



FIVE TOOL BASEBALL GENERAL PLAYING RULES

Playing rules not covered in the "Five Tool Baseball Guidelines and Regulations" revert to the *National Federation of High School Baseball Rules*. These rules are on www.nfhs.com. Local and State Directors have the right to adjust rules for local and state play at any time.

1. A coin toss between the two teams will determine the home team before each game in pool play. In bracket play, the higher seed is the home team including in the Championship Game.
2. Games will be 6 innings long in 8U-12U & 7 innings long in 13U & 14U
3. Run Rules: 15 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings and 8 after 5 innings in ALL AGE DIVISIONS!
4. Time Limits for all games (both 6-inning and 7-inning) will be 1:45 with no new inning beginning after 1:45 (starting from the conclusion of the pre-game meeting).
 - a. **New for 2026 This will be a drop-dead time limit where if the home team is winning when the time limit is reached, the game will be over.**
5. Metal spikes are prohibited in the 8U-12U divisions.
6. 14u Bat Rules: Drop 3 and/or 5 is allowed!
7. The NFHS avoidance of contact rule will be enforced in all divisions. Runners are not required to slide, they are to avoid contact by sliding legally or causes illegal contact and/or alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play.
 - a. **Malicious contact will be grounds for ejection as per the umpires judgement**
8. At any time, the team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher of record from the previous time on defense. The courtesy runner(s) must be someone not presently in the lineup and may appear as an offensive player one time per inning. The re-entry status of the courtesy runner, pitcher and catcher is not affected by this rule. If a courtesy runner is determined to be illegal, a legal replacement (if available) will be substituted. If roster batting, the courtesy runner is the player with the last recorded batted out.
9. An intentional walk may take place by announcement from the catcher or pitcher.
10. Pitchers cannot fake to 3rd base nor 1st base. Doing so is a balk. This also means the "5/3 move" is illegal and is a balk.
11. In all age divisions, starters may re-enter once, but must re-enter in their original position in the batting order. Non-starters are not allowed to re-enter. When a starter re-enters, the player in the batting order must be taken out of the game and is ineligible for the remainder of the game.
12. The MLB defensive conference rule will be followed - A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning causes the pitcher's automatic removal from the mound.
13. A pitcher removed from the pitching position cannot return to the pitching position during a game, but can re-enter to any other position if they are eligible to do so under the Starter re-enter rule provisions.
14. Roster Batting: Teams can bat a nine-player lineup, a 10 player lineup using an extra hitter (EH), or roster bat all present uniformed players. The lineup must be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game. A designated hitter (DH) is NOT allowed.
15. Any player, coach, or spectator ejected from a game is required to leave the facility for the remainder of the game. Additional penalties may be assessed by the tournament directors and UIC. ****Players who are ejected may, at the discretion of the umpire and tournament staff be permitted to remain in the dugout/bench area.**
16. Umpires will work to settle all problems on the field. Protests will be allowed for age and pitching or rules interpretations only. Protest must be declared to the umpire before the next pitch following the dispute. No protest will be allowed following the game. Tournament Director and UIC will rule on all protests and their decision is final. (Protest fee is \$100 cash and will be refunded if protest is allowed). Judgment calls cannot be protested.
17. **PITCHING RULES – 9u-12u (18 outs in a day, 27 outs for the tournament). 13u & 14u (21 outs in a day, 30 outs for the tournament). Pitchers are ALLOWED to throw 3 days in a row. PLEASE BE AWARE OF ALL RULES. PITCHING RULES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. PITCHING CHART ENCLOSED**
18. **NO SLUG BUNTING!! IF A PLAYER DOES AND MAKES CONTACT, HE IS EJECTED!**
19. **One way communication from the dugout to the catcher is allowed.**
20. Team and player eligibility rules not specifically covered above shall be referred to the Five Tool Baseball State Director and the Five Tool Area State Director.
21. The Tournament Director has **FINAL** say on all issues regarding the tournament