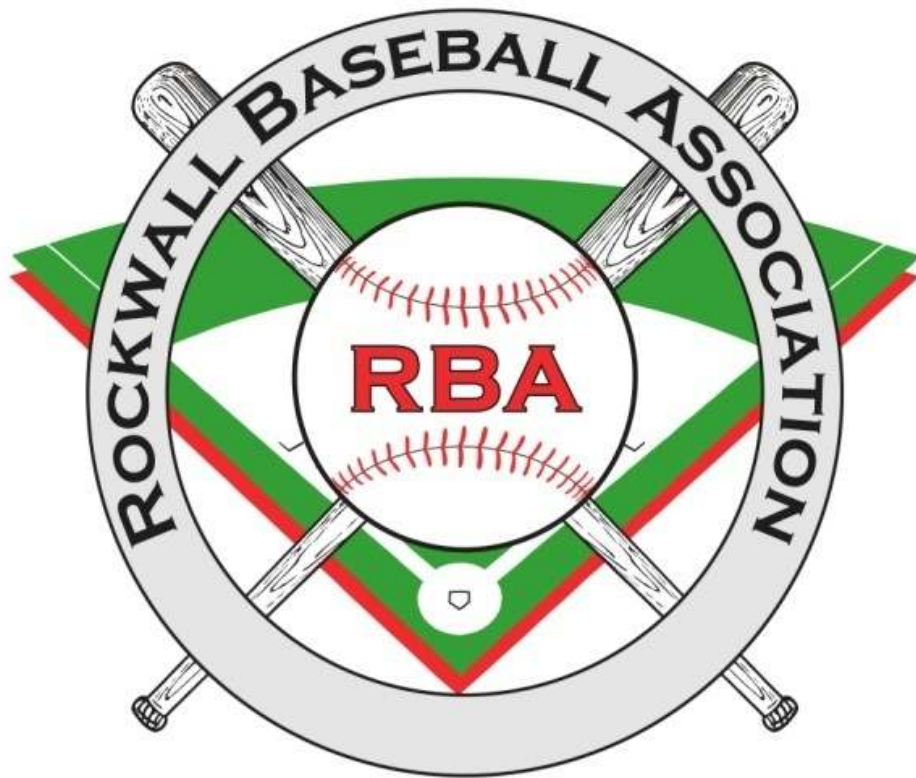


ROCKWALL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICIAL RULES



| REVISION TABLE | |
|---|-----------|
| Description | Date |
| Added Revision Table | 3/10/2009 |
| VI.A.9. added "or other equipment" | 3/10/2009 |
| VI.A. 15. Added Commissioner in Chief | 3/10/2009 |
| VI.A.19. added one offensive time out per inning | 3/10/2009 |
| VII.B.1. corrected typo | |
| VII.B.3. deleted one timeout per inning | 3/10/2009 |
| VII.C.3. - 6.,VII.D.3.-6. VII.E.3.-6. Revised pitched innings to outs | 3/10/2009 |
| VII.C.7., VII.D.7., VII.E.7 made violation specific to pitching rules | 3/10/2009 |
| VII.C.6, VII.D.5, VII.E.7 One pitch thrown to a batter is considered the first out. - removed | 3/10/2009 |
| VII.C.1 Maximum runs per inning added for 9/10U Division. Also, added rule regarding maximum runs per inning constituting 3 outs. | 3/31/3009 |
| VII.E.1 Removed runs per inning statement | 3/31/3009 |
| VI.A.7.A Added 8U to the list | 4/9/2009 |

GENERAL

- A.** The Rockwall Baseball Association (RBA) Board has adopted a general set of local rules that will govern the conduct and play of all managers, coaches, spectators and players of all ages.
- B.** These rules are in effect at all locations wherever an RBA team is engaged in an organized practice, game or otherwise scheduled activity. This includes, but is not limited to fields, practice grounds, batting cages, etc., regardless of their location.
- C.** These rules shall prevail until specifically amended or replaced as an action by the RBA Board.
- D.** The Official Rules of the RBA will in general follow the rules and regulations of the National Federation of High School (NFHS) and Nations Baseball (NB). The local RBA rules are listed below as exceptions to the NFHS and NB rules. If there is a conflict with the NFHS or NB Rules, the local RBA rules shall take precedence. The combination of the NFHS, NB and RBA local rules compromise the Official Rules of the RBA.
- E.** It is the responsibility of the Managers and coaches to have read and understood the Official Rules specific to their league. Failure to comply and abide by the Official Rules shall be considered a violation of the rules of the game. Penalty(s) shall be applied as outlined in the Official Rules.

