



# **Thunder Baseball League**

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## **Section I: DEFINITIONS OF TERMS**

**I.01 RETURNING PLAYER:** Any player registering with Thunder Baseball League ("TBL") at TRYOUTS who played on a TBL team during the immediately preceding season of league or tournament play.

**I.02 NEW PLAYER:** Any player registering with TBL at TRYOUTS and did not play on a TBL team during the immediately preceding season of league or tournament play is required to attend TRYOUTS.

**I.03 LATE PLAYER:** Any NEW PLAYER or any RETURNING PLAYER registering, or attempting to register, with TBL after the tryout period has ended. Late fees may be applicable and will be determined by the BOD.

**I.04 RETURNING TEAM:** A group of at least six (6) players returning to a TBL team.

**I.05 NEW TEAM:** Any TBL team that is not a RETURNING TEAM and not a TRANSFER TEAM.

**I.06 TRANSFER TEAM:** Any group of players age 9 - 14 years old meeting the eligibility requirements of TBL, who were players on the same team during the previous season of play, which team was not a TBL team the previous season, but which team is registering with TBL as a team for the current season of play.

**I.07 DIVISIONS:** Term used to define groups of league levels as defined by USSSA and/or other tournament sanctioning bodies: Major's League (aka "0"), AAA League (aka "1"), AA League (aka "2"), A League (aka "3"), Machine Pitch (aka "4") and LEVEL III (15 years of age and up).

**I.08 RESERVED AND NON-RESERVED PLAYERS:** Reserved players are RETURNING PLAYERS that are part of a RETURNING TEAM. Non-reserved players are RETURNING PLAYERS who are not RESERVED PLAYERS. All NON-RESERVED PLAYERS must re-enter the draft & participate at TRYOUTS to be drafted to a different TBL team.

**I.09 BOD:** The Board of Directors of TBL

**I.10 LEAGUE:** The baseball program of the Association is a part of the Rocky Mountain Junior Baseball League (the "League"). The Association's Bylaws shall not conflict with the Bylaws of the League. The Association's Rules and Regulations shall not conflict with the Rules and Regulations of the League.



**I.11 MACHINE PITCH LEAGUE:** The baseball development program of the Association will partner with other surrounding area programs on a seasonal basis or run entirely in-house. A Machine Pitch Program Director will update league rules and select volunteer coaches upon the approval of the BOD. Machine pitch is **not for very beginners**, players should have experience and be able to throw, catch, and play baseball for the length of a game (1.5 hours). Machine pitch begins the development for competitive kid pitch baseball and requires more of a time commitment and commitment to the team than recreational baseball.

## Section II: REGULATIONS

### **II.01 FORMATION OF TEAMS**

1. RETURNING PLAYERS: For those RETURNING PLAYERS who have registered to remain with their RETURNING TEAM and who have been notified by TBL or the Head Coach that they have been accepted to the RETURNING TEAM are RESERVED PLAYERS and will not be required to participate at TRYOUTS.
2. NON-RESERVED PLAYERS: The Head Coach has the option to decline any RETURNING PLAYER'S request to remain on a RETURNING TEAM (see Registration Procedures). Such RETURNING PLAYER shall be referred to as a NON-RESERVED PLAYER. Any Head Coach exercising this option must inform such player and the Director of Baseball Operations no later than September 1 prior to fall TRYOUTS of the immediately succeeding season of league play. Such NON-RESERVED PLAYER may then enter TRYOUTS and be drafted by a different TBL team. No RETURNING TEAM shall be allowed to reduce its pre-DRAFT roster to less than six (6) players by the use of this option. Further, failure to notify a RETURNING PLAYER by September 1 that such player's request to remain on the player's RETURNING TEAM has been declined is grounds for dismissal of the coach.
3. Major League: Except for RESERVED PLAYERS, all Major League players shall be drafted or selected from players in the TRYOUTS and except for pick-up players for tournaments, no player shall be assigned to a Major League team who does not participate in the TRYOUTS.
4. AAA and AA LEAGUE teams: Except for RESERVED PLAYERS, all AAA and AA players shall be drafted or selected from players in the TRYOUTS. Except for RESERVED PLAYERS and for pick-up for tournaments, no player shall be assigned to a AAA or AA League team who does not participate in TRYOUTS, unless approved by the Director of Baseball Operations.

