

2026 TOURNAMENT|RULES

*The default rule book for all the Cooperstown All Star Village Tournaments will be the Major League Rule Book.

TOURNAMENT RULES

Lineups

Teams may bat a 9-player line-up, or a 10+ player line-up with as many Extra Hitters (EH) as they choose, or a continuous line-up of all present, eligible, uniformed players. Such line-ups must be declared before the start of the game and used for the entire game. There will be no use of a Designated Hitter (DH)

***It is the responsibility of the opposing team to verify the accuracy of the other team's lineup prior to the start of each game.** Managers must bring any issues to the attention of the Cooperstown All Star Village Tournament Director before the game. If a lineup issue is discovered during the game, the ruling will be that the lineup is corrected at that point for the rest of the game. If it is brought to our staff's attention after the game, there will be no penalty. There will not be a forfeit in this situation since the opposing team is responsible for verifying the other team's lineup before the game starts.

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 can't continue the at-bat, the next batter in the lineup will take over that at-bat and assume the count. If an injury occurs while on the base paths and no substitute is available, the player who made the last recorded out will take the place of the injured player on the bases.

Re - entry

If a team does not bat the entire lineup and substitutes are available, we use the standard NFHS reentry rule. Starters may be re-entered once the player occupies their original position in the batting order.

Pitcher Re-entry

If a pitcher is removed after throwing a pitch and goes to another defensive position, they may not return as a pitcher in that game. In other words, as soon as another pitcher throws a warm-up pitch (becoming the new 'pitcher of record'), the previous pitcher is no longer able to pitch in that game. If a team substitutes for the pitcher when on offense, but then re-enters the pitcher before going out on defense, that pitcher is still the 'pitcher of record' and can continue to pitch in the game.

Pitcher of Record

Once a pitcher throws a warm-up pitch, they must face at least one batter. If the pitcher is hurt during their warm-up pitches, another player may come in to pitch. The previous pitcher of record will not be allowed to re-enter the mound after a pitcher has thrown a warm-up pitch.

Pitching Recommendations

Cooperstown All Star Village does not have specific pitching limitations at our tournaments. We do, however, provide recommendations for coaches and parents to follow not only for your time at our tournament, but for your entire season. The responsibility ultimately lies with coaches and parents to ensure that each player's health and development are maintained properly. For further recommendations on pitching limitations, please see the information sheet we have compiled at the back of the packet to help educate those who monitor the players.

Pitcher's Equipment

Pitchers are allowed to wear a protective helmet or headgear. The helmet/headgear can't be glossy or have anything else on it that can be deemed distracting to the batter (umpire's discretion). It is the umpire and Tournament Director's discretion to determine whether any other equipment or clothing that the pitcher is wearing is distracting to the opposing batter. This includes but is not limited to: Batting gloves, sunglasses, long sleeves, compression sleeves, athletic tape on wrist/arm, and two-toned fielder gloves.



TOURNAMENT RULES CONTINUED

Avoid Contact Rule

Players must attempt to avoid contact with other players in tag-out situations. If, in an umpire's judgment, there is intentional contact, that umpire may call the runner out on that play. If the contact is judged as intentional and malicious, that umpire may also eject the player from the game. If a player is ejected for this reason, they may face suspension for their team's next game, with the possibility of further sanctions. The Tournament Director on-site will make the final ruling on a possible suspension. In force-out situations, if the runner slides, they must slide directly into the base. A slide that is not directly into the base is grounds for an interference call (umpire's judgment), and the runner could be declared out. In this instance, the batter/runner could also be declared out if the fielder was attempting to make a play on that batter/runner.

Time Limit

No new inning may start after the time limit elapses. The standard time limit for all games is 1 hour and 45 minutes, directly after the umpire and coaches' meeting ends. Time limits are subject to change in the case of weather. Pool Play games can't go into extra innings, even if there is time left on the time limit. Pool games can end in a tie. If the home team is winning after the top half of that last inning, they will be declared the winner of the game and will not hit in the bottom half. If the home team is trailing and must hit in the bottom half of the last inning, the game will end the moment the home team scores the winning run or when their third out is recorded. If the time limit is reached during the bottom half of an inning and the home team is winning at that moment, we will let the current batter complete the at-bat, and then the game will end.

