# 2026 Backyard Dreams Parkinson's Awareness

# Tournament Rules

## Overview of Rules

| Rule | 8u | 9u | 10u | 12u | 13u |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| # of Innings | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Time Limit | 1 HR 15 min | 1 HR 30 Min | 1 HR 30 MIn | 1 HR 45 MIn | 1 Hr 45 Min |
| Mercy | 15/3. 10/4. 8/5 | 15/3. 10/4. 8/5 | 15/3. 10/4. 8/5 | 15/3. 10/4. 8/5 | 15/3. 10/4. 8/5 |
| Bat Size | 34" 2 ¾ diameter | 34" 2 ¾ diameter | 34" 2 ¾ diameter | 34" 2 ¾ diameter | 34" 2 ¾ diameter |
| Certified Bats | USA BAT, USSSA 1.15, BBCOR or Wood | USA BAT, USSSA 1.15, BBCOR or Wood | USA BAT, USSSA 1.15, BBCOR or Wood | USA BAT, USSSA 1.15, BBCOR or Wood | USA BAT, USSSA 1.15, BBCOR or Wood |
| Pitching/Base | Coach Pitch 35/60 | 46/60 | 46/60 | 50/70 | 54/80 |
| Metal Cleats | NO | NO | NO | NO | YES |
| Advance drop 3rd | NO | NO | YES | YES | YES |
| Lead offs | NO | NO | YES | YES | YES |
| Stealing Bases | NO | After crosses plate | Yes at own risk | Yes at own risk | Yes at own risk |
| Pitching Limits | NA | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Balks Called | NA | NO | 1 warning per pitcher | 1 warning per pitcher | YES |
| Rocket Rule | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory | Optional |
| Infield Fly | NO | NO | YES | YES | YES |
| Playoffs | Top 4 teams | Top 4 teams | Top 4 teams | Top 4 teams | Top 4 teams |

THE WINNING TEAM MUST **TEXT** THE SCORE TO Jason Prusinski 616-706-5452. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A FORFIET!

Please include name, BOTH Teams, score, scheduled game time and age division.

**For your convenience you are not required to check in. HOWEVER, staff reserve the right to ask for Birth Certificates and your team Insurance at any time. Teams MUST produce ALL documents when asked. If missing ANY birth certificates or your insurance is not valid Backyard Dreams directors reserve the right to refuse any players participation and/or disqualify any team without refund. PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING ALL NESSESSARY INFORMATION for the fairness and safety of everyone.**

- **TVBL.org Please refer to the website for ALL tournament information all weekend TVBL.org**
- **Scores, schedules, seedings, weather, updates throughout the weekend will be posted on the TVBL.org website.**

### GENERAL RULES:

**UMPIRE IN CHARGE: ERIC ROBERTS (616)406-5031**

- April 30 is the standard recognized age cutoff date to determine player's age. I.E. Your player is 12 years old April 30 then turns 13 on May 1 or later then your player is eligible to play 12U
- MHSAA rules apply unless specified differently
- Lineup – 8U, 9U,10U, 12U. All teams will use a continuous batting order (rocket rule, free substitution). All players in uniform, on the roster MUST bat in a line-up established prior to the game starting. Late arriving players will be entered into the line-up at the end of the batting order unless the batting team has gone through the order one time, and then the late arriving player may not enter the line-up.
- Lineup 13U - May decide to use a continuous lineup (rocket rule free substitution) OR bat 9 players. A DH (designated Hitter) can be used hitting for a person playing in the field and/or an EH (extra hitter) can be used for a 10th hitter in any part of the hitting lineup.
- Team rosters. All teams must start and finish a game with a minimum of 8 players in the batting order, however each batting spot less than 9 becomes an automatic out when that turn in the order comes up. If less that 8 players this becomes a 0-10 forfeit.
- **Players may only play for ONE team in the BYD tournament for the safety and fairness of everyone. If a player plays for more than one team in the BYD Tournament the player will be ejected from the entire tournament, and teams that participated in rostering the player may forfeit games**.
- Pitchers once removed cannot return in same game as a pitcher.
- A courtesy runner is allowed for the pitcher and catcher of the current (not previous, not next) inning and must be the last out or (13u) a player not currently in the lineup unless using all then last out.
- Backyard Dreams will supply 4 game balls (1 new, 3 gently used) per game. If balls are not retrieved at put back in play it will be the responsibility of the 2 teams playing to supply balls for the remainder of the current game.
- Awards (12 per team) will be given to the Champion and Runner up at each age group.
- The Champion in each age group will also receive 1 **Most Valuable Player** chain to name their tournament MVP.

