

The City of Jackson **Official Baseball Tournament Rules & Guidelines**

THE CITY OF JACKSON ADOPTS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES, WITH EXCEPTIONS, AS THE PRIMARY RULEBOOK GOVERNING ALL TOURNAMENT PLAY.

EXCEPTIONS

Any State Tournament and/or World Series play will be governed strictly by the sanctioning host rulebook. National Federation Rules will govern any rule not addressed by host rulebook. Any rule not covered will be reviewed and acted upon by the tournament director.

The Extra Hitter (EH) is allowed at the coaches' discretion in all age divisions. The EH can be substituted, the same way as a position player.

A courtesy runner is allowed for the pitcher and catcher at anytime. The courtesy runner can only be a player that is not currently in the batting line up. The same player cannot run for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning. A courtesy runner cannot bat until he has played an inning of defense.

The contact rule is in effect at all times in all age groups. The runner(s) must either slide or try to avoid the tag on close plays at any of the bases. (This rule does not apply on runners returning to their occupied bases on pick-off attempts, unless a rundown results.)

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

Tournament entries are only guaranteed after receipt of the entry fee. Online payment for entry fee is available at www.jacksonsportsplex.com, or the entry fee check and registration form may be mailed to: (check made out to "City of Jackson") West Tennessee Healthcare Sportsplex, 250 BancorpSouth Parkway, Jackson, TN 38305. The entry form is located in the "Downloads" section of our website. Any team that withdraws from a tournament within the business week (Monday-Friday) of the weekend start of that tournament will not be refunded its entry fee, if the game schedule for the tournament has been posted online. If a team has yet to pay its entry fee, it will be required to pay that entry fee before entry is allowed into any future tournament, and any subsequent tournament entries must be paid in advance.

PROOF OF AGE

It is the Head Coach's responsibility to have his players' proof of age in his possession and be able to produce on demand his players' birth certificates or legally accepted proof of age in the case of any question regarding the age of his players.

TEAM INSURANCE

All teams are required to provide proof of team insurance. A copy of the team's certificate of insurance must be provided at the team check-in prior to a team's participation in any City of Jackson tournament event.

TEAM CHECK-IN

Teams must check in at the tournament headquarters 30 minutes – 1 hour before commencing play in their first game. Please be prepared to produce all tournament documentation, i.e. certificate of insurance, sanction number (if required), roster (if required), etc. Failure to check in will result in a delay in starting your first game.

GAME TIME LIMITS AND RAINOUTS

Age Division	Time Limit	Game Length	Full game in event of rainout
5-8	1 hour 15 minutes	6 innings	3 innings *
9-10	1 hour 35 minutes	6 innings	3 innings *
11-12	1 hour 40 minutes	6 innings	3 innings *
13-14	1 hour 50 minutes	7 innings	4 innings **

* or if home team is ahead after 2 ½ innings

** or if home team is ahead after 3 ½ innings

There is no time limit for the age division championship finals only. Time limits apply to all other games, including championship round semifinals.

- ♦ *The City of Jackson reserves the right to modify game times as needed, especially if play is affected by inclement weather.*

If rainouts occur: Full refund if no games are begun; 2/3 refund if one game is started; however, should one game start and rainout occur, instead of 2/3 refund, you have the option to play in one other tournament, during same season and for same tournament classification type, at no additional charge; 1/3 refund if second game begins but is not completed. No refund once second game ends. There will be **no gate or admission refunds at any time**. If play is in doubt due to inclement weather in the area, parents and fans should remain outside the gate until play actually begins or is announced to begin.

The following policy is for the City of Jackson invitational events only!!!

In the event of a rainout, the policy to determine the order of finish of the tournament will be based on the following:

ORDER OF FINISH IN INCLEMENT WEATHER SITUATIONS

When a tournament cannot be concluded due to inclement weather situations, the following policies shall govern all baseball and softball events conducted by Sportsplex staff, with regard to determining the order of finish:

