

Topeka Baseball and Softball Association **Donwood Park Sports Complex**



2023 Baseball Rules

Administrative Policies
TBSA General Rules • Age Division Rules

P.O. Box 1662 • Topeka, KS 66601
Dornwood Park • 25th and Highland
www.topekabaseballandsoftball.com

RAIN OUT HOTLINE: 785-851-4164

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2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Officers

Executive President:	Angie Lake	785-249-8398
Vice President Baseball:	Robert Mayfield	785-580-3414
Secretary:	Alisa Stubblefield	785-861-6660
Treasurer:	Brittany Lake	785-338-1842

Board of Directors

Angie Lake	785-249-8398
Jenn Moore	623-533-0316
Dana Burt	785-221-4018
John Fletcher	785-969-4778
Alisa Stubblefield	785-861-6660
La'Taiya Williams	785-383-8151
Ashley Mason	785-506-1860
Robert Mayfield	785-580-3414
Rodney Bowen	785-213-6732
Bonnie Foster	785-580-5034
Sage Poe	785-431-9024
Autumn Lake	785-430-8488
Brittney Lake	785-338-1842
Cisca Esquer	785-408-2440
Chris Slawson	785-408-4203

Age Division Representatives

	Player/Team Coordinator	Angie Lake 785-249-8398
Rookie (Instructional):	Autumn Lake	785-430-8488
Pinto (8 and under):	Rodney Bowen	785-213-6732
Mustang (10 and under):	Robert Mayfield	785-580-3414
Bronco (13 and under):	Rodney Bowen	785-213-6732
Pony (15 and under):	Chris Slawson	785-408-4203
Colt (18 and under):	Jenn Moore	623-533-0316

League Staff

Legal Advisor:	Jim Parrish	785-233-5411
	Anthony Hensley	785-224-4305
	Joe Bowen	785-207-1434
Concession Stand Manager:	SCPR	785-286-3358
Grounds-Keeper	Mike Rosencutter	785-640-2150
TPUA President	Greg Harmon	785-230-3804
Umpire-in-Chief	Dean Carson	785-608-2630

TBSA Administrative Policies

Article 1: Description of the Association

1. The Topeka Baseball and Softball Association, Inc., has provided an amateur youth baseball program in the Topeka community since 1941. The Association originally operated under the sponsorship of the Highland Park Booster Club. When the Booster Club dissolved years ago, the Highland Park Baseball League continued to exist under the leadership of volunteers from the Highland Park community. These volunteers formed a nonprofit corporation in 1980 to operate the program. The corporation is named Highland Park Baseball Association, Inc. (HPBA). In 2014 Highland Park Baseball Association changed its league name to Topeka Baseball and Softball Association Inc. (TBSA) and is governed by one board and is currently in partnership with Shawnee County Parks and Recreation (SCPR) to provide the youth a positive sports environment.

2. Similarly, the Highland Park Girls Softball League was formed in 1977. The name of this organization was later changed to Dornwood Girls Softball Association, Inc. (DGSA), and was managed by a separate board of directors. In 2014 Dornwood Girls Softball Association changed its league name to Topeka Baseball and Softball Association Inc. (TBSA) and is governed by one board. The TBSA programs are conducted on playing fields at Dornwood Park, 25th and Highland, and at other facilities in Topeka, Kansas.

Article 2: Membership in the Association

1. Membership in TBSA shall consist of all current team managers, age division representatives, and the TBSA Board of Directors. Each member shall have one vote, even if such member serves in more than one position, which qualifies for TBSA membership. All matters pertaining to membership meetings shall be governed by the TBSA bylaws.

Article 3: Management of the Association

1. The TBSA Board of Directors shall be comprised of community volunteers who have been involved in the TBSA program as a manager, coach, parent, sponsor or supporter for at least 2 years. TBSA officers shall meet the same qualification for at least 3 years and have been a director for at least 1 year.

2. The Board of Directors shall elect a President who serves as general manager of the program. The President shall have overall authority for managing the program and may appoint a representative for each age division to coordinate the activities within each age division. The President is assisted by other officers and directors who assume management duties on designated dates throughout the season to supervise the conduct of games.

3. The TBSA officer or director on duty shall have exclusive authority to terminate games due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. Umpires and team managers shall not have the authority to terminate games. Procedures for the postponement and rescheduling of games are provided in Articles 13 and 14 of these policies.

4. The officer or director on duty shall assist umpires in dealing with special problems that arise during game play. In no event shall an officer or director be called upon to evaluate or overrule an umpire's decision, or in any way preempt an umpire's authority to conduct games.

5. The Board of Directors shall decide protests pursuant to Article 11 of these policies.

6. TBSA is affiliated with USA Softball which promotes softball through state, district, regional and national tournament competition for all age groups and the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) programs which promote amateur baseball through state, district, regional and national tournament competition for all age groups.

Article 4: Player registration and birth certificate

1. TBSA provides amateur baseball/softball for players from age 3 to age 18 and is open to any person of qualifying age who wants to enroll. A registration form signed by the player and the player's parent or legal guardian is required for a player to be eligible to play prior to opening day of the current year. **Under no event shall a player be allowed to play in any game until the appropriate fees and paperwork have been submitted.** Player fees shall not be refunded unless the TBSA President deems such refund appropriate. Checks should be made payable to "Shawnee County Parks and Recreation" or "SCPR" and can be mailed to P.O. Box 1662, Topeka, Kansas 66601. Checks returned for any reason will be assessed by SNCO Parks and Recreation.
2. Each player shall be assigned to an age division within TBSA based on the player's age on or before May 1 of the current year. Each player shall be identified by a birth certificate or Photostat copy of same, from the bureau of vital statistics of the city, county or state in which the player was born. Where compliance with the foregoing can be shown to be impossible, age eligibility shall be determined at the discretion of the TBSA Vice President of baseball/softball operations.
3. The TBSA Baseball age divisions are as follows: **Rookie Division: age 6 and under; Pinto Division: age 8 and under; Mustang Division: age 10 and under; Bronco Division: age 13 and under; Pony Division: age 15 and under; Colt Division: age 18 and under.**
4. No player shall be added to a team's roster in the Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony age divisions after June 15, of the current year.

Article 5: TBSA finances, fund raising and sponsors

1. This year the total budget for the TBSA program will exceed \$60,000. The "SCPR" Shawnee County Parks and Recreation provides playing fields and electricity for lighting at Dornwood Sports Park. TBSA is responsible for maintaining the Dornwood Park facilities throughout the season. SCPR must pay all expenses incurred for grounds keeping, telephone service, equipment, umpires, trophies and awards. The operation of the TBSA program is financed from several sources here in described.
2. Player fees are outlined in the League Fee Schedule that can be access on the TBSA website. All fees shall be paid directly to team manager/coach. The manager/coach are then responsible to turn in team fees directly to the TBSA League Representative.

ROOKIE 6 and under:	\$45 per player	Player's fee \$45.00 100% due by May 30 th
PINTO (8 and under):	\$125 per player	50-100% by April 15 th Balance due by May 1 st
MUSTANG (10 and under):	\$125 per player	50-100% by April 15 th Balance due by May 1 st
BRONCO (13 and under):	\$125 per player	50-100% by April 15 th Balance due by May 1 st
PONY (15 and under):	\$125 per player	50-100% by April 15 th Balance due by May 1 st
COLT (18 and under):	\$125 per player	50-100% by April 15 th Balance due by May 1 st

3. All donations to TBSA are tax deductible because TBSA is designated as a 501(c) (3) organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Sponsors should verify with their tax advisor how their donation/sponsorship should be handled to maximize any tax benefit. Any team wanting to use the Tax ID # should have their team name stated as TBSA **Team NAME**.

4. SNCO/TBSA encourages team managers/coaches, players, parents and spectators to patronize the concession stand especially in the purchase of team pop after each game. SNCO/TBSA encourages team managers/coaches, players, parents to get team /individual photos taken by selected vendor.

