

# **Elmbrook Baseball Association 2009 Tournament Rules**

## **General Rules:**

All rules follow the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Rules with the following exceptions as listed.

Eligibility: Cut off date for eligibility is May 1. No player will be older than their respective age division prior to May 1 of the current year.

Birth certificates, or proof of age, must be available if challenged.

Tournament Format: Each team will play a minimum of three games under normal tournament format. Each team will play two (2) games on Saturday and then be seed for play on Sunday.

Tie Breakers for Sunday seeding will be as follows:

- First tie breaker: Head to head competition.
- Second tie breaker: Least runs allowed.
- Third tie breaker: Most runs scored.
- Fourth tie breaker: Coin toss.

No Carry-ins will be allowed inside of the gated areas of Mitchell Park and Wirth Park. Concessions will be made available at all fields.

No admissions will be charged at any of the fields.

All participants are competing at their own risk. By participating you agree to hold the Tournament Director, Tournament officials, and tournament hosts harmless from any liability resulting from participation in the tournament. Team insurance is mandatory and must be available upon request.

No steel spikes are allowed for the U9 through U12 divisions. Steel spikes are allowed in the U13 and U14 divisions. Rubber cleats are allowed in all divisions.

Bats shall be either Official Little League or Senior League Size. There is no restriction on bat length to weight difference. Bat barrels larger than 2 5/8" are not allowed.

All team players shall wear baseball caps and numbered team jerseys.

Batters, base runners, player base coaches and bat person must wear a helmet at all times when on the field. Catchers must wear a protective cup and throat protector.

Team rosters shall consist of up to twenty (20) players. The tournament will give up to fifteen (15) individual awards to players for first and second place only in each age division. Team trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams in each age division.

Pitchers may pitch up to three innings per game. One pitch constitutes a full inning. Once removed as a pitcher, a player may not return as a pitcher.

There will be no more than nine (9) defensive players in the field at one time. There will be no more than ten (10) players in the lineup at one time (this includes the extra hitter) unless you are using a continuous batting order.

The continuous batting order may be used at U9 through U12 only. Teams that choose to use the continuous batting order may also use open substitutions defensively for the game. If you start a game with the continuous batting order, you must finish the game the same way.

A minimum of eight (8) players are required to start and play the game. If eight players are used, an automatic out is recorded each time that the ninth spot comes up in the order. A 10-minute grace period from scheduled start time will be allowed before each game will be counted as a forfeit.

Your roster may be changed with the Tournament Official before the start of your FIRST game. After the first pitch of your first game, your roster is frozen.

**Age Specific Rule Variations:**

	<b>U9</b>	<b>U10</b>	<b>U11</b>	<b>U12</b>	<b>U13</b>	<b>U14</b>
<b>Base paths</b>	60 feet	60 feet	70 feet	70 feet	90 feet	90 feet
<b>Pitcher's mound</b>	46 feet	46 feet	50 feet	50 feet	60'-6"	60'-6"
<b>Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Leading off</b>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Stealing</b>	After crossing plate	After leaving pitcher's hand	After leaving pitcher's hand	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Balks</b>	No	No	No	Yes 1 warning per pitcher	Yes 1 warning per team	Yes 1 warning per team
<b>Infield Fly</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## **General Game:**

The field will be considered neutral. The home team shall be determined by the toss of a coin; the winner of the toss shall have the choice of being the home or away team.

Games shall be six (6) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes in duration, whichever comes first. Time is computed from the time that the last out is made in the previous inning. The umpire is the official timer. No new inning shall start after one hour and 45 minutes. Saturday games: If the score is tied at the end of the game, ½ game win and ½ game loss will be awarded to each team.

Sunday games: All games shall be played until there is a winner. If the games are tied at the end of regulation innings, one extra inning of normal game play will be allowed. If after the additional one inning the game remains tied, the California Tie Breaker will be used. California Tie Breaker places the person who made the last out in the previous inning at second base to start the extra inning. Play then continues as usual until a winner is determined.

Championship games only: Games are seven innings without any time limit restrictions. Tie games will play extra innings until there is a winner.

If your team is ahead by 10 runs at the completion of four (4) innings, then you are declared the winner. If the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after the top of the fourth, fifth, or sixth inning has been played, the game is over and the home team is not allowed to bat in the bottom of the inning. In the Championship games the 10 run rule will not be in affect.

The following rules shall be enforced to keep the games and tournament on schedule:

- Pitcher may “walk” a batter by simply advising the umpire.
- No more than five (5) warm-up pitches between innings or after a pitching change.
- No infield or outfield practice between innings.
- A courtesy runner may be used at any time for the pitcher of record or the catcher of record. The same player may not be used for both in the same inning. The runner must be a player not in the game and may not be used as a substitute for any other player in that same ½ inning. A courtesy runner for the catcher is mandatory after two outs. Pitcher or catcher of record means the player in those positions the previous defensive inning. Note: Upon discovery of a catcher on base with two outs, a courtesy runner should be put into the game for the catcher, without penalty. For teams using the continuous batting order at U9 thru U12, the player making the last out must be used as the courtesy runner for either the catcher or pitcher, but not both in the same inning.
- Please anticipate potential pitching changes to save time.
- Have your line-ups ready to go 15 minutes prior to the start of your game. Managers should exchange line-up cards at the start of each game.

