



"LOCAL RULES" for 2020 FALL EVENTS

any highlighted areas, are newly added since 9.20.2020

Unless noted prior to the event, the following "local" rules will ALWAYS be in effect. If the rule is not discussed below, Southern Sports will follow the National Federation High School Rules. Southern Sports reserves the right to change the following rules at any time. All teams will be made aware of changes prior to the start of their event. If there is a rules question for younger age groups that are not applicable with high school rules, the tournament director will make the final decision on interpretation.

RESPONSIBILITY OF KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING RULES

It is the sole responsibility of each team's head coach to understand all rules and guidelines that are presented in this document, as well as in the NFHS rule book.

FINAL DECISIONS

The Tournament Director shall have final decision on all tournament questions/decisions.

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

Your team will not be confirmed into any tournament until full payment is received. However, you can "hold" a spot if you need a few days to finalize your entry. You have 5 business days to pay in full for the tournament. If your entry is not received in 5 business days, your spot may be given to another team.

PAYMENT DEADLINE

The payment deadline for a tournament is 7 days prior to the beginning of the event. This is not valid should an event sell out earlier than 7 days prior to the event. See above "Registration Confirmation".

TEAM ROSTERS

All teams must have an online player roster in Southern Sports Promotion' system prior to their first game of each event. If a team has previously submitted an online roster to Southern Sports, that will be treated as the current roster. It is the team's responsibility to make any changes necessary to their Southern Sports roster for the current event. In the event that a roster is challenged, during an event, the current (online or recently submitted) roster will be the roster of record. If a team's roster is challenged, via an official protest, that player must be on the team roster. If the player is not listed, the team will forfeit any games in which that player has played during the event. **IF THE CHALLENGED TEAM DOES NOT HAVE A ROSTER OF RECORD, THE TEAM MAY BE FORCED TO FORFEIT GAMES PLAYED TO THAT POINT. THE ONLY WAY TO VIEW ANOTHER TEAM'S ROSTER IS TO FILE A PROTEST DURING THE GAME, AND SUBMIT \$300 CASH AS A PROTEST FEE.**

PLAYERS ON MULTIPLE ROSTERS

No player is allowed to participate on more than one team for each event. For example, organization rosters have to designate players on one specific team in conjunction with their submitted rosters. In addition, no player is allowed to play on more than one team even if those teams are in different divisions, or age groups. **PENALTY FOR THIS VIOLATION IS TEAM FORFEIT OF ALL GAMES IN WHICH THE PLAYER PARTICIPATED IN WITH SAID TEAM(S).**

MINIMUM PLAYERS

A team can play an official game with no less than 8 players. If a team plays with 8 players, that team must have a designated out for the 9th position in the batting order. If a team loses a player due to injury or illness, a designated out will be recorded in that position of the batting order.

AGE REQUIREMENT

May 1, 2021 will be the designated date to determine ages. Photocopies of birth certificates **MUST** be kept with the team coach/manager at all times. Failure to provide documentation, upon request, will result in an age/rules violation.

NEW SCHOOL/AGE CUTOFF RULE

- 7U Division Players who turn 8 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 1st grade. Also, any player turning 9 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 7u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 8U Division Players who turn 9 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 2nd grade. Also, any player turning 10 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 8u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 9U Division Players who turn 10 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 3rd grade. Also, any player turning 11 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 9u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 10U Division Players who turn 11 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 4th grade. Also, any player turning 12 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 10u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 11U Division Players who turn 12 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 5th grade. Also, any player turning 13 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 11u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 12U Division Players who turn 13 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 6th grade. Also, any player turning 14 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 12u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 13u Division Players who turn 14 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 7th grade. Also, any player turning 15 prior to May 1 will not be eligible.
- 14u Division Players who turn 15 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 8th grade. Also, any player turning 16 prior to May 1 will not be eligible.

***Verification of the new age cutoff must be kept with the team coach/manager at all or any other document that confirms current grade level. Failure to provide documentation, upon request, will result in an age/rules violation.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES/PROOF OF AGE

Each team **MUST** have copies of birth certificates available throughout the tournament. An age protest, like any other protest, requires a \$300 cash protest fee. If an age protest is lodged against your team, you **MUST** provide proof of age (eligibility). If you cannot do so, you lose the protest and the protesting team gets their \$300 back. If you are able to prove proper age (and eligibility) for your player, the protesting team loses the protest and the protest fee.

