

DOWNEY JUNIOR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

PLAYING RULES & REGULATIONS

I GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Player Eligibility

Players taking part in DJAA sports programs shall be residents of the City of Downey or the Downey Unified School District. Exception:

1. Any player who plays in the DJAA program continuously and moved from the City of Downey and the Downey Unified School District, shall remain in the program until player misses a sport, then player shall be dropped from the program; 2) Students enrolled at any school in Downey; 3) Player allowed to play by majority vote by the Board of Directors prior to the start of the season.

Players will play in the following divisions according to their grade. Players may play in one division above their grade level with the approval of his/her parents, the Board of Directors. If a player is moved to a higher division, that player must remain in that division for all sports, and may not return to the lower grade division at any time until again approved by the Board of Directors.

No player shall be denied the opportunity to play because of sex, height, weight, or playing experience.

DIVISIONS

Peanut	Kinder
Pee Wee (T-Ball)	1st Grade
T.I. (Tiny Instructional)	2 nd Grade
Mitey Mite	3 rd Grade
Mustang	4 th Grade
Pioneer	5 th Grade
Midget	6 th Grade
Frosh	7 th Grade
Soph	8 th Grade

2. The team manager is responsible for the eligibility of each player on his team. The playing of ineligible players will result in the automatic forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible players have participated. The Board of Directors for final decision of games played and disciplinary action for those willfully violating Pool Draw rule may request investigation of the placement of the ineligible players.
3. No player shall be allowed to play other than in designated Grade division unless specified by the Board of Directors.
4. Players may not transfer division as originally assigned upon entry to DJAA unless specified the Board of Directors.
5. All division assignments must be authorized by the Board of Directors, Player participation Rules or DJAA General Rules.

B. Registration:

The regular DJAA seasons run from September – June. No player is allowed to participate in a team practice or game until player and player’s parents/guardian have filled out a registration form and turned the form over to the League Commissioner along with the appropriate registration fees. All new players must be drawn from the player pool unless “recruiting” is OK’d by the Head Sports Commissioner. No player will be placed on a team after the first game without team approval.

PENALTY: *Forfeiture of the games in which the players have participated. A player shall remain the property of a team to which he/she is assigned until such time as player goes back into the pool draw, released by the Board of Directors, or the Head of Sport Commissioner, or misses two (2) consecutive sports (See DJAA General Rules for details).*

II UNIFORMS

A. Jerseys/Pants

1. Jerseys of the same design and color with identifying numbers, six (6) inches minimum in height on the back. Any number between 0 – 99 may be used but digits between 0 – 5 are preferred for the ease of player identification by referees/officials. The Head Sport Commissioner will issue team colors at the time a team is formed. Head Sport Commissioner assigns team name.
2. No sponsor’s name or advertising shall appear on any team’s uniform on field or court, sidelines is permitted.
3. New players shall be allowed two (2) weeks after the start of games to obtain jerseys/uniforms
4. Jerseys will be tucked into pants/shorts.
5. Trunks or shorts are a required part of the DJAA uniform in the sports of football and basketball. Trunks or shorts must be the same color for all players on a team. No cutoffs or sweat pants are allowed. (Exception: sweat pants will be allowed in football but must be same color as shorts, no cutoffs of sweat pants allowed). **Note: Shorts with any pockets will not be allowed.**
6. Compression shorts may be worn under regular short but must be either white or black in color or similar color as shorts.
7. If an undershirt is worn in basketball, it must be the same/similar color as the (base color) uniform top. Undershirts in baseball may be either the prime color of the uniform top or a secondary color will be the color of the lettering of the uniform top. Pitchers are not allowed to wear an undershirt with white sleeves.

Failure to comply with uniform rule will result in removal of player until the discrepancy is resolved

B. Shoes

1. Shoes to be worn for football are soft molded multi-cleated shoes with rounded sole or tennis shoes
2. All players, coaches and managers must wear tennis shoes or basketball shoes on the gym floor.
 - a. Smooth soled or deck shoes are not recommended for use on asphalt tile floors
3. In baseball, players in all divisions: Rubber cleated baseball shoes or tennis shoes are permitted (rubber cleated baseball shoes are recommended)

NOTE: Molded multi-cleated baseball shoes are acceptable substitutions for rubber cleated baseball shoes. No metal cleats allowed in any division.

