



2026 Baseball World Series Tournament Rules

For game play, we will follow NFHS (National Federation of State High School) rules with the exception of any specific in-house rules stated here and/or the Welcome Packet

ALL Teams must have hard copies of Birth Certificates for ALL players in case of an Event Director check.

Metal Cleats are NOT allowed on turf fields. Only molded or turf shoes.

LEGAL BATS

Only BPF 1.15 stamped bats, USSSA, BB-COR bats, USA bats, and wood bats are legal for game play for 9U-12U. The 13-14U age group has the same standards for bats, except all bats used for game play must be a weight drop of -5 or heavier and all -3 must be BBCOR or wood. All 15-16U divisions must swing a -3 BBCOR or wood bats. Any violation of this rule will result in the batter with the illegal bat being called out and the head coach to be ejected for that game. Any bat questions are up to tournament director discretion. Due to player safety, multiple models of DeMarini 2017 CF Zen (-8) and (-10) bats have been declared ineligible for game play. For a complete list of these illegal bats, please see the following:

017 CF Zen Balanced (-8) 29" 21 oz.
2017 CF Zen Balanced (-8) 30" 22 oz.
2017 CF Zen Balanced (-8) 31" 23 oz.
2017 CF Zen Balanced (-8) 32" 24 oz.
Custom 2017 CF Zen Balanced (-8)

2017 CF Zen SL 2 3/4" (-10) 28" 18 oz.
2017 CF Zen SL 2 3/4" (-10) 29" 19 oz.
2017 CF Zen SL 2 3/4" (-10) 30" 20 oz.
2017 CF Zen SL 2 3/4" (-10) 31" 21 oz.
2017 CF Zen SL 2 3/4" (-10) 32" 22 oz.
Custom 2017 CF Zen 2 3/4" (-10)
2017 CF Zen Zero Dark 2 3/4" (-10) 29" 19 oz.
2017 CF Zen Zero Dark 2 3/4" (-10) 30" 20 oz

HOME / VISITOR DETERMINATION

Home/visitor for pool play will be determined by a coin-flip before the game. Higher seed has the option (choice) of home/visitor in the elimination rounds. In the event of a double elimination bracket, the higher seed will always have the choice, even if they are coming out of the losers bracket.

GAME WARM UPS

No warm-ups on the infields. All pre-game warm-ups will need to be made in the outfield grass. No soft tossing into fences. Teams should be ready 30 minutes prior to game time.

BATTING LINE-UP

Coaches will have the option to submit their lineup however they choose. DH can be for any player and does NOT have to be for the pitcher. If a player is ejected and a team has no substitutes, their future at-bats will result in an automatic out. Teams are required to exchange lineups 15 minutes before game time.

DESIGNATED-HITTER

Teams may use a DH for any position player in the line-up.

PROTESTS

There are no protests allowed. Coaches have the right, at any time, to call a Director to a field for a rules interpretation (Director Call). This does not include JUDGMENT CALLS made by the umpires. This action is to be taken in lieu of protests. In order to properly handle each Director Call, play must be stopped and the Director must be called BEFORE the next pitch. Game time rules still apply during disputes (the clock does not stop). If the disputed call involves the last play of the game, the protesting team must appeal before the umpires leave the confines of the field.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Re-entry rule (if not batting the entire lineup): Starters may re-enter in the same offensive spot once. Substitutes cannot re-enter the game once they have been removed.

IN-GAME INJURIES

When a team chooses to bat the entire lineup, if a player is injured during the game, their spot in the lineup is skipped with no penalty. Once the spot in the lineup is skipped due to an injury or illness, that player is not eligible to return to the game in any capacity. Game time rules still apply during injury (the clock does not stop) unless injury is severe and at the director's discretion.

INTENTIONAL WALKS

When issuing an intentional walk it is not necessary to throw a pitch. The decision can simply be communicated with the umpire and the base awarded.

COURTESY RUNNERS

Courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher allowed at any time. If substitutions exist, the courtesy runner must be a sub. If not, the courtesy runner must be the player who made the last batted out.

PITCHER RE-ENTRY RULE

Once a pitcher has been removed from the pitching position, he cannot re-enter as the pitcher.

