

Willoughby Baseball League Tournament Rules
Tournament will be governed by the 2023 USSSA Softball Rules
USSSA Qualifying Tournament

1. **Sanctioned tournament:** All teams, except Over 18, participating, must be USSSA sanctioned. 2 Umpires per game for ALL games.
2. **Format:** 4 game guarantee, except if there is a forfeit or inclement weather, 3 game pool play on Friday and Saturday. Single elimination on Sunday. All teams must be able to play a Friday night game. **Teams must be prepared to play up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.**
3. **Ground Rules:** Home team will be decided by coin flip. Exception: In Sunday games the higher seed will have the choice of being the home or visiting team.
4. **Game Length: All games are 7 innings, time limit, or one team ahead by 12 runs at the end of 3 innings, 10 runs at the end of 4 innings, or 8 runs at the end of 5 innings.** Time limit will be 60 minutes, finish the inning, plus one inning. The time will begin immediately after the rules meeting at the plate. The umpire will announce the official start time to both benches. A new inning will be defined as starting when the third out in the previous inning is recorded. Pool play games can end in a tie. International tiebreaker (runner on second base) will be used only on Sunday if needed.
5. **Additional Player:** Up to 2 APs can be used for all games. Teams are also allowed to do roster batting for all games. For a team that is roster batting, if a player gets injured and cannot come up to bat, or leaves the game for any reason, including being thrown out from participating, the team must take an automatic out when that player's turn comes up to bat. Teams also have the option of using DP/Flex for all games.
6. **Courtesy Runner:** Teams must use a player off the bench (that has not been in the game) to run for the pitcher and catcher only. If a team is roster batting, then they can use the last completed at bat. When roster batting, for the first inning, if there has not been a recorded out, then the farthest batter in the lineup can be used as a courtesy runner. All other innings will use the last completed at bat. The same player cannot run for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning.
7. **Score Cards:** Managers must report specific registered team names to the umpires. Example for 18U is Willoughby Starzz-Pasqualone. Managers must also ensure the umpires have recorded the correct score on the score cards.
8. **Seeding:** Final pool rankings will be based on team's won/loss record.
9. **Pool game tie-breakers:** 1st Head to head, 2nd Runs allowed, 3rd Run differential (maximum of 8 runs-descending), 4th Coin Flip. If more than two teams are tied with the same pool play record, Head to head will be ignored and we will use 1st Runs allowed, 2nd Runs differential (maximum of 8 runs-descending), 3rd Coin Flip.
10. **Championship Game:** No time limit will apply. These games will be played the entire 7 innings, unless run rule is applied.
11. **Rain Delay:** Game will be resumed at the point of delay. We will follow USSSA rules related to thunder and/or lightning. All players will be removed from the playing field and there will need to be 30 minutes since the last incident of thunder and/or lightning.
12. **Rain Policy:** There will be no postponement of the tournament. In the event we are unable to complete all three pool play games for all teams, it will be the discretion of the tournament director as to how to seed teams for bracket play on Sunday. If tournament is called on Sunday, for all remaining teams not eliminated, we will use pool play results, and follow rules 8 and 9 to determine who finishes first and second. A game will be considered complete after three innings. If we are in the championship game, we will revert back to the last completed inning. If scores are tied when a game is called, the winner will be the highest seeded team.
13. **Refunds:** In the event of a team pulling out, there will be no refunds once the schedule has been sent out. **Refunds will be issued as follows: zero games started 75% of registration fee paid, 1 game started 50% of registration fee paid, 2 or more games started no refund.**
14. **Equipment:** Game balls will be furnished by tournament officials. Metal cleats will be permitted for 14U, 16U, 18U, and Over 18 players.

15. **Trophies/Awards:** Team and individual trophies will be awarded to first and second place in each age division. Teams and coaches must remain for the presentation of the awards following the championship game. MVP medals will be given out for pool play.
16. **Protests:** All protests must be made in accordance with USSSA Rule 13. There will not be a fee for making a protest.
17. **Jewelry:** All players must remove any jewelry that dangles except in the Over 18 division. It is the managers responsibility to ensure that all players are properly equipped.
18. **Ghost Bat:** Any ghost bat that is not stamped with the USSSA logo will only be allowed to be used in the Over 18 division. Any player in the youth divisions caught using this bat will result in the manager and the player being ejected from the game.
19. **Tournament Director:** TD has final say in all rules and changes to the rules. During the tournament, please contact Mark Pasqualone at 440-823-1782 for any questions or concerns.

Tournament Information

1. All team managers or team representatives MUST check-in at Todd Field Umpire Stand at least one hour before their first game starts. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.

2. All teams must have the following:

A copy of the official USSSA roster form with applicable signatures. We will require that a copy be submitted at check in. Only players on the submitted roster will be permitted to play in the tournament. No additions will be allowed once a roster is submitted. The official USSSA roster submission requirement is not applicable for the Over 18 division. For this division, a listing of the players and their numbers is all that needs to be submitted.

Birth Certificates (must be kept available at all times) (Not required for Over 18)

Proof of Insurance (Exception is for Over 18 that must submit signed Insurance Waiver)

Proof of all managers/coaches having Concussion Certification (must be kept available at all times in case an umpire requests to see it)

3. We will have a number of vendors at our main complex at Todd Field.

4. There are concession stands at the following complexes:

Todd
Gilson
Daniels

5. All teams can bring their own grills, canopies, and food and set up in areas as far away from the fields as possible. Teams are responsible for keeping their area clean. Pets are allowed at all playing fields but, must be leashed. You will be responsible to clean up any mess left by a pet.
6. No warm ups allowed in front of the concession stand at Todd Field.
7. Dugouts are to be cleaned after every game. Remind parents to deposit garbage from stands into garbage cans available.
8. We will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets and the drawing will take place Sunday morning.
9. We will be using USSSA Website for our tournament. Good luck and have some fun.