



Tri-County Baseball League

**2023 League Rules
& Regulations Governing League
Play**

Tri-County League Baseball Board Members 2023

		Work	Cell	Email
Sabetha	Jeremy Haverkamp	785-284-2158	785-285-0116	jhaverkamp@cityofsabetha.com
Doniphan County	Chris Koehler		816-261-0359	Christopher.koehler@mymc.com
Marysville	Vince Pacha		785-713-2328	vincemcsr@gmail.com
Seneca	Jordan Weaver	785-336-2747		rec.seneca@gmail.com
Hiawatha	Stacy Jasper		785-632-0604	sjasper@cityofhiawatha.org

Additional Contacts

Everest	Michael Lanter			Lanterseed@gmail.com
Falls City	Kory Huppert		402-245-7758	kohupper@gmail.com
Hiawatha	Jeff Moore		913-940-7516	
Troy	Derek Jasper		785-850-0179	djasper@troyusd.org

1. The League shall be named the Tri-County Baseball League

- A. The League shall be governed by an executive board. This board shall rule on all protests and will also be responsible for setting up the brackets in all league tournaments. The board shall be responsible for all policy making decisions of the league. This board shall be presided over by the league president. The names of these board members and their phone numbers will be placed on the cover of the rules each year.
- B. All copies of the league rules not dated 2023 are void and invalid.
- C. The Tri-County League fee will be \$100.00 per town or \$75.00 for towns with two teams or less. This registration fee must be mailed to the league secretary by May 1, 2023. It is imperative to have team registration in early in order to schedule the league games. The season starts Monday, May 22, 2023.

2. Accident Insurance

- A. The league shall not be responsible for insurance.
- B. NO STEEL CLEATS will be worn by 7–14-year-olds. Rubber or plastic cleats are acceptable as well as tennis shoes. No bare feet.

3. General and Specific Rules:

- A. Major League Baseball Rules will be followed with the exceptions that are noted below:
 - 1. Courtesy runner will be allowed for pitcher and catcher at any time. The courtesy runner will be designated as the last batter not on base.
 - 2. A boy may play in two games in one day only with the consent of the coach of his team.
 - 3. There will be no limit as to the number of players eligible for each game.
 - 4. Each team must turn a roster in to the tournament host by June 16th. The roster shall contain the name and birth date of each team member and their shirt number. Any team that does not turn this roster in will not be eligible to complete in the league tournament. A player whose name does not appear on this roster is not eligible for the league tournament. A player who moves into town after June 16th has to be ruled upon by the league board. The board will determine all sanctioned tournaments.

5. Games will be considered forfeited if a home team manager fails to notify the opposing manager by 4:30 p.m. of the day of the game of his team's inability to compete for one reason or another. The only exception will be the cancelations by the home team manager due to afternoon showers after 4:30 p.m. In this case, the home teams must notify the visiting teams within 3 days with three possible makeup dates that can be played within 10 days of rainout games. At the same time, the home team must notify their town league board member in writing with the 3 makeup dates. The visiting team must play on one of the 3 dates given to them. The non-complying team shall forfeit. Any team which forfeits two games will be placed on probation and upon the next forfeiture, will be expelled from the league and will have to resubmit application for reinstatement.
6. Boys should not be recruited from outside your high school district. Once a boy plays for one team in the league, he is then ineligible to play for any other team in the league, unless his parents change their city residence. If a boy lives closer to another league team than the one in his high school district, he is eligible to play for the team he chooses. A boy of outstanding ability will not be brought in for a specific game or games.
7. The home team will furnish the umpires. Two umpires will be required and the home plate umpire must be an adult. For the 9/10 age division, high school students may umpire behind the plate.
8. **Protesting a Game:** The home plate umpire must be notified in the presence of the opposing manager that the game is being played under protest before the next pitch. A written report must be made by the umpire and each coach and received by the president or one of the executive board members of the league within TWO days of the game. If a board member is coaching a team that is involved in a protest, he/she must excuse himself/herself from deciding it. Protests during a tournament will be handled by an executive board member, if present. If there is no board member present, the board will designate someone to handle a specific tournament protest.
9. **Player Re-Entry:** The league will use the same re-entry rule as used by A.S.A. Softball. A player may substitute for any player at any position. The original player removed can then re-enter at any time and at any position.