### **II.02 SELECTION OF COACHES**

1. Approval and selection of Head Coaches for TBL teams shall be given by the Director of Baseball Operations or Coaches Approval Committee based on information provided by the applicant on the annual



- Coach's Application and Background Form. No person shall be permitted to be the Head Coach of a TBL team who does not complete and submit an annual Coach's Application and Background Form to TBL.
2. Thunder Academy teams Head Coaches selection process gives priority to non-dad head coaches. Thunder Academy teams can have Head Coaches that are dads, however, there will be no tolerance for favoritism towards or special extra playing time for any players. Thunder Academy head coaches are compensated with credit or paid BOD approved market rates.
  3. The Assistant Coach shall be appointed by the approved Head Coach of each TBL team, subject to the approval of TBL. No person shall be permitted to be an Assistant Coach of a TBL team who does not complete and submit an annual Coach's Application and Background Form to TBL.
  4. Any previous TBL Coach (Head or Assistant) who performs actions that are deemed detrimental to TBL, as determined by the BOD, shall not be allowed consideration by the Director of Baseball or Coaches Approval Committee for a coaching position for a period to be determined by the BOD.
  5. Any TBL Head Coach who fails to have at least six (6) RETURNING PLAYERS register to return within TBL, regardless of player option of returning to the same team or entering TRYOUTS, shall not be allowed consideration for a Head coaching position for that immediate season. The BOD shall have final determination in hearing appeals or exceptions to this rule.

### **II.03 LEAGUE PLAYING LEVEL AND BRACKETING TEAMS**

Bracketing of teams for DIVISION play shall be a function of a determination by the Director of Baseball Operations or Bracketing Committee and Head Coaches. The Director of Baseball Operations or Bracketing Committee shall honor reasonable requests by the Head Coach. The Director of Baseball Operations or Bracketing Committee must adhere to all requirements of the LEAGUE regarding placement of teams. Teams with Broomfield residency rates below 25%, may not be given the opportunity to practice or play home league games on Broomfield fields. Other surrounding area fields will be made available.

### **II.04 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

**ALL NEW and RETURNING PLAYERS must register at TRYOUTS.** NEW and RETURNING PLAYERS not on a roster or who want to change teams need to participate in TRYOUTS. This concept provides a fair and consistent platform for all NEW and RETURNING players.

1. All RETURNING PLAYERS must select one of the following options:
  - a. OPTION 1 – Enter Open Tryouts – Will not play for previous TBL team.
  - b. OPTION 2 – Enter Open Tryouts – If not selected, return to previous team. EX: Player wants to move up a Level—If not selected to higher level team remains with previous TBL team.
  - c. OPTION 3 – Return to Previous Team.
2. All NEW PLAYERS must enter TRYOUTS



3. All Thunder Academy new and returning players are required to tryout (regardless if they are reserved), unless special approval is given by the BOD. Academy tryouts typically take place at a minimum of two-weeks prior to TBL tryouts.
4. All Coaches must adhere to current registration form options. Any player may state the option to play Major League or NOT play Major League and TBL shall honor such a declaration. The only exception to this Regulation shall be that if, in a High School boundary age group, a specific High School Area has no teams in a League level(s) requested by the player, and then that player shall be drafted by or assigned to the next lowest DIVISION level available. No DIVISION level changes shall be accepted after forty-eight (48) hours prior to scheduled TRYOUTS
5. The BOD shall determine registration/TRYOUT deadlines.
6. Waiting List - Any player attempting to register with TBL after the TRYOUTS shall be placed on the Waiting List. Players on the Waiting List shall be assigned to a team only upon request of a Head Coach. Players on the Waiting List shall be assigned to teams in the order in which the players were placed on the Waiting List. However, the Director of Baseball Operations has the right to waive the sequence of assigning Waiting List players should an opening occur on a "0"/Major League team in order to avoid placing a player with insufficient skills in an inappropriate situation. Further, the BOD is required to immediately dismiss any coach of any "0"/Major League team for abuse of this Regulation insofar as a player, or players, being instructed by a coach to deliberately register late in order to avoid the TRYOUTS and DRAFT. Registration fees due for players assigned to teams from the Waiting List shall be prorated based upon the number of games remaining in League play, with a minimum charge of one-fourth (1/4) of the total Registration Fee.
7. A minimum of six (6) players choosing to remain on the same team shall constitute a RETURNING TEAM. Should any team have less than six (6) choose to remain on the same team, those players choosing to remain on the same team must enter the TRYOUTS and be drafted. Players choosing to TRYOUT for "0"/Major League or any higher league level shall be considered to be remaining on the same team for the purposes of this paragraph, if applicable.