No infield or batting practice will be allowed on the playing diamonds before or between games. You may warm up outside of the gated areas where available at each complex.

The extra hitter (EH) rule is optional at all age divisions. If used, the extra hitter may enter the game in a field position, but must remain in his original batting lineup position. The manager or coach must designate if he is using the EH at the beginning of the game. Once he has decided to use the EH he must continue to do so throughout the game. If at any time the team is left with less than ten (10) players, the spot vacated in the batting order by the missing player is an automatic out each time that position comes up to bat. The EH may be used as a player in the field with the player in the field being used as the EH.

Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, including a player who was the extra hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. In the event of an injury with no officially available players to replace the injured player, re-entry of any available player will be allowed.

Leading off: Leading off is allowed at the U12 thru U14 levels only. Leading off is not permitted at the U9 thru U11 levels. Any runner who leaves early, based on the age specific rules, will be called out and the pitch will not be allowed.

On walks in the U9 and U10 levels, the batter/runner may not advance to second base if the catcher returns the ball directly to the pitcher. The batter/runner is only protected by virtue of the walk, to first base. If the batter/runner is off the base or running to second when the pitcher has the ball on the rubber, the batter/runner will be called out.

For safety reasons, slash bunts are prohibited at the U9 thru U12 levels. A slash bunt is when the batter shows a bunt then pulls back and swings away or slaps at the ball. The penalty for a slash bunt will be the batter is out and no runners may advance.

There is no mandatory slide rule. The sliding rules will be the same as the NFHS book rules. The main points are as follows:

Force Play Slide Rule: Any runner who is in a force play must either slide directly into the base or run himself out of the play avoiding contact with the fielder.

Plays at the Plate: When there is a potential play at the plate and the catcher is attempting to catch a thrown ball, the runner must either make a legal slide or avoid contact. If the catcher is not attempting to receive a thrown ball and is in the base path, then the catcher has committed obstruction and the runner is awarded home. If the runner commits malicious contact, the runner is out and ejected.

Malicious Contact: If the official in charge of the game judges that there has been malicious contact initiated by a player, the offending player will be called out and may be ejected from the game.

The team bench shall be limited to the manager, coaches, players, one scorer, and one bat person.

The Tournament Director shall determine field conditions of the fields in case of bad weather.

There are no protests; the decisions of the umpires, Field Marshalls, and Tournament Director are final. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to show good sportsmanship.

A manager or coach can come to the mound to talk to the pitcher, but the second time out in the inning the player must be removed as the pitcher. The rule applies to each pitcher who enters the game.

On deck batters must always be on the side of the field behind the hitter at the plate for safety reasons.

**Conduct:**

No player in uniform, no coach or manager, will be allowed to use profane or abusive language to players, umpires, or anyone associated with the game. This includes spectators and parents. Managers and coaches are responsible for their fans.

If a player or coach is ejected from a game, the player or coach must leave the field (must be out of visible sight of the umpires). Ejected players and coaches will be ineligible to play or coach the team's next scheduled game.

**Rain Delay and Rain out Policy:**

In the event of weather delays the games but does not cancel the entire tournament, the following rules will apply:

- The Tournament Director of official for each area will at all times have the final say at each location.
- The safety of the players and everyone involved in the tournament is of primary concern. If there is any concern about the condition of the field, contact the tournament official assigned to your park.

- If a rain delay occurs the following policy should be followed:
  - A complete game will be considered 3 full innings. If home team is leading after 2 ½ innings and the game is suspended due to rain, the home team will be awarded the victory.
  - If the game is delayed, the game clock will be stopped for up to 15 minutes due to rain. Beyond that the game clock will continue until the time has expired. At that time the win will be awarded to the team I the lead if more than three innings have been played.
  - If the game is stopped in the middle of an inning, the umpire will award the win to the team leading the game at the end of the last complete inning, as long as 3 full innings have been completed. If the score is tied and the game is cancelled due to weather, the game will be declared complete and the results will be counted as ½ game win and ½ game loss for each team on Saturday. If this occurs during the first round of games on Sunday the bracketing will be based on the seeding resulting from Saturday's games and the first and second seed in each bracket will play the championship game.
  - If a game is stopped before 3 innings are complete, the game will be declared complete and the results will be counted as ½ game win and ½ game loss for each team on Saturday.
  
- In case of a rain delay, games may be reduced in time to accommodate all games assigned for that day.
- If the tournament is completely rained out, meaning fields are unplayable, and no games are played on Saturday and Sunday, a partial refund of the team entry fee will be provided.
- The Tournament Director reserves the right to change the format of the tournament to a single game elimination bracket format if necessary. This would only take place once it has been determined that there is no possible way to finish the published format due to weather or field conditions.
- No refunds will be given to any team playing at least one (1) game regardless of the format in the tournament.
- Managers are responsible for staying in contact with the Tournament Director @ 414-852-2415.
- Managers are responsible for leaving a phone number as to where they can be reached during the course of the tournament. EBA cannot be held responsible for failure to contact a team.
- Teams must be available to play starting Saturday and Sunday regardless of their listed game times. If unexpected changes occur in scheduling due to weather related problems, teams must be prepared to adjust to the new schedule. Team coaches will be contacted in regards to changes.