II. ELGIBILITY

- A.** All head coaches must be older than 18 years of age and all assistant coaches must be at least 15 years of age. Umpires must be certified by the Umpire-in-Chief of the Rockwall Baseball Association and be at least 16 years of age.
- B.** All coaches and umpires must have a copy of these rules.
- C.** All players must play in the level appropriate for their age.
- D.** Exception: a physically handicapped player.
- E.** Appeal: Parents must submit a signed Age Waiver Request form to the League Commissioner to have their player participate at a level other than the one appropriate one for the player's age. Under weight and under size are not considered sufficient physical handicaps. The commissioners of the two leagues involved and the Commissioner-in-Chief along with the Rockwall Baseball Association President shall rule on all exceptions. Parental wishes and professional advice shall be considered.

III. PLAYER ASSIGNMENT

A. All players must submit their Player Registration Form to the Board by the last official day of registration. The Board may consider late registration due unforeseen circumstances by the player – no exceptions for Managers submitting protected players lists.

B. Managers must submit their list of protected players to the Board prior to player tryouts. Failure to submit the list of protected players prior to this time automatically voids the players protected status. Those players will be placed into the draft pool, and therefore become available for other coaches to draft.

C. All registered players not previously identified on a team by a Manager prior to tryouts shall be available for all teams to draft.

D. All players wishing to play for a particular Manager or team, must identify the Manager and/or team on their registration form. This does not guarantee the player will be placed on the requested manager's roster.

E. Failure to notify the League Commissioner of an opening on a team will subject that team to forfeiture action for games not played with a full roster.

F. Players in the draft are available to be selected by Managers in the following order:

1. The players available that want to play up in age level are placed into the pool for the higher level
2. If not selected by the higher level Managers, they are returned to the pool appropriate for their age. Players are selected until all are placed on a team.

G. The order in which Managers may select pool players is as follows:

- 1.** The Manager of the team with the fewest number of protected players may continuously select players until this team has an equal number of players as another team.
- 2.** Once two teams have the same number of players, they must alternate picks, starting with the team that has not yet picked a player.
- 3.** If three or more teams are eligible to pick, the order is determined by random draw. The order is rotated from first to last.

- 4.** Every time an additional team becomes eligible to pick, they will have the first pick and join the teams already in the rotation of first to last
 - 5.** If two or more teams simultaneously join the rotation, their selection order will be determined by random draw, and will pick before joining the existing rotation.
- H.** A player may not resign from one team and join another team once applications have been signed. All players are required to play where selected.
- I.** Once the draft is complete, players can only be added to a team with the approval of the League Commissioner, Commissioner-in-Chief, and RBA President.
- J.** If a team loses a player for any reason after Opening Day, the Manager must report the loss to the League Commissioner. If the loss is not reported within 7 days of the Manager becoming aware of the loss, the Manager is subject to review by the RBA Board and may be subject to disciplinary actions.
- K.** No refunds will be given to any player who resigns (see Rule 4). Any player who resigns from his team, must have permission from the RBA prior to rejoin his team.
- L.** Any player resigning from his team to participate in another league forfeits his right to play in the RBA for the remainder of the season.

IV. CONDUCT

The league officers shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, league officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of MLB, NFHS, NATIONS BASEBALL or the Rockwall Baseball Association.

A. Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing with the league officers before such discipline is imposed.

B. In the event of disciplinary procedures involving a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend the hearing with the minor concerned.

C. When any manager, coach, or player is disqualified for a flagrant offense such as obscene or abusive language, or an assault upon an umpire, coach or player, he shall be ejected from the game and shall leave the field immediately.

D. When any manager, coach, player, or spectator shows violent disapproval of an umpire's decision, the umpire shall first give warning that such disapproval shall cease immediately. If such action continues, the umpire shall order the offender out of the game and away from the spectator's area.

E. When any manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they must leave the park immediately and remain off the premises for the remainder of that day. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit for the team, and could result in being escorted away by local police, and automatically being suspended for the remainder of the year, requiring Board approval for re-entry to the program.

F. When any manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they also will be suspended for the next game and not be allowed to participate in post-season play.

G. If any manager or coach is suspended for physical assault upon an umpire, coach or player, they shall be suspended for the remainder of the year and approval of the Board must be granted to participate in future years.

H. An appeal of a game suspended due to a conduct violation will be allowed and an Appeal hearing can be requested to allow the team to appear in post season play.

V. PENALTIES

A. Infractions of the Official Rules by a Manager or coach shall be considered cumulative and penalties are as follows:

1. 1st Offense: receive a written warning
2. 2nd Offense: review of infraction by the league commissioner with a possible suspension for the next scheduled game
3. 3rd offense: suspension for the remainder of the season or a minimum of 5 games if there are less than 5 games remaining in the season.

