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FIELDS REQUIREMENTS(FR)

FR#1 - Distances:LEAD OFF,PITCHING Mound & Bases

	Didget	Bronco	Pony
Lead Off 1st Base (Measured from inside edge of the 1st base bag)	N/A	8 ft	N/A
Pitching Mound (Measured from the front of pitcher's mound to point in rear of home plate)	42 ft	48 ft	54 ft
Bases - Center of base	60 ft	70 ft	80 ft

FR#2 - GAME REQUIREMENTS and Equipment Requirements

FR#2a - Field Preparation

Home team that DO NOT HAVE their fields ready to play within fifteen (15) minutes of scheduled game time without a reasonable excuse are subject to the following:

1st Violation:

League President will contact town representative to discuss the complaint by the visiting team

and to discuss reason for delay and ensure that this does not happen in future

2nd Violation

Complaint will be referred to the Review Committee per Operating Rule #7 and Final Decision

may be a suspension of coach or forfeiture of game.

FR2a1PORTABLE PITCHING MOUNDS

{BOD APPROVED 3/18/24} - MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR THE USE OF PORTABLE

PITCHING MOUNDS. THE SMALLER MOUNDS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED

TO BE USED IN EITHER REGULAR SEASON LEAGUE PLAY OR TOURNAMENT

PLAY EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2024 SEASON.CRITERIA LINKED TO LEAGUE HOME WEB PAGE

FRa2 - MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR BASEBALLS TO BE USED IN LEAGUE OR TOURNAMENT PLAY

{BOD APPROVED 3/18/24} - CRITERIA LINKED TO LEAGUE HOME WEB PAGE

FR#2b - SOP for Games NOT starting on Time - All Divisions

- 1 - If a game cannot start by the league's designated time (Regardless of reason, it will become the mutual decision of both coaches, to set a NEW reasonable start time
- 2 - That decision time MUST BE RECORDED ON BOTH TEAM'S SCOREBOOKS. and EACH COACH and the UMPIRE MUST SIGN BOTH SCOREBOOKS.
This is the NEW agreed start time and No changes can be made after the agreement has been signed.
- 2 - If a game CANNOT start at 2nd agreed set time then the team unable to play shall forfeited.

FR#2c - Recordkeeping Requirements

Prior to start of game both score books **MUST**:

- 1 - Have the players complete name and shirt numbers recorded (NO abbreviations)
Note: ORDER BY NAME LINEUP METHOD (OBN) is used by league for substitution or batting out of order decisions
- 2 -The use of an illegal player or ineligible player shall result in forfeiture of the game(s) the said player participated in. The player becomes illegal or ineligible ONCE they have been placed in the official (home team) scorebook.
- 3 - Completion of game, both coaches MUST verify innings pitched by players on both teams, score of game and sign the opposing team's scorebook to make final results official.
- 4 - If a team or teams are using iPads then that MUST be indicated as part of the reporting requirements
- 5 - If signatures are not on BOTH scorebooks, then the home team's scorebook is considered the official record of the game in the event of any disputes.

FR#2d - Reporting Scores

HOME TEAM COACH is required to:

- 1 - Report the score
- 2 - The innings Initials of Pitchers names that pitched
- 3 - Number of innings pitched by each pitcher
- 4 - If the the home team used an Ipad that MUST also be reported
- 5 - Get information reported by 2:00pm the day after the games was played or NOT played if postponed by weather

Note: It is recommended that the visiting team coach verify the accuracy of reported information as soon as identified and contact league president with discrepancies before the next game is played.

FR#2e - Umpire Requirements

- 1 - Home team will furnish two (2) umpires.
- 2 - One (1) may be from the visiting team if necessary.
- 3 - Plate umpire MUST be a minimum of seventeen (17) years of age.
- 4 - Review GAME CHECKLIST / UMPIRES INFORMATION prior to start of game
- 5 - Baseballs of good quality shall be used in the game.

