



2021 Northville Early Bird Tournament Rules Sheet



	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U-18U
Governing Rules	USSSA Governed by Major League Baseball Rules							NFHS
Stealing Home	No	No	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation
	Runner can only advance home on a batted ball or force walk.							
Roster/Player:								
Minimum/Maximum Roster Count	15							
Minimum/Maximum # of Hitters in Line-up	All Uniformed Players Hit							9 or 10 w/Extra Hitter Note: USSSA rule 7.02.D.1 governs EH use
	Continuous batting order for 14U and younger							U15-U18 may bat entire roster if identified prior to the game. Once it is initiated it can not be changed.
Minimum Defensive	6 Outs Player/Game							None
Playing Time	This rule applies to all games including those ending in a tie, by mercy or time limit. Coaches must manage this to insure that all players play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs regardless of the length of the game							
4th Outfielder	For 8U & 9U - Each Team May Use A 4th Outfielder - Player Must Be Positioned In The Outfield.		Not Applicable					
Late Players	For all games, start time is forfeit time. Team must have 9 players ready to play at game start, otherwise forfeit will be noted. Late arriving players must be interted at the end of the batting order & minimum playing requirements still apply.							
Absent Without Injury or Illness	For all games, if a player is a hitter in the batting order, this position will be declared an 'out' should this player become absent during the game for a reason other than injury or illness. Another player may replace the absent player defensively but may not hit in the absent player's position in the line-up. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game.							
Absent with Injury or Illness	For All games, if a player is removed from a game due to injury or illness, his/her position in the batting order will be skipped without penalty. The injured or ill player may not re-enter the game once their position in the batting order is skipped. The injured or ill player may reenter the game provided his/her position in the line-up has not occurred. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game. In the U8-U18 continuous batting order, if a batter is injured and unable to complete the at-bat, the at-bat is skipped without penalty. If a batter is injured during his/her at bat, the next batter will assume the injured batter's balls/strikes count.							
Ejected Players, Coaches and Managers	Any player, coach or manager ejected, for any reason, will receive a mandatory 1 game suspension to be served during the next game. An ejected player's position in the batting order will be declared an 'out' for the game from which he/she is ejected. Additional suspensions and/or disciplinary actions may be enforced pending the NBSA board review. During the suspension the player, coach or manager may not enter the confines of the park or recreational area that supports the field of play. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game. Failure to report a suspended player, coach or manager will be grounds for additional suspensions							
Equipment:								
Bat Restrictions:	USSSA Rules Apply. The maximum diameter shall not exceed 2-3/4 inches and the maximum length shall not exceed 36 inches. Bats should not exceed the 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) as defined for baseball bats by ASTM Standards. Big barrel bats (diameters of 2-5/8" or 2-3/4") must have the USSSA 1.15 BPF mark. Older big barrel bats will not be allowed. Small barrel bats (diameter of 2-1/2") must have the USSSA 1.15 BPF mark as well. Also, BBCOR-certified and solid (one-piece) wood bats are legal.							NFHS Rules Apply. Any solid (one-piece) wood baseball bat will be legal. The only legal non-wood bats will be BBCOR-certified baseball bats. The bat may not exceed minus three (-3) in differential between length and weight.
	Team managers will be responsible for enforcing bat rules. Prior to the start of play, the manager from each team should identify which bats are legal and remove from the dugout any bat identified as illegal. If a player is found to be using an illegal bat, that bat will be removed from play at that point and play will continue. If that bat is used again during the game, the manager or head coach of the team will be ejected and the bat removed from play.							
Spikes/Shoes	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Metal, Rubber or Plastic Cleats Allowed	Metal, Rubber or Plastic Cleats Allowed	Metal, Rubber or Plastic Cleats Allowed
	Penalty: If a player is found in violation, they will be ejected. See Ejected Players rule.							



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Speed-up:									
Courtesy Runner for Pitcher and/or Catcher	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Refer to NFHS rules under section titles "Speed-Up Rules"	
	For purposes of this rule, the position of pitcher or catcher is determined by the player's position in the previous defensive half inning. For the first half of the first inning, the position is determined by the roster. The courtesy runner is the player that made the previous out, either batted or on bases. If an improper substitution is made, the correct substitution will be made upon notification of the improper substitution.								
Pitch Clock	The MLB pitch clock is <u>not</u> used by the NBSA.								
Field Dimensions:									
Pitching Distance	40' 0"	46' 0"	46' 0"	50' 0"	50' 0"	54' 0"	*	60' 6"	
	If an elevated pitching mound is used, it must meet the guidelines set forth by AABC or MLB.								
Base Distance	60' 0"	65' 0"	65' 0"	70' 0"	70' 0"	80' 0"	*	90' 0"	
	If the field dimensions are found to be incorrect after play has started, corrections to the field should be made at the end of the current inning. * 14U Dimensions: Expectation is that games will be played at 60' 6" / 90' however due to limited field availability for those dimensions, games may be played at 54' / 80'. Home teams should notify visiting teams of the field dimensions prior to the day of the game.								
Batter:									
3rd Strike Rule Applies?	No. On a dropped 3rd strike, the batter is out and the ball is live.			Yes					
Infield Fly Rule	Yes								

NFHS RULE 2 - PLAYING TERMS AND DEFINITIONS
SECTION 32: SLIDE

Article 1 . . . A legal slide can be either feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground. If a runner slides, he must slide within reach of the base with either a hand or a foot.

Article 2 . . . A slide is illegal if:

- a. the runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into the fielder, or
- b. the runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in a standing position, or
- c. the runner goes beyond the base and then makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder, or
- d. the runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg, or
- e. the runner tries to injure the fielder, or
- f. the runner, on a force play, does not slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases.

Exception: A runner may slide or run in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. (8-4-2b).

NFHS RULE 8 - BASERUNNING
SECTION 4: RUNNER IS OUT

Article 2 . . . Any runner is out when he:

- b. does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play, does not slide in a direct line between the bases

Exception: A runner may slide or run in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. (8-4-2b).

Note: Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. (2-32-1, 2)

Penalty: The runner is out, the ball is dead immediately, and interference is called. On a force-play slide with less than two outs, the runner is declared out, as well as the batter-runner. Runner shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. With two outs, the runner is declared out. The batter is credited with a fielder's choice.