Elimination Games - ALL elimination games on 5 Day will have a 1-hour and 45-minute time limit and 10-run rule after 4 innings. The game timer will begin immediately after the plate meeting. If a game is postponed from Day 5 to Day 6. The time limit and run rule will still be enforced. All time limits and run rules are subject to change in the case of weather.

Cooper & Monster Brackets - Games will have a 1-hour and 45-minute time limit and a 10-run rule after 4 innings on Days 5 & 6.

Championship Bracket - Games on Day 6 will have no time limit & a 15-run rule after 4 innings. All issues or discrepancies for seeding need to be addressed after the bracket is set and sent out on LeagueApps following the last pool play games on Day 4. There will be a 1-hour grace period after the bracket is sent out to address any issues with the bracket/seeding. All teams are issued a Cooperstown All Star Village scorebook before the tournament starts. When challenging seeding please have your scorebook with you.

- Time in-between innings: Our expectation is that teams will take 1 minute in between innings.
- Pitchers are permitted to throw 5 warm-up pitches per inning. If a catcher is still getting dressed, a coach should be ready to warm-up the pitcher. Injury warm up to umpire discretion.

Extra Innings

Pool Play/Consolation Games – Pool Play games do not have extra innings. Once 6 innings or the time limit is completed, the game will be considered official.

Elimination Games – If the score remains tied after regulation play (6 innings or time limit is reached), the top of the next inning and each half inning thereafter will start with a runner on second base until there is a winner. The batter who leads off an inning shall continue to be the batter who would lead off the inning in the absence of this extra-innings rule. The runner on second base shall be the player (or substitute for such player) in the batting order immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning.

Intentional Delays

Intentionally delaying a game to achieve a victory through the time limit is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and will not be tolerated at a Cooperstown All Star Village Tournament. The umpires and/or tournament officials at the game reserve the right to eject a coach or player for intentionally delaying a game and possibly declare a forfeit to that team.

Intentional Walk

Pitchers will no longer have to throw four pitches to intentionally walk a batter. A signal from the coach to the umpire, will be all that is required to intentionally walk the batter.



TOURNAMENT RULES CONTINUED

Slash Bunt

A slash bunt (aka butcher boy) is illegal in all games and the player will be called out if this play is attempted. A slash bunt is defined as a player showing bunt at any time during the pitch and then swinging at that same pitch. The play is ruled dead, and no baserunners may advance.

Line-up Cards

Teams must provide their own line-up cards. A copy must be given to opposing team and home plate umpire each game.

On-deck Batter

All on-deck batters must stay near their team's dugout on the concrete with a helmet on.

Courtesy Runner

A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher or pitcher only. A courtesy runner may only be used one time per inning. If the team has substitutes, the courtesy runner must be substitute. This will not affect their game status, and they may enter the game defensively or offensively later in the game. If the team is batting their entire roster, the last recorded out will be the courtesy runner. Pitcher and catcher in the same inning is okay.

Official Scorebook

The home team will keep the official scorebook. At the end of each game, both the home and away team will need to hand in their signed scoresheet that is in their Manager's Packet.

Number of Players

Teams are permitted to start and/or end a game with 8 players. Anything less than 8 available players at any time during will result in a forfeit for that team.

Uneven Games – If teams play an uneven number of games during pool play, the teams who have played more games will have their last recorded game dropped.

Tie Breaker System

When teams are tied

- Record (Most Wins)
- Fewest runs allowed
- Head-to-head results (if applicable)
- Most runs scored
- Coin flip

Jewelry

Jewelry is permitted during game play, if it is not a distraction or dangerous to the player or opposing players. Breakaway nylon necklaces are allowed (must be breakaway such as Phiten or Monsoon necklaces). Rubber bracelets that are not a distraction are also permitted. Jewelry worn for medical reasons is also allowed (in this case, it must be taped to the body). Any item that is deemed unsafe or distracting (Tournament Director's judgment) will not be allowed. The team will receive a warning if a player wears improper jewelry during the game and any players found wearing improper jewelry after the team warning will be ejected for the remainder of the game.

