

# 2020 Official Rules

The default rulebook for all Ballparks of America Tournaments will be the Major League Baseball Rule Book, with these modifications:

## Player-Specific Rules

- Players may not turn the age above their designation (i.e. 13 for a 12U tournament) before May 1, 2020.
- 10U Division Players who turn 11 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 4th grade. Also, any player turning 12 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 10U are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 11U Division Players who turn 12 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 5th grade. Also, any player turning 13 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 11U are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 12U Division Players who turn 13 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 6th grade. Also, any player turning 14 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 12U are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 13U Division Players who turn 14 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 7th grade. Also, any player turning 15 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 13U are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 14U Division Players who turn 14 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 7th grade. Also, any player turning 15 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 13U are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- All grade-based players must have a copy of their birth certificate, current report card, or official school ID with grade, or any official government document stating the grade.
- Teams must have a minimum roster size of 10 players and 2 coaches.
- Rosters are limited to a maximum of 18 players.

- Only players on the team's roster are allowed to play for that team.
- A player can only play on one team during a tournament, even if the teams are from the same organization.

## Game Rules

- During pool play, a coin flip will decide the home team. For bracket play, the highest seed will be the home team.
- Innings:
  - 6 inning games for 10U—12U.
  - 7 inning games for 13U – 14U.
- All pool play and bracket games, excluding the championship, will have a 1:45 time limit.
- After the time limit ends, no new inning will start.
- After the time limit ends, the current inning will be finished. If the home team is winning, the bottom half of that inning does not have to be played.
- The championship will have no time limit. Innings and mercy rules still apply.
- Mercy Rule:
  - 20 runs after 2 innings, or 1 ½ innings (If home team is ahead)
  - 15 runs after 3 innings, or 2 ½ innings (If home team is ahead)
  - 12 runs after 4 innings, or 3 ½ innings (If home team is ahead)
  - 10 runs after 5 innings, or 4 ½ innings (If home team is ahead)
  - 8 runs after 6 innings, or 5 ½ innings (For 13U/14U games if home team is ahead)
- Dimensions:
  - 46-foot pitching distance and 65-foot bases for 10U.
  - 50-foot pitching distance and 70-foot bases for 11U and 12U games.
  - 54-foot pitching distance and 80-foot bases for 13U games.

- 60-foot pitching distance and 90-foot bases for 14U games.
- Base runners are allowed to lead off.
- Designated Hitter is allowed for the pitcher.
- No one player in a game can assume more than one offensive position.
- Extra Hitter (EH):
  - If using an extra hitter(s), only one (1) player may occupy each EH position per game. You may remove your EH(s) for the duration of the game at any time prior to their at-bat, without penalty. **You must notify the plate umpire prior to removal. Extra Hitters must be announced prior to the start of the game; no mid-game entry is permitted.**
  - Extra hitter spots will be 10 through the end of your lineup.
- Prior to each game, field umpires will review the rules and official lineup cards with both head coaches. The home team book is the official game book.
- If a player is removed from the game for illness or injury there will be no out recorded for his spot in the batting order. His place in the lineup will be skipped.
- Re-entry rule: Starters may re-enter in the same offensive spot once. Substitutes cannot re-enter the game once they have been removed. This only applies if your team is not batting entire roster.
- Once removed from the pitching mound, the pitcher can re-enter the game defensively, but not as a pitcher.
- Exception: Whenever a ninth player is needed due to injury or illness, not ejection, and all legal substitutions have been used, removed substitutes can re-enter the game in a different offensive position. In this event, EHs must remain in their current position in the batting order but can enter the game in a defensive position. This change must be announced to the opposing team and to the plate umpire at the time of injury.
- In the case of an ejection, a substitute can enter for the ejected player. However, if the entire roster is being batted, the ejected player's position shall be declared an out.
- If a team drops below 9 players (with no substitutes on the bench) due to injury or illness, no automatic out is recorded. The player's offensive position will be skipped.
- If the team drops below 9 players (with no substitutes on the bench) due to an

ejection, the ejected player’s position in the lineup will be declared an out. You cannot intentionally walk a player to get to the ejected player’s spot in the order for the 3<sup>rd</sup> out. It is the umpire’s judgement if it is deemed intentional. If the umpire deems the walk intentional, that spot in the order will be skipped and the next spot in the order will come up.

- If a team drops below 8 players for any reason, the game may be ruled a forfeit by the tournament director. The score for a 6-inning game will be 6-0 and for a 7-inning game, 7-0. The decision of whether to rule the game a forfeit will be at the tournament director’s discretion.
- Pitch counting or regulation of pitching during tournaments will be handled on a tournament by tournament basis. Unless you receive information from the tournament director to the contrary, BoA expects coaches to take responsibility for managing pitch counts and to use discretion in doing so. There will be no tracking of pitches or pitch count limitations at most BoA tournaments. BoA encourages coaches to review and familiarize themselves with Pitch Smart and to adopt Pitch Smart’s recommended pitching restrictions for pitch counts and days of rest.

