



The Ripken Experience – Pigeon Forge, TN.

2019

**TOURNAMENT POLICIES
AND INFORMATION**

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TOURNAMENT PAYMENT POLICY (3 & 4 game minimum tournaments)

- All purchases require an initial payment; this will either be a deposit or full payment depending on the program.
- Spaces in Ripken Tournaments can never be secured or reserved without submitting an initial payment.
- For all programs other than Week-Long Experience Tournaments, final balances are due 45 days prior to the beginning of the program.
- In most cases, payments will be automatically collected using the same form of payment used to submit the initial payment.
- Ripken reserves the right to remove teams or participants from programs, without refund, credit or other future consideration, if scheduled payments are not made.

WAIT LIST

Once an event is sold out, interested teams will be directed online to join the wait list, free of charge. Teams on the wait list will be contacted immediately on a first come, first serve basis if openings occur.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of rain we will do everything within our power to stay as close to the game schedule as possible. However, because of limited field availability we may have to deviate from the printed schedule. If and when we need to alter the schedule, we use the following procedures/priorities as our guide:

1. Our first priority always will be to make sure that each team plays its minimum number of games
 - We will try to maintain the original schedule as much as possible
 - In the event of weather / darkness, it may not be possible to accommodate schedule requests
2. We will attempt to have a championship game
 - We will never name a champion of a tournament without a championship game
 - We may eliminate the quarter-final or semi-final round to ensure a championship game
3. The Ripken Experience reserves the right to alter the format of a tournament at any moment due to extraordinary circumstances.

SUSPENDED / REGULATION GAMES POLICY

Games that do not make it to regulation (*4 complete innings for a 6 inning game or 5 complete innings for a 7 inning game*) due to weather / darkness will be considered a suspended game and will be resumed (if possible) from the point of suspension at the earliest time available. If there is not enough time to resume a suspended game, it will be considered complete and official at the end of the last complete inning. Below are some further points to help illustrate this policy:

- If a game (pool play, elimination, or consolation) is suspended after it becomes a regulation game (*4 complete innings for a 6 inning game*) and it is unable to resume, it will be considered official at the end of the last complete inning.
- **Pool play / Consolation games:**
 - If a game is suspended prior to being official and there is not enough time to resume – the game would be considered complete at the end of the last complete inning.
 - If tied at the end of the last complete inning – the game would stand as a tie.
- **Elimination games:**
 - If one inning hasn't been completed and the game is suspended and there is not enough time to resume - the higher seed would advance to the next round.
 - If tied at the end of the last complete inning – the higher seed would advance

- If tied at the end of the last complete inning and the two teams are the same seed from different divisions entering the game – we would revert back to the tie-breaking system in place
- If the championship game starts and is not able to be completed due to weather and there is no time to resume – the game would be considered official at the end of the last complete inning.
 - If tied at the end of the last complete inning – both teams will be named co-champions
 - If one inning hasn't been completed in the championship game and the game is suspended and there is not enough time to resume - both teams would be named co-champions.

LIGHTNING POLICY – The Ripken Experience facilities utilize lightning detection devices or programs (or both) that allow for the implementation of a consistent policy regarding the suspension of games.

- On days/times when a storm is anticipated, lightning detection device or program will be monitored by the staff
- When a lightning storm approaches within 8-20 miles, The Ripken Experience staff will continuously monitor the storm activity and prepare for a possible suspension of games
- When lightning is detected within 8 miles, all games will be suspended. At that time, players, coaches, and spectators should proceed to the safest possible place.
- Games will be resumed once the lightning has moved outside of the 8-mile radius from the complex for a period of 15 minutes.
- It should be noted that lightning could be visible (usually in the clouds) over 20 miles away. These observations should obviously alert everyone that a storm may be approaching; however, it does not necessitate the suspension of play

WEATHER RELATED CREDIT/REFUND POLICY

3 game minimum format (Team entry fee)

Play no games:	100% credit or 85% refund
Play 1 game:	50% credit
Play 2 games:	20% credit

4 game minimum format (Team entry fee)

Play no games:	100% credit or 85% refund
Play 1 game:	60% credit
Play 2 games:	40% credit
Play 3 games:	20% credit

6 game min. (Per Player/Coach entry fee)

Play no games:	100% credit or 85% refund
Play 1 game:	50% credit
Play 2 games:	20% credit
Play 3 or more games:	No credit or refund

NO ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS – Absolutely no alcohol or tobacco products will be permitted on the Ripken Experience – Pigeon Forge, TN complex. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in ejection from the complex.

ROSTERS – There are no limits on player rosters. Up to 4 adults are allowed in the dugout at any one time. Rosters are locked once a team's first game of a tournament begins. Teams must submit the online roster form for each tournament they participate in.

**Each player can only be listed on one roster for each tournament. In other words, a player cannot be on two different teams during the same tournament, even if they are in two different age groups.*

BIRTH CERTIFICATES – It is the responsibility of the coaching staff to carry documentation of birth for all of the players on their roster at all times during the tournament.

- Birth certificates, passports, Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth League ID cards, state IDs or any other government issued document is sufficient. (must list full name and birth date)
- Coaches may protest the ages of players on another team, only before or during a game.
- If a coach decides to protest the age of another team's player(s), the coach must provide a **\$100 protest fee (cash only)** to the tournament director, who will then request the birth certificates from the team in question.
Parents cannot protest the ages of other players.

- If the team is unable to provide sufficient documentation, the team will forfeit the current game with a score of or 6-0 (6 innings), and will not be permitted to start another game without the appropriate documentation.
- In the case of a successful protest (players are not age eligible or proper documentation cannot be produced), the tournament director will return the protest fee to protesting coach.
- In the case of an unsuccessful protest (documentation is provided and players are age eligible) the protest fee will be lost.
- The Ripken Tournament Director may request for documentation of a player's age at any time.

