

# Lindale Summer Baseball/Softball

## Rules and Regulations

All players, parents and coaches will abide by all Texas Teen-Age Baseball rules and regulations, and all Lindale Summer Baseball/Softball rules and regulations. A quorum of the Board shall consist of at least 51% of the current number of Board members. This quorum must be present before any binding decisions are voted upon. All rule changes require a 2/3 majority vote by the Board. The rules and regulations are intended as a guideline for the daily operations of the Lindale Summer Baseball/Softball. The Board of Directors reserves the right to make exceptions to any of the following regulations if deemed necessary by the Board.

## Regulations

The following regulations will apply to all divisions of baseball and softball that are governed by the Lindale Summer Baseball/Softball, with exception for T-Ball and Machine Pitch where stated in the T-Ball and Machine Pitch Rules and Regulations.

### *I. Player and Coach Selection*

1. All boy or girl sign ups who were not on a Lindale Summer Baseball/Softball roster the previous year, as well as players who are moving into a new division, will be eligible for the player selection pool of their respective division.
2. Where in a division, a brother or sister of a player already on a team roster in a division comes into the selection pool, the brother or sister will be an automatic to that team roster. Their name will be added to the team roster before player selection. If there is already three protected players on a team prior to signups see rule#8.
3. Any player selected to a team who during the course of the season quits the team, or is dropped from the roster with Board approval, will lay out an entire season before being put back into the player selection pool. If a player participates in at least one half of the team's games they will return to that team if they remain in the same age division the following year. Considerations will be made for illness or injury.
4. All coaching positions are to be determined by the Board of Directors on a yearly basis and no situation guarantees that an individual will be allowed to coach any team on a continual basis.
5. The selection of players for team rosters will be accomplished as follows:
  - a. Each team will draw for their position in the draft every other round. After draw, teams will draft in order that resulted from draw and then will draft in reverse order the next round. Then redraw and repeat.

For the selection of players each team will be allocated player selection points. The points will be determined as follows: The total number of players, those returning and new sign-ups, in a division will be noted. This number will be divided by the number of teams that will pick players. The quotient number will be the quota number to be attained by all teams in the division. Then the number of returning players on the team roster will be noted including all automatics on each team. The difference between the number of returning players and the quota will be the number of selections each team can pick. The player selection will begin and will continue until each team uses up its last remaining player selection point. Teams with fewer players will receive extra picks beginning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, after each team has selected player in those rounds as needed to catch up. Any late sign-ups will not be selected until a predetermined time to build up a new player pool. Any drawing or coin toss affecting the draft will be conducted immediately after the draft.

b. Expansion Team - If the number of players in a league warrants making a new team, the following rule will be followed:

After determining the number of players from sign-ups, returning players will remain on their respective teams. The players to be drafted will be put into the draft pool.

The Expansion team will receive extra picks beginning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, after each team has selected player in those rounds as needed to catch up with the team with the fewest players.

When the number of players warrants the dropping of a team, the last expansion team will be dropped and the returning players placed back into the draft pool. However, due to extenuating circumstances such as a team with no or very few returning players, no head coach, and/or no sponsor, the Board may choose to drop this team rather than the last expansion team with any returning players placed back into the draft pool.

c. If a parent head coach removes himself as coach of a division team before player selection, his or her son or daughter will be returned to the player selection pool unless the player was on the team prior to the parent becoming head coach.

d. If a parent takes a head coaching position that is vacant, his or her son or daughter will be placed on that team roster automatically. Their name will be put on the team roster before player selection unless that player falls under Rule 8 below.

e. There will be only one head coach on a team, with only two assistants, including the scorekeeper, if on the field or in the dugout.

6. Only the head coach and one assistant coach who do not have a child in the draft will be allowed in the draft room during drafts.

7. TTAB & TTAS rules allow no more than three (3) "Protected Players" on a team. A "Protected Player" is defined as per TTAB & TTAS rules and regulations section E. Parent's written approval is required to protect a player if he/she is not an automatic player or coach's child.

8. In the event that a team has three (3) "Protected Players", any additional automatic players must come through the draft. Coaches, through league courtesy, must draft this player by the 3<sup>rd</sup> round unless otherwise deemed by the Board for any automatic players.

