



2020 NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

TOURNAMENT AND PITCHING RULES

TOURNAMENT RULES

- To be eligible for the 15u Championships, players must be born on or after May 1, 2004. Only players born January 1, 2005 or later are eligible for national team selection.
- To be eligible for the 16u Championships, players must be born on or after May 1, 2003. Only players born January 1, 2004 or later are eligible for national team selection.
- To be eligible for the 17u Championships, players must be born on or after May 1, 2001. Only players born January 1, 2003 or later are eligible for national team selection.
- The National Federation (NFHS) baseball rules will be used.
- 14U bat requirements will be any BBCOR -3 bat or any USABat. There are no specific restrictions in regards to weight/length ratio; however, bats may not be longer than 34 inches and the barrel diameter may not exceed 2 5/8 inches. All wood, metal and multi-piece wood bats are allowed as long as they are BBCOR certified. (Approved bat list is reflected in the Washington State University Sports Science Lab, NCAA and NFHS BBCOR Approved Baseball Bats)
- 15U bat requirements will be any wood or metal BBCOR -3 bat.
- 16U bat requirements will be any wood or metal BBCOR -3 bat.
- 17U bat requirements will be any solid (one piece) wood bat and NFHS approved BBCOR wood barrel baseball bat.
- Coaches must wear a helmet to be on the field. A hard helmet is required; no flap, single flap, and double flap helmets are permitted, while “skullies” and cap inserts are not permitted.
- Games shall be seven (7) innings, or two hours and 15 minutes (2:15), with no new inning beginning after time has expired. If a game is tied after 7 innings and time permits, teams shall enter an international tie breaker until a winner is decided or time is expired. If a team is losing by 15 or more runs after having batted in at least three innings, 10 or more runs after 4 innings or 8 or more runs after 5 innings the game is ended at that point. “In Championship rounds the semifinals and Gold Medal game will have no time limit,

run rules still in effect. Bronze Medal game will have 2 hr 15 min time limit.

- Every effort within reason will be made to complete games to a full seven (7) innings if weather should interfere.
- Any participant (player, coach, fan, etc.) ejected from a game shall serve an automatic MINIMUM 1 game suspension during their team’s next game. The participant’s suspension can be extended upon review of the circumstances by the Technical Committee consisting of the USA Baseball Tournament Directors, Umpire-in-Chief, one USA Baseball Site Supervisor, and one member of the USA Baseball Task Force. Any participant’s SECOND ejection from a game shall result in him/her being suspended from the remainder of the tournament.
- The higher seed will be home team throughout all playoff and consolation match-ups (Ex. 1 vs. 6, 1 is home team).
- For each team’s pool games, the home team will be predetermined.
- A tenth hitter, or extra hitter, hereby known as the “EH” may be utilized by any team. The use of an “EH” is optional and is not mandatory. If one team elects to use an “EH” it will not be required that the opposing team also use an “EH”. The extra hitter must be indicated in the line-up as the “EH”. The “EH” will be treated as any other started and cannot be eliminated during the course of the game. The “EH” can exchange positions with other defensive players in the lineup. A player that starts the game as an “EH” or becomes an “EH” at any time thereafter, is not required to remain solely as the “EH”. The starting batting order must be following in order. Changing of the “starting batting order” once the game begins is strictly prohibited.

TIE-BREAKER RULES

- (For seeding purposes only; in order of use)
 1. Pool play overall record (winning percentage)
 2. Head-to-head competition provided all teams have played each other
 3. Fewest runs allowed (overall)
 4. Overall Run Differential (overall)
 5. Coin flip

PITCHING RULES

- In accordance with USA Baseball’s assimilation of Pitch Smart guidelines, the National Team Championships will use a hard pitch count as the standard for setting pitcher use limitations for the 2020 tournament. The 2020 Pitch Smart guidelines can be found on page 2 of the rules document.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF PITCHER USE LIMITATION RULES

- If a pitcher is found to have exceeded his allowed numbers of pitches during a game, the illegal pitching situation will be rectified immediately and the incoming pitcher will be permitted as many warm up pitches as the umpire deems necessary prior to resuming the game. The Technical Committee will review the infraction and reserves the right to suspend the manager for the next game if the infraction is deemed a purposeful breach of the rules. The Technical Committee will be comprised of the USA Baseball Tournament Director, Umpire-in-Chief, one USA Baseball Site Supervisor and one member of the USA Baseball Task Force.
- If a pitcher is found to have exceeded his allowed pitches for a game after the game is completed, the manager may be suspended for the next tournament game. The Technical Committee will review the infraction and reserves the right to suspend the manager for the next tournament game and one additional game if the infraction is deemed a purposeful breach of the rules.
- In either case, the pitcher in question will not receive any direct penalty, but will be made to adhere to the prescribed days of rest based on the number of pitches at the time of the infraction. The team in question will not receive any direct penalty (beyond penalization of the manager), but will continually be made to adhere to the prescribed pitch count rules for the remainder of the event.