Article 6: Team Managers/Coach

1. Each TBSA team shall have an adult manager/coach who shall be approved by the TBSA Board of Directors. Duties of the team manager shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- a. Recruit players and ensure each player is properly enrolled by submitting registration form and birth certificate.
- b. Select coaches, preferably at least two.
- c. Ensure that the team is fully uniformed and equipped with catcher's gear, bats, baseballs, etc.
- d. Assist TBSA with work days, fund raising, and select team fund raising chairperson.
- e. Schedule and notify each player of practice times and locations.
- f. Comply with predetermined game schedule published by age division representative and notify each player of game times and locations.
- g. Notify the TBSA President of any player suspension or resignation prior to enrolling a replacement player.
- h. Select a qualified scorekeeper to keep score during each game.
- i. Inspect the TBSA bulletin board and notify each player about games postponed and rescheduled.
- j. Keep team sponsor(s) informed about team and TBSA activities.
- k. Maintain order among players, coaches, parents and spectators in the interest of fair play and good sportsmanship.

Article 7: Conduct of players, managers, coaches, parents and spectators

1. Players, managers, coaches, parents and spectators shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with fair play and good sportsmanship while in Dornwood Sports Park. **Please refer to guidelines of SCPR Sportsmanship Emphasis. See pages 33-37.**

2. No person shall possess or consume alcohol or drugs in Dornwood Sports Park. The TBSA officer or director on duty may report any person in violation of this policy to the Topeka Police Department. Violation of this policy may also result in the suspension or termination of the offending person(s) from the TBSA program under the procedures described in Articles 10 and 11.

3. No person shall make insulting, intimidating or harassing remarks or gestures which would degrade an umpire, player, manager, coach, parent or spectator **will NOT be tolerated.**

4. **Players/Teams occupying the dugout or field during game play shall not Chant, shout at or otherwise intimidate any and all players.**

5. Violation of the foregoing policies shall result in ejection from the game(s) during which said violation occurred. All ejections shall be reviewed by a committee of 3 officers or directors appointed by the TBSA President. This committee shall have the authority to: (1) cause a team's forfeiture of the game(s) during which said violation occurred, and (2) refer any ejection to the President and TBSA Board of Directors for suspension or termination of a participant from the TBSA program under the procedures described in Articles 10 and 11.

6. All managers and coaches in the TBSA program shall sign a pledge of good sportsmanship and conduct prior to the beginning of each season.

Article 8: Umpires, unsportsmanlike conduct and ejection from game

1. The TBSA Board of Directors selects an Umpire-in-Chief each season. The Umpire-in-Chief shall be responsible for the recruitment, training and scheduling of umpires to officiate games. Each umpire shall become familiar with these administrative policies, TBSA general rules, and the rules of each age division in which they will be officiating. A more extensive discussion of the UIC's responsibilities can be found in the UIC Job Description.

2. The Umpire-in-Chief shall appoint 2 or more umpires to officiate at each game, **except in Pinto where there shall be only (1) one umpire** and Rookie Age Division games, where there shall be no umpire. The umpires shall be responsible for the conduct of the game in accordance with Official Baseball Rules and TBSA rules and for maintaining order and discipline on the playing field.

3. Each umpire shall have the authority to disqualify any team, player, manager, coach, parent or spectator for unsportsmanlike and offensive conduct and to eject such disqualified person(s) from Dornwood Park Sports Complex in accordance with the procedures herein described. A more extensive discussion of the Umpire's responsibilities can be found in the Umpire Job Description.

4. In the event any person continues to display unsportsmanlike and offensive conduct, the umpires shall have the authority to stop the game until such conduct ceases and/or to order the person to leave the immediate vicinity of Dornwood Sports Park. Further, the umpires shall have the authority to declare the game forfeiture in the event the person refuses to cease such conduct or to leave Dornwood Sports Park. Any person ejected shall leave for the remainder of the game in which they were ejected and for the next scheduled game in which their team is involved before being allowed to return to Dornwood Sports Park.

5. Upon ejection from any game, the person(s) ejected shall not communicate further with team personnel or umpires during the remainder of that game or the team's next scheduled game.

6. For the purposes of this policy, Topeka Baseball and Softball Association includes all playing fields and facilities are part of Dornwood Sports Park. Therefore, any person(s) ejected from an TBSA game at Dornwood Sports Park shall not be allowed to remain even within any part of the park.

Article 9: Protests

1. Any umpire's decision which involves judgment such as whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a ball or strike, or whether a runner is safe or out, shall be final. Such decision may not be the subject of any protest.
2. If there is reason to believe that an umpire's decision is based on a misinterpretation of the Official Baseball Rules or TBSA rules, or that the opposing team is in violation of same, the team manager may protest the umpire's decision or the alleged rule violation and request that a ruling be made.
3. Such protest may be made only by the protesting team manager to the home plate umpire at the time of the decision or alleged rule violation. The umpire shall notify the TBSA officer or director on duty and shall instruct both managers and each umpire working the game to sign the home and visiting team score books. At the time of the protest, the protesting team manager shall pay a \$50 cash protest fee to the officer or director on duty. Under no circumstances shall any manager be allowed to delay the game for more than 3 minutes in making such protest.
4. Protest Resolution
 - a. If the UIC is onsite and can make a ruling, the protest can be resolved by the UIC immediately.
 - b. If the UIC is not available OR the protesting team is not satisfied by the UIC's interpretation, the protesting team manager shall submit to the officer or director on duty or the TBSA President the protest in writing within 24 hours of game completion. Such written protest shall cite the rule(s) involved by number.
5. All protests shall be heard by the TBSA Board of Directors, except that any officer or director who has a direct interest in the outcome of any protest shall be disqualified from participating in the meeting during which same is considered. No fewer than 5 members of the Board of Directors shall be present and voting at the meeting and the majority vote of those members shall be required to decide the protest. Such decision shall be made within 7 days and all decisions will be final.
6. In the event the protest is upheld, the \$50 protest fee shall be refunded.

Article 10: Suspension or termination

1. A team manager/coach may suspend any player for cause resulting from unsportsmanlike and offensive conduct, behavior problems, and failure to attend practices or games, or habitual tardiness to practices or games. The team manager is not obligated to suspend a player unless the player's actions are detrimental either to TBSA or to the player, or both.
2. The team manager/coach may suspend any player for disciplinary reasons for no more than one (1) game without notifying the TBSA President. Suspension may occur prior to or during a game. Whenever a player is suspended during a game, the suspension counts as a suspension for 1 full game.
3. Any suspension of a player for more than **two games** must be approved by the President. The team manager/coach shall notify the President in writing the name of the player being suspended and the reason for the suspension. The manager/coach shall also notify the player's parent or legal guardian of the suspension.
4. In the event disciplinary action arises during a game which makes necessary the suspension of a player who already has been suspended once for cause, the team manager/coach may suspend the player without prior approval of the President if sufficient reason exists for said suspension.
5. In all cases of suspension, the team manager/coach shall notify the TBSA officer or director on duty, the umpires in charge of the game, and the opposing team manager/coach that the manager/coach is suspending a player for cause. Unwarranted suspension of a player may, at the discretion of the TBSA Board of Directors, result in forfeiture of the game for which the suspension applies.
6. A player may be terminated from the team by the manager/coach if the player intends to be or is absent more than 15 days during the season. All players who intend to be absent for more than 15 days should notify the team manager/coach immediately. The team manager/coach shall notify the player's parent or legal guardian and the President if the player is to be terminated. All such terminations shall be subject to approval by the President.
7. A player may be terminated from the team for disciplinary reasons by the Board of Directors after an administrative hearing as provided in Article 11. The team manager/coach shall notify the Board of Directors in writing the name of the player being terminated and the reason for termination. The manager/coach shall also notify the player's parent or legal guardian of the termination.
8. A player may be suspended or terminated without the consent of the team manager/coach by the Board of Directors if, after an administrative hearing as provided in Article 11, it is found that the player's actions are detrimental either to TBSA or to the player, or both.
9. Refund of the terminated player's registration fee shall not be granted unless the President deems such refund appropriate and only after the player has returned to the manager/coach any clothing and equipment belonging to the team. However, in all cases of player termination, no refund shall be made after June 15 of the current season.
10. A team, manager, coach, parent or spectator may be suspended or terminated from the TBSA program by the Board of Directors if, after an administrative hearing as provided in Article 11, it is found that such person's actions are in violation of TBSA rules or administrative policies or detrimental to TBSA.

