

# Tournament Rules

## Bland Park Specific Tournament Rules

4 SEAM SPORTS, LLC IS PROUD TO ADOPT THE SANCTIONING HOST RULEBOOK, WITH EXCEPTIONS, AS THE PRIMARY RULEBOOK GOVERNING ALL TOURNAMENT PLAY.

- **EXCEPTIONS:** Any District, State, Regional or World Series play will be governed strictly by the sanctioning hosts' rulebook.

### **TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES**

Tournament entries are only guaranteed after receipt of the entry fee. Online payment for entry fee is available @ [www.ussa.com](http://www.ussa.com) for all USSSA events. For non-USSSA events, payment must be received upon your team's/coaches arrival at the park and before your team's first scheduled game.

### **TEAM INSURANCE**

All teams are required to provide proof of team insurance. A copy of the teams' certificate of insurance must be provided at the team check-in prior to a team's participation in any 4 Seam Sports, LLC event.

### **PROOF OF AGE**

It is the Head Coaches responsibility to have his players proof of age in his possession and be able to produce on demand his players' birth certificate or legally accepted proof of age in the event of any question regarding the age of his players.

### **GAME TIME LIMITS**

Age Division	Time Limit	Game Length	Consolation	Championship Game
			Championship Game	Championship Game
			Time Limit	Time Limit
5-8	1 hour 15 minutes	6 innings	1 hour 15 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes
9-10	1 hour 30 minutes	6 innings	1 hour 30 minutes	2 hours (9AA 1 hour 45 minutes)
11-12	1 hour 30 minutes	6 innings	1 hour 35 minutes	2 hours
13-14	1 hour 40 minutes	7 innings	1 hour 40 minutes	2 hours 15 minutes

*\*\* 4 Seam Sports, LLC reserves the right to modify game times as needed.*

## **TOURNAMENT ENTRY CANCELLATIONS / WEATHER RELATED REFUNDS**

Entry into a tournament implies that you are aware of and can play during the advertised/specified dates and times that tournament games will be held. Please do not enter an event you can't commit to. CANCELLATIONS are NOT subject to refund within 14 days of an event.

In the event a Tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather, the following refund schedule will apply:

- If your team has played:  
  
No games: FULL REFUND on entry fee.  
One game: 2/3 REFUND on entry fee.  
Two games: 1/3 REFUND on entry fee.
- No gate refunds or rain checks at any time. Tell your fans/supporters, if play is in doubt due to inclement weather or rain, to wait until play begins to enter the park.

## **INDIVIDUAL GAME TIE BREAKERS**

In Pool Play, if all regulation innings have been played or the imposed time limit has expired and the score is tied, the game shall be considered complete and will end in a tie.

In Bracket Play, if all regulation innings have been played or the imposed time limit has expired and the score is tied, the game shall continue using the Extra Innings guideline below. The following applies to all age divisions EXCLUDING the 6, 7 and 8 year old coach pitch divisions.

- “International Rules” will only be in effect during bracket play games.
- “International Rules”-- The last out in the lineup is placed on second; the game is then played as usual. After the visitors bat and three outs have been made. The home team does the same.
- **EXCEPTIONS:** District, State, Regional and World Series individual game tie breakers will be governed by the sanctioning host tournament guidelines/rules.

## **DIVISIONAL / POOL PLAY TIE BREAKERS**

At the end of divisional pool play teams may be tied going into the final championship rounds with the same Overall Won/Loss record. The following tiebreakers will determine which team advances and in what order of finish.

1. Winning Percentage – Descending
2. Number Wins – Descending
3. Number Loses – Ascending
4. Tied Teams (vs. each other) Winning Pct. – Descending (more than 2 teams tied, skip this tie breaker)

5. Avg. Runs Allowed – Ascending
6. Avg. Run Differential with a maximum of (8) – Descending
7. USSSA Points – Descending
8. Coin Flip

- **EXCEPTIONS:** District, State, Regional and World Series divisional/pool play tie breakers will be governed by the sanctioning host tournament guidelines/rules.

*Any team, due to the unsportsmanlike conduct of any of the coaches or fans, which result in the forfeit of a pool game for that team OR the conceding of a pool game to reduce the # of runs allowed will result in that team not being eligible to advance to the Championship rounds.*

### **CANCELLATION OF TOURNAMENT AFTER PLAY BEGINS**

In the event that a Tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather after play begins and cannot continue, the following Tie-Breakers will be used to establish a final order of finish. Please note: **ALL GAMES PLAYED (pool play and bracket play)** will be used to determine the order of finish

1. Winning Percentage - Descending
2. Number of Wins - Descending
3. Number of Losses - Ascending
4. Tied Teams (vs. each other) Winning Pct. - Descending (more than 2 teams tied, skip this tie breaker)
5. Fewest Runs allowed in all games played - Ascending
6. Run Differential (Runs scored minus Runs allowed) - Descending
7. USSSA ranking points (Applicable only in USSSA sanctioned events) - Descending
8. Date Team Entered in USSSA Database

\*\* Once advanced past one tie breaker, do not go back to a previous tie breaker.

- **EXCEPTIONS:** District, State, Regional and World Series divisional/pool play tie breakers will be governed by the sanctioning host tournament guidelines/rules.

### **PITCHING LIMITS**

Any District, State, Regional or World Series play will be governed strictly by the sanctioning host rule book. All other 4 Seam Sports, LLC invitational tournaments will be governed by the USSSA Rule Book.

