

2024 Northville Early Bird Tournament Rules Sheet

	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	
Governing Rules	USSSA Governed by Major League Baseball Rules							
Game:	All pool play games will use coin flip to determine the home team. For bracket play the higher seed will be the home team.							
Minimum # of Players	All games must begin and end with nine (9) defensive players regardless of reason for absent players. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game. If the number of defensive players available is less than nine (9), the game will be recorded as a forfeit regardless of the score of the game at the time of the absence of the player.							
Regulation Game	6 innings				7 innings			
Complete Game	4 innings (3-1/2 innings if home team is winning) Or determined by time limit. If a game is called due to weather or darkness prior to the time limit and the required innings for a complete game, the makeup game is restarted from the <u>beginning of the game - suspended games are not allowed</u> . If a game is called before an inning is completed, the score reverts to the score at the end of the last complete inning played unless the home team is winning or the home team tied the game in their half of the current inning.							
Game Time Limit	A new inning may not start after 1 Hr 45 Min from the actual game start time, with 2:00 hour hard stop. A new inning begins immediately after the third out of the previous inning. If the time limit is reached during an inning, that inning is treated as the last inning. If 2:00 hour time limit is reached the game reverts back to the last completed inning. During weather delays, the clock is suspended until play restarts. All games including semi-final games will be 1Hr 45 Min, championship games will be 6 or 7 innings.							
Weather	Suspending play due to lightning and weather-related incidents will be governed by the NBSA community rules. NFHS rules call for a 30 minute suspension of play when lightning is seen or thunder is heard. Any subsequent lightning strikes or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count should reset the clock and another count should begin.							
Mercy Rule	15 runs after 4 innings - 10 runs after 5 innings							
Maximum Runs/Inning	5	7	10	Unlimited				
	This is the maximum number of runs that can be officially scored. For example, if an at bat results in more runs scored than the maximum, only the maximum is included in the official score. This limit does not apply to the 6 th inning (8u-12u) or 7 th inning (13u-14u), these innings are unlimited.							
Tie games allowed	Yes, during pool play, but only if 1 Hr 45 Min time limit has been met.							
	Extra innings must be played if time limit allows. Complete games ending in a tie prior to time limit due to inclement weather or darkness will be considered final during pool play.							
Reporting Game Results	Scores: Winning team is responsible for reporting scores. Scores should be reported immediately after the game to the number specified in the Tourney Machine app w. teams and age group (for example "12U - Northville Broncos 8 - Centerville Eagles 4" Ejections and Tie Games: Both teams are responsible for reporting ejections and tied games.							
Pitching:								
Balk Warnings	Unlimited - Educational per umpire discretion.	Unlimited - Educational per umpire discretion.	Unlimited - Educational per umpire discretion.	1 Per Pitcher Per Game	1 Per Pitcher Per Game	1 Per Pitcher Per Game	1 Per Pitcher Per Game	
	Note: When a balk is called (warning or otherwise), the ball is dead and runners return to their previous base. However if the batter reaches first base and all other runners safely advance one base, runners should not be returned to their previous base.							
Fake to 3B – Throw to 1B	Balk							
Hit Batter Limitation	For all games a maximum of 3 hit batters/pitcher/game can occur. Pitcher is removed from the pitching position immediately after 3rd hit batter. Player may remain in game unless determined to be intentional per umpire discretion.							
Maximum # Outs Pitched	9 Outs Per Game 18 Outs for Tournament	9 Outs Per Game 24 Outs for Tournament	12 Outs Per Game 24 Outs for Tournament		15 Outs Per Game 30 Outs for Tournament			
	Exceeding the maximum outs allowed in the case of a double or triple play shall be counted in a pitchers total number of outs in the tournament, but a pitcher / team will not be penalized if a double or triple play occurs when reaching either the game or tournament out limit. Once a pitcher is removed from pitching, he/she can not pitch again in current game regardless of number of outs pitched. If it is determined that a pitcher has exceeded the maximum # of outs pitched, the pitcher shall be immediately removed from the pitching position.							

Base Running:								
Sliding	For all games, High School Rules will apply. Refer to NFHS rules Sections 2-32 & 8-4-2b which is published at the end of these rules. NOTE: A runner is NOT required to slide. If the runner does slide, it must be a legal slide (see rule below). If the runner doesn't slide, he must avoid contact and interfering with the play or will be called out. Ejection of the runner is the umpire's discretion if malicious intent is determined.							
Lead-off	Runners are not allowed to lead off or steal bases until the pitched ball crosses the plate. Penalty: Each team is allowed one warning per game. Afterward, a runner leading off before the ball crosses the plate will be called out.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Stealing	Yes. One base per pitch. Runner may not leave the base until the pitched ball crosses the plate.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Stealing Home	Runner can only advance home on a batted ball or force walk.	No Limitation	No Limitation	No Limitation	No Limitation	No Limitation	No Limitation	