Article 11: Administrative hearing procedures

1. An administrative hearing shall be held by the TBSA Board of Directors at any such time as the unsportsmanlike conduct or other actions of any team, player, manager, coach, parent or spectator may constitute cause for suspension or termination from the TBSA program.
2. Prior to the hearing, the TBSA President shall gather all pertinent preliminary information from persons who were present at the time of the incident. The President shall notify in writing the persons involved as to the date, time and location of the hearing.
3. No fewer than 5 members of the TBSA Board of Directors shall be present and voting at the hearing.
4. All persons who were notified to be present at the hearing shall be entitled to describe the incident in their own words without dispute from others present. Only the members of the TBSA Board of Directors may question each person, after which they shall go into closed session for discussion and voting.
5. The majority vote of the TBSA Board of Directors voting at the hearing shall be required for the suspension or termination of any person from the TBSA program. Such person shall be notified in writing as to the Board's final decision.

Article 12: Scorekeepers

1. Each home team manager shall provide a scorekeeper who is 16 years of age or older for each game. Scorekeepers shall be located at or next to the scorekeeper's table behind home plate. The league will provide training upon request.
2. The manager shall inform the opposing coach/scorekeepers of intent to use the EH prior to the beginning of the game and shall not be allowed to insert an EH in the lineup after the game has begun or if their hitting the entire line-up.
3. The home team scorekeeper shall be the official scorekeeper and Only keep the official score book for the game. Both home and visiting team scorekeepers shall make appropriate entries in their score book during the game. The visiting team shall operate the electronic scoreboard.
4. The official scorekeeper shall make note of the starting and ending time of each game as instructed by the home umpires working the game. Official timers will be provided by TBSA.
5. Upon completion of the game, the home team scorekeeper shall insure that the official score book is signed by the home umpires working the game.
6. In the event the game is called due to inclement weather or any unforeseen circumstance, the official scorekeeper shall, by instruction of the home umpires, record the time at which the game was called in the official score book.

Article 13: Postponement and rescheduling of games

1. In the event games are postponed due to inclement weather or any other unforeseen circumstances, TBSA shall post a "No Games" notice on the TBSA website or **posted on the bulletin board**. Each team manager/coach **or team designee(s)** shall be responsible for notifying players whether a game has been postponed. The web address for TBSA is www.topekabaseballandsoftball.com.
2. In the event of tornado warning sirens sounding in Shawnee County after 5:00 p.m., all TBSA games for the evening shall be postponed to a future date. See TBSA web site www.topekabaseballandsoftball.com.
3. TBSA shall also maintain a telephone "hot line" and **on the official TBSA website** for the purpose of informing participants about the postponement of games. The telephone number of this "hot line" for **TBSA is 785-851-4164**. The web address for TBSA is: www.topekabaseballandsoftball.com
Shawnee County SNCO: Play/No Play Field Conditions Report
<https://www.quickscores.com/Orgs/ExtraMsg.php?OrgDir=snc&ExtraMsgID=4240>
4. Only the TBSA officer or director on duty shall have the authority to terminate a game due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstance.
5. The rescheduling of regular season games which are postponed shall be subject to the approval of the TBSA Vice President of Baseball Operations. To reschedule a game the coach and/or manager must give 48 hours of notice prior to game time. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game. Both team managers/coaches and/or **team designee(s)** shall be notified 48 hours prior to game time of any rescheduled game. In all tournament games hosted by TBSA, the Tournament Director shall have sole authority to postpone and reschedule such games. (Also see Article 14 on the rescheduling of postponed games.) ***Teams will be given one Re-schedule freebie game; you must also give a 1-week written notice in advance for it to become effective***

Article 14: Bulletin board

1. **Important TBSA information shall be posted throughout the season on the official**

TBSA Website: <https://www.topekabaseballandsoftball.com>

SNCO website "Quick Scores":

<https://www.quickscores.com/Orgs/ExtraMsg.php?OrgDir=snc&ExtraMsgID=3916>

This information shall include the rescheduling of postponed games, age division win-loss standings, tournament brackets and pairings, protest decisions, amendments to TBSA administrative policies or rules, and other special notices. Each coach/manager **or team designee(s)** shall be responsible for knowing the information posted.

Article 15: Tournament competition

1. Any tournament held at TBSA facilities must be approved by the Board of Directors.
2. The selection of extra players for state or district tournament competition shall be made in accordance with TBSA, USSSA official rules. The TBSA President shall inform team managers/coach of their rights and responsibilities under these rules.
3. Entry fees for any tournament hosted by TBSA shall be determined by the tournament chairperson. TBSA teams will be charged entry fee. TBSA teams will not receive a discounted gate fee.

Article 16: Clothing and equipment

1. Each player shall be required to wear the team's shirt and cap during the game, unless there are circumstances he is unable to do so. Players above the Rookie Division are not allowed to wear shorts. Team managers and coaches should also wear the team's shirt and cap. Adults may wear shorts. No player, manager or other team representative is allowed to wear sandals or other open-toed shoe on the playing field or in the dugout.
2. All players are prohibited from wearing on their person during game play the following: metal cleated shoes, jewelry, (exception; a medical alert emblem may be worn) or any other foreign objects which may be hazardous to themselves or others.
3. **Players shall not wear metal-cleated shoes on the artificial pitching mound.**
4. Pitchers are prohibited from wearing sweat bands or other foreign objects on their hand or arm while on the pitching mound.
5. Each player shall furnish a baseball glove for personal use. Team managers are responsible for providing all other equipment, including a complete set of catcher's gear equipped with protective cup and throat protector. Catchers shall be required to wear a complete set of protective gear.
6. There are no restrictions against the use of equipment furnished by team members or sponsor(s) as long as the equipment is safe and not designed to give unfair advantage to the user. EXCEPTION: The use of softball bats is prohibited.
7. Team managers should encourage all players to wear an athletic supporter with protective cup.
8. See Equipment Rule 11.7

Article 17: Trophies and awards

1. TBSA will provide regular season trophies and/or awards to teams and players as determined by league standings. Standings should be calculated in the following way:

- a. Win / Loss Record
- b. Head-to-Head Records
- c. Playoff Game (Only IF trophies are involved)
- d. If it is impossible to schedule a playoff game, a coin toss will be used to determine the final rankings.
EXCEPTION: If a coin toss is used to determine rankings for tournament seeding or tournament berths, an attempt will be made to schedule a playoff game later to determine regular season rankings more decisively.
NOTE: SNCO Quick Scores cannot be setup to match TBSA Standing format.

Goes: Winning Percentage
Head-To-Head
Average Runs Against
Coin Flip

Teams Plan on a Playoff Game if needed for trophy seedings!

2. TBSA Regular Season Awards

- a. If there are 4 or Less teams in an age division, First place team trophies and first place player trophies will be awarded to teams who place first in their age division. second place team trophies and second place player trophies will be awarded to the second-place team. If there are 5 or more teams in an age division, then third place team trophies and third place player trophies will be awarded to the third-place team. In an age division comprised of more than 8 teams, trophies shall be awarded to the number of teams as determined by the Board of Directors.
- b. Players who belong to a team that does not qualify for a regular season trophy shall be awarded a participation medal.

3. Post Season Tournament Awards

- a. If there are 4 or Less teams in an age division, First place team trophies and first place player trophies will be awarded to teams and second place team trophies and second place player trophies will be awarded to the second-place team. If there are 5 or more teams in a bracket, then third place team trophies and third place player trophies will be awarded to the Third-place team.
- b. This rule will be overruled by award guidelines set forth by the governing association which TBSA is hosting the tournament for.

Article 18: Insurance

1. SCPR provides limited insurance coverage for the players, managers and coaches to cover accidental injuries occurring en route to and during games and practices. The policy coverage begins on April 1 and terminates on December 31 of the current year. In providing this coverage, however, TBSA absolves itself from liability for any cause of action arising from the conduct of its baseball/softball program as described in Article 19 of these policies. The insurance coverage is secondary in nature and will not apply to the extent there is other valid and collectible insurance with another insurer providing coverage for the same accidental injury covered by SCPR's policy.
2. The SCPR policy provides for payment of medical expenses resulting from accidental injury subject to specific limitations contained within the policy for each type of treatment. Treatment must be required of each insured within 30 days after the date of the accidental injury, and the claim must be made on a form furnished by the insurance company. Claim forms may be obtained from TBSA.