9. Players not attending Play Day will not be drafted, but will be a blind draw the end of the draft.

10. Trades will be permitted by both coaches with approval by the Board for Drafted Players only before leaving the Draft Room, no exceptions.

## ***II. Scorekeeping and Field Responsibilities***

1. It will be the responsibility of the home team to furnish the official scorekeeper for the game.

2. The umpire will not start the game without a suitable scorekeeper. If a suitable scorekeeper is not provided within 10 minutes, the violating team will be forced to forfeit.

3. Each coach is responsible to have a parent meeting on the first day of practice to explain regulations of the league and TTAB/TTAS.

4. It will be the responsibility of the winning team to provide a win/loss sheet to the concession stand or to website, by the Monday of the following week.

### **III. Protests and Disputes**

All Protests must be handled at the time of the protest with a ruling from a Protest Committee. Protest Committee will be appointed by a present board member. Protest Committee will consist of a minimum of three members. Protest Committee members do not have to be Board members. If another legal pitch has been made after the protest, the protest is null and void. Protest will be made through the Home plate umpire, protesting coach will give umpire twenty five dollars and specify which rule is being protested at the time of the protest. Judgment calls cannot be protested. Decision by the protest committee will be final.

### **IV. Ground Rules - Complex**

1. If a hit ball bounces over or goes under the fence while in fair play, it will be considered a ground rule double, and the umpire will have final judgment as to the position of the base runners.
2. On throwing errors, where the ball goes under or over the fence, or through any gate, it will be the umpire's decision as to the position of the runners when the ball went out of play, and will accordingly award the base runners their respective bases.
3. All gates will be closed during the game.
4. All male catchers must wear protective cups.

### **V. Length of Game**

1. The length of games will be regulation innings or time limits as follows: T-Ball and Coach Pitch games will be 1 hour, Midget Girls and Machine Pitch Boys – 1 hour 30 minutes, Freshman Girls and Boys, Senior Midget boys and Junior Girls – 1 hour 45 minutes, Sophomore Boys – 2 hours, whichever comes first. The time will be kept by the home plate umpire and noted in the home team scorebook. No inning will be started after the time expires, but any inning in process must be completed; however, as long as time remains, the next inning must be started even if only 1 second remains.
2. If a team has a ten (10) run lead after three and ½ (3 ½) or four (4) innings of play, the game will be stopped and the team with the lead will be awarded the win.
3. A game tied after the end of league regulation innings or league time limit, shall continue by playing additional innings. No new inning shall be started after (30) minutes from the beginning of play of the 1<sup>st</sup> additional inning, if the game continues to be tied; the game will result in a tie game.
4. All ties in rankings at the end of the season within a division will be determined by a one game playoff if deemed necessary by League President to determine postseason play.
5. Double headers: All teams involved in double headers shall be ready to play fifteen (15) minutes after the first or previous game has ended.
6. All rain-outs will be scheduled and played on a date set by the League President.

### **VI. Field Conduct**

1. All equipment not in use by players on the field of play shall be stored in the dugout.

2. Any Head Coach or Assistant Coach that is ejected from a game will not be allowed to be on the field of play during that game or the next game played by their team. This suspension could be more if the Board so decides. The Coach that is ejected is not required to leave the premises but may stay and watch the game from the stands as long as they do not attempt to coach. This rule does not apply to a coach being ejected for the face-mask rule.

3. See TTAB/TTAS Rules and Regulations for further rules.

### **VII. Game Run Limit**

1. T-Ball Boys and Girls Division when the sixth (6) run of any one inning has been scored, the inning is declared over.

2. In Coach Pitch Girls, Midget Girls, Freshman Girls and Junior Girls, Machine Pitch Boys, Senior Midget Boys, Freshman Boys when the seventh (7) run of any one inning has been scored the inning is declared over.