For more information, visit

usabaseball.com/championships



2020 NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

PITCH SMART RULES

TOURNAMENT PITCHER USE LIMITATION RULES

- If a pitcher reaches the daily max (pitches in a game) threshold (95/105) while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following events occur: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is retired; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning.
- A pitcher's required rest is based off a hard pitch count of actual pitches thrown and does not reset to the pitch count tallied at the beginning of the last batter faced. If a player has thrown 29 pitches and after facing the last batter of the inning has thrown 34 then that pitcher's pitch count for the day is 34 (not 29) and they must now take one day of rest.

REPORTING

- USA Baseball official scorers will be responsible for the official pitch count at each field.
- An aggregate report for all teams in the tournament will be distributed electronically at the completion of each day's games to the team contact on record. The pitch count monitored and kept in the tower is the only official pitch count that will be used. Managers or coaches pitch counts are NOT official, but they are welcome to periodically check with the official scorer to ensure their count is correct. The official scorekeeper will communicate the pitch count at the beginning of each inning or as needed.
- Should a pitch count be protested, the protesting team must present an official score book or digital score keeping application to the Site Supervisor and Tournament Director.
- The pitch count kept by the tower can be overturned if both the Site Supervisor and Tournament Director come to the conclusion that a mistake was made on behalf of USA Baseball's scorekeeper. The new pitch count will be recorded and reflected in the following day's pitch count report.

SUSPENDED GAMES

- For purposes of applying the pitcher use limitations in the event a team plays twice on a single day because a prior game was either postponed or suspended, the

DAYS OF REST REQUIREMENTS

"Days off" refer to the day(s) following an appearance)

	Daily Max	Required Rest Period (Pitches)				
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
15U	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76
16U	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
17U	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

following rules apply:

- The per-game total pitch maximums (but not mandatory rest) shall be deemed to be "reset" for the resumption of the suspended game. (For example, a pitcher who has thrown less than 30 pitches when a game is suspended may remain in the game and is not required to be removed prior to 95/105 pitches the next day (14U/15U/16U: 95, 17U: 105).);
- A player who is a team's pitcher at the time a game is suspended and then becomes subject to a mandatory rest day at the time the suspended game is resumed shall be removed from the game at the time the game is resumed. (For example, a pitcher who is in the game at the time the game is suspended and who has thrown 31 or more pitches in that game may not pitch in the resumption of the suspended game the next day.);
- A pitcher who must rest for a day must rest for all games on that day (i.e., rest during a postponed or resumed suspended game shall not be deemed to satisfy a mandatory rest day if there is a subsequent game on the same day). (For example, a pitcher who is in the game at the time the game is suspended and who has thrown 31 or more pitches in that game may not pitch in either the resumption of the suspended game or any subsequent game that day.);
- A pitcher who remains in at the resumption of the suspended or postponed game may not pitch in any subsequent game that day. (For example, a pitcher who is in the game at the time the game is suspended and resumed the next day may not pitch in the subsequent regularly scheduled game that same day.)

DOUBLEHEADERS

- The second game of a scheduled doubleheader will not serve as a rest day for pitchers having thrown in the first game of the day. (For example, a pitcher who has thrown 31 or more pitches in the first game of the day may not pitch in any subsequent game that day and is subject to the appropriate number of rest days based on the total pitches thrown.)
- A pitcher who has thrown 1-30 pitches is eligible to throw in any subsequent game that day, however, he will still be limited to the daily max of 95/105 pitches on the day. (For example, a 15U pitcher who has thrown 20 pitches in game one may throw in the second game that day, but is limited to only 75 pitches in that given game. At that point, the pitcher will be subject to the appropriate number of rest days based on the total pitches thrown that day, which in this case would be 4 days (76+ pitches).)
- Due to the nature of the tournament format, the USA Baseball Operations Staff will provide each coach with an updated pitch count sheet as soon as possible prior to the start of their second game of the day on days where a doubleheader is scheduled.

For more information about Pitch Smart, visit

