

VICTORY PARK OHIO / TOURNAMENT RULES

These rules will apply to the following events:

North Ridgeville Shootout
Batter Up Early Bird Nations/Five Tool Qualifier
Swing for Spring
Littlest Heroes West Tournament
Last Chance Tournament
August Summer Sizzler

- All rules stated here are exceptions to the NFHS Rules Book. All other playing rules follow NFHS guidelines. Victory Park Ohio and Briggs Baseball LLC dba Fallbaseball.net reserve the right to modify rules prior to the start of and during the tournament, if any item is misrepresented in this document.
- The tournament director or his/her appointed representative (e.g.,umpires) shall be the sole judge as to the playing conditions of the fields and is responsible to make a decision for a called game and/or termination of play.
- Tournament age is players age as of April 30
- For the Nations Qualifiers, all teams are required to register Nations Baseball , validate their team insurance, and input your roster with players full names and birth dates, prior to their first game. Birth certificates must be available upon request unless pre-approved by Nations Baseball.
- Tournament Weather Hotline / Updates : (216) 732-2966
 - Teams will pay umpire fees at homeplate each game
 - Tournament will supply Game Baseballs for all events
- Awards will be presented to first and second place teams in each division. (13 per team)
- Teams shall be at the field 30 minutes before the scheduled game time.
If a team cannot field a team at the scheduled start time, they will forfeit. Forfeits do not apply when delay of arrival is due to travel with-in the Tournament
- There is **no infield practice**.
- Home team will be decided by coin flip in all pool play games. The higher seed will have their choice be the home team or visitor in all seeded games / semi finals and / finals.
- No protests are allowed.
- The infield fly rule shall be in effect for all age divisions.
- No “Slug Bunting” allowed

- **Roster Batting will be allowed in all tournaments.**
 - a. Teams can bat a 9-player lineup, a 10-player lineup using an additional hitter (AH), or roster bat all present uniformed players. The lineup must be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game.
 - b. If a team uses a lineup that contains 10 players, the player in the AH position, while not actually playing a defensive position, is treated as such for substitution purposes.
 - c. If a team chooses to roster bat, then all players other than the nine defensive position players are additional hitters and can move freely in defensive positions.
 - d. If a team is batting all present, uniformed players, with no eligible substitutes listed on the lineup card, and the number of players is 11 or more, that team is considered to be roster batting for the purposes of defensive substitutions and courtesy runners, unless the coach has specifically declared otherwise at the pregame plate conference. If additional players arrive after the game has started, those players are placed at the end of the batting order. If the coach declares at the pregame plate conference that he is not roster batting, the late players are listed on the lineup as eligible substitutes.
 - e. If a player is injured during a game, that player can be removed from the line-up without penalty provided the team is roster batting.
 - f. If a player is ejected during a game, that team will take an out in that spot in the line-up even if roster batting.
- The “Designated Hitter” Rule **will be allowed in the 15u thru 18u Divisions ONLY.**

An “Additional Hitter” Rule **will be allowed. The “AH” Rule is optional in all age divisions.**
 The “AH” is a 10th hitter placed anywhere in the line-up. The “AH” can be substituted for and the re-entry rule will apply. The “AH” is considered a defensive position and can play in the field.

- Speed-up rule: Teams may use a courtesy runner anytime for the pitcher and/or catcher. The runner must be a player from the bench, or if none available -- the last batted out.

THERE ARE NO PITCHING RULES FOR THESE EVENTS

Pitch Smart Guidelines are recommended for ALL tournaments:

<https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines>

Once removed - pitchers may NOT return to the mound in that game

Balks: 9u – 12u – 1 warning per pitcher. 13u – 18u – NO balk warning

- Tie Breakers :
 - 1) Head to Head
 - 2) Fewest runs allowed
 - 3) Highest Run Differential (Max 8/game)
 - 4) Coin-flip

If 3 or more teams are tied, eliminate head to head unless ALL 3 played each other.

Never revert back to a previous tiebreaker once a team is eliminated in an above-mentioned tiebreaker

- **Bat Restrictions: None in 13u and lower -- (-5) in 14u only --- BBCOR for 15u thru 18u**

- No malicious contact on all close plays, umpires discretion.
- Metal Spikes permitted 13u and above
- Our tournaments have “**zero tolerance**” for any physical confrontations by players, coaches, fans or anyone else. Upon the first violation, the violating party shall be removed from the facility for the remainder of the tournament. Profanity or misconduct by a player, coach, or manager will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the game, tournament, and/or park.
- All forfeits are 8– 0. Teams receiving a forfeit will have an average of games played toward any tie-breakers.
- Teams forfeiting games **ARE NOT** eligible for the championship round.
 - All games have a **2 hour time limit**. No inning shall start after 2 hours unless the inning is needed to create an official game. Games suspended due to weather that have not reached an official game will continue from that point.
- Note: If a Home team is at bat and leading at the time limit, no further batters permitted - game over.
 - Game clock starts at the conclusion of ground rules**
 - New inning starts when the 3rd out is recorded from the previous inning**
 - NO TIME LIMIT IN SEMI FINAL and CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES ONLY**
- There are tie games provided the teams have played the time limit in pool play.
- There is NO DROP 3rd Strike Rule in the 9u division . Batter out and runners may advance.
- **Tournament / Playoff Format :** To be determined based on the number of teams entered
NOTE: Wildcard teams will not play a team that they played in Pool Play when Pools are used
- Rainout Policy : In the event of bad weather, the Victory Park Ohio / Briggs Baseball LLC reserve the right to modify and complete the tournament any way feasible to all teams involved. Refunds will be issued based on games completed . Any started game with umpire(s) paid may be considered a played game in the refund policy. Full refunds are not possible due to park rentals and bid fees. Bids will be issued for Nations Baseball, no matter what percentage of the tournament is completed.
- Refund Policy: 0 games played - 75%
 - 1 game played - 50%
 - 2 games played – no refund
- Insufficient Funds: A \$30 fee will be charged for all returned checks.

General Points of Reference

	Innings	Official Game	Mercy Rule	Stealing	Lead-offs	Base Distance	Pitching Distance	
8u	6	4	12 / 5	No	No	60	43	
9u	6	4	10 / 5 12 / 4	Yes	Yes	65	46	
10u	6	4	10 / 5 12 / 4	Yes	Yes	65	46	
11u 12u	7	5	10 / 5 12 / 4	Yes	Yes	70	50	
13u 14u	7 7	5 5	10 / 5 12 / 4	Yes	Yes	80 90	54 60	
15u -16u 17u -18u	7	5	10 / 5 12 / 4	Yes	Yes	90	60	

Rev. 4/ 15 /22