### **VIII. Team Participation**

1. All players on a team shall be in the batting line-up. If some reason a player shows up after the game has started they will be inserted at the bottom of the batting line-up. There are no substitutions that apply with players playing in the field except for the pitching rules as stated in the TTAB/TTAS Rules and Regulations.
2. If a player cannot play because of illness or disciplinary reasons, the coach must notify the scorekeeper before the game begins.
3. The penalty for violation of the above rule is forfeiture of the game.
4. Teams entering into the playoffs must play by the TTA re-entry rule.
5. Teams may begin a game or continue a game in progress with eight players. **Under no circumstances may a team be allowed to play with less than eight players.** If a player leaving the game is a runner, he shall be declared out. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat after a team has reached 9 players. The player who has left the game cannot return to the lineup unless the player had left the game under the blood rule (TTAB Rule 10-8).
6. If a player is **ejected** from a game when batting the entire lineup the team will take an automatic out each time that player's spot comes up to bat, regardless of number of players in lineup.
7. If a player leaves the game due to **injury or illness**, then that player will be skipped in the batting lineup when batting the entire lineup. An automatic out will **not** be required. If it causes a team to have less than 9 players then Rule #5 comes into effect.

### **IX. Special Rules for Boys and Girls T-Ball**

Senior Midget rules are used with the following exceptions;

1. 1 Hour Time Limit
2. Boys Age – Boys 5 years old on or before Aug. 1st will be allowed to play T-Ball in that year.
3. A circle is marked off at a distance of ten feet from the tip of home plate.
4. Three swings per out. When bat passes stand, it will be considered a swing.
5. To start play, umpire will call "batter up" or place the ball on the stand.
6. With full swing (mandatory), any hit in the fair territory outside ten foot circle will be playable ball whether the T is hit into the ball into the outfield.
7. A batted ball fielded or caught inside the ten foot circle will be a dead ball strike.
8. Ball is dead-no runner may advance after the Umpire calls "Time". Umpire shall call "Time" when lead runner's progress has been stopped by a defensive player with the ball, and if a trailing runner is over halfway, he may continue to advance to the next base.
9. Catcher equipment: (1) mitt or glove, chest protector and protective helmet mandatory. (2) Catcher's mask and other equipment optional.
10. Pitcher and catcher must be in proper position at time ball is hit.
11. All batters and runners must wear batting helmets

12. Coach moves stand after each play.
13. Bunting is not allowed
14. Rubber T will be used only. If you do not have a rubber T, have opposing team bring one.
15. No infield Fly rule
16. No boys will be allowed on girls T-Ball team
17. No girls will be allowed on boys T-Ball team
18. Any player may make an appeal play before the ball is placed on the T for the next batter, but the ball is dead ball situation and runners may not advance.
19. An arc will be drawn on the field extending from first base line to third base line, at 35' from the tip of home plate. Fielders must remain behind the line until the ball is hit. Pitcher must be positioned in center of the arc on the line with one foot in contact with pitcher's plate. If a fielder crosses the line prior to the ball being hit & fields the ball, the ball is a delayed dead ball.
20. Ten players will play defense and entire line up will bat, however, in the event a team can only field eight, the game may be started and the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> players may enter if and when he/she arrives.
21. T-Ball Boys and Girls – when the sixth run of any one inning has been scored, the inning is declared over.
22. Maximum bat length for T-Ball Boys and Girls will be 28"
23. T-Ball Girls will use an 11" Softball and a hard ball for T-Ball Boys.
24. No stealing
25. No intentional walks

***X. Special Rules for Boys Machine Pitch use TTAB Rules and Regulations Sec. 30-12 with following exceptions***

1. 1 Hour 30 Min. Time Limit
2. The Pitching Machine Coach shall not coach while in the pitching position, either verbally or physically. Once the ball has been hit, the Pitching Coach must position himself/herself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any play at all. Only the officials shall make necessary adjustments on the pitching machine. (Penalty: Removal of the Pitching Machine Coach.)
3. Only Pitching Machine Coach and two (2) base coaches on the field at one time, there will be no defensive coaches on the field.
4. When Officials deem necessary, due to weather conditions or mechanical malfunction, the pitching machine will be replaced by a coach pitcher. In this case pitching distance will be 35 feet.

***XI. Rescheduling Games***

Games cancelled due to rain or other circumstances must be played during the week they are cancelled, which will usually occur on the weekend. If a team cannot play on that weekend then that team will take a forfeit. All considerations will be given on boys teams having back to back games or playing three games during a given week.