not attained the age of 12 years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

C. Major Division (12-13 year olds)

Includes all male players who have not attained the age of 14 years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

D. Juvenile Division (14-16 year olds)

Includes all male players who have not attained the age of 17 years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

2. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS, MANAGERS, AND COACHES:

A. All players, managers and coaches must be registered thru recreation office sponsoring the team.

B. Team rosters may fluctuate, depending on player registration.

C. The coaching staff will consist of a manager and a maximum of 4 coaches who must be approved by the Recreation Department sponsoring the team prior to working with the participants in **any manner at practice or games.**

D. All coaches must have a **“Background” check** prior to be authorized to coach the youth participants.

- E. **Only registered players** of a team are eligible to participate in any practice and/or game in the Tri-City. Using non-rostered players will result in the manager being suspended for the next game or possibly dismissed for the remainder of the season and will also result in a forfeit for the team.
- F. **NO TOLERANCE FOR ANY** unsportsmanlike conduct, profane language, verbal abuse, or physical abuse towards any umpire, staff or coaches will be tolerated from any player, parent, spectator and/or coach. Offender may be ejected from a game and will be suspended for the next game. With two (2) ejections for a coach or player will then be suspended from the league. If actions are severe enough, the police will be called, charges will be pursued if necessary, and offending team will forfeit the game.
- G. **NO TOBACCO OR ALCOHOL PRODUCTS** may be used or present within the playing field, dugout, warm up areas and/or practice areas.

3. VERIFICATION OF AGE:

- A. The word of a player's parent or legal guardian will be accepted, unless it is challenged. The league directors reserve the right to request a birth certificate, a suitable copy, or any other legal transcript that the director approved for verification.

4. GENERAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. All league games will be governed by the rules compiled by the Illinois High School Association, with the only changes or exception with special league rules modifications applying to your division adopted by the League Directors.
- B. The LAST number in the pairings of the official league schedule will be HOME team and occupy the third base dugout.
- C. **Game time is forfeit time.** Teams may start a game providing they have 7 registered players at game time. Teams with fewer than 7 at game time will forfeit.
- D. Each manager must provide a starting line-up to the umpire. The umpire will record scores by innings and will be considered the OFFICIAL SCORER.
- E. **Teams must bat their entire roster.** All players that arrive for a league game late must be added to the bottom of their team's batting order.
- F. Injured player may be skipped over in the batting order without penalty. The coach must inform umpire that an injured player is being skipped before that injured player is skipped.
- G. A regulation game shall consist of 7 innings or appropriate time limit for division. An official game will be 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ innings (with home team ahead) or 4 innings (visiting team ahead). This applies to games called for darkness, time limit, and/or poor weather condition.

TRI-CITY BASEBALL LEAUGE RULES

- H. **TIME LIMIT:** The Rookie will have a 1 hour & 15 minute time limit while Minor, Major & Juvenile will have a 1 hour & 45 minute time limit. The team leading will be the winner. If game is tied after time limit has expired the game will officially be recorded as a tie.
- I. All games that are not yet an official game but are stopped due to poor weather conditions will be considered **SUSPENDED**, and will be finished from the point of interruption. All suspended games will be played as soon as possible. Teams may add to the bottom of their line-up any registered players who were not available for the original game. Also, players who are not available for make-up games will be skipped over in the line-up **WITHOUT PENALTY**. The time limit will be carried over to the make up game.
- J. All registered players participating **MUST** play at least 2 innings in the field. (Exception: if the game is called for weather conditions)
- K. **FREE SUBSTITUTION** rule applies for all teams defensively. Players may rotate in and out, without penalty. Batting order always remains the same.
- L. Managers receive 3 defensive conferences (per game). Two defensive conferences within the same inning, the pitcher has to be replaced. After 3 conferences have been used, pitcher has to be replaced with each conference. If replacing pitcher, no conference is charged.
- M. **NO written or verbal protest** will be accepted by the Tri-City league. Any problems or complaints should be directed to your sponsoring recreation department and recreation department hosting that game.
- N. ALL baseball participants required to have a batting **helmet** when batting and/or on deck, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
- O. **NO shoes with metal spikes** may be worn. Any player violating this rule will be immediately ejected from the game and will be suspended for the following game.
- P. **HEAT RULE** – Anything above 95* heat index will result in reducing game times 15 minutes.
- Q. **STANDINGS** – will be determined by the following criteria: 1. Overall wins 2. Head to head record 3. Overall runs allowed for entire season. Standings will be kept in all divisions.