## **II.05 TRYOUTS PROCEDURES**

1. TRYOUTS shall be conducted by age-group, at such a time and place as determined by the BOD.
2. Multiple day TRYOUTS are permitted but not required.
3. 8 through 14-year-old "0"/Major League, "1"/AAA and "2"/AA players will tryout in Fall and/or Spring.

## **II.06 DRAFT PROCEDURES AND FORMATION OF TEAMS**

### **Machine Pitch Teams**



1. Players shall be placed according to appropriate age groups. Players are grouped by ages 5-8 years old. Players moving on to Kid Pitch as of age 7-8, must follow the 8-year-old team formation process. All future 9-year-old players must attend tryouts.
2. Teams moving from Machine Pitch to Kid Pitch are recommended to enter at the 9AA Division. All players are encouraged to attend tryouts.

### **8-Year-Old Teams**

1. Players will be selected by the Director of Baseball Operations or an impartial Selection Committee consisting of at least 3 people selected by the BOD. The Selection Committee is required to have attended and evaluated each player in order to make their selections.
2. Minimum roster allowed shall be 11 unless approved by the BOD.
3. The Head Coach for the 8-year-old player pitch team will not be selected until after TRYOUTS and team has been formed.
- 4.

### **9-Year-Old Teams**

1. With BOD approval, the 8-year-old Majors Head Coach from the prior season will continue as Head Coach for the 9 year old Majors team. All other 9-year-old coaches will be selected after TRYOUTS and after teams have been formed.
2. Players for the 9-year-old Majors team will be drafted by the returning 8-year-old Majors Head Coach. The 9-year-old Majors RETURNING TEAM shall reserve a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) players from the previous spring season. This is done to enable room for improving players to move to a more competitive level if they choose to do so and also to provide an opportunity for players new to the area. A waiver must be presented to the Director of Baseball Operations and approved by the BOD to exceed the maximum of eight (8). All remaining NON-RESERVED players from the 9-year-old Majors RETURNING TEAM must enter TRYOUTS to be drafted to a different TBL team. The Head Coach reserves the right to recall any of his NON-RESERVED PLAYERS back to his team after TRYOUTS and before the draft should the player wish to return to the previous year's team. A new Major team player who has been recruited by a TBL Coach shall be considered RESERVED by such team, however; the recruited player will be considered to be the first draft choice by the recruiting team. If two players have been recruited, then the first two selections will be considered filled for that team, etc. Any recruited player is considered to be a NEW PLAYER to TBL and shall attend TRYOUTS. All previous season's players shall be notified by the Head Coach as to whether or not they are RESERVED or NON-RESERVED no later than August 1 prior to fall tryouts for the succeeding season. All NON-RESERVED PLAYER must attend TRYOUTS to be drafted to another TBL team. Each Head Coach is required to provide the Director of Baseball Operations with a list of their teams RESERVED and NON-RESERVED PLAYERS two weeks prior to Major team TRYOUTS.



3. For leagues AAA & AA, players and league assignment will be selected by an impartial Selection Committee consisting of at least three (3) people selected by the TBL Board. The committee is required to have attended TRYOUTS and evaluated each player in order to make their selections.
4. Teams will be formed from top to bottom with the top-ranking group of players forming the first team, the second ranked group of players forming the second team, etc. The League level of play will be determined after the teams have been drafted.
5. Minimum roster allowed shall be eleven (11) unless approved by the TBL Board.
6. All late registrations received after teams are filled will be put on a waiting list.
7. Special circumstances may exist that clearly indicate that an affected player's best interest can be served ONLY by direct assignment to a specific team. The Director of Baseball Operations shall have the sole authority to approve or disapprove such request. The Director of Baseball Operations shall have the right to consult with any Board member(s) prior to approving or disapproving such a request.
8. TBL does not guarantee that all players will be placed on a team, nor does entering the TRYOUTS/draft carry any guarantee as to the final League level or team to which the player may be selected.

