

# Blackland Baseball/Softball Association

## March 2025 GROUND RULES

Blackland Baseball Softball Association has ground rules that supersede all other rules.

If the rule in question is not specifically mentioned, the following order of hierarchy is used to determine the ruling.

1. BBSA Ground Rules/Bylaws
2. Texas Teenage Association Baseball/Softball current rulebook
3. 3(a) USA Softball Rulebook (current edition) (softball)
4. 3(b) NFHS Rulebook (current edition) (baseball)

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### *SPORTSMANSHIP*

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The manager shall conduct himself/herself and his/her team in such a manner as to reflect good sportsmanship. Unless officially on the field, all players and coaches of a team must be in the dugout. Any flagrant act, abusive, or profane language or un-sportsman like conduct from any player, coach, parent or spectator will result in ejection from the premise of the ball field. If abuse continues and the said person fails to comply with the ejection, the Local Authorities will be called. If this occurs, the offending person may be barred from the ball field for the remainder of the season.

Throwing a bat will be left up to the discretion of the umpire. If the bat is thrown intentionally the batter will be OUT if it occurs again the batter will be ejected.

If flagrant, the player will be ejected.

If anyone (Coach, Player, or Spectator) is ejected for misconduct, then that individual is not eligible to play, coach or attend the next scheduled league game. Ejection from a game by a Coach, player, or spectator will also deem that coach or player ineligible for All Star Selection for that year. If a parent is ejected from a game this could affect the player's eligibility for All Star Selection.

That person will have a right to appeal the suspension and will be heard in a timely fashion by a committee selected by the BBSA president.

A coaching conduct form will be signed by all coaches and assistant coaches and kept on file with the local affiliate. This is to protect the coach, the local affiliate, BBSA and more importantly the kids!

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### *RESCHEDULING AND RAINOUTS*

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The Appointed Scheduler **MUST be notified of ALL schedule changes to** update the website.

Reschedules:

Reschedules **MUST** be church or school related. If it is a school or church function it **MUST** pertain to the player not a sibling.

Reschedules **WILL NOT** be made if a coach coaches more than one team or if a husband/wife is coaching multiple teams.

Rainouts: Rainouts will be called by umpire (game time) or local town affiliate designee. All efforts

should be made to call the game by 3PM if possible. Local town affiliates will contact visiting team affiliate designee to share information. The visiting affiliate's designee will then contact their respective teams affected.

All rainouts will be rescheduled by the BBSA board. Rescheduled games are official games and must be played on the day/time designated by the BBSA board or a forfeit decision will be made. Rainouts will be scheduled within 72 hours of the rained-out event and posted to the website.

**BBSA Board can cancel games at any location for any reason, at any time regarding weather. A game is considered complete after 3 innings have been played. A reasonable effort must be made to complete that game the night it's scheduled, we will not reschedule games after 3 innings have been completed.**

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## *FIELD MAINTENANCE*

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After each game, the teams leaving the field are responsible for cleaning up the dugouts and under the stands (their fan's trash, respectively).

All girls' fields must have a safety base at the 1st base position.

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## *PRACTICES*

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No coach or team will hold practice prior to the starting date established by the Board of Directors. Practice days and times will be established and enforced by local league affiliates.

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## *PARTICIPATION*

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To participate, each player must register, pay the registration fee, and turn in a copy of a birth certificate before the first game is played. This must be turned into local league affiliate.

Local affiliates must turn in each team's roster before their first game is played. No player additions after the first game have been played without majority vote of approval from the BBSA board.

Player Eligibility is determined by Texas Teenage guidelines outlined in the BBSA bylaws and Texas Teenage rule book.

Only 10 players can be listed on the roster to bat. The other players are listed as substitutes.

**Every player on each team who is present at the start of the game must play at least 3 consecutive defensive outs or 1 at bat to satisfy participation rules.**

If there is a reason (discipline or non-practice) a player is not going to play, it must be discussed with the opposing coach and plate umpire prior to the start of the game, and in cases where time allows communicated to BBSA by the appropriate local affiliate before game time.

**The first violation of this rule is a forfeit of the game in question.**

The second violation of this rule is the suspension of the coach for the remainder of the season.

**During regular season league games**, if a team doesn't have nine (9) players to start, they can play with no less than seven (7) players. If a team has only 8 players, the team will **NOT BE FORCED** to take an out.