5. **ROOKIE DIVISION SPECIAL PLAYING RULES:**

- A. **Rookie division** pitching machine set at 40' and bases are 60'.
- B. **Rookie machine speed dial set at 40 (jugs jr machine)**
- C. Games consist of **7innings or 1 hour 15 minute time limit**. **No “new” inning will be started after 1 hour 10 minutes has been played. Game officially starts on the first pitch.** NO player may enter the circle to play the ball. Any ball striking the machine or umpire operating the machine **DEADBALL** will be called and *the batter is awarded first base. Other base runners will only advance one base if forced.*

- D. Pitching machine used for this divisions, which will have a circle around the machine designating is a dead ball area. NO player may enter the circle to play the ball. Any ball striking the machine or umpire operating the machine DEADBALL will be called and *batter will be awarded first base. Other base runners only advance a base if forced.*
- E. Pitcher for defensive team will have specific spot to start at, but may move as the ball is put into the machine. Pitcher may NOT move into the circle (deadball area around machine.)
- F. **10 players** will play defense, which results with 4 outfielders. All outfields must start in the outfield area at the time of the pitch.
- G. **NO walks** for the batters. Each batter gets three strikes per out or 5 pitches, whichever comes first. Batters are NOT out for foul ball on strike three, unless the foul tip goes directly into the catcher's glove and is caught, **or it is the 5th pitch**. Batters may NOT run on drop third strikes. NO bunting allowed in these divisions.
- H. **NO lead offs** or stealing bases. Runners must remain on the base until the batter swings at the pitch.
- I. When the pitcher has the ball and does not attempt to make a play on the base runner, **All, base runners MUST immediately** make a decision to either advance without any hesitation or retreat to their base. If they fail to do this, runners in violation will be called out.
- J. **Maximum of 5 runs** scored per inning or 3 outs for the first three full innings, then must get 3 outs from the 4th inning on. NO 10 run rule or extra innings.
- K. Mandatory to courtesy run for any catcher on base with the previous batter NOT on base. This is to help keep the catchers ready and game moving.
- L. **NO COACHES** are allowed on the playing field unless their team is batting and they are coaching a base.
- M. In the case of an overthrow, the base runner can advance at their own risk, but only one base.

6. MINOR DIVISION SPECIAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. **Minor division:** pitching mound set at 40', bases 65'.
- B. Defensive team may play with 4 outfielders, who all must start in the grass area of the outfield. They can NOT be stationed on the infield.
- C. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4 full innings per game. **Once they leave the mound as pitcher they may not re-enter the game as pitcher.**
- D. Each pitchers will received 2 verbal warnings per game for balking without penalty and on the third, the penalty will be a BALL awarded to the batter's count. **RUNNERS ON BASE WILL NOT BE ADVANCED ON BALKS CALLED.** Only exception would be ball 4 on the batter and runners have to advance.
- E. Games consist of **7innings or 1 hour 45 minutes.** After 1 hour and 35 minutes no new inning may start.

TRI-CITY BASEBALL LEAUGE RULES

- F. Base runners may **NOT LEAD OFF**. They can leave the base when the pitcher releases the ball.
- G. Participants may steal only **ONE base** (2nd and 3rd only) per pitch. They can NOT leave the base until the pitcher releases the ball! They can NOT advance to additional base for any reasons (i.e. bad throw on the steal attempt).
- H. **NO stealing bases if team is winning by 10 or more runs, this includes pass balls.**
- I. **NO stealing home.** This includes passed ball from catcher, wild pitch, play made by pitcher and/or catcher on any runner. Runner may only advance on a batted and/or bunted ball, walk which forces runner to advance.
- J. The batter is automatically out on **ALL** dropped third strikes.
- K. **Maximum of 5 runs** scored per inning or 3 outs for the first three full innings, then must get 3 outs from the fourth inning on. NO 10 run rule or extra innings.
- L. Mandatory to courtesy run for any catcher on base with the previous batter NOT on base. This is to help keep the catchers ready and game moving.
- M. **NO COACHES** are allowed on the playing field unless their team is batting and they are coaching a base.

7. MAJOR DIVISION SPECIAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. **Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4 full innings per game. Once they leave the mound as pitcher they may not re-enter the game as pitcher.**
- B. All Pitchers will receive **one verbal warning for a balk** per game without penalty. The second balk called will result in a ball added to the batter's count and all base runners will advance one base.
- C. **NO metal spike shoes** are allowed. Any player violating this rule will be immediately ejected from the game and will be suspended for the next game.
- D. Games consist of **7innings or 1 hour 45 minutes**. After 1 hour and 35 minutes no new inning may start.

8. JUVENILE DIVISION SPECIAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. **Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4 full innings per game. Once they leave the mound as pitcher they may not re-enter the game as pitcher.**
- B. All bats must be rated **"-3" or HIGHER**. They cannot be rated less drop (i.e. "-6, -8, -11..."). This is a regulation set by the ISHA for the **safety of all participants**. Any player found using an illegal bat will be immediately ejected from the game and suspended for the next game.

TRI-CITY BASEBALL LEAUGE RULES

- C. **NO metal spike shoes** are allowed. Any player violating this rule will be immediately ejected from the game and will be suspended for the next game.
- D. Games consist of **7innings or 1 hour 45 minutes**. After 1 hour and 35 minutes **no new inning may start**.

9. PITCHING / BASE MEASUREMENTS:

- A. Rookie Division – Pitching machine 40', circle 8', bases 60'
- B. Minor Division –pitching mound at 40', bases 65'
- C. Major Division – pitching mound 50', bases 72'
- D. Juvenile Division – pitching mound 60'6", bases 90'

10. SAFETY / INTEGRITY OF THE LEAGUE:

- A. Tri-City League Officials reserves the right to remove and/or suspend ANY player, parent, coach, spectator or manager from the league and/or participating parks for any reason or rule violation that jeopardizes the safety and well-being of participants, spectators, and/or park staff.