BALKS

Balks will follow NFHS Balk rules. Gameplay will be ruled “dead” if a Balk is called. Warnings will be given prior to any penalty as follows:
9u-10u: One warning per PITCHER, per game before penalty.

11u-16u: NO Warnings

Pitching Restrictions

We will not monitor pitch counts, but do strongly recommend **110** pitches or less for the weekend per player. Coaches need to be smart with their arms.

EJECTION RULES

Any player/coach ejected for the game, must leave the Park for the remainder of that game. Tournament Director will have the option

at that point to disqualify the player/coach from the remainder of the event depending on the meeting and Tournament Director's judgment. **At a minimum, that player/coach will be suspended their next scheduled game**

LEAD OFFS

Leads/stealing is allowed in ALL age divisions.

SLIDING

Must slide/avoid contact. A player must slide or attempt to avoid contact on all close plays (umpire discretion). If in an umpire's judgment, there is intentional contact, that umpire may call the runner out on that play. If the contact is judged as intentional and malicious, that umpire may also eject the player from the game.

MOUND VISIT

Each coach is allowed one free mound visit per pitcher per inning. Injury-related visits do not count as a mound visit.

REGULATION INNINGS

Ages 9U through 12U play 6 innings for a complete, regulation game. Ages 13U-16u play 7 innings for a complete, regulation game. The Event Director can deem a game official if 3 ½ innings complete in 6 inning games and 4 ½ innings complete in 7 innings or the time limit has eclipsed 1 hour 15 minutes.

TIME LIMIT / IN GAME TIE-BREAKER

The time limit will start when the first warm up pitch is thrown. No new inning may start after the time limit elapses. The standard time limit for all age groups is 1 hour and 45 minutes. There is a 2 hour time limit for the championship games. If a pool game is tied after a completed time limit or regulation innings, the game will end in a tie. In elimination games, extra innings will be played with International rules until a winner is determined. (International rules stipulate that in extra innings the last batted out will be placed at second base. The count and allotted out will remain at 0 to start the inning) Championship games will play international Rules.

RUN / MERCY RULE

A Run rule will be enforced for all games, including both pool play and elimination games. The run rule shall be 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings. If the home team is behind at the point of the defined run rule, they will still get their last at-bat. If the home team is ahead by the run rule they will not bat in the bottom-half of that respective inning. For example, if the home team is already ahead by 10 runs after 3 1/2 innings, they will not bat in the bottom half of the 4th inning and the game will be official.

AGE REQUIREMENT

Age, as of April 30, 2026, is the determining factor for the team's age division. Take the oldest player on your team, determine that

player's age as of April 30, 2026, and that is the age division your team will be required to play in.

AGE/GRADE EXEMPTIONS

We allow 2 age/grade exemptions per team. The first one is reserved for a player that was born January 1st of the cutoff year. The second exemption is reserved for players born 30 days before the cutoff year. No more than 2 exemptions will be allowed.

PLAYER MINIMUM

A team can start with just 8 players ONLY if all other rostered players are injured, sick or otherwise incapacitated. That team will be allowed to bat only 8 with no penalty. If the number of players dips below 8, then an automatic out shall be recorded for those spots in the lineup less than 8.

If a team Forfeits, the final score of the game will be 7 to 0.

DROPPED THIRD STRIKE

The dropped third strike rule will apply to all age groups.

INFIELD FLY RULE

The infield fly rule will apply to all age groups.

SLASH BUNT

A slash bunt (aka “butcher boy”) is illegal in the 9U-10U age divisions. The player will be called out immediately if the play is attempted. A slash bunt is defined as a player showing bunt at any

time during the pitch and then swinging at that same pitch. This is a legal play for ages 11U through 14U.

Dimensions

9u/10u - 46ft mound, 65ft bases

11u/12u - 50ft mound, 70ft bases

13u - 54ft mound 80ft bases

14u/15-16u - 60ft mound 90ft bases

ELIMINATION ROUND / SEEDING DETERMINATION

Seeding determination will be based on the following factors in the order presented here:

1. We will award 2 points for a win and 1 point for a tie
2. Head-to-head match up results (if applicable) - If 3 or more teams are tied in Win/Loss record and not all have played each other, the next tie breaker will be applied.
3. Total runs allowed in all pool play games (lower number = higher seed)
4. Run differential (maximum +/- 7 runs per game) in all pool play games
5. Coin-flip

