



TOURNAMENT RULES

1. TEAM CHECK-IN

A verified roster must be submitted to the Tournament Director at least 1 hour before the first game.
Player age is their age on April 30, 2025.

A copy of players' birth certificates may be requested.

Every team must submit a copy of valid insurance at least an hour before the first game.

Every team must complete and submit the waiver form at least an hour before the first game.

Northwoods Baseball LLC will send a roster form, waiver form, and request for insurance via email in advance of the tournament to encourage seamless check-in.

2. STANDINGS and BRACKETS

The scores and standings will be updated at each field, the concession stand, and online.

3. FIELD SIZE

8U - 9U	46/60
10U	46/60 or 46/65 (TBD)
11 - 12U	50/70

4. TIME LIMITS / INNINGS

9U-12U 6 innings or 1:30 time limit.

8U 5 innings or 1:15 time limit.

Time starts at the first pitch of each game.

No new inning can start after the time limit expires.

No extra innings in pool play; games will end in a tie.

90 seconds between innings.

New pitchers get a maximum of 7 pitches, returning pitchers a maximum of 5.

Pitchers must throw a minimum of 1 warm up pitch followed by a throw from the catcher down to second base between each inning.

5. POOL PLAY / BRACKET PLAY / EXTRA INNINGS

Coin flip will determine the home team through pool play.

Higher seed has the option to choose to be the home or visiting team in bracket play.

California Rule after time limit or inning limit - 2-1 count, 1 out, last batted out on 2nd base.

No extra innings or Cali Rule in pool play; just bracket play.

Championship games have the same time limits, run rules still apply, and the higher seed is the home team.

6. RUN RULE / MERCY RULE

Ages 9U-12U 15 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings, 8 after 5 innings.

Ages 8U 12 after 3 innings, 8 after 4.



7. PITCHING RULES

1 free visit per inning; the pitcher is removed upon the second visit.
No fake to third and throw to first; major league rule; a balk is called.
1 balk warning per pitcher for 11U and 12U.
2 balk warnings per pitcher for 10U.
For intentional walks the pitcher does not have to pitch to batter.
The coach must call time out and inform the umpire for an intentional walk.
2 bean balls by a pitcher and a warning will be issued.
On the 3rd bean ball, the pitcher must be removed.
Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 8 innings for the entire tournament; 1 pitch constitutes an inning.
A coach from each team must complete and sign the game sheet at the field score table after each game (game sheet verifies pitchers' inning(s) and final score of the game.)
Once a pitcher is removed from the pitching position, he cannot re-enter as a pitcher and/or pitch in that same game.

8. LEADOFFS, STEALING, and PICKOFFS

10U, 11U, and 12U USSSA leadoffs, stealing, pickoffs and dropped 3rd strike rules apply unless noted below.
For 8U and 9U ONLY: Batter cannot advance on dropped third strikes.
For 8U and 9U ONLY: No leading off and runners can steal when pitch crosses home plate.

9. BAT RULES

USSSA 1.15 stamped, 2 3/4in barrel max, no drop rule, USA and wood bats are allowed.
No modified and/or tampered with bat shall be used.
Umpires, Tournament Director, and Northwoods Baseball LLC may remove any such bat from the tournament and a team using a modified bat is at risk of forfeiting all wins and remaining games.

10. HITTING RULES

Courtesy runners are allowed for pitcher and catcher at any time.
Team is allowed to bat 9, 10 (with EH) or the whole lineup.
Infield fly rule in effect for 10U-12U.
If an injury occurs batting the whole lineup, the player will be an out for the rest of the game unless the opposing head coach agrees to nullify the rule. No DH's.
Hitting warmups are limited to wiffle balls and/or no flight balls in foul territory or on the grass.
Balls shall NOT be hit against any fence or backstop.
No fake bunt then swing. Batter will be called out.
On-deck batter can warm up in either on-deck circle.

11. WEATHER DELAYS

If one field goes under weather delay, ALL fields go under weather delay.
Automatic 15 minute delay for lightning. No delay for thunder.
The Tournament Director will send email and text with updates.



12. **GAME TIMES / WARMUPS**

No pre-game infield. Warmups are in the outfield grass.
Games can and will start up to 30 minutes ahead of schedule.

13. **WEATHER DELAY POLICY:**

In the event of rain, if the rain becomes dangerous, we will delay the game(s) and resume when it is safe to play again.

In the event of lightning, we will pull all the players from the fields and start a 15 minute delay; every spot lightning by an umpire or tournament director will start the 15 minutes over.

We keep a close eye on the weather with lightning and rain; we will not postpone with thunder. If weather is going to significantly alter the start time of game times, a text and email will be sent to coaches and we will post updated schedules at the complex.

14. **SPORTSMANSHIP / BEHAVIOR**

No swearing, taunting, or otherwise unsportsmanlike behavior will be tolerated. Tournament Director, umpires, and/or Northwoods Baseball LLC may remove any player, coach, and/or fan from the complex for inappropriate behavior.

15. **NO CARRY-INS**

Each team is allowed a cooler of water or Gatorade to be brought in by a coach.

16. **EJECTIONS (NO EXCEPTIONS)**

If a COACH is ejected he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament and asked to leave the entire complex.

If a PLAYER is ejected he/she will be suspended for the next game and can stay in the complex, but cannot be in the dugout or on the field at any time.

If a PARENT/FAN is ejected he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament and asked to leave the entire complex.

Umpires are to be treated with the utmost respect.

Home plate umpires' decisions on appeals and ejections are final.

17. **MUSIC / SPEAKERS**

Teams may bring speakers and play music / walk-up songs.

Volume level and content will be monitored by umpires, tournament director, and Northwoods Baseball LLC in real time to ensure minimal distractions.



18. TIE BREAKERS

- Number of wins.
- Head to head; if more than 2 teams are tied this criteria will be skipped.
- Runs allowed.
- Runs scored.
- Run differential; maximum of 8 runs per game.
- Coin flip.

19. TOURNAMENT REFUND POLICY

- More than 60 days prior to the tournament; refund less \$150 Deposit Fee.
- Less than 59 days to the tournament; forfeit full tournament registration.

20. WEATHER-RELATED REFUND/CREDIT POLICY

- A game started is a game played.
- 0 games started; full entry refund LESS \$150 Deposit Fee
- 1 game started; \$250.00 refund or credit.
- 2 or more games started-no credit will be rewarded.

21. RULES ADJUSTMENTS

These are draft rules and are subject to be modified prior to the pool play schedules being sent to all teams. We do not anticipate any changes, but reserve the right to improve these rules to create an environment for the best baseball possible for all athletes.

Final and complete rules will also be in hard copy at the Northwoods Field Table, located behind home plate at each field.