Article 19: Assumption of risk; no liability to Association

1. Each player, manager, coach, or other participant in the TBSA program assumes all the risks ordinarily arising from such activity and agrees by participating in such program to save and hold harmless TBSA from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, and costs arising from damage or injury, actual or claimed, of whatever kind or character to property or persons allegedly occurring during the conduct of the program.
2. Neither SNCO/ TBSA or its Board of Directors, members or contractors shall be responsible or liable in any manner to players, managers, coaches and other participants from acts resulting in personal injury or property damage whenever such acts may reasonably be expected from conduct of the baseball program. Further, TBSA shall not be responsible or liable for gross, want on, reckless or intentional acts of players, managers, coaches, officers or members of its Board of Directors where such acts hereby are deemed to be outside the scope of the Association's baseball program.
3. Managers and coaches are neither considered agents, servants or employees of SNCO/ TBSA, which has no right to control their day-to-day activities in managing and coaching their respective teams except as defined by these administrative policies, TBSA rules, and the generally accepted rules of baseball.

Article 20: Amendments to administrative policies

1. The TBSA Board of Directors reserves the right to amend these policies at any time during the season. Each team manager/coach, umpire and any other affected persons shall be notified in writing of any amendment to these policies.

TBSA Baseball General Rules

THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES SHALL APPLY SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

Rule 1 – AMENDMENT OF RULES

The TBSA Board of Directors reserves the right to amend these rules and the rules applicable to each age division at any time during the season. Each team manager/coach, umpire and any other affected persons shall be notified in writing of any amendment to the rules.

Rule 2 – GAME PROCEDURES

2.1 Weeknight game starting times will be 6:15 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

2.2 A forfeit shall be awarded to a team by the official game umpire when the opposing team has not arrived after 10 minutes after the official game time. In this case, the Board Member on Duty and the league representative shall be notified as well as the forfeiting team manager or team designee(s). If the forfeiting team feels the forfeit was in error, they can protest the forfeit according to the rules for protest under Article 11.

2.3 Each team is allowed 7 minutes for pre-game infield warm-up. In all 6:15 p.m. games, the visiting team must have completed infield warm-up no later than 10 minutes prior to scheduled game time. In the event a game runs over the time limit, each team of the following game will be allowed 7 minutes for infield warm-up after the field and dugouts have been cleared from the preceding game.

2.4 The first inning of a game shall begin immediately after the umpire calls the first batter to home plate. All succeeding innings shall begin immediately following the third out of the prior inning, or immediately after the maximum allowable runs per inning are scored in Pinto and Mustang age divisions, or after the maximum number of batters per inning in Rookie age division.

2.5 A game shall terminate after the maximum number of innings are played or the maximum time limit elapses, whichever occurs first, or the game is called due to Rule 3, the maximum run rule. EXCEPTION: An inning in progress must be completed regardless of time unless the home team declines its final inning at bat.

2.6 The official timekeeper shall be the umpires working the game.

2.7 A call of "time out" by a player, manager, coach, umpire or other game participant shall not stop the clock after the game has begun. EXCEPTION: The umpire may suspend or add time to the game due to an injury time out or if it appears the game is being delayed intentionally. No manager or coach shall request a time out for delaying the game. Such intentional delay of the game may result in ejection from the game.

2.8 The following minimum innings played or time elapsed shall be an official game in the Pinto and Mustang age divisions: 2 and ½ innings if the home team is ahead in the score, otherwise 3 complete innings, or time has elapsed 1 hour due to inclement weather, whichever occurs first.

2.9 The following minimum innings played or time elapsed shall be an official game in the **Bronco, and Pony** age divisions: 3 and ½ innings if the home team is ahead in the score, otherwise 4 complete innings, or time has elapsed 1 hour and 15 minutes **due to inclement weather, whichever occurs first.**

2.11 **Bunting third strike batter is out unless the ball stays in fair territory.**

Rule 3 – Pitching

3.0 Pitching Limitations – Protecting young pitchers/players arms!

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A

3.1 **Pitch count form must be turned in with scorebook at the end of the game with both coaches to signature on this form for 8u!**

3.2 **A pitching mound visit is 2 per Pitcher. On the third trip to the mound the coach must replace the pitcher. Any Direct communication between pitcher and coach out of the dugout is considered a visit to the mound.**

3.3 Relief Pitcher warmup

New pitcher or relief pitcher may have up to 8 warm-up pitches. Returning pitcher may have up to 5 pitches. For the relief pitcher, coach must be off the field before the 8th pitch is thrown. Penalty - 1st time warning, 2nd, charged mound visit.

Rule 4 - MAXIMUM RUN RULE

4.1 **A game shall be called in the event a team is ahead by 20 or more runs after one complete inning of play.**

4.2 **A game shall be called in the event a team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 3 completed innings of play.**

4.3 **A game shall be called in the event a team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 4 completed innings of play.**

4.3 A game shall be called in the event a team is ahead by 8 or more runs after 5 completed innings of play.

4.5 At the completion of a game, score differences greater than 15 runs will be reduced to a 15-run difference. The adjusted score will become the official score to be posted in the league records and in the newspaper.

Rule 5 – TEAM PROCEDURES

5.1 The minimum number of players available to play at scheduled game time shall be 7 players. If the minimum number of players is not available, that team shall forfeit the game. There shall be one "automatic" out in the event a team has only 7 players available to play in the game. **This out is only recorded in the lineup when the eighth player is gone.** If a team has only 8 players, they shall not be penalized.

5.2 Line up cards; teams must provide their own lineup cards. Each team manager shall provide a complete team roster to the scorekeepers listing the starting lineup in proper batting order no later than 10 minutes prior to game time. All teams shall designate a 9 or 14 player line-up. The roster shall list all substitute players available for the game and any player who is absent and the reason for that absence, if known. In addition, the team has the option, not mandatory of using the EH (extra hitter) Rule, See Rule 7 Extra Hitter (EH) Rule Page 18 or hitting a continuous line-up (USSSA).

5.3 The official scorekeeper shall be the home team scorekeeper. The visiting team shall operate the scoreboard.

5.4 The home team shall occupy the first base dugout.

5.5 Team personnel allowed in the dugout shall include players, manager, coaches, bat boy or bat girl and scorekeeper. Team personnel shall not be allowed to sit in the stands or behind home plate and should always remain in the dugout except when playing defense, coaching a base, running the bases, at bat or on deck to bat, or warming up to pitch.

5.6 Smoking or the use of any other tobacco products by any team personnel in the dugout or on the playing field is prohibited. **Smoking** is also banned at All Shawnee County Facilities.

5.7 Huddling on the playing field shall not be allowed if in the umpire's judgment it is being done to delay the game.

5.8 In all age divisions, except the Rookie age division, the umpire shall issue only 1 warning per team each game for throwing the bat before calling out batters who throw their bat.

5.9 **Catcher or Any Fielder Obstruction** - The catcher or any fielder cannot block access by the runner to a base without possession of the ball. If this rule is violated, the umpire has the right to award the appropriate bases to the runner.

5.10 **Recruitment** - Recruiting players during the current league season and the sanctioned league tournament play will not be allowed until after awards ceremony at the end of the season unless approval is granted to the team coach/manager.

Rule 6 – CRASH RULE

6.1 No player shall use excessive force on offense or defense either by base running, sliding, or tagging a base runner. Violation of this rule shall result in the player being called out and the ball is dead. All other runners shall return to the last base reached before the play. Flagrant acts of excessive force shall result in the player's ejection from the game.

6.2 A team manager's violation of Rule 6.1 must be reported by the opposing team manager to the umpires during the game or to the TBSA officer or director on duty within 24 hours of game completion. The umpires or the officer or director shall notify the TBSA President, who shall decide if the manager violated Rule 6.1. Any such violation shall result in the **AUTOMATIC** forfeiture of the game by that manager's team.

Rule 7 – MANDATORY PLAYING RULE

7.3 If prior to entering the game a player is injured or becomes ill, such player shall not be required to play as provided in Rule 7.1. The team manager shall immediately inform the umpires, opposing team manager, and the scorekeepers of the player's injury or illness. Any player who is injured or becomes ill during the game may be replaced prior to fulfilling the requirements of Rule 7.1. Any such player may re-enter the game in accordance with Rule 9.2 if in the opinion of the manager the player has recovered sufficiently to play.

