

# Denton Boys' Baseball



*EXCEPTIONS AND  
GENERAL RULES  
SPRING & FALL  
2019*

**Introduction:** It is the intent of the Denton Boys' Baseball (DBBI) to provide as much enjoyment to the players as possible and practical; therefore, the rule exceptions below reflect that goal. A great deal of consideration has been given to overall skill levels of the players involved.

The DBBI Board of Directors has approved all rules and reserves the right to change or amend any rule with sufficient notice to the coaches.

**I. CONDUCT**

1. Any official, member or guest of DBBI using profane language, demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct, and/or under the influence of intoxicating beverages/substances at the ball park (practice fields, playing field or in the stands) will be subject to immediate ejection and disciplinary action from the DBBI Board.

**II. REGISTRATION**

1. No individual will be allowed to register after registration closes with the exception being any division that is short of players.
2. DBBI does not limit participants in its leagues on the basis of disability.
3. DBBI is a non-discriminatory organization, which prohibits actions against an individual or league on the basis of race, sex, creed, religion or national origin.
4. In the event a team falls below the required number of players, the DBBI Board will attempt to find an equitable and satisfactory solution if necessary.

At the time of registration and up until 48 hours before the draft, a parent or player may designate up to 25% of the managers to which the player does not wish to be assigned. Requests are to be given

in writing to the commissioner or DBBI Board of Directors. This option is not available if there are fewer than four (4) teams.

**III. EQUIPMENT**

1. Metal cleats will not be allowed in any divisions 12 and under.
2. Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats, manufactured specifically for baseball play, which are round and not more than two and three-fourths inches (7.0 cm) in diameter at the thickest part, nor more than 42 inches (106.7 cm) in length, are acceptable. Bats manufactured specifically for use in T-ball play shall be used only in 5U and/or 6U games. If used in a 7U or older game, the T-Ball bat will be taken out of play with no penalty. T-Ball bats are strictly for T-ball use only. Any bat that says Coach Pitch is strictly for Coach Pitch only and shall not be used at any other level of play.
3. 14U & 16U division bats must conform to current high school bat rules. 15 & 16 year olds must use a drop 3 bat. 13 & 14 year olds may use a drop 8 bat or lower.
4. All players must wear gray pants
5. No player names on the back of jerseys.

**IV. LEAGUES/DIVISIONS**

<u>League</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Base Paths</u>	<u>Pitching</u>
5U & 6U (T-ball)	5 and 6	50 feet	N/A
6U only (modified T-ball)	6	50 feet	N/A*
7U & 8U (Coach Pitch)	7 and 8	60 feet	42 feet
9U & 10U	9 and 10	65 feet	46 feet
11U & 12U	11 and 12	70 feet	50 feet
14U	13 and 14	80 feet	54 feet
HS Div.	15 and 16	90 feet	60 feet

\*see 5U and 6U Exceptions

1. **Spring League Division Age** is that age attained by a player prior to May 1 of the current year, and determines the player's legality for a particular league division.

**Exception:** Players with a summer birthday between May 1 and September 1 may move up to the next age division to play with their classmates.

2. **Fall League Division Age** is that age attained by a player prior to May 1 of the upcoming year, and determines the player's legality for a particular league division. League determined "Summer Birthday" exception applies – see above exception statement.
3. Based on the number of registrants in 5U, 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, & 12U divisions, age divisions may be combined. (8U would contain both 7U & 8U etc.)

## **V. MANAGERS**

1. **CONDUCT** - Any manager or coach ejected from a ball game will submit a written report explaining the ejection to the DBBI Board of Directors within 48 hours of the ejection. Failure to file the written report will result in an additional one game suspension. If the offense is of a serious nature, the DBBI Board may suspend the offender for as many games, as they deem appropriate or one (1) year. The DBBI Board of director's decision will be final.
2. Each manager shall agree to abide by the decisions of the DBBI Board and shall cooperate with them in providing a wholesome recreational program for players. Failure to comply with the rules set forth may be subject to disciplinary action.
3. Each manager shall maintain a positive rapport between the DBBI Board and his team. All managers shall appoint a parent representative to assist with the relationship between his team and the parents.
4. Each manager will be responsible for selecting and utilizing his/her coaches. Each manager is accountable to the DBBI Board.

