

DANNY SMITH MEMORIAL PARK CORPORATION
BRONCO LEAGUE BASEBALL RULES

1. Field Preparation & Equipment

- a. Bases shall be set 70' apart.
- b. Pitching rubber shall be set 50' from home plate (measured from rear point of plate (apex) to front of rubber).
- c. The home team is responsible for preparing the field for play before each game. This includes lining the field, base placement, and positioning the portable mound. Visiting team can assist in these tasks if needed. If it is the last game of the day, the home team shall be responsible for storing field equipment (in shed behind backstop), turning off lights and locking equipment buildings.
- d. The visiting team is responsible for connecting and running the scoreboard and, if it is the last game of the day, returning scoreboard equipment to the concession stand. A parent makes an ideal candidate for this task.
- e. Each team is responsible for removing their own equipment, trash etc. from the field and dugouts. Teams should attempt to vacate the field and dugouts promptly to allow teams in subsequent games to take the field and warm up.
- f. Both teams are responsible for ensuring the mound is covered with the tarp and tires are placed over the tarp after the last game of the evening. Tarp and tires are located in the field shed.
- g. A hard baseball, supplied by the league, will be used for league play.
- h. Bat barrels cannot be in excess of 2 ¾".
- i. Catchers must wear appropriate protective equipment, either supplied by the league or their own (helmet, face mask, chest protector, and shin guards).
- j. Metal cleats or spikes are not permitted.
- k. Players must wear batting helmets when on-deck, at bat, and running the bases.
- l. Defensive players should wear hats in the field.

2. Pitching Rules

- a. Pitching shall be done by the players, overhand from the pitching mound rubber.
- b. Players may pitch no more than 2 innings per day.
- c. A pitcher returning from the previous inning is allowed a max of 5 warm up pitches. A new pitcher is allowed a max of 7 warm up pitches. This amount begins regardless of who is catching the pitcher during warmup. Umpires are responsible for monitoring this to make sure play continues.
- d. Innings pitched must be consecutive. The final inning of the first game of a double-header and the first inning of the subsequent game shall be deemed "consecutive" for purposes of this rule.
- e. One "live" pitch thrown in an inning shall count as a full inning pitched.
- f. Balks should be pointed out by the umpire for educational purposes only. The umpire shall not stop play to point out a balk. The runners do not advance and the pitch and any subsequent hit or play are live.
- g. An intentional walk may be declared by the defensive coach, catcher or pitcher by informing the home plate umpire before any pitches are thrown to a batter. If so declared, it is not necessary to throw any pitches for an intentional walk.

3. Other Playing Rules

- a. Free substitution is allowed at all positions other than pitcher. Pitchers are subject to the

rules set forth above.

- b. Each team must field a minimum of six (6) players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled start time of each game. Failure to do so results in forfeit. In the event of such a forfeit, teams are permitted to play a “scrimmage” game.
- c. Substitution players are permitted to fill in for a team that is short of nine players. The sub player must be someone currently playing that season for Danny Smith Park. Ideally, a sub player comes from a team in the Mustang division. Teams may also field an opposing team’s player in an outfield position, with the approval of the opposing team to fill a space. Any other substitution circumstance must receive approval from the Danny Smith Memorial Park Board of Directors. No exceptions.
- d. If a team plays with fewer than eight (8) players, they may, at the option of the opposing coach, be assessed not more than one (1) out per batting rotation at the end of the batting order. The opposing coach wishing to impose the assessed out must invoke the option to do so before the start of the game. If this rule is not specifically invoked by a coach, it shall not be applied and no automatic out assessed. The umpire is not responsible for alerting a coach to the option to invoke the rule or to inquire if a coach wishes to assert it.
- e. Base stealing is permitted. Lead-offs are not permitted. Runners may not leave base until the pitch has either been hit or crossed the plate. If, in the opinion of the umpire, a player left base early, the runner will be required to return to the base previously occupied. A player who is warned for leaving the base early on three consecutive occasions in the same inning shall be called out on the third occasion.
- f. There is no limit on runners advancing on an overthrow. Runners shall be awarded the next base on a thrown ball that goes out of play.
- g. Ball four (4) and strike three (3) are live balls and runners may advance.
- h. A batter is out on the third strike and may not advance under any circumstances, including if the ball is dropped by the catcher (i.e. no “dropped third strike” rule).
- i. The umpire, and only the umpire, may call time-out if, in the umpire’s opinion, play has stopped or stalled. This is to prevent unsportsmanlike and game-delaying base-running tactics (e.g. dancing or attempting to bait fielders into making throws).
- j. Base runners must slide feet first at all bases and home plate. A player sliding head-first shall be called out. Diving back to a base on an overrun or a pick-off attempt by a catcher is permitted.
- k. Runners must slide into home any time there is a play at the plate. Catchers shall not obstruct home plate unless in the act of fielding or receiving the ball or making a tag on the runner. Runners shall attempt to avoid contact with the catcher at home and shall not attempt to “run over” a catcher to knock the ball loose in a play. If, in the umpire’s judgment, a runner could have avoided contact and failed to do so, or failed to slide with a play at the plate, the runner shall be called out.
- l. There is no infield fly rule.
- m. Each team is permitted to play six infielders and three outfielders defensively. Outfielders must remain on the grass until the ball is hit. Outfielders may play approximately left field, left center, center, right center, or right field positions.
- n. Each team shall bat its entire roster, in order, before returning to the top of its batting order, irrespective of whether a player played in the field that inning.

