



2026 Tournament "Rules At A Glance" aka "The RAAG"

This Tournament rules "Cheat Sheet" is merely a *Quick Reference* and does not replace any of the COMPLETE TOURNAMENT RULES on the **USABL** website. Except as noted on USABL website: **46/60** games follow Little League rules. **50/70 & 60/90** games - NJ High School rules. **18 & older** - MLB rules

Revised 3/13/26

BASEBALL		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U 15U 16U	18U			
Field Size / Innings Played		46/60 - 6 Innings			50/70 - 6 Innings			60/90 - 7 Innings		9 Innings - Dbl hdrs 7			
Umpires		1 Umpire - behind mound			1 Umpire - behind plate			2 Umpires - if available					
Team & Players		Start game 8 Players (no out taken). Team has 20 minutes to produce 8, to avoid a forfeit. May borrow an opposing (different each time) player to play the field only											
		Player Reduction An "out" first time around only (defense must point out). Injury reduction (due to game action) is not an out. Below 8 because of ejection, then it's a forfeit											
		End Game 8 Players (unless due to ejection which then becomes a forfeit)											
		Playing Time No requirement. Manager encouraged to use good judgement											
		Batting Teams may bat as many players as they choose											
		Designated Hitter No Yes (for any player), must declare at plate conf. NFHS rule.											
Game Cadence		Re-Entry Starter may re-enter game 1 time (for the player that was substituted for them) and remain in Same Spot in batting order. (See USABL rules for complete details)											
		Bench Coaches 1 Manager, 2 Coaches and 1 Scorekeeper. No friends, family, guests, nor batboys											
		Official Game 4 innings (3-1/2 if home team is leading)											
		Runs per Inning / Last Ing		5 / Unlmt		5 / 1-3 Unlmt / 4-6		All innings unlimited					
		Mercy Rule		All field sizes - 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 after 4, 8 after 5. Includes playoff and championship games. Losing team bats in their half of an inning, winning team does									
		Intentional Walk		n/a Pitches do NOT have to be thrown, umpire only needs to be notified.									
Equipment		Offensive Conferences 1 per inning per team (excluding injury visit)											
		Player Defensive Meetings No more than 1 player-player defensive meeting (2 or more players) per inning. Umpire to deny 2nd attempt. No penalty Revised 2026											
		Time Limits No New Inning after 1:40 (Pool Play and Playoffs) Championship Game 2:10. NNI 1:50 Championship 2:20											
		Clock Start After time expires, every inning starts with the bases loaded (3 previous batters) and 1 out. Game clock starts at end of plate conference. Inning clock starts at 3rd out of prior inning											
Hitting		Between Innings 2 Minutes (from 3rd out of prior inning) Pitcher must warm up in that time. New pitcher gets a max of 8 pitches, returning pitcher a max of 5 within the 2 minutes.											
		Cleats Rubber or Plastic only Metal allowed (unless turf or venue restrictions)											
		Bats (unless venue restrictions) See USABAT.com for complete list		USA No tee ball bats		USA, USSSA or 1.15 BBF		USA or USSSA		USA, USSSA or BBCOR -3		BBCOR -3	
		(Please check website for list of decertified bats which are not allowed)											
		Any solid wood bat is allowed in all divisions. No USA, nor BBCOR sticker required on solid wood bats											
		1st Violation - Batter out. 2nd Violation - Batter out, inning over, all runs scored that inning removed. 3rd Violation - Automatic forfeit											
Base Running		Batting Helmets NOCSAE approved with 2 ear flaps											
		Catcher's Masks NOCSAE approved full catcher's helmet or hockey style. No 2-piece skull cap/mask											
		ECD's 1-way only. Electronic Communication Devices allowed while on defense only, from dugout only, to catcher only. Same as NFHS											
		Signal Cards On wrist or forearm only, not worn on belt nor elsewhere. Pitcher usage - on non-throwing arm only, not white, grey, nor distractive. Same as NFHS											
		On Deck Batters		No			Field Specific			Yes			
		Infield Fly		No		Optional (agreed upon ground rules)			Yes				
Uncaught Third		No						Yes					
Bunting		No					Yes						
Slap/Slash Bunting		n/a		No (a strike and a dead ball, regardless of contact or not)			Yes						
Pitching		Double 1st Base (optional for 2026) On initial play batter/runner must use colored bag, and fielder the white bag. On dropped 3rd strike, they can use either bag if catcher's throw takes fielder to the side of the colored bag. On all other plays, runner and fielder must use white bag only. (Rev. 2026)											
		Leading		No		After pitch crosses plate. 1st offense, all runners back & team warning. 2nd off. runner called out. (rev. 2025)			Yes				
		Stealing		No stealing		3rd only (rule 31)			Unlimited				
		Max Bases Allowed		1 on ovtrhw		Unlimited							
		Head First Sliding		No (an out)		Only back to base. 1st off. is team warning, then an out.			Yes, all bases including home				
		Slide or Avoid		Must slide, avoid contact, or give yourself up, at any/all bases. Jumping over or running into another player can (not must) be grounds for ejection.									
Defensive Confs		Courtesy Runner Yes Catcher Optional (never mandatory) anytime for pitcher or catcher of record. Sub on bench if available, if not, then last batted out (rev. 2024)											
		Colors Coaches No White nor Light Grey sweatshirt. No bands on throwing arm											
		Pitch Count & Rest No pitch count nor rest rules, but USABL strongly suggests coaches and parents follow the "MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines"											
		Return to mound		1,2,5,6 (only 5 pitches)		No		Starting pitcher only, 1 time only (unless removed on 2nd mound visit)					
		Intentional Walks		Catcher or Coach only needs to notify the umpire. Pitcher does NOT need to deliver the 4 pitches									
		Balks (3rd to 1st move allowed in all USABL games)		Kid Pitch innings 3,4 (regular balls/strikes)		n/a		Default:Warnings only If agree=no warnings		If teams agree, then 1 warning per pitcher per game No agreement defaults to NO warning		No Warnings	
Balk & Balk warning are both delayed dead ball. (No longer follow HS rule) If balk/warning followed by pitch and batter/runners advance 1 base, then balk													
Defensive Confs 1 Trip per inning (per pitcher). Pitcher to be removed on 2nd trip in same inning. Visit to any defensive player constitutes a "trip to the mound". Excludes injury visit													



