



SAAA Pool Player Guidelines



The following guidelines will instruct coaches on how pool players are to be utilized during the season. A pool player is any player that is filling in for a team because the requesting team is short of sufficient players to field a team and would otherwise have to forfeit a game or play shorthanded.

1. Coach's Guidelines:

- Coaches may use any player registered in SAAA for the current season who is allocated to a team in the same division or the division immediately below the requesting team's division. For example, a 10U team may use 8U player, if the 8U player's parent approves, or a 10U player as a Pool Player.
- A pool player, regardless of his or her age, cannot play down an age group even if his or her age meets the requirements for the requesting age division. For example, an 8-year-old player who requested to play up at the 10U level and was registered at 10U is unable to serve as a pool player for an 8U team.
- The requesting coach must review the game schedule to ensure that the player does not have a scheduled game or practice with his or her assigned team that conflicts with the game he or she is serving as a pool player. A pool player who is scheduled to play a game for his or her regular team is deemed unavailable, unless the pool player's team has already played their scheduled game and has no more games scheduled for the remainder of the day. (UPDATED 9/14/2025: SEE SECTION 3)
- The Head Coach must notify the SAAA Player Agent by text, email, or verbal discussion prior to use of a pool player. This notification must happen each time a pool player is used, regardless if that player has been used as a pool player for previous games.
- The Head Coach must notify the player's regular season head coach by text, email, or verbal discussion that their player will be used as a pool player for a specified game. This notification must happen each time a pool player is used, regardless if that player has been used as a pool player for previous games.
- The Head Coach must disclose to the officials, scorekeeper, and opposing coach that he or she has a Pool Player in his or her lineup.
- If these guidelines are violated and it is reported to the SAAA board by either a spectator, coach, or board member, and it is determined that a violation occurred, the team using the pool player improperly will be assessed a forfeit (regardless of the outcome of the game) and be assessed a loss. If no objection is made within 24 hours of the game, no penalty will be assessed. Opposing coaches shall bring the objection to the official during the game and have it recorded on the score card. On the first violation, the team will be issued a loss by forfeit and the Head Coach will be issued a warning. On the second violation, the team will again be issued a loss by forfeit and the head coach of the violating team will be suspended for a game.

2. Player Guidelines/Rules:

- *Pool Players are only permitted to play an outfield position (left field, right field, center field) at a normal depth appropriate for the age division.*



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- Pool Players must bat last in the initial batting lineup provided exchanged at the beginning of the game.
- The requesting team must have at least 7 of its own players in order to utilize pool players.
- Even though a team may play a game with only 8 players without penalty, a team with 8 players may elect to use a pool player to fill open defensive spots.
- If the requesting team's regular player(s) arrive(s) late, which causes a person to have to remain in the dugout while the team is on defense, then the pool player must be rotated and is limited to playing only 6 defensive outs (2 innings) after the late arriving player arrives which causes the limitation to take effect. The pool player may continue to bat in the lineup if using a continuous lineup. The team's regular players are to be given preference for playing time over the pool player. If a late arriving player does not force a player to have to remain in a dugout while the team is playing defense, then the pool player may play the entire game on defense in accordance with these rules.
- Pool Players must wear their regular team's uniform to signify him playing as a Pool Player. Coaches are prohibited from allowing a pool player to wear another player's jersey. The opposing coach has the right to waive this requirement.

3. Specialty Rules and Requirements for Pool Player

- Opposing team/coach has the right to protest a team that has not properly obtained a Pool Player or wrongfully plays a pool player in a prohibited position. Photo/video evidence is not required but highly recommended in resolving the dispute.
- With the use of a Pool Player, rostered players must not sit more than 1 inning.
- Rostered players may show up after the game starts and can still participate and play any time or position.
- If a rostered player arrives late or unexpectedly the confirmed Pool Players will still be able to participate with the limits imposed.
- Players can play as both Pool Players and on their regular team in the same day, so long as the pool player's assigned team has completed its game prior to serving as a pool player.
(UPDATED 9/14/2025)
- Exception:
If a team is scheduled as the first to play in its age group and:
No teams in that age group are scheduled off, or
Game locations are too far apart to reasonably allow travel time.
Then the team in need of a pool player may request the use of a player from another team. Only if:
The pool player's parents/guardians approve, and
The pool player's current head coach approves.
The use of this exception must be communicated to an SAAA Board member and receive Board approval prior to the game being played.
- Pool Players are only to be used in regular season games and not as part of any tournament or special event.
- All Pool Players must be registered with the league and assigned to a team in the current season.
- Pool Players cannot be used in the event a player is ejected from a game.
- Head coaches are required to alert the SAAA Board if his or her team is permanently below 9 players due to injury, withdrawal, or expulsion. Use of pool players should be the exception, not the rule.
- No coach is permitted to discourage a player from participating in a game in order to utilize a pool player.