

2026 AYRA Spring Kickoff Tournament

**Sponsored by
Atholton Youth Recreation Association (AYRA) Baseball**

Games to be played at:

Blandair Park
5750 Oakland Mills Rd.
Columbia, MD 21045

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/Blandair%20Map.pdf>

Player eligibility:

Teams must carry a copy of their roster and official Birth Certificates or State Identification cards for each of their players, and be able to provide upon request.

Players must not turn 15 by April 30, 2026

Insurance:

Teams must have a copy of their insurance certificate listing AYRA as an additionally insured. We will not be collecting these.

**AYRA Baseball, INC.
PO Box 226
Simpsonville, MD 21150**

Contact Information:

Bob Kula (240) 396-7328

The winning team will be responsible for texting the scores to us after your game; please include both (301) 537-3972 & (240) 695-3473 on the text chain. Confirm with the other coach the correct final score before leaving the field. When texting please include your team, your opponent and the correct score. We will try to get everything updated as quickly as possible on the tourney machine page / app.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO TEXT SCORES ON SUNDAY.

Umpires:

9u-10u- one umpire for all games; two umpires for all semifinal and championship games
11u + – two umpires for all games

Tournament Format:

3 game minimum.

All teams play 2 pool games on Friday or Saturday; matchups predetermined by blind draw. Pool play schedule will be released no later than Monday prior to the start of the tournament. Pool play results are used to seed teams for Championship Bracket play on Sunday.

Champions and runner-up of all age brackets will receive tournament trophies.

Note: Tournament organizers retain the right to adjust tournament format due to number of registered teams and / or weather / field conditions.

Tournament Seeding:

At the conclusion of pool play, teams will be seeded for bracket play based on pool play results. Ties will be broken as follows:

- 1- Record (ties are permitted in pool play)
- 2- Head to head (when applicable – will only be used when two teams have same record)
- 3- Runs allowed
- 4- Runs scored
- 5- Least runs allowed in any one game
- 6- Coin toss

NOTE: In the event that some pool play games are cancelled for inclement weather, bracket seeding will be determined by games completed.

Inclement Weather and Refund Policy

Tournament Withdrawal:

Full refund will be issued to any registered team that needs to withdraw from the tournament up until two weeks before the start of the tournament. Any team withdrawing after that date will forfeit their registration fees.

Refund policy in the case of weather:

- 0 Games played – 90% credit towards a future tournament, good for one year
- 1 Game played – 50% credit towards a future tournament, good for one year
- 2+ Games played – No refund

Note: Tournament directors reserve the right to adjust game times, lengths, and locations for weather-related issues.

Pre-Game:

There is a batting cage available at Blandair Park fields. We ask that you are courteous, quick, and efficient, to allow as many teams to use as possible.

No infield warmup prior to games, to allow our crews time and space to prep the field for the next game. All warm-ups should be conducted in the outfield grass.

On-field Rules:

Unless otherwise specified here, all games will be played under established MABA rules, a copy of which is available here:

[Rule Book - https://maba-baseball.leagueapps.com/download/file/350075](https://maba-baseball.leagueapps.com/download/file/350075)

Ineligible players:

In the event of a player's age challenge, game will halt and the manager of that player must present proof of age to the umpire. If a player is found to be ineligible the player will be removed from the tournament and the team would forfeit all games that the ineligible player played in. There will be a \$100 cash deposit paid to age group coordinator prior to challenging a player's age. If the challenge is upheld the deposit will be returned. If the player's age is confirmed, the money will be deposited into the general tournament fund. In the event of an age challenge, the tournament director will be notified immediately.

Rosters:

Rosters may be unlimited. However, only 14 rewards will be handed out.

Line-Up Options:

Teams cannot start a game with eight players. Teams may finish a game with eight, but must start with nine players. If less than nine players are available at the start of the game, the result is a forfeit.

All teams have the option of the following lineups:

- Teams may bat 9 batters
- Teams may bat 10 batters, utilizing an Extra Hitter. An (EH) may be used in the batting lineup. If you start with an (EH) you must finish with an (EH), or take an out at that at-bat.
- Teams may bat entire roster. When batting their entire lineup, if a player is unable to bat at any time solely due to an on-field injury, then no out will be called but the player is no longer eligible to play in the rest of the game, offensively or defensively. If a player arrives late, he may be added to the bottom of the order with no penalty. If the batter is skipped due to any other reason other than injury, the team will take one out the first time that player's at-bat returns in the lineup. No out will be called thereafter.

NOTE: Each team must announce their options when exchanging line-ups with other team at pregame conference with umpire.

Injuries/Substitutions:

If a player is injured and no substitute is available, that spot in the lineup will be skipped with no penalty. If an injury occurs during an at-bat and the player cannot continue the at-bat (*i.e. a foul ball off the foot*), the next batter in the lineup will take over that at-bat and assume the existing count. If an injury occurs while on the base paths and there are no substitutes available, the player that made the last recorded out will take the place of the injured player on the bases.

