



Manager/Coaches in the Dugout

In the Tournament Rules and Guidelines (Page T-3, Managers and Coaches), the number of adults in the dugout is limited to two if a team has 12 or fewer players at the start of the game. Here are several questions that have arisen regarding the interpretation of this rule:

1. **At the start of the game**, a team has only 12 players available in uniform. Is this team allowed to have three adults in the dugout?
 - A. No. The new rule for managers and coaches in the dugout would require this team to select two out of the three adult manager/coaches to be allowed in the dugout. The one manager or coach not selected can not be in the dugout and can not participate in the game.
2. How do you define **start of the game** for the purposes of the rule?
 - A. The start of the game is defined as the point at which the teams provide their lineups to the umpire. (Rule 4.01 [d]) If this is not done, then the start of the game, for the purposes of this rule, is when the defense takes the field and the umpires are in position.
3. A team **starts the game** with 12 players. A manager and coach are in the dugout, and one coach is not in the dugout. A 13th player arrives after the game has started. May the third adult now enter the dugout and participate in the game?
 - A. No. The team did not have 13 or more players available at the **start of the game**.
4. A team **starts the game** with 13 players. During the game, a player is injured, leaves early, becomes ill, or is ejected. Is the team now required to remove an adult from the dugout?
 - A. No. The team had 13 or more players available in uniform at the **start of the game**.
5. If a team that had twelve (12) players in uniform at the **start of the game** loses an adult during the game due to ejection, can the third adult now enter the dugout and participate?
 - A. No. Ejection is not a basis for a replacement of a manager or coach during the game.
6. If a team at the point of affidavit verification only has 12 players, should the team's affidavit be verified with three adults?
 - A. No. It is not appropriate to verify three adults when a team has not rostered 13 or more players on its affidavit. If the team adds a player or players after verification that brings the total number of players on the affidavit to 13 or more, then the third adult may be verified.
7. Downtown Little League has only 12 players on its affidavit, and is thus limited to one manager and one coach. The manager for Downtown Little League gets ejected during a game against Hometown Little League, leaving only the coach to supervise the team for the balance of that game (acting as manager for that game). Because of the ejection, the manager is suspended from the team's next game against Neartown Little League. Can Downtown Little League name another coach as a temporary replacement for the manager in the game against Neartown Little League?
 - A. No. If the team only has twelve or fewer players at the game against Neartown, as part of the punishment for the ejection or suspension, the team is limited in the number of adults, and the manager cannot not be replaced. In this case, Downtown Little League's team must play the game against Neartown with only one adult, acting as manager. Exception: If the Downtown team arrives at the game with 13 players, and all 13 are named on the affidavit, another coach could be named and could participate.
Note: This penalty would apply to violations of mandatory play.