#### **10-14-Year-Old Teams**

1. Major League – Teams shall reserve a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum of eight (8) players from the previous spring season. This is done to enable room for improving players to move to a more competitive level if they choose to do so and also to provide an opportunity for players new to the area. A waiver must be presented to the Director of Baseball Operations and approved by the BOD to exceed the maximum of eight (8). All remaining NON-RESERVED PLAYERS must enter TRYOUTS to be drafted to a different TBL team. The Head Coach reserves the right to recall any of his NON-RESERVED PLAYERS back to his team after TRYOUTS and before the draft should the player wish to return to the previous year's team. A new Major team player who has been recruited by a TBL Coach shall be considered reserved by such team, however; the recruited player will be considered to be the first draft choice by the recruiting team. If two players have been recruited, then the first two selections will be considered filled for that team, etc. Any recruited player is considered to be a NEW PLAYER to TBL and shall attend TRYOUTS. All previous season's players shall be notified by the Head Coach no later than September 1 prior to TRYOUTS for the upcoming season as to whether or not they are RESERVED or NON-RESERVED. All NON-RESERVED PLAYERS must attend TRYOUTS to be drafted to a different TBL Team. Each Head Coach is required to provide the TBL Director with a list of their teams RESERVED and NON-RESERVED PLAYERS two weeks prior to Major DIVISION team TRYOUTS.
2. AAA & AA Leagues – Teams shall reserve a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum of eight (8) players from the previous spring season. This is done to enable room for improving players to move to a more competitive level if they choose to do so and also to provide an opportunity for players new to the area. A waiver must be presented to the Director of Baseball Operations and approved by the BOD to exceed the maximum of eight (8). The Head Coach reserves the right to recall any of his NON-RESERVED





PLAYERS back to his team after TRYOUTS and before the draft should the player wish to return to the previous year's team. The minimum player retention requirements must be met no later than the AAA, AA & A League registration deadline dates. All remaining NON-RESERVED PLAYERS must enter TRYOUTS to be drafted to a different TBL team. For any coach who chooses not to participate in the draft, TBL will make the team selections from remaining players in the tryout pool. All previous season's players shall be notified by the Head Coach as to whether or not they are reserved or non-reserved and must attend TRYOUTS. Each Head Coach is required to provide the TBL Director with a list of their team's reserved and non-reserved players no later than September 10th of each year.

3. Selection order in the draft will progress by leagues in the following sequence:
  - a. Major League fills roster
  - b. AAA League fills roster
  - c. AA League fills roster
4. When more than one team exists at a given league level, selection priority order will be determined by the following:
  - a. Priority 1 – Teams moving down from a higher league level from the previous season.
  - b. Priority 2 – Returning teams from the previous year at the current league level. The order in this group being determined by the number of regular seasons wins in the previous year. (i.e., the team with the highest number of regular RMJBL league play season wins selects first; team with second highest number of regular season wins selects second; etc.)
  - c. Priority 3 – Teams moving in from a lower level league level from the previous year make selections after returning teams.
  - d. Priority 4 – newly formed teams
5. After the priority order has been determined, each team within that league level will take turns singly selecting players (i.e., with multiple teams (A,B, and C): Team A takes players until roster reaches eleven (11); then team B takes players until roster reaches eleven (11); then Team C, etc.) until all roster spots are filled or the player pool has been emptied. The number of players each team has reserved will not be a factor in the alternating draft selections.
6. If more than one team has the same priority, selection orders will be determined by a coin toss.
7. Special circumstances may exist that clearly indicate that an affected player's best interest can be served ONLY by direct assignment to a specific team. The Director of Baseball Operations shall have the sole authority to approve or disapprove such request. The Director of Baseball Operations shall have the right to consult with any Board member(s) prior to approving or disapproving such a request. Any team acquiring a player by this method shall lose its first draft choice.
8. Minimum roster allowed will be 11 unless approved by the BOD.
9. Only the highest draft order coach should contact parents at tryouts.
10. All late registrations received after teams are filled will be put on a waiting list.





11. TBL does not guarantee that all players will be placed on a team nor does entering the TRYOUTS/draft carry any guarantees as to the final league level or team to which the player may be selected.

### **Level III**

1. Minimum roster shall be 11 players unless approved by the Level III director.
2. Fielding Level III teams (High School freshman and sophomores only) will be looked at individually each year, based on the need and ability of TBL to meet the demand.
3. TBL does not guarantee that all players attending Level III TRYOUTS will be placed on a team.