5. Each manager is responsible for coaches, players, parents and fans behavior and conduct; the umpire will give one warning. On the second offense by the coach, player, parent or fan, the manager is ejected for the remainder of that game and the next scheduled game.
6. All prospective managers and coaches will participate in the coach look.
7. Prospective managers must complete a form reflecting their interest in serving as the team's Head Coach. The DBBI Board shall approve all managers and assistant coaches. The DBBI Board shall select a sole head coach (not assistants).
8. Each manager must notify their respective DBBI Division commissioner or the DBBI Board of Directors of their Primary Assistant Coach. This notification must occur the day of the draft (if known at that time) unless other arrangements approved by the Board of Directors. The Primary Assistant Coach will be responsible for the team in the absence of the Manager.
9. Please, **NO** soft toss is allowed against any fences at Evers or Mack park.

## **VI. UMPIRES**

1. Games can begin with at least one umpire present. Umpire's judgment decisions will be final. The 5U & 6U t-ball will have only one umpire.

## **VII. PLAYER SELECTION**

1. All individuals who participate in 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U & 16U Divisions will be selected by the draft process. 5U & 6U Divisions will be assigned by school and other appropriate factors.
2. A panel shall be designated to rank the skill level of prospective players at the coach look. The ranking panel will consist of prospective coaches and Board members. Distribution of the panel's results will be made available to all selected coaches.

Player ratings will be distributed prior to the player draft and collected following the draft. The purpose of the ratings is to help ensure a fair and equitable draft.

## VIII. DRAFT RULES – Divisions 7U-16U

Complete Draft Procedure will be available at draft.

### 1. PROTECTIONS

- a. Each team will be allowed two protections. This shall include the manager's child (and sibling, if applicable) and 1 assistant coach's player. In order for a head coach to get a second protection both players must attend coach looks. Head Coaches will indicate their two protected players at draft.
  - b. Based on the results of the coach look and the player ratings, league officials will establish the appropriate amount of groupings of those players that would qualify as first, second, third, etc... rounds. The number of players per round is based on the number of teams in each age division.
  - c. The protected players (and sibling, if applicable) must be selected in the round that the player was classified. If ratings for siblings are the same, selections of the siblings must be made in the next available round.
  - d. On draft day, if the head coach learns that his/her child is a first round pick and the assistant coach's child is also a first round pick, the head coach would then lose a second and third round pick for obtaining the second protection. The third round pick would actually be selected in the last round of the draft.
2. Draft position will be based on a random draw. This position will be held the entire draft. Team name will be chosen in reverse order of the draft position.
  3. The draft will start with the first position in the draft order making the first selection in odd numbered rounds. The last position in the draft will make the first selection in even numbered rounds. A team will not participate in a draft round in which a player has already been chosen through protecting of the player or the sibling or through drafting of a sibling. This procedure will continue until all players are selected.

4. At the conclusion of the draft, coaches may trade any drafted player (excluding blind draw or protected players) for any other drafted player regardless of what round they are drafted in.

## IX. GAME SCHEDULES AND TIMES

1. The length of games for each division will be the lesser of:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Innings</u>	<u>Regulation Time</u>
14U & 16U	7 Innings	or 1 hr. 45 min.
11U & 12U	6 Innings	or 1 hr. 40 min.
9U & 10U	6 Innings	or 1 hr. 30 min.
7U & 8U	6 Innings	or 1 hr. 15 min.
5U & 6U	4 Innings	or 1 hr.