FR#2f - Strike Zone

DIDGET:

- 1 - From the batter's chin to shins (slightly above the ankles).
- 2 - MUST remain from the outside to the outside of the plate, including the black border.
- 3 - Dropped third strike by the catcher is considered an out.

BRONCO and PONY:

- 1 - From the armpits (letters) to the top of the knee and from the outside to the outside of the plate including the black border.

FR#2g - Slide Rule - ALL Divisions

Runners MUST make an attempt to avoid contact with an opposing player.
On any plays on 1st - 2nd and 3rd bases SLIDING IS NOT REQUIRED.

Catchers / Players MUST allow runners the opportunity to home plate
THEY CANNOT BLOCK BASE PATH

Catchers / Players may NOT go up the third base line & block the runner from reaching home plate.

If this occurs, then the Catcher / Player will be called for interference and runner will be Called SAFE - awarded home plate and the run. **Umpire's decisions ARE FINAL**

Sliding is ONLY REQUIRED AT HOME PLATE IF THERE IS PLAY for an out and a player is protecting home plate and the ball is catchable then the runner **MUST** slide.
Failure to slide will result in the runner being CALL OUT (NO EXCEPTIONS!)
Umpire's decisions in these situations ARE FINAL.

If an umpire feels there was CLEAR INTENT to CAUSE BODILY INJURY BY EXCESSIVE CONTACT THE UMPIRE MAY EJECT THE PLAYER FROM THE GAME.
Runners MUST make an attempt to avoid contact with an opposing player.
On any plays on 1st - 2nd and 3rd bases SLIDING IS NOT REQUIRED.

Catchers / Players MUST allow runners the opportunity to home plate
THEY CANNOT BLOCK BASE PATH

Catchers / Players may NOT go up the third base line & block the runner from reaching home plate.

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Umpire's decisions in these situations ARE FINAL.

If an umpire feels there was CLEAR INTENT to CAUSE BODILY INJURY BY EXCESSIVE CONTACT THE UMPIRE MAY EJECT THE PLAYER FROM THE GAME.

FR#2h - Protests Procedures

A formal protest during the game can only be related to rules regulating the game - NOT UMPIRES ON-FIELD DECISIONS.

Steps for Protesting:

1. The protest must be made at the time of the infraction, to the plate umpire.
2. The plate umpire informs the opposing coach and scorekeepers that the game is under protest.
3. All field conditions must be documented (ex: players in the field, pitch count, base runners, number of outs.)
4. The game then will be played to its conclusion
5. Any manager, coach, or other adult that withdraws a team from the field, for other than safety reasons, prior to the completion of the game, shall forfeit all rights to a protest.
6. A written protest must be filed with the League's Review Committee within 24 hours, and prior to the start of the next game of both teams.
7. If the protest is upheld, the game shall be replayed from the point of the protested infraction, regardless of who won the original game.
8. If the protest is NOT upheld, the final results of the game remain official.
9. *There can be no protest in any case of an umpire's judgment call.*

FR#2i - Unsportsmanlike Conduct Procedures

{BOD: 1/21/24} - Approved Immediate Suspension from league play for duration of season as determined by the League President

1- We expect excellent sportsmanship to occur during all Tri County League events.
2 - Sportsmanship includes many parts - attitude, intensity, commitment, and the way we interact with each other.

3 - GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL OF US - ESPECIALLY EXAMPLES SET BY COACHES AND PARENTS.

4 - No coach, player, umpire, or fan shall engage in any grossly unsportsmanlike conduct

Including, but not limited to: throwing equipment, profanity, arguing, yelling, or directing remarks to or at any player, coach, or umpire during or after any Tri County Baseball League events.