Rule 8 – EXTRA HITTER (EH) RULE

The EH may be used at the team manager's discretion in Mustang, Bronco, Pony, and Colt age divisions in accordance with the following rules: Please note; the EH can only be an Extra Hitter (EH) for two consecutive games.

8.1 The manager shall inform the opposing coach/scorekeepers of intent to use the EH prior to the beginning of the game and shall not be allowed to insert an EH in the lineup after the game has begun.

8.2 In using the EH, a team shall bat 10 players and shall not revert to a 9-player lineup except for injury or illness, and only if no substitutes are available.

8.3 A manager may play any 9 of the 10 players on defense at any time, subject to Rule 8 (Re-Entering the game) and Rule 6 (Mandatory Playing Rule).

Example; your EH is on the bench (may be placed anywhere in the batting lineup) and he is your number five batter, you want to give him field time as a defensive player, you may pull any player from the field after two innings of defense and they have batted at least one, then you may place your EH player into that position. The player that you pulled from the field still bats in his same spot in the lineup as does your EH player. The only thing you are doing is swapping the defensive player!

8.4 The EH shall not be substituted for and is exempt from Rule 6 (Mandatory Playing Rule).

Rule 9 – SUBSTITUTIONS

9 USSSA allows a Team to use a continuous line-up (Bat everyone).

9.1 The team manager shall advise the scorekeepers of every change in the batting order and defensive positions. Scorekeepers shall note in the **official score book** each half-inning a change is made.

9.2 No player may enter or re-enter the game as a pinch hitter unless he replaces a player who has batted at least 1 time. **A player, after being removed from the game, shall sit out 1 inning before re-entering the game in any batting order provided the player being replaced has played 2 consecutive innings on defense and batted at least 1 time.** Any player entering or reentering the game in violation of this rule shall be called out.

9.3 If the pitcher is removed from the mound but remains in the game, he may return to pitch in the same game subject to maximum number of innings allowed to pitch per game. In the event the pitcher is removed from the game, he shall not pitch again in that game. NOTE: Managers should use caution in bringing back a pitcher to pitch in the same game to avoid damaging his arm.

9.4 In the event the pitcher is injured during game play, the team manager or a coach may, with the umpire's consent, assist the pitcher without being charged a trip to the mound.

9.5 In the event of injury or illness of any player requiring removal from the game and no other substitutes are available, Rule 8.2 shall not apply.

Rule 10 – Courtesy Runner

10.1 A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher, but not the same courtesy runner for both in the same inning. The courtesy runner must be a player not presently in the lineup or a player who made the last out if there is not a substitute available.

Rule 11 – EJECTION RULE

11.1 If a player, manager, coach, parent or spectator is ejected from any game sponsored by TBSA, that person shall immediately leave Dornwood Sports Park for the remainder of that game and for the team's next two (2) scheduled game before being allowed to return to Dornwood Park Sports Complex. Such person shall not communicate further with team personnel or umpires during the remainder of that game or the team's next scheduled game. NOTE: For the purposes of this rule, Topeka Baseball and Softball Association all playing fields and facilities are part of Dornwood Sports Park. Therefore, any person(s) ejected from an TBSA game at Dornwood Sports Park shall not be allowed to remain even within any part of the park.

11.2 The game umpires shall notify the TBSA President of any ejection. The President shall appoint a committee of 3 TBSA officers or directors to review the incident which resulted in the ejection. The committee shall have the authority to: (1) cause a team's forfeiture of the game(s) in which the ejection occurred, and (2) refer the ejection to the President and TBSA Board of Directors for suspension or termination of a participant from the TBSA program under the procedures described in Articles 8 and 9 of the TBSA administrative policies.

11.3 The matter of any person ejected from a second game during the same season shall be automatically referred to the TBSA Board of Directors for an administrative hearing as provided by Article 9 of the TBSA administrative policies.

Rule 12 – EQUIPMENT

12.1 Each batter and base runner shall always be required to wear a batting helmet equipped with proper ear protection while on deck, at home plate, and running the bases. A base runner who intentionally removes his helmet while running the bases shall be called out.

12.2 Each catcher shall be required to wear a face mask equipped with throat guard, helmet equipped with ear protection, chest protector, shin guards, and athletic supporter with protective cup while catching during the game and warming up between innings. Any player who warms up a pitcher on the sideline or behind home plate between innings shall be required to wear a face mask equipped with throat guard and helmet. EXCEPTION: Catchers in the Palomino, Colt and Pony age divisions shall be allowed to wear a skull cap.

12.3 Only official baseballs authorized by the TBSA President may be used. Each team shall furnish one new and one used baseball in good condition for each game.

12.4 No player shall use a softball bat during game play.

12.5 In Pony play no non-wood bats may not exceed minus 5 (-5) in differential between length and weight.

12.6 No player shall wear metal-cleated shoes, jewelry, or any other foreign object on their person who may be hazardous to themselves and others. EXCEPTION: Players in the Pony age divisions shall be allowed to wear metal-cleated shoes except on the artificial pitching mound.

12.7 Bat Regulations—BATS –Youth Baseball. The bat for ages 8, 9,10,11,12, 13, and 14 & Under shall not be more than two and three-fourths inch in diameter at the thickest part. For age 14 the bat shall not be more than two and five eighths inches at the thickest part. The unit differential, namely the difference between the bat length measured in inches and the bat weight measured in ounces, will be no more than minus five (-5). For ages 15,16, 17, 18 and 19 & Under the bat shall not be more than two and five eighths inches at the thickest part. The unit differential, namely the difference between the bat length measured in inches and the bat weight measured in ounces, will be no more than minus three. Also, for ages 15-19 all bats must have the BBCOR stamp on them. For all ages, the bat handle shall not be more than eighteen inches from the end, may be covered or treated with any material to improve the grip. No such material shall improve the reaction or distance factor of the bat. See web site for “Selecting baseball Equipment.”

Rule 12 - TOURNAMENT

12.1 LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS: League tournaments will be player based on team standing.

12.2 Standings: Seed 1 &/or 2 are the division winners. They earn the bye spot in tournament play. The rest of the seeding will be determined in the following order; points, Head to Head, runs allowed, Runs scored, coin flip. The rest of the teams will be treated as being in one division and will use the normal point system.

If there is a tie or a three-way tie, then single elimination games will be played to determine final standings. Three or more tied teams will draw for playoff games or bye.

12.3 In all League Tournaments: TBSA Post Season Tournaments will follow our regular season rules for 8u thru 14u Leagues. Teams may begin with seven (7) players with an automatic out in the 8th position in the batting order. No infield warm-up will be allowed prior to any tournament game.

12.4 Invitational Tournament - To determine Home team will be considered by a coin flip on the infield. A board member or and Umpire will do the coin flip. The umpires do not need to be present for the coin flip between coaches.

12.5 Post Season Tournaments - To determine Home team it will be considered as the higher seed team as Home Team.

12.6 **Recruitment** - Recruiting players during the current league season and the sanctioned league tournament play will not be allowed until after awards ceremony at the end of the season unless approval is granted to the team coach/manager.

12.7 PLAYER PICK-UP FOR OUTSIDE TOURNAMENT: No coach may approach any other team player for tournament purposes unless approval from other teams' coach is granted in writing PRIOR to signing. Consent MUST be signed by both team coaches, the player and parent(s), and then given to the league Representative. Any girl may ask to play with another team for tournament purposes and MUST seek approval from her coach PRIOR to signing a roster. Consent must be signed by the player, parent(s), coach and a copy of the consent must be provided to the League Representative. Consequences for not following the above protocol will result in coach/player suspension from TBSA for the remainder of the season.

Rookie Age Division Rules

IN ADDITION TO THE TBSA GENERAL RULES, AND OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES THE FOLLOWING RULES SHALL APPLY ONLY TO THE ROOKIE AGE DIVISION:

RULE 1 – GENERAL

1.1 Have fun!

1.2 Any player who is 4-6 years or younger on or before May 1 of the current year shall be eligible to play in the Rookie age division.

1.3 A team will consist of 12-14 kids. Each player will play at least two defensive innings and bat once.

1.4 Players will hit off the Tee the first half of the season and then receive Coach pitch the second half of the season.

