

2010 Tournament Policy & Procedures

1. The tournament director reserves the right to alter the tournament format in the event of inclement weather or other unplayable conditions or other events that may arise.
2. Management reserves the right to alter Tournament Rules with advance notice to teams.
3. Tournament game schedules will be posted and printable from First Pitch website 5-7 days prior to the start of each tournament, unless notified. Field directions are also on the website and printable. Exception is USSSA State Tourn schedule may not be posted until 2-3 days prior.
4. **Check-In With Site-Supervisor: 1 hour prior to your first game, each team must submit the First Pitch Team Roster/Waiver form printed from First Pitch website .** The roster form must include birthdates and a PARENT signature. Include coach's cell # and hotel name on the roster form.
5. **No team shall be permitted to start tournament play without all information being completed at check-in. If your team fails to comply with our check-in procedures prior to the start of the first game, your game may be a forfeit.**
6. **Rainout Info:** Each team must show-up and be ready to play at your scheduled game time. If it is raining or threatening to rain Coaches SHOULD call the rainout line, 217-353-5353, for the most current field conditions.
7. Game Scores and Current Standings - will be posted on **FirstPitchBaseball.com** at the end of each day. Tournament wins & losses and runs allowed will be updated every few hours and posted at the concession stands or other designated area.
8. Please support our concession stands. No food or drink coolers allowed inside gate, unless a concession stand is not provided. Exception: team water jug is allowed, must be water only.
9. **No gate refunds, nor rain checks at any time.** Tell your parents and fans, if play is in doubt due to inclement weather, to wait until play begins to enter the park. Additionally, in the event of any forfeited game -- **there will be no refunds for any gate or fan admission fees.**
10. Coaches Passes: Each team will receive three (3) coaches' passes when roster and proof of insurance is turned into site-supervisor. These passes are for coach's use only --one pass per coach. Coaches who lose, forget or misplace your pass will have to pay admission.
11. Use of tobacco and alcoholic products is prohibited on all fields and in dugouts. Failure to comply will result in dismissal from park and possible team suspension from tournament with no refund.
12. **PLEASE BE WARNED -- Our tournament has "zero tolerance" for any physical confrontations by players, coaches, fans or anyone else. Upon the first violation, the violating party shall be removed from the facility for the remainder of the tournament.**
13. Communication: First Pitch Baseball, Champaign Park District site-supervisors and the Tournament Director are in communication at all times. If there is an emergency or problem, please contact a Site-Supervisor immediately.
14. Insufficient Funds: A \$30 fee will be charged for all returned checks.

