

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Berlin Riverside Classic Baseball Tournament

## 9U Boys

[berlinyouthsports.org/bybs-tournaments](http://berlinyouthsports.org/bybs-tournaments)

### Tournament Rules:

- Little League rules apply with the following exceptions.

### Tournament Purpose:

- This will be a “scrimmage” atmosphere
- The focus should be on “youth skill development”
- This is for the youth and is thus a **Family-Friendly Atmosphere**

### Game Rules:

- Home team is determined by a coin toss. The team that traveled the farthest calls the coin flip.
- Teams should arrive no less than 30 minutes prior to their scheduled game time.
- A minimum of 8 players is required to start a game. Less than 8 is a forfeit.
- No run rule. This is a scrimmage. Game will end after 6 innings or the time limit has expired. No new inning will start after 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Maximum of six (6) runs per inning.
- Games can end in a tie. There are no extra innings. This is a scrimmage.
- The tournament committee reserves the right to shorten, alter, or cancel games if weather or time do not permit completion in a timely manner.
- Teams must bat their entire roster with unlimited defensive substitutions.
- There are no playoffs, no brackets, no medals/trophies/ribbons. This is a scrimmage.

### Roster Rules:

- Team Roster may consist of up to 15 players.
- Individual players are limited to 2 innings “in a row” at the same position. This will not be strictly enforced, however please make all efforts to allow different players to play different positions.
- Each player must play 2 defensive innings per game. This will not be strictly enforced, however please make all efforts to ensure that no one player is sitting the bench the majority of the game.
- If a player is injured during a game, they can simply skip their spot in the batting order and there will NOT be an out given. That injured player can re-enter in the same spot once feeling better.

### Defensive Rules:

- Teams will play 10 in the field, 4 players must be in the outfield grass as the pitch is being thrown.
- Infield fly rule will not be in effect.
- Dropped third strike rule will NOT be in play.
- A runner who fails to “tag up” will be called out by the umpire. This must be witnessed by the umpire, and there are no appeals.
- On fields with the double first base (white & orange), when there is a play at 1<sup>st</sup>, the runner must run to the orange, and the 1B must place their foot on the white base so as to avoid collisions.
- Defensive Timeouts are allowed (up to 2 per inning) for a coach to briefly come out onto the field (less than a minute) to explain a situation to their players, explain a rule to their players, or explain to the players what happened on the previous play.

- Injury situations do not count as a defensive timeout.

#### Pitching Rules:

- Pitchers may pitch 1 inning (or 3 consecutive outs) per game. This is done to promote trying new pitchers and giving youth that normally don't have a chance an opportunity to pitch. Pitchers are not allowed to return as pitcher in the same game.
- There will be NO WALKS. If ball 4 is thrown, this will lead to a pitching coach coming out onto the field and pitching. This is done to keep the ball in play and keep the game lively with batted balls. Runners are not allowed to steal or advance on a past ball while a coach is pitching. When the coach comes out to pitch, the count continues as it was before and the batter might then strike out from the coaches pitch. A batter cannot be walked by a coach. If the coaches pitch hits the batter, it is a dead-ball and a "no-pitch". If a batted ball hits a coach it is a dead-ball and a "no-pitch", no runners can advance. The pitching coach cannot field the ball and should make all efforts to avoid interfering with play.
- If a player pitcher beans a batter, this is not a walk, this will result in the coach coming out to pitch.
- No Balks will be called.
- No intentional walks are allowed, the pitcher must throw the pitches to every batter.
- A mound visit by a coach counts as 1 of the team's defensive timeouts (as stated above in the defensive rules). Any follow-up trip to the mound in the same inning shall automatically result in the removal of that pitcher for that game.
- Injury situations do not count as a trip to the mound.
- The fielding team will have one minute to warm up in between innings. This will allow enough time for up to (5) warm up pitches in between innings. Coaches, please have someone ready to warm up your pitcher if your catcher is putting on the equipment.
- There will be no throwing around the horn after a strikeout.
- A wild pitcher will be removed from a game after beaming 3 batters in the same inning.
- Pitchers are not allowed to wear sunglasses (unless they are prescription), jewelry, or additional accessories such as necklaces, wrist bands, or arm sleeves. An umpire has the right to make the pitcher take off these or similar items.

#### Baserunning Rules:

- Leading off the base is not allowed until the ball crosses home plate. Leaving early will result in the runner being called out. The umpire will give 1 warning per game.
- Stealing is allowed. Runners may advance at their own risk. HOME IS CLOSED. Runners must be batted home, they may NOT steal home nor come home on wild pitches, throwbacks to the pitcher, or overthrows from a steal.
- A runner who misses a base will be called out by the umpire. This must be witnessed by the umpire, and there are no appeals.
- Base runners must avoid contact with fielders. Runners must slide on any close plays. Failure to do so will result in the runner being called out. Intentionally running into a fielder will result in the player's removal from the game.
- When advancing, base runners must slide feet first into a base or they will be called out (with the exception of diving head first back into a base).
- You can have a courtesy runner (optional) for the catcher if there are two outs. The courtesy runner will be the player who made the last out.
- On throws where the ball travels out of play (in the dugout, over the fence, under the fence) all runners will be awarded 2 bases (the base they were already traveling to plus 1 additional).  
Examples: A throw to 1<sup>st</sup> base that goes into the dugout allows the batter to advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base

(batter was going to 1<sup>st</sup> gets 2<sup>nd</sup>). An overthrow on a play to 3B that goes over the fence allows the runner to advance to home (runner was going to 3<sup>rd</sup> and gets home).