#### Pitch Smart Recommended Pitching Restrictions (Pitch Count and Days Rest)

Age	Daily Max	0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+

- Balks
  - **For 10U Only-** Balks will be called following Major League Baseball rules. There will be one warning per pitcher per game, until the single-elimination tournament begins on Thursday. The warning will be an immediate dead ball. All balk calls after the warning will be delayed dead balls.
  - For 11U-14U – Major League Baseball Balk rules apply. No warnings will be issued.
- Courtesy Runner
  - A courtesy runner can be used for the **CATCHER and PITCHER of RECORD ONLY** at any time. This is not a substitution and is optional.
  - If not batting the entire roster, the courtesy runner must be a substitute on the bench.

- If Roster Batting, the courtesy runner is the player with the last recorded batted out (who is not the pitcher or catcher of record). While roster batting, if a courtesy runner is used before a batted out has been made, the last batter in the order will be used.
- Must slide /avoid contact rule. A player must slide or attempt to avoid contact on all plays (umpire discretion). Attempting to jump, hop or dive over the fielder is not interpreted as seeking to avoid contact.
- No player can initiate malicious contact. Any player who is deemed to have initiated malicious contact will be ejected. This is up to the umpires' judgment.
- Unless the catcher is in possession of the baseball, the catcher cannot block the pathway of the runner as he is trying to score.
- A batter is not allowed to "slash bunt". A batter that fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing will be out, the ball will be dead and no runners may advance.
- Home Runs are considered a dead ball and not subject to appeal.
- **Teams provide their own bats for game play** (no size or weight restrictions, but must be certified BPF 1.15). **WOOD BAT ONLY FOR 13U and 14U.** For Wood Bat Tournaments—Wood composite bats are allowed.
- Umpires will work to settle all disputes on the field. Coaches have the right, at any time, to call a Ballparks of America Tournament Director ("Director") to a field for a rule interpretation ("Director Call"). This action is to be taken in lieu of protests.
- This does not include **JUDGMENT CALLS** made by the umpires.
- In order to properly handle each Director Call, play must be stopped and the Director must be called **BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH**. Game time must also be stopped until the game resumes. If the disputed call involves the last play of the game, the protesting team must appeal before the umpires leave the confines of the field. No protest will be allowed following the game.
- The Tournament Director or other BoA officials will rule on all protests and their decisions will be final.
- The protest fee is \$100 cash. The fee shall be returned only if the protest is upheld.

## Ground Rules

- Infield/outfield practice is **only permitted** on fields at times specified by the Tournament Director.
- Teams may begin pre-game warm-ups (long toss and fungo on one side of the field only) **15 minutes** prior to game time.
- Official game time will start at the end of the umpires' plate meeting. Umpires will announce to the coaches and the Ballparks of America staff announcer of the start time.
- Game time will stop for weather and Director Calls. Once play is resumed, game time will resume.
- While on defense, teams are allowed two coaches outside the dugout. While on offense, teams are allowed two coaches outside the dugout (limited to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaching boxes).
- While on defense, the coach is allowed one bucket to sit on outside of the dugout. The bucket must be in or very close to the entry way to the dugout.
- All areas within the walls of the fields, aside from the dugouts and spectators' areas, are in play. A batted ball striking any part of the backstop netting and all netting extensions is an immediate dead ball (**dead ball rules apply**).
- Pitchers may only warm up in designated bullpen areas during the game.
- The cameras at the field will not be used for instant replay. Cameras are considered part of the screen.
- Teams must turn in their lineup to the opposing coach and the Ballparks of America staff announcer prior to every game.
- At the conclusion of every game, the head coach for both teams must sign the umpire's scorecard to finalize the game. If the scorecard is not signed prior to leaving the field, the game may be deemed a forfeit.
- Only players and coaches are allowed on the field or in the dugout during games.
- In the event an umpire signals a rain delay, each team must remain in its designated dugout until otherwise notified by a Director. In the event of severe weather, you will be directed by a Ballparks of America employee to the nearest storm shelter.

- If a game cannot be finished due to weather, it will be the Director's decision as to whether to reschedule the conclusion of the game or to deem the game complete.

## Dress Code

- NO metal spikes.
- NO jewelry-earrings, necklaces, rings, etc.
- Players must have jerseys tucked in at all times.
- Coaches must wear a team shirt or Ballparks of America apparel.
- No sandals or flip flops allowed on the field.

## Coaches and Players Conduct

- Sportsmanship code: Promote good sportsmanship both on and off the field and encourage lifelong friendships.
- Any player ejected from a game will be suspended from the next game.
- Any coach ejected from a game will be suspended for the next two games and may be removed from Ballparks of America premises for the remainder of the tournament at BoA's sole discretion. The coach may not return as a spectator or parent when suspended or if removed from the campus. Ejections may be subject to review by the Director and may be overturned by the Director or other BoA officials at BoA's sole discretion.
- Coaches, please remind your players to respect the upkeep of the baseball fields.
- Only the head coach may address the umpire or Director about an in-game situation.