



TUSCALOOSA BASEBALL LEAGUE

Mission and Purpose

To enrich our community through exciting recreational and cultural opportunities.

Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority, PARA, will provide an opportunity for youth of Tuscaloosa County to participate in an organized league of baseball. This league will endeavor to teach the participants good sportsmanship, team work, and the fundamentals of baseball under the guidance of qualified adult leadership.

1. The name of this organization shall be Tuscaloosa Baseball League, TBL. Its membership shall consist of players and teams registered by payment of their registration fee at PARA.
2. A Youth Baseball Advisory Committee shall be appointed to assist in coordination of all youth baseball activities. It is the duty of the respective Advisory Committee, in cooperation with PARA and the League Director(s), to supervise the program and enforce the rules, to divide teams in their league into divisions and to assist, advice, and/or handle protests and complaints, and to perform other acts that might arise or be needed.
3. League commissioners may be appointed for each of the leagues or age groups. The commissioners may be delegated responsibility from the Advisory Committee.
4. All local league and local tournament play is governed by these Local Rules, the Official Rules and Regulations of USSSA and the Official Rules of Major League Baseball. When a conflict exists among these various rules, the Local Rules shall apply first then the USSSA and finally, the Major League Baseball Rules.
5. These Local Rules shall apply to all age groups, unless specifically limited to particular age groups herein.

Local Rules

1. **Playing Up:** Each player may play up one age with league approval. Players may not play up 2 or more ages. In no situation will a player be allowed to play down.
2. **Travel Ball:** Players registered to play in TBL may participate in both league play and travel ball. However, no coach or player shall miss a TBL practice and/or TBL game to participate in travel ball. If a player and/or coach misses a TBL practice and/or TBL game to participate in travel ball, the player and/or coach may be suspended two games for the first offense of this rule and the player and/or coach may be banned from the league for the remainder of the season for any subsequent offense of this rule.
3. **Selection of Coaches for League Play:** To be considered for a regular season head coach, an applicant must submit a coaching application to PARA no later than the scheduled coaches' meeting. The head coach and one assistant must submit to a background check, and concussion training per state law. Coaches and assistant coaches for each league will be chosen based upon results of the background check, past participation with TBL and knowledge of the game of baseball.

If a head coach plans to designate an assistant coach, such designation shall be made before the start of evaluations.

Each coach will be required to sign a coaches' code of conduct and will be expected to abide by the guidelines in place for character and sportsmanship. Coaches will also have to sign for a copy of the rules at the coach's meeting or draft.

4. **Pick-Up Players:** If a team has less than 8 players for the start of a game, that team can pick up enough players (league registered) to make 8 in all age groups (must field 6 players from team roster). Teams may not pick up more than 2 players each game. Less than 8 players, both coaches must agree to play the game. If the coaches do not agree to play a regulation game, the game will be played and not counted in season standings.

For ages 8 and under, the first pick-up player (to make 8) must play right field. The second pick-up player (to make 9) must play catcher. All pick-up players must bat last in the team's line-up.

For ages 9 and up, all pick-up players must play outfield and must bat last in the team's lineup. Pick-up players may not pitch or play infield.

Any team beginning a game with eight players that loses a player during the game due to injury or illness may finish the game with seven players.

During Local league regular season play, teams may pick up a player from the same age group or below to make 9.

No pick-up players will be allowed in tournament play.

5. **Draft Procedures:** Players not attending evaluations will be placed in a hat unless the player is protected or participated on an all-star team sanctioned by TBL during the previous season.

Selection of players placed in the hat: Instead of selecting a player from the draft board/sheet, a player's name can be pulled from the hat from the third round of the draft forward.

In 6U-10U only the head coach's child and two assistant's children may be protected. No more than three protected players per team. In 12u the head coach's child and two assistant's children, as well as 2 at large players may be protected. The term "child" includes step-children.

The head coach shall inform TBL and/or PARA at the time of evaluations which players will be protected.

In order to protect players, head coaches must submit the protected player request form, and complete the required coach's paperwork prior to the draft.

Previous season All-Stars: All players who, in the previous season, participated on an all-star team sanctioned by TBL shall be available to be drafted regardless of whether he/she attends evaluations. The draft shall denote which all-star team each player played on during the previous season. In no event shall all-star players from the previous season be placed in a hat.

Selection process: Numbers will be drawn out of a hat to determine order of selection. The selections will reverse each round. Example: if there are six teams, first round selections go 1-6, second round selections will go 6-1. Order of selection will be re-drawn in every subsequent odd numbered round until all players are selected.

