



Lake Zurich 2026 Bear Claw Baseball Tournament July 8th – July 12th

General

Thank you for attending the Lake Zurich Baseball Bear Claw Tournament. We are looking forward to hosting the tournament this year and thank all of you for your continued support.

The LZBSA Bear Claw Tournament is open to House All-Star or Part-Time travel teams only. The tournament is not open to Full-Time travel teams.

Our goal is to provide a safe environment for the players to have fun. We have some guidelines we follow to ensure everyone has a good time while reducing the chance of injury to any person. Your cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

1. Please leave your dogs/pets at home. If you bring your dog or pet to the fields, you will be asked to remove them. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILIES ARE AWARE OF THIS RULE.
2. Use of proper equipment is the responsibility of every adult in attendance. Any damaged or improper equipment should be reported to a director.
3. Use of improper and/or abusive language by any coach, player, or spectator will not be tolerated. Violators are subject to immediate ejection.
4. Help us keep the fields clean. Please clean your dugouts and spectator areas after each game.
5. Smoking or drinking alcohol at any game is prohibited. Illinois law prohibits these activities on school property.

Parking

Event locations and field maps can be found at: <https://www.lzbsa.org/fieldslocations>

Richard E. Staples Youth Sports Complex (Fields 1-6): 545 Red Bridge Road, Lake Zurich, IL - Parking for all spectators will be directly adjacent to the park. On Street parking is also allowed. Bleachers & Port o Potties. Concession available

Lions Park: 81 East Main Street, Lake Zurich, IL (located in downtown) Parking is available in the parking lot behind the left and right field fences. Bleachers & Port O Potties. Consession TBD

Anderson Field/ Palmblad Field (aka Chestnut Corners): 1234 Pheasant Ridge Road Lake Zurich, IL. Parking for all spectators will be directly adjacent to the park. On Street parking is also allowed. Bleachers & Port O Potties. No Concessions

Deer Park Field: 21880 W Field Parkway Deer Park IL. Parking for all spectators is directly adjacent to the field. Bleachers & Port O Potty. No Concessions



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Fox Trail Park: Willow and Palm Streets, **Port Barrington IL.** Parking as you enter the park and in the grassy areas towards left field of the 13U/14U field. No metal spikes on pitchers mounds. Need plastic or sneakers on mounds. Bleachers & Port O Potties. Concession (TBD)

Knox Park: 1155 East Main Street Lake Zurich IL. Parking next to field. No Bleachers and Restrooms next to Football Field in Pavilion (50 yard walk). No Concessions

Oakwood Field: Midlothian Rd & Oakwood Rd Lake Zurich IL. Parking is permitted adjacent to the ballfield or in the small parking lot located off of March Drive and Oakwood Road. Bleacher & Port o Potty. No Concessions

Braemar Park: 608 Chesterfield Lane. Barrington IL . Take Rand Road to Ela Road, south on Ela Road - next stoplight is Cuba, turn west (right) on Cuba Road - field is located on right side of street just after you turn. Take a right at subdivision entrance past the field and enter through subdivision. No bleachers so please bring your own chairs. Parking in small lot or on adjacent road. Port o Potty. No Concessions

Games

Rules are posted on the LZBSA website under the Bear Claw Tab (<https://www.lzbsa.org/bearclawtournament>) and on the Tourney Machine documents page. Each coach is responsible for reviewing the rules for their respective age group and carrying a player roster, player birth certificates, and insurance forms. Please refer to the individual division rules for details.

Coin Flip: In Pool Play games only, the home team is determined by a coin flip. In bracket play the higher seed will always be the home team. Dugouts are occupied on a first come basis and are not assigned home & away.

Game Reports/Score Cards: The Game Report form can be found on the SE Tourney Machine site. SCORES ARE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE WINNING TEAM, **PHOTOGRAPHED AND TEXT TO 203-598-1494** WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF GAME COMPLETION.

Post-Game Recognition: At the Bear Claw we have a tradition of awarding a game used **GAME BALL** to the MVP of each team. *Coaches should present a Game Ball to a player on the other team that they believe was the MVP for that game.*

We will also be providing each **team (3) Sportsmanship medals.** This medal should be decided by your coaches and go to the player that exhibited the best sportsmanship for the **(2) pool games and first bracket game.** Encouraged to have multiple sportsmanship winners on each team.

The tournament director has the final say in all matters



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Time Limits

8U -10U games are six innings, 11/12U and 13/14U are seven innings. 8U games are no new inning after one hour and 30 minutes. All other divisions are no new inning after one hour and 45 minutes with no hard stop. Pool-play games can end in a tie. Consolation and Championship games are no time limit.