5 - UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THE LEAGUE

FR#3 - LENGTH OF GAME

FR#3a - REGULAR SEASON

RECOMMENDED THAT TIME LIMIT RULE BE DISCUSSED PRIOR TO THE START OF A DIDGET GAME (BOD - Review Committee 6/24/09 - Clarification)

	<u>Didget</u>	<u>Bronco</u>	<u>Pony</u>
Start Times (Only moved with approval of League President)	6:00pm	7:45pm (estimated)	7:00pm
Innings	6	6	7
Mercy Rule	N/A	15 after 4 10 after 5	15 after 3 10 after 4 8 after 5
Time Limit Rule (BOD 4/15/18) - Starts when 1st batter gets into batters box and NO NEW INNING starts after 2 Hour Time Limit). The 2 Hour rule SUPERCEDES the Mercy Run Rule	N/A	2 Hours	N/A
Runs per Inning (Except for declared Open Inning)	4	N/A	N/A
<u>TIME LIMIT RULE</u> -(BOD 1/29/23) Any inning started after 80 minutes or (7:20pm) will be the "OPEN INNING" No Exceptions.	Applicable	N/A	N/A
(BOD 4/7/19) NOTE: Team behind going into Open Inning will bat first in the top of the inning - if team takes lead then opposing team will bat in bottom of inning	Applicable	N/A	N/A

FR#3b - Game TIE at the END OF OPEN INNING

(BOD-Review Committee 6/24/09 - Clarification)

1- All innings played to break a TIE will be OPEN INNINGS

The FIRST TIE BREAKING INNING will:

Have the player in the batting order who is listed PRIOR to the player scheduled to bat will start the inning on 2nd BASE

EVERY TIE BREAKING INNING AFTER THE FIRST ONE will:

Have the player in the batting order who is listed PRIOR to the player scheduled to bat will start the inning on 3rd BASE

DIDGET GAMES CANNOT END IN A TIE - THEY NEED TO BE FINISHED

FR#4 - CRITERIA for an OFFICIAL Game

	<u>Didget</u>	<u>Bronco</u>
DIDGET and BRONCO DIVISIONS - Game is called for ANY REASON after 3 1/2 innings with Home team leading it is considered an "OFFICIAL GAME"	Applicable	Applicable
	<u>Pony</u>	
PONY DIVISION - Game is called for ANY REASON after 4 1/2 innings with Home team leading it is considered an "OFFICIAL GAME"	Applicable	

FR#4a - ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING OFFICIAL GAMES

1 - During regular Season if a game has exceeded the Official Inning Requirement and the inning is NOT complete, then the game reverts back to the previous completed inning and those results are considered OFFICIAL regardless of the current score.

FR#5 - Information REGARDING UN-OFFICIAL GAMES

- 1 - If a game is called, prior to becoming an OFFICIAL GAME the game will be canceled and replayed as a new game.
- 2 - Innings pitched will NOT be assessed.
- 3 - Rescheduling of Un-Official games MUST be approved by the League President.

FR#6 - RULES GOVERNING TOURNAMENT GAMES

- 1 - The game will be halted and play resumed at the next agreed upon scheduled time and game status remains the same. Rescheduling MUST be approved by League President
- 2 - Both teams MUST record (runners on base, score, pitch count etc)
- 3 - Game MUST resume exactly where it left off. If this cannot happen then the league President MUST be contacted ASAP to discuss.
- 4 - No time limit for TOURNAMENT GAMES - (BOD - Review Committee 6/24 / Clarification)
- 5 - Rule FR#4a - IS NOT used during Tournament

FR#7 - EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS - ALL DIVISIONS

SAFETY

- 1 - Catchers will wear helmet, mask, chest protector, protective cup, and shin guards during games.
BOD APPROVED (4/11/2010): Absolutely NO steal cleats that have BLADES will be allowed in league play.
- 2 - Pitchers ARE ALLOWED TO WEAR SUNGLASSES OR PRESCRIPTION SHADED GLASSES
- 3 - Any player warming up a pitcher shall wear a protective mask - NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 4 - **{BOD DECISION 1/21/24}: SUNGLASSES OR SHADED GLASSES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED FOR THE PITCHER**

BATTING HELMETS (Batters and Base Runners have two options of protective gear approved for league play)