- a. No new inning shall begin after time has expired. The bottom half of the inning will not be played if the home team is ahead after time has expired.
  - b. A new inning begins immediately after the third out is recorded in the bottom half of the current inning. If there is any time left on the game clock when the third out is recorded in the bottom half of the inning, the next inning will be played. This excludes games that have played the maximum number of innings or games that have ended because of the run rule.
  - c. 7U-12U When time expires and a team has been Mathematically eliminated the game will end without additional at bats.
2. In the event that a regular season game is tied after the completion of the maximum number of innings, extra innings will not be played - even if time remains on the game clock.
  3. In the event of inclement weather and affected games are Rained-out, DBBI officials are authorized to reduce the time limit of games to facilitate completion of the game schedule. A complete game will be considered as 1hr or 3 innings of play.
  4. All games will start as scheduled. No infield warm-up is permitted prior to the start of the scheduled games.

## **X. GENERAL PLAYING RULES AND EXCEPTIONS**

1. All playing rules will come from the DBBI exceptions and National Federation baseball rules. This is also the order of authority.
2. For exceptions in each league, see the exception rules for each league.
3. **PROTEST**
  - a. A protest, based on a play, which involves an umpire's judgement, shall not be permitted.
  - b. When protest are based on interpretation of the rules, the objecting manager shall, AT THE TIME THE PLAY OCCURS, notify the head umpire, the opposing manager and official scorer that the game is being played under protest, and submit the protest in writing to the league president or secretary, or to the Decisions Committee, within 48 hours of the completion of the game.
    - (1) When protests based on the interpretation of a rule are upheld by the Decisions Committee, the game concerned shall be replayed from the point of protest.
    - (2) Umpires should make a public announcement to the crowd when a game is being played under protest.
4. Any team manager or other adult leader who withdraws a team from the playing field under any circumstances prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit the game and all rights to protest.
5. Home team will occupy the third base dugout.
6. The home team shall provide a responsible and qualified person to serve as the official scorekeeper for each game. The scorekeeper can come from the visiting team if the home team approves. The visiting team will be responsible for operating scoreboard box and returning scoreboard box to the concession stand for the last game.
7. All games will be played with a minimum of 6 players; however, any team that cannot field at least 8 players will be required to take an out for each spot in the lineup that is vacant, up to the 8 spot.
8. An official line-up will be given to the official scorekeeper and opposing manager before game time, listing all eligible players. All eligible players must bat and the batting order must remain the same for that entire game. Any player arriving late shall be added to the batting order in the last position (coaches are exempt from the minimum required playing time for any player arriving after the scheduled start time). Any player who is unable to continue play can be removed from the game without penalty to his/her team. If physically able, the player is entitled to reenter the game in the same position in the batting order. For defensive purposes, the returning player cannot reenter the game in the middle of an inning.
9. Free substitution will be in effect for all regular season games. Any player may be removed and re-enter the game. However, once a player is removed from pitching, that player cannot return to the mound.
10. Defensive changes during the course of an inning can only be made as follows:
  - a. beginning with the half inning the defensive team takes the field, or
  - b. multiple position changes associated with a pitcher substitution
  - c. associated with an injury
11. The batter must keep one foot in the batter's box at all times in order to speed up play.

**PENALTY:** Each team will receive one team warning; all subsequent infractions will result in a strike being called on the batter.
12. To conserve time, there shall be no infield practice on the game field prior to the game starting.
13. During the season, all participating players in the 7U-16U Divisions shall play 1 (one) complete innings and/or 3 (three) defensive outs in an infield position in each game. Any player not playing this minimum playing time in a game shall start and play 2 (two) complete innings in an infield position in the next scheduled game. Every effort should be made to provide equitable playing time for every player.

14. No player may be allowed to sit the bench in consecutive innings.
15. Any player ruled not to have controlled his/her bat after a swing by the umpire will receive a warning for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense, ruled out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense and all runners on base return to base occupied at time of pitch, and on a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense for the player the coach shall be ejected and the player will ruled out and all runners on base return to base occupied at time of pitch.
16. No Slashing.

**PENALTY:** batter is out and base runner returns to base previously occupied.

### 5U & 6U Exceptions

1. Emphasis is on participation, player development, and SAFETY of the athletes. DBBI will not keep team standings. Baseballs approved by DBBI shall be used for Tee Ball Division during league play.
2. Tee Ball will have one umpire.
3. The Home team shall play defense first.
4. Players are not permitted to pitch. Coaches will be allowed to pitch 3 pitched balls thrown from within the Pitching Circle. If the batter is unsuccessful after 3 pitched balls, they will hit off the tee. The batter will advance the first time a ball is hit fair and travels the minimum distance.

