
LATE ARRIVING TEAMS POLICY

Category:	League Management	Date Approved:	1/18/2011
Policy Number:	600.5	Date Last Revised:	5/19/2020

PURPOSE

To ensure that league games remain on schedule out of respect to all parties involved.

POLICY

In fairness to the players, coaches, officials, supporters, and staff, it is important that games are played as scheduled. If one game starts significantly late, it can adversely affect the games for the remainder of the day. The following policy was created to ensure the athletic league games remain on time throughout the day.

Ready to Play

If a team has not arrived or is not ready to play at a scheduled game time, this policy shall be implemented at the discretion of the officials. "Ready to play" is defined as a team having at least the minimum number of required players on the field with the appropriate uniforms and equipment. The policy should be implemented for the sole purpose of staying on schedule. The official may elect to not implement the policy if both teams are ready and on site, but the start of the game is a few minutes behind schedule. A cushion is built into the schedule to allow for brief delays.

Implementation

Circumstances where the policy should be implemented include, but are not limited, the following:

- One or both teams have not arrived at the game site. Delays caused by traffic and/or weather are not acceptable excuses for late arrival.
- One or both teams are on site, but not present at the assigned court or field
- Some players from one or both teams are on site, but they do not have the minimum number of players to start the game
- The minimum number of players from one or both teams are not dressed in league-issued uniforms
- One or both teams do not have proper equipment, such as flag belts, gloves, batting helmets, etc.

Non-Implementation

Circumstances in which the policy should not be implemented include but are not limited to, the following:

- The previous game did not end on time due to a late start or overtime/extra innings
- The field or playing area is not safe or suitable for play
- The game official is not on site
- Game is delayed due to safety concerns (weather, emergency, etc.)

League Rules

A summary of this policy with specific procedures for managing late arriving teams shall be included in the official rules for each sports league. Teams are permitted to use their timeouts to stop the clock, if eligible. If the teams do not begin or do not arrive by the end of the designated time, the game will be declared a forfeit. Participation credit shall be determined by the **600.6** Game Cancellations and Forfeitures Policy.

RELATED INFORMATION

Inter Tribal Sports Documents:

League Rules (see specific sport)

Inter Tribal Sports Related Policies:

600.3 Game Day Check-in Policy; **600.6** Game Cancellations and Forfeitures Policy

Related Links:

www.intertribalsports.org → [Team Central](#) → [Coach Corner](#) → [ITS Rules and Polices](#)