

The Meridian Park (LML) Freshman League Park Rules are to be followed at all times. If not stated in Meridian Park rules, then Dizzy Dean National Rules and MLB rules apply. The Meridian Park Board ("the board"), umpires, and coaches are responsible for the enforcement of all applicable rules. The Freshman League program is for 11-12 year olds, utilizing a 50/70 format with lead-offs and balks enforced.

Game Info: Effective Spring 2026
• Each team will be scheduled 2 games per week. Games will be played Monday through Friday; 5:45pm start for the early game and 7:30pm late game.

Time Limit:

- No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes has passed from game start time as determined by the umpire. The inning being played will be completed based on which team is in the lead. If no winner is determined at the conclusion of the final inning, the game will be recorded as a tie. This time limit is for regular season games. See the "Championship Tournament Rules" section for Tournament time limits.

Rainouts:

- Weather decisions will be made as timely as possible; generally not more than one hour prior to game time, unless particularly inclement or dangerous weather conditions preclude safe league play. The board will attempt to contact all head coaches as far in advance as possible with any game cancellations and/or delays, and if possible email or text notifications will be sent. Check the Meridian Park website at http://www.Meridianparkbaseball.com and/or visit us on our social media platforms for updates.
- Summary of City of Tallahassee Lightning Policy: The City utilizes a weather notification system. Park officials will be notified in real time about weather issues and delays. Information will be shared with umpires and coaches as it is received and every effort will be made to notify participants of weather delays and cancellations. The board is required to respond to weather notifications received from the City, regardless of weather conditions present at the park at the time for safety and liability reasons.
- Games that are rained out will be rescheduled as time permits and determined necessary by the board for the season to be considered complete.

"Mercy" Rule:

- Meridian Park enforces a 15 run rule after three innings, and a 10 run rule after four innings. If after three complete innings a team is ahead by 15 runs, that team will be declared the winner; if after four complete innings a team is ahead by 10 runs, that team is declared the winner.

Batting Cages/Warm Ups:

- The visiting team will have the batting cage for 20 minutes beginning 50 minutes prior to game time; the home team will have the batting cage for 20 minutes beginning 30 minutes prior to game time. Please remember to be courteous to the team awaiting their turn in the cages.
- To avoid unnecessary wear and tear on the batting cage surfaces, players (and coaches) are asked to avoid wearing rubber cleats in the batting cages if at all possible, and under no circumstances should players enter the cages in metal cleats. Food and drink are NOT permitted in the batting cages.
- The visiting team will have the field for 5 minutes beginning 15 minutes prior to game time; the home team will then take the field for 5 minutes beginning 10 minutes prior to game time.
- Any coach or player warming up a pitcher from the crouch position must wear a protective helmet, whether on the field before/during an inning, or in the bullpens. No exceptions!

Player Participation:

- All teams will bat through their entire rosters, regardless of the number of players present.
- No player will sit for more than one defensive inning in a row. Coaches are expected to comply with the play rule, and failure to comply may result in forfeiture of the game in question.
- Bats may not exceed 33" in length, and bat barrel may not exceed 2 3/4" in diameter. If a bat cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition upon examination by the umpire, then the bat should be removed from the game.
- For ages 11-12, all non-wood bats "MUST" meet 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) for the life of the bat and "MUST" possess a "clearly identifiable" manufacture's certification stamp. This will include 2 1/4, 2 5/8, and 2 ¾ barrel bats. The 1.15 stamped bat is also legal.
- BBCOR bats are legal for use. USA bats are legal for use. Any bat deemed "banned" or "pending protest" by Dizzy Dean Baseball, Inc will not be allowed in game play or practice.
- No metal cleats may be worn by players or coaches in Meridian Park Baseball Little Major League (LML) play.
- Players wearing permanent casts are not allowed to play until the cast has been removed and proof of doctor release has been verified for the player's subsequent participation.
- There is no "must slide rule" in effect for play; however, if there is a play at the plate, it is highly encouraged that the player slide for the protection of all players.
- A player may slide head first into a base.
- There will be NO slash bunts. Violation of this rule will result in the player being declared out.
- Players and coaches will be warned about bat slinging for the first week of games only. Any player called for slinging a bat after the first week of games will be declared out.
- If a player is injured, becomes ill, or must leave the game site after the start of the game, the team will then skip over him when his at-bat comes up in the batting order without penalty. If the injured, ill, or absent player returns, he must be reinserted into their original spot in the batting order.
- A team should have 8 roster players to commence play. If a team is short the required 8 players at the start of a game, there will not be an automatic forfeit. For the game to be a forfeit, it must be agreed upon prior to game time by both coaches. It is preferred to play the game. The needed players may be sought from either the opposing team's roster, or from the pool player rotation at the approval of the board. If a team is unable to secure the required 8 players, the game will have to be declared a forfeit. If pool players are used, they must be placed at the

