



**17 Tournaments reserves the right to adjust these rules prior to the start of a tournament.**

**The Tournament Director will only address questions and concerns from a Manager or a Coach.**

17 Tournament Baseball Rules are based upon the [National Federation of State High School Associations \(NFHS\) Baseball Rules Book](#), with the following clarifications/modifications below.

## **EQUIPMENT:**

**Baseballs:** Each team must provide 2 new baseballs for each game. If additional balls are required due to balls going out of play, the team at bat must supply the additional balls.

**Cleats:** Molded cleats allowed for all ages. Metal cleats only allowed for 13u and older.

### **Bats:**

- 12u and younger: Approved bats only. USSSA BPF 1.15 allowed. USA Bat Standard allowed. Legal wood bat allowed.
- 13u D1: Cannot use a bat lighter than drop 5 (-5). Players and teams must comply with the age group rules for the age division in which they are playing.
- 13u D2/D3: Cannot use a bat lighter than drop 8 (-8). Players and teams must comply with the age group rules for the age division in which they are playing.
- 14u: BBCOR drop 3 (-3) or legal wood bat.

## **RULE MODIFICATIONS:**

### **Game Time Limits:**

Coach Pitch, 6u – 8u: 1:15

Kid Pitch: 8uKP: 1:30

9u-10u: 1:30

11u-14u: 1:45

Game time limits apply to all games, including Championship games.

**Innings per Game:** All games for 12u and younger are 6 innings. 13u and older games are 7 innings.

**Max Runs per Inning:** 7 runs per inning for 6u, 7u, 8uCP and 8uKP. No run limit for 9u and older.

**Mercy Rule:** 8uKP and older: 15 runs after 3 innings; 10 runs after 4 innings; 8 runs after 5 innings. Mathematical elimination for all coach pitch (and 8uKP where applicable).

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**Baseball Rules**

**Home Team:** In pool play, a coin toss determines the home team. In bracket play, the higher seed has choice of home or away (same seeds that play each other in bracket play will be a coin toss). The home team keeps the official scorebook. The visiting team runs the scoreboard where applicable.

**Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike:** Only for 9u and older.

**Infield Fly Rule:** Only for 8uKP, 9u and older.

**Leading Off:** Allowed for 9u and older.

**Balks:** A balk is a dead ball. No balks for 8uKP. All type balks can be called for 9u and older. For 12u and younger, all fakes to 3<sup>rd</sup> are balks. For 13u and older, it is not a balk.

**Intentional Walks:** Coach Pitch: Not allowed. 8uKP, 9u and older: allowed by verbal command. No pitches need to be thrown.

**Slashing (Fake bunt, pull back, full swing):** Only allowed for 14u and older.

**Missing batter/injured batter:** Automatic out unless a legal substitution occurs.

**Slung bat:** Player is called out after a warning to that player.

**Pitcher removal:** After 3 charged conferences (i.e., mound visits), or for any charged conference in excess of 1 in each extra inning, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher for the duration of the game.

**Pitching limits:** One (1) out equals one-third (1/3) of an inning, two (2) outs equal two thirds (2/3) of an inning and three (3) outs equals one (1) full inning. A pitcher that pitches in a game and records no outs is not charged with any innings pitched.

Age	One Day Maximum Innings and Still Pitch the Next Day	One Day Maximum Innings	3 Day Maximum Innings
8 – 12	3	6	8
13 and older	3	7	8

**Violation:** A protest may be filed at any point after the pitcher in violation records an out past his/her legal limit but must be filed prior to the umpires and players leaving the field. Penalty for a successful protest includes forfeit of the game and the manager is ejected (see ejection rules below).

**Warm-up Pitches:** 8 pitches if the starting pitcher or a new pitcher; 5 pitches if a returning pitcher.

**Courtesy runner:** A courtesy runner is allowed for the pitcher & catcher of record. The courtesy runner is the Last Batted Out if CBO (Continuous Batting Order). If it is a traditional lineup, then the courtesy runner is an eligible sub.

**Designated Hitter or Extra Hitter:** Up to the coach's discretion. However, the lineup must stay intact through the entire game.

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**Baseball Rules**

**Lineup Minimum:** For coach pitch, teams can start with 9 players but must take an out for the 10<sup>th</sup> spot in the lineup. For kid pitch, teams can start with 8 players but must take an out for the 9<sup>th</sup> spot in the lineup.

**Forfeits:** Forfeits are scored as 7-0.

**Tiebreakers, pool play:** Record, Head-to-Head, Run Differential, Runs Allowed, Runs Scored, Coin Flip. The maximum run differential is 7 runs per game.

The head-to-head tiebreaker is for when only two teams are tied. If three or more teams are tied, then the first tiebreaking criteria is run differential, ..., and never reverts to head-to-head.

**Tiebreakers, bracket play:** Last batted out on 2B, one out.

**Final Score Confirmation:** All Managers/Head Coaches must meet with the umpires immediately after the game to confirm the score and pitching records.

**Official Games:** If a game is cancelled due to weather: 6U-12U, 3 innings (2.5 with home team leading) is a complete game. 13u and older, 4 innings (3.5 with home team leading) is a complete game.

**Rain Delays:** Once a game is an Official Game, there is a 45-minute window to resume the game. After 45 minutes, the game is Final, unless the tournament director decides otherwise.

**Rain Out:** If a tournament is rained out during bracket play, and if everyone has NOT completed the first game of bracket play, then seeding is the determining factor. If every team has completed at least 1 game of bracket play, then the bracket play tiebreakers go into effect. A team that receives a bye in any round receives a winning score of 7-0 for that round.