If a pitcher is removed from the mound, he shall not return to the mound in that game, but may play any other position and shall retain his position in the batting order.

A player may re-enter the game only one time. In case of an injury, a coach may, with the consent of the opposing coach, re-enter a player who has previously played, if no others are available.

A.S.A. rule 4, Section 5, A: *Any of the starting players may be substituted and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the lineup. The*

starting player and the substitute(s) may NOT be in the lineup at the same time. If a manager removes a substitute from the game and re-enters the same substitute later in the game, this is considered and illegal re-entry.

Penalty – Section 5 A-C: Both the manager and illegal player are ejected.

10. All games must start at the designated time on the schedule. If for any reason the home team is not on the field and ready to play within 15 minutes of the designated time, the visiting team may leave and win the game by forfeit. If the visiting team elects to go ahead and play the game late, they will lose their forfeit and have no grounds for any type of protest and the game will count in the league standings. This will apply to the first game only of every evening and not to the second game of the doubleheader.
11. Batting helmets are required on all batters and base runners in all age divisions. Coaches will be responsible to see that players have helmets that fit.
12. **It is a main concern of the league that the importance of good sportsmanship is stressed to the youth, coaches, and fans. Any player or coach whose actions are unsportsmanlike in any manner will be given a warning. If such actions continue, the player or coach will be ejected for the remainder of the game. Good sportsmanship is a necessity.**
13. First and third base coaches may be adults for the teams.
14. Two trips to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher will mean automatic removal from the pitching position in all age groups.
15. Any player warming up a pitcher either on or off the field shall wear a face mask.
16. Special cases requesting that a boy play in a lower age group must be approved by the executive board on a case-by-case basis.
17. Teams must have at least 8 players to start the game. There will be an automatic out for the 9th player position.
18. At the beginning of each game, a manager may elect to play with an Extra Player (E.P.) lineup. The E.P. will be designated as playing position ten (10) and may appear anywhere in the batting order. All ten players listed in the batting order may be rotated among the defensive positions. Once the game has begun, neither team may change their initial lineup structure and must complete the game utilizing their initial structure. If a coach desires to bat his entire lineup, he must declare it before the game begins and he may not change the lineup during the game, except due to injury. *The coach is allowed to bat 9,10, or the entire lineup. (If a team has 15 players, they cannot elect to only bat 13.) If a player (10th batter or after) leaves the game or is ejected, **AN OUT WILL NOT BE TAKEN.***

4. Special Rules:

- A. In all age groups the hidden ball trick is NOT allowed. If attempted, it is an automatic dead ball and all base runners shall advance one base.
- B. In division 9/10, if a runner leaves the base before the ball reaches home plate, the umpire shall call the runner out. There will be no warning. This is mandatory. There can be no balk violation since runners cannot lead off. In case of a third strike passed ball, the batter is out and the ball is live.
- C. In the 11/12 & 13/14 age group, there will be no third-to-first base move to pick off a runner. **This is a BALK with no exceptions.**
- D. In the 9/10-year-old division, each team can score five (5) runs only per inning.
- E. Mounds are to be used in the 14u age division. Mounds are preferred in the 12u division but not mandatory.
- F. In case of threatening weather, the umpires shall call the game and take the players off the field. If the weather clears in a short time, the game may be resumed if the field is playable. To be called a complete game, it must be completed as follows:

5 Inning Game: 2 ½ complete innings if home team is ahead.

6 Inning Game: 3 ½ complete innings if home team is ahead.

7 Inning Game: 4 ½ complete innings if home team is ahead.

If it is not a complete game, then the game will start over when it is rescheduled. In tournament play, the game will be played from where it left off if it is not a complete game.

G. Run Rule Limit:

5 Inning Game: If after 2 ½ innings, (home team) or any inning thereafter, one team is ahead by 10 runs or more, the game shall be declared over at that point.

6 Inning Game: If after 3 ½ innings, (home team) or any inning thereafter, one teams is ahead by 10 runs or more, the game shall be declared over at that point.

7 Inning Game: If after 3 ½ innings, (home team), one teams is ahead by 15 runs or more, the game shall be declared over at that point. If after 4 ½ innings (home team) or any inning thereafter, one teams is ahead by 10 runs or more, the game shall be declared over at that point.