## GAME START/LENGTH:

- 13u Games 7 innings or no new inning at 1 hour and 45 minutes
- 12u Games 6 innings or no new inning at 1 hour and 45 minutes
- 9U & 10U Games 6 innings or no new inning at 1 hour and 30 minutes
- 8u Games 6 innings or no new inning at 1 hour 15 minutes
- 1 pitch thrown constitutes 1 inning played
- Be prepared to start 30 minutes prior to game time. Infield/outfield warm-ups may not be allowed to keep games on schedule. Warm-ups should be done off the field.
- Coin flip will determine home/away team. Home team keeps official book.
- Playoffs/Championship game. Higher seed may choose to be home or away.
- A team may play with a minimum of 8 players without forfeiting. 7 or less players will result in a forfeit. Forfeit time is 5 minutes after scheduled game time and will be recorded as a 0-10 score.
- Weather: You must be ready to start on time regardless of weather. Unless you are informed of a delay by a Tournament Director, or it's posted on the website then your **team must be at the field ready to play** at your scheduled time. Failure to do so could end with your team forfeiting 0-10.
- Championship Games have no time limits. Mercy rule is always in effect.
- Backyard Dreams reserves the right to modify any of the rules in case of inclement weather/darkness.
- All Tournament information, scores, updates etc will be listed on the TVBL.org website throughout the weekend

## PLAYER/COACH CONDUCT RULE DISPUTES

- The head coach has the right to ask for a ruling or dispute a call in a professional manner.
  Judgment calls are not open to protest.
  Any protests for any reason must be put in writing and the team protesting must pay a fee of $100 per protest. The $100 fee will NOT be returned regardless of the determined outcome. Any protest not following the above will not be heard and the director's answer is FINAL.
- NO CHATTER is to be directed at opponents.
- The tournament directors have the right to remove any or disallow the use of noise objects from the stand areas that they believe are a distraction to the game being played.

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- NO BARRELING/running over of any defensive player. Offenders will be called out and may be ejected.
- An intentional delay of game by a coach, or player may result in an ejection of the offender/s.
- Charging/being aggressive with another player or an umpire can result in the offender being ejected.
- ANY ejected player, coach or fan will miss the rest of the game PLUS the next scheduled game.

## EQUIPMENT:

NO METAL CLEATS ALLOWED FOR 8U, 9U, 10U, or 12U

**METAL CLEAT RULE FOR LIONS Field 1:**
Metal cleats are allowed on the field of play for **13U players ONLY**. No metal spikes may be worn outside the fenced area of Lions Field 1. All metal spikes shall be put on in the dugouts and shall be removed before the player steps outside the fence enclosing the field, even during games. A first violation by any member of a team shall result in a warning to the violating team. A second violation at any time during the tournament by any member of that team shall result in the forfeit of an ongoing game, or in the case of a team not currently playing, a retroactive forfeit of the team's previous game. Any player wearing metal spikes on the deck near the concession stand shall be ineligible for the remainder of the tournament, even if no prior warning was given.

**Jerseys/Catchers:**
- All players must wear shirts with a number and/or name of player for purpose of identification.
- All male catchers must wear a protective cup. All catchers must use a catcher's mitt when catching.

**Bats:**
- ALL bats must be any of the following USSSA 1.15 BPF, USA BAT, BBCOR or Wood.
- ALL bats cannot exceed 34" in length and/or 2 ¾ diameter.

**PITCHING**:
- Pitch counts and innings pitched will not be tracked HOWEVER it is highly recommended that teams follow the standard USA pitching guidelines.
- Coach may visit a pitcher or call a defensive conference once per inning without making changes. Second visit or conference in an inning, pitcher must be removed.
- A pitcher must be removed if they have hit 3 batters in the same inning.
- No chains outside the shirt, long strings hanging from gloves.
- Non-prescription sunglasses of any kind are not permitted for use by the pitcher.
- No white may be worn, taped or painted from the pitcher's elbow through the hand on the pitching arm.

**Tie Games:**
- If the game is tied at the time limit, the game ends in a tie. If time allows, go immediately to the tie breaker rules below (International Rules).
  Tie breaker used for games tied at the end of regulation: last person out in the previous inning starts new inning on second base with 1 out and a 1 - 1 count with each batter.
- Tie breaker seeding:
  1. Head to Head (if 3 or more teams with same record then head to head is thrown out go to #2)
  2. Run Differential +/- 10 max all games
  3. Least runs given up all games
  4. Most runs scored all games
  5. Coin Flip

## PLAYOFFS and CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND:
- In the semi and championship rounds, the higher seed may choose home or away.
- If same seeds vs each other then coin flip.
- Top 4 teams (8u, 9u,10u, 12u, 13u) in each age group make playoffs and are seeded 1 through 4 per tied break rules

## WEATHER/DARKNESS/REFUND:
- Backyard Dreams reserves the right to shorten games, modify any rule due to inclement weather or darkness.
- Any shortened game considered complete if the teams have played at least 3 complete innings (2 ½ innings if the "home" team is ahead).