**Protests:** For rule interpretations only, the protesting team must pay \$100 in cash. If the protest is successful, the money is refunded; otherwise, the money goes to the tournament provider.

**Umpire Ejections:** The ejected party must leave the field area immediately and not be visible to the game and not communicate with the team. The ejected party may not return to the park for the remainder of that day only. If the ejected party does not leave accordingly, that person's team will be disqualified.

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Any aggression towards umpires, tournament officials, the opposing team, fans, or spectators, is subject to any or all of the following:

- a warning
- a restriction to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. A coach may leave the bench/dugout to attend to a player who becomes ill or injured.
- an immediate ejection
- a ban from the remainder of the tournament
- a ban from all future tournaments.

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**Baseball Rules**



## 8u Coach Pitch (8uCP) Specific Rules

**Fair Ball Arc:** There shall be a twenty (20) foot arc drawn from first (1st) baseline to third (3rd) baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball must go past this line to be a fair ball.

**Pitching Circle:** There shall be a ten (10) foot diameter circle with the front edge at forty-two (42) feet from the rear point of home plate.

**Bunts:** Limit 1 Successful bunt per inning.

**Pitching Coach:** The Pitching Coach shall be an adult at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Pitching coach must pitch at least 30' from the batter. The Coach can pitch anywhere behind the 30' line.

The pitching coach shall not verbally or physically coach while in the pitching position.

The pitching coach shall position himself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any possible play once the ball has been hit. Penalty: If a coach violates this rule after the ball is pitched, obstruction shall be called. Additional Penalty: If a coach violates this rule before the ball is pitched, First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Removal of coach as the pitcher for the remainder of the game.

**Defensive Positions:** Ten (10) defensive players shall play in the field with four (4) outfielders. The fourth (4th) outfielder shall not assume an infield position. All outfielders shall stay behind the baseline.

The defensive player listed as pitcher shall not leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit. Penalty: The play continues. After the play has ended, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or no-pitch. Additional Penalty: First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Removal of player from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.

**Infield Fly:** The Infield Fly Rule shall not be in effect at any time.

**Batting Order:** The batting order shall constitute all present players on the team roster at the beginning of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the batting order.

Teams may start a game with eight (8) players. The ninth (9th) & tenth (10th) positions in the batting order shall be declared an out each turn at bat. A ninth (9th) & tenth (10th) player and all subsequent players may be added to the bottom of the batting line-up as soon as they become available.

Teams may use free substitution on defense, but the batting order shall remain the same.

**Pitches per Batter:** The batter shall receive a maximum of five (5) pitches with unlimited foul balls or three (3) swinging strikes. The batter cannot be out on a foul ball unless it is caught by a fielder.

**Intentional Walks:** There are no intentional walks.

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**Baseball Rules**

**Leads & Stealing:** Runners shall not lead-off or steal bases. A runner is out for leaving the base before the ball is hit or reaches home plate.

**Courtesy Runner:** A courtesy runner for catcher of record only the previous inning may be used. The courtesy runner shall be the player that made the previous out. If no outs have been recorded in the game, the courtesy runner shall be the previous batter not on base. If the team batting has not played defense yet and a courtesy runner is used for a player, the player that was run for must assume the catching position the next inning. This scenario only applies in the first inning for the visiting team.

**Time Outs:** Umpires shall call "Time" after every play and declare the ball dead. "Time" shall be called as soon as all runners are not attempting to advance. "Time" does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule. When a runner stands off a base and "jukes" or "feints" back and forth, this is to be interpreted as "not attempting to advance" and "Time" shall be called.

When a batted ball hits the Pitching Coach, the following shall apply:

- If in the Umpire's judgment, the coach did not make a legitimate attempt to avoid contact, the batter is declared out and no runners shall advance.
- If in the Umpire's judgment, the coach did make a legitimate attempt to avoid contact, the ball becomes dead, and a no-pitch is declared.

**Max Runs per Inning:** 7 runs per inning.

**Mercy Rule:** Mathematical elimination.



## 8u Kid Pitch (8uKP) Specific Rules

**Balks:** Balk rules shall not apply.

**Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strikes:** A batter shall be automatically out on a dropped / missed third (3rd) strike by the catcher.

**Leads & Stealing:** Runners shall not advance when the pitcher is on the pitching rubber with the ball in his possession and the catcher is in position to receive a pitch. On a base on balls, the batter may attempt to steal second prior to the pitcher and catcher coming set at his own risk, but if a runner is on third, he may not advance home even if the defense attempts to throw the runner out at second base.

Runners shall not lead-off but may advance at their own risk (steal) once a pitched ball has passed home plate. When a runner tries to advance prior to the pitched ball passing home plate, the following shall apply:

If the runner advances safely, the Umpire shall call "Time" and the runner shall return to the base last legally occupied at the time of the pitch. If the runner is called out, the call shall stand, and the runner is out. If the ball is hit, the defensive team shall have the option of the result of the play or a no pitch.

Runners shall not advance from third (3rd) base to home unless the runner is batted home or forced by a base on balls, hit batsman, or award from the Umpire. Runners shall not advance from third (3rd) base to home on passed balls, wild pitches or dropped / missed third (3rd) strikes by the catcher

**Max Runs per Inning:** 7 runs per inning.

**Mercy Rule:** 15 runs after 3 innings; 10 runs after 4 innings; 8 runs after 5 innings. Mathematical elimination where applicable.