

**GRAND PRAIRIE BOYS BASEBALL, INC.
GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS**



**GRAND PRAIRIE BOYS BASEBALL, INC.
PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS
CITY LEAGUE
Fall RULES
As Adopted Fall 2021**

1. Purpose of the Fall League

The purpose of the Fall League is to provide live game experience for the kids to learn as most will be moving up to a new size field in the fall of each year. This is organized scrimmages with all ages except T-Ball having umpires.

2. PLAYER UNIFORMS

A. All teams will provide their own uniforms with the exception of the Middle School ages which will wear the school logo on their shirts. The league will coordinate getting those items to the Middle School League teams.

3. PLAYING RULES

A. Other than the exceptions and variations stated in sections B below, the official playing rules for the Grand Prairie Boys Baseball, Inc., (GPBBI), shall be the "Official Major League Baseball Rules", published on www.MLB.com and United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Current Official Baseball National By-Laws.

B. Any exceptions and variations specifically identified in the "GPBBI Playing Rules and Regulations" for the applicable playing season shall override section A. as stated above.
EXCEPTION: All bats for all ages are required to have the USSSA logo or USA Baseball Logo on all bats from the manufacturer.
PENALTY: As spelled out in the USSSA rules.

4. LEAGUES

A. T-Ball League (Age 4U, 5u & 6U)
Coach Pitch League (Age Pure 7U & 8U)
Player Pitch League (Age Pure 9U, 10U)
Middle School League (Ages 11U, 12U, 13U & 14U)

Note: Players will be allowed to play up one year above age. (Example: a 6 year old can play on a coach pitch team.) Playing age will be the age will be determined by the age the player will be is as of April 30th of that year. The teams playing age will be determined by the oldest player on that team.

B. Ages 4U-8U are allowed only four (4) approved coaches inside fence of playing field
Ages 9U-14U are allowed only three (3) approved coaches inside fence of playing field.

C. Ages 4u, 5u, and 6u are allowed 1 approved coach in the outfield.

4. OUTRIGHT RELEASE OF PLAYERS

A. A manager/coach in the GPBBI may not release a player from a team for any reason without the approval of the Board of Directors by a majority vote at a regular or special meeting. The manager/ coach request must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing through their League Representative.

B. That Leagues Representative, so as to find out reason for departure will contact all players that depart from any team after assignment. Findings will be reported to the Board of Directors. Any manager/coach found guilty by the Board of Directors of running off a player from any team will be suspended from GPBBI for 2 years minimum.

5. PARENT/PLAYER RULE

A. A player may be transferred to a team in which the parent/ legal guardian is the head manager/coach. If such coach does not have a child participating in the league, he/she may protect a player, (free agent), providing he/she has parent permission and Board of Director approval. Being an assistant coach will not be sufficient to warrant a player transfer.

B. In cases where parents have joint custody of a child (player), the parent who has the primary custodial responsibilities will be the parent who determines where (if protected) the child will play.

6. TEAM ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYERS

A. Players will be assigned to the teams by League Representatives according to school cluster or nearest school cluster border for those players residing in other cities, but within GPBBI boundaries.

B. Coaches are allowed to bring an entire team or a majority and the remainder will be filled from the pool of players remaining on unassigned teams.

D. Head Coaches must protect their child onto their team

E. ALL protected player applications, player registration forms, sponsorship form; birth certificates must have all parental and appropriate signatures and be turned in by the last day of player registration by the Head Coach only. All fees are due by the last day of player registration. NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE WILL BE ALLOWED.

F. If a player signs protected player forms with two coaches, the player will go back into the supplemental pool to be assigned by the league representatives by school cluster.

G. No recruiting of players will be allowed after registration is completed until after the completion of the season. This will be considered unsportsmanlike action for the offending coach and that coach will be penalized losing two protected players the following season. This is to follow the coach or the child of the coach.

H. No League Representative will be allowed to head coach a team in the league they are presiding over. This can only be overridden by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

I. During the season, a free agent may be added to a team's roster at any time by blind draw. League Representative will conduct a blind draw with teams affected by roster shortages.

7. ILLEGAL PLAYERS

An illegal player is:

- A. A player who has been placed on a roster without being legally assigned or drafted in Accordance with the GPBBI Rule and Regulations.
- B. A player whose name does not appear on the team roster or who does not have a contract on file with the GPBBI Secretary and/or League Representative of each team.