If a team has only 7 players, the team can be asked to take **ONLY** one out if the opposing coach chooses to do so. If a team drops below seven (7) players, that is a forfeit.

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## GAMES

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Game time is forfeit time. Any team not ready to play at their scheduled starting time (including having the line-up in) will forfeit. **The line-up should be into the official scorekeeper ten (10) minutes prior to game time.** Line-up must include the player's name, jersey number, and position. Any subs available at game time must also be included in the line-up.

A sub can be added after a line up has been turned in. Lineups can be used in 2 ways

In-field practice will be allowed only if time permits.

**T-BALL:** Taking the ball to the Pitcher Position circle does **NOT** kill the play. The lead runner must be stopped for the play to end.

3rd strike that is fouled off (outside of the batter arc) the player will continue his/her turn at bat; the Batter is **NOT** out.

If the ball falls inside the arc it is an out.

**Coach Pitch:** If the ball is fouled off on the 3rd strike the batter shall NOT be called out.

Managers must notify the Plate Umpire and official scorekeeper at the time substitutions are made or it will be an illegal substitution. It is the responsibility of the Umpire to notify the opposing team of substitutions.

Pitching Coaches must make a reasonable effort to remove themselves from the field of play once the ball has been hit in a fashion that does not interrupt the defensive team's ability to make a play on the ball. If the pitching coach does NOT make such an effort, the following actions will be taken by the umpire(s).

1st offense.... An out will be called on the batter and all runners must return to the base occupied before the pitch was thrown.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense...The coach will be ejected from the game and will not be allowed to participate in or attend

the team's next scheduled game.

**There is NO overtime or extra innings during regular season play. A game can end in a tie and will be reflected in the standings.**

**In end of year tournaments, or official tie breaker games, extra innings will apply for both boys and girls.**

**Boys & Girls 6U T-Ball**– If agreed on at coaches meeting teams may use 10 players in the field. If not agreed upon the teams can still bat 10 (9+EH)

***In 6U T-ball there will be NO setting up players at time of bat.***

**(Exception special needs players that have been preapproved by BBSA board)**

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## **UMPIRES**

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Each Town Affiliate should have an Umpire in Charge.

Umpires are in direct charge of the playing areas when the ball game starts. Umpires will enforce the "No Jewelry" rule before each game.

Managers must notify the Plate Umpire and official scorekeeper at the time substitutions are made or it will be an illegal substitution. It is the responsibility of the Umpire to notify the opposing team of substitutions.

It is required to have **2 umpires per game in all divisions**. except in 6U and 8U (boys and girls) if the two teams are from the same affiliate, that respective board can decide to provide one umpire. (2 Holland teams, game played in Holland, HBA can decide to use one umpire in 6U and 8U.) If the host town hosts another affiliates team (Holland vs. Rogers) two umpires should be used. 10U and up two umpires are required.

Complaints against umpires must be made in writing to the board of directors before any action is taken.

Umpires must notify the opposing team of any substitutions.

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## *PLAYERS*

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Ejected Players: If a player is ejected the team will take an out for that player unless there is a sub available. If losing an ejected player leaves the team shorthanded, the team shall forfeit the game.

If a player becomes sick or hurt and must leave the game, the team will NOT take an out as long as there are more than 8 (or 7 if agreed upon between the coaches) players listed on the line up. If left shorthanded, then there will be an out.

### COURTESY RUNNER RULE:

A courtesy runner for the pitcher is allowed in all games (baseball & softball), **except** Boys and Girls 6U T-Ball, Boys and Girls 8U Machine Pitch and Boys and Girls 8U Coach Pitch.

A courtesy runner for the catcher will be allowed in all games (baseball & softball) **except** Boys and Girls 6U

T-Ball.

A courtesy runner must be an eligible player who is not in the current batting lineup. The same runner may not be a courtesy runner more than once per inning, except in the case where the same person, for whom he ran for, returns to the plate more than once per inning. PENALTY: Pitcher removed from game.

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## *PROTESTS*

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The Board will settle all protests. One representative from each town represented in that division will decide to protest.

For the protest to be valid, the home plate Umpire must be notified of the protest before the next pitch and \$50.00 Dollars must be paid to the Home Team's onsite board representative at the same time. Home book MUST be marked, time, location of game and game being played under protest.