1. If the tournament is canceled during or after the completion of pool play, the tournament order of finish will be set by the tournament tie-breakers listed in the **DIVISIONAL / POOL PLAY TIE BREAKERS** section of the rules. Normally, two complete rounds must be completed in order to establish a tournament order of finish, but the Sportsplex reserves the right to establish a different minimum criteria if warranted by the circumstances. In the event that teams have completed an unequal number of games (including suspended games that have reached “official” status at the time of the cancellation), the winning percentage of all teams will be used to determine placement. For undefeated teams, teams will be ranked by the number of wins. (Examples: A 3-0 record is better than a 2-0 record; a 2-0-1 record is better than a 2-1 record; a 1-1-1 record is better than a 1-2 record; a 0-2 record is better than a 0-3 record.) For purposes of win percentage, ties count as a half-win and a half-loss. (Examples: A 1-0-2 record is equal to a 2-1 record; a 1-0-1 record is better than a 1-1 record.)
2. If the tournament is canceled after bracket play has begun, but has not been completed, the following policies apply:
 - A. **For single-elimination brackets:** All teams that have not yet suffered a bracket play loss will be ranked by order of the seeding with which they entered bracket play, and automatically finish ahead of any teams that have been defeated in bracket play. All teams competing in a “Gold Division” bracket automatically finish ahead of all teams competing in a “Silver Division” bracket. All teams competing in a “Silver Division” bracket automatically finish ahead of all teams who did not qualify for bracket play, if any. (Examples: As long as a #1 seed is still alive in bracket play, that team will be declared the champion in the event of a rainout; if the #1 seed is not still alive in the bracket, the next-highest seed that is still alive will be declared the champion. If 4 teams are playing in a Gold Division bracket, the highest position a Silver Division team can place is 5th.)
 - B. **For double-elimination brackets:** All teams that have not yet suffered a loss in the winners bracket will be ranked by order of the seeding with which they entered bracket play, and automatically finish ahead of any teams that have been defeated in bracket play. All teams that are still alive in losers bracket play will be ranked by order of the seeding with which they entered bracket play, and automatically finish ahead of any teams that have been eliminated from bracket play, if any. (Examples: If 6 teams are still in the winners bracket at the time of a rainout, and 4 others have dropped into the losers bracket, the 6 teams still alive in the winners bracket will occupy the first 6 positions of the ordered finish, ranked by their seeds entering bracket play. The 4 teams in the losers bracket would make up the bottom 4 positions of the 10 teams involved.)
3. If a tournament is canceled before its completion, no consolation awards will be presented unless the Sportsplex staff has determined that unusually special circumstances warrant their distribution.
4. These policies are specific to Sportsplex staff-run events only and have been designed to reflect the staff’s belief that these are the fairest ways to determine final placement. They are not intended to represent the policies of any other facility or organization.

PITCHING LIMITS

Any Qualifier, State Tournament, and/or World Series play will be governed strictly by the sanctioning host rulebook.

All other City of Jackson Tournament events will be governed by the USSSA Rule Book.

A team is allowed one defensive charged conference per inning per pitcher. The second conference will result in the pitcher being removed from the game as a pitcher. The pitcher may be moved to another defensive position (per USSSA Baseball Rule Book.)

RUN RULES

Age Division	Winner of game declared if any team is:	Maximum Runs per Inning
6-8	15 runs ahead after 4 complete innings or 8 runs after 5 innings	7 per inning
9-12	15 runs ahead after 3 complete innings or 8 runs ahead after 4 complete innings	N/A
13-14	15 runs ahead after 3 complete innings or 12 runs ahead after 4 complete innings or 8 runs ahead after 5 complete innings	N/A

HOME TEAM

Will be determined by coin toss. Home team scorekeeper will be the official score keeper and must record starting time in scorebook.

GAME TIE BREAKERS

During the initial round of pool/divisional play games, at the end of regulation time limit, if the score is tied, the game will end in a tie. During the single elimination championship rounds extra innings will be played until a winner is determined. *

***EXCEPTIONS:** District, State, Regional and World Series tie games will be governed by the sanctioning host tournament guidelines.

DIVISIONAL / POOL PLAY TIE BREAKERS

At the end of divisional pool play teams may be tied going into the final championship rounds with the same won/loss record. The following tiebreakers* will determine which team advances and in what order of finish.

- 1) Head to head competition
- 2) Fewest runs allowed in all games
- 3) Run differential (runs scored minus runs allowed; maximum +/- 8 runs per game)
- 4) USSSA ranking points (applicable in all USSSA-sanctioned events)
- 5) Coin toss

In the Event of a Forfeit in Divisional / Pool Play, the non-forfeiting teams will be credited with a victory by a score that is equal to the average score of the forfeiting team's previous games, unless that team had a positive run differential in its previous games. In that event, the score of the forfeited game will be a one-run victory for the non-forfeiting team, with one run being added to the average number of runs it allowed in its previous tournament games.

Examples:

- (1) Team A gets a forfeit win from Team B. Team B lost two previous games by an average score of 8-3. Team A will be credited with an 8-3 victory.
- (2) Team A gets a forfeit win from Team B. Team B had a positive run differential in its previous games. Team A gave up 10 runs in its previous games. Team A will be awarded a 6-5 victory for its forfeit win (one run added to its previous average of runs allowed, which was five).