C. BASEBALL ACCESSORIES

1. Uniform pants must be worn in baseball with the exception of the Peanut, Pee Wee and Tiny Instructional division who may wear long jeans. Baseball caps, shoes, socks, belts, and jerseys are to be furnished by the players. Undershirts or warm-up jackets are optional, but undershirts must comply with Section IIA7. No white sleeves worn by pitchers.
 - a. Team jerseys may be used for top of baseball uniform, but whole team must wear same.
 - b. All exposed clothing (cap, leggings, and uniform) of each team member shall conform in design and color. Any player who is not dressed in similar manner, as player's teammates shall be considered an ineligible player.

NOTE: A new player added to a team shall be allowed a maximum of two (2) weeks to obtain the portions of the uniform not furnished by DJAA

PENALTY: *Player is removed from the game (any complaint must be registered prior to the start of the 3rd inning)*

III EQUIPMENT

A. Football

1. Footballs are to be of the type and size officially adopted and issued by the DJAA
2. Ball sizes are as follows
 - a. Peanut, Pee Wee & Tiny Instructional size (Nike Composite Spiral – Tech 1000P)
 - b. Mitey Mite, Mustang, Pioneer size – Junior Size (Nike Composite Spiral Tech 1000J)
 - c. Midget, Frosh, Soph size – Youth size (Nike Composite Spiral Tech 1000Y)
3. Flag belts and game balls will be provided by the DJAA. Practice ball available upon request

B. Basketball

1. Score sheets/books are provided by DJAA
2. Game balls are provided at game time by DJAA
 - a. Peanut, Pee Wee, Tiny Instructional, Mitey Mite use a 27.5" ball
 - b. Mustang and Pioneer use a 28.5" ball
 - c. All other divisions will use a standard size basketball

C. Baseball

1. Equipment used shall conform to all official baseball rules (bats exempted). Wooden bats are not allowed for practice or league play except in peanut, Pee Wee, Tiny Instructional and Mitey Mite division.
 - a. Any glove may be used as a catcher's glove, as long as it does not exceed dimensions for catcher's gloves as designated in the official baseball rules book.
2. Balls, and score books (quantity of each to be determined by the Board of Directors) shall be furnished by the DJAA.

IV SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- A. In all sports, players wearing glasses must wear an elastic band. No player may wear watches or any jewelry during practices or games.

B. Baseball

1. Protective headgear (approved and issued by DJAA) must be worn by all batters, catchers, base coaches who are 17 years old and younger (adults excepted), and base runners. NOTE: If the offensive team wants to change the head gear of a base runner, they must ask for and be granted time out or be in jeopardy of a put out.
2. It is mandatory that all players wear the furnished protective equipment while participating in game and practice sessions. Catchers are to wear their helmets, mask, throat guard, and protective cup at all times, including warm-up. There will be no exceptions: all catchers from Mitey Mite through Soph will have protective cups during warm-ups and game time. Failure to comply by game time will result in forfeiture of the game.

*The Downey Junior Athletic Association strives at all times to keep its equipment in good condition and up-to-date. Any altering (IE: **shortening of flags**) defacing, or color changing of DJAA equipment could result in forfeitures, suspensions, and charges for the gear that was altered.*

The manager and/or the person who checks out DJAA issued gear for a team will be responsible for that gear being returned when indicated on the In Sport Calendar.

All issued gear not returned must be replaced or paid for before that team will be allowed to continue in the association.

V ROSTERS AND MONEY TURN-IN:

- A. In order for teams to participate in the pool draw, each manager must have five (5) or more players; applications and money turned in to League Commissioner on the date indicated on his sport calendar.
- B. Roster will be prepared by the manager and each roster will have the player's name listed in alphabetical order with all required information recorded.
- C. Each manager will turn in one (1) copy to their League Commissioner, along with the balance of all fees, on the final turn-in date designated on the sport calendar.
- D. Failure to turn in moneys and forms according to dates set forth on the current in-sport calendar **will result in forfeiture of first league game won.**
- E. It is the team manager's and League Commissioner's responsibility to insure the eligibility of each player listed on the rosters.
- F. All teams must maintain five (5) active players on their roster and may be required to take thirteen (13) players or more player pool permitting.