Option 1 - Full helmet with face guards and double ear flaps

Option 2 - Chin Flap Guard (Towns will determine whether to allow their respective teams the use Chin Flap Guard)

(BOD Approved Option #2 on 3/21/21)

SHOES

Football cleats or a plastic cleat with metal piece on bottom that is flat is acceptable

PITCHERS PROTECTIVE MASK

At present time this **NOT** a mandatory piece of equipment for TriCo Baseball League. **(Is was agreed on by the BOD on 4/6/14): that if a team wished to use a Protective Pitcher Mask for their players that would be acceptable.**

BATS

- 1 - Bats shall be not more than **thirty-four (34) inches in length and not more than 2 3/4 inches** in diameter at the thickest point.
- 2 - Bat must be approved by a **nationally recognized youth organization.**
- 3 - Wooden bats are ALLOWED

SHIRTS

ALL DIVISIONS:

- 1 - Shirt or Jersey is required to have a number located on the back.
- 2 - Players will wear full uniforms or jerseys and caps.
- 3 - Numbers MUST be at least six (6) inches in height on the back of the shirt.

FR#8 - Batting Line-Up Options

FR#8a - Designated Hitter

- 1 - Allowed in both the Bronco & Pony Divisions (**NOT DIDGET DIVISION**).
- 2 - Must be DECLARED PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME
- 3 - If the Designated Hitter is used then the Extra Hitter CANNOT be used.

FR#8b - Extra Hitter

BOD APPROVED (4/11/2010) EXTRA HITTER RULE (EH) for ALL DIVISIONS:

- 1 - Allowed in ALL DIVISIONS
- 2 - Must be DECLARED PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME
- 3 - If the Extra Hitter is used then the Designated Hitter CANNOT be used.

EXPLANATION OF EXTRA HITTER RULE:

Allows for an extra player to be added to the batting order (Didgets > 11)(Bronco-Pony > 10)

The EH Rule allows any of the players listed in the batting order to play in the field without regard to substitution rules

Note: if the pitcher is removed from the game then they CANNOT re-enter to pitch

The substitution rule will ONLY apply when another player is added to the batting order. Once the EH Rule is DECLARED IT MUST BE USED THROUGHOUT THE GAME.

FR#8c - All Players on Lineup Batting

BOD APPROVED (3/21/21): Each town has the authority to allow their teams to use this option

- 1 - Allowed in ALL DIVISIONS
- 2 - Must be DECLARED PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME
- 3 - Once DECLARED IT MUST BE USED THROUGHOUT THE GAME.
- 4 - Substitution is allowed free will between all the players on the roster

Note: if the pitcher is removed from the game then they CANNOT re-enter to pitch

5 - For ANY REASON a player cannot bat then it will be handled as an "OUT" – No Exceptions

6 - If a Courtesy Runner is WANTED for the Catcher then it MUST be the last batter called out

THE COURTESY RUNNER IN THIS SITUATION IS DIFFERENT THAN OTHER LINEUPS DUE EVERY PLAYER IS IN THE BATTING ORDER - EVERY PLAYER IS IN THE GAME/LINEUP.

FR#9 - Regular League Line Up - Batting - Field Rules

DIDGET (Clarification TO THIS SECTION BY PRESIDENT 5/23/23)

1 - If a team has ten players in the dugout to start a game then Ten Players **MUST** be in the lineup and they **Must** have Ten defensive players on the Field

2 - If a team has has ten or more players at start of game in the dugout the batting order **MUST** have ten (10) players.

3 - A Team that has ten (10) or more players able to play and in the dugout and does **NOT** bat ten (10), that team will be issued an **OUT**

4 - If a team starts a game with **ONLY** ten (10) players on the lineup and in the dugout and an injury reduces the team to nine or less players, the team can bat nine with **NO PENALTY**.

5 - If a team starts a game after the 1st pitch with ten players in the dugout and on the lineup and a player becomes sick or ill the **MUST** be replaced by a substitute otherwise if that player is unable to play then an out will be recorded in their position in the batting order.