### **II.07 DISMISSAL OR REMOVAL OF COACHES**

1. The Director of Baseball Operations, after reviewing information from the Division Director(s) and the Executive Operations Manager, may immediately dismiss, discharge, or otherwise remove from duty, any TBL coach for:
  - a. Failure to comply with the TBL Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and policies and resolutions of either TBL or the League.
  - b. Physically fighting with any person at any time before, during, or after any practice or game while serving in any capacity as a coach of a TBL team.
  - c. Negligence, gross ignorance, or gross incompetence demonstrated while responsible for his/her team that places any player(s) in physical danger in excess of the normal and customary risks associated with the game of baseball.
  - d. Failure to become reasonably well informed about the Rules of Baseball in order to teach the game to his/her players.
  - e. Failure to return to TBL, within a time frame determined by the BOD, or a designated Committee thereof, any and all baseball equipment issued to his/her team, including uniform items, etc.
  - f. Any other action(s) detrimental to TBL as determined, solely and without recourse, by the BOD.
  - g. Internal recruiting of players (players already on an existing TBL teams) by any coach (head or assistant) of TBL is strictly prohibited and constitutes grounds for dismissal or removal of coach.
    - i. The ONLY allowable procedure for a coach to contact any player on another TBL team, in order to discuss possible options available, is to contact the player's current or most previous coach and request their permission to contact said player's parents.
    - ii. In the event the player's current coach is unwilling to allow said player's parents to be contacted, then the interested coach is to contact TBL.
  - h. It is strictly prohibited and constitutes grounds for dismissal or removal of coach, for any TBL coach (head or assistant), at any time, to provide any player and/or parents, of TBL or any other youth baseball organization, any intentionally misleading or deliberately incorrect information regarding any TBL persons, procedures, or policies.
2. Ejection/Suspension of coach or adult/parent of a player or relative from a game:



- a. The BOD, at its sole discretion, may impose, by a majority vote, a period of probation on any coach for any misconduct. Any further violation by a coach on probation is grounds for immediate dismissal.
  - i. The Head Coach of a team is to notify by phone the Director of Baseball Operations within twenty-four (24) hours of an ejection and submit a written report no later than three (3) days following an ejection.
  - ii. The individual may be required to meet with the Director of Baseball Operations.
  - iii. 2nd ejection in one season will result in a minimum three (3) game suspensions
  - iv. 3rd ejection in one season will result in mandatory dismissal.
3. Request for removal of coach by parents of team members must meet the following requirements for the Director of Baseball Operations and Executive Operations Manager to consider:
  - a. Parents of any team may request the dismissal of either their team's Head Coach or any of their team's Assistant Coaches by submitting to the BOD, in writing, the reason(s) for request of dismissal, provided they follow one of these two conditions:
    - i. If at least one parent/legal guardian of two-thirds (2/3) of the players on a team sign a written request for dismissal of a coach of their team, it is required that the BOD meet as soon as possible after receipt of request, to consider possible dismissal; PROVIDED that said request contains proof (date, time, and location) of meeting that all signing parents have had with coach in question to address their concerns AND that said meeting was held prior to submitting request for removal.
    - ii. If the number of parent/legal guardians required in a.) above is not achieved then the BOD, or designated Committee thereof, shall contact the affected coach to discuss the situation. In this case, the BOD shall have the following options:
      1. To call a team meeting to discuss and agree to a solution.
      2. To place on probation or dismiss the coach for violation(s) listed in II.07.
      3. To further investigate the situation.
4. Any coach dismissed has the right to appeal for reinstatement to the BOD. Such a coach must notify the Director of Baseball Operations of his/her intention to appeal and the President must call a special meeting of the BOD to hear such an appeal.
5. If a Head Coach is dismissed by the BOD, the BOD Directors shall appoint an interim Head Coach for the affected team. The interim Head Coach shall have full-time voting rights at TBL meeting, but such voting rights shall expire immediately after the Annual Meeting of the members of TBL.

