



# RHAA Tournament Rules

## 13/15/17U Division

Note: These are playing rules in addition to the safety guidelines that coaches, and parents should have received prior to the start of the Tournament. Coaches must make certain that all team members, families, spectators, etc. are made aware of the RHAA Complex guidelines and RHAA Tournament Rules.

### **I. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

- A. **The Umpire has complete control of the game.** Judgement calls by the Umpire may not be questioned. *Rule interpretation questions only, will be handled once a time-out is granted.*
- B. **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE. *Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will result in a player and/or coach being ejected from the game and/or Tournament.*** Swearing before, during, or after a game will not be tolerated. Any abuse of the umpires will not be tolerated and can result in removal of that individual from the game and/or remainder of the Tournament.
- C. ***"KEEP THE ATHLETES FIRST, WINNING SECOND"*** The purpose of this Tournament is to offer a competitive level of baseball that continues to be a healthy, safe, and fun environment for everyone involved, whether you win or lose.
- D. Anyone maliciously damaging equipment and/or property will be ejected from the Tournament and will be required to pay for ALL damages.
- E. NO SMOKING OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL OR ILLICIT DRUGS BY PLAYERS, COACHES OR SPECTATORS WILL BE ALLOWED ON RHAA COMPLEX DURING THE TOURNAMENT. VIOLATORS WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE PREMISES FOR THE DURATION OF THE TOURNAMENT.
- F. Any rules of play not specifically addressed here will follow High School Federation rules.
- G. The Tournament director and RHAA Board member in charge will make all final judgements.
- H. Only BBCOR -3 bats or Wood Bats are allowed. Same bat specifications as High school Federation.
- I. 17u – WOOD BATS ONLY

### **II. AGE REQUIREMENTS**

**Each player must be (or have been by the date of April 30) age eligible (13U, 15U and 17U).** Final rosters must be submitted to the RHAA Main Concession Stand prior to the start of the team's first game. If a player's age is questioned, the Head coach must be able to defend the player's age. I.e. Picture of Birth Certificate  
**A roster question can ONLY come from a HEAD COACH**

### **III. ROSTERS/PLAYERS**

- A. Using Subs: Use of a re-entry rule will be allowed for starters only
- B. Use of an Additional Hitter (AH) with subs on the bench is allowed. The AH is optional. If the game is started without an AH, one may not be added. If a game is started with an AH, the AH may not be removed from the batting order. The AH may move in and out defensively with any player except the pitcher.
- C. If a team chooses to bat all players, substitution is "free", except the pitcher, and no "re-entry" is necessary.



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- D. If a team bats everyone and a player gets hurt (and they still have at least 9 players), it is not an out when the injured player's turn to bat comes back around. Conversely, if a team bats everyone and a player leaves the game (not injured) then it is an out when that player comes to bat.
- E. No DH allowed
- F. Players can only be on the roster of one team participating in the Tournament
- G. If a team has only 9 players playing, and a player is ejected, the game is considered over and the team who had the player ejected will forfeit the game because a team cannot play with less than 9 players.
- H. No playing at any point with less than 9 players. If a player is injured and no substitutes are available a player from the original lineup card that has been removed from the game can be re-inserted.
- I. A player ejected from the game must sit the next game that they attend. (No exceptions or appeals)
- J. Any coach or spectator ejected from a game will not be allowed to attend the next game; nor be present at the field (No exceptions or appeals)

### IV. GAME RULES

1. Coin Flip will determine Home and Away for Pool play only. Championship Sunday the Higher seed will be the home team.
2. **"Mercy rule" – 20 runs after 3, 12 runs after 4 innings and 8 run after 5 innings** and the game will be considered completed. This is for ALL games (pool, bracket and championship)
3. **2 hour – No New Innings and 2:30 Hour Hard Stop time limit for all Pool Games. No time limits on Sunday games.**
  - a. Score reverts to last FULL inning after Hard Stop. Tie Games are allowed in pool play. If the home team ties the game or take the lead in the last inning before the hard stop, their score is counted.
4. Metal cleats are allowed EXCEPT on ***Pitching Mounds when Turf is present.***
5. Line ups will be tracked by the coaches only. Home team book takes precedent.
6. Last recorded out can be a courtesy runner for the pitcher / catcher to speed up play.
7. Balk rules will be HS Federation rules.
8. Intentional walks require pitching the ball until the batter receives 4 balls. No free walks.
9. With runners on 1st and 3rd or 1st, 2nd or 3rd. a pitcher may fake a "pickoff" to 3rd base; this is not a balk. There is no warning for balks. They will be called immediately.
10. Coaches visits to the mound shall follow major league rules. 1 per inning is allowed. 2nd visit in the same inning and the pitcher must be replaced.
11. Traditional 2-piece catcher's mask (facemask separate from helmet) is permissible only if mask has dangling throat guard. One-piece mask is always permitted as long as it has extending throat protection built in or extra dangle guard.
12. Pitching – Substitutions following High School Federation Pitching Rules, a Pitcher cannot pitch more than 15 innings in the tournament. A pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning.
  - a. Each team will record number of innings pitched by each pitcher that can be accessed by the tournament director at any time. Any violation of the pitching rules will result in a forfeit of the game in which the violation occurs.



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### **VI. RHAA TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

- 1) Each team will participate in 3 games in pool play
- 2) Teams will be seeded after pool play.
- 3) Winners of seeded games play on until champion is determined
- 4) **Tiebreakers will be as follows:**
  - a) Win-Loss record
  - b) Head-to-Head (will be applied to two or more teams that play each other. Even if some participants didn't play each other in the pool.)
  - c) Total runs allowed (least)
  - d) Run differential (most).
  - e) Runs Scored
  - f) Coin Flip