8. CONTRACTS AND ROSTERS

- A. Each player playing in GPBBI must have a contract signed by his/her parent/legal guardian. Online Registration will constitute said contract.
- B. All team head manager/coach required have a team book with copy of birth Certificates.

9. 6U, 7U, & 8U SPECIFIC RULES

- A. Infield fly rule is not in effect for 6U, 7U & 8U.
- B. Games will be 6 innings (or 1 hour 20 minutes) in length for 6U, 7U & 8U (NO inning shall start after 1 hour 15 minutes).
- C. Tight bases will be in effect. Runners leaving the base before the ball is hit will be called out.
- D. There will be 10 players on defense and each team will bat the entire line up. A team may play with only 9 players, but must play 10 if 10 players are available. Teams play with 9 players or less must field all normal baseball positions, which means they must field all infield position and place the remainder 2 or 3 players in the outfield positions. A team must field a minimum of 8 registered roster players to play an official game. If a team plays with 8 roster players the 9th batting position will be called out automatically each time that position is reached.
- F. 6U, 7U & 8U - Catcher must wear full catching gear and be positioned behind batters box. 4U, 5U catchers will wear helmet with mask/face guard and stand in area designated by umpire.
- G. Swings, Balls and Strikes:
 - 1. Batter will be out after failing to hit a fair ball after:
 - a. 6U T-Ball = 3 attempts only off T. This age group will be an instructional league only. 1 coach from each team will act as an umpire. Each team will bat their lineup and then teams will switch sides.
 - c. 7U & 8U = 6 pitches or 3 swinging strikes.
 - 2. Player Pitcher must:
 - a. 6U T-Ball - stay in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
 - b. 7U & 8U - stay directly to one side and not in front of the coach pitcher.

Penalty: If after one warning has been given, the pitcher continues to move from the front of and not to the side of the coach pitcher (6U & thru 8U) before the ball is hit. That pitcher will be moved to another position at the umpires' request.

H. Umpires shall call "Time" after every play and declare the ball dead. "Time" shall be called as soon as the lead runners are not attempting to advance and the ball is in the infield. "Time" does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule.

Rule 8.20 Comment: When a runner stands off a base and "jukes" or "feints" back and forth, this is to be interpreted as "not attempting to advance" and "Time" shall be called.

I. The ball must travel beyond the grass cut-out from home plate to be a fair ball, this to apply to 4U, 5U, 6U, 7U & 8U

J. Batting tee will be placed on top of home-plate, and moved away from home plate by an offensive coach; any runner then touching the tee instead of home-plate, and not making any attempt to touch home-plate, will be called out. NOTE: If batting-tee is left on home-plate after ball has been hit, it will be judged that the runner touched home-plate if runner touches tee.

K. Infielders must be at least 42 feet from home-plate; an outfielder must be at least 15 feet from baseline when ball is hit.

L. Any runner that fails to touch a base will be out when the ball is called dead. This is not an appeal play; this is a judgment call by the umpire(s) if seen.

M. In 6U the ball cannot be rolled to any base for an out. The ball must be thrown. Defensive players cannot "Out Run" the runner to a base unless that player is the "owner" of the base (1st Baseman can run to tag first base, 2nd or Shortstop can run to tag 2nd base, 3rd baseman can run to tag third base). The Pitcher is not allowed to receive a ball and then proceed to run and tag the runner or 1st base for an out. The Pitcher is not allowed to receive a ball and then proceed to run and tag the runner or Home Plate for an out. If this occurs, the runner will be allowed to score and play resumes with no out being called. If the Pitcher has to take more than 5 steps towards the runner or base, the Pitcher MUST throw the ball to the said base/plate. Penalty: Runner will not be called out and after warning pitcher will be removed from the mound.