2026 Regular Season "Rules At A Glance" aka "The RAAG"

This rules "Cheat Sheet" is merely a Quick Reference, and does not replace any of the COMPLETE RULES on the USABL.com/rules website. Except as noted on USABL website: 46/60 games follow Little League rules. 50/70 & 60/90 games - NJ High School rules. 18 & older - MLB rules

Revised 3/13/26

BASEBALL		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U 15U 16U	18U						
Field Size / Innings Played		46/60 - 6 Innings			50/70 - 6 Innings			60/90 - 7 Innings		9 Innings - Dbl hdrs 7						
Umpires		1 Umpire -behind mound		1 Umpire - behind plate		2 Umpires - if available										
Team & Players		Start game 8 Players (no out taken). Team has 20 minutes to produce 8, to avoid a forfeit. May borrow an opposing (different each time) player to play the field only														
		Player Reduction An "Out" first time around only (defense must point out). Injury reduction (due to game action) is not an out. Below 8 because of ejection, then it's a forfeit														
		End Game 8 Players (unless due to ejection which then becomes a forfeit)														
		Playing Time No requirement. Manager encouraged to use good judgement														
		Batting Teams may bat as many players as they choose														
		Designated Hitter No					Yes (for any player), must declare at plate conf. NFHS rule.									
		Re-Entry Starter may re-enter game 1 time (for the player that was substituted for them) and remain in Same Spot in batting order. (See USABL rules for complete details)														
Game Cadence		Bench Coaches 1 Manager, 2 Coaches and 1 Scorekeeper. No friends, family, guests, nor batboys														
		Official Game 4 innings (3-1/2 if home team is leading)				5 innings (4-1/2 if home team is leading)				If 9 innings (5-1/2						
		Runs per Inning / Last Ing 5 / Unlim		5 optional		All innings unlimited										
		Mercy Rule All field sizes - 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 after 4, 8 after 5. Includes playoff and championship games														
		Intentional Walk n/a								Pitches do NOT have to be thrown, umpire only needs to be notified.						
		Offensive Conferences 1 per inning per team (excluding injury visit)														
		Player Defensive Meetings No more than 1 player-player defensive meeting (2 or more players) per inning. Umpire to deny 2nd attempt. No penalty Revised 2026														
		Time Limits NNI 1:45		No New Inning after 1:50. Starts after plate conf. Playoffs same 1:50. Championship 2:10. After time expires, 1 regular inning, then bases loaded (3 previous batters) & 1 out				NNI 2:10, Playoffs 2:10, Ship 2:30.		Then 1 regular, then bases loaded 1		9 Inns/3:00 - 7/2:10				
		Clock Start Game clock starts at end of plate conference. Inning clock starts at 3rd out of prior inning														
		Between Innings Cleats		2 Minutes (from 3rd out of prior inning) Pitcher must warm up in that time. New pitcher gets a max of 8 pitches, returning pitcher a max of 5 within the 2 minutes.						Rubber or Plastic only						
Equipment		Bats (unless venue restrictions) USA stamp. Max barrel 2 5/8" No Tee-Ball bats						Max 2-5/8". USA stamp, or, BBCOR - 3 (No USA stamp needed)		USA -5 or BBCOR -3		BBCOR -3				