If a team is found to be using an illegal player (not age eligible/not registered on official roster) the team will be **EJECTED from the tournament immediately. All previously played games will be reverted to a forfeit with score of 6-0. **NO CREDITS OR REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE EJECTED TEAM.***

TEAM INSURANCE – Each team is required to carry its own insurance and submit a certificate of insurance to The Ripken Experience prior to the beginning of the tournament. No team will be allowed to play until we have that information and it is verified. ***We must have “Ripken Pigeon Forge, LLC.”, and “The City of Pigeon Forge, TN.” listed as an ‘additional insured’ in the certificate holder section of the standard certificate of liability form.** This can be obtained by simply calling your insurance company and asking them to list that on the certificate. **Please note: we are not requesting to be added as a ‘named insured’ on your policy.**

Chappell Insurance Agency is the official Team Insurance Provider of Ripken Baseball and The Ripken Experience Pigeon Forge. Please visit (<https://www.chappellinsurance.com/ripken-baseball-pigeon-forge-chappell-insurance>) for more information.*

MANAGER’S MEETING – We will not conduct an on-site manager’s meeting for weekend tournaments, please be sure to read through this entire packet to ensure you are up to date with all tournament rules, policies, and information.

TEAM CHECK-IN – A representative from The Ripken Experience will check in each team at the location of their 1st game on the first day of the tournament.

TOURNAMENT FORMATS – The Ripken Experience offers a variety of tournament formats that vary in number of days and minimum games. Generally speaking, events titled with a “Tournament” (such as Cabin Fever Tournament) are a 3-game minimum event that is held over a 2-day period. A “Classic” (Memorial Day Classic) is a 4-game minimum event that is held over a 3-day period. We also operate special 5-game minimum weeklong events in the summer season.

ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICE – The Ripken Experience is excited to have Glossy Finish as the Official Photographer at our facility in Pigeon Forge, TN. Their professional photography staff will capture amazing ACTION photos to commemorate your experience. All athletes who wish to have photos taken MUST SIGN UP online before the event. NO RANDOM PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN. Due to the number of athletes participating, sign up spots are limited. For more information go to www.glossyfinish.com/RipkenExperience
All of their photography and products (posters and digital images) are available to view, purchase and take home right from the Glossy Finish Photo Store. Sign up for your action photos today. Don’t let this memory pass you by! Click Here To Sign Up www.glossyfinish.com/RipkenExperience. AVAILABLE DURING WEEK-LONG EXPERIENCES ONLY.

CONCESSIONS – The Clubhouse Grille and auxiliary concession stand will be open at The Ripken Experience throughout all tournament events. Generally speaking, the Grille will be operating from the time doors open. The auxiliary concession stand will open 1 hour following the start of the first game on-site and close during the 3rd inning of the last game.

MERCHANDISE – The Ripken Experience / Ripken Baseball merchandise and tournament specific t-shirts will be on sale throughout each tournament. We will have a variety of products available in the merchandise shop.

UMPIRES – All age groups (9u – 12u) will have two umpires at all games, including the championship game. Certified umpires will be chosen from a professional association. The 7u/8u age group will have one umpire for all pool play / quarter –final / semi – final games and two umpires for all championship games.

BASEBALLS / EQUIPMENT – Game balls will be provided by The Ripken Experience for all games. Teams are to bring their own practice balls. We will also provide a cooler in each dugout with water and cups for each game. All other baseball and safety equipment is the responsibility of each team.

AWARDS – A team trophy and individual awards will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams. Also, a championship game MVP award will be presented for each tournament. The Ripken Experience staff will determine the championship game MVP.

PARKING – There is plenty of free parking available for parents and coaches at The Ripken Experience. There will be no parking permitted in the drop – off location as you enter the parking lot.

ADMISSION – Admission to all The Ripken Experience tournament events is **free**. No gate fee for any of our events.

1st AID RESPONDERS / ATHLETIC TRAINERS – A 1st Aid responder or Athletic Trainer will be on-site at each of our tournaments. It is important to remember that 1st Aid responders / Athletic Trainers are not medical doctors. They provide basic first aid, determine the severity of injuries and make recommendations as to whether or not a player should see a doctor or go to an emergency room.

JERSEY # ON UNIFORMS – Each player on a team should have a unique number displayed on their jersey.

PETS – Pets are not permitted at The Ripken Experience Tournaments. Our facility has adopted this policy due to issues in the past regarding pets and pet owners.

DRESS CODE FOR COACHES – Managers and coaches are not required to be in uniform during the games. However, we do expect the adults on the field to be dressed appropriately.

GUM / SUNFLOWER SEEDS – Gum and sunflower seeds are not permitted in the dugouts or on the fields at The Ripken Experience

PIN TRADING – Typically, teams do not trade pins at the Pigeon Forge, TN. location.

DUGOUTS & HOME / VISITING TEAM – Home team will be listed first on the schedule. All dugouts at The Ripken Experience Pigeon Forge complex are labeled Home or Visitor. Home team will occupy the first base side while the visiting team will sit on the third base side. During the playoff rounds, home team will be the higher seeded team. A coin flip will determine the home team if both teams are the same seed in the playoff round. If a team plays back-to-back on the same field, that team can stay in the same dugout for both games. For summer weeklong experience events – ONLY paid coaches and players are permitted in a dugout or on the field.

ELECTRIC / GAS HEATERS – Electric and/or gas heaters are not permitted at the facility.