N. Coach Pitcher (6U, 7U & 8U) must remain quiet while ball has been released and is in play. The pitching coach is not allowed to coach in any capacity while his/her team is in offense. This includes but is not limited to coaching the batter and/or base runners. The pitching coach may not relay information through another coach that is deemed "coaching". When the ball is put in play the pitching coach must make every effort to stay out of the way and not interfere with defensive play on the field in any way. The pitching coach needs to get off the infield if the ball is hit into the outfield. He/she may go behind home plate to get the bat out of the way of the catcher and runners. A pitching coach that is not following these guidelines, should first be issued a warning by the umpire. If it continues then the umpire is to order the pitching coach to be removed from the mound for the remainder of the game, and an alternate coach must assume the pitching duties. If the problem persists in future games the pitching coach may be banned from pitching in future games by the Board.

O. 7U & 8U pitching distance is 42 feet from back of home plate.

P. Tee ball bats are not to be used in coach pitch games. Tee ball bats are not designed to be used to hit a pitched ball.

10. PROTEST PROCEDURE

A. There will be NO protests during the fall season.

11. 9U THRU 14U SPECIFIC RULES

A. Games will be 6 innings (or 1 hour 30 minutes) in length for 9U thru 12U (NO inning shall start after 1 hour 25 minutes).

Games will be 6 innings (or 1 hour 40 minutes) in length for 13U & 14U (NO inning shall start after 1 hour 35 minutes).

12. FIELD RULES

A. Any game scheduled immediately after an earlier game will start 15 minutes after the first game is completed or at scheduled game time, whichever is later. Forfeit time shall be fifteen minutes after a game's start time.

B. If a game is tied at end of the time limit and a full inning completed, it will count as one-half game won and one-half game lost in the standings.

C. Five or Six innings (age dependent) will constitute a complete ball game unless the time limit has expired first. If a game is called for any other reason (other than time) if the home team is ahead after 3 ½ innings or the visiting team is ahead after 4 innings, the game will not be replayed and considered a complete game. Any incomplete game suspended because of weather or any other calamities will be replayed from the start of the game.

D. The 10 - Run rule will be in effect if a team is leading its opponent by at least 10 runs after four or more innings have been played or after three and one half innings if the home team is leading. If for any reason a team is behind by 10 runs and/or enough runs that it is impossible to catch up, the game will be called.

E. All managers/coaches must give the opposing team their line-ups before the games scheduled starting time.

F. The official scorekeeper keeping an official score book will be furnish by home team and will be referenced by the umpires to settling any questions regard official line ups, batting out of order, etc. as maybe needed to assist the umpires in properly making calls on items that maybe in question during the game. The visiting team will furnish 16 or older person to operate score board. The official scorekeeper and score board operator will be positioned behind home-plate. Each coach and umpire shall sign the score card at the end of the game and will be bound to the record of the game so recorded.

G. The next inning starts the instant the third out is made or when the final run has scored when the run limit ends the inning. The umpires has the official clock and is the only persons responsible for determining if the game time has expired.

H. City officials or the officer of the day may postpone games because of weather conditions or other calamities. Games may also be postponed for any other reason, providing just cause as determined by the Board of Directors. Coaches needing to postpone a game must notify their Vice President 72 hours prior to the start of the game before it will be considered for postponement (Sunday is not computed as part of the 72 hours). Any game postponed shall be rescheduled at the earliest date possible. Both managers and coaches will be given notice of the rescheduled game. Starting and stopping games at the fields will be the responsibility of the officer of the day. In cases of danger, such as lightning, the order will be immediate and for all fields in that park under GPBBI control. Decisions of field conditions will be determined on an individual playing field basis.

I. All teams are required to wear a uniform. Players must appear in full uniform of their respective team at all scheduled games. Anyone out of uniform will not be permitted to participate in any league games. When a player is missing either a ball cap, shirt with a number, shirt tail out, etc.... he/she is

considered “out of uniform”. Coaches or team moms are not required to be in uniform during games; however, all coaches must be in appropriate dress as determined by the Board of Directors. It is highly recommended that all participants wear a protected cup.

J. All pitching and substitution changes must be reported by the manager or coach, and then only between innings and/or during an official time out. This shall be done from the playing field behind home plate to the umpire. Failure to do so will result in ejection of head coach.

K. Loose bases in effect for ages 10U and up.

M. Maximum Runs:

1. All ages - Maximum runs a team may score in one inning is 5 with only one exception, if the batter hits a home run over the fence then all runs count.

N. A team must have 8 eligible uniformed players in order to start a game. A team shall be allowed to complete a game in the case where sickness, injury, or ejection of a player or players causes a team to have less than 9 players. Teams playing with fewer than 9 players an out shall be registered each time any vacant position in the batting order comes up during the course of the game.