One minute will be given to each coach to make his/her decision in each round.

Siblings residing in the same household and age group must be drafted together. Only one set of siblings per team. The term "siblings" includes step-siblings.

Draft Manipulation: Any complaint of draft manipulation shall be brought before the Baseball Advisory Committee. Should the Baseball Advisory Committee find that attempted manipulation has occurred then the Baseball Advisory Committee shall take action it deems appropriate up to and including such player(s) name being placed in a hat for random selection.

6. **Player-Practice Rule:** the head coach has the authority to limit game playing time of any player on their team who continually misses practice without a valid excuse, or that may have caused disciplinary problems during a practice or a particular game. Players with valid medical or health related issues are exempt from this rule. The coach must document missed practices and notify the opposing coach, umpire, and the PARA staff before the game. Coach must also notify parent/guardian before playing time is limited.

7. **Scorer's Book:** the official book shall be kept by the home team. It is expressly made clear by these local rules that the official score, number of outs, etc. shall be kept by the home team. The home team's book will control regardless of the score or number of outs on the scoreboard. It is the responsibility of the head coach of the home team to ensure that his or her team keeps a book.

The visitor is strongly encouraged to keep a book as well to compare with the home team's book and so the visitor can challenge or protest the score, number of outs, etc. A challenge or protest of the score, number of outs, etc. will not be considered if the visiting team does not keep a book.

8. **Conduct:** PARA and the Tuscaloosa Baseball League have a zero tolerance policy on any and all acts of violence or assault, both verbal and/or physical. Any violation of this rule may lead to a hearing by the Advisory Board and/or PARA, arrest and/or further disciplinary action up to and including termination of privileges to participate in any and all PARA and/or Tuscaloosa Baseball League activities, events programs and/or use of facilities.

Ejections – Any ejections of a player, coach, or spectator from any game results in an automatic two game suspension of the player, coach or spectator so ejected. A suspension may be longer than two games if ruled so by the Advisory Board.

The head coach of each team is responsible for the conduct of its players, coaches and spectators. Should a player, spectator, or coach, other than the head coach, be ejected for violations of this conduct policy then the head coach may also be subject to a two game suspension after review by the Advisory Board.

Umpires will make sure that ejected persons know they have been ejected from the game by immediately notifying PARA/TBL staff, the League Director, the League President or Age Group Commissioner and said player/coach/spectator. Ejected individuals must leave the park (playing field, complex, and parking lot) immediately without causing a disturbance.

9. **SPRING Post-Season Tournaments:**

At the end of regular season play, ages 5-6, a single elimination tournament will be scheduled.

At the end of regular season play, for ages 7-8, a single elimination tournament will be scheduled.

At the end of regular season play, for ages 9-10, a single elimination tournament will be scheduled.

At the end of regular season play, for ages 11-12, a single elimination tournament will be scheduled.

Tie breakers for purposes of tournament seeding:

OVERALL RECORD

WIN PERCENTAGE

HEAD TO HEAD PLAY

10. **Length of Games:** A new inning will start as long as there is time remaining on the game clock. The game clock will start on the first swing of the game. Teams will be allowed to bat even if they are mathematically eliminated from the game only if time remains on the clock.

Games lengths for each age will be as followed;

Tee Ball: 50 minutes or three innings.

5-6: 60 minutes or 6 innings

7-8: 75 minutes or 6 innings

9-10: 75 minutes or 6 innings

11-12: 80 minutes or 6 innings

All age groups: ties will not be broken during local league play. Extra innings shall be played to break ties only during league tournament play.

11. **Runs Per Inning:** For ages five through eight, a team can only score seven runs in any given inning. Thus, an inning will consist of seven runs or three outs.

For ages nine and up, a team can only score five runs in any given inning. Thus, an inning will consist of five runs or three outs.

When a team has less than 9 players, the inning will end when the 8th batter has batted in the inning.

12. **Playing Field:** In the 5-6 year olds age division, an outfield line MAY be drawn at twenty feet beyond the base paths. The outfielders must line up beyond the outfield line.

13. **Coaches on Playing Field:**

5-6 Year old : On defense, two coaches will be allowed on the playing field in the outfield area. During Tournament play no defensive coaches will be on the field. **NO DEFENSIVE COACHES ALLOWED ON THE FIELD.**

7 -8 Year old :
NO DEFENSIVE COACHES ALLOWED ON THE FIELD.