#### **Defensive principles:**

5. Entire roster will play defense; no more than six players will be allowed to position themselves in the infield prior to the ball being hit.
6. No player will be allowed to play the pitcher position or the first base position more than one inning during a game.
7. The coaches must encourage pitchers to throw the fielded ball to the appropriate base whenever possible. (Do not

encourage pitcher to chase down batter with the fielded ball.)

8. Only one base is permitted on overthrows.
9. Each player must play at least one complete inning in an infield defensive position.
10. Infield players cannot position themselves more than three feet in front of the base line prior to the ball being hit. They must play in normal defensive baseball positions. Outfield players shall be positioned a minimum of 10 feet beyond the base-paths prior to the ball being hit.

#### **Offensive principles:**

11. Players may only use bats specified for tee ball.
12. Only players at bat, on deck or on base will be permitted on the field of play. Each team shall develop a batting order at the beginning of the game.
13. A batted ball must travel ten feet prior to the advancement of 1<sup>st</sup> base.
14. Innings will end with 3 outs or the scoring of 5 runs in that inning, which ever occurs first.
15. No batter will ever strike out or walk away from the tee without hitting the ball (exception will be if injury or illness occurs). If it is obvious the batter is struggling at the plate, the home plate coach may assist the batter in striking the ball.
16. On a batted ball, the play ceases and runners are required to stop advancing when the ball is returned to the infield and is in a player's possession. Base runners are ONLY allowed to advance 2 bases per batted ball.
17. The game will end after 1 hr. Or 4 innings, which ever occurs first. We will always finish the home team's last at bat, even if they cannot catch up to the visiting teams score.
18. Tight bases will be maintained (no leading off). Runners may advance only on a hit ball.

### **Coaching:**

19. When at bat, three adult coaches may be positioned with the hitting team as follows: One shall be positioned at the tee in foul territory and two additional coaches may be positioned in foul territory inside each respective coaches box, while their team is at bat.
20. At least one adult shall be positioned in the offensive team's dugout to monitor Exception #12.
21. Three defensive coaches will be permitted on the field of play. They shall be positioned behind the outfielders prior to the ball being hit.
22. THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS ALLOWED. ALL COMPLETED GAMES ARE FINAL.

### **7U & 8U Exceptions**

1. When at bat, the offensive team may position three adult coaches on the field. One coach shall occupy the third base coaches box another coach shall occupy the first base coaches box. The third coach will act as the coach-pitcher.
2. A coach must pitch over-hand in a standing position, and must be in contact with the rubber. The coach-pitcher must leave the field once the ball is put in play.

**PENALTY:** 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning, all subsequent offenses will result in coach-pitcher being removed for the duration of the game.

3. The coach-pitcher must refrain from verbal or physical coaching while his team is playing offense.

**PENALTY:** 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning, all subsequent offenses will result in coach-pitcher being removed for the duration of the game.

4. If a batted ball hits the coach-pitcher, the ball is dead, the pitch shall count as a foul ball and runners cannot advance.

5. If in the umpire's judgment, a coach-pitcher interferes with a defensive player's ability to field a batted ball, the batter is out and runners must return to base occupied at time of pitch.
6. A defensive coach shall be stationed behind the catcher to help field pitched balls in order to expedite the game. The defensive coach may verbally coach **ONLY** the catcher while his team is playing defense.

**PENALTY:** 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning, all subsequent offenses will result in coach being removed from that position for the duration of the game.

