



# TOURNAMENT RULES

*Coaches: Be sure you are aware of all rules and rule changes. PSA reserves the right to amend these rules at any time for specific tournament play. [National High School Federation Baseball Rules](#) will be enforced with the following exceptions.*

## Important Rules and Information:

### ★ POOL PLAY:

- 7U – 8U will be subject to a 6 inning or 1 hour and 10 minute time limit.
- 9U-10U will be subject to a 6 inning or 1 hour and 20 minute time limit.
- 11U-12U will be subject to a 6 inning or 1 hour and 30 minute time limit.
- 13U – 18U will be subject to a 7 inning or 1 hour and 45 minute time limit.

### ★ **Age/Grade Requirements:** view at [PSA AGE RESTRICTIONS AND GRADE EXEMPTIONS](#)

### ★ **CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND/PLAYOFFS:** Same time limits will be used for 7u through 12u. The home team in Championship Play will be the overall Higher Seed.

### ★ If the game is tied after innings or time limit you will follow the ITB rule. Last batted out will be placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> with no outs.

### ★ **FORFEITS:** All games must be started with at least 8 players. A game can be finished with 8 players. If there are no eligible subs the player leaving the original lineup will be recorded as an out until he is able to return. Any intentional forfeit could result in the forfeiting team being eliminated from the tournament. The tournament committee will rule on all forfeits. No team should benefit from the result of a forfeit in an unfair manner. This rule could result in a dispute and the tournament committee reserves the right to look at and rule in the fairest possible way. The committee's decision will be final. A forfeit score will be innings played in that age group to zero. The tournament committee will decide when a forfeit is declared.

### ★ **CHARGED CONFERENCES:**

- ART. 1 . . . Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than three charged conferences during a seven-inning game, without penalty, to permit coaches or their non-playing representatives to confer with a defensive player or players. In an extra inning game, each team shall be permitted one charged conference each inning while on defense without penalty. The number of charged conferences permitted is not cumulative. A request for time for this purpose shall be made by a coach, player, substitute or an attendant. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference. Prior to accumulating three charged conferences in seven innings or less, a conference is not charged if the pitcher is removed as pitcher.
- PENALTY: After three charged conferences in a seven-inning game, or for any charged conference in excess of one in each extra inning, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher for the duration of the game.
- ART. 2 . . . Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any of that team's personnel to confer with base runners, the batter, the on-deck batter or other offensive team personnel. The umpire shall deny any subsequent offensive team requests for charged conferences



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- ★ **MERCY RULES:** 15 after 2, 12 after 3, 10 after 4, and 8 after 5.
- ★ **HITTING LINEUP:** Can consist of 9, 10, or 11 players; or teams are permitted to bat their entire lineup. The lineup must stay with the same number of batters for the entire game. Once the first pitch has been thrown the lineup is locked, and the number of batters may not be changed. The 10th and 11th hitter, if used, will be designated as EH and XH on the lineup card. The EH and XH may bat at any spot in the order. The EH and XH is the same as any position on the field as far as substitutions are concerned. The starting pitcher is allowed to DH for himself and bat in any slot in the order but must be listed a P/DH on the lineup card.
- ★ **COURTESY RUNNER:** You may use the last batted out to be your courtesy runner. If you are not using the entire lineup, a sub that is NOT in the current lineup may be used. If No Outs used furthest batter away. Pitcher and Catcher Only.
- ★ **PROTESTS:** Judgment calls and pitching limitations are not eligible for protest. Protests will be heard and ruled on by the tournament committee. The team protesting must make a cash payment of \$100 at the time of the protest. If the protest is ruled in the protesting team's favor, the \$100 will be refunded. The ruling made by the committee will be final. Protests must be filed and ruled on before the next pitch if during a game, or before the umpires leave the field if after a game.
- ★ **SCORING:** We recommend that all teams (home and visitor) keep a scorebook. The official scorebook will be the home team and the lineup card for the game will be kept by the umpires and signed by both teams' head coach. All subs should be reported to the umpires.
- ★ **LINEUP CARDS:** must be completely filled out with players last name and jersey number. All substitutes should be listed with accurate jersey numbers. Failure to produce a complete lineup card can result in games not starting on time.
- ★ **SPORTSMANSHIP:** In the interest of maintaining a quality event, the tournament committee reserves the right to eject any person from the site for unruly or unsportsmanlike behavior.
  - Physical attack on an umpire, tournament official, associate director, associate officer, and/or any player or fan prior, during, or immediately following a game played under the authority of PSA. Assault on an official is a felony in some states.
  - Players, coaches, managers, fans, spectators, or sponsors threatening an umpire, tournament official, associate director, or associate officer with physical harm.
  - Any player, coach, manager, sponsor, fan, spectator, director, or officer who engages in physical fighting.
  - Using unsportsmanlike conduct or abusive language, symbol tactics, or derogatory or unbecoming acts.
  - Destruction of property or abuse or failure to pay.
  - Competing under an assumed, false, and/or altered name.
  - Not following the General Rules of the event site.
  - Tournament hosts have the authority to eject a player, fans, or team anytime during a tournament of committing any of the above listed offenses for the remainder of a game, day, or event. Any event that results in physical altercation (before, during, or after a game) could result in a forfeit for both teams. The tournament committee reserves the right to remove teams from playoff contention.