Casts

Orthopedic casts can be worn if there is no exposed metal. Cooperstown All Star Village requires casts be padded. The Tournament Director and Certified Athletic Trainer or Emergency Personnel on site have final judgement as to its safety.

Cell Phones / Electronic Devices

Cell phones, iPad, and other electronic devices are permitted in the dugout only during the game. A coach, manager, is not permitted to have them on the field during the game. Cooperstown All Star Village provides a scorebook to each team, please use that scorebook in case you have issue with seeding. The Cooperstown All Star Village scorebook is what we will ask for with any issue with seeding. You may use gamechanger or any other app however in order to challenge the seeding for bracket a Cooperstown All Star Village official will ask for the official Cooperstown All Star Village scorebook.



TOURNAMENT RULES CONTINUED

Protests

It is the responsibility of the manager and/or coach of a team to stop the game at the time of the play and ask for a Cooperstown All Star Village Tournament Official if they feel that a ruling during a game is incorrect (there is a radio or tournament official at each field for this purpose). **A game should never be stopped for umpire judgment calls as those cannot be protested.** Our staff will do everything possible to resolve issues as they occur.

Mound Visits

The pitcher must be removed on the second mound visit in an inning for all age groups.

Balks

We follow the Major League rules pertaining to balks. There will be no warnings issued for the 12u age group. Additionally, pitchers are no longer allowed to step toward 3rd base without making a throw (the fake to 3rd base, throw to 1st base move is now a balk). It is a delayed dead ball on all balks.

Forfeits

If a team chooses to forfeit a pool play game prior to the start, the final score of the forfeited game will be based on the team giving up a run per inning for a complete game (e.g., for a 6-inning game, the score would be 6-0). Cooperstown All Star Village directors will evaluate each case to determine the best course of action. If a game is forfeited that is in progress, the score will be drop dead when the forfeit occurs. (Both coaches must agree, and a director needs to be present.)

*If a team is found to be using an illegal player (Not Age Eligible), the player and the coach who played the player will be ejected from the tournament. Cooperstown All Star Village officials will determine the outcome of games in which the player participated.

No credits or refunds will be given to the ejected team.*Cooperstown All Star Village Staff reserves the right to declare the game a forfeit if an ejected individual does not leave the complex within a reasonable amount of time.

- The Cooperstown All Star Village will attempt to replace a forfeited team in an elimination game if possible.
- If a game becomes a forfeit after it has started due to a team having less than the required 7 available players, the official score of that game still follows the guidelines above of a game in progress.

Mercy Rule

For all Pool Play & Bracket Games – 10 runs after 4 innings. Quarter Finals and Semi-Finals - 12 runs after 4 innings. Championship Games - 15 runs after 4 innings.

Proper Cheering / Noise Makers

All individuals (players, coaches, parents, and fans) are expected to cheer in a positive manner for their own team and never in a negative manner toward the opposing team. Cooperstown All Star Village Officials will evaluate each case to determine the best course of action if required. Airhorns are never permitted.

Expected Behavior

Negative behavior/bad sportsmanship at youth sporting events has become a major issue. The Cooperstown All Star Village Tournaments are not immune as we still see coaches and parents that choose to act in a negative manner toward the opposing team or an umpire from time to time. Please remember that the games are for the kids, not the adults, and we expect each adult to set a positive example for the players through their words and actions. Everyone that attends a tournament is expected to act in a positive manner, no matter the outcome of a play, call by an umpire, or the game itself. We simply ask the following:

- Let the players play
- Let the coaches coach
- Let the umpires umpire

Moreover, even when you're not on the Cooperstown All Star Village complex, your personal behavior is a reflection on your team and Cooperstown All Star Village. We expect players, parents, coaches, and family members to always act in a positive manner – with respect for people and property throughout our local unity.

TOURNAMENT RULES CONTINUED

Spectator Seating Area

All spectators must stay inside the designated seating area. If spectators are outside of the designated seating area during gameplay, a warning will be issued. The second offense may result in removal from the game. We want to ensure safety for all players on the field during the game. Please help us by staying inside the designated seating area.

