

STMA In House Guidelines

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PUBLIC INPUT

All members of STMA In House Baseball shall have the right to be heard with respect to any By-law or Rule which the Board has under consideration for adoption or which the Board has already adopted. Members that have questions are invited to Board meetings and may be heard on any such matter during the open forum portion of the meeting.

PLAYER GUIDELINES

In House Baseball, to stay consistent with league and state rules, uses the age of the child and not their school year. The registration form lists the cut-off dates for each age level. The only exception that is made is for a child with a birthday in the May 1 – Sept. 1 period, to be consistent with ISD 885 school start cut-off. A child with a birthday in this time period may choose to “play up” so he/she may play with current grade level, if currently in fourth grade or above. Once this option is taken, and if the player is selected for an In House baseball team, the player must continue with this age level in his/her future years in In House Baseball.

GRIEVANCE PROCESS

Grievances raised by parents or players shall be resolved through the following process:

1. Grievances should be raised initially with the head coach in a private and constructive fashion. We stress the 24 hour rule. Wait 24 hours prior to discussing an issue with a coach.
2. If a conference with the coach does not lead to the resolution of the grievance, or if the parent/player is uncomfortable discussing the matter directly with the coach, the parent/player may raise the grievance with the Travel or In House Director (which ever applies)
3. If after discussion with the Director the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, the parent may raise the grievance with the President and it will be brought to the next board meeting and voted on.
4. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Grievances raised by coaches shall be resolved through the following process:

1. Grievances should be raised initially with the parent in a private and constructive fashion. We stress the 24 hour rule. Wait 24 hours prior to discussing an issue with a parent and/or the board.

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2. If a conference with the parent does not lead to the resolution of the grievance, or if the coach is uncomfortable discussing the matter directly with the parent/player, the coach may raise the grievance with the In House Director.
3. If after the discussion with the Director the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, the coach may raise the grievance with the President who will bring it to the Board.
4. The decision of the Board shall be final.

IN HOUSE TEAM GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY

PLAYERS

Players must have been registered in the registration system and assigned by the association. Players MUST participate on the team they have been placed on by STMA Directors and Coordinators. No trades are allowed, if this does take place the Coaches will be removed, and players returned to their original teams. Players should be in uniform in order to participate in league or tournament play.

TEAMS

Intact teams only: No players may be added during the season or during the playoffs without the permission of the STMA. In-House Baseball VP. Any games played with an ineligible player will be considered a forfeit. All team players that attend the game in their uniform must be allowed to participate (unless injured). Similar playing times and practice attention should be given to all players to allow them to develop their skills.

1. Uniforms –Hats, pants and shirts are supplied by STMA Baseball. Socks, belts, helmets, gloves, shoes are not supplied.
 - Gray pants are recommended for purposes of playing
 - No shorts will be allowed.
2. Spikes/Shoes – Metal spikes ARE NOT allowed. Rubber or molded plastic spikes ARE allowed. At the younger age levels rubber soled shoes are common.
3. Helmets – Each player can (it is recommended) provide their own helmet. Helmets must be NOCSAE approved and worn while batting, base running and catching in accordance with the NFHS guidelines. STMA Baseball will provide helmets for players to use.
4. Braces or Casts – Any knee, elbow, hand, wrist, arm guard or brace made of plaster, metal or any other hard substance, even though covered or insulated with soft packing, is not allowed. A hinged knee brace, if properly covered and padded with no metal protruding is LEGAL.
5. First-Aid Kits – Teams are given their own first-aid kits and should have a team parent notify the Equipment Manager if they have replacement needs.
6. Equipment – Bases and Home Plates are provided by STMA. All teams have equipment bags for team specific equipment specific to their grade level.

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STMA PLAYING RULES

National Federation of High Schools rules shall govern play, except where modified as follows.

1. Players First... Winning Second – Responsible adults must supervise teams and players at all times, on and off the field. Coaches – Fans – Consider the players' welfare physically and mentally in all situations.
2. The Official League Schedule – Posted on the STMA website. It is the team's responsibility to be aware of any changes and to be in the right place at the right time. Be aware of weather conditions and changes due to weather.
 - A. Umpires decisions are final regarding weather related decisions.
3. Pitching / Base Distances
 1. NO CUREVBALLS, SLIDERS or similar "breaking ball" pitches are allowed through age 12. Pitchers are allowed to vary the speed of their "fastball".
 - A. 1st Violation: Pitcher is warned and a ball is called.
 - B. 2nd Violation: Ball is called, pitcher is removed and cannot return to pitch that game.
4. 1 pitch in an inning EQUALS 1 inning pitched.
5. This is a developmental league, which means we want to give all players the opportunity to develop as pitchers, hitters and fielders. Therefore, all players should be allowed to pitch at least once during the season as long as their safety is not in danger. However to be fair to all kids wanting to develop as hitters and fielders, players who struggle to throw strikes should be encouraged to practice at home if they want additional opportunities to pitch. This is at the coach's discretion, but the coach should discuss this with the parents.
6. Any pitcher walking 4 batters in a row or 7 in an inning must be removed from pitching. Any pitcher hitting 2 batters in an inning with a pitched ball must be removed from pitching. A hit batter will also be considered a "walk" for the purpose of the previous rule (e.g. A pitcher walking a batter then hitting a batter and then walking a batter must be removed).
7. While players may supply their own bat (including wood bats) STMA is not responsible for any damage to ANY personal equipment players may bring, regardless of the reason / cause of damage, including damage done by other players.