VI RULES OF CONDUCT

- A. No profane, vulgar language by players, managers, coaches, or team partisans will be tolerated.
 1. Players using profane, vulgar language will be ejected from the game and will be suspended from their **next** scheduled league game.
 2. Team manager, coaches or partisans will be ejected from the playing field or gymnasium. Failure to comply with the ruling will result in automatic forfeiture of the game.
 3. All ejection of players and adults will result in a mandatory generation of an Incident Report by the official/referee. Any other witness who viewed the incident is encouraged to fill out a separate report. In addition to the game suspension and the suspension from their next ensuing game, all incident reports are to be reviewed at the next Board of Directors monthly meeting. If the Head of the Sport feels the action or behavior was grossly flagrant, (s) he may suspend the player or adult member until the next board meeting. The President of the Board of Directors may convene a special meeting of the Board of Directors.

SUSPENDED PLAYERS

The suspended player must attend the next game but may not play. Failure to sit out the next game will result in forfeiture of the next game won, even if it's the next sport. **Suspension will not be completed until player has sit on bench for one entire game.**

SUSPENDED MANAGERS, COACHES, ADULT MEMBERS

Adult members who are suspended from the next game may not view the game any closer than:

FOOTBALL

Within 40 yards from any sideline or end zone from which their team is occupying.

Basketball

May not be within 40 feet of any entrance/exit/partitions of an indoor gym. If the game is played outdoors, the suspended adult may not be with 40 yards of court being used.

Baseball

The suspended adult must not be within 40 yards of any part of the infield.

Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture of the next game won even if it's the next sport.

- B. Unsportsmanlike jockeying or heckling of game officials, and/or opposing teams, players, coaches, managers, or team partisans will not be tolerated
- C. No organized team rooting will be allowed **at any time**.
Exception: During baseball, the defensive team on the field team (dugout and team partisans are not allowed) may chant or root. There may not be any deeming, vulgar, threatening, or profane language to the on plate batter. If any of the aforementioned language is used, this may produce an unsportsmanlike conduct to the opposing team manager. This determination will be a judgment call by the game official.
- D. ***No artificial noisemakers of any kind are allowed at games***
- E. No smoking or tobacco products are allowed in coaches or team boxes, on playing fields, in gyms or dugouts.
- F. **NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS OR PERSONS HAVING THE ODOR OF THESE SUBSTANCES WILL BE ALLOWED IN OR ON ANY PLAYING FACILITIES.**

VII TEAM MANAGERS, COACHES, TEAM SPOKESMAN and TEAM PARTISANS

- A. A manager of a team must be 21 years of age or older.
- B. Team coaches, manager, and team mom\dad must have passed the required security background check, and wear a valid ID badge issued by DJAA at all team activities. No sharing (or borrowing) of badges permitted at any time.
- C. Team coaches should be responsible people; however, when a team meeting is held there must be at least one coach or manager present who is at least 21 years of age.
- D. The team spokesman may be a manger, coach or other responsible adult.
- E. Team spokesman and/or manager are responsible for the actions of all team members, coaches, and partisans.

1. Team spokesman will receive one (1) unsportsmanlike conduct penalty regarding sideline behavior or the aforementioned personnel. The referee may grant the team spokesman an official's time out in order to control team and partisans behavior.
2. A second unsportsmanlike conduct penalty charged to sideline personnel will result in the ejection of the team spokesman from the game and an automatic one (1) game suspension from the next game.
3. Any manager, coach or player on the sideline receiving two (2) unsportsmanlike conduct penalties will be ejected from the game will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension. Under rule 2 team spokesman will be ejected at the same time.
4. If any unsportsmanlike action is deemed flagrant, ejection is automatic, as is the one game suspension from the next scheduled game.
5. The third (3rd) unsportsmanlike conduct penalty will result in a forfeiture of the game.
6. Each team's manager, coaches and team spokesman will be paid up members of DJAA (effective summer of 1999 the \$3 fee may not be required; however, DJAA reserved the right to impose fees at its leisure). Managers and team spokesman will fill out necessary applications and these will be turned in with team rosters. Failure to comply may result in a fine to the team manger as prescribed in Section 4 in the Policies and Rules Section.

The DJAA Board of Directors shall have the right to discipline any coach, manager, team spokesman or team partisan, if, in their opinion, any action on their part is detrimental to the team, DJAA or the City of Downey. NO SMOKING, CHEWING TOBACCO, DRINKING, LIQUOR ODOR, SWEARING OR LITTERING IS ALLOWED IN THE PLAYING AREAS.