PROTEST FEE

\$300 cash (**on rule interpretation only**). Must be paid at time of protest. Protests must be submitted before the next pitch of the game, if the protest is play specific. Before the next pitch is thrown, it is the sole responsibility of the head coach to stop the game in order to protest rules interpretation. More general protests must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the game.

GATE FEES

Southern Sports does charge a gate fee to all who attend events. In most cases, an individual gate fee will be charged as attendees enter the respective parks. The individual gate fee is as follows....all visitors are \$5 per day, and children under 12 years of age are free.

At some facilities, we will not collect individual gate fees, and require a team gate fee be paid by the team prior to their first game. This type of gate fee will be communicated prior to events. Current parks where this will happen are Bennett Park, Bethesda Park, Coal Mountain Park, Bay Creek and Rhodes Jordan, but other factors may require it at other parks.

FIELD DIMENSIONS

7u and 8u – 40' Pitching Mound; 60' Base Length
9u and 10u – 46' Pitching Mound; 65' Base Length
11u and 12u – 50' Pitching Mound; 70' Base Length
13u – 54' Pitching Mound; 80' Base Length
15u and Older – 60'6" Pitching Mound; 90' Base Length

TIME LIMIT PER AGE GROUP

ALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES - 2 HOUR TIME LIMIT

7u and 8u - 1 hour 30 minutes, or 6 innings
9u and 10u – 1 hour 30 minutes, or 6 innings
11u and 12u - 1 hour 40 minutes, or 6 innings
13u and 14u - 1 hour 50 minutes, or 7 innings
15u to 18u – 2 hours, or 7 innings

RUN RULES FOR ALL AGE GROUP

After 2nd Inning = 20 runs
After 3rd Inning = 15 runs
After 4th Inning = 10 runs
After 5th, 6th, or 7th Inning = 8 runs

PRE-GAME WARM-UP

All teams are encouraged to warm-up as much as possible before game time. No pre-game infield. Players cannot warm-up in the fair territory area of the infield.

LINE-UP OPTIONS

Teams have the following line-up design options:

1. **Bat 9 players**
2. **Bat 9 players with a DH**
3. **Bat 10 players (9 with an EH)**
4. **Bat ALL players (continuous order with free substitutions)**

Such line-up must be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game. If a team uses a line-up that contains substitute players, all starting players may be removed and re-enter the game once, but must re-enter in their original position in the batting order. Non-starters are not allowed to re-enter. When a starter re-enters, the player in the starter's batting position in the batting order must be removed from the game and is ineligible for the remainder of the game. If a team uses a line-up that contains ten (10) players, the player in the Extra Hitter position has free defensive substitution. If a team uses a continuous line-up, all players other than the nine (9) defensive position players are Extra Hitters and may move freely in defensive positions with the exception of the pitching position. When using the continuous lineup and a player has to leave the game for any reason, that position in the line-up becomes an out when that at-bat comes around. IF A TEAM DOES NOT FOLLOW THIS RULE, IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OPPOSING HEAD COACH TO STOP PLAY. AT THAT TIME THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION, AND MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED.

GAME BASEBALLS

Teams must provide all game balls. Two new balls are required to begin the game. The baseballs are not required to be a specific brand but must be comparable to Diamond DOL-1 baseballs.

GAME TIME/START TIME

There is no “grace period” for teams. If a team is not present at game time, it will result in a forfeit. **Game time starts at the completion of the home plate meeting, and the game time will be announced at the conclusion of that meeting.** No changes in games time limits will be allowed.....ALL game time limits will follow what is stated in these rules unless altered directly by the tournament director. The umpire crew is the only “official” timed clock. To begin a new inning, there must be time left on the “official clock” when the third out of the previous inning happens.

HOME TEAM

Determined by coin flip in pool play. In bracket play the better seeded team will be given choice of home/visitor. Home team is required to keep the official book. The visiting team is required to have an adult manage the field scoreboard.

METAL SPIKES ALLOWED IN 13u and Above

PITCHING MOUNDS – Players should always have molded cleats, or turfs, with them in case they are asked to pitch on a temporary mound. A player can not pitch with metal cleats on a temporary mound.

FIRST AND THIRD “PICK-OFF”

The traditional fake to third and make a throw to first in first and third situations IS allowed in Southern Sports events.

