

**STATESBORO-BULLOCH COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**Junior Baseball Policies and Rules**

The Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department's baseball/softball program is offered for all boys and girls ages 5 through 18. This program is designed so all of Bulloch County's youth may have the opportunity to participate in a well organized, safe and fun program. The program is designed to teach the participant the fundamental skills involved in baseball/softball such as hitting, throwing, catching and base running, as well as the basic rules of the game.

**Article I: ELIGIBILITY**

- A. The age of a participant on August 31<sup>st</sup> will determine which age division he or she will participate.
- B. Age Classifications for Junior Baseball is 14 and under prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- C. A participant is allowed to compete in one age division only. He may not return to a younger league and participate in that All-Star program.

**Article II: REGULATIONS**

A. Governing Rules

- 1. The local governing body for youth programs is the Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department.
- 2. Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department uses the current regulations and rules of the GRPA (Georgia Recreation and Parks Association) and the National Federation of State High School Associations constitution and by-laws with exception as may be found in this manual.

B. Games

- 1. A regulation game shall consist of seven (7) innings or one (1) hour and fifty (50) minutes time limit (110 minutes).
- 2. A game tied after regulation play will remain a tie.
- 3. The score for a forfeited game shall be recorded as 7-0.
- 4. A game shall be considered complete after five (5) innings with eight (8) runs, four (4) innings with twelve (12) runs, or three (3) innings with fifteen (15) runs ahead including all post season play.
- 5. Policy on inclement weather - Regular season games stopped in progress will be considered complete if more than half the game time (55 minutes or more) or innings (4 or more) have been played. Games not started will be made up as soon as possible if time allows. Please call the Information Hotline (489-2087) for game day information regarding cancellations.

**Article III: SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

A. Equipment & Uniforms

1. **NO STEEL CLEATS are allowed**
2. Catchers should wear full protective equipment, provided by SBCPRD, including mask, protective helmet, chest protector and shin guards. **Protective cup, furnished by the participant, is required (even in warm-up).**
3. All batters, base runners and offensive players outside the dugout must wear the protective batting helmet (Helmets with facemasks are optional). If the helmet is removed intentionally, they may be ruled out at the umpire's discretion.
4. The official bat shall be round, and a made of wood, metal or other acceptable material for batting as approved by Georgia High School Association. Bat sizes shall not exceed thirty-four inches (34") in length and two and five-eighths inches (2 5/8") in diameter. The difference between the weight and the length shall not be greater than five ounces (-5). Bats that are damaged or altered will be ruled illegal.
5. All players should be in full uniform issued by SBCPRD, including a cap, team jersey, and socks. The gray baseball pants, shoes and glove is to be furnished by the participant. No jewelry may be worn during the games. Braces must be wrapped with an ace bandage.

B. Playing Field

1. The pitching distance shall be fifty-four feet (54').
2. Base distance will be 75'.

C. Playing Terms; Practice & Game Requirements; Substituting; Coaching, Bench, Player and Spectator Conduct

1. The home team sits on the first base side of the field. The home team is the team listed on the right side of the schedule. (IE: Tigers vs Bears: The Bears would be the home team).
3. Line-ups shall be given to the official scorekeeper ten (10 minutes) prior to game time. All players present must be listed in the batting order and any nine (9) may play defense. If a player is late, they will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
4. It is the parent's responsibility to get their child to all practices and games. The coach should be contacted if a player will not attend practice or a game. The coach may bench the player for missing practice/game.
5. A team may start a game with no fewer than seven (7) players and must finish with seven (7).
6. It is recommended that all players who attend practice should play at least four (4) innings or half the number of innings played per game, and recommended that all eligible substitutes (who have not been in the game) should enter the game at the fourth (4th) inning or after 55 minutes of time has expired, whichever comes first.
7. If a player does not play for disciplinary reasons, it is the responsibility of the coach to

notify the field supervisor. Coaches not playing their players the required time will receive:

1st offense: Verbal warning

2nd offense: Written warning

3rd offense: Suspension of coaching duties

\*\*\*Any confirmed violations may result in immediate dismissal.