O. Softball bats are not allowed to be used in any level of baseball play. Softball bats are not designed to be used to hit a baseball and shall be removed from the field of play when noticed by the umpire pointed out by any coach.

P. Home team is responsible for putting the base in the stanchions prior to the beginning of the game. Umpires will return the bases after the final game of the day on that field.

13. PITCHING RULES

1. League pitching rules:

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

2. – A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

– Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

3. Failure to report a pitching change will be ejection of the head coach.

3. Violation of rule will be automatic forfeiture of the game and the manager will be ineligible to coach the next game played.

14. PARTICIPATION IN GAMES

A. (6U, 7U, 8U, 10U, 12U, & 14U - All players must play at least two consecutive and complete innings in each game consisting of four complete innings or more, unless an injury occurs to that player. Failure to comply with this rule will constitute forfeiture of the game. All bench substitutions will be made at the top of the 3rd inning. Substitutions can be made again at the top of the 5th inning; all substitutions shall be done from the playing field from behind home- plate to the umpire.

B. In the event a coach has good reason to suspend a player from playing in specific game, he/she must submit a list of suspended players to the umpire along with his/her entire roster of players present, prior to the commencement of the game. Suspensions shall be invoked for disciplinary reasons and/or missing two consecutive practices prior to the game. Violations will constitute grounds for protest by the opposing team or the League Representative.

C. When a coach makes pitching substitutions but doesn't report them to the umpire the coach shall be ejected from the game.

D. The offending team shall forfeit when a coach doesn't make substitutions.

E. In all ages and all teams are required to bat the entire roster, No Exceptions.

15. MANAGER /UMPIRE RELATIONS

A. No manager/coach will be permitted to run at an umpire or shout in a loud tone of voice. If a manager/coach does not understand the umpire's decision, he may first ask for time, when the umpire grants time he/she may then walk normally to the umpire and ask any rules questions in a quiet and dignified manner.

B. After a time out is called; the umpire must explain a ruling to the manager/coach. If the manager/coach continue to be loud and/or causing a delay of game, the umpire after warning the coach will then remove the manager/coach from the game for un-sportsman like conduct. At the conclusion of the game played, the umpire will fill out an Ejection Report and turn it into the Officer of the Night. Each such removal will result in an additional game suspension and the Board of Directors will review such removal and the coach can be subject to further suspension.

C. No explanation is required for a judgment call by the umpire to the manager/coach, This includes, but is not limited to, balls, strikes, outs, safe calls, fouls, and fair ball calls. Protest cannot be filed on judgment calls.

D. Either the manager or his assistant (but not both) will be allowed on the field to contest the umpire's call or to ask for explanation.

E. Please remember the purpose of organized baseball and let your actions on and off the field be an example for your team and its parents.

F. One warning will be given to the manager/coach before removal, except in extreme cases.

G. Umpires shall collect coaches and team mom badges at the plate meeting and will be returned to the head coach when he has signed the game card.

16. GENERAL RULES

A. Manager/coaches are to be responsible for the conduct of parents of his team members. Umpires shall have authority to remove the child of such parents from a game. Furthermore, unsportsmanlike conduct shall carry a penalty of possible season suspension of a child or coach from GPBBI.

B. After being given a team warning, the umpires have the authority and are specifically requested to remove any player exhibiting UN-sportsman like conduct from the game. A reason for removal includes the throwing of an object such as a helmet, hat, glove or bat; fighting, the use of profane language, and intentional obstruction of play shall be grounds for removal. If an offender is ejected from a game for un-sportsman like conduct, that offender will also be suspended from the next game played. At the conclusion of the game played, the umpire will fill out an Ejection Report and turn it into the Officer of the Night. Each such removal will result in an additional game suspension and the Board of Directors will review such removal and the offender can be subject to further suspension.

C. Any person caught inflicting damage upon the field or property of the park is subject to dismissal from GPBBI.

D. After the slinging of a bat the umpire will give each team a warning. Once a team warning is given any player slinging a bat will be out and ejected from the game, the ball is dead and no runners advance on the play.