1.5 Three outs or 4 runs shall constitute a Teams turn at bat!

1.6 Pitching distance shall be 25 feet. Base distance shall be 50 feet.

1.7 No umpires – coaches should make out/safe calls

1.8 Do not keep score

1.7 A game shall be 4 full innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes whichever occurs first.

1.8 Uniform Requirements See Page 12 Article 16

RULE 2 – BATTING

2.1 The batter will have three attempts to hit the ball from the tee to but ball in to fair territory. Swinging and missing the ball is a strike and hitting the ball tee and hitting the ball foul results in a strike (on third swing ball is hit foul batter will receive another chance). If ball is not hit into fair territory within the 3 attempts the batter is out and will return to the dugout.

2.2 All players who are not batting or base running shall remain in the dugout. There shall be NO on-deck circle or area.

2.3 Coach pitch: the coach will pitch two over hand pitches to the batter and the batter must swing and if batter does not hit the ball into fair territory the batter will then receive one swing off the Tee and if the batter swings and misses or hits the tee - The batter is OUT. If the ball goes foul he/she will receive another chance.

2.4 Up to 3 offensive coaches (2 base coaches, 1 coach assisting with the tee) can be on the field at one time.

2.5 Once a player is in the batter's box he/she will not be coached by either the 1st or 3rd base coaches during the game. Only the coach assisting with the Tee can help the batter.

RULE 3 – BASERUNNERS

3.1 If a player gets put out (tagged out, fly ball caught, etc), he/she should return to his/her dugout

3.2 No extra bases are awarded on an over-throw.

3.3 Runners cannot steal or leave a base until the batter hits the ball. Violation of this rule results in the base runner being returned to the base previously occupied.

RULE 4 – FIELDING

- 4.1 Fielders will play normal positions with one additional outfielder. You should not have more than a maximum of 12 fielders on the field at any one time.
- 4.2 During use of the Tee - Pitcher perform pitching motion for the batter!
- 4.3 Only players can make a play on a live ball. Neither an offensive or defensive coach shall make a play on a live ball.
- 4.4 Teams may have one defensive coach on the field.

Pinto Age Division Rules

IN ADDITION TO THE TBSA GENERAL RULES, AND OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES THE FOLLOWING RULES SHALL APPLY ONLY TO THE PINTO AGE DIVISION:

Rule 1. Any player who is 8 years of age or under on or before May 1 of the current year shall be eligible to play in the Pinto age division.

Rule 2. The starting lineup for a game shall consist of 10 players, 4 of whom shall play outfield.

Rule 3. A fair/foul line shall be marked on the field from baseline to baseline in front of home plate on a 10-foot radius from the front of home plate. A pitcher's line shall be marked on the field beside the pitching rubber inside the 10-foot radius circle around the mound.

Pitching Machine

Rule 4. Pitching machine distance shall be 43 feet. Base distance shall be 60 feet.

Rule 5. The front edge of the pitching machine shall be the pitcher's rubber. One eight-foot straight line will be drawn parallel from the pitcher's rubber. The player pitcher must stay behind this line until the ball is hit.

Rule 6. The field umpire will set the pitching machine speed at **38 mph**. The pitching machine speed and elevation will be the same for each team. The Coach from each team will place the ball in the pitching machine and manage the game.

Rule 7. The field umpire will call a maximum of 6 (**SIX**) pitches or three swinging strikes to each batter. If last pitch is a foul ball, then batter gets another pitch. The batter is out on a dropped third strike.

Rule 8. Once a player is in the batter's box he/she will not be coached by either the pitching coach, 1st or 3rd base coaches during the game

Rule 9. When a batted ball hits the pitching machine, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first (1st) base and all runners shall advance one base from time of pitch.

Rule 10. A thrown ball hitting the pitching machine is dead! Runners if not more than half way will return to the base at time of throw.

Rule 11. When a defensive player is attempting a dangerous play near the pitching machine, the umpire may call a dead ball.

Rule 12. If a runner leaves a base before the ball passes home plate, the following rules apply: Time is called, and the runner is Out.

Rule 13. No base runner shall lead off or advance until the ball passes home plate. After the ball passes home plate, the runner may advance at his own risk. No base runner on third shall advance to home unless he is batted home.

Rule 14. The umpire shall stop the game play when a player is in possession of

the baseball and raises his hands on the infield and/or ball is hit directly to the pitcher, at which time the umpire discretion will determine when the play is dead. An umpire should take into consideration that a pitcher who receives the hit ball while in the circle should attempt to make a play on the batter or runner instead of simply holding the baseball in the circle to end the play.

Rule 15. The minimum number of players available to play shall be **Seven players**. If the minimum number of players is not available, then the team shall forfeit the game.

There will be one automatic out if only seven players are available. That out can be recorded at any time. (Example; that out can be recorded for the eighth player)

Rule 16. Run Rule: **Five runs** scored in any half inning shall be the same as **Three outs** and the game will be called when there are not enough innings left in the game for a team to score enough runs to win the game. Three outs or Five runs, whichever occurs first, shall constitute a team's side at bat per inning. No exceptions to this rule.

Rule 17. In the event the score of a completed game is tied, Rule 11 shall not apply. The game shall then be played in accordance with the following International Tie Breaker rule with following changes: start with a runner on 2nd base no outs and will end after one inning with a maximum 5 runs or 3 outs per team.

Note: Games can end in a tie.

Rule 18. A completed game shall be 6 complete innings or **1 hour and 30 minutes** time limit, whichever occurs first. NOTE: An "official" game is defined by Rule 2.7 of TBSA general rules.

Rule 19. Ten players shall be allowed on defense. Each player shall play not less than Two consecutive complete innings on defense and shall bat at least "**one**" time unless the game does not last Four complete innings.

Rule 20. The infield fly rule does not apply.

Rule 21. NO bunting is allowed.

Rule 22. The extra hitter (EH) rule does not apply.

Rule 23. See TBSA General Rules Rule 10 – Equipment 11.7 Bat Regulations

Recommended Bat = drop 12 (-12)

USSSA Rules Reference 9.00

[Official Rules: 1 \(ussabaseball.org\)](http://ussabaseball.org)

Mustang Age Division Rules

IN ADDITION TO THE TBSA GENERAL RULES, AND OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES THE FOLLOWING RULES SHALL APPLY ONLY TO THE MUSTANG AGE DIVISION:

Rule 1. Any player who is 10 years of age or under on or before May 1 of the current year shall be eligible to play in the Mustang age division.

Rule 2. Pitching distance shall be 46 feet. Base distance shall be 65 feet.

Pitching Limitations – Protecting young pitchers/players arms!

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A

A team manager's/coach failure to comply with this rule shall result in a warning for first time offense and the second time an automatic forfeiture of the game by that manager's/coach team.

Rule 3. A completed game shall be 6 complete innings or 1 hour and 45-minute time limit, whichever occurs first. NOTE: An "official" game is defined by Rule 2.8 of TBSA general rules.

Rule 4. 3 outs or 7 runs, whichever occurs first, shall constitute a team's side at bat per inning. **No exception to this rule.**

Rule 5. In the event the score of a completed game is tied, Rule 11 shall not apply. The game shall then be played in accordance with the following International Tie Breaker rule with following changes: start with a runner on 2nd base no outs and will end after one inning with a maximum 7 runs or 3 outs per team. Note: Games can end in a tie.

Rule 6. The umpire shall allow 1 balk warning per pitcher in a game before calling a balk. **This includes regular and tournament play.**

Rule 7. See TBSA General Rules Rule 10 – Equipment 11.7 Bat Regulations.

Recommended Bat = drop 12 (-10)

Bronco Age Division Rules

IN ADDITION TO THE TBSA GENERAL RULES, AND OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES THE FOLLOWING RULES SHALL APPLY ONLY TO THE BRONCO AGE DIVISION:

Rule 1. Any player who is 13 years of age and under on or before May 1 of the current year shall be eligible to play in the Bronco age division.

Rule 2. Pitching distance shall be 50 feet and 6 inches. Base distance shall be 70 feet.

Pitching Limitations – Protecting young pitchers/players arms!

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
11-13	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A

A team manager's/coach failure to comply with this rule shall result in a warning for first time offense and the second time an automatic forfeiture of the game by that manager's/coach team.