7. SBCPRD youth baseball/softball program has free substitution except pitchers.  
\*\* A starting pitcher may withdraw from the game and re-enter once. A substitute pitcher may not re-enter.
8. Only certified coaches designated by the Recreation Department will be allowed in the dugout. Coaches shall not leave the dugout except to coach bases or confer (charged time conferences) with players or umpires. A coach may sit or stand outside of their dugout to direct his team while in the field. However if the umpire may tell you to remain in the dugout if you are interfering with base coach of the other team. All persons entering the dugout shall be limited to players and certified & designated coaches. Coaches must notify the Department staff in the event of an injury to any player, whether the accident occurs during practice or during a game.
9. There will be no hollering or harassing the players on the opposing team by parents, spectators, players or coaches.
  - Any player, coach, or spectator acting in an unsportsmanlike manner, or in any way that could prove detrimental to the league players, umpires, staff or spectators will be subject to disciplinary action by SBCPRD.
10. **No use of any tobacco products is allowed on the premises of any Statesboro – Bulloch County Parks & Recreation Department Facility.**

D. Pitching and Charged Conferences

1. Any player whose name appears on the team roster may pitch in no more than seven (7) innings per week during regular season games. (The week begins on Monday and ends Sunday).
  - \* If games are suspended, the pitching regulations will still apply.NOTE: The penalty for violation of using a pitcher who is not eligible to pitch will result in forfeiture of the game provided it is reported or discovered prior to the next game.
2. Balks will be called in the Junior Baseball league.
3. Curve balls will be permitted.
4. If a pitcher hits a batter and in the umpire's judgement, it was intentional, the pitcher is automatically ejected from the game. If a pitcher hits three (3) consecutive batters during a game, the pitcher must be removed from the mound but may play another position on defense.
5. **Each team will be granted three (3) charged conferences (defense) per game without penalty. Any defensive charged conference in excess of three (3) will result in removal of the pitcher from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.**

E. Batting and Baserunning

1. Any player throwing a bat, helmet, etc. (equipment) will result in a team warning the first time and any time after the warning any player who commits this act will be called out. If the situation is flagrant, no warning may be granted and the player may be ejected (umpires judgement).
2. Three (3) strikes results in an out and four (4) balls results in a walk.
3. Bunts **are** legal!
4. Three (3) outs will constitute a half inning.
5. There will be no intentional walks.
6. Any player unable to bat due to illness, injury, or school function will not be called out; his position in the batting order will be skipped. The field supervisor and his/her parents must verify (the player with the illness, injury, or school function.) \* Once a player is declared injured or ill, they will not be allowed to re-enter the game. The player who made the last out may replace an injured runner.
7. The batter will be allowed to run (advance to 1st) if the catcher misses or drops the third strike, if 1st base is unoccupied. The batter is not automatically awarded 1st base. All runners on base may advance at the risk of being put out. Two (2) outs, runner can advance even if on 1st.
8. Base stealing:  
Runners may steel bases in accordance with Georgia High School Rules.
9. The offensive (Batting Team) team may be granted no more than one (1) charged conference per inning to permit the coach to confer with base-runners, the batter or any other offensive team personnel.
10. **Infield fly rule is in effect.**

F. Dead Ball-Time Called

1. When a player or coach requests "Time" the ball is dead only when the umpire grants "Time".
3. The defensive team must return the ball to the infield and in the possession of a player, either at the pitching rubber or in advance of the baserunner closest to home plate and that player asking for "TIME".

#### **Article IV. League Standings**

1. League Standings will be determined by winning percentage.

Winning percentage is figured by wins/losses/ ties.

Win= 1 Point

Loss= 0 Point

Tie= .5 Point

The percentage is figured by Total Points divided by Total Games Played.

In the event of a tie in the league rankings the tie breaker will be head to head competition. If the teams remain tied after head to head competition, the next tiebreaker would head to head record against the next highest ranked team in the league. This will continue down through the ranks until a winner is determined. If the teams remain tied after the head to head records a coin flip will be used to determine the winner.

2. Season ending tournament will be seeded based on league standings.