Seeding for the tournament will be posted as early as possible after the completion of all pool play games. The seeding will be posted on the tournament website.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of rain we will do everything within our power to stay as close to the game schedule as possible. However, we may have to deviate from the original schedule. If we need to alter the schedule, we use the following procedures/priorities :

- Our first priority is always to make sure each team plays its minimum number of scheduled games. Should weather push back the start of games we will push back those start times well into the night if necessary within the park ordinances. We will start games as late as necessary should the need arise. Please be prepared to play late into the night should rain push back the start of games for that day.
- We will always attempt to have a championship game.
 - 1.) We may need to cancel activities scheduled during the day on Championship Day if impending weather dictates that we play the championship games at unscheduled time slots to get them in.
 - 2.) We may need to eliminate the semi-final or quarter-final games to ensure a championship game will be played. In this instance, we will select the top two seeds based on the standard seeding rules (see Elimination Round Seeding) and those top two seeds will play for the championship.
- We utilize the Baseball World Series Texting Service to notify team contacts about schedule changes and weather updates. See information regarding joining our texting service later in

this packet. It is IMPORTANT all coaches and parents join the Texting Service to receive ample notification about all schedule changes!

- We will post schedule changes on the Game Day section of our website, as well as Tourney Machine.

REGULATION GAMES POLICY

All pool play games and elimination until the Championship have a 1 hour 45 minute time limit. Championship games have a 2 hour time limit.

- 1) In the event of rain after a game has started, a 6 inning game will be considered complete if 4 innings have been played, a 7 inning game will be considered complete if 5 innings have been played, unless the home team is ahead after 3 1/2 innings, 4 1/2 innings, or respectively. In this case, that game shall also be considered official. A game will be considered complete if 1 hour and 15 minutes has expired on the time clock. Schedule permitting, the Event Director can deem any suspended game official. If the minimum number of innings have not been played to consider a game official then the game will be considered suspended and will be resumed (if possible) from the point of suspension at the earliest time available. We also reserve the right to resume suspended games that have surpassed the minimum inning threshold if we feel the entire schedule permits time to do so.
- 2) If the schedule does not permit for the game to be resumed at the point of suspension then that game will be considered

canceled. Canceled pool play games will not be rescheduled. However, as stated above, our first priority is to make sure each team plays its minimum number of games so this scenario would only occur in extreme circumstances. Again, we will play games late into the night in order to get all games in if necessary, within city and park ordinances.

- 3) For championship Games, No if games will take place. The championship will decide the winner regardless of past record with the opponent in either pool or bracket play.

ELIMINATION GAME SUSPENDED RULES:

1. In the event of rain after a game has started, a 6 inning game will be considered complete if 4 innings have been played, a 7 inning game will be considered complete if 5 innings have been played, unless the home team is ahead after 3 1/2 innings or 4
2. 1/2 innings respectively. In this case, that game shall also be considered official. If the minimum number of innings have not been played to consider a game official then the game will be considered suspended and will be resumed (if possible) from the point of suspension at the earliest time available. We also reserve the right to resume suspended games that have surpassed the minimum inning threshold if we feel the entire schedule permits time to do so.
3. If the schedule does not permit for the game to be resumed at the point of suspension and there have not been enough innings played to consider the game official, then the higher seed shall advance regardless of the score at the point of suspension. If the game is tied at the point of suspension, and

the schedule does not permit for the game to be resumed, the higher seed shall advance.

4. If the championship game starts and is not able to complete, and has not reached enough innings for the game to be considered official, then the higher seed will be named champion regardless of score at the time of suspension.

LIGHTNING POLICY

In the event of lightning, the Baseball World Series staff will determine when game play should be suspended/resumed, we will utilize a lightning detection system to determine the proximity of lightning in the area. Further delay/resumption will be decided between the umpire crew and the tournament director.

WEATHER RELATED REFUND POLICY

No games played: 100% credit towards 2027 Baseball World Series

1 game played: 30% credit towards 2027 Baseball World Series.

2 games played: 15% credit towards 2027 Baseball World Series

3 or more games played: No credit

The tournament reserves the right to reformat the event if necessary. The tournament also reserves the right to deem any game that has been suspended, a complete game as long as it meets the complete game requirement.