Rule 3. A completed game shall be **6 complete innings or 1 hour 45-minute time limit**, whichever occurs first. NOTE: An "official" game is defined by Rule 2.9 of TBSA general rules.

Rule 4. In the event the score of a completed game is tied, Rule 11 shall not apply. The game shall then be played in accordance with the following International Tie Breaker rule with following changes: start with a runner on 2nd base no outs and will end after one complete inning. Note: Games can end in a tie.

Rule 4. The umpire shall allow 1 balk warning per pitcher in a game before calling a balk.

Rule 5 See TBSA General Rules Rule 10 – Equipment 11.7 Bat Regulations.

Recommended Bat = drop 8 (-8)

Pony Age Division Rules

IN ADDITION TO THE TBSA GENERAL RULES, KSHSAA HIGH SCHOOL RULES, AND OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES THE FOLLOWING RULES SHALL APPLY ONLY TO THE PONY AGE DIVISION:

Rule 1. Any player who is 15 years of age or under on or before May 1 of the current year shall be eligible to play in the Pony age division.

Rule 2. Pitching distance shall be 60 feet 6 inches. Base distance shall be 90 feet.

NOTE: For USSSA State tournament competition, pitching distance shall be 60 feet 6 inches; base distance shall be 90 feet.

Rule 3. No Metal Cleats to be used on the Artificial Pitching Mound

Rule 4. A completed game shall be 7 complete innings or 1 Hour 45 min. time limit, whichever occurs first. NOTE: An "official" game is defined by Rule 2.9 of TBSA general rules.

Rule 5. In the event the score of a completed game is tied, Rule 11 shall not apply. The game shall then be played in accordance with the following International Tie Breaker rule with following changes: start with a runner on 2nd base no outs and will end after one complete inning. Note: Games can end in a tie.

Pitching Limitations – Protecting young pitchers/players arms!

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
14-15	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A

A team manager's/coach failure to comply with this rule shall result in a warning for first time offense and the second time an automatic forfeiture of the game by that manager's/coach team.

Rule 6. See TBSA General Rules Rule 10 – Equipment 11.7 Bat Regulations.

TBSA will use the following bat regulations in the Pony Division

For age 14 the bat shall not be more than two and five eighths inches at the thickest part. The unit differential, namely the difference between the bat length measured in inches and the bat weight measured in ounces, will be no more than minus five (-5).

Recommended Bat = drop 5 (-5)

Colt Age Division Rules

IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES AND KSHSAA HIGH SCHOOL RULES PLUS THE TBSA GENERAL RULES - THE FOLLOWING RULES SHALL APPLY ONLY TO THE COLT AGE DIVISION.:

Rule 1. Any player who is 18 years of age or under on or before May 1 of the current year shall be eligible to play in the Colt age division.

Rule 2. Pitching distance shall be 60 feet and 6 inches. Base distance shall be 90 feet.

Pitching Limitations – Protecting young pitchers/players arms!

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
16-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A

Rule 3. A completed game shall be 7 complete innings or a 2 hour time limit, whichever occurs first and NO new inning will start after 1 Hour 50 min. time has lapsed. NOTE: An "official" game is defined by Rule 2.9 of TBSA general rules.

Rule 4. In the event the score of a completed game is tied, Rule 11 shall not apply. The game shall then be played in accordance with the following International Tie Breaker rule with following changes: start with a runner on 2nd base no outs and will end after one complete inning. Note: Games can end in a tie.

Rule 5. Non wood bats will not exceed -3 differential.

Rule 6. See TBSA General Rules Rule 10 – Equipment 12.7 Bat Regulations. TBSA will use the following bat regulations in Colt for ages 15,16 the bat shall not be more than two and five eighths inches at the thickest part. The unit differential, namely the difference between the bat length measured in inches and the bat weight measured in ounces, will be no more than minus three (-3). Also, for ages 15-16 all bats must have the BBCOR stamp on them. For all ages, the bat handle shall not be more than eighteen inches from the end, may be covered or treated with any material to improve the grip. No such material shall improve the reaction or distance factor of the bat. See web site for “Selecting baseball Equipment.”

Legal Bat = drop 3 (-3)

SCPR Insurance Information

Excess Coverage Only: SCPR's Insurance policy pays medical bills as a secondary coverage policy, not as a primary policy. The policy pays medical bills on and above what a primary policy does not pay for, subject to exclusions and limitations in the policy.

Limits: Refer to the certificate of insurance.

Policy in Force: Refer to the certificate of insurance.

Claims: The team manager must have knowledge of the accident. Notice of injury must be given to the TBSA President or Insurance Representative within 30 days of the accident. If the accident involves a player, the parent or legal guardian is responsible for submitting the claim form online. Claim forms can be found via the TBSA website and clicking the "Links" button.

Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Sports Emphasis 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Shawnee County Parks & Recreation is to provide quality parks, golf courses and recreational facilities and opportunities to meet the recreational needs and interests of rural and urban residents throughout Shawnee County. Shawnee County Parks & Recreation does not discriminate against any person based on race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap in the operation of any programs, activity, or facility.

SPORTSMANSHIP EMPHASIS

A few years ago, Shawnee County Parks & Recreation Athletics revised and updated their existing Youth Sports Guidelines to address many issues facing the sports environment today. We began to stress a safe and quality sports environment for everyone involved by screening and credentialing volunteers, coaches and officials. In 2013, we will continue to improve by having professional staff, invite parents to meetings, encourage feedback from participants and anyone participating in any venue will be held accountable and respect the sports environment. SCPR will put forth our best effort to make programs and facilities safe and enjoyable. We are proud to cooperate with local organizations and offer the public a positive sports environment meeting our mission. Serving the public in a viable manner promotes the development and growth of quality sports especially for youth. Our goal is for everyone to understand that disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Help us educate and create the ideal sports environment for everyone. Each coach is responsible to get information and forms to participants, parents, fans and other interested parties. When registering as an individual or team in any of our sports leagues, clinics or visit our facilities and parklands you should respect the game, opponents, officials, facilities and fans. SCPR will not tolerate excuses for lack of rule or code knowledge. By your individual or team participation you agree to abide by County Code and all rules contained herein.

TOPEKA PREMIER UMPIRE ASSOCIATION

Shawnee County Parks & Recreation contracts officials/umpires through the local organization known as Topeka Premier Umpire Association. They are required to be certified, attend trainings and workshops for each sport annually, and respect the game as well as participants and facilities. We work diligently with the officials to create a positive sports environment no matter what the sport or location in which it is played. The officials of all sports are evaluated and held accountable for their actions on and off the court. Unsportsmanlike behavior or contact by officials will not be tolerated and they will be held to the same expectations as players.

FLAGRANT & UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Any foul or abusive language, gestures, fighting, or disruptive behavior directed at or performed by a participant, opponent, official/umpire, scorekeeper, spectator, facility, and/or SCPR staff may result in the immediate ejection and/or suspension of the person(s) in question. This will include not abiding by guidelines or County Code set forth. Continued behavior will result in the game being forfeited. The official's decision in this matter is not protest able. Managers/coaches and parents are reminded that they are responsible to control their players' and spectators' actions, before, during and after participation in any SCPR sponsored program on or off County property.

Any person ejected from a game shall leave the FACILITY immediately (90 seconds), NO SIGHT/NO SOUND, failure to do so will result in the game being forfeited by the offending team. Any ejected person is suspended from all SCPR activities and facilities for a minimum of two (2) additional games/matches. A second ejection in any sport within a year results in a one (1) year suspension and the team will be placed on probation for the same amount of time.

Only DESIGNATED captains, coaches, managers may address officials or staff in a respectable manner prior, during, or after the game [each team shall have only two (2) designated per game]. Anyone else will be ignored once the game begins. This includes any rule interpretations, game calls or actions, special requests and/or questions. SCPR staff may eject offending parties as well. Unsportsmanlike conduct may include tactics employed or designed to delay or make a mockery of any game or team. In any case the person involved, and the coach/manager face possible ejection/probation.

SUSPENSION

Any person, players or team ejected from a game shall leave the FACILITY immediately (90 seconds), NO SIGHT/NO SOUND, failure to do so will result in the game being forfeited by the offending team. Any ejected person is suspended from all SCPR activities and facilities for a minimum of two (2) full games/matches. A second ejection in any sport within a calendar year results in a one (1) year suspension and the team will be placed on probation for the same amount of time.