2010 Tournament Rules: USSSA rules apply
including the following exceptions or clarifications.

1. **Age Cutoff: May 1st per USSSA.** Teams will consist of no more than 15 players that meet the maximum age requirement in your age group.
2. The following base length and pitching distance will be used for each age group below:
 - a. 9U & 10U – 65/46
 - b. 11U & 12U – 70/50
 - c. 13U & 14U – 80/54
 - d. 16U – 90/60.6
3. **Coin Flip:** In Pool Play home team is determined by a coin flip. After pool play, pool winners will be seeded based on tie-breaker rules. Wild card team will always be visitor unless playing another WC team, then seeded. The home team will be the official book and will record game start time when announced by umpire and compare score each inning with opponent scorekeeper and give score to umpire to write on the official scorecard.
4. **Scorecards:** Only one scorecard is provided for each game. Each coach must complete the scorecard provided by site-supervisor, listing player's name, number, position & batting order. Umpire will keep score card during the game and fill-in score each inning. **Scorecard must be approved & signed by both coaches at end of game and this becomes the official score.** Be sure you are signing a correct scorecard. Player omitted from scorecard is still eligible.
5. **Bat Restrictions - None.** **Game balls** are provided by First Pitch Baseball.
6. **Metal spikes:** allowed for 13 and older only. **Intentional walks:** no pitches need be thrown.
7. **Game time is forfeit time.** Forfeit score: 6 inning game = 6-0 score. 7-inning game = 7-0 score.
8. **Pool Play:** 3 game guarantee. Advancing to the finals can change with each tournament based on number of teams entered in each age group. Seedings in pool play could be done after 1, 2, or 3 games. Most likely four teams will advance to a final four, single-elimination format. **The Tournament Game Schedule posted on our website for each Tournament will prevail.**
9. **Tie-Breakers:** Seedings in pool play are determined by best record first, then head to head only if two teams have same record & played each other, then fewest runs allowed, then run differential with a +8/-8 limit per game & coin flip last. (if 3 teams w/same record & played ea other-then fewest runs). Once advanced to the next tie breaker criteria, do not return to a previous criteria.
10. **Pitching Restrictions: None, except** for the USSSA State Tournament. See USSSA State Tournament Pitching Rules at bottom of this rules list. Coaches should always keep their players health & safety in mind as their number one priority and not over-pitch their players.
11. **Game length:** 10U & 11U = 6 innings. 12U, 13U, 14U & 16U = 7 innings. Time limit of 1 hr and 45 minutes or mercy rule, except 16U is 2 hr time limit. **No time limit for Championship game.** An inning can be finished, but a new inning can not be started after the time limit. When the last out is completed determines time limit. Time limits may be changed by Tourn Director in order to get the Tourn concluded.
12. **Mercy Rule:** 6 inning game = 15-run rule after 2 1/2 or 3 innings and 8-run rule after 3 1/2 or 4 innings. 7 inning game = 15-run rule after 2 1/2 or 3 innings; 12-run rule after 3 1/2 or 4 innings and 8-run rule after 4 1/2 or 5 innings. **Mercy rule includes the Championship game.**

13. **Game called** because of weather: 6-inning game = 3 innings or 2 ½ if home team is ahead. 7-inning game = 4 innings or 3 ½ if home team is ahead, will determine a completed game. Games suspended will begin where it left off, if not an official game as described above.
14. **Extra innings:** in the first extra inning and every ½ inning thereafter, each team will start with a runner on second base and 1 out and a 2 -1 count on the batter. Each batter thereafter will start with a 2-1 count. The runner on second will be the last official hitter from the previous inning.
15. **Courtesy runner:** At any time, the offensive team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher of record the previous inning on defense. The courtesy runner must be a player not presently in the line-up. If no players not presently in the line-up are available, the courtesy runner shall be the player making the last batted out. The re-entry status of the courtesy runner, pitcher, and catcher shall not be affected by this rule. If at any time, a courtesy runner is determined to be ineligible, a proper replacement (if available) will be used without penalty.
16. **DH, EH and Continuous Batting Order:** DH is not allowed at any age level.
For All Age Groups: Teams may bat a nine (9) player line-up, a ten (10) player line-up using an Extra Hitter (EH) or a continuous line-up of all present uniformed players. Such line-up must be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game. Teams using a ten player line-up (EH) or continuous line-up are allowed free defensive substitution among all hitters. For continuous line-up, one team may bat 12 and their opponent 14 if that is the number of players available for that game. If a player arrives late to the game, then the player must be entered into the last spot in the batting order.
17. **Re-entry rule** for nine (9) player line-up and ten player (10) line-up: Starters may reenter the game in their original batting order. A pitcher may not reenter to pitch again in the same game at any age level.
18. **Slide rule** does apply and runners must slide or attempt to avoid contact on close plays where a tag may occur. A collision between runner & fielder will be the umpire's decision on ejection and umpire's ruling is final. A player ejection based on the slide rule is for that game only.
19. **Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated:** any player or coach **ejected** from a game for **unsportsmanlike conduct** will serve the remainder of that game, plus the next game. Managers and coaches are responsible for the behavior of the entire team, parents included. At the umpire and site supervisor's discretion, unruly fans will be warned once, then suspended from the ballpark for the remainder of the tournament.
20. **Infield warm-up is not allowed.** Warm-ups must be done outside the playing field due to time restrictions. Teams can play catch in the outfield if time allows before their scheduled game.
No soft-toss into fences.
21. **Player on two teams:** A player may participate on multiple teams but only one team per age division and only one per event, week or weekend. Violation will result in games forfeited.
22. **Coach Mound Visits:** USSSA rule limits the number of visits a manager or a coach may make to any pitcher in any one (1) inning to one visit. A second visit to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position. A coach is prohibited from making a second visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat, but if a pinch-hitter is substituted for this batter, the coach may make a second visit to the mound, but must remove the

pitcher. A manager or a coach is considered to have concluded his visit to the mound when he leaves the eighteen (18) foot circle surrounding the pitcher's rubber.

