

# ***TOURNAMENTS RULES AND SCORING, 2017***

## ***Updated for the 2017 tournament season***

**\*\*1) Tournament games are seven innings or two hours and fifteen minutes whichever comes first plus an eighth inning if game is tied (\*Subject to rule 2) and TWO international tie breaker innings if needed.**

**12U tournament games are six inning games plus two international tie breaker innings if needed.**

**\*\*1a) Teams should report for your scheduled game, ready to play Forty-Five minutes prior to game time.**

**\*\*2) The new extra-inning international tie breaker format will start the 9<sup>th</sup> inning (*\*There must be at least fifteen minutes left on the game clock (the two hour mark) before the 8<sup>th</sup> inning will be allowed to start if not go straight to the tie breaker after the 7th inning is completed*) with one out and the last out of the last inning on second base the next batter in the lineup would then be the batter that starts the inning at the plate. Once the players/runner is determined for the 9th inning, the order of any subsequent innings will be determined by how the previous inning ended. That is, if the 9th inning ends with the No. 6 hitter having the last official at bat he then he would be placed on second base with one out to start the 10th and final extra inning then the No. 7 hitter would lead of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning. (If there is not a winner after two innings of the tie breaker then the game will be considered a tie game and complete).**

**ALL games played in the Championship Round will be played to completion unless unforeseen circumstances arise at that point the director will do what's best for tournament.**

**3) The mercy rule will be in effect; 15 Runs after three innings, 10 runs after five innings, 8 runs after six innings.**

**The home team will bat in the bottom of the inning only if trailing.**

**\*\*Ten runs after five innings will be the only mercy rule in effect for all games played in the championship round.**

**Extend the innings by two for a mercy rule in a nine inning games.**

**4) A designated hitter may be used for the pitcher position only. The American League DH rule will be used for all Tournament games. Should the team enter the DH to the field of play the DH position will be lost for the rest of the game. Teams have the option of using as many Extra players as they wish. EP's can be freely substituted defensively. However, if a team elects to bat their extra players leaving no substitute players and a player gets injured or ejected, his spot in the line-up will be an automatic out every time it comes up. Extra Players are also part of the starting lineup. The players for which the EP'S has replaced in the field will now become the new**

EP'S and both will remain in the same spot in the batting order. The starting pitcher when moving to another position from the mound may occupy any position in the batting order without losing the DH as long as the new pitcher is entering the game for the first time and he is coming from the bench.

**\*\*EXCEPT for FALL games where we will allow an unlimited batting order and free substitution as long as the hitter stays in his/her same spot in the batting order.**

5) The starting line-up may re-enter the game once. The DH, EP'S and (starting PITCHER even though he did not occupy a position in the batting order) are all considered starters.

**\*\*EXCEPT for fall games where we will allow an unlimited batting order and free substitution as long as the hitter stays in his/her same spot in the batting order.**

**\*\*6) (Coin Flip) If both teams played the same amount of game then the team with the most wins (ties count as half a win) will have the choice of home or visitor. If one or both teams are playing their first game or both teams have the same number of wins or have not played the same amount of games then a coin flip will determine the home team, \*\*the coin flip if needed should be done as soon as possible, umpires do not need to be present for the coin flip.**

Except for the Championship round where the highest seeded team will have the choice of being the home or visiting team.

6a) Tournament director will have the option of reseeding teams in the championship round that belong to the same league or organization so that they would play each other in the semi final game.

7) Seeding for Championship round will be determined by **winning percentage** then tiebreakers if needed. The following tiebreakers will be in effect.

- A. Most Wins
- B. Head to head as long as one of the tied teams defeated all of the other teams in there group.
- C. Least runs allowed in all tournament games
- D. Number of WINS viruses tied teams, (Example: six teams tied with 3-1 record vying for four playoff spots. Team "A" defeated team "B" and team "C" defeated team "D". But then team "B" played and defeated teams "E and F" thus ending up with a 2-1 record within the group of the six tied teams. In this case team "B" would be the first seated team since they would have two wins against the other tied teams. Teams "A" & "C" will then receive a 2nd and 3rd seed since they both would have one win within the group of the six tied teams leaving teams D, E and F to compete for the fourth and final spot.

**NOTE: Go back to step "A" each time a team has been seeded.**

- E. Total wins of all the opponents you defeated. (Tie =1/2 of a win)**
- F. Total wins of all your opponents. (Tie = 1/2 of a win)**
- G. Add all runs given up by you and your opponents, least number of runs advances**
- H. The highest run differential in all tournament games that you Played. (Runs scored minus runs allowed = run differential)**
- I. Most runs scored in games that you Played**
- J. If both teams agree, a coin flip will determined the team that will advance to the championship round otherwise a four inning play in game will be held.**

**8) A courtesy runner (any player who is currently not in the game) MAY be used for the PITCHER position and CATCHER position. The same person may NOT run for both positions. If a team has \*no extra players then the last out that is not a pitcher or catcher will be the courtesy runner. If the team has one extra player he can be the courtesy runner for either the pitcher or catcher position but not both In this case use the \*no extra player rule for the other position.**

**9) NO INFIELD PRACTICE will be allowed prior to the start of any game. Unless OK'd by field director.**

**10) If a small number of games are lost due to weather and can't be played each affected team will be awarded a tie and the score will be recorded as 0 to 0. Any forfeit will be recorded as 7 to 0.**

