

Spring 2024

EYSA Baseball Tournament Rules

1. USSSA Baseball Rules apply. Additionally, the following rules shall apply. If there is a difference between USSSA Baseball Rules and the below rules, the below rules shall apply.
2. AGE: The age cut off is January 1st of the current year. Example: a player who turns 8 years old before January 1st of the current year is too old for 7u and must play 8u.
3. GAME BALLS:

AGE	BALL REQUIREMENTS
4U	Safety T-Ball – 9” or equivalent
5U, 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 12U, 13U, 14U	Leather Cover 9” Baseball – Diamond Dol-A or equivalent

Each team is responsible for providing two baseballs compliant with the ball requirement in the table above for each game played. Team Coaches must obtain Umpire approval of all game balls prior to use. In the event the original game balls are no longer available for use due to damage or loss, the teams may provide additional balls to be used so long as they comply with the ball requirements set forth above and are approved by the Umpire.

Teams are responsible for returning their game balls to the field of play in a timely manner to prevent game delays.

4. CLEATS: In age divisions 4U-12U, non-metal cleats or athletic shoes shall be worn. In age divisions 13U and older, traditional metal baseball spikes shall be permitted unless pitching on or playing on artificial turf in which event the player shall wear non-metal cleats, turf shoes, or other non-metal rubber soled athletic shoes.
5. TEAM WARM-UP: No warm-up or practice of any kind is allowed on the infield prior to the game starting. Teams may warm up in the outfield and warm-up areas only. There is no batting practice allowed on the field and no soft toss into the fences. Penalty: Any team violating the warm-up rule will receive one warning. Any additional violation will result in the team forfeiting the game.
6. HOME TEAM: The Home team will be determined by a coin toss before a Pool Play Game, Round Robin Game, or Straight Bracket Play Game. The Team with the higher standing for the tournament shall be the Home team in bracket play games and will occupy the 3rd base dugout.
7. REPORTING: Home team is responsible for keeping an official book. Home team scorekeeper must be near the home plate umpire during the game. The visiting team may also keep a score book. In the event of a conflict between the Home book and the Visitor book the Umpire is responsible for determining which book is correct. The score card must list the runs scored as well as the pitcher’s names as they appear on the roster and innings pitched for all 9U,

10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, and 14U games. Both team coaches MUST sign the umpire’s scorecard after the game. The umpire’s scorecard is the official scorecard.

8. GAME LENGTH:

AGE	TIME OR INNINGS ALLOWED
4U, 5U, 6U	1 hr or 5 innings
7U and 8U	1 hr 10 minutes or 6 innings
9U, 10U, 11U, 12U	1 hr. 20 minutes or 6 innings
13u and older	1 hr 30 minutes or 6 innings

Game times or innings allowed may be changed by the tournament director for a variety of reasons such as the number of teams in a tournament, weather, and field availability.

The Umpire shall keep the official game time. A new inning will not start if there is less than 10 minutes left on the game clock. If time expires while the visiting team is at bat AND the home team is losing, the home team shall have the opportunity to complete the bottom of the inning. Pool Play and Round Robin Games may end in a tie. Game time begins at the conclusion of the plate meeting between the Umpires and Team Coaches.

9. RUN RULE: In addition to USSSA rule run, the following run rule shall apply:

AGE	RUN DIFFERENTIAL AFTER INNINGS
All Ages	20 Runs at any point in the game (Mercy Rule)

10. INCOMPLETE TOURNAMENTS AND RAIN OUTS:

NUMBER OF TOURNAMENT GAMES STARTED	AMOUNT OF REFUND
0	Full Amount
1	50 Percent
2	None

Awards are only given out at the conclusion of bracket play.

11. RAIN DELAYS: Games may be delayed at EYSA’s discretion based upon weather or other circumstances. EYSA reserves the right to change the format of a tournament in order to complete the tournament.

12. **PLAYER CONTACT:** No player shall run over or into or knock over another player unnecessarily or with malicious intent. Penalty: The Runner will be called out and may be ejected from the game if in the determination of the Umpire the contact was unnecessary or done with malicious intent. Tags by the catcher or a baseman may not be applied unnecessarily rough or with malicious intent. Penalty: The Runner will be allowed the next bag if in the determination of the Umpire the contact was unnecessary or done with malicious intent. No player shall block a base or home plate without the ball in possession. Penalty: The Runner will be allowed the next base. **ANY PLAYER MAY BE EJECTED AT ANY TIME FROM A GAME AT THE UMPIRE'S DISCRETION IF THE UMPIRE BELIEVES THE PLAYER'S BEHAVIOR IS HARMFUL, DISRESPECTFUL, OR DANGEROUS TO THE OTHER PLAYERS.**

13. **BAT THROWING/EQUIPMENT THROWING:** Batters may not throw the bat. The umpire will give one warning per game per team to the coach. On the second and subsequent occurrences, the batter's turn will be over and an out will be recorded. If a player throws any equipment in anger, on or off the field, the umpire shall issue a warning for the first offense and eject the player for the second offense. The umpire shall skip the warning and eject the player on the first offense if the umpire deems the player's actions put any player, umpire, fan, or coach in danger.