SLASH BUNT

A slash bunt is when a batter shows intent to bunt, and then pulls the bat back, and takes a full swing.

12u and below – SLASH BUNT IS NOT ALLOWED

13u and above – SLASH BUNT IS ALLOWED

Penalty: Batter is called out if attempted...does not have to make contact.

BAT RULE (USABats stamped bats are allowed)

7u–12u: There is no restriction on weight or length as long as the bat has been marked with a “BPF 1.15” stamp. “USABat” stamped bats are also allowed. Wood bats are allowed.

13u: All bats must be a -5 stamped 1.15 BPF, -3 BBCOR or wood.

14u and Older: All bats must be -5 stamped 1.15 BPF (fall only), -3 BBCOR or wood.

The following bats may not be used in Southern Sports Promotions events:

2017 CF Zen Balanced (-8)

2017 CF Zen SL 2 ¾” (-10)

2017 CF Zen Zero Dark 2 ¾” (-10)

Custom 2017 CF Zen Balanced (-8)

Re-tooled models of these bats may be used in Southern Sports events. Once returned from the manufacturer, these new bats will have updated model numbers and new orange end cap and stickers indicating the corrected performance standards.

Dirty South Kamo BB KA -8 (30/22, 31/21, 32/22, 31/23,32/24 only)

Easton Ghost X (30/20 only - USA Baseball marked)

COURTESY RUNNERS

If using **substitutes**: As per NFHS rules, a courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher. The courtesy runner must be a substitute player that has not been in the game. A courtesy runner may run for either the pitcher or catcher, but not both in the same inning. Two courtesy runners (one for pitcher, one for catcher) may be used if the team has eligible substitutes for both roles. If there are no substitutes available, THE TEAM MAY USE THE LAST BATTED OUT AS THE COURTESY RUNNER. THE SAME RUNNER CAN NOT RUN FOR BOTH THE PITCHER AND CATCHER WITHIN THE SAME INNING.

If batting the entire lineup: The last batted out can be used as a courtesy runner for the entire game for the pitcher and catcher. The same runner can not run for both the pitcher and catcher within the same

inning. If there is no batted out recorded, the last player to bat that is not actively on base, can then be used as a courtesy runner. If no such player exists, the last person in the lineup can be used.

PITCHING LIMITS

It is the responsibility of each team's manager to challenge pitching violations by notifying the Umpire and filing a protest with the tournament director. A protest may be filed at any point after the pitcher in violation records any out beyond his legal limit AND while the pitcher in violation is in the game as the pitcher of record. If such violation is the last recorded out of the game, the protest MUST be filed prior to the Umpire and the teams leaving the field of play.

PITCHING LIMITATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS.....

8u-12u = 6 Innings in One Day, 8 Innings TOTAL

13u-14u = 7 Innings in One Day, 8 Innings TOTAL

15u and above = 7 Innings in One Day, 9 Innings TOTAL

If pitching rules are violated and the infraction is detected, the situation will be reviewed and consequences will be determined by the tournament director. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, the following: removal of the pitcher, coach and/or player ejections, game forfeiture, removal of team from the tournament, suspension from additional tournaments.

ADDITIONAL PITCHING RULES

- 1) One additional inning per game, per player starting in a team's 5th game played
- 2) Pitching/Score cards MUST be signed by both teams at the conclusion of games. **Once the cards are signed, the information becomes official**, and will be utilized for record keeping. Online pitching logs are NOT official records. Data entry errors can occur, and the physical pitching card will be the only "official" record utilized when determining pitching/roster violations.
- 3) Pitching limits will be based on 1/3 concept. Each recorded out is 1/3 of an inning against the pitcher.
- 4) ONLY turfs or molded cleats can be utilized on artificial mounds by the pitcher....no spikes.

VISITS TO THE MOUND

As per NFHS rules, each team is allowed three charged visits to the mound within a game. A charged visit is a trip in which the manager or coach does not remove the pitcher. After the three charged visits are used, every trip to the mound will result in the pitcher being removed. A visit is not "charged" when the manager removes the pitcher from the mound. Remember, charged visits are cumulative for the entire game (visits are not tracked "per pitcher"). No restrictions on visits per inning.

TIED POOL PLAY GAMES

If a full length game is tied, it will not continue even if there is time left in the game. If time has expired, the game will result in a tied score.