Mercy Rule: 6 inning games will be: 12 runs after 3, 8 runs after 4. 7 inning games will be 12 runs after 4, 8 runs after 5. If the home team is winning by mercy rule at the half inning or during the bottom half of the inning the game is over. No mercy rules for 8U games.

If weather conditions and/or darkness dictate, a game will be considered complete after three innings (two-and-a-half if the home team is leading).

Individual league inning run limits are in effect as well as a large-lead rule. Please view each division rules for further details.

Forfeited games are recorded as 3-0.

Infield and outfield warm-ups are allowed provided they are taken only during the time the pitcher is warming up. If a team delays in returning the warm-up balls to their dugout, the umpire is authorized to prohibit warm-ups in the remaining innings of the game.

A runner will be called "out" when he/she does not slide or attempt to avoid a fielder who has the ball and is attempting to make a tag on the runner or if he/she maliciously runs into a fielder. Malicious contact supersedes obstruction. Hurdling is prohibited. The penalty for malicious contact is ejection. The ejected player is also out unless he/she has already scored.

No head-first slides are allowed for safety reasons unless a runner is returning to the base.

With two outs, the player who is playing catcher in the next inning should be removed for a courtesy runner (courtesy runner must have made the last out in the current inning).



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Rosters

Each team can have a maximum of 14 players on the active roster. The head coach/manager is responsible for having all player birth certificates at all times. Use of an ineligible player or not being able to produce a birth certificate upon challenge will result in forfeit of any games in which that player played.

As this tournament is for in-house all-star teams only, the use of travel players or teams in this tournament is prohibited. Violators will forfeit games played with an ineligible player or players and possibly be removed from the tournament without refund.

A player may not be added to the roster after the tournament begins without director approval. Any violations will include forfeit of all tournament games and any fees paid.

Player Waivers

Each player must sign the team complete the waiver found on Tourney Machine or the LZBSA.org website before games begin. You must email that form to philip@LZBSA.org before your first game. There are no exceptions.

Baseball Age Divisions is based on the player's age as of May 1.

A team roster/batting order, which identifies the jersey number of each player, shall be provided to the opposing head coach/manager before each game.

Tie Breaker for Pool-Play Games

- Win/Loss
- Runs Allowed
- Runs Differential
- Runs Scored
- Head-to-Head (two teams only)



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Tournament Format

The first days of the tournament will consist of pool play games. The top 4 teams in each age division will progress to the championship round on the final day. Trophies are awarded to 1st, 2nd, place teams and Medals awarded to 3rd and 4th place teams.

On Saturday, we will host our **Home Run Derby** competition at Staples Park (8U,9U, 10U, 13U/14U), Lions Park and Port Barrington (11U/12U) (~12.15PM to 1.30 PM). Players will need to arrive at ~12pm to be lined up on time to participate to ensure we can maintain our game schedule. There is no fee to participate and is only for players in the 2026 Bear Claw Tournament.

Refund Policy

- Zero games played: 100% refund, minus a \$25 admin fee
- One game played: 50% refund
- Two games played: 25% refund

NOTE: If any team withdraws from tournament two weeks or less before games begin, no refunds will be given. Refunds issued only if games are cancelled because of inclement weather.

Insurance

Each team must submit a proof-of-insurance certificate by mail (PO Box 411, Lake Zurich, IL 60047) or email (philip@LZBSA.org) before games begin. Each proof-of-insurance certificate must list LZBSA as a holder. Entrance into the tournament will not be guaranteed without a completed online entry form and check.



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Umpires

Lake Zurich Blue Crew provides umpires for LZBSA games. Umpires officiate several games in different divisions and rules vary by age level. Should a rules dispute occur, and the coaches have the rules on hand, the problem can be solved quickly. If neither coach can produce the rules to clarify the issue, the umpire will make the call and the call will be final.

We ask that you be respectful to our young umpires and not treat them as you might a professional umpire. Some calls may not go your way, but rarely is the outcome of a game determined solely by an umpire.

Discussing a rule with the umpire is allowed if done in a respectful, calm, and discrete manner w/ the opposing coach present.

Arguing with an umpire is not tolerated and will be dealt with promptly and could lead to ejection from the park

Only a head coach/manager are allowed to question an umpire.

All coaches must be respectful of the umpire.

Umpire decisions are final. Tournament directors may assist umpires with rule issues.

Questions or comments? Please contact us

Email: philip@LZBSA.org

Standard Mail: PO Box 411 Lake Zurich, IL 60047

www.LZBSA.org