If A Didget team **ONLY** has nine players for the game - they can play with nine **WITH NO PENALTY OUT**

1 - If a team only has nine (9) players **TO START** a game and has a player join the team after the game has started, the new player can join the field immediately and is placed at the bottom of the batting order.

FR#10 - Substitution / Re-Entry Rule

ALL DIVISIONS (APPROVED BY BOD 4/12/15)

1 - **Defensive Substitution** – Must be reported immediately (cannot wait till up to bat). Those Players and then married together for rest of game. Violation will result in a “WARNING” and incident reported to League President and violating team Trico representative.

2 - **Offensive Substitution** - MUST reported when player reports to bat (Follow League Flow Chart provided at coaches meeting

2 - BOTH THE UMPIRE AND OPPOSITE TEAM COACH / BOOK KEEPER MUST BE NOTIFIED

Clarification on Substitution Rule (6/18/18)

1 - Once a player has substituted for another player those two players are joined (MARRIED) together for the remainder of the game and re-entry can ONLY OCCUR BETWEEN THOSE 2 players

2 - You cannot substitute a 3rd player into that spot.

EXCEPTION: Only as a result of injury can a 3rd player be placed into that substitution spot who has not been in the game

FR#10a - DIDGET (Double re-Entry)

1 - Any of the original ten (10) players may be withdrawn from the game and re-enter once.

2 - When an original player re-enters the game, they MUST replace the person they substituted for and MUST return to his original position in the batting order.

3 - The substitute player can ALSO enter the game twice and only for player they substituted for

4 - In both substitutions, the players (MARRIED PLAYERS) MUST occupy the same position in the batting order

A Starting pitcher may re-enter, but not as the pitcher.

FR#10b - BRONCO & PONY DIVISIONS (BOD Approved 1/27/08)

1 - Any of the original nine (9) players may be withdrawn from the game and re-enter once. (No double substitution)

2 - When the player re-enters the game he MUST replace the person who was substituted for him, and he MUST return to his original position in the batting order.

3 - The ORIGINAL STARTING PLAYER can enter the game AGAIN (no double substitution) In both substitutions, he MUST occupy the same position in the batting order as the original starting player.

4 - A team failing to field nine (9) players at the agreed start time of the game shall forfeit the game.

5 - If a team starts the game with nine (9) players and they lose a player during the game, they may finish the game with eight (8) players.

6 - If they drop below 8 then the game is consider a forfeit regardless of the number of inning played or score of the game

FR#11- Base Running

FR#11a - Courtesy Runners (All Divisions) (BOD APPROVED (4/2/17))

1 - Courtesy Runners are **NOW ALLOWED** for the CATCHER ONLY and can only be a player that is currently on the bench and NOT in the lineup

FR11b - DIDGET DIVISION

1 - Players **CANNOT** lead off any base.

2 - They can steal after the ball has crossed home plate.

Penalties: (BOD: APPROVED 2/1/14 the following change to Didget Base running rules)

1 - If base runners leave a base before the ball crosses home plate the following will occur.

1st Offense - All runners will return to their original base and the pitch is considered a dead ball.

2nd Offense or After: Any runner that leaves a base before the ball crosses home plate that player will be called OUT and the pitch is considered a dead ball. Other runners will return to their original base.

FB#11c - Didget Base Running Rule Clarification - (BOD Approved 2/1/14)

1 - ALL BASES ARE CLOSED (including Home Plate) on any balls that are being thrown back to the pitcher (umpire's discretion)

2 - Only Home Plate is CLOSED on passed balls or wild pitches to home plate

3 - If the defensive team makes a play on ANY base runner including home plate then ALL BASES automatically become open.

FR#11d - BRONCO DIVISION

1 - Base runners **CANNOT** lead off of first base past the marked eight (8) foot line. This is measured from the inside of the base.

2 - Base runners are **NOT** allowed to move past the eight foot line until the pitcher makes a move to delivery a pitch to home plate.