**11) Renamed tournament divisions: (updated for 2017 school year)**

**Senior Division: 2017 graduating class or 19U players**

**Junior Division: 2018 graduating class or 17U players**

**Sophomore Division: 2019 graduating class or 16U players**

**Freshman Division: 2020 graduating class or 15U players**

**Eighth grade Division: 2021 graduating class or 14U players**

**For an upper classman to play down please refer to 11A**

**11A) \*\*A college or out of high school player may be eligible to participate in the senior division / 2017 graduating class team as long as he is still 19 years old as of April 1st of current year.**

**\*\*A senior division player 2017 graduating class may be eligible to participate in the junior division / 2018 graduating class team as long as he is still 17 years old as of April 1st of current year.**

**\*\*A Junior division player 2018 graduating class may be eligible to participate in the sophomore**

division / 2019 graduating class team as long as he is still 16 years old as of April 1st of current year.

**\*\*A Sophomore division player 2019 graduating class may be eligible to participate in the freshman division / 2020 graduating class team as long as he is still 15 years old as of April 1st of current year.**

**\*\*A Freshman division player 2020 graduating class may be eligible to participate in the eighth grade division / 2021 graduating class team as long as he is still 14 years old as of April 1<sup>st</sup> of current year**

**\*\*If a player's age or grade comes into question the player will not participate in any more tournament games until the age or grade is verified, eligible by the field director. (There must be a reasonable cause shown for the age challenge)**

**12) For all summer tournaments games, four baseballs or two softballs per game will be supplied. IF MORE BASEBALLS or SOFTBALLS ARE NEEDED EACH TEAM WILL SUPPLY ENOUGH BALLS TO FINISH THE GAME. \*\*For all FALL tournament games each team will supply two baseballs or one Softball for each game played. The fall season starts August 1<sup>st</sup>. Unless otherwise specified.**

**13) All baseball tournament games are WOOD BAT unless otherwise specified. Composite wood bats may be used.**

**All softball and 12U tournament games are METAL BAT unless otherwise specified. If an illegal metal bat is discovered during an at bat or before the next batter has a pitch thrown to him, the penalty will be the same as batting out of order. And the illegal bat will be removed from the bench (Metal bats must have the BBCORE stamp for all games 14U and above)**

**14) Suspended games:**

**If game is official but suspended after 4 ½ or 5 innings are completed, the game clock will stop, and if the game cannot be resumed before the original time limit has expired the game will be considered complete.**

**If game is suspended before 4 ½ or 5 innings are complete the game clock will stop. And if the game cannot be resumed before the original time limit expires the game will be moved to a later time and will resume with only the time remaining. If game can't be completed refer to rule #10 (or) depending on the score the tournament director could award a win to one team or the other.**

**15) Refund Policy:**

**\*\*\* All Tournament fees will be due sixty days prior to tournament start date.**

- Up to 50 days before tournament, refund of 60% of entry fee or you may apply 75% of entry toward any summer tournament hosted by Bellefonte Baseball until the end of the following year.**

- From 30 to 49 days before tournament, refund of 35% of your entry fee or you may apply 50% of your entry toward any summer tournament hosted by Bellefonte Baseball until the end of the following year
- From 10 to 29 days before tournament no refund but you can apply 20% of your entry fee to any summer tournament hosted by Bellefonte Baseball until the end of the following year.
- All Requests for refunds must be in writing and received at least 10 days before the first official playing date of the tournament. At which point the refund policy will end and you will forfeit your entire entry fee.

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**If a four game tournament starts and cannot be completed because of rain  
 The refund policy will be as follow**

- One game started – you may request a refund of 40% of your entry fee or you may apply 55% of your entry toward any summer tournament hosted by Bellefonte Baseball until the end of the following year.
- Two games started – No refund of your entry fee. You may apply 20% of your entry fee toward any summer tournament hosted by Bellefonte Baseball until the end of the following year.
- Three games started-- No refund or credit.
- If tournament is totally rained out you may request a refund of 80% of your entry fee or you can apply 100% of your entry fee toward any summer tournament hosted by Bellefonte Baseball until the end of the following year.
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- **Three game tournament:**
- One game started – No refund of your entry fee. You may apply 20% of your entry fee toward any summer tournament hosted by Bellefonte baseball until the end of the following year.
- Two games started – No refund or credit.

**16) If day one or day two is totally rained out or all most totally rained out. The top four teams in the standings will advance into the championship round (teams must have played at least two games). Then with the teams electing to continue playing, we'll re-bracket and play would continue on the third day. (The field director has the final say as to whether there field is playable) Teams that elect not to continue playing will receive a credit, (refer to rule 15) which can be applied to any Bellefonte baseball tournament according to the refund policy.**

**17) The number of teams that will participate in the championship round and the format that will be used will be determined by the tournament director.**

**18) You must start a game with at least nine players but you may finish the game with eight players. The vacated spot or spots in the batting order will be recorded as an out each time it comes up. An injured player vacating his spot in the batting order my re-enter later in the game if he/she has re-entry eligibility and has not been ejected from the game.**

**19) If rule in question is not covered above, refer to MLB/American Legion rulebook for clarification in baseball and ASA rulebook for softball.**

**“Coaches and Umpires”**

**Please pay close attention to rules 1, 1a, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6a, 8 and 18 these rules must be strictly enforced since they could have a bearing on the final tournament standings.**