Minors shall be escorted by their parent/guardian who are responsible for their actions and safety. Failure to leave may result in the player(s) or team being suspended from further participation and charges being filed with the authorities. Individual league rules further dictate penalties.

PROBATION

Any person, players, or team ejected from a game for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct will be immediately placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Each individual and/or guardian or parents will be notified within 48 hours of the pending result via written and verbal communication. Shawnee County Parks and Recreation reserves the right to remove any individual or team from the league for such conduct or use other disciplinary action as deemed necessary. Any future problem caused by a player or team on probation will result in that player or team's status being reviewed as to further participation in league play. REFUNDS WILL NOT BE ISSUED FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.

PARTICIPANT CONTACT

If it is determined that any participant/coach is deliberate in their actions such as inflicting harm, threatening words or action, striking or hitting someone (even if the opponent initiates), deterring any official or SCPR staff from their assigned duties or any actions deemed inappropriate will result in an immediate ejection and one-year suspension from SCPR programs and facilities.

PARTICIPANT RIGHTS

A player has the right to file a protest within 24 hours with the athletic office. Those choosing to do so shall stop by the athletic office and fill out the proper paperwork. Once the protest is complete and submitted to the athletic staff a hearing will be scheduled within 10 business days. The athletic supervisor will appoint a three (3) member board who will hear all issues at hand and determine the outcome. Once the decision has been made, the player and coach/manager will both be notified. During this time, the player remains expelled from programs and facilities.

A lifetime suspended player/team may apply for reinstatement in the same matter as stated above. After a hearing is completed and if the board decides that the player/team is reinstated then it will occur at the start of the next season, but the player/team will remain on lifetime probation. Any further disciplinary action will result in the immediate revocation of eligibility and implementation of the lifetime suspension. No two (2) members suspended from the same team and on probation may play on the same team once reinstated to SCPR programs and facilities.

PROTEST

A protest must be handled in the following manner or they will not be accepted:

☞ The team making the protest must notify the official/umpire, scorekeeper and opposing manager at the time of the protestable call. Each of these persons must sign the official scorebook at this time.

☞ Within 24 hours a \$25.00 protest fee must be presented to the SCPR Athletic office with a written account of the protestable call. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned, and the game replayed from the point of the protest if possible.

☞ Note: For Friday games, the deadline for filing is 1:00 P.M. of the Monday following the protest. If the protest is denied, the \$25.00 will be retained and the game becomes official.

☞ SITE SUPERVISORS, SCOREKEEPERS, OFFICIALS/UMPIRES OR CONCESSION WORKERS WILL NOT ACCEPT PROTEST FEES.

APPEALS (Refer to the current Rule Book of each respective sport).

OTHER DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES AND DEFINITIONS

League Suspension- a player/team is suspended from further participation for remainder of the scheduled league play in that sport season.

Lifetime Suspension- a person/player/team is suspended from participation in all county leagues or sponsored leagues for a period of not less than two (2) years from the conclusion of their suspension. After the two (2) year period, they may

apply for reinstatement. A letter must be filed with the Athletic Supervisor requesting their status be evaluated. The Athletic Supervisor will appoint a three (3) member Reinstatement Board to review the request and vote on reinstatement. If an individual is reinstated to participate, he/she will remain on lifetime probation and any further problems with that individual will result in the immediate revocation of eligibility and the implementation of the lifetime suspension penalty. No two (2) members from a team that was issued a lifetime suspension will be permitted to play on the same team once reinstated to county leagues.

BLOOD RULE

If at any time an official/umpire ceases play because of blood on the uniform, body, or facility, the person involved should seek immediate attention. The area should be clean prior to resuming play by staff and/or officials. Once the bleeding stops or a change of uniform is provided the participant may resume play. There is no penalty for alternate colored uniform or lack of a number in this case. It is the official's discretion if the game is delayed asking the player to leave the game and provide any substitute. Regular re-entry may occur, and a team may play short-handed if necessary in the short term. We recommend coaches carry a first aid kit.

SPORT SPECIFIC CONDUCT - The following Sport Specific Conduct policies will be in effect January 2013.

BASKETBALL

KSHSAA technical foul rules apply. Any TECHNICAL foul will result in two free throws for the opposing team plus possession of the ball.

The following are team technical fouls and not considered individual technical fouls (do count as total fouls):

- 1) Uniform violations
- 2) Scorebook violations
- 3) Crowd conduct

Any player who receives ONE (1) UNSPORTSMANLIKE technical foul will be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of TWO (2) additional games from all SCPR activities or facilities. Any player receiving TWO (2) UNSPORTSMANLIKE technical fouls which results in TWO (2) ejections during the season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The player and team will be on probation for a full year from the date of the most recent incident and any ejection will result in expulsion from SCPR programs and facilities

SOFTBALL/BASEBALL

Any player who receives ONE (1) UNSPORTSMANLIKE violation will be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of two (2) additional games from all SCPR activities or facilities. Any player receiving TWO (2) ejections during the season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The player and team will be on probation for a full year from the date of the most recent incident and any ejection will result in expulsion from SCPR programs and facilities. Unsportsmanlike behavior may include hitting the ball back up the middle, throwing at an opponent's body or head, or tactics employed noticeably designed to delay or make a mockery of the game or team or inflict harm. In any case the person involved, and the coach/manager face possible ejection/probation.

VOLLEYBALL

Any player who receives TWO (2) UNSPORTSMANLIKE violations will be ejected from the match and suspended for a minimum of two (2) additional matches from all SCPR activities or facilities. Any player receiving two (2) ejections during the season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The player and team will be on probation for a full year from the date of the most recent incident and any ejection will result in expulsion from SCPR programs and facilities.

FLAG FOOTBALL

Any player who receives TWO (2) UNSPORTSMANLIKE penalties will be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of TWO (2) additional games from all SCPR activities or facilities. Any player ejected in more than one game during the season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The player and team will be on probation for a full year from the date of the most recent incident and any ejection will result in expulsion from SCPR programs and facilities.

HOCKEY

Any player who receives TWO (2) GAME MISCONDUCT penalties will be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of TWO (2) additional games from all SCPR activities or facilities. Any player ejected in more than one game

during the season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The player and team will be on probation for a full year from the date of the most recent incident and any ejection will result in expulsion from SCPR programs and facilities.

SOCCER

Any player who receives ONE (1) RED CARD or TWO (2) YELLOW CARD penalties will be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of TWO (2) additional games from all SCPR activities or facilities. Any player ejected in more than one game during the season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The player and team will be on probation for a full year from the date of the most recent incident and any ejection will result in expulsion from SCPR programs and facilities.

YOUTH SPORTS/ RENTALS/USER GROUPS

This includes SCPR leagues, rentals, or associations and organizations utilizing County property. Examples include but are not limited to: SCABA/SCGSA/HPB/DSA/PAL/middle or high school games/weekend tournaments/senior leagues.

Coaches, parents and fans are held to the above standards. Any player, coach, parent or fan receiving TWO (2) ejections during the season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. In addition, the player, coach, parent or fan AND team will be on probation for a year. Any ejection during this period will result in an expulsion for a year from programs and facilities.

COMMUNITY CENTERS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES

The locations in which we offer sports and programs including parkland do have further guidelines/policies in place that will be considered should issues arise. Any party renting our facilities will be made aware of SCPR discipline procedures as well. Anyone ejected during a weekend tourney will be subject to the above suspensions during league play as well as tournament play. **The above rules will apply to those rentals/user groups that facilitate any such sport or activity at SCPR facilities. The point of contact shall inform the person involved and SCPR of violations within 24 hours. Failure to do so may result in suspension of rentals.**

GENERAL CONCLUSION

Additional rules or penalties may apply to everyone or team pertaining to the sport in which they are participating. Some rules and penalties carry over from one sport to another including facilities. Individual circumstances may be evaluated separately.

Violating conduct or rules may warrant further action by Shawnee County. All questions and comments should be directed to SCPR Athletics at prathletics@snco.us, 785-286-3358 or 785-368-3808. We will assist and direct those in question to the appropriate rules, individual or board, policy, or County resolution.

No refunds or credits are issued to a team or player for any unsportsmanlike behavior. A team with two player ejections in the same season will forfeit eligibility for post season certificates.