## **II.08 PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE REFUNDS**

### **KID PITCH**



1. Returning coaches are encouraged to recruit players from other competing organizations prior to tryouts and must have the players register and submit a RESERVED players for the future season.
2. Players attending TRYOUTS and NOT placed or chosen on Teams will receive a FULL refund (less bank fees).
3. Players who attend TRYOUTS or RESERVED returning and are placed on Teams but decline to accept play for such Teams will receive forfeit their full registration deposit minimum of \$250.00 to ensure coaches that use valuable draft choices ,are able to solidify their rosters on draft night. This will encourage parents not to "shop" their players around multiple baseball organizations.
  - a. Notify the League with 5 days of being placed on a team after the Coaches Draft Meeting that they do not wish to be on the TBL Team.
  - b. Have an injury that requires missing ALL of the season provided injury happens prior to the first game of the season (less other incurred TBL expenses to date of injury).
4. There will be NO player REFUNDS after January 1 of the playing year for the kid pitch programs.
5. The BOD reserves the right to review or not review any request for a refund after January 5<sup>th</sup>.
6. Player refunds for fees/monies involving team accounts:
  - a. It will be the policy of TBL to allow teams to set up individual team accounts for purposes of fundraising and the allocation of team funds.
  - b. If a player leaves or removes him/herself from a TBL Team after the first LEAGUE or TOURNAMENT game of the playing year, no refund be granted.
  - c. If a player/family, who receives "scholarship assistance" or any type of financial assistance in acquiring or using equipment, uniforms, travel, meals, etc., may have these funds deducted from any player accounts when said player/family quits, removes himself from any TBL team during the season. A season is defined as the parameters set forth by both league and team schedules including post season tournaments in late July and August of the current year.
  - d. If TBL is asked to mediate in this area, TBL will ask for any and all documents to arrive at a fair and equitable decision.
7. Full payment of fees is due at Registration or this first payment in a payment plan utilizing PayPal or other secure online payment systems to guarantee a player's roster spot on a team. Cash will not be accepted for registration fees. Money Orders or Checks made out to Thunder Baseball League on a case by case basis.
8. Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> of the season, teams with player Registration fees outstanding will get lower priority on March indoor/outdoor practice requests and players with outstanding fees will not be able to participate in practice.
9. Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> of the season, teams with players Registration fees outstanding and not on a documented payment plan, will not be allowed to practice indoors or play league games until such arrangements are made thru the online registration secure payment systems. All registration fees are required paid in full or in a registered payment plan prior to the first practice and/or game. The CFO and/or Executive Director will notify the Head Coach upon player reinstatement.



10. Check or online secure credit card are acceptable forms of payment and will be due based on the terms of the payment plan. Monthly billing is non-negotiable due to COVID-19 and if we were forced to shut down. There are no refunds for the month after the initial billing.

#### MACHINE PITCH (MP)

1. Starting March 1<sup>st</sup> of the season, teams with player Registration fees outstanding will get lower priority on March indoor/outdoor practice requests and players with outstanding fees will not be able to participate in practice.
2. Starting March 1<sup>st</sup> of the season, teams with players Registration fees outstanding and not on a documented payment plan, will not be allowed to practice indoors or play league games until such arrangements are made thru the online registration secure payment systems. The CFO and/or Executive Director will notify the Head Coach upon player reinstatement.
3. There will be NO player REFUNDS after March 1 of the playing year for the kid pitch programs.
4. The BOD reserves the right to review or not review any request for a refund after March 5<sup>th</sup>.
5. All other rules stated above apply from the kid pitch with the exception of the 4 rules under MP

### **II.09 COACH THE COACHES MEETINGS**

1. The Head Coach or a representative from the team is required to attend the regularly scheduled "Coach the Coaches" meetings.
2. Excused absence from "Coach the Coaches" meetings:
  - a. Participation in a League game on the date of the meeting.
  - b. May also be granted by the Director of Baseball Operations of the Association provided that the Director of Baseball Operations is informed prior to the meeting. The Director of Baseball Operations shall have the sole authority in determining the approval of an excused absence and no subsequent appeals shall be allowed.
3. The "sign in" sheets given to the Secretary of TBL shall be the sole method used to determine the attendance at TBL meetings.

### **II.10 TBL NIGHT AT COLORADO MAJOR LEAGUE ROCKIES GAME**

TBL and the Rockies "team/league" night at Coors Field is an opportunity to see Major league baseball and support our hometown team. We expect full participation from our teams, coaches and families. This is a TBL fundraiser that helps TBL give back to the community. Ticket forms and information are distributed during the months of April and May from the BOD or the Team Mangers. This day will be selected in advanced of league scheduled play and will be a designated league wide "black-out" day.



