

Middleton Baseball Diamond Showdown

Rules

2020

1. Age as of April 30, 2020 is the determining date for player eligibility.
2. Fifteen (15) person roster maximum.
3. Cal Ripken rules apply unless modified by the following:
4. Pitching distance is 50 feet with 70 foot bases for U12.
5. U12 – dropped 3rd strike, batter may attempt to reach base.
6. Home will be **open**.
7. Games are six (6) innings. No new inning may start after 1 hour 45 minutes.

Games in pool play that are tied at the time limit or end of six full innings will use the California Rule: Visiting team will start with the last batter of previous inning on 2nd base with one out (0-0 starting count for each batter) and finish the top half of the inning. (6 Run Maximum) Home team will start with the last batter from previous inning on 2nd base with one out (0-0 starting count for each batter) and finish the bottom half of that inning. (6 Run Maximum) If game is still tied, repeat above process until game is decided—there are NO ties. **All games will use the time limit except in the championship game.**

8. Mercy Rules
 - a. Fifteen (15) runs after three (3) innings
 - b. Ten (10) runs after four (4) innings
 - c. Eight (8) runs after five (5) innings
 - d. Mercy rules will be in effect for all games, including the championship game
9. Teams may choose line up options (below) but line up must be declared before start of each game. Once format has been declared said format is finalized for the entire game.

Teams have the following three (3) options with regard to batting order and extra players:

- a. Straight Nine: Nine (9) players in the batting order & listed on the lineup card. No designated hitter. All other players are substitutes, subject to the NFHS substitution rules (starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.)
- b. Extra Hitter: Ten (10) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. No designated hitter. Free substitution (defensive players) among the (10) players listed on the batting order. All other players are substitutes and subject to the NFHS substitution rules (starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.).
- c. Continuous Batting Order: All players in uniform (unless injured) in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. If a late player arrives after the lineup cards are exchanged, then the player must be entered into the last spot in the batting order. Free defensive substitution for all players throughout the game.

10. Three outfielders for all age divisions.

11. Infield fly rule is in effect.
12. Slash bunts are not allowed. If a batter squares to bunt or shows a bunt, he must either bunt the ball or not swing at the pitch. A batter is out for illegal action if the batter fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing: batter is out, ball is dead, and runners may not advance. A warning shall be issued to the batter's team. A second slash bunt action by any player on the team that was warned shall result in immediate ejection of the player and the head coach from the game.
13. U12 – Base runners may lead off and steal.
14. Balks – balks will be called in the U12 division only. Each pitcher will be allowed one warning.
15. Courtesy Runners are only allowed for the catcher and only allowed when there are 2 outs.
16. Umpires may begin calling balls or strikes if team deliberately delays game.
17. Injury time will be given and game duration time adjusted if incident takes more than a couple minutes.
18. Players must make attempt to reach base or home cleanly and not go after fielder making play. Deliberate collisions will result in player being called out and ejected from game. Fielders, including catcher must yield clear access to base or plate unless going for, or in possession of ball in attempt to get runner out.
19. Ball must be returned directly to the pitcher following an out—**no around the horn allowed**.
20. Pitching Limits for all age divisions:
2 innings max per game. 8 total innings for weekend. 1 pitch in an inning counts as a full inning pitched. Once taken out as pitcher, the player may not re-enter as a pitcher in that game. Both coaches will need to sign off on pitching log for each game. Pitching log needs to be turned into tournament director at end of game.
21. Pitcher warm-up (5-new) (4-same) at start of inning.
22. Seedings for Sunday will be determined by
 - 1) Record, 2) Head to Head 3) Runs allowed in pool games 4) Coin flip

Format to be determined by number of teams.
23. The governing body of youth baseball has implemented new bat rules effective January 1, 2018. These changes are being made to maintain the integrity of the game. The new rules state that all bats must have a **USABat** marking on the barrel. This means that all bats used last year are now illegal. Barrel maximum is 2 5/8". The new bat rules apply to the competitive programs governed by Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball.

No BBCOR bats are allowed.

Solid one-piece wood bats are permitted for use in all divisions. No laminated or experimental bats shall be used in a game.

PENALTY

- If the illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his "at bat" the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues.

- A player who uses an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel dimension and hits a fair ball will be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed, and any outs during the play shall stand. This is an appeal play. The "at bat" will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter.
- Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be directed to be removed immediately and not be allowed for use during the game.

NOTE: As of May 3, 2018 the Easton Ghost X bat 30/20, drop 10 has been decertified. Many parents/players purchased this bat because it was certified as a legal bat with the USA Marking. Since there is not time for parents to replace this bat prior to our tournament, this bat will be allowed in the tournament.

24. A coin flip will determine home team. The team that wins the flip will have choice of being the home team. Second team alphabetically will be in the third base dugout, unless team is already in there from previous game.
25. No metal spikes allowed.
26. No harassment of a team or a player is allowed. No harassment of umpires by coaches, players or fans will be tolerated. Umpire's or tournament personnel's discretion will be used. Managers are responsible for players, coaches and fans.
27. If a Manager or Coach gets ejected he must remove himself from the field of play. No contact with team, coaches or parents will be allowed. It will be up to the Tourney Director if ejected person can coach the remaining games.
28. Adverse Weather; Games will be played unless Umpires or Venue closes fields. The format and time limits may be changed to continue on weather delays.
29. No infield, outfield, pitching, or batting practice is to be taken on the field before the game. No hitting into fences is allowed.
30. Intentional Walk
 - a. There will be no pitches thrown to intentionally walk a batter. Notify the umpire, and the batter will be awarded first base.
31. Injuries and Early Departures
 - a. If an umpire rules a player as injured, and is unable to continue playing in said game, the players spot in the batting order will be skipped with no penalty. Once an injured player leaves the batting order that player is done for the remainder of the game.
32. Games Called Due to Weather or Field Conditions
 - a. The tournament director will make all decisions on games being cancelled due to inclement weather and communicated to coaches via cell phone' s entered on registration form.
 - b. Games will be considered complete if weather or field conditions prevent the game from being completed under the following:
 - i. 6-inning game = 3 innings or 2 ½ if home team is leading
 - ii. 7-inning game = 4 innings or 3 ½ if home team is leading
 - c. If a game is not completed as described above, the tournament director will:
 - i. Suspend the game and arrange to have it resumed where it left off, or
 - ii. Cancel the game such that it does not count toward tournament standings

d. Should a championship game be interrupted by weather, darkness or unplayable field conditions, and is not an official game per the above rule, and then the Championship team will be determined by the score at the end of the last full completed inning. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning or if the first inning of the game is not completed, the higher seed shall be named champion.

Additional information:

- We will do our best to guarantee two games in case of inclement weather.
- We will not have a blanket liability insurance policy and will not be responsible for any injuries to players, coaches, or fans. You should have your own insurance.
- Players will be required to wear a helmet while in the field of play.
- Game balls will be furnished.
- Time between games is for maintenance of fields, not infield practice.
- No infield practice will be allowed before any game during the tournament.
- Please **NO CARRY-INS**—Concessions will be available. Firefighters Memorial Park is City of Middleton Property: by law, no alcohol or tobacco products are allowed on any grounds, including the parking lot.

Age Specific Variations:	10U	12U
Base Paths	60'	70'
Mound	46'	50'
Advance on Drop 3rd Strike	No	Yes
Leading Off	No	Yes
Stealing	After crossing plate	Yes
Infield Fly	Yes	Yes
Continuous Batting Order	Optional	Optional
4th Outfielder	No	No

Balks	No	Yes - 1 warning per pitcher
Extra Hitter	Optional	Optional
Metal Spikes	No	No