E. Head coach is responsible for cleaning up dugouts and bleachers after each game.

F. No coach will be allowed to head coach 2 teams at same time. A coach caught involved with 2 Teams will be suspended from both teams. There will be no special concessions/consideration Related to scheduling of games.

G. City ordinances prohibits any and all tobacco products on or off the field. This will be enforced and violators will face suspension.

H. Suspension for Cause:

Abusive language, dangerous behavior taunting, inappropriate gesture, inappropriate physical contact, or any other action deemed by the Board of Directors to be inconsistent with sportsman like conduct, will not be tolerated. These actions directed at any child, parent, coach, umpire, spectator, or league official will subject that individual to immediate removal from the park and suspension from participation in league events until a suspension hearing can be arranged. The Board of Directors will determine the duration of any suspension at a review hearing.

Suspensions for Cause will be handled under the following guidelines:

1. A voting member of the board of directors will, upon observing such behavior, inform the home plate umpire so that he/she may issue a warning to any of the above listed individuals. Provided that the action takes place on a field of play or the spectator area that field.

2. The home plate umpire will warn the individual. After a first warning, the home plate umpire will, of his own accord or at the direction of a voting board member, eject that person from the field or spectator area if such action continues.

3. If the violation is deemed to be sufficiently serious by the umpire or board member, the individual will be removed from the park with no warning.

4. Anyone witnessing such actions outside of field of play or spectator area should notify any league official so they can investigate. Any individual wishing to report a board member or umpire for such actions should report. Anyone witnessing such actions outside the field of play or spectator area to the officer of the day or league president immediately upon witnessing such action.

5. Voting Board members will have suspension authority outside the field of play or spectator area if this behavior is specifically observed by the board member and must be reported to the President within 24 hours.

6. Suspension will be immediate pending investigation. All suspensions will be subject to Board Approval, who will make a ruling within 48 hours (excluding Sundays) to uphold or overturn the suspension. The review board will be made up of no less than three voting board members who have no connection to the action at issue. All persons suspended will have the opportunity to attend the review board meeting, and have opportunity to make any statement necessary to defend themselves. The review board will be appointed by a member of the Executive Board and their decision will be final. There will be no appeal process to the Board of Directors. Review Board approval will consist of a simple majority vote.

7. In the event the Review Board decides that the board member or umpire was in error or that the suspension was inappropriate. The suspensions will be overturned and the board member or umpire will be subject to action up to and including removal from the board or umpire staff if the violation is deemed serious to warrant such action.

8. All persons suspended will have the reasons explained to them at the time of suspension and will be advised when the Review Board will review the case. In no case will arguing or confrontation be allowed. Responding to a suspension in a un-sportsman like manner will result in possible permanent removal from league activities.

9. Board members or umpires will not be allowed to suspend anyone who has direct authority over member of their own family. That board member or umpire must contact another league official to carry out a suspension and that person must observe the action or through interview of witnesses make a suspension judgment.

10. GPBBI feels strongly that negative remarks from parents, coaches and players have no place in our league. While some people think this is a part of baseball, this behavior will not be a part of Grand Prairie Boys Baseball. Negative remarks serve no useful purpose; they only incite players, coaches and parents. The majority of the time this behavior is conducted to distract the pitcher or to taunt opponents. We are not trying to suppress enthusiasm or encouragement of players.

11. Last week of the season it will be at all V.P.'s discretion to make up games.

17. SPECIAL RULES

A. Any player that quits any team for unjustified reasons will be subject for suspension the next season pending Board of Directors approval.

B. All coaches must undergo a criminal background check and have a GPBBI issued photo I.D. to be on the playing field. NO ADULTS WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE PLAYING FIELD WITHOUT AN APPROVED BACKGROUND CHECK. NO EXCEPTIONS.

18. AMENDMENTS

These rules are intended to provide general guidelines with respect to suspensions. The rules are designed to protect the integrity of our league and the rights of the participants and spectators. Interpretation of all guidelines contained in this section will be left to the Board of Directors who will have the authority to enforce the "SPIRIT" of the rule and set aside any technicality.

The power to amend, suspend and/or to make additional rules, regulations, and interpretation of the

spirit of the rules is reserved by the Board of Directors of GPBBI. Required changes may be made at anytime; however; any changes will not become effective until all League Representatives are notified.

Signed: Board of Directors Grand Prairie Boys Baseball, Inc