Cary-Grove Youth Baseball and Softball

Tournament of Stars (TOS)

9U/10U Baseball Rules

The following rules govern all 9U/10U Baseball games played as part of the Cary-Grove Youth Baseball & Softball Tournament of Stars (TOS). These rules are intended to provide a safe, instructional, and enjoyable tournament experience while maintaining consistency with CGYBS in-house recreational baseball rules.

Unless specifically modified herein, umpire judgment shall prevail and all decisions are final.

No Full-Time Travel Teams are allowed. Team rosters must be composed entirely of players that participated on “in-house” teams during the season and were chosen for part-time travel or post-season play.

The current Official High School Rules published by the National Federation of the State High School Associations (Fed. Rules) apply unless specifically stated otherwise herein.

1 GENERAL RULES & FIELD DIMENSIONS

1.1 Age Eligibility

- Players must be 9 (for 9u Division) or 10 (for 10u Division) years old or younger as of May 1 of the current season.

1.2 Playing Field

- Base paths: 60 feet
- Pitching distance: 46 feet
- Defensive players: 9 players on the field at one time

1.3 Equipment

- Metal spikes are prohibited.
- Tournament-provided baseballs will be used.

1.4 Minimum Players

- A minimum of eight (8) players is required to begin a game.

---

2 GAME LENGTH & TIME LIMITS

2.1 Game Length

- Games are scheduled for six (6) innings.
- The 6th inning, or any inning prior, may be declared the “final inning” at the umpire’s discretion.
- This declaration must occur before the first pitch of that inning.
- Once an inning has been declared the final inning, no new inning may begin, even if the time limit has not yet been reached.

2.2 Time Limit

- **No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 40 minutes** from the official start time.
- An inning is considered started once the final out of the previous inning is recorded.

2.3 Championship Games
- Championship games will have no time limit.

2.4 Called Games
- A game is considered official after:
  - Three (3) complete innings, or
  - Two and one-half (2½) innings if the home team is ahead.
- If a game is started but suspended before reaching official game status, it will resume from the exact point of interruption. This includes the same inning, number of outs, runners on base, count on the batter, and pitch counts for all pitchers at the time play was halted.

2.5 Ties
- Pool-play games may end in a tie.

2.6 Mercy Rule
- 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings. If the home team is winning by mercy rule at the half inning or during the bottom half of the inning the game is over.

---

3 PITCHING

3.1 Pitching Limits
- Maximum two (2) consecutive innings per game. Maximum seven (7) innings per tournament. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched.
- Pitchers may pitch on consecutive days.

3.2 Balks
- Fed. Balk Rule 6-2-4 does not apply. Balks are not enforced.

3.3 Hit Batters
- Pitcher must be removed after:
  - Two (2) hit batters in one inning, or
  - Three (3) hit batters in a game.

3.4 Manager Visits
- One visit per pitcher per inning. Pitcher must be removed on a second visit.

3.5 Intentional Walks & Pitch-Outs
- Not permitted.

---

4 BATTING & LINEUPS

4.1 Batting Order
- All players present will bat using a **continuous batting order**.
- Every eligible player must bat.
- Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the batting order.

4.2 Bat Regulations
- Approved bats:
  - USA Baseball stamped bats

- USSSA stamped bats with **1.15 BPF**
- Wood Bats
- BBCOR
- Maximum barrel diameter: **2-3/4 inches**
- Maximum weight drop: **-10oz**
- Illegal bat penalty:
  - Batter is declared out upon discovery of illegal bat use

4.3 Bunting

- Bunting is permitted.
- Faking a bunt and then pulling back and swinging (slashing) is not allowed. Any batter who attempts this will be declared **out.**

4.4 Dropped Third Strike & Infield Fly Rule

- Not in effect.

4.5 Bat Safety

- Any batter who throws a bat will be declared **out**.

---

5 RUN LIMITS

5.1 Run Limits

- Innings 1 through 5: **Four (4) run maximum per inning**
- Once the fourth run scores, the half-inning is over.

5.2 Home Run Exception

- If a batter hits an over-the-fence home run with runners on base, all runs will count even if the four-run limit is exceeded.

5.3 Final Inning

- No run limit applies

---

6 BASERUNNING

6.1 Stealing

- Open stealing is allowed.
- Stealing home is allowed but limited to two (2) successful steals per inning.

6.2 Leaving Early

- Runners may not leave until the ball crosses home plate.

6.3 Delayed Steals

- Not permitted. Stealing on routine throws back to the pitcher are not allowed.

6.4 Courtesy Runners

- A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher when the catcher is on base with less than two outs. However, with two outs it is mandatory that the catcher is run for. The courtesy runner will be the player who made the last batted-out of the inning.

6.5 Injured Fielder

- Runner advancement limited to the base being pursued.

6.6 Overthrows

- All overthrows within the fence (excluding catcher back to pitcher) are in play and runners may advance.

---

7 SLIDING & CONTACT

7.1 Sliding
- Runners must slide or avoid contact on close plays.
- Head-first slides are **not allowed**, except when returning to a base.

7.2 Contact
- Malicious or avoidable contact will result in the runner being declared out and may result in ejection.

---

8 FIELDING & DEFENSE

8.1 Defensive Alignment
- Nine defensive players.

8.2 Defensive Coaches
- No defensive coaches on the field.

8.3 Catcher Safety
- All catchers must wear a protective cup.

---

9 TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Rosters
- Rosters are locked at the start of the tournament.
- Birth certificates will only be required if an age challenge is made.
    - If there is a challenge and a team is unable to produce a birth certificate, then that player will be declared illegal and the games he played in will be forfeited.
- Rosters and insurance certificates shall always be on hand with the Team Manager. These documents shall be submitted and checked prior to the first game.
- Line-ups must be exchanged prior to the start of each game.

9.2 Sportsmanship
- All managers will be responsible for their teams, including coaches, players, and parents.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct by players, coaches, or spectators will not be tolerated and may result in ejection.
    - Players may not throw bats, helmets or any other equipment to display anger, frustration or displeasure. Violators may be removed from the game, at the discretion of the umpire, for flagrant violations
- Swearing by managers, coaches, players or parents, on and off the field, during games or practices, will be strictly prohibited. Violations during a game will result in immediate ejection. Repeated offenses by a team may result in the manager being removed from the game at the discretion of the umpire.

9.3 Protests
- No protests. Umpire judgment is final.

9.4 Dugout Assignment
- First come, first serve basis
- No postgame meetings in dugout/on field to expedite the start of the next game and stay on schedule for all teams, please clear the dugout ASAP post-game and hold team meetings outside the fenced area.
- **Warmup**: Outfield warmup is allowed inside the fences only while the field is being prepared prior to your game. Game times will not be delayed completing any warmups. No infield warmups are allowed.

9.5 Home Team

- All pool-play games will start with a coin flip with the coach from the team who travels farthest making the call. The coin flip will determine the home team during pool play. The game clock will start when the home team takes the field in inning one. Bracket games will be seeded. Home is decided by a coin flip before the game in pool play. Bracket play the higher seeded team is the home team for each game.

9.6 Tie Breakers

- The seeding will be determined by 1) record; 2) head-to-head competition; 3) least number of runs allowed; 4) pool play run differential; and 5) coin flip.

---

10 Emphasis

CGYBS Tournament of Stars Baseball is an instructional tournament. Coaches, players, and parents are expected to promote sportsmanship, safety, and positive development at all times.