Roster/Player:								
Maximum Roster Count	13							
Minimum/Maximum # of Hitters in Line-up	All Uniformed Players Hit							
	Continuous batting order for 14U and younger							
Minimum Defensive	6 Outs per Player per Game							
	This rule applies to all games including those ending in a tie, by mercy or time limit. Coaches must manage this to insure that all players play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs regardless of the length of the game							
4th Outfielder	For U8 only: A 4 th outfielder may be used. If used, this additional player MUST be positioned in the outfield.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
Late Players	For all games, start time is forfeit time. Teams must have 9 players ready to play at the game start time, otherwise a forfeited game will be scored 6-0. Late arriving players must be inserted at the bottom of the batting order before their team bats through the order. Minimum defensive playing time requirements apply to late arriving players.							
Absent Without Injury or Illness	For all games, if a player is a hitter in the batting order, this position will be declared an 'out' should this player become absent during the game for a reason other than injury or illness. Another player may replace the absent player defensively but may not hit in the absent player's position in the line-up. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game.							
Absent with Injury or Illness	For all games, if a player is removed from a game due to injury or illness, his/her position in the batting order will be skipped without penalty. The injured or ill player may not re-enter the game once their position in the batting order is skipped. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game. In the continuous batting order, if a batter is injured and unable to complete the at-bat, the at-bat is skipped without penalty.							
Ejected Players, Coaches and Managers	Any player, coach or manager ejected, for any reason, will be asked to leave for the remainder of the tournament. An ejected player's position in the batting order will be declared an 'out' for the game from which he/she is ejected. Additional suspensions and/or disciplinary actions may be enforced pending the NBSA tournament review. During the suspension the player, coach or manager may not enter the confines of the park or recreational area that supports the field of play. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game. Failure to report a suspended player, coach or manager will be grounds for additional suspensions and / or tournament disqualification.							
Equipment:								
Bat Restrictions:	<p>USSSA Rules Apply. The maximum diameter shall not exceed 2-3/4 inches and the maximum length shall not exceed 36 inches. Bats should not exceed the 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) as defined for baseball bats by ASTM Standards.</p> <p>Big barrel bats (diameters of 2-5/8" or 2-3/4") must have the USSSA 1.15 BPF mark. Older big barrel bats will not be allowed. Small barrel bats (diameter of 2-1/2") must have the USSSA 1.15 BPF mark as well.</p> <p>Also, BBCOR-certified and solid (one-piece) wood bats are legal.</p>							

	Team managers will be responsible for enforcing bat rules. Prior to the start of play, the manager from each team should identify which bats are legal and remove from the dugout any bat identified as illegal. If a player is found to be using an illegal bat, that bat will be removed from play at that point and play will continue. If that bat is used again during the game, the manager or head coach of the team will be ejected and the bat removed from play.							
Spikes/Shoes	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)				Metal, Rubber or Plastic Cleats Allowed			
	Penalty: If a player is found in violation, they will be ejected. See Ejected Players rule.							
Speed-up:								
Courtesy Runner for Pitcher and/or Catcher	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	
	For purposes of this rule, the position of pitcher or catcher is determined by the player's position in the previous defensive half inning. For the first half of the first inning, the position is determined by the roster. The courtesy runner is the player that made the previous batted out. If an improper substitution is made, the correct substitution will be made upon notification of the improper substitution.							
Field Dimensions:								
Pitching Distance	40' 0"	46' 0"	46' 0"	50' 0"	50' 0"	54' 0"	60' 6"	
Base Distance	60' 0"	65' 0"	65' 0"	70' 0"	70' 0"	80' 0"	90' 0"	
	If the field dimensions are found to be incorrect after play has started, corrections to the field should be made at the end of the current inning.							

Batter:								
Dropped 3rd Strike	No. On a dropped 3rd strike, the batter is out and the ball is live.		Yes					
Infield Fly Rule	Yes							

Pool Play Tiebreaker	<p style="text-align: center;">1) Record</p> <p>(This favors the team with the greatest number of Wins, or the least number of Losses. For example, if Team A is 2-4-0, Team B is 1-3-2 and Team C is 0-2-4, the Record would favor Team A, then Team B, then Team C due to the Wins.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2) Head-to-Head</p> <p>(For example, 3 teams have the same overall record at 4-2 and all 3 of the teams played each other an equal number of times. If one team's record against the other two was 2-0 and another team's was 1-1 and the last was 0-2, this tie breaker would rank them accordingly. If all three teams had identical 1-1 records, this tie breaker would not be used.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3) Runs Allowed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4) Run Differential</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5) Runs Scored</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6) Coin Flip</p> <p>NOTE: In divisions with 3 pools, each pool winner will be ranked 1 through 3 using the above tiebreakers for bracket play. Each pool runner-up will be ranked 4 through 6 using the above tiebreakers for bracket play.</p>
Tournament Champion if Tournament Abbreviated	<p>1) If pool play is not completed, no champion will be declared.</p> <p>2) If pool play is completed</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A) and both semi-final games have NOT been completed,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i) and there are 2 pools in the division, each pool champion will be declared co-champions</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii) and there are more than 2 pools in the division, the top 2 pool champions as determined by tiebreaker rules will be declared co-champions</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B) and both semi-final games have been completed, both finalists will be declared co-champions</p> <p>NOTE: In the event of co-champions, players will receive individual awards but the team trophy will NOT be awarded. It is encouraged that co-champions find a time at a later date to play and determine a winner at which point the team trophy will be awarded.</p>

NFHS RULE 2 - PLAYING TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

SECTION 32: SLIDE

Article 1 . . . A legal slide can be either feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground. If a runner slides, he must slide within reach of the base with either a hand or a foot.

Article 2 . . . A slide is illegal if:

- a. the runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into the fielder, or
- b. the runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in a standing position, or
- c. the runner goes beyond the base and then makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder, or
- d. the runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg, or
- e. the runner tries to injure the fielder, or
- f. the runner, on a force play, does not slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases.

Exception: A runner may slide or run in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. (8-4-2b).

NFHS RULE 8 - BASERUNNING

SECTION 4: RUNNER IS OUT

Article 2 . . . Any runner is out when he:

- b. does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play, does not slide in a direct line between the bases

Exception: A runner may slide or run in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. (8-4-2b).

Note: Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. (2-32-1, 2)

Penalty: The runner is out, the ball is dead immediately, and interference is called. On a force-play slide with less than two outs, the runner is declared out, as well as the batter-runner. Runner shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. With two outs, the runner is declared out. The batter is credited with a fielder's choice.