

2019 ITHACA BASEBALL TOURNAMENT SERIES RULES

NOTE: National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules and these official tournament rules shall apply. Where in conflict, these official tournament rules shall override and govern. Rules interpretation shall be resolved by the umpires and tournament director and shall be considered final.

DOCUMENTATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Waivers: Each team must complete a waiver form signed by all coaches and the parent/guardians of each player.

Insurance: Teams must provide a copy of their insurance certificate to the tournament director prior to their first game, with "Ithaca Babe Ruth League, Inc." as additional insured.

Age Limits:

13U — players must not have turned 14 years old before May 1, 2019.

14U — players must not have turned 15 years old before May 1, 2019.

15U — players must not have turned 16 years old before May 1, 2019.

GAME DURATION AND SCHEDULING

Game Duration and Time Constraints: Games are normally 7 innings long. Games constrained by time, weather, or other conditions become official after 4 completed innings (3½ if the home team is ahead).

During pool play, no new innings may begin more than 2 hours after the start of the game, even if 7 innings have not been completed. Games may end in ties during pool play. During Sunday's elimination games, there will be no time constraint on games except under prolonged unplayable conditions, at the discretion of the tournament director.

Mercy Rule: The game is over if one team is ahead by 10 runs after 5 complete innings (4½ if the home team is ahead). This rule applies to both pool play and elimination games.

Incident Weather, Delays, and Notification: Tournament officials are responsible for making decisions regarding weather or field conditions before games have started. Once a game has started, the umpires are responsible for all decisions regarding calling or suspending a game on account of weather, darkness, or field conditions. Any weather-delayed game will restart from the point where stopped and will be played to completion, subject to the above conditions of time and weather. If the expected start times for games must be changed, all coaches will be notified as soon as possible.

Cancellations and Refunds: Tournament officials will make every effort to hold all scheduled games. However, if games must be canceled due to weather, darkness, or field conditions, the schedule may be shortened at the discretion of tournament officials. In the event of a weather-shortened tournament, the tournament host (Ithaca Babe Ruth League, Inc.) will offer teams a refund as follows:

- 0 games — full refund
- 1 game — 60% refund
- 2 games — 30% refund
- 3+ games — no refund

Seeding: Each team will have two pool play games, and the results will determine seeding for Sunday's elimination games. Team records will be the first seeding criterion. Ties will be broken using the following criteria (in order): head-to-head record, runs allowed, run differential, coin flip.

If some games are canceled, seeding will be determined based upon games actually played, even if shortened. If all pool games are canceled, then seeding will be based upon a random drawing.

Home/Away: Home and away teams will be specified in advance in pool play. The higher seed will be the home team in all elimination games.

GAME RULES

Lineups and Substitutions: Teams may bat 9 or more players, up to their entire roster, using one or more extra hitters (EHs). If batting fewer than the entire roster, substitutions follow NFHS rules — any starter may be replaced by a substitute, the starter may re-enter once in his original spot in the batting order, and a substitute may not return to the game once removed (except in case of legitimate injury and the unavailability of any other substitutes).

EHs may be moved freely into and out of defensive positions at any time.

Teams must finish the game with the same number of batters that they began the game with, except in the case of legitimate injury and no available substitutes.

Teams must begin the game with a minimum of 8 players, or the game will be declared a forfeit.

Notifications and Scorekeeping: Each team shall share its lineup with the opposing team before each game. Player substitutions shall be announced to the opposing team as they occur.

Each team shall keep a scorebook or an equivalent electronic version. It is the responsibility of both teams to reconcile the game score with the scoreboard operator, umpires, and each other as needed throughout the game.

Pitching: There are no innings or pitch-count limitations for individual pitchers. Please use good judgment and protect each player's health. After being removed as a pitcher, a player may re-enter as a pitcher one time per game. There is no limit to the number of mound visits by coaches, but a pitcher must be removed upon two visits to the mound in the same inning.

Balks: Umpires will issue one balk warning per team (NOT per pitcher) per game in pool play. There will be no balk warnings during elimination games.

Courtesy Runners: Courtesy runners are allowed at any time for the pitcher and catcher only. Courtesy runners must be a player not in the batting order or, if batting the entire roster, the last recorded out.

Sliding and Avoiding Contact: NFHS sliding rules will be in effect. The base runner must slide or avoid contact at a base when a play is being made there. This is an umpire judgment call.

Bats: Minus-3 BBCOR or USA Baseball bats ONLY. Maximum diameter is 2 5/8"; maximum length is 34".

Uniforms: All players shall wear a uniquely numbered team uniform. Metal spikes are permitted.

Safety: Batters, base runners, and player base coaches must wear a batting helmet. Players who warm up a pitcher must wear a face mask.

Umpires: Two certified umpires for each game shall be used, subject to availability.

FIELD USAGE AND DUGOUTS

Pregame Field Use: Teams may warm up in the outfield but not in the infield before the game.

Dugouts: When not in the game, players must remain in the dugout. After games, teams should remove all of their gear, place trash in the provided receptacles, and vacate the dugout as quickly as possible. Please hold all post-game meetings out of the dugouts.

CONDUCT

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their assistants, their players, their players' parents, and other team fans. Unsportsmanlike or threatening conduct will not be tolerated. Any coach or player ejected from a game shall immediately leave the playing facility for the duration of that game and shall be suspended for the team's next game.