

West Fargo Baseball 14U Invitational Tournament

May 30 – June 1, 2025

2025 TOURNAMENT RULES

1. NFHS rules will be enforced with the following exceptions. All teams and coaches need to review their event rules prior to the start of each tournament.

2. Each team will supply one new baseball per game.

3. All games will be 7 innings (exceptions – time limit or run rule). 15 run rule after 3 innings (2 ½ if the home team is ahead) and 10 run rule after 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead).

4. Time limit will be enforced. No new inning will start after 1 hour 45 minutes. New inning starts after 3rd out is made in the bottom of the inning. The umpire will have the official time. Championship game will not use a time limit.

5. Every team will have the option to use continuous batting and free substitution.

This must be declared to the umpire and the opposing head coach prior to the start of the game and will continue for the remainder of that game.

**NOTE for Continuous Batting:** An injured batter or runner who cannot continue to participate will be replaced by the last player to be put out. This will end the injured player’s participation for the remainder of that game. This will **NOT** be recorded as an out unless it drops the batting line-up below nine players. Each team’s lineup must list a minimum of nine players to start a game. A game will be forfeited to the offended team when a team is unable to provide nine players to start the game or cannot provide eight players to finish the game (NFHS Rule 4-4-1f). A “rostered” player may be placed at the end of your lineup if they are not present at the start of the game (this applies to teams that start a game with nine players).

6. The NFHS courtesy runner rule (NFHS Speed up Rules) will be used. The team at bat

may use courtesy runners for the pitcher or catcher at any time. If using Continuous Batting, the courtesy runner would be the last player to be put out.

7. Bat Rule: All bats must comply with the current legal bats in USSSA or USA bat regulations. All regulations are posted under the Baseball portion of the [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org) website. The 14U age division will use the“-5" drop rule (14U teams can use either -5 or -3 approved bats).

8. Pitching/Base Distances: 60 feet, 6 inches / 90 feet

9. Home/Visitor: **Pool play games** – the home team will be determined by a coin flip.

**Bracket play games**

The higher seed will be the home team.

If both teams are the same seed, then the home team will be determined by a coin flip

10. No Infield/Outfield before games.

11. Metal cleats are allowed.

12. Base Running

* A runner may lead off/or steal at any time (NFHS rules apply)
* Interference (NFHS Rule 2-21): Offensive interference is an act (physical or verbal) by the team at bat:
	+ Which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders, or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play; or
	+ Which happens when a runner creates a malicious contact with any fielder, with or without the ball, in or out of the baseline; or
	+ Which happens when a coach physically assists a runner during playing action.
* Obstruction (NFHS Rule 2-22):
	+ Obstruction is the act (intentional or unintentional, as well as physical or verbal) by a fielder, any member of the defensive team or its team personnel that hinders a runner or changes the pattern of play.
	+ A fake tag is considered obstruction.
* Runners are never required to slide but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. Jumping, hurdling, and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground. Diving over a fielder is illegal (NFHS rule – 8-4-2-b-2)

13. Pitching:

* A player may pitch a maximum of 130 pitches total for the three day tournament, but no more than 95 in any one day.
	+ If a pitcher reaches their maximum number of allowed pitches during an at bat, they may finish pitching to that batter but then must immediately be removed from the pitching position.
	+ Coaches/bookkeepers are to continuously check pitch counts for accuracy in between innings with the umpire(s) to ensure all parties agree. When the game is complete, both teams should verify pitch counts with the umpire’s score card before being reported to the Tournament Director.
	+ Penalty for violations of pitching restrictions: The head coach will be ejected from that game and the next scheduled game. The offending pitcher will be suspended from the pitching position for the following game. The second offense during the same tournament results in suspension of the coach for the remainder of the tournament.
* Five warm-up pitches between innings. Please have players hustle on and off the field.
* A new pitcher will be allowed 8 warm-up pitches (umpire discretion to allow more due to injury, ejection, weather, or other). Please have new pitchers getting ready in the bullpen if possible.
* Starting Pitcher: The starting pitcher may be withdrawn and re-enter once (at pitcher). Relief pitchers may not re-enter pitching position.
* Balks: Will follow the NFHS rules, which results in a DEAD ball.
* 3rd to 1st pickoff move is ILLEGAL.
* Coaches are allowed a total of 2 mound conferences per pitcher, on the 3rd conference the pitcher must be removed.
	+ The 2nd conference of an inning, a pitcher must be removed.

14. Intentional Walks: Head Coach needs to inform the umpire of the intentional walk, no pitches will be thrown, and the hitter will be awarded 1st Base. No pitches will be counted towards the pitchers pitch count.

15. Ejection Rule- Minimum of 1 game suspension, also subject to be suspended from the tournament. When a manager, player or coach is ejected from a game, he shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. He shall leave the park. If a manager, coach, or player is under suspension he may not be in the dugout or press box during the tournament. If a parent is ejected, they will be removed from the park for the remainder of the tournament.

16. Tie-Breaker System: If a game is tied after regulation innings have been completed during pool play or straight bracket play, the “California” tie breaker rule will go into effect. The last out in the previous inning will begin on 2nd base and there will be one (1) out. This will continue until a winner is declared or the time limit has been reached (where applicable). Games will end in a tie during pool play, but not bracket play.

17. Pool Play and Bracket Seeding Tie Breakers will be broken with the following format:

A. 2 Team Tie:

1. Head to Head, the team which defeated the other wins the tiebreaker

2. Least Runs Allowed in ALL Pool Play games

3. Run Differential (+/- 10 runs max per game)

3. Most Runs Scored in All Pool Play games

4. Coin Flip

B. 3 Team Tie:

Note: Head to Head (When more than 2 teams are tied in a pool this is skipped)

Note: Once the pool winner has been determined, the tie between the remaining two teams shall be broken based on head to head competition (above).

18. Tournament Refund Policy: If the tournament is canceled due to inclement weather prior to the start of the tournament, each team will receive a full refund, minus a $50.00 administrative fee. If a tournament is canceled once tournament play has begun, refunds will be granted based upon the graduating scale below.

* Note: Any game that has started is considered to be a full and complete game for refund purposes.
* Games Played Refund Amount
	+ 0 games – 100% minus $50 admin fee
	+ 1 game – 50% minus $50 admin fee
	+ 2 or more games – No refund

Additional Information

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Games will be played at Young Field (501 13th Ave. W. West Fargo, Nd 58078) and Exchange Field which is located across the street from Young Field.

There will be limited concessions at Young Field. There will be full concessions available at North Elmwood & South Elmwood fields where the 9U-12U tournament is being held. North Elmwood is across the street to the North of Young Field. South Elmwood is just to the South of Young Field. Both are a short walk.

Awards: Championship rings for first place. 1st and 2nd place receive a GSTC (Gopher State Tournament of Champions) bid. This does not guarantee you get into GSTC.