4. Umpiring, Time and Scoring Rules

- a. A minimum of one umpire shall be used for each game. At its discretion, the Board may employ two umpires, in which event the home plate umpire shall be the head umpire. Umpires will make all calls. An umpire’s judgment calls are final and not subject to challenge. Challenges or protests concerning application or interpretation of the rules shall be made to the Board.
- b. All games should start at the scheduled start time. In the event of delay, the home plate

umpire shall determine the actual start time. The home plate umpire is the official timekeeper.

- c. If an umpire is not available, coaches for the offensive team shall umpire that half of the inning, maintain pitch counts, etc. The head coach of the home team will declare the actual start time of the game prior to the first pitch being thrown.
- d. Teams are not guaranteed infield warm-up prior to games. When time permits, infield warm-up time should be shared evenly between the teams.
- e. Games shall be five innings in length, subject to the time limits set forth herein. In the event of a tie, extra innings may be played, also subject to time limitations. A regular season game may end in a tie due to time limits.
- f. **Time Limits in Regular Season Games:** No new inning shall be started more than ninety (90) minutes after the **actual start time** of the game, as determined by the umpire. All innings that are started shall be played to completion.
- g. **Tournament games are not subject to time limits.**
- h. Games will be declared complete if, after four (4) or more complete innings (3-½ if the home team is ahead) the game is stopped due to weather conditions. If fewer than 4 (or 3-½)innings have been completed, the game will be rescheduled (calendar permitting) and resumed at the point it was stopped, as opposed to being restarted.
- i. There shall be a cap of five (5) runs per team per inning, except in the final inning of the game which shall be an uncapped “open” inning. The umpire shall declare the open inning prior to either the 5th inning **or** what the umpire determines to be the final inning of the game based upon time limits. The open inning is not guaranteed. If extra-innings are played in the case of a tie, those innings shall be “capped” at five (5) runs per inning. j. There is no “mercy” or “runs ahead” rule (e.g. 10-run rule).

5. Participation and Sportsmanship Rules

- a. No player may sit defensively for more than one inning (three outs in the field) unless every other player on the team has sat defensively for one inning, i.e. all players must sit one inning before any player may sit two innings. Exceptions shall be made for injury or illness.
- b. Teams shall roster bat, meaning every player in attendance shall bat in the batting order. Exceptions shall be made for injury or illness.
- c. Baserunners should not “dance” or attempt to bait fielders into throws.
- d. Trash talking, abusive language, vulgarity and unsportsmanlike conduct are unacceptable at Danny Smith Park. Players, coaches, parents or fans engaging in this conduct may be removed from the Park or subject to other sanction at the discretion of the Board.

6. The Board may interpret, change, modify or suspend any rules stated above as deemed necessary.

****NEW FOR 2024**- DOUBLE BASE AT FIRST RULES AND PROCEDURES**

(a) A batted ball that hits the white section of the double base shall be declared fair. A batted ball that hits the orange section without first touching or bouncing over the white section shall be declared foul.

(b) Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white section of the double first base.

NOTE 1: A play is being made on the batter-runner when he/she is attempting to reach first base while the defense is attempting to retire him/her at that base.

NOTE: 2: If there is a play on the batter-runner, and the batter-runner touches only the white portion and the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base, it is treated the

same as missing the base. Therefore, the batter-runner is declared out.

(c) Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the batter-runner must use the orange section on his/her first attempt to tag first base. NOTE: On extra-base hits or other balls hit to the outfield when there is no chance for a play to be made at the double first base, the batter-runner may touch either the white or colored (orange or green) section of the base. Should, however, the batter-runner reach and go beyond first base, he/she may only return to the white section of the base. PENALTY: If there is a play on the batter-runner, and the batter-runner touches only the white portion and the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base, it is treated the same as missing the base. If properly appealed, the batter-runner is out.

(d) When tagging up on a fly ball, the white section of the base must be used by the runner. One foot is permitted to extend behind or on the base into foul territory, as long as the front foot is touching the white section of the base. PENALTY: If properly appealed, the runner is out.

(e) If the batter-runner collides with the fielder who is only on the white portion of the bag attempting to catch the ball, it is **interference. The runner is ruled out.**

If the fielder is only standing on the orange portion of the bag and there is a collision prior to the fielder catching the ball, it is **obstruction. The runner is ruled safe.**

If both players are doing what they are supposed to do and there is a collision, it may be incidental contact and no penalty assessed.