



Tom Brown and Messer Park Junior Baseball 2011 Fall Ball Season Ground Rules

1. Except as noted below the Official Rules of Baseball as amended by Dizzy Dean Baseball rules shall be the guiding resources for Tallahassee Junior Major Baseball.
2. Each game will be seven innings or one hour and 50 minute time limit whichever comes first. . The game timer will be maintained by the official scorekeeper utilizing an official timer and will be set once the first official pitch is thrown. No new inning will start after a one hour and 50 minutes. There is a 15 run mercy rule at four innings and a 10-run rule at five.
3. Each game will begin on time. There will be ten-minute grace period but the time will count against a one hour and fifty minutes limit. Twenty-five minutes prior to start of game, away team takes field warm up: 15 minutes prior to start of game home team take field warm up, and 5 minutes prior to start of game plate meeting with head coaches and umpire. Warm-up for late games only if time allows.
4. Each team must be capable of fielding eight players defensively. Should a team be unable to field eight players it can borrow a registered player from a team at their respective park or the opposing team. If players show up after the start of the game, they will be added to the bottom of the roster. No team will be penalized for a player that has to leave a game early or is injured unless the player that leaves or is injured is the eighth player.
5. In the event a game is tied at the end of the designated time limit or seven innings of play, (which ever comes first) one additional inning will be played **even if it extends past the allotted time**. In the event the score is still tied after the additional inning, the score will remain tied and be recorded as a tied game in the scorebook.
6. There will be **no unruly or argumentative exchanges between coaches, players or fans towards umpires**. The appropriate protocol will be to ask for an interpretation by calling time, and calmly approaching the umpire. Managers are the only ones that can approach an umpire. If the interpretation is to come from the field umpire, the manager will ask for permission to discuss the matter with that umpire. Managers cannot cross the baseline to talk to the field umpire without first telling the home plate umpire of their intentions. Coaches on defense are reminded that any conversation with the pitcher may result in a charged trip to the mound.
7. Any ejection of a coach will result in a one game suspension and ten hours of community service to the park. Any ejection of a player will result in a one game suspension (the next scheduled game).
8. **Each head coach is responsible for the behavior of all of his assistant coaches, players, fans, and anyone else associated with that respective team.**
9. It is the runner's responsibility to avoid contact with defensive players. If in the judgment of the umpire, there is malicious contact, the player will be ejected. The player must serve a one game suspension (next scheduled game). There is **not** a mandatory slide rule.
10. Rainouts will be played on the Sunday following the rainout. Coaches will jointly determine the earliest available time to make up the game, and will notify their respective teams as soon as possible.
11. Balks will be called and will be enforced.
12. Protests will be handled at the time of the incident. The Game Official, head umpire, and each manager will determine the appropriate rule either from Dizzy Dean rule or official baseball rules. Judgment calls are not protestable. The Dizzy Dean rule book is used as the primary rules, and Official Baseball rules are used as secondary rules.
13. Batting Line-ups. Everybody bats. Players arriving after the line-ups are turned in and before the game starts are added at the bottom of the line-up. No player can sit out on defense more than two innings in a row.



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14. Two defensive conferences in an inning will result in a mandatory pitching change. The offensive team is limited to one conference per inning.
15. Courtesy runner is optional for the pitcher and catcher with less than two outs and mandatory for two outs. The player making the last out should be used.
16. Each team is expected to **hustle** on and off the field. Each pitcher will be entitled to eight warm up pitches for a new pitcher and five pitches subsequently. If in the umpire's judgment, a team is not hustling on and off the field, the pitcher may be allowed fewer pitches. **We can get seven innings inside the one hour and fifty minute time limit if everyone hustles.**
17. Dizzy Dean has banned all composite barrel bats. Alloy barrels with composite handles are legal. Dizzy Dean has stated that any coach that knowingly allows a player to use a composite bat, if reported or discovered, will be banned for life. A player, if knowingly uses a composite bat and is reported/caught, they will be banned for life as well.
18. Any disciplinary issues or special circumstances involving a player must be communicated to parent of the player, the opposing team, the umpire(s), and official scorekeeper at time of its occurrence. If it affects the player's participation, the team will not be penalized for the player's absence. An out will not be charged when that player is scheduled to bat. Disciplinary issues player demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct, use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products. In the cases of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products, a one game suspension will be issued.
19. Each team should have a designated scorekeeper every game. The team manager must notify the official scorekeeper of any line up or position changes during the game. The home team scorebook will be designated as primary; however the umpire may wish to consult the visiting team book. Please inform the opposing team scorekeeper and official scorekeeper of any line up or position changes.
20. As a reminder, in accordance with the Dizzy Dean Rule Book, any pitcher who pitches more than four innings will be required to have 24 hours rest (refer to the pitching rules in the 2011 Dizzy Dean Rule Book). No pitcher can pitch more than 6 innings per week. Rules books are available in hard copy or on line. The game week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday.
21. The use of any illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco products at Tom Brown Park is strictly prohibited.
22. Pitchers are not allowed to wear any items that may create a distraction for the batter. These items include batting gloves, arm bands, and white sleeves.
23. Teams must pick up trash in the dugout before leaving the park.

I _____, the coach of, _____
Head Coach's Name Team Name

have read, understand and agree to the Tom Brown Senior Major 2011 Spring Season Ground Rules.