VIII TEAM ACITIVITIES

Team activities shall be limited to two (2) per week on any day preceding a school day. Additional practice may be held on Friday night, Saturday, or prior to 6:00 pm on Sundays and holidays.

Definition of Activity: Practice, league game, or team meeting. If the league schedule indicates more than two games within the same week preceding a school night, the Head of Sport will be informed (at least one full week prior to the 1st game of that week) for possible reschedule. If the games cannot be moved or reschedule, the games **will be played** and there will be no forfeit of games due to excessive weekly meetings. However, practices and team meetings will not be allowed that week.

PENALTY: *Forfeiture of the next schedule league game*

IX SCORE SHEETS:

- A. Home team scorebook is the official score book and must be signed by the opposing manager or coach and the timekeeper or referee/umpire.
- B. In basketball, referees are required to check the scorebooks at the end of each quarter

X CALLING IN GAME SCORES:

Manager of the winning team must report the final score to the League Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the game. If not possible to reach the League Commissioner, notify the Head Commissioner. **Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of game.**

XI OFFICIALS:

- A. The game official will call time-out if a player is injured regardless of which team has control of the ball. The official also will make the determination if a player is to be removed from a game. If the injury is due to bleeding or open wounds, the referee should remove the player. Before the player can return to the game the bleeding must be stopped. If the wound is exposed it must be covered. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be removed from the uniform (shirt replacement may be required) before the player is allowed to return. The game will resume once the player is removed from the playing area and may not return until approved by the official.
- B. The official also has the job of making decisions based on interpretation of the rules. A courteous protest may be made in the following manner:
1. Ask for a time-out.
 2. Inform the official that you feel his/her interpretation may be wrong. **If** the official agrees with your interpretation of the rule, the time out will be counted as an official time out. **If** the official does not agree with your interpretation the time out will be charged to your team. Failure to have a time out if the official fails to agree will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty (Football), technical (Basketball). If you still disagree with the official, have it noted in the scorebooks that a protest has been made at this point. In baseball, before the next pitch, all protests must be lodged with the official or umpire-in-chief at the time of the infraction and **confirmed in writing with \$50 to the League Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours.**

Definition: Official's Judgment/Judgment Calls are the game referee/umpire's opinion/interpretation of game's playing rules. Example of judgment calls are:

FOOTBALL: Clips, outsides, guarding flags, interference, holding etc.

BASKETBALL: double dribble, fouls, traveling, etc

BASEBALL: strikes, balls, balks, steals, etc.

The ejection of coaches, players or partisans for unsportsmanlike conduct will also be considered a judgment call, suspension of games due to poor lighting or weather conditions. Rules specified within the current DJAA rule book are to be followed and are not subject to judgment calls or interpretation. If the referee is not sure of the DJAA rules, the game will continue as prescribed in section XIB2.

3. Written protests are accepted only if accompanied by \$50, refundable if protest is upheld. Remember, **NO PROTESTS ON AN OFFICIAL'S JUDGMENT CALLS.** Also, refer to section of Policies and Rules for protests.
- C. Protests will be heard by members of the Commissioner's Committee. In the absence of Commissioner's Committee, Board of Directors will make judgment of protest. Managers, coaches, umpires or officials, and directly connected parties, with the exception of Commissioner's, Board Members, and Recreation Director, shall leave the room. No Commissioner directly connected with the teams involved shall vote or sit in on Commissioner's discussions.

