

Tigard Diamond Sports

2025 AAA Rules and Regulations

General

1. Purpose of AAA Baseball

- The AAA level is TDS's first level of competitive baseball designed for continued skill enhancement along with a higher-level of baseball experience in game play.
- Managers and Coaches often create a more regular lineup and batting order throughout the season.
- Regular season scores and standings are kept and determine seeding for end-of-season AAA tournament.
- **A game may not be started with less than eight (8) players on each team. In the event a game starts with eight (8) players, a team may skip over the 9th position in the batting order without penalty.**

2. Game Times

- Games will be on Saturdays and Sundays
- Saturday and Sunday games start as early as 9:00 and as late as 5:00.
- Minimum of two games each weekend.

3. Length of Game

- Four (4) innings minimum, six (6) innings maximum
- No new inning begins after two (2) hours of play. Drop dead at 2 hr 15 min. The umpire and coaches may use discretion as deemed practical to shorten or extend any game time due to weather or other playing conditions. If a regulation game ends in a tie due to weather, darkness, or time limit, it will be recorded as a tie in the standings unless the teams are scheduled to play again later in the season, and 2 managers agree to complete the game on that day.
- An inning is defined as three (3) outs or five (5) runs (whichever occurs first), except for an **open inning**. An open inning is defined as the 6th inning or the inning that begins on or after one (1) hour and 45 minutes of play. The open inning time should be established by the umpire and scorekeeper at game start. There is no limit to the number of runs that can be scored during the open inning. If no new inning begins between 105 and 120 minutes of play, there is no open inning. Coaches and umpires may agree to call the open inning earlier if all parties concur. The open inning is always the last inning of the game.
- Rule 4.10 (e) Mercy Rule

There is a 10-run "mercy rule" after four innings (or three and a half innings if the home team is ahead) at which point the game ends. For these games, a written explanation from the Manager of each team must be submitted to the Vice President of Baseball within 48 hours of the game. The league's expectation is to use lopsided games as an opportunity for teams to

make changes to its usual defensive lineups.

4. Minimum Playing Time

- Minimum playing time for all players is four defensive innings.

5. Players on the Bench

- Players who are not playing in the field (on defense) or at bat, on base, or coaching a base (on offense) must remain in the dugout at all times during the game, with the exception of pitcher warm-up or use of the restroom. No food is permitted in the dugout during the game with the exception of sunflower seeds or bubble gum, Manager permitting (food required for a medical condition is acceptable).

6. Playing Fields

Practice fields:

- Twality Middle School North Field
- Twality Middle School South
- Dirksen
- Cook Park Field 2

Game fields:

- Twality Middle School North Field
- Cook Park Fields 1 and 2

Pitching

7. General

- The pitching distance is 46 feet (from the point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber).
- An official Little League baseball (hard ball) is used at all games.
- Each manager must keep a pitch count log to record number of pitches thrown by each player. This information must be available to the manager of the opposing team and must be reported to the league at the end of each game by noon the next day.
- **Failure to report pitching information for a period of two consecutive games will result in the suspension of the Manager for the next scheduled game.**

8. Pitcher Eligibility

- No player of league age 12 is allowed to pitch.
- There is no limit to the number of pitcher substitutions.
- A pitcher, once removed from the mound, cannot re-enter the game as a pitcher.
- Any player who has played the position of catcher in 4 or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.
- A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

- **TDS follows LL Pitch Count rules, see section VI of LL Rule Book for details**
- **Daily pitch count maximum:**

11-12 year olds, 85 pitches

9-10 year olds, 75 pitches

7-8 year olds, 50 pitches

Pitchers can exceed daily pitch count maximum to finish pitching to a batter

- **Mandatory Rest:**

If pitcher throws 66+ pitches, 4 days of rest required

If pitcher throws 51-65 pitches, 3 days of rest required

If pitcher throws 36-50 pitches, 2 days of rest required

If pitcher throws 21-35 pitches, 1 days of rest required

- League-approved Managers and Coaches **are allowed** to warm up the pitcher.
- **Violation of the pitching rules will result in the suspension of the Manager for the next scheduled game.**

9. Pitching Safety:

- If a pitcher hits a 3rd batter during the game, the pitcher is removed from the pitching mound for the remainder of the game.

Infield

- The infield fly rule does apply.

Batter/Runner

- All players present at the game are on the batting roster and cycle through the batting order accordingly.
- No **on-deck** batter is allowed.
- Players must slide feet first while advancing forward. A runner is declared out otherwise.
- Bat throwing is not allowed. For the first offense, the **team** is warned of the violation by the umpire. For the second offense, each subsequent batter that throws the bat is **removed from the game.**
- Bunting **IS** allowed.
- Base stealing **IS** allowed, however leading off **IS NOT** allowed. Runners must be on base when the pitcher sets to pitch and may not leave the base until the ball has reached the batter.
- Base coaches: Two (2) adult base coaches are allowed, only if there is an adult bench coach in the dugout. Base coaches must stay in the chalked coaching box and not make

physical contact with the runner. Adult base coaches must be the league-approved Manager and/or Coach of the team. A player may be a base coach in place of an adult.

- Teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. The courtesy runner must be the player in the batting order that made the last out.

Scheduling of make-up games

- The Home team manager will contact the visiting team manager within 72 hours of a game's postponement and offer 3 available make-up dates, time, field options – all within 14 days of postponed game.
- Visiting team will accept one of these choices, and game will be scheduled with approval from baseball vice president and umpire scheduler.
- Failure to do so is subject to TDS board intervention, including forfeit by both teams.