## RUN / MERCY RULES

Age Division	Winner of Game Declared if any Team is:
6-8	The game is over, when the opposing team is mathematically eliminated from scoring enough runs to win or tie the game.
9-12	15 runs ahead after 3 complete innings OR 8 runs ahead after 4 complete innings
13-18	15 runs ahead after 3 complete innings OR 12 runs ahead after 4 complete innings OR 8 runs ahead after 5 complete innings

## TEAM CHECK IN

Team must check in at the Tournament Office 30 minutes to 1 hour prior to commencing play in their first game. Please be prepared to produce all tournament documentation, i.e. certificate of insurance, sanction # (if required), roster, etc. Failure to check in will result in a delay in starting your first game.

## COACHES PASSES

Each team will receive THREE (3) coaches' passes upon check-in at the Tournament Office. **Coaches who lose, forget or misplace their passes will be required to pay a non-refundable gate admission. Individuals who abuse or misuse these passes shall forfeit their passes for the duration of the tournament.**

## PRE-GAME WARM-UP

All team pre-game warm-ups will only be allowed in designated warm up areas, or in the outfield of a ball field. No pre-game practice on any mounds or plates. **Absolutely NO Soft Toss (including plastic balls) allowed into any permanent fencing within the complex.**

## LINE-UP CARDS

Each manager must prepare a minimum of 3 written copies of his line-up, listing first name, last name and numbers of all players including all substitutes. Lineups must be provided to the plate umpire and opposing manager. A game shall not start until this is completed. Managers are responsible for providing their own line-up cards.

## HOME TEAM

During pool play, the home team will be determined by coin toss. During bracket play, the higher seed will be the home team. The home team will provide the official book.

## **GAME BALLS**

Each team must provide two new game balls per game. USSSA stamped baseballs are preferred.

## **TOURNAMENT FORMAT ALTERATIONS**

4 Seam Sports, LLC reserves the right to alter, change or abbreviate tournament formats, when necessary, in order to complete the tournament.

## **AWARDS**

Awards will vary depending on the tournament event. However, individual awards will always be presented to all players of the top two finishing teams. Team awards will vary by tournament.

## **GATE ADMISSIONS**

All 4 Seam Sports events will have an admission charge for all persons age 5 or over, **EXCLUDING** players and up to 3 coaches per team. Children ages 4 or younger will be admitted free. Gate fees will vary depending on the event, i.e. State Championships, World Series, etc.

## **PETS**

NO Pets Allowed.

## **TOBACCO**

Use of tobacco products are prohibited on all fields and in the dugouts during games. Bland Park is a smoke free facility. No smoking is allowed within the park.

## **FOOD / BEVERAGES**

NO outside food or beverages are allowed to be brought into the ballpark. **ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED.** Teams are also allowed to bring in their own circular (5 or 10 gallon) Cooler with pre-mixed sports drink. Individual bottled water or bottled sports drinks are NOT allowed. **NO CHEST COOLERS ALLOWED.**

We ask for the teams' assistance in bringing cups for your players, with the large # of teams that attend our events, we do not have the storage space to accommodate the amount of drinking cups that would be needed for all of the players.

*Coaches, please help us to prevent an embarrassing situation at the gates by informing your teams' parents of this policy.* We do allow small personal coolers for towels and "refreshing" water (mixture of ammonia spirits, ice and water) to help keep the players cool during their game that **MUST** be kept in the dugout. **HOWEVER**, our gate workers will ask to inspect the coolers

for any outside food or drink. **NO CHEST COOLERS** of any kind will be allowed into the park.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Sportsmanship by players, coaches and fans are expected at all times. The Umpire in Chief will handle any rule misinterpretations (no judgement calls will be addressed) immediately and finally. There will be no Protest. Coaches will be responsible for their own fans behavior. Razzing, heckling or making disparaging remarks towards opponents, in any manner, is prohibited.

- **EXCEPTIONS:** Protest may be allowed in all District, State, Regional or World Series events. Check with Tournament Director(s) for protest guidelines prior to each respective tournament.

### *A Letter from Our Tournament Staff:*

Good sportsmanship is a vital part of youth sports and is something that we should all be striving to teach our youth. For the most part, coaches and fans act appropriately at Bland Park. However, when there is pressure and the temperature rises, unfortunately tempers rise as well.

Coaches and umpires alike are expected to keep their tempers in check and set the proper example for our young people at all times. Just as a good attitude makes an impression upon players and fans, so can a bad one. We are fortunate to have a very small percentage of ejections. Our goal is to eliminate all ejections. Our umpires are instructed not to talk to fans during or after any game. The umpires are in charge of the game until they reach their dressing room. Any inappropriate conduct immediately after the game can result in a game ejection for the coach in his next game. The umpire in chief will be available to talk to the **HEAD COACH ONLY** (no parents or assistant coaches) about a rule interpretation before, during or immediately after any game.

All ejections for coaches will result in banishment from that game and may also result in the banishment of the following game. Remember, rule interpretations may be disputed. Not judgement calls, especially balls and strikes. Coaches are also responsible for the actions of their fans. Inappropriate conduct by fans can result in a coach ejection.

This is youth baseball; bad sportsmanship will not be tolerated at our events. The game is not for the glorification of the umpires, tournament officials, coaches or parents. Simply state, "It is for the kids".

Let us work together and do our very best to make this a reality.

Yours in Baseball,

*4 Seam Sports Tournament Staff*

## **FINAL NOTE**

Paragould Youth Baseball is very generous in allowing us to host these tournaments. 4 Seam Sports thanks Paragould Youth Baseball for the opportunity to use these facilities. Please help us keep trash picked up in the dugouts and around the facilities. We believe that the respect of a ballpark and ball fields is something that we can teach young players by example. We also get to watch our kids play the game that we all love. We hope that your experience with 4 Seam Sports will bring you back to Bland Park again!