***EXCEPTIONS:** District, State, Regional and World Series tie games will be governed by the sanctioning host tournament guidelines.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship by players, coaches, and fans is expected at all times. The Umpire-in-Chief will handle any rule misinterpretations immediately and finally (no "judgment calls" will be addressed). There will be no protest.* Coaches will be responsible for their own fans' behavior. Razzing, heckling, chanting, or making disparaging remarks towards opponents, in any manner, is prohibited.

***EXCEPTIONS:** Protest fees are \$100 cash. Eligibility and age are the two protestable areas in any tournament play. Protests may be allowed in all District, State, Regional, and World Series tournament play. Check with the tournament director for protest guidelines prior to each respective tournament.

EJECTIONS

All ejections for coaches/players will result in banishment from that game plus the following game. Remember: rule interpretations may be disputed – not judgment calls, especially balls and strikes. Coaches are also responsible for the actions of their fans. Inappropriate conduct by fans can result in a coach ejection.

This is youth baseball; bad sportsmanship will not be tolerated at our events. The game is not for the glorification of the umpires, coaches, or parents. Simply stated: "It is for the kids." Let's work together and do our very best to make this a reality.

LINE-UP CARDS

Each manager must prepare a minimum of 3 written copies of his line-up, listing first and last names, and numbers of all players and substitutes prior to each game. Line-ups must be provided to the plate umpire and opposing manager. A game shall not start until this is completed. Should a coach omit a player from his written lineup,

that player cannot participate in that game only. Managers are responsible for providing their own line-up cards.

PREGAME WARMUP

All team pre-game warm-ups will only be allowed in designated warm up areas, or in the outfield of a ball field, no pre-game practice on any mounds or plates. **Absolutely no soft toss (including plastic balls) allowed into any fencing within complex.**

GAME BALLS

Each team must provide Game Balls for the games in which they play:
Ages 6-8.....1(one) new or good condition baseball per game.
Ages 9-142(two) new or good condition baseballs per game.

AWARDS

Awards will vary depending on the tournament event. However, individual awards will always be presented to all players of the top two finishing teams. Team awards will vary by tournament.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT ALTERATIONS

The City of Jackson reserves the right to alter, change or abbreviate tournament formats, when necessary, in order to complete the tournament.

GATE ADMISSIONS

All City of Jackson Tournament events will have an admission charge for all persons age 6 or over. Children ages 5 or younger and players will always be admitted free. Gate fees will vary depending on event (i.e., State Championships, World Series).

COACHES' PASSES

Each team will receive FOUR (4) coaches' passes upon check-in at the Tournament Office. **Coaches who lose, forget, or misplace their passes will be required to pay a non-refundable gate admission. Individuals who abuse or misuse these passes shall forfeit their passes for the duration of the tournament.**

TOBACCO

West Tennessee Healthcare Sportsplex is a tobacco-free park. Thanks for your cooperation.

FOOD / BEVERAGES / PETS

Coaches will be allowed to bring in a total of two coolers per team. One can be a round "igloo" type cooler with a spigot. The other cooler can be up to a 20-quart size cooler to be used for water & rags, or ammonia water. These two coolers will be tagged by the coaches and will be numbered. Each player may bring in a personal water bottle. Parents & spectators will NOT be able to bring any coolers into the complex. We have a complete concessions area to take care of their needs. Ice WILL NOT be provided to teams for water coolers. Please pick up bag(s) of ice prior to coming to the complex.

Service Animals Only.

Coaches, please help us to prevent an embarrassing situation at the gates by informing your team's parents of this policy. While we do allow coaches to bring small coolers for towels to help keep the players cool during their game, these MUST be kept in the dugout. Our gate workers will ask to inspect the coolers for any outside food or drink.

FINAL NOTE

West Tennessee Healthcare Sportsplex will be without question one of the finest, most well-maintained youth and adult sports facilities available. Teams are expected to pick up trash and debris in the dugout before departure from all games. Your assistance in keeping these facilities in shape would be greatly appreciated. Please urge your coaches, players, and fans to use all trash receptacles provided. We believe that the respect of a ballpark and ball fields is something that coaches, parents, and fans can, by example, teach young players along with learning how to play the game.

COACH-PITCH SPECIFIC RULES

Any State Tournament and/or World Series play will be governed strictly by the sanctioning host rulebook.

All other City of Jackson Tournament events will be governed by the USSSA Rule Book.