B. Exception: if the violation was determined to be intentional, the Board may assess a more severe penalty. Forfeiting the game may be included.

VI. GAME RULES

A. All Divisions

1. Lineup cards must be turned in at least five minutes before the game or the team is given an out for the first inning.
2. Teams must bat their full roster with free substitution. Any players arriving after the start of the game shall be inserted at the end of the line-up
3. No extra inning games to break a tie. Each team will be awarded $\frac{1}{2}$ win.
4. No must slide rule.
5. Defensive coaches must be inside the dugout or not beyond the length of the dugout when outside. Each team may have one bucket on the field during play. The bucket must be directly in front of the dugout and must be occupied during play so that they may be quickly removed in the event of game play in the vicinity.
6. No other equipment is allowed outside the dugout.
7. Any team can start and finish a game with one (1) less player than required
 - A. 5U, 6U, 7U, and 8U requires 10 players – Can play with 9;
 - B. 10U requires 9 – Can play with 8.
 - C. If the regulation number of players (either 9th or 10th player depending on age group), arrives after the start of the game, the player can enter the game. Otherwise, if the player has not arrived when that position comes up in the batting order, an out is recorded.
8. Injury or illness will not cause an out; however, if this leaves a team two (2) players short of the required players, the game is forfeited.
9. The umpire will have the discretion, if in their judgment the bat or other equipment is thrown:
 - A. the umpire will give the batter a warning or
 - B. call the batter out in the case of excessive force or it being intentionally thrown.

- C. One warning per player. For a second occurrence, the player is automatically out.
 - D. Upon excessive abuse, the player will be automatically removed for the remainder of the game.
10. If the runner removes or intentionally knocks off their helmet, the runner is out.
 11. It is each team's responsibility to pick up trash in their dugout as well as in the bleacher area at the end of the game.
 12. The home team is responsible for
 - A. posting the game score using the Rockwall Baseball Association Game Result Form online
 - B. keep the official scorebook, obtaining signatures from both team coaches and the plate umpire after the game and turning in the game results.
 13. If the game is suspended due to lightning everyone should take shelter in their vehicles and wait until a decision to continue or postpone has been made by the umpires and/or RBA board members.
 14. Each team member must play two full innings by the fourth inning. If a player does not play these two innings, player must start in the next scheduled game and play two innings.
 15. Players not completing their minimum playing time in the previous game shall start the next game.
- EXCEPTION: Discipline issues which must be reported to the League Commissioner, Commissioner in Chief or RBA President at least twenty-four hours prior to game.
16. No hidden ball play.
 17. If the next batter chooses to use the on-deck circle, they shall use and remain inside the one in front of their dugout.
 18. Bats have no size or weight restrictions. T-ball level must use a T-ball bat. T-ball bats are not permitted in 8U and above.
 19. Only one offensive time out is allowed per inning excluding injury time outs.

VII. AGE SPECIFIC RULES

A. 6U (5 and 6 yr old)

- 1.** Twelve players will be used defensively (maximum of 7 infielders and 5 outfielders).
- 2.** The extra infielder must be stationed 5 feet behind the area of second base.
- 3.** No infielder may be closer than 38 feet (pitching rubber distance) from home plate until the ball is hit.
- 4.** The outfielders shall be stationed not less than 15 feet behind the baseline until the ball is hit.
- 5.** When 10 or more players are present a catcher must be used.
- 6.** A minimum of 9 players may be used.
- 7.** No player shall remain in the same defensive position more than two innings.
- 8.** No player shall remain in the infield more than four innings.
- 9.** A 10 foot arc will be inscribed in front of home plate, from the first to the third base foul lines. Batters are not permitted to bunt or swing easy at the ball and any batted ball must travel beyond the 10 foot arc. PENALTY: Batter will be called back to the plate, the swing will count as a foul-strike, the ball is dead and no runners may advance.
- 10.** Missed swings are defined as the batter swinging and not hitting either the ball or the tee.
- 11.** Missed swings, foul balls and foul tips are counted as strikes.
- 12.** A batter shall be declared out if:
 - a)** The ball is not hit fair after 6 swings at the ball.
 - b)** A batter is out on the sixth swing, even if it is a foul ball or foul tip.
- 13.** Base runners are not permitted to steal or lead-off base and shall remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. PENALTY: Runner is out.
- 14.** The infield fly rule will not apply.
- 15.** Two adult coaches may be stationed on the playing field, beyond the baselines and infielders, to provide verbal instruction to the defensive team.