#### Batting Rules:

- Approved Bats: Any. Swing what you bring!
- You can bunt. However, you cannot swing after squaring to bunt. If this is done the batter will be called out.
- All players must wear a batting helmet while on deck, batting, or running the bases. One batter can be in the on-deck circle at a time.
- A player throwing their bat (wildly propelled more than 6 feet after a hit, at the umpire's discretion) will be automatically out, play will be immediately stopped, and no runners can advance.
- Fair balls hit that roll under or over the outfield fence are considered ground-rule doubles.

#### Coach, Player, and Fan Code of Conduct:

- **ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL ON-PREMISES.** This is a youth fundraiser and a family friendly early season scrimmage tournament, thus there will be a zero alcohol tolerance. If any fan, coach, or family member from any team has alcohol on premise, the coach of the responsible team will be given a single warning. If the person refuses to remove the alcohol or a 2<sup>nd</sup> incident occurs for the same team, the responsible team will immediately forfeit their current game. If the situation occurs between games, it will result in the immediate forfeit of the teams upcoming next game. Coaches will be responsible for making their fans, coaches, and family members aware of this policy and the impact it will have on the team's ability to play.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO CARRY-INS ON-PREMISES.** Teams are reminded that a fully stocked and affordable concession stand will be available for the duration of the tournament. Please limit carry-ins to water and/or sports drinks for players to stay hydrated, as well as any dietary restrictions. Remember this is a fundraiser for the Berlin youth program, thus there will be a zero tolerance for large coolers or tables of carry-in food. If any fan, coach, or family member from any team brings in large coolers full of drinks (other than water), food, or sets up tables or spreads of carry-in food, the coach of the responsible team will be given a single warning. If the person refuses to remove the carry-ins or a 2<sup>nd</sup> incident occurs for the same team, the responsible team will immediately forfeit their current game. If the situation occurs between games, it will result in the immediate forfeit of the team's upcoming next game. Coaches will be responsible for making their fans, coaches, and family members aware of this policy and the impact it will have on the team's ability to play. Please support the Berlin youth by using the concession stands.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO ARGUING OR DISPARAGING** of any kind, this includes things directed at umpires, coaches, youth, or opposing fans. This is a family friendly early season scrimmage tournament focused on skill development, not competition, thus there will be a zero tolerance for arguing or disparaging umpires. If any fan, coach, or family member from any team is yelling inappropriate comments directed towards any umpire, player, opposing coach, or opposing fan the coach of the responsible team will be given a single warning. If the person continues to make a scene or a 2<sup>nd</sup> incident occurs in relation to the same team, the responsible team will immediately forfeit their current game. If the situation occurs between games, it will result in the immediate forfeit of the teams upcoming next game. Coaches will be responsible for making their fans, coaches, and family members aware of this policy and the impact it will have on the team's ability to play.
- All teams, coaches, players, and families will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and positive manner. This includes exercising self-control, graciously accepting outcomes of games, and treating all teams, players, coaches, umpires, and families with courtesy and respect.

- Berlin Youth Baseball & Softball (BYBS) will not tolerate inappropriate behavior by any participant or attendee, including actions such as profanity, violence, abuse, vulgar gestures, inappropriate comments, dangerous actions such as throwing bats/helmets/balls, or threats made against others. Any person engaging in this activity will be removed from the premises. No warnings will be given.
- There are NO protests. Please remember this is a scrimmage and many umpires will be “youth”. Expect a large strike zone that encourages batters to swing and remember since the umpires are youth they are also learning and may get some play calls wrong. Respect the umpires. Umpire’s decisions are final. One coach may discuss the rules with the umpire, keeping in mind the intent and spirit of the tournament.
- Coaches are ultimately responsible for their own players, player families, and fans in keeping the positive spirit of the tournament.
- A full concession will be provided. Please support the organization.

General Rules:

- A coach may not leave the dugout area unless for reasons allowed above. If a coach wants to confer with one of his players or the umpire, they must first call a time-out that is granted by the umpire.
- A complete rain-out of the tournament (no games played) will result in a 50% entry fee refund.
- In case of rain delays, the tournament committee reserves the right to shorten game times.
- Berlin Youth Baseball & Softball (BYBS) and tournament sponsors are not liable for injuries occurring during or as result of this tournament.
- No metal spikes.
- No coaches or players or fans are allowed directly behind the backstop/home-plate during a game they are participating in. Please sit down the sideline to avoid distracting the youth during at-bats.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN AND REMEMBER THIS TOURNAMENT IS FOR THE YOUTH!**