Penalties:

1st Offense - All runners will return to their original base and the pitch is considered a dead ball.

2nd Offense - If a runner at 1st base crosses the line a second time during the game, the player is called OUT and the pitch is considered a dead ball. Other runners will return to their original base.

3 - Players can lead off of any other base without any restrictions.

FR#11e - PONY DIVISION

Regular baseball rules apply.

FR#12 - Pitching

GENERAL RULES

FR#12a - MAXIMUM PITCHES BETWEEN INNINGS (BOD

APPROVED 4/15/12)

- 1 - Maximum number of pitches between innings for returning pitcher is FIVE (5)
- 2 - Maximum number of pitches for a new pitcher is EIGHT (8)

FR#12b - PITCHER/PLAYERS ON MULTIPLE ROSTER

- 1 - Pitcher/Players are permitted to play on multiple rosters but ARE ONLY ALLOWED to pitch in one division the entire season. (Regular Season and League Tournament)
- 2 - Pitcher/Players MUST be listed on both rosters and an asteric *** MUST BE BY THE name indicating that this is the division they are pitching within

FR#12c - CALENDAR WEEK (All Divisions)

REGULAR SEASON

New week starts every MONDAY, 12:01am through SUNDAY, 11:59pm.

FR#12d - Balk Procedures

ALL DIVISIONS {All games during Regular Season and Tournament Games}

When a BALK occurs:

- 1 - The umpire shall call time out and ask the coach to come out to the mound and explain to the pitcher what he is doing wrong.

DIDGET DIVISION

Offense (each time and each pitcher): Warning

NOTE:Balk Rule serves as a teaching event and NO runners will advance regardless of how many may be called.

BRONCO - PONY DIVISION

1st Offense: Warning

2nd Offense: Normal baseball rules are followed.

Note: Penalty is provided to every pitcher that appears in the game.

(APPROVED BY BOD - 2/4/6/14)

Trico League has adopted the following as a BALK

Movement by the pitcher to 3rd base then to 1st > is CONSIDERED A BALK.

FR#12e - Innings / Pitcher Procedures and Rest Requirements

REGULAR SEASON GAMES

	<u>DIDGET</u>	<u>BRONCO</u>	<u>PONY</u>
Number of innings allowed to pitch in a game:	5	6	7
Number of innings allowed to pitch in a calendar week:	8	9	10

1 - If a player delivers one (1) pitch or more in an inning, that player shall be charged with one (1) inning pitched.

2 - A pitcher who has been removed from the mound CAN return as a pitcher as long as they stay on the field in another position. One or more pitches will constitute a new inning or innings. Any player that has pitched in the game is removed from the game and then is re-entered they MAY NOT RETURN as a pitcher.

3 - A game in which an ineligible pitcher has been used in the rules described below shall be declared forfeited.

Rest Period - Regular Season

DIDGETS and BRONCOS:

1 - Forty Eight (48) hours rest between pitching assignments in which a player pitches more than three (3) innings.

2 - Each game in which a player pitches is considered an assignment.

PONY:

1- Forty (40) hours rest between pitching assignments in which a player pitches more than four (4) innings.

2 - Each game in which a player pitches is considered an assignment.

TOURNAMENT GAMES

	<u>DIDGET</u>	<u>BRONCO</u>	<u>PONY</u>
Number of innings allowed to pitch in a game:	5	6	7
Number of innings allowed to pitch in the tournament:	12	14	16

1 - If a player delivers one (1) pitch or more in an inning, that player shall be charged with one (1) inning pitched.

2 - A player who has been withdrawn as a pitcher, but stays in the game in another position shall be permitted to return as a pitcher one time per game.

3 - A game in which an ineligible pitcher has been used in the rules described below shall be declared forfeited.

Rest Period - Tournament Games

ALL DIVISIONS:

- 1 - Forty (40) hours** rest between pitching assignments in which a player pitches more than four (4) innings.
- 2 - Each game** in which a player pitches is considered an assignment.