bottom of the "borrowing" team's roster, and must play in the outfield. Teams may use a maximum of two pool players per game unless otherwise approved by the board. If a player on the roster arrives late to a game then that player must bat in the next spot ahead of any pool player.

- If the team at bat has 2 outs and that team's catcher is on base, time out may be called at which point the catcher on base may be replaced with a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner must be the player who recorded the team's last out. No courtesy runners are permitted for pitchers.
- During the first 2 weeks of the season, all balks will be addressed by the umpire to the pitcher without penalty. Beginning on the 3rd week of play all balks will be enforced by the umpires and runners will advance to the next base.

Pitching:

- For the health and safety of players, coaches are responsible for monitoring the responsible use of pitchers in compliance with the pitching rules listed here. As coaches, it is your responsibility to protect players from damaging their arms. USE GOOD JUDGEMENT!
- See Pitching Chart Below for Meridian Park Baseball rules.

Daily Max (Pitches)

Age	Daily Max (Pitches)	Required Rest (Pitches)	Required Rest (Pitches)	Required Rest (Pitches)	Required Rest (Pitches)	
		0 Calendar Days	1 Calendar Day	2 Calendar Days	3 Calendar Days	
11-12	85	1-35	36-50	51-65	66+	
13-14	95	1-45	46-60	61-75	76+	

*******WEEKLY PITCH COUNT MAXIMUM 105 TOTAL********

**Pitcher at any level shall be allowed to finish the batter when the pitch count limit is reached during at bat

*** For example, if a pitcher pitches 36 pitches on a Monday, they would be eligible to pitch again on Wednesday.

- A "Day" as spelled out in these rules, is considered One Calendar Day
- When a pitcher reaches his official pitch count limit as determined by the scorekeeper, he may finish pitching to the batter he is facing at the time he reaches the count limit, once that at-bat is completed the pitcher must leave the mound. If at this point a pitcher fails to leave the mound or a coach fails to remove the pitcher, the game will be recorded as a forfeit.
- Pitchers must follow the maximum pitch count table regardless of how many games are played.
- For the first two weeks of the season, balks will be called but not enforced. On balks that are called but not enforced, it is a dead ball play and no base runner may be declared out as a result of a balk move (the runner returns to the bag they occupied). After the first two weeks, all balks will be called and enforced.

Coaches:

- Coaches must fill out roster cards for each game, providing their player's names and numbers in the order that they will be batting. A copy of the roster card is to be provided to the umpire, the official scorekeeper, and to the opposing team at least 10 minutes prior to game start. Please list any pool players at the bottom of the batting order, and identify them as pool players.
- It is the responsibility of each coach to make sure that their players stay hydrated.
- No more than three coaches are allowed in the dugout at any given time. Only one coach will be allowed on the field during a team's defensive play, and two coaches may remain in the dugout. Chairs are not permitted on the field during games.
- The designated head coach is the only coach permitted to discuss calls, raise questions, etc., with umpires.
- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their players, and the parents/fans of their players. Anyone using objectionable language, excessively arguing umpire calls, or otherwise interrupting the enjoyment of others at the park will be asked to leave. Please see the Ejections section of the park rules regarding the handling of these situations.
- Coaches are responsible for making sure their team picks up trash and debris from the dugout before leaving the field after practices and games.
- Head coaches will be able to protect two players from the draft during team selection. In addition, coaches with a son registered to play will forfeit their first round draft pick in order to select their son for their team.
- Coaches should check with the scorekeeper between innings to confirm the pitch count. The scorekeeper is the official record.