Coaches will have 24 hours to submit a protest letter. Judgment calls cannot be protested.

In the event a protest overturns the judgement made at the time of the game, the protest fee will be returned. Failed Protest funds will be used at BBSA board's discretion.

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## *UNIFORMS & ATTIRE*

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No jewelry is allowed, including stud earrings. If jewelry such as medical bracelets can't be removed, it must be taped over. Umpires will enforce this rule before the start of each game.

**Metal cleats are allowed in 14U Boys. However, NO METAL CLEATS WILL BE USED ON PORTABLE MOUNDS OR TURF FIELDS.**

**Protective cups must be worn by all boys playing in the catching position in BBSA. Exception 6U.**

**Catcher's Gear- For 6u, a face mask is only required for the catcher. Age groups 8u and up, full catcher's gear is mandatory.**

**FIELDING MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED IF PLAYING INFIELD IN SOFTBALL.**

Uniform and attire will be at the discretion of each affiliate.

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## *ADMINISTRATIVE*

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No alcoholic beverages will be allowed.

All other rules will be in the Texas Teen-Age Baseball/Softball Rule Book and or USA Softball and NFHS. Three board members must be present to overrule any ground rule.

The home team is responsible for keeping the official score book at each game. The home team is responsible for keeping the official pitch count book (10u boys and up) at each game.

Each league affiliate will assign someone to submit rosters to Blackland Baseball Softball Association's board before the first game. Rosters are locked in once the first game begins.

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## *GAME TIME LIMITS AND RUN RULES*

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**Innings and Time Limit will be as follows:**

**Games must have completed 3 ½ -4 innings for it be considered a completed game unless time limit has been reached or run rule is in effect (Exception 6U Boys and 6U Girls....2 ½-3 innings).**

**Boys & Girls T-Ball (6U) games are 5 innings or 60 minutes with a seven 7 run rule per inning.**

**Girls Coach Pitch (8U) games are 6 innings or 90 minutes, with a 5-run rule per inning.**

**Girls (10U) games are 6 innings or 90 minutes, with a 5-run rule per inning.**

**Girls (12U)** are 6 innings or 90 minutes, with a 7-run rule per inning.

**Girls (15U)** games are 7 innings or 90 minutes with a 7-run rule per inning.

**Boys Coach Pitch (8U)** games are 6 innings or 90 minutes, with a 7-run rule per inning.

**Boys (10U)** is 6 innings or 90 minutes, with a 7-run rule per inning.

**Boys (12U)** are 6 innings or 90 minutes, with a 7-run per inning

**Boys (14U)** games are 7 innings or 90 minutes with a 7-run per inning.

**Line-up Cards:** Line-up cards will be filled out in this way: First name, Last name, Jersey Number & Position. Subs will be listed by their First name, Last name & Jersey number.

A run rule can be called when the losing team can no longer mathematically catch up. Amount of time on the clock cannot be considered unless the clock has expired.

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## COACHES

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All Coaches Must Be 18 Years of Age.

Managers must not leave the practice field or after playing a late game at the ballpark before all his/her players have been picked up.

Managers must notify parents of players if practice or scheduled games have been postponed or cancelled. Coaches must be either neatly dressed or in team uniform.

Coaches, sponsors, or anyone associated with Blackland Baseball/Softball Association are not allowed to organize any fund-raisers on behalf of BBSA for any reason and will be referred to their local boards.

Coaches are responsible for dugouts being cleaned out after each game.

Fielding team coaches are to remain close (within arm's length) to the fence and on their side of the field.

They should NEVER be on the field during play with the exception of Pre-T or specifically if child is special needs and BBSA board approves.

Failure to follow these requirements can result in umpires requiring field coaches to stay in dugout.

Any complaint against a coach must be in writing and submitted to the board of directors before any action is taken.

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## **CHAMPIONS**

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Champions will be determined by best win-loss record in their respective divisions. In the event of tied records, first tiebreaker is head-to-head record, second tiebreaker is coin flip/tiebreaker game. If after both tiebreakers, teams are still tied, co-champions will be declared. A coin toss will determine which team picks first pick-up players for tournament play. In the event of a clear league champion and a tie for second place, all tie breakers will be exhausted and then if there is still a tie a play-off game will be played to determine the 2nd place winner.

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## **CONCESSIONS**

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It is the local affiliate town's responsibility to manage and run their concession stands.