1. Protests that are upheld, which in the opinion of the Commissioner's Committee adversely affect the outcome of the game, shall be played over from the point of the protest. All phases of the game will continue as they were: strikes, balls, men on base, players and pitchers used, etc.
 2. Managers shall be allowed to replace player's ill, absent, etc., with any player on his roster at game time. Note: particularly the number of innings pitched by any player. Pitching rules shall stand.
- D. DO NOT HOLLER AT THE OFFICIALS OR LET YOUR PARENTS HOLLER AT THEM.
1. If you have a comment to make about an official, DON'T TELL THEM, TELL US! Fill out an Incident Report, sign it and turn it in to your commissioner or Board Member promptly. Incident reports will be with the scorekeeper during basketball and in the snack shack during baseball and football seasons.
 2. A complaint may be placed in lieu of a protest, and does not require a fee or the presence of the manager at the meeting. All complaints will be read at the next regular board meeting. Commissioners will notify manager of the action that is taken.
 3. DJAA will not tolerate any physical, threatening acts, belittlement, or verbal abuse towards its officials. **THIS INCLUDES ON OR OFF THE FIELDS/COURT.** If a referee feels (s) he was verbally berated, threaten or attacked, the referee will generate and Incident report and submit it to the Head of Referees immediately. The referee may also eject players, adult members, or partisans from an ongoing/concluded game. The ejection of both players and adults from a concluded game should not exceed ½ hour after the game has finished. Copies of these type of Incident reports will be give to the President, Head of Sport and the Recreation Supervisor in City Hall for evaluation of expulsion or criminal prosecution. The President or the Head of Sport may suspend the individual until the next board meeting or until the incident can be fully investigated.
- E. THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS IN THE PEANUT, PEE WEE OR TINY INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION. The official is in charge of the game at all times and his decision is final. He shall have the right to eject any manager, coach, parent or player from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct (See VI Rules of Conduct A-F).
- F. Games called for unsportsmanlike conduct:
The referee must file an incident report to the Head of Referees. The Head of Referees will review the report and recommend discipline to the Head of Sport Commissioner or the Board of Directors as prescribed in the Policies and Rules, section 3 and 4.
- G. **Any forfeit** of a game (including lack of players) will result in a mandatory Incident report generated by the referee/umpire

XII GAME TIMES:

- A. All games must start on time (first pitch, kick-off, jump ball). The official time is the referee or umpire's watch. There will be no grace period allowed.
- B. A team failing to field a minimum of seven (7) eligible players at game time in flag football or baseball, or five (5) players in basketball shall lose the game by forfeit. Failure to maintain this minimum number of start time players throughout the game will result in forfeit of the game by the team who fails to meet the minimum player requirement.

NOTE: There will be no borrowing of players except for the Peanut, Pee Wee and T.I. divisions.

XIII LEAGUE SCHEDULES

Once the Head of Sport releases the game schedule to the managers, all games will be played at the prescribed dates, times, locations and team. There will be no game swapping (Penalty will be forfeit of that game, double forfeiting may apply)

Exceptions:

- A. All teams managers affected by a game swap must agree by 100% consensus to the change. The Head of Sport must be given a valid reason which he/she has the option of accepting or rejecting. The Head of Sport will evaluate whether there are available game slots and time availability within the league schedules before granting his or her approval.
- B. The Head of referees, League Commissioner, Activities Director, City Supervisor, etc., must be informed of any schedule changes. The Head of Sport will do this. All request for game changes must be submitted to the League Commissioner at least seven (7) days prior to the change.
- C. Cancellations of games due to inclement weather, games will be cancelled by the Head of the current sport (or assistant head), City of Downey Park and Recreation Supervisor, President or head game official.

NOTE:

Every attempt will be made to make up games cancelled due to weather conditions, double booking, lack of referee/umpires, etc. If the game will not affect the final trophy position in the overall standings of that division, **the games do not have to be rescheduled.** If there is time and field/gym facility availability, the game may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Head of Sport or with a majority vote from the Board of Directors.

- D. Scheduling errors, which result in game conflicts, in case of doubling scheduling, the older division will be awarded the game slot. If the conflict exists within the same division, the League Commissioner will determine which teams will play and inform the Head of Sport for the rescheduling of the other game.
- E. There will be no league games scheduled during the following weekends: Thanksgiving, Kids' Day Saturday (If DJAA has participation in the event), 4th of July, Memorial Weekend, and Labor Day Weekend.

Exceptions: DJAA sponsored teams attending tournaments or teams affected agree to play.

NOTE: Prior to the release of game schedules the Head of Sport will submit the schedules to the City of Downey Parks & Recreation Supervisor, President, Head of Referees, at least one of the other Head of Sports, and at least one of the Activity Directors. After review all recommendations will be given to the Head of Sport for modifications and/or corrections.

No. 1 Rule HAVE FUN!!!!

THE INTENTION OF THESE RULES ARE FOR LPAYERS, ADULT MEMBERS AND TEAM PARTISANS TO PARTICIPATE IN A SPORTSMANSHIP LIKE MANNER WHILE THE PLAYERS LEARN THE GAME AND HAVE FUN.