Confinement To the Bench

The Cooperstown All-Star Village Tournament Directors as well as the umpires working a game can confine a manager or coach to the bench. If this step is enacted that individual will not be able to leave the bench/dugout. The only exception that will be allowed is for a manager/coach to attend to an injured player on the field. If an individual that is confined to the bench violates this stipulation, they will be ejected from that game and will face further suspension as well.

General Fair Play / Sportsmanship

Intentional disregard for the stated rules (or the spirit in which those rules exist) as well as obvious unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated and will place the individuals and/or teams involved at risk for a possible forfeit or banishment from any future Cooperstown All-Star Village and The Ripken Experience tournaments. We do hold the right to alter tournament seeds for teams failing to abide by our general fair play and sportsmanship guidelines.

Ejection / Suspension Policy

- **Managers / Coaches:** Managers or coaches that are ejected from a game (either by an umpire or by a Cooperstown All Star Village Official) must leave the facility immediately and will automatically be suspended for 1 additional game. The Tournament Director may also lengthen the suspension to more games or expulsion from the facility for a period. If a manager or coach is ejected from a game twice during the same tournament, they will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament.
- **Players:** If a player is ejected from a game, they may face further suspension.
- **Parents/Fans:** If a fan or parent is ejected from a game (either by an umpire or a Cooperstown All Star Village Official), they must leave the facility immediately. A Cooperstown All Star Village official will determine length of suspension based on the severity of the issue.

Facility Guidelines

- Respect all tournament facilities (clean up all trash and equipment)
- Teams must warm-up/practice in designated areas only
- No Bats are permitted on the fields for warmups.
- No infield/outfield is permitted on the game fields at any location
- Each team must make sure that the starting pitcher is ready by game time
- Teams that do not follow these guidelines can be banned from practice areas
- See a Cooperstown All-Star Village staff member if any problems/conflicts arise
- Each team is permitted to use their designated batting cage
 - All cages are labeled for each field,
 - ▷ All players must wear helmets in the batting cages
 - Home team is allowed the batting cage 55 minutes before first pitch
 - Away team is allowed the batting cage 30 minutes before first pitch

Teams may throw in the outfield or run along the warning track right before the game
Teams are not permitted to use a field that is not in use during any set.



TOURNAMENT RULES CONTINUED

Bat Restrictions

Coaches are responsible for checking all their player's bats before playing in the tournament. Please make sure all bats meet the guidelines below. All bats must have either the USSSA BPF 1.15, USA Baseball, USABL or BBCOR designation displayed on the bat. Coach Pitch bats not permitted in any age group. Any bat listed on the USSSA Banned Bat List is illegal. **View banned bats list**

Cooperstown All Star Village reserves the right to make changes to the banned bat list. That an official deems it unsafe in our tournaments.

- **Penalty for use of an illegal bat:** If the umpire discovers that a batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat, the batter will be called out (even if a pitch has not been thrown).
 - If the illegal bat is discovered after the ball is put into play (but before the next pitch is thrown to the next batter), the defensive team will have the choice of the result of play, or the batter being called out and all runners returning to the base occupied before the pitch.
 - An appeal on the legality of the bat must be made prior to the next pitch thrown to the next batter, or the result of the previous at bat will stand.
 - Second Offense – If a team is found in violation of this rule a second time (either in the same game or in any other game throughout the tournament), in addition to the previous penalty, the manager will be immediately ejected and could face further suspension.

- **Altered / Damaged Bats:** Damaged or Altered bats (shaved, rolled, or in any other way altered to increase performance) are not permitted in any way. Any player using an altered bat will be ejected from the game and their at bat will be recorded as an out. All runners will go back to the base they occupied when the batter put the ball in play. The player ejected for use of an altered bat may also face further suspension.

- **Wood Bats:** Wood bats are permitted in all tournaments.

- **Bat Sensors:** Sensors built inside the handle of the bat are legal. Sensors that are an addition to the exterior of the bat are not permitted. In case of a discrepancy, the Tournament Director will deem whether a sensor is permitted.

