

## **ST. LOUIS PARK TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

### **TOURNAMENT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

SLP TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION uses the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Rules of Play for tournament games. Further rules concerning equipment, rosters, pitching, and base distances are provided by the Metro Baseball League (MBL).

[https://bz-mbl.s3.amazonaws.com/file-manager-uploads/2018\\_MBT\\_Qualifiers\\_RULEs.pdf](https://bz-mbl.s3.amazonaws.com/file-manager-uploads/2018_MBT_Qualifiers_RULEs.pdf)

**Note that this is a USA Only bat tournament. All bats used must have the current USA Baseball stamp on the taper.**

**Bats** - The following pertains to the legality of bats in the MBL

**All Ages** - Wood bats are allowed

**13 year olds** - Maximum diameter at the thickest part: 2 5/8" or less with minus 11 weight differential and the new USA Baseball stamp on the taper or 2 1/4" diameter bats with unlimited weight differential and the new USA Baseball stamp on the taper.

**14 year olds** - Maximum diameter at the thickest part: 2 5/8" or less with minus 5 weight differential and the new USA Baseball stamp on the taper.

**15-18 year olds** - Maximum diameter at the thickest part: 2 5/8" or less with a minus 3 weight differential and be BBCOR approved.

**In length:** 36" or less

**14 AAA, AA and 14/15 A Divisions:** Continuous batting and free substitution will be used in **All** Metro Baseball 14 year old games. This rule applies to the 14 AAA, AA, and 14/15A leagues.

All bats will be susceptible to inspection by the umpires prior to and during each game. We suggest removing all illegal bats from the dugout prior to each game.

Additionally, SLP TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION has formed the following policies to address situations not covered by NFHS or MBL. Where SLP TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION policies are shown to be in conflict with either NFHS or MBL, then the rules of NFHS and MBL will take precedence.

**(continued)**

## **I. WEATHER**

A. **Lightning:** Should lightning be spotted nearby, play will be suspended immediately. Play will not resume until 20 minutes have passed without further lightning. Umpires may suspend games at any time if they believe weather conditions make the game unplayable. Games will not resume until the umpires have determined that weather conditions have improved sufficiently and the Field Supervisor has determined that the fields are playable. The Field Supervisor may suspend a game at any time if fields are deemed unplayable. The Field Supervisor will notify the Umpires and the Tournament Coordinator when fields are returned to playing condition.

B. **Player and Fan Safety:** If there is a severe weather warning in the area, play will be suspended immediately and all people should leave the park until further notice. Dugouts, usually east-facing dugouts, may also provide adequate protection if there is not enough time to get there.

C. **Limits to Weather Delays:** Our tight schedule does not allow for lengthy weather delays. Significant delays may result in the shortening of games, or the elimination of either the quarterfinal or semi-final rounds. SLP TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION will use the following guideline for handling weather delays. Weather delays will be limited to 1 hour per game (not including the time it takes to prepare the field for resumption of play). If the rain delay exceeds 1 hour and the game has reached official game status (5 innings for 13U-15U) then that game is considered completed. If the rain delay exceeds 1 hour and the game is not yet official, the game will continue once the rain delay is over, but will be limited to official game length (5 innings for 13U-15U). These are guidelines only, and may be adjusted based on actual conditions, weather forecast, and progress of the tournament.

Our first priority is the safety of everyone at the facilities. All games will be played to their conclusion if possible. However, the following guidelines have been developed in cases where rain or other situations may persist for extended periods. The tournament committee shall determine the best method to conclude the event. The decision of the tournament committee is final.

Options may include the following:

- Games may be limited to five innings in an attempt to complete all games
- Games may be shortened to one hour in length
- Only games needed in order to advance teams to the championship bracket may be played
- Other scenarios may be possible

D. **Tournament Withdrawal, Refund and Cancellation Policies:** If weather or field conditions cause the cancellation of the tournament after the tournament has begun, the following policies will apply:

No refunds due to cancellation after April 15 unless a replacement team paying in full is found. If this occurs, you will receive a refund less transaction fees.