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- Any team that withdraws from the tournament is not eligible for any refund. Any participating team that doesn't start at least 1 game due to inclement weather will receive a 100% refund. 1 game started = 50% refund. 2 or more games started = No Refund

**WINNING TEAM MUST TEXT THE SCORE TO Jason Prusinski 616-706-5452. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A FORFIET! Please include name, BOTH Teams, score, scheduled time of game and age division.**

**ALL Tournament information, scores, schedules, seedings, weather, updates throughout the weekend will be posted the website TVBL.org Please refer to the website for ALL information.**

**8U Rules**

- Mandatory Rocket rule, continuous batting order, free substitution
- Teams may choose to play a 4th outfielder (not a rover position).
- Coach will pitch to his team but cannot make any play on any live ball hit or thrown.
- If the batted ball is put in play and it hits any part of the coach pitching, then this is a dead ball. Runners return to previous base and the hitter assumes the same count as previously before dead ball.
- Coach will pitch from 35 feet, must be overhand, can pitch standing OR on one knee
- No walks. Strikes only occur by swing miss and foul balls up 5 pitch max per at bat.
- 5 pitch max per hitter. 5th pitch must be put in play or they're out. If the batter continually fouls off the 5th pitch, the hitter will continue to get another pitch until the ball is put in play, strikes out or does not swing at the 5th pitch.
- Max 5 runs per inning or 3 outs whichever occurs first. LAST INNING unlimited runs until 3 outs, mercy or time limit (home team).
- Runners CANNOT advance any additional base/s on an errant throw that comes from the INFIELD.
- Runners CAN advance base/s at their discretion on any ball hit to the outfield until the ball has made it to the infield and is SECURED by any player on the infield.
- If the runner is in between bases (IE 1st to 2nd, 2nd to 3rd, 3rd to home) when the ball is secured on the infield then the umpire will make a judgement call as to weather the runner was MORE than half way to the lead base. If the runner isn't MORE than half way to the next base the umpire will direct the runner back to the previous base unless an out is attempted by the defense on the runner.
- If runner attempts lead base from ball hit to outfield and fielding team attempts play on runner it becomes live and the runner will be either safe or out.

**TEXT scores, team names, age** to **616-706-5452** Immediately following your game TVBL.org all information, scores, records, seedings, etc. will be updated throughout the weekend

**SEEDINGS for Playoffs:** Will be posted on the website ASAP, please know we want to get these posted as much as you want to see them. Please DO NOT CALL OR TEXT asking when it will be done as it will only slow us down. I can ASSURE you it is our top priority, but this cannot be done without everyone's cooperation throughout the weekend. Thank you!

Thank you for participating in the 2026 Backyard Dreams Tournament, we are thankful to host your teams/families!

**UMPIRE IN CHARGE: ERIC ROBERTS (616)406-5031**

## Parkinson's Awareness

I've been hosting tournaments for 20+ years, involved in baseball for 50+ years but just over a year ago I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. PD is a progressive, incurable neurological disorder that affects dopamine cells in the brain. It's the fastest growing neurological disorder in the world effecting close to 12 million people (I huge increase from just 30 years ago when it was estimated 3 million people),
Over this past year I've learned a lot about Parkinson's and I'm dedicating myself to helping in the fight against it! I have partnered with others to open a counseling business named Clarity Counseling and Coaching. Our practice focuses on many areas including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for patients with any disease including Parkinsons. Anyone that may struggle with anxiety, depression, emotional challenges. Also, being involved in baseball my entire life I felt the need to specialize in Athlete & Family Mental Health. Your athlete, kids, families, parents, that face the seemingly insurmountable pressure and stress trying to cope with today's real pressures on and off the field.
Please join me our fight against Parkinson's Disease and Athletes/Family Mental Health. I've Played and coached in thousands of games but this one is the biggest of our lives, please help us, yourself and your families against all our life challenges!

Sincerely -
Shane Beach
2026 Backyard Dreams Tournament Director

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**616-209-8554**
**Claritycounselingandcoaching.net**
**3371 68th St**
**Caledonia MI 49316**

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