## **II.11 TEAM PICTURES**

TBL will evaluate the team picture vendor selection process each year. This day in April or May will be selected in advanced of league scheduled play and will be a designated league wide "black-out" day.

## **Section III: RULES OF PLAY**

### **III.01 MANDATORY PLAY RULE**

1. All League Levels - For regular season League play, TBL teams will bat their entire roster, and for defensive play no player will sit more than half the game; there will be a one for one mandatory sit and play rule, however this mandatory play rule SHALL BE SUSPENDED ONLY as follows:
  - a. For any player, on a game-by-game basis only, who arrives at the site of a League game after the time specified by the Head Coach of the team AND/OR
  - b. For all players, if a League game is played less than the complete game, mercy rule or a curfew that results in a complete game.
  - c. If a player is being disciplined. In this case the player's name and reason that he/she is not playing must be listed on the game score sheet. These game score sheets or Game Changer results can be called for review by the BOD.
  - d. This mandatory play rule SHALL NOT APPLY for any game played less than the regulation number of innings due to game time limits.
2. The penalty for failure to abide by TBL'S mandatory play rules shall be first, a warning from the Director of Baseball Operations or Coaches Director, second, a one game suspension imposed by the President of the Association, and third, immediate dismissal as the Head Coach of the affected team.
3. TOURNAMENT PLAY ADMINISTERED BY THE LEAGUE, No mandatory play rules apply. However, it is recommended that the regular season mandatory play rules be used. Further, the BOD reserves the right, on a case-by-case basis only, to impose additional mandatory play rules on any team.

### **III.02 UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT AND PRACTICES**

1. All TBL League teams are required to wear the uniforms "styles" approved by TBL at all league games. This consists of the TBL approved hat and jersey. TBL will evaluate the uniform ordering process annually.
  - a. For games or tournaments not classified as official League play, teams are permitted, but not required to wear the TBL uniform.
  - b. Any team, at its own expense, may wear hats and jerseys/pants other than those approved for TBL play provided that such hats match, exactly, the color(s) and "spirit" of TBL. These colors



must be a combination of Red, Black, Gray and White. NO Exceptions and certainly no foreign colors such as navy blue, green, purple etc.

- c. In addition, any team, at its own expense, may have TBL approved hats and jerseys embroidered with names, numbers, and mascots and sponsors names.
2. Undershirts, jackets, warm-up jerseys, sanitary socks, batting gloves, shoes, etc., may be used by any team without restriction.
3. Teams may wear pants with pinstripes and/or piping during all League games. Each team will wear the League approved uniform for team pictures.
4. Equipment will be provided to each team. Equipment may include bases, catchers gear, two dozen game balls, and equipment bag. Optional items may include base tool and bucket.
5. Access to practice fields (based on availability) will be equitable to all participants with the understanding that older participants will require larger fields. Scheduled and rescheduled games will take priority over any field that has an assigned practice on it. Practices might need to be cancelled or rearranged in order to allow for scheduled or rescheduled games.

### **III.03 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

1. All players are required to wear double-eared batting helmets while batting and running bases at all times, including all practices, scrimmage games, all practice games, all League games, all Tournament games, and any other time(s) while actively participating on offense while involved in any TBL activity. This includes any player acting as a base coach at any time, or any player who otherwise is on a game or practice field of any type while not in possession of his/her baseball glove.
2. All catchers are required to wear complete catcher's protective gear, including an athletic cup, at all times in which a batter is in the batter's box. All ages are required to wear full catcher's helmet.
3. No player or coach shall throw bats, helmets, or other equipment in such a manner that endangers others, or in an unsportsmanlike manner.
4. The Head Coach or acting Head Coach, of any team must have in his/her possession a completed Medical Authorization form for every player on his/her team. No player may participate in any practice or game until the player's parent/legal guardian has completed and signed a Medical Authorization form and returned the completed and signed Medical Authorization form to the Head Coach.
5. TBL will work with local authorities to and follow guidelines provided by the CDC to ensure the safety of all our families.

### **III.04 FALL BALL**

Machine pitch teams coming into 9/10U kid pitch for the first time...

TBL will do its best to have teams will play *like* teams to remain competitive throughout the fall season.



Rules will be consistent week to week allowing for coaches to help the kids progress.

