

Goddard Baseball / Softball
www.goddardkansas.org/baseball
General Rules for All Divisions

1. Age shall be determined by the age of the child as of **May 1**, of the year the child is going to participate in the league.
2. Players may advance up one (1) division if the parent, coach, and the Board of Directors agree upon such an arrangement.
3. All T-Ball and 7-8 division teams shall furnish one (1) parent umpire for each game played {Home team for the plate and Visiting team for the field}. All other divisions will have plate umpires furnished by the league. The visiting team will furnish one (1) base umpire.
The plate umpire's decision will be final.
4. Ages of umpires shall be as follows:
 - a. T-Ball and Coach Pitch All umpires will be parents of any age.
 - b. 9-10 and older All umpires will be fifteen (15) years or older.
5. The league will provide tournament trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. Participation medals will be given to all players for the season play.
6. League tournaments will follow regular season play.
7. In all divisions **the home team will occupy the third base dugout.**
8. In the T-Ball and Machine Pitch divisions the home team will provide at least two (2) good game balls for all season games. Each team will provide at least one (1) new game ball for each tournament game played. In the 9-10 and older age divisions the plate umpires will provide game balls for all games played.
9. It shall be a forfeit if a team fails to take the diamond with at least eight (8) players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled start time.
10. All games must be played at their scheduled times. The only exception is unplayable weather conditions. **Unplayable weather conditions will be determined by the league and posted on the website www.goddardkansas.org/baseball by at least one and a half (1 ½) hours before game time. All teams and players are expected to stay off the fields if play is stopped.** This is for player safety and so fields will not be further damaged so play may resume as soon as possible. If a team cannot play at the scheduled time, it will have to forfeit to the opposing team.
11. **National Federation of High School rules are official except where a league rule is in conflict.**

12. Rosters are final after June 15.

13. Boys will use regulation white baseballs. 13-15 and 11-12 Girls Divisions will use regulation "yellow" balls for games.

14. Before each game, umpires and both team managers will go over the ground rules for the field they are playing on.

15. All ball diamonds where games are played are on property owned by the Goddard Unified School District #265. ALL SCHOOL PROPERTY IS A TOBACCO FREE & DRUG FREE ZONE. School property also includes all the parking areas at the ball diamonds. All smoking and chewing tobacco products and alcohol are prohibited. Anyone (coaches, parents, spectators and players) who violates this law will be asked to leave the premises. It will be the responsibility of the coaches to make sure this policy is enforced.

16. Five (5) warm-up pitches is a maximum between innings. A new pitcher will be allowed seven (7) warm-up pitches. The plate umpire shall keep count on the number of warm-up pitches used.

17. Managers and coaches are urged to keep the game moving and to assist the umpire whenever possible.

18. A player may play on one (1) team during a single season, with the exception that a player may change teams before rosters are final **IF** his/her current coach will sign a written release. The director in charge of the teams, either boys or girls, must be notified by both coaches involved in the roster change, for the change to be official. Failure to notify will subject both teams to forfeiture of games played after roster changes are made.

19. Tie-breakers for ties at the end of the regular season will be based upon the following:

- a. **Head-to-head competition; if still tied, then**
- b. **Coin flip.**

20. All players must wear shoes and no metal cleats will be allowed for any age.

21. All teams must wear numbers of at least 6" in height.

22. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS EXPECTED OF EVERYONE INVOLVED.

23. All coaches must have a copy of all players birth certificates at every game. A player can not play if a coach can not prove his age. The league Commissioner and/or league President will review any situations involving the protest of a players age. If a player is playing in an age group were he/she is too old, all games involving said player will be forfeited.

24. Umpires can and shall eject any coach, player, or parent for improper behavior and/or profanity. If the offender fails to leave it will be a forfeit for the team he/she represents.

25. Teams should check the league website at www.goddardkansas.org/baseball for the playing conditions of the fields due to weather. If a game is postponed due to weather, the home team must notify the visiting team of the cancellation.
26. If a team has a handicapped child(ren), the team must notify the league president when rule exceptions are needed. The league president will notify all other teams in the age division of what rule exceptions will be made, if any.
27. When a team is batting their entire line-up and one of the players has to leave the game, he/she will be taken off of the line-up. There will be **NO** penalty of an out, but he/she will not be allowed to re-enter the game.
28. No cast, other than soft cast braces for lower extremities, will be allowed.
29. In all divisions, there will be one (1) warning per team per game for throwing a bat. A second warning per team will result in the player who threw the bat being declared out at the next dead ball. Play continues as if the player had batted legally with base runners advancing at their own risk. **ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS.**
30. For a child to be eligible to play in league tournament games, he/she must have their name on the team roster and must play in at least half (1/2) of the regular season games.
31. In case of rain out or darkness, three (3) complete innings will constitute a complete game. Score reverts back to the score at the end of the last completed inning. Two and one-half (2 ½) innings will be accepted if the home team is ahead. If three (3) innings are not complete, score reverts back to 0-0. Exception is 11-12 and 13-15 age divisions (boys and girls), wherein four (4) innings will constitute a complete game. If tied, each team gets one-half (1/2) game. Darkness shall be called at the discretion of the home plate umpire.
32. The proper procedure for filing a formal complaint is: the **Head Coach** should notify the league **Commissioner** and the **Commissioner** will make the final determination. The **Commissioner** may consult with any or all additional board members before a final determination. No parents or assistant coaches should file a formal complaint.
33. Bunting is allowed in all age divisions except boys and girls T-Ball
34. A runner is out when he/she, in the judgment of the umpire, maliciously collides with a fielder when he/she does not slide or attempt to get around the fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag on the runner.
35. Unnecessary hard tags or similar action by a defensive player will not be allowed. In the judgment of the umpire, when such an action occurs, the runner will be declared safe and be awarded one (1) additional base beyond the base upon which he/she was making the attempt. The defensive player will be warned and a second infraction by the same player will result in his/her ejection from the game. The ejected player will not be permitted to play in the next scheduled game for his/her team.

36. The score book of the home team shall be declared the official score book. The home team scorekeeper will be the official timekeeper. He/she will confer with the home plate umpire as to the time a game starts and will notify said umpire when the time limit has been reached. Both head coaches are encouraged to keep time and/or check with the official timekeeper.

37. In all divisions, all **players** will wear a helmet while batting, running the bases or coaching a base. If he/she refuses, he/she will be declared out if batting or on the bases. If a runner intentionally discards their helmet while running the bases, he/she will be declared out at the next dead ball. Adults(19 and over) may coach bases without wearing a helmet, but the league recommends for their safety, they consider wearing a helmet.

38. In all divisions, a catcher must wear a face mask with a throat protector, a catcher's helmet, chest protector and shin guards.

39. If a player or coach is bleeding or has an open wound, they shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time considered "reasonable" is the home plate umpire's judgment. If there is blood on the uniform, the player will have to change into a clean uniform to participate in the game further.