H. Length of Game:

Division	Innings or Time
8u	5 Innings or 90 minutes
10u	5 Innings or 90 minutes
12u	6 Innings or 1 hour 45 minutes
14u	7 innings or 2 hours

Double headers for 14u – Game 1 is 7 innings with a 2-hour limit, game 2 is 5 innings with a 90-minute limit. Run rules will follow normal 7 inning format. Coaches can adjust 14u double header schedule if necessary and agreed upon before game time.

***If the game scheduled starts at 6:30 and there is not another game following and both teams want to play the game without a time limit and the umpires have been notified, then they may do so. All double headers will follow time limit rules with NO exceptions.

Before each time limit game, the plate umpire should announce the start time to the official scorebook and both coaches. The scorekeeper will note this time in the scorebook. If, at any time during the game and at the umpire's discretion, there is an extended delay (i.e., A rules discussion or injury), the umpire should note the time out time and start time again when the delay is over.

No new inning may begin once the time has been reached. An inning ends the moment the third out is made, and the next inning starts immediately. If an inning is in progress when the time expires, the inning should be completed (or half inning if the home team is ahead).

I. Pitchers

1. Pitch Count Chart for Limits and Required Rest

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
7 to 8	50	1 to 20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9 to 10	75	1 to 20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11 to 12	85	1 to 20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13 to 14	95	1 to 20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A

[MLB | Pitch Smart | Guidelines | MLB.com](#)

2. If a pitcher is removed from the mound, he shall not return to the mound in that game but may play any other position and shall retain his position in the batting order.

J. Slide Rule:

There will be a mandatory slide rule. If in the umpire's opinion, a base runner tries to deliberately run over the defensive player at any base, the runner will be called out. If the umpire feels a runner should have slid into a base instead of coming in upright, the runner may be called out for interference.

K. Schedule of Tournaments:

Tournaments will be allotted to various towns requesting them at the league organizational meeting. If 2 or more towns are requesting to host a specific tournament in one age division, the town who last hosted the tournament must relinquish the tournament to the other town. It will be the responsibility of the host town to bracket games based on seeds within the framework of the league rules for tournaments and email to all other board members. It will be the responsibility of each town hosting a tournament to appoint a tournament manager to work with the executive board on running each tournament. The time limit will apply in all tournament games except the Championship game. The run rule will apply in all tournament games including the Championship game.

L. Eligibility Age Rule:

Division	
8u	May not turn 9 before May 1, 2022
10u	May not turn 11 before May 1, 2022
12u	May not turn 13 before May 1, 2022
14u	May not turn 15 before May 1, 2022

M. Dimensions of the base paths and pitching rubber:

Division	Base Paths	Pitching Distance
8u	60 feet	40 feet
10u	60 feet	46 feet
12u	70 feet	50 feet
14u	80 feet	54 feet

N. Game nights:

Division	
8u	Monday / Thursday
10u	Tuesday / Friday
12u	Monday / Thursday
14u	Tuesday / Friday or as the schedule allows

2023 Tri-County League Tournament Locations

Division	Host Town	Dates
8u	Hiawatha	July 1 st – 8 th
10u	Seneca	July 1 st – 8 th
12u	Sabetha	July 1 st – 8 th
14u	Regular Season Champ Only	

Tournament Admission Fees:

\$3.00 for Adults

\$2.00 for K-12

(Admissions will be collected for each night of the tournament)

1. A player may only appear on one tournament roster; however, a player(s) may be pulled up to prevent any team from playing with less than nine players.
2. Tournaments will be single elimination. In the league tournament, the higher seeded team will be the home team. Coin flip will be used to determine the home team in all consolation games.
3. Sabetha will supply gold medals for Regular Season League Champions in each age group. The host town of a tournament will be responsible for providing medals for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place.
4. Seedings for the tournament will be set after the final regular season games are played on Monday, June 27th for 8u/12 and Friday, June 28th for 10u/14u. Upon completion of the regular season, all team records with opponent, score, and result of the game need to be turned into your town representative within 24 hours. Brackets will be released two days before the tournament games begin.
5. Tie breakers for tournament seeds will be head-to-head result. If not determined by head-to-head, a coin flip will be used.
6. All tournaments will give medals for the top 3 finishes.
7. All tournament games must be played in the host town, but exceptions may be granted at the board's discretion. Gate money would still need to be collected and turned into the host town for that age group.





Tri-County Baseball League

2023 League Rules
& Regulations Governing League Play