- 16.** Players are not allowed to coach from the 1st and 3rd base coaching boxes.
- 17.** Players shall remain in the dugouts, on the benches or in the prescribed areas throughout the game.
- 18.** Protests are not permitted.
- 19.** On an over throw by a player to any base, the runner may advance at their own risk to the next base only.
- 20.** Coaches in the outfield positions must stay in the same coaching position throughout the inning.
- 21.** When the ball is in the possession of an infielder, and in the umpire's judgment, play on the lead runner has ceased, the umpire shall call 'time'. Any runners continuing to advance shall return to the previous base occupied prior to time being called.
- 22.** During play on any runner, the ball must be thrown overhand to that base. PENALTY: Runner is awarded the base and all other action remains live.
- 23.** Defensive players are discouraged from chasing the runner and not throwing the ball. In the umpire's discretion, an obvious disregard of this will result in the runner being awarded the base being attempted.
- 24.** Each team will be allowed a maximum of five (5) runs per inning.
- 25.** Length of game is six (6) innings or 50 minutes whichever comes first.
- 26.** If sufficient players from one team are not available, players from the opposing team may be assigned to that team for that game to bring the roster of each team up to the minimum of 9 players. Both coaches must agree to this.
- 27.** Pitcher shall remain in contact with the pitching rubber until the batter hits the ball. PENALTY: No pitch.
- 28.** The batter shall not swing at the ball until the pitcher has made a pitching motion from the pitching rubber.

B. 8U (7 and 8 yr old)

1. Nations Baseball rules apply to maximum runs per inning.
2. Length of game is six (6) innings or one (1) hour and 15 minutes whichever comes first. If an inning is started prior to time expiring, the inning is finished only if the game is tied or the home team has the opportunity to score the maximum allowable runs per inning to cause a tie or win.
3. The player fielding the pitcher's position must be behind the pitching rubber either on the left or right side with one foot on the dirt.
4. The coach-pitcher shall not direct or coach his players or coaches in any way on the offense.

PENALTY: The coach will receive one warning and the second time he must be replaced. The coach can call timeout to talk with his coaches or the player outside the baselines.

C. 10U (9 and 10 yr old)

1. There will be a maximum of 7 runs per inning.
2. Length of game will be 6 innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes whichever comes first. If an inning is started prior to time expiring, the inning is finished. Only if the game is tied or the home team has the opportunity to score the maximum runs per inning causing a tie or win.
3. No squeeze/suicide play will be allowed at home. At the umpire's discretion, the runner will be called out.
4. Pitcher shall not pitch more than nine outs in one calendar day. If a batting team scores the maximum number of runs in an inning and the pitcher who started the inning remains the pitcher of record, the pitcher will have 3 outs recorded. If a pitcher is removed before the maximum number is runs per inning is reached, only the outs at the time of removal will be recorded for the pitcher.
5. Pitchers must have 40 hours rest from the start time of the game after pitching nine outs in a calendar day.
6. Pitchers may not exceed twenty four outs in one calendar week (12:01am Monday through 12 midnight the following Sunday).
7. Violation of the pitching rules will result in suspension of both manager and pitcher from that game and the next played game.

D. 12U (11 and 12 yr old)

1. Nations Baseball rules apply to maximum runs per inning.
2. Length of game will be six innings or 1 hour and 40 minutes whichever comes first. If an inning is started prior to time expiring, the inning is finished only if the game is tied or the home team has the opportunity to score the maximum runs per inning causing a tie or win.
3. Pitcher shall not pitch more than twenty one outs in one calendar day.
4. Pitchers must have 40 hours rest from the start time of the game after pitching twelve or more outs in a calendar day.
5. Pitchers may not exceed thirty outs in one calendar week (12:01am Monday through 12 midnight the following Sunday).
6. Violation of these pitching rules will result in suspension of both manager and pitcher from that game and the next played game.
7. No warning on balk per pitcher per game.

E. 14U (13 and 14 yr old)

1. Nations Baseball rules apply to maximum runs per inning.
2. Length of game will be 7 innings or 1 hour and 40 minutes whichever comes first. If an inning is started prior to time expiring, the inning is finished. The home team does not bat if they are ahead.
3. Metal cleats are only allowed on the playing field. Players must wear other footwear to the playing field.
4. Pitcher shall not pitch more than twenty one outs in one calendar day.
5. Pitchers must have 40 hours rest from the start time of the game after pitching twelve or more outs in a calendar day.
6. Pitchers may not exceed thirty outs in one calendar week (12:01am Monday through 12 midnight the following Sunday).
7. Violation of these pitching rules will result in suspension of both manager and pitcher from that game and the next played game.
8. No warning on balk per pitcher per game.