7. A maximum of 4 (four) coaches and/or volunteers will be allowed in the dugout or on the playing field.
8. All infield players must play in normal defensive baseball positions. 10 players will be used defensively. 10th player shall be considered a roving outfielder. Outfield players shall be positioned a minimum of 20 feet beyond the base-paths.
9. The catcher shall play behind home plate in a normal catcher position with full protective gear on, including a cup type supporter with cup.
10. No player may play the pitcher position more than two innings during a game.
11. The pitcher shall position himself/herself behind the back rubber to the left or right with at least one foot on the dirt portion of the mound.
12. 7U & 8U games will end by the run rule when a team is ahead by:
  - a. 15 Runs after 3 innings,
  - b. 8 Runs after 4 innings,
  - c. or if a team has been mathematically eliminated as time expires there will be no additional at bats.
13. Tight bases will be enforced. Any runner leaving the base before the ball is put in play shall be called out by the umpire. Runners may advance only on a hit ball.

14. Innings will end with 3 outs or the scoring of 7 runs in that inning, whichever occurs first.
15. 7U & 8U batters are not permitted to bunt or soft-swing at the ball.

**PENALTY:** Pitch is a strike and the ball is dead.

16. Each batter will receive only 6 pitches or 3 swinging strikes. If the batter has not put the ball in play in six pitches, he or she will be called out. If the batter fouls the 6th pitch, they will be given additional pitch or pitches, no batter can end their at bat with a foul ball.
17. Time will be called when, in the umpire's judgment, the ball is in the pitcher's possession inside the pitcher's mound area and said player is not attempting to make any further defensive play. Coaches are to encourage players to NOT hold the ball in the air. Base runners will be directed to the appropriate bases by the umpire, based on the position of the runners at that time. Base runners that are more than half way to the base they are running towards will be awarded that base. Base runners that are less than half way to the base they are running towards will be awarded the base they last occupied.
18. No infield fly rule.
19. In all circumstances, independent of number players available, a defensive team must field a pitcher and a catcher.
20. No player may be allowed to sit the bench in consecutive innings.

### 9U - 16U Exceptions

1. Courtesy runners will be allowed only in the event of an injured player or the catcher is on base with two outs, the player who made the last out will run for the injured player or the catcher.

2. A batter may advance on a dropped third strike (except 9U & 10U).
3. 9U-12U. Innings will end with 3 outs or the scoring of 7 runs in that inning, whichever occurs first.
4. 9U-12U games will end by the run rule when a team is ahead:
  - a. 15 runs after 3 inning
  - b. 8 runs after 4 innings
  - c. Or if a team has been mathematically eliminated as time expires there will be no additional at bats.
5. 14U & 16U games have unlimited runs per inning.
6. 14U & 16U games will end when a team is leading:
  - a. 15 runs after 3 innings
  - b. 12 runs after 4 innings
  - c. 8 runs after 5 innings
7. Stealing of home is permitted; however, any base runner attempting to steal home on a swing is automatically called out. A bunt is not a swing. If a runner is called out for attempting to steal home, the ball is dead and the pitch does not count. This does not include a wild pitch or a passed ball.
8. No player may be allowed to sit the bench in consecutive innings.
9. Players may not pass the ball around the infield following an out.
10. Tight bases will be enforced on both 9U & 10U, runners will be called out if leaving before the ball crosses the plate.

### 9U – 16U Pitching:

1. Pitch count
  - a. 9U & 10U pitchers shall not pitch more than 50 pitches in one calendar day – no more than 75 pitches in a calendar week. (week begins on Sunday)
  - b. 11U & 12U pitchers shall not pitch more than 60 pitches in one calendar day – no more than 90 pitches in any one calendar week (week begins on Sunday).



- c. 14U & 16U pitchers shall not pitch more than 75 pitches in one calendar day – no more than 110 pitches in any one calendar week (week begins on Sunday)

**PENALTY** for pitching more than the allotted number of pitches will result in a forfeiture of game.

- 2. Pitch counts are reset with the beginning of tournament play.
- 3. When pitching in more than one game on the same calendar day, pitchers may pitch any combination of pitches in those games provided they do not exceed the above maximum number of pitches in a calendar day.
- 4. Pitchers **MAY** finish pitching to the batter if they reach the maximum number of pitches during an at bat. Umpires shall announce when it is the pitchers' last batter.
- 5. Intentional Walk-During any games at the 9U-14U levels, no player shall be intentionally walked more than one time per game. As stated in the NFHS rule book, a coach may make request to put the batter on base without throwing any pitches. No pitches will be charged to the pitcher for the intentional walk.
- 6. No balks for 9U & 10U.
- 7. Catchers must use a catcher's mitt and wear full protective catcher's gear including a cup type supporter with cup.
- 8. A maximum of 4 (four) coaches and/or volunteers will be allowed in the dugout or on the playing field.