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- ★ **BAT SPECIFICATIONS:** There are no bat size restrictions in age's 7u-12u, but all must be stamped with a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.15 or have a USSSA Baseball Logo to be legal in any PSA Tournament. In the ages 13u event, bat size must be -5 or -3 (drop 5 or drop 3). In ages 14 to high school, BBCOR approved bats are now required and High School Federation Rules apply. Wooden Bats are always approved. The penalty for using an illegal bat will follow NFHS guidelines. 14U teams can swing drop 5 only if combined with the 13U division.
- ★ **PITCHING:** PSA Tournaments do NOT have a mandatory pitching limit on innings pitched.
  - HOWEVER, please remember that you are responsible for these young men and the futures they may have.
  - BE SMART!
- ★ **SEEDING AND TIE BREAKER RULES:**
  - Record
  - Head to Head with **only** 2 teams tied
  - Runs allowed
  - Runs scored
  - Coin Flip
- ★ **PITCHING MOUND / BASES**
  - 7u/8u = 10 ft circle at 46ft and bases at 60ft
  - 9u/10u = 46/60 (10u at 65 bases only if available)
  - 11u/12u = 50/70
  - 13u & above = 60/90
- ★ **MODIFIED RULES**
  - Infield fly and dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule is enforced 9u-18u
  - Leadoffs and steals permitted 9u-18u
  - Balks enforced 9u-18u
  - NO bunting in 6-7-8u
  - 7 run limit in 6-7-8u (Run Rule: Mathematically Elimination)
  - 6u, 7u, and 8u may start a game with 9 players with no penalty.
  - 6u, 7u, and 8u may walk a batter once per inning. Cannot walk the same batter twice in a game.
  - No Slashing. 1<sup>st</sup> offense Batter out. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense coach and player ejected.
  - Home Team is the official scorekeeper. (Book or Game Changer)
  - Players may only play on one team in a tournament. This includes playing in two different age groups.
  - Tournament Director will have final say on all protest and tournament rule interpretation.



# TOURNAMENT RULES

## ★ TURF RULES

**RULES FOR SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD USE**

To prolong the life span of the field, please observe the following rules:

 <b>NO DOGS OR PETS</b> No dogs or other animals are allowed on synthetic fields and/or concrete areas.	 <b>NO FOOD, GUM, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS</b> Suntan lotions, oils, athletic creams or any other substance that can stain are also prohibited.	 <b>NO GLASS CONTAINERS</b> No glass allowed on field. Recommended water only.
 <b>NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS OR SHELLS OF ANY KIND ALLOWED IN PARK</b>	 <b>NO METAL CLEATS</b> Athletic cleats must be rubber & less than 2 inches. Footwear should also be clean & free of mud.	 <b>NO EQUIPMENT WITH SHARP OR NARROW LEGS</b> Tables, chairs, & benches with a sled base are permitted. No flags, shade structures, tents, stakes & umbrellas.