1. Pitching from a consistent distance (43')
2. 1 inning per kid, allowing each kid a chance to pitch throughout the fall season
3. No leading or stealing allowing for the pitcher to focus on just getting the ball over the plate and allowing for the catcher to focus on just catching the ball
4. Balk warnings can/will be given w/o runner advancement
5. 1hour and 45 min time slot
  - a. 45 min practice
  - b. 60 min game
  - c. Inning roles after 3 out, 5 runs or 30 pitches, whichever comes first.

**Kid Pitch 7-14's**

1. Each team supplies a new game ball to the umpire at the start of the game (Have a second new ball or gently used ball in reserve)
2. Pitchers (9 -14) can only pitch 2 innings in a game, HS Pitchers can pitch 4 Innings
3. Catchers can only catch 3 innings per game; HS catchers have no inning restrictions
4. No more than 5 runs allowed by a team in any inning. Once you reach 5 runs, switch sides
5. NO RUN RULES so play the full 1:45 or 6 innings, 1:30 or 6 innings for 8U Machine Pitch/8U Kid Pitch Games no new innings after 1:15 minutes. There are no mercy rules in Fall, use your discretion and if your team is clearly overmatching the other team, work on other plays, don't pitch your best pitcher, etc.
6. Be responsible adults, you can keep score, but we don't officially keep standings.
7. Go over ground rules before the games and come to an understanding about how you want the game to be played (stealing, leading off for younger teams, etc.). Talk it out with the opposing coach and the umpires. Come to an agreement on rules. Some teams are moving into new rules and trying to teach the game plus new rules such as stealing, leading off, etc.
8. Teams MUST bat their entire lineups, free defensive substitutions: No Exceptions –No penalty if a player is hurt or cannot finish the game, simply skip that batter in the line-up.
9. Teams combine age group and should play up to the age group being played in the following spring season. (Example a player age 10 as of February 1, should play in the 11/12's grouping for fall ball)
10. Rule: Keep it Lite and Have Fun-Help develop the players.
11. Here are the distances we will use in the fall:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Pitching</b>	<b>Bases</b>
<b>7/8U</b>	<b>40'</b>	<b>60'</b>
<b>9/10U</b>	<b>46'</b>	<b>65'</b>
<b>11/12U</b>	<b>50'</b>	<b>70'</b>
<b>13/14U</b>	<b>54'</b>	<b>80' (14's play 60/90)</b>





1. Machine Pitch 7/8U Kid Pitch: 1h 30 min game times *Final batter can finish the At Bat, but the game ends after that*
2. Kid Pitch 9-14's: 1h 45 min game times (*game ends at 1:45 no exceptions*) *Final batter can finish the At Bat, but the game ends after that* - We have limited daylight, keep the games moving.
3. **Special Rules for Rookie 9-Year Old/8U Kid Pitch Teams** (*Most rookie teams at 9 are just experiencing Kid Pitch for the first time*):
4. Leading Off permitted if **agreed** to by coaches
5. Dropped 3rd Strikes result in an out

## **Section IV: Code of Conduct**

### **IV.01 CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Be respectful of coaches, parent and youth at all times.
2. Give coaches, parents and youth the benefit of doubt.
3. Practice the "24-hour rule". Defined as when an "emotional" situation occurs on or off the field of play, wait twenty-four (24) hours before responding instead of reacting to the situation directly after the event.
4. Ask yourself, "Would your mom or dad be proud of your words, behavior or actions?"

## **Section V: Amending Rules & Regulations**

### **V.01 CHANGES TO RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Changes to these rules & regulations shall be done as follows:

1. The proposed amendment(s) shall be in writing and submitted to the TBL Board.
2. The amendment(s) shall be voted upon at the next successive TBL meeting
3. A majority vote of current board members with two-thirds (2/3) present is needed to approve all amendments.
4. Any discrepancies between this Thunder Baseball League Rules and Regulation and the approved Thunder Baseball League By-Laws, the By-Laws shall prevail.

The Rules & Regulations of TBL are hereby amended and adopted the 1<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020 as evidence by a vote of the TBL board members on December 1, 2020 and is hereby certified to be correct by the Executive Officers (Darron Cox, JJ Ramsey, John Reiser, Ryan Schroeder, Robert deVera, Jim Walther and Shawn Williamson) of TBL.