## **XI. TOURNAMENT RULES**

- 1. DBBI will hold an "end of season tournament", which will be a single or double elimination format in order to determine a champion for each age division (7U – 14U).
- 2. Each team will be ranked (seeded) based on their regular season standings. Tie breakers in standings will be as follows:

- a. Head to Head
- b. Runs Allowed
- c. Runs Scored

- 3. Highest seed of each game will be designated home team and occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout. Exception: The home team for the Championship game will be the team in the "winner's bracket"; the home and visiting team shall be swapped if forced to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Championship game.
- 4. Games may **NOT** end in ties. If a game is tied when the time expires or all innings have been complete the following tie breaker process will take place.
  - a. The inning begins with the bases loaded -- the last hitter, second-last hitter and third-last hitter that are scheduled for that inning are to take up positions on first, second and third bases, respectively.
  - b. The offensive team will start with the batter due up for that inning and with one out.
  - c. These innings are played until one team finishes with more runs than its opponents.
- 5. Championship games will be an additional 15 minutes, however, run limits and run rules will still be in effect.

## **XII. FALL SEASON RULE EXCEPTIONS** **ALL DIVISIONS: No Protest.**

## **XIII. ALL STARS**

- 1. Each age division's team(s) is selected by a predetermined process.
- 2. These teams will play in one DBBI sponsored recreation away tournament.
- 3. Each selected players all-star registration fee will cover a hat, jersey, and tournament entry fees.

#### XIV. DBBI SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Prior to a game, Parents/Coaches need to call the City of Denton Field Condition Hotline 940-349-8276 after 4:00 PM weekdays - 8:30 AM weekends. Beyond these time frames, the umpires and commissioners assigned will determine if the fields are playable or in the event the City recording indicates “at league discretion”.

DBBI Commissioners/coaches/umpires should listen to current weather forecasts the day of any game and be alert to changing weather conditions. If inclement weather is forecasted, it is recommended that prior to starting the game an adult be appointed to monitor the weather conditions as they appear on the horizon. Do not be afraid to voice concerns about the weather with a league official.

##### 1. Rain

- a. if it begins to rain, evaluate the strength of the rain. Is it a light drizzle or is it pouring?
- b. Determine the direction the storm is moving. Periodically evaluate the condition of playing field.
- c. Stop play if conditions become unsafe. Coaches are to consult with the umpire, of which the umpire makes the final decision.
- d. If the umpire and coaches decide to postpone, wait 20 minutes from this point before making a decision to cancel the game.

##### 2. LIGHTNING

- a. When lightning is observed or thunder is audible, all outdoor activities will be suspended. NO EXCEPTIONS. Do not rely solely on the lightning detectors.
- b. When league officials/coaches/umpires declare a lightning threat, all fields must be cleared immediately. For the safety of the players, parents and spectators, no loitering, grouping, or hanging out around the fields or concession areas will be tolerated. All persons must evacuate the area.
- c. Concession areas are to be temporarily closed until the “all clear” is given by a DBBI commissioner; this is to

discourage accumulation of people around the high metal light poles in the area.

- d. Stay away from metal including fencing and bleachers and do not hold metal bats.
- e. All players, parents, spectators, and coaches will return to their vehicles for this period of time.
- f. Once the lightning threat has passed, DBBI commissioners only will authorize the “all clear”.

#### NO SOFT TOSS IS ALLOWED AGAINST FENCES AT PARKS!

#### FIELD CONDITION UPDATE NUMBER 940-349-8276

Updated weekdays by 4pm – weekends by 8:30am. Please check with your age division commissioner if update line indicates at “league discretion”.

**ALL RULES AND CHANGES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DBBI BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

Rev: 1-16-19 kmm