- **Thrown Bats:** Using umpire discretion, if a thrown bat by a player is said to be of concern for player safety the following steps will be taken:
 - o Teachable moment / explanation
 - o Verbal warning (1 per player)
 - o Removal from remainder of game (to be treated as ejected/injured player at no penalty)

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE FOR RULES SUMMARY SHEET



RULES SUMMARY SHEET

RULE	12U
BASE DISTANCE	70'
PITCHING DISTANCE	50'
GAME LENGTH COMPLETE GAME	6 INNINGS 4 INNINGS
LEADS	YES
STEALING (INCLUDING HOME)	YES
RUN ON DROPPED 3RD STRIKE	YES
MERCY RULE	Pool Play, Day 5 Gold Bracket Games & ALL Cooper/Monster Bracket Games – 10 runs after 4 innings. Gold Bracket Quarter Finals and Semi-Finals - 12 runs after 4 innings. Gold Bracket Championship Games - 15 runs after 4 innings.
BALKS	YES NO WARNINGS *Delayed dead ball
BATS	2-1/4" - 2-3/4"
<p>*All bats must have either the BPF 1.15, USA Baseball, USABL, or BBCOR designation displayed on the bat. There are no weight restriction on bats. Wood bats are permitted in all tournaments. Coach Pitch bats are not permitted.</p>	
CLEATS	TURF SHOES OR SNEAKERS ARE HEAVILY PREFERRED, MOLDED CLEATS ARE PERMITTED
BUNTING	YES
IF FLY RULE	YES
MUST AVOID CONTACT	YES



RULES SUMMARY SHEET CONTINUED

RULE	
LINEUP	Teams may bat a 9-player line-up, or a 10+ player line-up with as many Extra Hitters (EH) as they choose, or a continuous line-up of all present, eligible, uniformed players. Such line-ups must be declared before the start of the game and used for the entire game. There will be no use of a Designated Hitter (DH). It is each team's responsibility to check the opposing lineup prior to the game and call for a Cooperstown All Star Village Director if there is an issue.
ROSTERS	No limits on player rosters. Up to 4 adults allowed in the dugout. Rosters are locked once a team's first game begins.
RE-ENTRY	Starters may be re-entered once, as long as the player occupies the same position in the batting order. Starting pitchers may be re-entered, but not as pitchers'. *If a pitcher is removed from the mound and goes to another defensive position, they may not return as a pitcher in that game.
COURTESY RUNNERS	There are courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher only.
ON-DECK BATTERS	All on-deck batters must stay on the concrete near their own dugout with a helmet on.
MOUND VISITS	Pitcher must be removed on second mound visit in the same inning.
INTENTIONAL WALK	Four balls out of the zone are not required, dugout signal from coach is all that is required.
EJECTIONS	If a manager, coach, or scorekeeper is ejected from a game, they are automatically suspended for the next game with further sanctions possible. If a player is ejected from a game and there is no substitute available, that spot in the lineup will be skipped with no penalty. If a fan or parent is ejected from a game, they will not be allowed back for the rest of the tournament.
INJURIES	If a player is injured and no substitute is available, that spot in the lineup will be skipped with no penalty.
SLIDING	Head first and feet first slides are allowed.

*This sheet represents only a summary of some of The Cooperstown All Star Village rules.



PITCHING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUTH PLAYERS

Information from USA Baseball Medical & Safety Advisory Committee, with help by the American Sports Medicine Institute, USA Baseball News, Journal of Biomechanics, The American Journal of Sports Medicine (2006), and www.mib.com/pitch-smart/risk-factors

The following recommendations are not specifically from Cooperstown All Star Village Baseball. We simply compiled the information and encouraged each coach/parent to conduct further research and make the best decision for their player. Always consult a physician if you have any concerns.