Team Responsibilities:

- **The home team is responsible for providing two (2) parent volunteers for each game. One parent volunteer will work in the concession stand, and one parent volunteer will perform grill duty.**
- **The visiting team is responsible for providing one (1) parent volunteer for each game to work the scoreboard.**
- **Games will NOT start if team responsibilities for home and visiting teams are not covered. Parents must report for duty at least 20 minutes prior to your player's "scheduled" game time.**
- **For a player to be eligible for Meridian Park All-Stars, the volunteer requirement must be met. A minimum of two (2) regular season volunteer sessions must be completed by a parent/family member over the age of 14. A child under the age of 14 may volunteer, under the supervision of an adult family member.**

Conduct:

- Abuse of umpires, other players, coaches, or officials by coaches, fans, or players will not be tolerated. Cheering must be directed toward your own players, and not against the other team.
- Any disorderly conduct, threat of, or act of violence shall result in the removal and arrest of the responsible individual(s).

- Security personnel shall also remove any person on the premises who is intoxicated from the park. Any person removed under these circumstances shall be prohibited from entering the park, including the parking lot areas, for the duration of the season.
- No coach, parent, fan, or any other person will be permitted to smoke or vape within 250 feet of the concession and dugout area.
- All players must adhere to the expectations and rules of good sportsmanship, a positive attitude and good moral character. The slamming of helmets, bats, talking back to coaches/umpires, etc. will not be tolerated. Failure to comply may result in game suspension(s) at the discretion of the coaches and/or Board. Continuous issues with a player that involve misconduct, including fighting, may result in removal of playing in the league by the Board.
- Player ejection may result in removal from All Star consideration as determined by the Board. A second ejection will result in automatic removal from All Star consideration.

Ejections:

- Any head coach, assistant coach or player who is ejected must sit out the remainder of the current game and the entire next scheduled game. Any fan ejected from the game must leave the park immediately, and may not return for any reason until the next scheduled game. If the same person is ejected for a second time, he/she will not be allowed into any park for the remainder of the season.
- Razzing, heckling, chanting or making disparaging remarks towards opponents, in any manner, is prohibited and is cause for ejection. Players and spectators shall not do any of the above after a pitcher has come set and is in the delivery of a pitch.
- Failure to comply with any of the above rules will result in forfeiture of the game.

Championship Tournament Rules:

- All teams will be seeded based on season record of wins and losses. In the event of a tie in the standings, the tie breakers will be as follows: 1- winning percentage, 2- total number of wins, 3- run differential.
- The tournament will be a double elimination in the spring seasons and single elimination in fall seasons.
- The home team will be determined by the higher seed from the season. However, the home team in the championship game will be the team from the winners bracket irrespective of season ranking.
- If a rainout occurs during the tournament and a game is called, it will resume at the same point that it was called even if it is postponed to a following day.
- Pitch counts will not freeze due to delayed games. The proper days of rest is applicable regardless of games being postponed.
- Mercy Rules for the tournament are 15 runs in the 3rd inning and 10 runs in the 4th. There will be no mercy rule in the championship game.
- **The championship game will have a time limit of 1 hour and 45 minutes.**
- If a game is tied after time expires, a Texas Tie breaker shall determine the winner.
- During the tournament, if a player leaves the line up even due to injury the opposing team may request that the umpire assess that the team with an out when the absent player would be up to bat.

Above all else, Meridian Park encourages good sportsmanship at all times. We expect coaches, parents and other spectators to help by promoting good sportsmanship as demonstrated in their actions when in attendance at games. The umpire or a Meridian Park board member will step in when necessary.