

**Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League (TCSAAL)**  
**Baseball Rules & General Procedures**  
**2017-2018 Season**

**TCSAAL will primarily follow the NFHS Baseball Rule Book.**

**FIELD DIMENSIONS**

- i) 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade and High School teams will play on a field with 60' pitching dimensions and 90' base dimensions.
- ii) Regions may opt to allow for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade teams to play on a smaller field, but this will be taken on a case-by-case basis between the teams involved and the TCSAAL Regional Director. However, the State Tournament will be played with 60' pitching dimensions and 90' base dimensions.

**EQUIPMENT**

TCSAAL will primarily follow NFHS Equipment guidelines.

Bat Requirements: All bats must have a BBCOR stamp of approval. TCSAAL does not allow wooden bats. For a comprehensive database of approved bats, see link below.

NFHS BBCOR Approved Bats: <http://www.mme.wsu-ssl.org/certifiedbaseballbats.aspx>.

**TCSAAL High School teams will follow BBCOR regulations. A vote will take place at the 2017 TCSAAL Coaches Conference on the issue of 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Baseball bat weight limitations. Only coaches in attendance will be allowed to vote on the issue.**

Exception: TCSAAL will not enforce article 4 of the uniforms section concerning logos.

**DURATION OF GAME**

- i) In all regular season games, TCSAAL will enforce the following in regard to duration of gameplay:
  - **During the regular season, games will be scheduled for 1 hour 45 minutes for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade and 2.0 hours for High School. A new inning cannot take place following the 1 hour 30 minute mark for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade or 1 hour 45 minute mark for High School, unless the score is tied at the time.**
  - Regular season games will have a 10-run cap per inning.
    - Exception: If the losing team is down by 10+ runs, this rule will not take effect unless the team retakes the lead. If a team retakes the lead after having a 10+ run deficit, their half of the inning is over.
  - TCSAAL will also enforce the following mercy rule: The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 ½ innings, or after the fifth inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat.
- ii) In all playoff games (tie-breaker, regional & state tournament), time limitations and run cap per inning rules will not apply.
- iii) **All TCSAAL Varsity Baseball games will be capped at 7 innings. A vote will take place at the 2017 TCSAAL Coaches Conference to reduce the number of innings in TCSAAL 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Baseball games from 7 innings to 6 innings. Only coaches in attendance will be allowed to vote on the issue.**
- iv) In all regular season games in which games end in a tie by virtue of time or inning ruling, said game will finish as a tied game. Only playoff games will result in extra innings (tie-breakers and regional/state tournaments).

**PITCH COUNT**

**Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, TCSAAL will be instituting pitch count implementations for each game. TCSAAL will use the UIL small school plan as a model and will have coaches vote on the parameters at the 2017 TCSAAL Coaches Conference. Only coaches in attendance will be allowed to vote on the issue.**

### **UMPIRES**

TCSAAL will utilize a 2 member crew. Umpire in chief (home plate) and 1 field umpire.

### **SPEED-UP RULES**

TCSAAL will not be utilizing the NFHS Suggested Speed-Up Rules.

### **HOME TEAM EXPECTATIONS**

The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook, but TCSAAL will require both teams to keep a scorebook as well as provide a line-up card for the opposing team and the umpires. The home team is also responsible for providing a scoreboard for the game. The home team is responsible for providing a digital or flip scoreboard for all of their home games if the facility scoreboard will not be available to them. Lastly, the home team is responsible for providing 1 volunteer to record on the official scorebook and 1 volunteer to update the scoreboard throughout the game.