If the tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather prior to the start of the tournament, each team will receive a refund less \$95 to cover administrative costs. If the tournament is cancelled once tournament play has begun, refunds will be granted minus the \$95 administrative fee and minus \$95 per game played. For refund purposes, any game that is started is considered a game played.

## **II. INJURIES**

Please note, SLP TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION does NOT have paid medical personnel onsite during tournaments. Parents are responsible for any medical care provided to their injured player. If a parent of an injured child is not on site, it is the responsibility of the injured player's coach to seek appropriate medical care and notify the parents. All teams should have their own first-aid kit and ice packs to handle injuries to their players.

**Nearest Emergency Room Facility:** Methodist Hospital, 6500 Excelsior BLVD, St. Louis Park, MN 55426

## **III. PARK RULES**

The City of St. Louis Park establishes park rules, which all participants of a SLP TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION tournament must follow. Head Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players, coaches, and spectators. Violations will be brought to the attention of the head coach who is expected to resolve the situation immediately. Violation of park rules may result in forfeiting an out, forfeiting an inning, or forfeiting the game. Park rules include, but may not be limited to:

- No drinking alcoholic beverages in the park, parking lot or surrounding city property
- No smoking in the park
- No fires/cooking in the park
- No fireworks in the park
- No littering in the park
- No other nuisances in the park

## **IV. RULE VIOLATIONS**

SLP TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION strongly believes that games should be decided on the playing field. However, rules are developed to ensure fair play and sometimes a game is decided not by the final score, but because of a rules violation. Here is SLP TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION's position on rules violations:

It is the sole responsibility of each head coach to ensure their team is playing within the rules. In the event that an opponent is in violation of the rules, the head coach must report the infraction immediately to the umpire and provide sufficient proof of the violation. (Don't make a beef without a rule book!) The umpire will make the final ruling on the field.

It is the responsibility of each team to review the innings-pitched logs for their own team and their opponent's team prior to completion of their game.

Umpires are responsible for noting the official start time of the game and communicating this to each team. Reminder: No new inning can begin after 2 hours of the official start time.

## **V. Field Addresses**

- Paul Frank Field: 3261 Gorham Ave So, St Louis Park, MN 55426
- Dale Petit Field: 34 1/2 Street and Wyoming Ave So, St Louis Park, MN 55426
- Carlson Field: 2600 Nevada Ave So, St Louis Park, MN 55426
- Louisiana Oaks: 3520 Louisiana Ave S, St Louis Park, MN 55426
- Derrick Keller Field: 2643 Dakota Ave St Louis Park, MN 55426

## **VI. Concessions**

Concessions will be available at all fields. Note that concessions will not include hot food items. These will include sodas, waters and snacks. Teams are encouraged to visit tournament sponsor restaurants for meals.

## **VII. Batting practice**

Batting cages are available at Carlson and Keller Fields. Note that cages are not available at Paul Frank, Dale Petit, and Louisiana Oaks.

Where cages are present, the team listed at the top of the bracket will receive the first twenty minutes of cage time while the team on the lower bracket will receive the following 20 minutes.

## **VIII. Tournament check in**

To check in for the tournament, all coaches must present team roster documents as well as concussion training certificates for all dugout personnel to the site director.

## **IX. Umpires**

Each game will have one umpire with the exception of the third place and championship games, where two umpires will be used.

## **X. Game Time Limits**

No new inning shall commence after the designated time limit of two-hours. The umpire shall determine the exact start time of the game. If after the two-hour time limit the game is tied, a coin toss will determine the winner. The team that is the home team in the game will have the right to call the toss or defer to the opposing team. The results of this toss are final.

The only exception to the two-hour limit will be the championship game. The championship game will have a ten-inning limit. If the game is tied after ten complete innings, then a coin toss will determine the winner. The home team will have the right to call the toss or to defer to the opposing team. The results of this toss are final.

## **XI. Game Balls**

Each team will provide one new game ball per game. Each team should also have, at the ready, a few gently used balls to help speed of play in case the umpire runs low.

**Further information:** If you need further information about the tournament, please call or text Matt Farley @ 612-802-4500