- Watch for signs of fatigue during a game, during a season, and over the whole year. The American Sports Medicine Institute (ASMI) found that adolescent pitchers who undergo elbow or shoulder surgery are 36 times more likely to have routinely pitched with arm fatigue.
- ASMI found that players who pitched more than 100 Innings In at least one year were 3.5 times more likely to be Injured than those who did not exceed 100 Innings pitched, Every Inning -whether It be during a game or showcase event - should count toward that threshold.
- ASMI also found that pitchers who competed more than 8 months per year were 5 times as likely to suffer an Injury requiring surgery, Pitchers should refrain from throwing for at least 2-3 months per year and avoid competitive pitching for at least 4 months per year.
- Daily, weekly, and annual overuse Is the greatest risk to a youth pitcher's health. Numerous studies have shown that pitchers who throw more pitches per game and those who do not adequately rest between appearances are at an elevated risk of injury, While medical research does not Identify optimal pitch counts, pitch count programs have been shown to reduce the risk of shoulder Injury In Little League Baseball by as much as 50% (Little League, 2011), The most Important thing Is to set limits for a pitcher and stick with them throughout the season.
- Pitchers should avoid pitching on consecutive days, If possible, Irrespective of pitch count. According to Yang et al., pitchers who pitched on consecutive days had more than 2.5 times greater risk of experiencing arm pain, compared with pitchers who did not pitch on consecutive days.
- A pitcher should not also be a catcher for his team as It Is the next most throwing-intensive position and results In far more throws than players at other positions. ASMI found that amateurs who played catcher while not pitching were 2.7 times more likely to suffer a major arm Injury.
- Players who participate on multiple teams at the same time are at an Increased risk of Injury as It makes it more difficult to monitor pitch limits and results In reduced rest.
- Players should be cautious about returning to play after any Injury, A sprained ankle or oblique strain can imperceptibly affect the player's biomechanics, changing the way he throws and putting more stress on his arm.
- While often overlooked, any strength and conditioning program should Include a shoulder and elbow component, Numerous studies have shown that deficits in upper extremity strength and mobility are strongly correlated to serious arm Injuries.
- A showcase can be a terrific opportunity for young players to demonstrate their skills for college coaches and professional scouts, However, pitching In a showcase during the offseason can be particularly hazardous, as It Is difficult to get back to healthy game condition and It also makes It difficult to get sufficient offseason rest, Pitchers should treat these appearances as they would any other game for purposes of daily, weekly, and annual pitch count limits, Furthermore, they should avoid the temptation to overthrow In an attempt to make a favorable Impression.
- While existing research has not consistently shown a strong connection between the curveball and Injuries, Yang et al., found that amateur pitchers who threw curveballs were 1.6 times more likely to experience arm pain while pitching and Lyman et al, found that youth pitchers who throw sliders are 86% more likely to experience elbow pain than those who do not (Lyman et al.. 2002).

While radar guns do not directly cause harm to a young pitcher, they can Inspire pitchers to throw harder, oftentimes beyond their normal comfort level, In cIn attempt to Impress others, This may create additional strain on the arm. Research has linked faster pitch velocity with higher risk of Injury. Pitchers who succeed In the long run at all levels - especially starting pitchers - are the ones who are able to vary speeds for each pitch type, making themselves more difficult to hit and also enabling themselves to go deeper In games with less Fatigue and risk of Injury.



PITCHING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUTH PLAYERS CONTINUED

Typically 46' - 50' Pitching Distance

- Focus on athleticism, physical fitness, and fun
- Focus on learning baseball rules, general techniques, and teamwork
- Do not exceed 80 combined Innings pitched in any 12-month period
- Take at least 4 months off from throwing every year, with at least 2-3 of those months being continuous
- Make sure to properly warm up before pitching
- Set and follow pitch-count limits and required rest periods
- Avoid throwing pitches other than fastballs and change-ups
- Avoid playing for multiple teams at the same time
- Avoid playing catcher while not pitching
- Players should not pitch in multiple games on the same day
- Play other sports during the course of the year
- Monitor for other signs of fatigue
- Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers
- No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for three consecutive days, regardless of pitch counts

USA Baseball Medical and Safety Advisory Committee Recommendations for limits with youth pitchers and recommendations for day of rest after a start.

AGE GROUP	PITCHES PER GAME	1 DAY REST	2 DAYS REST	3 DAYS REST	4 DAYS REST
9-10	75	21-35 PITCHES	36-50 PITCHES	51-65 PITCHES	66+ PITCHES
11-12	85	21-35 PITCHES	36-50 PITCHES	51-65 PITCHES	66+ PITCHES
13-14	95	21-35 PITCHES	36-50 PITCHES	51-65 PITCHES	66+ PITCHES
15-16	95	31-45 PITCHES	46-60 PITCHES	61-80 PITCHES	81+ PITCHES
17-18	105	31-45 PITCHES	46-60 PITCHES	61-80 PITCHES	81+ PITCHES

