2026 BASEBALL TOURNAMENT RULES

Player Eligibility & Team Rosters

1. Age cut-off is May 1st. Example: Players may not be 11 years old before May 1, 2026 for the 10-year old division.

   YOU MUST BE ABLE TO PROVDE PROOF OF PLAYER AGE UPON REQUEST. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT.

2. Rosters and certificates of insurance must be uploaded in your Playbook account by Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

Game Length

1. 8U - 12U games shall be six (6) innings, or one hour and thirty minutes - whichever occurs first (No Drop Dead). No inning may start after an hour and thirty minutes of play. No time limit will apply in the championship games. HOWEVER, ties will be played until there is a winner – even after time limit. In all games except the championship game, if the score is tied after 6 innings or at time limit, the next inning and subsequent innings if necessary shall be played as follows: Last out of previous inning will be placed at second base with 1 out and the batter starts with a fresh count. If a team is winning by 20 runs or more after two (2) innings of play, 15 runs or more after three (3) innings of play, 10 runs or more after four (4) innings of play, or 8 runs or more after five (5) innings of play, the game is over.

2. 13U games shall be seven (7) innings, or one hour and forty-five minutes - whichever occurs first (No Drop Dead). No inning may start after an hour and forty-five minutes of play. No time limit will apply in the championship games. HOWEVER, ties will be played until there is a winner – even after time limit. In all games except the championship game, if the score is tied after 7 innings or at time limit, the next inning and subsequent innings if necessary shall be played as follows: Last out of previous inning will be placed at second base with 1 out and the batter starts with a fresh count. If a team is winning by 15 runs or more after three (3) innings of play, 10 runs or more after four (4) innings of play, or 8 runs or more after five (5) innings of play, the game is over.

3. After each out, the ball must be returned immediately to the pitcher. No more than four (4) warm-up pitches between innings or after a change of pitchers. Please anticipate pitching changes to save time.

4. Umpire is the official timer.

Courtesy Runners

1. Courtesy runners for pitchers and catcher may be used at any time. A courtesy runner **must be used** for the catcher when there are two outs. The courtesy runner **must be a player not in the game,** unless playing with ten or less, or batting your whole roster, then the player who made the last out will

be the courtesy runner.

Base Path & Pitching Distances

1. 8-year old = 60-foot bases & 43-foot pitching distance.
2. 9 & 10-year old = 65-foot bases & 46-foot pitching distance.
3. 11 & 12-year old = 70-foot bases & 50-foot pitching distance.
4. 13-year-old = 80-foot bases & 54-foot pitching distance.

Players

1. The extra hitter rule will be optional in this tournament. You may hit as many of your players on your roster as you wish. However, you must continue to hit those players for the entire game. You must notify the home plate umpire and the opposing team if you hit extra players.
2. Re-entry of a starting player will be allowed. But, the re-entered player must be placed in their original batting order position and the opposing team and umpire must be notified of the re-entry.
3. The designated hitter rule will not be used for this tournament.

Pitchers

1. There are no pitching limits. Please use your best judgment.
2. Intentionally walking a batter can be done by telling the home plate umpire.
3. Dropped 3rd strike will be used in all age groups, EXCEPT IN THE 8U DIVISION.
4. There will be 1 balk warning per pitcher for the 10U & 11U divisions. There will be NO balk warnings for the 12U - 13U divisions.

Base Running & Stealing

1. **No** leading off in the 8 & 9-year old divisions. In the 8U Division, runners may leave the base after the ball crosses home plate. In the 9U Division, runners may leave the base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Leaving the base too early will result in one (1) warning per game, with subsequent violations being an automatic out.
2. 10-13-year old divisions will allow leading off.
3. A runner may score on a passed ball, wild pitch or on a return throw to the pitcher, EXCEPT for the 8U division. In the 8U division, runners cannot steal home. Runners can only score on a ball put into play by the batter, "Ball 4" with bases loaded, or if a play is being made on that runner.
4. No fake tags will be allowed.
5. Runners **must** slide on close plays.

Equipment

1. No metal spikes are allowed. 13U players will be playing on turf fields.

2. Helmets must be worn by all base runners at all times. Catchers/players must wear a mask and helmet when warming up a pitcher. This rule is in effect on the sidelines as well as on the field.

3. No bat restrictions.

Miscellaneous

1. No infield or batting practice is allowed between games on the fields. Teams must be warmed up and ready to play after prior game is completed.

2. No soft toss against any fence is allowed.

3. The umpires' decisions will be final. There are no protests.

4. All fields in the tournament are neutral. A coin toss at the beginning of each pool play game will decide the home or away team. However, on Sunday, the higher seeded team will be the home team.

6. Each team's official scorer must verify runs score with the umpire after each ½ inning.

7. The score of any forfeited game will be 6-0.

8. The winning team is responsible for reporting the score of their game to the head table.

9. **Tie Breakers for Seeding Purposes:**

1st	Head-to-head competition
2nd	Least runs allowed
3rd	Most runs scored
4th	Coin flip

Once the tournament has started, there will be no refunds because of bad weather, or any other reason. If the tournament is completely rained out or canceled for any reason, $100.00 from each entry fee will be kept by the Tournament Director for expenses, and the remaining amount will be credited to a future GTS event to be redeemed during the 2026 or 2027 season.

THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE FORMAT OF THE TOURNAMENT IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER OR ANY OTHER REASON.

Each team's manager is responsible for the sportsmanship of their team and fans. Taunting of opposing players or umpires will not be tolerated, and any such behavior will result in removal of the individual from the ballpark.

Good luck to your team and thank you for participating in our tournament! Please contact us if you have any questions.

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