		Wood (incl. Composite & Bamboo) Pen. - Batter														
		Any solid wood bat is allowed in all divisions. No USA, nor BBCOR sticker required on solid wood bats														
		1st Violation - Batter Out. 2nd Violation - Batter Out, Inning Over, all Runs Scored that inning Removed. 3rd Violation- Automatic Forfeit														
		OR the play														
		NOCSAE approved with 2 ear flaps														
		NOCSAE approved full catcher's helmet or hockey style. No 2-piece skull cap/mask														
MEETS NOCSAE STANDARD		ECD's 1-way only, Electronic Communication Devices (incldes watches) allowed while on defense only, from dugout only, to catcher only. Same as NFHS														
Hitting		Signal Cards On wrist or forearm only, not worn on belt nor elsewhere. Pitcher usage - on non-throwing arm only, not white, grey, nor distractive. Same as NFHS														
		On Deck Batters No, nor outside the fence.				Field Specific				Yes						
		Infield Fly No		Optional (agreed upon ground rules)				Yes								
		Uncaught Third Strike No		No				Yes								
		Bunting Slap/Slash Bunting		No						Yes						
Base Running		Double 1st Base (optional for 2026) On initial play batter/runner must use colored bag, and fielder the white bag. On dropped 3rd, they can use either bag if catchers throw takes fielder to the side of the colored bag. On all other plays, runner and fielder must use white bag only. (Rev. 2026)														
		Leading No		After pitch crosses plate. 1st offense, all runners back & team warning. 2nd off. runner called out. (rev. 2025)				Yes								
		Stealing No stealing		3rd only (rule 31)		Unlimited										
		Max Bases Allowed 1 on ovrthr		Unlimited												
		Head First Sliding No (an out)		Only back to base. 1st off. is team warning, then an out.				Yes, all bases including home								
		Slide or Avoid Must slide, avoid contact, or give yourself up, at any/all bases. Jumping over or running into another player can (not must) be grounds for ejection.														
Pitching		Courtesy Runner Yes Catcher Optional (never mandatory) anytime for pitcher or catcher of record. Sub on bench if available, if not, then last batted out (rev. 2024)														
		Colors Coaches No White nor Light Grey sweatshirt. No bands on throwing arm														
		Pitch Counts & Rest Pitch innings No pitch count nor rest rules, but USABL strongly suggests coaches and parents follow the "MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines"														
		Return to mound 1,2,5,6 (only 5 pitches)					No					Starting pitcher only, 1 time only (unless removed on 2nd mound visit)				
		Intentional Walks Catcher or coach, only needs to notify the umpire. Pitcher does NOT need to deliver the 4 pitches														
		Balks (3rd to 1st move allowed in all USABL games)		Kid Pitch innings 3,4 (regular balls/strikes)		n/a		Default:Warnings only		If teams agree, then 1 warning per pitcher per game		No Warnings				
				If agree=no warnings				No agreement defaults to NO warning								
Balk & Balk warning are both delayed dead ball. (No longer follow HS rule)																
Defensive Confs		1 Trip per inning. Pitcher to be removed on 2nd trip in same inning. Visit to any defensive player constitutes a "trip to the mound". Excludes injury visit														