

# Double A (AA) Instructional League

---

Official Rules Book – 2026 Season

## Article 1 – League Authority

These rules are established under the authority of the Minor League Director and League President. They are binding for all teams, coaches, players, and spectators participating in the AA Instructional Division.

Failure to comply with these rules may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to game forfeiture, suspension of coaches or players, or additional sanctions deemed appropriate by league leadership.

League officials reserve the right to interpret rules and make final decisions on any disputes.

## Article 2 – League Philosophy & Objectives

The AA Instructional Division is designed as an introductory level of organized baseball. The primary goal is player development.

The league emphasizes teaching fundamental baseball skills, including hitting, fielding, throwing, and base running.

Players are encouraged to learn positions, rules of the game, and teamwork in a structured and supportive environment.

Coaches are expected to promote positive reinforcement, sportsmanship, and enjoyment of the game.

The ultimate objective is to build player confidence and encourage long-term participation in baseball.

## Article 3 – Code of Conduct

The league enforces a strict zero-tolerance policy regarding unsportsmanlike behavior.

Coaches, players, and spectators are prohibited from arguing with umpires or coaches making calls.

Any form of confrontational, disrespectful, or abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

Individuals violating this policy will be removed from the facility and may face suspension or further disciplinary action.

All participants are expected to demonstrate respect, professionalism, and good sportsmanship at all times.

#### **Article 4 – Player Participation & Positions**

Each player must participate in a minimum of three (3) innings per game.

Every player must play at least one (1) inning in an infield position, excluding catcher.

These requirements may be waived in games shortened due to time limits, weather conditions, or darkness.

No player may sit out for consecutive innings, including during playoff games.

Players may only play high-responsibility positions such as pitcher, catcher, or first base if they are deemed capable by the coaching staff.

Coaches must prioritize player safety and ensure players are placed in positions where they can succeed.

#### **Article 5 – Batting Rules**

A continuous batting order is required. All players present at the game must be included in the lineup.

Players will bat in order regardless of whether they are currently playing in the field.

Batting orders must remain consistent throughout the game and may only be changed between games.

Late-arriving players should be added to the end of the batting lineup.

#### **Article 6 – Pitching Regulations**

The AA division uses a coach-pitch format exclusively. No player pitching is permitted.

Each batter will receive a maximum of six (6) pitches or five (5) swings, whichever comes first.

A batter is declared out after five swinging strikes.

During the first at-bat of each player, if no contact is made, the player will complete the at-bat using a batting tee.

In all subsequent at-bats, the tee will not be used.

If the sixth pitch is fouled or missed, the batter is awarded an additional pitch until the ball is either put into play or not contacted.

If the batter fails to put the ball into play after the allowed pitches, the batter is out.

Walks and bunting are not permitted under any circumstances.

### **Article 7 – Defensive Alignment**

Teams may field up to eleven (11) defensive players at one time.

This includes five (5) outfielders to provide adequate defensive coverage.

If a team has fewer than nine (9) players, coaches are encouraged to share players or adjust positioning to ensure a fair and safe game.

### **Article 8 – Field Positioning**

Outfielders must be positioned on the grass and remain at least fifteen (15) feet behind the baselines at the time of the pitch.

Infielders must remain in their assigned positions and should not crowd the pitching mound.

The defensive pitcher must be positioned within ten (10) feet of the pitching mound and at or behind the pitcher's rubber.

The defensive pitcher is not allowed to stand in front of the rubber prior to the pitch.

### **Article 9 – Game Rules & Modifications**

The infield fly rule is not in effect in this division.

Free defensive substitutions are permitted at all times to encourage player participation and development.

### **Article 10 – Standings & Playoffs**

Standings will be determined by winning percentage and total runs scored.

The home team manager is responsible for reporting the game score on twll.net.

All teams qualify for the playoffs, and the format will be determined based on the number of participating teams.

### **Article 11 – Run Limits**

During the regular season, teams are limited to a maximum of three (3) runs per inning.

In the final inning, the visiting team may score up to three (3) runs if already ahead, or enough runs to take a lead of four (4) runs.

The home team may score unlimited runs in the final inning to win the game.

During playoffs, the run limit increases to four (4) runs per inning.

In playoff games, the final inning allows unlimited runs for both teams, and no mercy rule applies.

## **Article 12 – Game Time Regulations**

Games are limited to a maximum of two (2) hours.

No new inning may begin after one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes.

A maximum of six (6) innings may be played, time permitting.

Managers must agree on the final inning before it begins.

If no agreement is reached, the game will end at six innings, upon time expiration, or due to weather or darkness.

## **Article 13 – Field Responsibilities**

The home team is responsible for preparing the field prior to the game, including lining the batter's box and raking the infield.

The away team is responsible for post-game duties, including raking the infield, collecting trash, and storing equipment such as batting tees.

## **Article 14 – Base Running Rules**

Stealing bases and leading off are not permitted.

Runners must keep one foot on the base until the ball is hit.

Runners may not advance on passed balls.

During the first half of the season, runners may advance a maximum of two (2) bases on a clean hit.

If a ball is deflected by an infielder, runners may advance only one (1) base.

During the second half of the season and playoffs, runners may advance freely until the ball is returned to the infield.

Once the ball is returned to the infield, play is considered dead.

Accidental interference will result in play continuing, while intentional interference will result in the runner being called out.

### **Article 15 – Umpiring Procedures**

During the regular season, no umpires are assigned and coaches are responsible for making all calls.

The pitching coach calls strikes and manages pitch count.

Base coaches are responsible for making calls at their respective bases.

All calls are final and may not be argued.

During playoffs, one umpire will be assigned behind home plate.

Coaches will continue to assist with base calls.

There is zero tolerance for arguing umpire decisions.

### **Article 16 – Equipment Requirements**

All bats must be approved by USA Baseball standards.

Batting helmets must include a full-face mask for player safety.

Metal cleats are strictly prohibited.

### **Closing Statement**

This Rules Book is intended to promote fair play, safety, and player development. All participants share responsibility for maintaining a positive and respectful environment.