

TSP General Rules

Applies to Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, T-Ball, and Volleyball | 2026 season

Order of authority: These General Rules govern every TSP sport. A sport-specific rule controls only when it is clearly identified as an exception. Game officials and the TSP Sports Director may resolve situations not addressed here, with player safety first.

1. Program Principles

- Provide a safe, positive, instructional environment for children.
- Promote fair participation, teamwork, skill development, and good sportsmanship.
- Treat opponents, teammates, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators with respect.

2. Team Size and Player Shortages

- A team that does not have the customary or scheduled number of players may still play with fewer players.
- With both coaches' agreement, a team may borrow players from the opposing team for that game so children can participate and teams can play as evenly as practical. Borrowed players remain participants in that game only and do not change either team's roster.
- A game will not be forfeited solely because a team has too few players. Coaches and officials should adjust participation safely and fairly.
- A sport-specific safety requirement may limit how short a team can play only when that sport document clearly labels the requirement as an exception to this rule.

3. Participation and Playing Time

- Every eligible, uniformed player should receive the minimum playing time stated in the applicable sport and division rules.
- Illness, injury, late arrival, ejection, or approved discipline may affect playing time.
- If a player will not meet the required playing time for disciplinary reasons, the coach must notify the player's parent or guardian and the appropriate TSP Sports Director at least 24 hours before the game when reasonably possible. The game official and opposing coach must be informed before play begins.
- Coaches must not use discipline or lineup management to defeat TSP equal-participation requirements.

4. Practices and Team Activities

- A team may meet no more than three times in one week, including games, practices, scrimmages, and other coach-directed team activities.
- Kindergarten and 1st-grade practices may not exceed 60 minutes. Practices for 2nd through 6th grade may not exceed 90 minutes.
- Practices must be age-appropriate, include reasonable water and rest breaks, and follow all equipment and safety requirements that apply to games.
- Coaches must provide families with reasonable notice of practice schedules and changes. Players

should arrive prepared and be picked up promptly.

5. Player and Family Expectations

- Players should arrive on time with required clothing, footwear, protective equipment, and water.
- Parents or guardians must notify the coach when a player will be late or absent from a practice or game.
- Parents and spectators must support the entire team, use positive encouragement, and refrain from sideline coaching.
- Parents and spectators must respect officials' decisions and use the chain of communication established by TSP: coach, Sports Director, then TSP Board.
- Children and spectators may not enter an unused field or court while another game is in progress unless authorized.
- A parent or guardian must pick up a child promptly and may not leave a child without approved adult supervision.

6. Conduct and Sportsmanship

- Positive cheering is encouraged. Taunting, abusive language, swearing, threats, fighting, harassment, discrimination, and negative comments toward any child or adult are prohibited.
- Only coaches may address officials about rules or game administration, and only at an appropriate stoppage or after the game. Officials' judgment calls are final during play.
- No player, coach, parent, or spectator may use tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or be impaired by a substance at a TSP practice, game, or event.
- Officials or TSP representatives may warn, penalize, remove, or suspend a participant or spectator for inappropriate behavior. Anyone directed to leave must do so promptly. TSP may impose further sanctions.

7. Safety, Equipment, and Facilities

- Players must use properly fitted, sport-appropriate equipment and follow the protective-equipment rules in the applicable sport document.
- Jewelry, hard hair devices, unsafe footwear, and other hazards are prohibited unless a sport rule expressly permits a safe accommodation.
- Only authorized coaches, players, officials, and volunteers may enter designated playing or bench areas. Spectators must remain in designated areas and clear of backstops, end lines, sidelines, and active courts.
- Pets are not allowed at Bolton Hill fields. Everyone must dispose of litter and leave fields, courts, gyms, benches, and spectator areas clean.

8. Scheduling, Weather, and Game Administration

- Games are played as scheduled unless TSP or the responsible facility official announces a change or cancellation. Weather and field-condition decisions will be communicated as early as practical.
- Coaches must prepare required lineups, rotation cards, rosters, and score sheets before the game and cooperate with scorekeepers and officials.
- The home/visiting designation, bench or sideline assignment, game timing, completed-game requirements, and tie procedures are governed by the applicable sport rules.
- Questions or concerns should be raised through the applicable Sports Director after the game; they must not disrupt play or create conflict at the facility.