CRITERIA FOR SEEDING IN BRACKET PLAY

- 1) Won – Loss record
- 2) Head to Head (If only two teams are tied. If more than two teams are involved in this tie-breaker, this step will NOT be considered)
- 3) Runs Allowed
- 4) Run Differential (max = -7/+7)
- 5) Runs Scored (max = 10 runs)
- 6) Coin Toss

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME FORMAT

All Championship Games are 2 hours in length. Run rules are still in effect. No coin toss....Highest seed will be given the choice of home/visitor. In the event of a tie at the end of an official game, the last "batted out" will be placed on second base with no outs and the game will continue until a winner is declared at the conclusion of innings played. FOR CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES THAT BEGIN AFTER 7PM ON A

SCHOOL NIGHT, ONLY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR CAN REVERT BACK TO THE STANDARD TIME LIMIT..

ENDING A GAME – IS CALLED PRIOR TO THE NATURAL ENDING OF THE GAME

Should an official game end due to circumstances such as lights/darkness issues. The final result will correspond to the score at the end of the last completed inning. For example, in the middle of the 6th inning, the game is called due to darkness.....the score at the end of the 5th inning will become the official game score to be posted/recorded.

COMBINING AGE/CLASSIFICATION GROUPS

Southern Sports Promotions reserves the right to combine age/classification brackets. (Example: 9U with 10U or AAA with Major) This decision will be based on the number of teams that enter into each age group division.

ADVERSE WEATHER

Southern Sports Tournaments will be played in adverse weather conditions. The format may be changed to lessen time limits or reduce innings to complete the tournament. Coaches and players accept these conditions when entering the tournament.

OFFICIAL GAME: In the event of natural occurrences to include weather, field conditions, or any other situation that causes a game to be stopped and it cannot be physically or reasonably continued, the game will be considered an official game if the teams have played 3 1/2 innings with the Home Team winning (or the home team takes the lead in the bottom of the 4th, but the inning isn't over when the game ends) or 4 complete innings if the Home Team was losing after 3 1/2 innings. If stoppage is required after the 4th inning, the winner will be determined based on the last inning both teams completed an equal number of times at bat (exception is if the home team tied the game or took the lead in the bottom half of the inning that isn't completed after trailing at the end of the previous inning). For instance, if the Visitors are batting in the top of the 5th and they score 3 runs to go up 5 to 4, if the game is STOPPED, the Home Team will be declared the winner because at the bottom of the 4th, they were winning, 4 - 2. This is based on a STOPPED game that cannot be completed for various reasons to include time constraints, not a POSTPONED or DELAYED game that can be continued.

If a stoppage is required before a game can be considered "official", and the game cannot be continued: **During pool play**, the team winning after the last completed inning (exception is if the home team tied the game or took the lead in the bottom half of the inning that isn't completed after trailing at the end of the previous inning) will be considered the winner, regardless of the inning. **During bracket play**, the winning team will be the highest seeded team in this scenario. Only Tournament and/or Site Directors can STOP a game and consider it an official game.

FINAL STANDINGS IN EVENTS THAT ARE NOT FINISHED

If an event is canceled while in progress, final standings will be determined in the following way....

1) For there to be any final standings, all teams in a specific division MUST finish at least one pool play game. The final standings will be based on the **first** completed game for every team, utilizing the criteria section for seeding to bracket play

2) If all pool play games are completed, the division will be seeded in the normal fashion prior to bracket play, and the bracket seeding becomes the official final standings. IF NO BRACKET ROUND IS **COMPLETED**, AWARDS WILL ONLY BE GIVEN TO #1 AND #2 SEEDED TEAMS IN EACH AGE GROUP.

3) If the event is stopped during bracket play, the teams that are still "alive" in bracket play will receive a ranking based on their bracket seed. The term "alive" equates to every team that would qualify to play if the event was able to continue. For example, if the teams still "alive" in bracket play (when the event is stopped) are seeds #2, #4, #5 and #7, then the **#2 seed would be the champion** and the **#4 seed would be the runner-up**.

IF NO BRACKET ROUND IS COMPLETED, AWARDS WILL ONLY BE GIVEN TO #1 AND #2 SEEDED TEAMS IN EACH AGE GROUP.