9 Years Old and Up : Please see the USSSA Rules.

14. **Use of Tee in 5-6 Year Old Age Group:** The batter will be allowed three strikes or five pitches. If a batter hits a foul ball with two strikes, they will be allowed to continue the at-bat. A tee is not allowed in any age groups.
15. **No Bunting:** Bunting will not be allowed in any coach pitch age groups. Half swings as judged by the umpire will be called a bunt. PENALTY: A strike will be called on the batter.
16. **Catcher in 5-6 Year Old Age Group or A Division:** The player in the catcher position must wear a protective helmet with facemask but may also choose not to wear the full catcher's outfit. **If the catcher chooses not to wear the full outfit they must stand near the backstop and will not be able to make a play on the ball hit from the bat.** The player in the catcher's position is encouraged to wear complete catcher's gear so that the catcher can play a larger part in the game. This rule only applies to the 5-6 year old age group. Player pitcher in coach pitch leagues must wear a batting helmet with facemask.
17. **Overthrows to First Base in 5-6 Year Old Age Group or A Division:** If there is an overthrow on a play at first base, all runners will only be rewarded one base. An overthrow at any other base is a free ball. This rule applies only in the 5-6 year old age groups. This does not apply in USSSA Tournament games.
18. **Rolling the Baseball Prohibited:** No rolling of the ball intentionally will be allowed. No outs will be allowed by rolling the ball. Runners will automatically be safe if the defensive team rolls the ball.
19. **Age Groups:** There shall be age groups for 5- 6 year old, 7- 8 year old for the league play and the post-season tournament. All-Stars will be selected per USSSA rules i.e. 5-6 year olds or A Division, 7-8 year olds or AA Division. If double franchising is required, there shall still be separate age groups with each age group playing each other across the franchises in league play and post-season tournament play.
20. **Selection of All-Star Coaches & Players:** The method for selecting all-star coaches and players will be added as an addendum to these Local Rules at a later date.

21. **Bats:** (ALL AGE GROUPS)

- Must have the 1.15 BPF USA OR USSSA stamp on the taper OR.
- Have the Certified .50 BBCOR stamp (-3) OR.
- Be a Wood Bat.
- Barrel diameter cannot exceed 2 3/4"
- All must be manufactured by an approved USSSA bat manufacturer*

All Non-Wood bats and Multi Piece Wood bats must be stamped with the USA Baseball mark signifying that the bat meets the bat performance standards established by USA Baseball. (USA Baseball is the governing body of amateur baseball in the United States.) OR USSSA BASEBALL.

Solid Wood Bats made from a single piece of wood, do not require the USA OR USSSA Baseball mark, but must meet all other bat requirements in size and length, as listed above.

2 5/8 inch Bats that are **-3 BBCOR** (Batted ball coefficient of restitution) certified bats that meet the BBCOR standard, which do not weigh, numerically, more than 3 ounces less than the length of the bat (i.e., 33 inch bat cannot be less than 30 ounces) can be used in regular season and tournament play.

5 & 6 year age groups: Tee-Ball bats cannot be used in a game situation where the ball is tossed/pitched to a batter.

22. **Player Evaluations:** Evaluations will be held for all age groups except Tee Ball. The scope of the evaluations will be set from year-to-year by the TBL Board.
23. **Assistant Coaches:** Absent a medical issue, assistant coaches shall not miss more than four games in the regular season. If an assistant coach misses more than four games, the *head coach* is subject to suspension and/or other disciplinary action by the TBL Board. The head coach shall notify TBL and/or PARA at the time of evaluations who will be his or her assistant coach.
24. **Addition of Local Rules:** The TBL Board may, in its discretion and as the need arises, make changes and/or additions to the Local Rules from time-to-time, including but not limited to, during the season.

25. Fall league Play

1. Tuscaloosa Baseball league (TBL) will offer fall league play for ages 5-12.
2. USSSA MID SEASON TOURNAMENT rules will be followed in Fall Play.
3. The season will consist of 8 games.
4. No fall championship tournament will be played. (PARA reserves the right to form and host an invitational tournament if interest exist.).
5. NO ALL-STARS will be selected.
6. Coaches (5-10) may protect 3 players that are properly registered with PARA. Complete 12U teams may be submitted, however must be approved by the Director of Baseball Operations. The coach, as well as a parent/guardian, must submit such request in writing, before the fall league draft. Players not protected will be part of the open draft. There will NOT be a player evaluation phase.