

# Louisiana USSSA Baseball Tournament Rules

Effective March 1, 2010  
Last Amendment – January 2014

- 1) These rules are in effect for baseball events in Louisiana unless posted/advertised by host and approved by the USSSA State Office.
- 2) These rules apply to all USSSA Qualifiers, Global Sports Qualifiers and NIT's.
- 3) Rules not addressed here, can be found in the USSSA Baseball By-Laws.
- 4) **Sportsmanship** – USSSA expects the best behavior out of all involved with the program. This includes, but not limited too, players, coaches, parents and spectators. USSSA will have each tournament host report all unsportsmanlike ejections and other incidents similar in nature, to the state office. We will track at the state office and there will be penalties enforced accordingly.
  - a) **1<sup>st</sup> Incident** – Following the game/time of the ejection, there will be an addition 1 game suspension to be administered by the tournament host. If the suspension carries over to another event, then the tournament host will report it to the state office and then it will carry over to the next event in which the team participates.
  - b) **2<sup>nd</sup> Incident** - Following the game/time of the ejection, there will be an addition 3 game suspension to be administered by the tournament host. If the suspension carries over to another event, then the tournament host will report it to the state office and then it will carry over to the next event in which the team participates.
  - c) **3<sup>rd</sup> Incident** – Suspended indefinitely. Must request reinstatement with the State Office.
- 5) **Scorebook** - The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook.
- 6) **Rosters**
  - a) All teams must have roster on-line before they start their first game.
  - b) Adding players may affect your classification.
- 7) If a team's class is changed after entering an event, it is the manager's responsibility to notify the host.
- 8) **Batting Order**
  - a) EH (Extra Hitter) is allowed in all age groups. The EH shall be considered a starter. A team using an EH will have 10 players in their lineup at all times. Teams wishing to use the EH must declare so before the game.
  - b) Teams may bat all players present, but if a player is unable to bat for any reason, that player will be declared out.
  - c) If not batting your roster, starters may reenter once per game. Substitutes may not reenter.
  - d) Free defensive substitution allowed if batting your roster, but all pitching limitations must still be followed.
  - e) A team may start a game with as few as 8 players, but they can not go to 7 players. Teams will take an out if they don't have an eligible player to appear in a batting position based on the standard starting positions on Defense.
    - i) 8U and Under – 10 Positions
      - (1) If Batting 9 - The 10<sup>th</sup> position would be an out.
      - (2) If Batting 8 - The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> position would be outs.
    - ii) 9U and Above – 9 Positions
      - (1) If Batting 8 – The 9<sup>th</sup> Position would be an out.
- 9) **Game Times:**
  - a) 6U - 8U - 1:00 / 6 innings
  - b) 9U - 12U - 1:30 / 6 Innings
  - c) 13U & 14U - 1:40 / 7 Innings

d) Add 10 minutes to above time for all championship games

10) **Run Rules:**

a) 6-Inning game(12U and Below):

i) After 3 Innings – 15 Runs

ii) After 4 Innings – 8 Runs

b) 7-Inning game(13U and Above):

i) After 3 Innings – 15 Runs

ii) After 4 Innings – 12 Runs

iii) After 5 Innings - 8 Runs

11) **Pool Play Tie Breaker Guidelines:**

a) Win-Loss Record

b) Head to Head

c) Fewest Runs Allowed

d) Run Differential

e) USSSA Points

f) Coin Flip

g) NOTE: If a forfeit occurs or even number of games can't be played in pool play, then the team's average of the games played will be used to determine seeding.

h) **Forfeit in Pool Play** may result in team not advancing to Championship Bracket. Teams no showing will be seeded last.

12) **Pitching**

a) Once a pitcher is removed from the pitching position during a game, he/she cannot return to the pitching position. Being pinched hit for does not constitute as being removed from the pitching position.

b) **Pitching Rules and Limitations:** Please refer to current USSSA Rule Book located online at [www.ussa.com](http://www.ussa.com) for current pitching limitations.

c) Once a pitching card is signed by both coaches it is official.

d) **Pitching Limitations:**

| Age     | One Day Max to Pitch and Pitch Next Day | One Day Maximum | Three Day Maximum |
|---------|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| 7U-12U  | 3                                       | 6               | 8                 |
| 13U-14U | 3                                       | 7               | 8                 |

13) **Courtesy Runners**

a) Allowed for the pitcher and catcher of record from the previous inning.

b) If there is a player not currently in the game, that person will run for the pitcher/catcher.

c) If there is not a person on the bench who is currently not in the game, then the last batted out will run.

14) **Slide Rule** - There is no mandatory slide rule, but whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and / or catcher. Attempting to jump, leap, or dive over the fielder and / or catcher is not interpreted as seeking to avoid contact. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.

15) **Protest**

a) \$100 cash must accompany protest.

b) If protest is upheld and a ruling is overturned, protest fee is returned.

16) **Metal Cleats** are allowed in ages 13 and up. Please check with tournament host to see if they are allowed on portable mounds.

17) **Ejections**

a) Anyone ejected from a game must sit out the next game.

b) Being confined to the dugout is not considered an ejection.

18) **Coach/Machine Pitch**

a) Players get 3 swinging strikes or 6 pitches.

b) Foul balls will extend an at bat as long as they have pitches left.

19) **Delays/Rain Outs**

a) If delays occur, then the tournament director will determine the best way to seed teams.

b) In the event a tournament cannot be completed after it has started, place/points may be awarded based on games played.

- c) **Rain Out Policy** - if a team has started their first game then there is a 40% refund. If the team has started their second game there is no refund. If a rain out occurs before any games begin then entry fee minus \$100 refunded. A minimum of \$100 will be retained. If events have a different policy, it will be posted by the event.
- 20) **7U thru 10U Brackets** - Classifications may be combined without notice to teams at any event.
- 21) **Team Classification** – A teams’ classification may be adjusted at anytime including during the season. If players are added to a roster, it may affect the classification of the team. It is the managers’ responsibility to follow the guidelines. If a team is found to be playing in the wrong class, it could mean removal from an event even if it’s during the event.
- 22) **Entering Tournaments**
  - a) **Tournament Host** should inform teams by Wednesday if there is a possibility that an event may not make.
  - b) **Teams Withdrawing From Events** – Any team that withdraws from an event after 12NOON on Wednesday, or after the brackets have been started to work on, may be responsible for the entry fee or appropriate fee set by the tournament host and approved by the state office. The team is also not allowed to play in another event that weekend. Some facilities and certain events may have other guidelines that are higher on the penalty and withdrawing deadline may be earlier.
  - c) **Teams Entering Free Events** – If a team enters a free event and withdraws as describe in 22b, they will be responsible for a minimum of the entry fee and maybe other loses.
- 23) If a team enters an event that they are not eligible for by their roster make up, they shall be removed from the event immediately. If it is discovered after the event is concluded, the team will be placed in 99th place and awarded no points. Either way the team will receive no points.
- 24) **Tournament Director** has the ability to adopt or modify any of these rules as needed during the course of the event with the approval of the State Office.