

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) 6th-8th 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 6th-8th 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.

BASEBALL BAT RULES

Effective in the 2017-2018 school year, all 6th-8th Grade Baseball teams will be subject to the following regulations regarding bats:

Big Barrel Bat Rules (2 5/8" or 2 3/4") – Must have the new permanent USSSA Mark on its taper OR be a qualified BBCOR bat. TCSAAL does not allow wooden bats.

All TCSAAL High School Baseball teams will follow NFHS BBCOR regulations. TCSAAL does not allow wooden bats.

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

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 6th-8th Grade and 2.0 hours for High School. A new inning cannot take place following the 1 hour 30 minute mark for 6th-8th 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. Per the 2017 TCSAAL Coaches Conference vote, all TCSAAL 6th-8th Grade Baseball games will be capped at 6 innings.**
- 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. Pitch count parameters are listed below:

Varsity	6th-8th Grade
0-30 pitches: 0 days Rest	0-20 pitches: 0 days rest
31-45 pitches: 1 day rest	21-35 pitches: 1 day rest
46-65 pitches: 2 days rest	36-50 pitches: 2 days rest
66-85 pitches: 3 days rest	51-65 pitches: 3 days rest
86-110 pitches 4 days rest.	66-85 pitches: 4 days rest
Players are Capped at 110 pitches a game	Players are capped at 85 pitches a game

Double headers: Second game does not count as a rest day, but players can split up a max count between both games that same day.

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.