14. **DISPUTED CALLS PROCEDURE:** Judgment calls and balls and strikes shall not be disputed. Disputing judgment calls will result in immediate ejection. For example, a judgment call is whether a player is out or safe on a play. However, a non-judgment call would be whether a defensive player had their foot on the bag at the time of the play or the other umpire had a better angle on whether a tag was applied. The proper procedure for a coach to discuss a non-judgment call is to: call time; calmly approach the umpire that made the call and calmly discuss the issue you want to present to the umpire. The coach can ask the umpire to discuss non-judgment calls with the other umpire on the field. However, no umpire is required to ask the other umpire for assistance. A coach will be immediately ejected for aggressively approaching an umpire or not discussing the issue in a calm manner. **REMINDER:** The coaches set the tone for their player and fans. EYSA expects coaches to always set a positive example and act in a professional manner.

15. **PROTEST PROCEDURE:** All protests must be made by the Head Coach. If a Head Coach wishes to protest a call made by the Umpire, the Head Coach must notify the umpire of the desire to protest the call prior to the next pitch. The Head Coach must also tender \$100 cash to the Umpire before the protest is accepted. Upon being notified of the intent to protest and tender of \$100 cash by a Head Coach, the Umpire shall stop the game and contact the Umpire In Charge (UIC). The UIC will determine whether the original call of the Umpire should stand or be overturned under the applicable rules. If the original call is overturned, the UIC shall refund the \$100 cash to the protesting Head Coach. If the original call stands, the protesting head coach forfeits all right to the \$100 cash tendered to initiate the protest. **JUDGMENT CALLS MAY NOT BE PROTESTED.**

16. **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:** Team coaches are responsible for their conduct, their player's conduct, their staff, AND FAN'S conduct. It is the Team Coach's responsibility to

make all staff, players, and fans aware of the Zero Tolerance Policy prior to and during the game if a problem arises. Heckling of any kind (including players heckling the other team or unnecessarily chanting while play is going on) is not allowed. No one may approach or yell at an umpire to argue a play or play made. There are established Dispute and Protest Procedures that shall be followed. No other form of protest is allowed. Disrespectful conduct by a coach, player, or fan is not permitted. Even casual comments such as “Awe come one, Ump! Or “That was Foul” Or “He was Out/Safe, Blue!” will not be tolerated. No individual is allowed to say anything to an opposing player/coach or player/coach on their team unless it is a positive comment. If anyone breaks these rules or is creating a scene, the Umpire will stop the game and address the issue with both coaches. One warning will be issued to both coaches upon the first stoppage of play. If the Umpire must stop the game a second time, the First Base Coach of the offending team will be ejected from the game. If the Umpire must stop the game a third time, the Head Coach will be ejected from the game. If the Umpire must stop the game a fourth time, the game will be called and one or both teams may be deemed to have forfeited the game, alternatively at the discretion of the Umpire, the score at the time the game was called may be used to determine the winner and standing. The Umpire, in its sole discretion, may forgo the warning and enforce any penalties for coach, player or fan behavior.

NO ONE MAY ARGUE BALLS AND STRIKES.

Questionable calls may be made during a game. The Dispute and Protest Procedures are available to address protestable issues. If a call is not protestable, the call of the Umpire shall stand and be accepted

Anyone ejected from the game by the Umpire must leave the ballpark immediately and not cause any further delay to the game. The ejected person may not return to the ballpark for any reason until the next scheduled game. If a person is ejected more than once, the person may be banned from returning to the park for the remainder of the League, Tournament, Season, or Life.

17. TOURNAMENT GATE FEES: Tournament Gate Fees will be set by the tournament director prior to each tournament. Each team will be provided with three (3) coach’s passes.

18. SEEDING. Bracket seeding shall be in the following order. Record, Head to Head, Runs allowed, Runs Scored, coin flip.

19. PITCHING. There are no pitching limits.

20. ADDITIONAL PARK RULES:

OUTSIDE FOOD AND DRINK: A player shall be allowed to bring in a personal water jug or drink. No other outside food or drinks are allowed in the park.

WEAPONS OR FIREARMS: No weapons or firearms are allowed.

PETS: No pets are allowed.

TOBACCO/MARIJUANA/ILLEGAL DRUGS/ALCOHOL: No use of ANY tobacco/marijuana, illegal drugs, or alcohol products are allowed.

TRASH: The Team Coach is responsible for making sure the dugout is free of trash prior to leaving. Failure to reasonably clean up the dugout may result in penalties against the offending team.

MISCELLANEOUS:

No skateboarding, rollerblades or bikes are allowed.

No one is allowed on the infield when they are not in use. It is the Team Coach's responsibility to make sure players, fans, and siblings remain off of the infield.

Children should be supervised by an adult or responsible older child at all times. No one shall be allowed to dig in the dirt or damage the park property in any way.

PENALTY: Anyone violating the Park Rules will be asked to leave and their child may not be allowed to play until they comply with the park rules.

21. T-Ball Rules.

a) 6u- Bases shall be 60 feet and pitching rubber at 42 feet

b)5u Bases shall be 55 feet and pitching rubber 35 feet

22. TOURNAMENT ENTRY AND DROPPING. Entry fee for any tournament must be paid to secure your spot in the tournament. Entry is based on first paid, first in. Any team dropping after the Wednesday 5:00pm before the tournament will not be refunded. Any team that drops after brackets are released or fails to show up to the tournament, will be required to pay a \$300.00 fee before being allowed to play in a future tournaments.