23. **Protests:** to protest a rule interpretation you must put up \$100 cash. The game will be delayed and a ruling made by the Tourn Director and/or Umpire-In-Chief, (UIC). All decisions are final. Judgement calls can not be protested. For age challenges, a protest must be filed with Tourn Director at least 1 hour prior to the challenged player's next game. The player challenged must show a birth certificate to the Tourn Director, Site-Supervisor or UIC. If the challenged team can not produce a birth certificate before game time then the player is ineligible until the birth certificate is shown. If player is over-age, the team must forfeit all games the over-age player participated in. If protest is upheld, the \$100 will be returned, if protest is denied, you must forfeit the \$100. All coaches must have your player's birth certificates with you at every game.

24. **Unplayable games, bad weather or other acts out of our control: Credit towards future First Pitch Tournaments.** Credit issued does not apply to future State or World Series games. Credit is transferable to another team.

0 games played – 90% credit 1 game played - 50% credit
 2nd game started – 20% credit 2nd game completed – no credit

25. **Disrespect for the Game:** a team caught intentionally giving up runs, losing on purpose or otherwise playing the game to change the outcome of pool play or the finals in favor of another team shall be dismissed from the Tournament and reported to their League and any other appropriate sanctioning body. The dismissed teams won/lost record shall stand, and the teams seeded below them will all move up and play, if qualified, based on tournament seeding rules and tie-breakers.

26. Only for the USSSA State Tourn on June 25-27th. Pitching Restrictions & Chart below.

Age Division	One-day maximum to pitch next day	One-day maximum innings	Three-day maximum innings
7U -12U	3	6	8
13U -14U	3	7	8
15U – 18U	Unlimited	Unlimited	unlimited

For cumulative innings pitched: one (1) out, equals one-third (1/3) of an inning, two (2) outs equals two-thirds (2/3) of an inning, etc. If no outs are recorded, the pitcher is not charged with an inning pitched.

ONE DAY MAXIMUM TO PITCH THE THE NEXT DAY: The maximum number of innings a player can legally pitch in one (1) day and still pitch the next day. **Example:** In the 7U – 14U age divisions, a player may legally pitch a maximum of three (3) innings in one (1) day and still legally pitch the next day.

ONE DAY MAXIMUM: The maximum number of innings a player can legally pitch in one (1) day. **Example:** In the 7U – 12U age divisions, a player may legally pitch a maximum of six (6) innings in one (1) day. The player would be ineligible to pitch the next day. Similarly, in the 13U –14U age divisions, a player may legally pitch a maximum of seven (7) innings in one (1) day.

THREE DAY MAXIMUM: The maximum number of innings a player can legally pitch in three (3) consecutive days. **Example:** In the 7U – 14U age divisions, a player may legally pitch a maximum of eight (8) innings in three (3) consecutive days. This is to be interpreted as a player may legally pitch any combination of innings to equal eight (8) innings in two (2) days as long as the player doesn't pitch more than three (3) innings the first (1st) day. Similarly, as a player may legally pitch any combination of innings to equal eight (8) innings in three (3) days as long as the player doesn't pitch more than three (3) innings the first (1st) or second (2nd) days.

The end of the day for pitching limitations is when games are completed and the ballpark is shut down for that day/night and the teams go home for the night break, even if games go past midnight. Games started, but not completed, shall be a suspended game and when resumed shall count as being played on two different days for pitching rules.

See USSSA Rule 8.05.C.7 for filing a pitching protest. It must be done during the game and while the pitcher is still pitching.