**WHEN TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT:** All equipment must be carried across the field or have turf wheels.

**PENALTY FOR NOT ADHERING TO SIGN - REMOVAL FROM PARK**

 *Live here, play here.*  
**WHITFIELD COUNTY**  
PARK & RECREATION

For scheduling or other park related questions  
Please contact the Whitfield County Recreation Department at  
706-226-8341 | [wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com)



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**A Weather Policy General Philosophy**-We are ever vigilant regarding the weather because the overriding desire is to play baseball. We are constantly looking to minimize any impact that weather can make on the completion of a tournament. Through trial and error, we have arrived at this six step process:

- 1. As soon as we know there is a reasonable chance that foul weather may impact our tournament, we'll let the coaches know that we are aware and monitoring the situation.
- 2. If it rains in the evening or rain is expected, we'll be on the fields at 6:00 am (or 2 hours before the start of the earliest game) to determine the status of the fields. Our commitment is to send a note to the coaches at 6:30 am (or 90 minutes before the start of the earliest game) to tell them if games are on schedule or if there is a delay.
- 3. Our communication will most likely involve multiple messages as we proceed through the process of playing, postponing and/or canceling the games.
- 4. PSA's General Rule: if any field is playable, we'll start those games on schedule. If any field is not ready for play, we'll delay the games on that field. If every field is impacted, we'll delay all games.
  - If any field is unplayable, we'll automatically go into a 1 hour delay for that field. If early in the morning, this allows the sun to rise and work can begin on the field to make it playable.
- 5. We'll use the playable fields and play the games originally scheduled for those fields. We won't prioritize games based upon seeding. For example:
  - Different age groups are playing on different fields. 9U is playing on Field A and 10U is playing on Field B. If Field B floods, we'll continue to play the 9U Field A games on Field A as scheduled and we'll delay the 10U Field B games at least one hour until Field B is in playable condition.
- 6. If games are delayed, then time limits may be adjusted for all scheduled games. Any time limit imposed on championship games will be at the discretion of the site director. Time limits will be determined based upon ability to complete games on the field. This is done so that the days are not any longer than necessary for the players. We consider whether the players have school the next day. We consider how far teams have traveled to play and how their return trip might be if we play late into the evening. Finally, most parks are under strict light ordinances (many lights are on timers), and we must abide by these ordinances. We want to play complete games before the lights automatically turn off.

## ★ SPECIAL WEATHER SITUATIONS

- A 7U-12U game will be considered an official game if it reaches 3 complete innings (2.5 completed innings with the home team leading).
- A 13U or older game will be considered an official game if it reaches 4 complete innings (3.5 completed innings with the home team leading).
- Games that do not reach these thresholds are not Official Games.
- Weather Delay: Once a game is an Official Game, there is a 45 minute window to resume the game. After 45 minutes, if the game is not resumed, the game is canceled and considered final and official.

## ★ BRACKET PLAY CANCELLATION

- If every team has not completed their first game of bracket play, then seeding is the determining factor for the finishing places. We will resume this process after each round of the bracket.
- If a double elimination tournament is being used the team from the winners bracket will be the official winner.

★ **REFUND POLICY:** *PSA will work on a credit basis where you can use that credit within a calendar year! Coaches PSA believes in talking through this process to make sure it is fair for both parties.*

- Less than 1 game complete will result in 100% refund and 0% gate refund
- Less than 2 games complete will result in 50% credit and 0% gate refund
- 2 or more games complete will result in 0% refund and 0% gate refund