REFUND POLICY

There will be a \$100.00 administration fee charged for complete rain outs; 1 game started = 50% of entry fee; 2 or more games started = no refund.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you communicate 15 days before the tournament start date, a full refund will be given. If you communicate 10 to 14 days before, 50% of your fee will be returned. If you communicate 9 or fewer days before, no refund will be given. Online payment service charges are non-refundable.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

There is a chance this tournament could be rained out. Please be aware that \$100.00 of the entry fee will be kept to cover administrative costs if the tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather. Online payment service charges are non-refundable.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

Schedules will be released no later than 11:59am on the Thursday prior to the tournament. Once schedules are released, they can be found on the event's webpage and phone app. Other than system errors, no changes will be made.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Southern Sports Promotions, and all facilities we participate at during our events, have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy on behavior by players, parents, and coaches.

- possession of alcohol on park property
- use of foul language
- **any type harassment towards players, parents, coaches, umpires, tournament officials, park staff or others**
- interference with games

Any individual who conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner is subject to removal from the tournament, and from the park property, without further explanations. If it is deemed necessary, the head coach can be ejected from the game due to behavior of his/her players, parents, coaches, or spectator behavior. In the most extreme cases, failure of a coach to control his players, coaches and/or spectators can result in a forfeit for the team.

PLAYER AND COACH EJECTIONS

Any player or coach ejected from a game, can face additional penalties. The additional consequences may include but are not limited to suspension from the following game and/or removal from the tournament. The Tournament Director will make all final decisions on suspensions.

8U KP SPECIFIC RULES

RUNS PER INNING

7 runs maximum per inning, per team

PITCHER LIMITATIONS

Pitchers are limited to 6 innings per day, and 8 total innings for the weekend, and counted by thirds (1 out = 1/3)

INFIELD FLY

No infield fly will be in effect

DROPPED THIRD STRIKE

No dropped third strike in effect

BASERUNNING

Stealing is allowed. Baserunners must remain on the base until the ball reaches home plate before the runner can leave their base. Once a player reaches 3rd base, the ONLY way they can score is to be batted in or forced home on a bases loaded walk. A baserunner can steal 2nd and can advance to 3rd on the same play only if 3rd base is not occupied. Unless time has been called, the ball is always in play, and the baserunner is in jeopardy between any bases, including home plate.

BALL IN PLAY

The ball is always in play unless time has been called by an umpire. On the 4th ball to a batter, when a walk is awarded, a "dead ball" situation is in effect and no one may advance bases.

8U CP SPECIFIC RULES**RUNS PER INNING**

7 runs maximum per inning, per team

INFIELD FLY

No infield fly will be in effect

AT BATS

Each batter receives 5 pitches or 3 swinging strikes, whichever comes first. If the batter fouls the 5th pitch, the at bat continues.

No bunts

A player can not be intentionally walked

BASERUNNING

No leadoffs

A runner starting a play at 3rd base may ONLY advance home on a batted ball or when forced home. Unless time has been called, the ball is always in play, and the baserunner is in jeopardy between any bases, including home plate.

Runner may leave base once contact is made: 1st Offense = Dead Ball / warning; 2nd Offense = Dead Ball / offending runner is called out,

Courtesy runners are allowed for the catcher of record.

FIELDERS

Teams can use 9 or 10 fielders. If using 10 players, there must be 4 outfielders.

FIELD

There is a 30-foot safety arc from the 1st base line to the 3rd base line in front of home plate. All fielders must stay behind the line until the ball is hit.

There is a circle 10 feet in diameter drawn with the front of the circle being at 42 feet from home plate. The defensive player playing the pitcher position must start each play with a foot in the circle.

There is a line drawn from the 30-foot safety arc to the pitcher's circle. The coach pitcher will keep one foot on the line or straddle the line and can pitch anywhere on the line.

PITCHING COACH

There is a 30-foot safety arc from the 1st base line to the 3rd base line in front of home plate. All fielders must stay behind the line until the ball is hit.

The pitching coach will not obstruct or interfere with any play. The penalty will be an umpire judgement call and can include an out called and all runners returning to their bases.

If a batted ball hits the pitching coach, it's called a foul ball if the umpire rules that the contact was unintentional. The batter is called out if the umpire rules the contact was intentional and runners must return to their bases.

DEFENSIVE COACHES

Are not allowed on the field of play. They will coach from the vicinity of the dugout.

RUN RULES

Run rules apply

The game is called if one team is mathematically eliminated from winning or tying the game.

TIME CALLED

Umpires will call "Time" on each play and the ball is dead. This happens when all baserunners stop attempting to advance and there is no defensive play imminent.