Re-Entry / Defensive Substitutions:

Teams may substitute for defensive positions (except pitcher) as many times as they wish, as long as the batting order remains the same. A player does not have to play the field in order to bat. Conversely, a player does not have to bat to play the field. A substitute is anyone not placed in the batting order. Once a substitution bats or runs for a player, the sub and the original starter are locked into that batting position and either one may bat or run in that position **ONLY**. These players are in other words married to one another offensively.

Pitching:

- 9u /10u – 3 innings per game
- 11u / 12u – 4 innings per game
- 13u + – none

Once a pitcher is removed from the mound they may not return to pitch in the same game. In 11U, each pitcher is allowed 1 balk warning per game.

Note: There are no per-tournament inning limits.

It is the responsibility of the manager, coaching staff and parents/guardians to monitor the pitch counts and mechanics of players to ensure they are pitching safely. There are significant resources available to all that provide recommendations on pitch limits and rest periods across all age groups. We highly recommend all teams and parents review those recommendations and follow them for the safety of all.

Sportsmanship:

Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated by any managers, coaches, score keepers, players, parents or spectators. A warning will be issued after the first offense by the umpire. A second offense will result in immediate ejection of the offender from the game. Anyone ejected will be suspended from participating in the next game and could face possible expulsion from the next, including the Championship Game. All ejections must be immediately reported to the Tournament Director for evaluation. Any acts of physical aggression towards any official, player or coach will result in immediate ejection from the premises for the remainder of the tournament. Only the head coach from a team is permitted to approach an umpire or league official to discuss ruling calls. Arguing of judgement call (balls/strikes, out/safe etc...) will not be tolerated and will be considered poor sportsmanship.

Home / Away:

A coin flip will determine home and away status in pool play. In bracket play, the higher seed has the choice of home or away.

Dugouts:

Dugouts are first come first serve, with no distinction for home or away team.

Intentional time delays:

The umpire and tournament director reserve the right to eject any player, coach or fan for intentionally delaying a game.

Courtesy runners:

Coaches are encouraged to use courtesy runners at any time for Pitchers/Catchers to keep the time between innings to a minimum. Courtesy runner is for the Pitcher/Catcher of record. When batting the lineup, the courtesy runner is the player who made the last batted out. When batting less than the lineup, the courtesy runner should be a player not currently in the lineup.

No Protests:

Judgment calls are final. A coach may politely ask the umpire who made the call to clarify a rules interpretation. The umpires on the field will make a final decision on the field. The tournament director can clarify rules but the final decision will rest with the umpire.

Score Reporting:

The home team will be the official scorebook. Immediately following the conclusion of each game, the winner of the game is responsible for texting the score to (301) 537-3972 & (240) 695-3473.

Mercy Rule:

All age groups: 15 runs after 3 Innings (2 ½ if the home team is ahead); 10 Runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if home team is ahead); 8 runs after 5 innings (4 ½ if home team is ahead).

Headfirst Slides:

Head first slides are allowed to any base (but not recommended) except home plate.

Ejections:

Coaches and fans ejected from a game must exit the park immediately and not return for the rest of the tournament. Players may stay with their respective teams in the bleacher area (not bench) but may not participate in the rest of the game plus the next game. In the event this rule is not followed, the associate team will forfeit the rest of the tournament.

Start of Game: All teams are expected to be at the fields ready to play at least half an hour before game time. Please be prepared to start games early if the field and umpire are ready to play.

Field Dimensions:

9/10u: 46-60

11u / 12u: 50-70

13u +: 60-90

Game Length:

All age brackets: 7 innings

No extra innings in pool play. Pool play games can end in a tie. Should extra innings occur in elimination games, the last batted out from the previous inning will be placed on second base at the start of the new inning.

Complete Game:

Weather-shortened games must complete 3 innings.

Time Limit Pool Play / Bracket Games (other than championships):

No new inning will start after 1 hour and 50 minutes. A new inning begins immediately following the last out of the previous inning.

Time Limit Championship Game:

None

Leads:

9/10u: No

11u / 12u / 13u / 14u / 16u / 18u: Yes

Stealing Bases:

9/10u: Once ball has crossed home plate.

11u / 12u / 13u / 16u / 18u: Yes

Dropped 3rd Strike:

9u/10u: No

11u and older: Yes

Infield Fly Rule:

All ages: Yes

Run Limit per Inning:

All ages: No

Balks:

9u/10u: No

11u: One warning per pitcher

12u and older: Yes

Cleats:

9u through 12u: Rubber cleats only.

13u through 18u: Metal cleats allowed.

ABSOLUTLY NO METAL CLEATS ARE ALLOWED AT BLANDAIR PARK

Bats:

9u through 13u: All bats must be stamped with either the BBCOR, USA Bat Standard, or USSSA BPF 1.15. There are no other weight or diameter restrictions.

14U and older: All bats must be stamped with BBCOR.