

# NTX INTERLOCK

## LEAGUE POLICIES & CODE OF CONDUCT

*The NTX Interlock League Operating Policies & Code of Conduct serve as the unified standards for all participating city leagues within the Interlock. Unlike the Board Bylaws, which governs the structure, authority, and decision-making of the Interlock Board itself, this document establishes the day-to-day rules and expectations for coaches, players, parents, volunteers, and officials.*

*These policies are binding on all participants in NTX Interlock play and are enforced by each member city in coordination with the Interlock Board. Together, they promote a safe, respectful, and development-focused environment for youth sports across North Texas.*

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### Personnel & Authority

#### ARTICLE I – COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS

##### **Section 1 – Requirements**

All coaches and volunteers must:

- Pass an annual background check through their home organization
- Comply with NTX Interlock rules and code of conduct
- Complete required training or certifications as required by their home organization

##### **Section 2 – Coaching Conduct**

Coaches must:

- Model sportsmanship
- Respect umpires and officials
- Control team spectators
- Never argue judgment calls
- Comply with all disciplinary rulings

*Violations may result in ejection or suspension.*

##### **Section 3 – Coaching Limits**

- Maximum of four **(4)** coaches/ background checked adults allowed in the dugout during games.
- Coaches must remain within designated areas

##### **Section 4 – Running Up the Score and Game Management**

Excessively running up the score is discouraged. Coaches should:

- Rotate players
- Use developmental opportunities
- Maintain respect for opponents

## ARTICLE II – UMPIRE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Umpires may not officiate any division in which they currently coach.
- Umpires may not officiate games involving a team on which their child plays.
- Umpires may not officiate games involving a team coached by an individual with whom the umpire's parent or guardian has a close personal relationship.
- Umpires may not officiate games in which an immediate family member has a direct competitive, coaching, or supervisory role.
- Umpires must disclose any potential conflicts to their home organization or the Interlock Board.

*\* Exception:* During regular season play only, in the event of an uncommon, one-off situation, an exception to the above restrictions may be permitted **only if both head coaches agree prior to the game**. Such exceptions are intended to be rare and shall not be used as standard practice.

## ARTICLE III– DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

- **Disciplinary matters will be handled by the city of registration; however, if the action is deemed insufficient, the Interlock Board reserves the authority to review and adjust discipline to ensure fairness across all cities.**

# Player Eligibility & Team Composition

## ARTICLE IV – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & PARTICIPATION

### Section 1 – Player Eligibility

Players must:

- Be properly registered with a participating NTX Interlock city league
- Meet age eligibility requirements set by USA
- Be in good standing with no active suspensions

### Section 2 – Dual Enrollment

Players may not be rostered on more than one recreational team within NTX Interlock during the same season.

### Section 3 – Minimum & Maximum Roster Sizes

Roster limits are determined annually by NTX Interlock and must be followed by all member cities. *\*Roster sizes effective Fall 2026*

- 4U: Recommended Minimum 5 - Maximum 10
- 6U: Recommended Minimum 5 - Maximum 10
- 8U: Minimum to play 7 -Maximum 13
- 10U: Minimum to play 7 -Maximum 13
- 12U: Minimum to play 7 -Maximum 13
- 14U: Minimum to play 7 -Maximum 14
- 16U: Minimum to play 7 -Maximum 14

#### **Section 4 – Mandatory Participation**

No player may sit out two consecutive defensive innings except for:

- Injury
- Illness
- Disciplinary reasons

#### **Section 5 – Select Players**

##### **1. Definition**

A select player is any athlete who has participated in any select program within the last 12 months.

##### **2. Team Limits**

- a. Recreational teams may roster no more than three (3) select players per season.
- b. No A or B level select players are permitted.
- c. Only one (1) C level select pitcher is allowed per team, with a maximum of three (3) total select players

##### **3. Eligibility & Participation**

- a. Select pick-up players are not allowed. All select players must be rostered for the entire season.
- b. To be eligible for tournament play, a select player must have participated in at least 70% of the scheduled regular season games.
- c. No All-Star select players are permitted.
- d. Any exceptions must be presented to and approved by the board.

##### **4. Tracking & Verification**

Each member association is responsible for identifying and tracking select players during registration. Associations must maintain an updated list of select players and provide verification to the Interlock upon request.

##### **5. Non-Disclosure or Misrepresentation**

Failure to disclose select status may result in player ineligibility, game forfeiture, or additional sanctions as determined by the Interlock Board.

#### **Section 6 – Tournaments**

Member associations must verify that each player's tournament division matches the division in which the player was officially registered for the regular season. Players registered in a higher division may not be rostered in a lower division for tournament play

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## ARTICLE V – SHORT-HANDED & PICK-UP PLAYER RULES

### Section 1 – Short-Handed Teams

Teams may begin games with as few as **seven (7) players** without automatic outs being assessed.

### Section 2 – Pick-Up Players

If a team does not have the minimum number of players:

- Pick-up players may be used as allowed by division rules
  - Pick-ups must be registered within NTX Interlock
  - Pick-ups must bat at the bottom of the lineup and play the outfield
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## Game Operations & Safety

## ARTICLE VI – SAFETY, EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

### Section 1 – Safety Equipment

Required safety equipment includes:

- Helmets with facemasks for batters and runners
- Catcher's full protective gear
- Pitcher face masks

### Section 2 – Uniform Standards

- Teams should have matching jerseys when possible
  - Player numbers are required
  - Jewelry is prohibited except taped earrings
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## ARTICLE VII – GAME ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

### Section 1 – Home & Visiting Team Duties

- Home team: official scorebook
- Visiting team: scoreboard
- Host city: game balls

### Section 2 – Game Clock & Completion

- Games are time-limited per division rules
- Rain-shortened games are official under NTX Interlock standards

## ARTICLE VIII – SPORTSMANSHIP & CONDUCT

### Section 1 – General Sportsmanship

All participants must:

- Act respectfully toward opponents and officials
- Use positive language
- Avoid taunting, demeaning chants, or distractions

#### **Section 2 – Parents & Spectators**

- Noisemakers designed to distract players are prohibited
  - Parents may be removed for misconduct
  - Coaches are responsible for their spectators
  - Parents and spectators are not permitted on the field or in the dugout at any time
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## **ARTICLE IV – COMPLAINTS & PROTESTS**

#### **Section 1 – Complaints**

Complaints will be handled at the home organization level. Only if a complaint directly impacts interlock play, or if resolution is deemed insufficient, may it be elevated to the Interlock Board for review.

#### **Section 2 – Protests**

Protests may only be filed on matters of rule interpretation. Such protests fall under the authority of the home organization, whose board representatives may then present and address them with the Interlock.

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All NTX Interlock member cities agree to uphold and enforce these Operating Policies & Code of Conduct in full. By participating in NTX Interlock play, coaches, players, parents, volunteers, and officials accept these standards as binding. These policies are designed to ensure fairness, safety, sportsmanship, and consistency across all member organizations.

The Interlock Board reserves the authority to review and amend these policies as necessary to maintain the integrity of league operations and to promote a positive environment for youth sports throughout North Texas.