

Total Baseball's House Tournament

General Rules

Revised January 1, 2012

1. There will be no warm-up practice allowed on playing field prior to game, but players should stretch on their own and are free to utilize additional warm-up areas.
2. **All games have a 1 hr. & 55 minute time limit, including ties and playoff games (Championship game excluded). Game time starts at the end of the Coaches/Umpires meeting.** Games may start early barring a mercy. Teams must be prepared to play no later than 15 minutes after the end of the previous game. Umpires must notify each team's scorekeeper of the official start time. An inning's start time is determined by the time after the last innings out. A game/inning will end if the time has expired and 1) home team takes the lead 2) home team is leading 3) team can not score more than 8 runs. Game (championship only) tied at the end of regulation play will immediately go into the international tie-breaker rule, where a runner is automatically placed on second base to start the inning.
3. All Leagues will play with a 4-3 count.
4. All coaches must keep a scorecard. **The Home team is the official scorer and lineups should be exchanged 15 minutes prior to game time. Both teams must turn in a designated scorecard to a Total Baseball tournament official.**
5. Two (2) points are awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie and no (0) points for a loss. Playoff seeds will be determined by: 1) Win / Tie / Loss record 2) Head-to-Head competition 3) Fewest runs allowed 4) Most runs scored 5) Coin flip.
6. Game time is forfeit time. A team must have eight players at game time to begin, otherwise it will be ruled a forfeit. In accordance with both coaches, a sanctioned scrimmage may occur.
7. Major League Baseball rules with Total Baseball's modifications will be used. Coaches may review these rules with a Total Baseball official upon request.
8. RE-ENTRY RULES: There will be free defensive substitutions except at the pitchers position. Players will not be allowed to re-enter the batting line-up in a different spot. In the event that an injury occurs and a team has no eligible substitutes left to play, a player who has used his/her eligibility may re-enter the game.
9. Teams must list all of their players in a batting order to insure that everyone hits.
10. Any player leaving their batting spot in the line-up, other than from an injury, is considered an automatic out at the turn of that at bat.
11. Teams may use any player, not disqualified from the ballgame, to run for the catcher only and only with 2 outs. However, another player who is currently in the game (defensively) may not run for the catcher.
12. Pitching limitations- There will be no pitching limitations. Coaches are expected to enforce the safety of their players' arms. Recommended pitching requirements can be found at: Little League Pitching Limits or <http://www.momsteam.com/sports/baseball/safety/2011-little-league-baseball-pitch-count-limits-and-mandatory-rest-periods>
13. All players must have completed registration forms on file and have their fee paid in full before they will be allowed to play in a game. Coaches will be notified if they have a player in violation of this rule as far in advance as possible. No one is allowed to add players to the roster during the tournament. Use of an illegal player will result in a forfeit.
14. Any player, coach or spectator that uses foul language while at the field may be removed from the facility immediately. This is the only warning. Total Baseball reserves the right to forfeit any game in the event someone is asked to leave and refuses to. The win will be awarded to the opposing team. In all cases of ejection for all players and coaches, a **MANDATORY ONE (1) GAME SUSPENSION SHALL BE ENFORCED. IT SHALL BE THE NEXT GAME, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.** Managers **MUST** control their own players and spectators!
15. **NO ONE** is permitted to throw equipment- helmets, bats, balls, etc. Anyone caught doing this may be removed from the field.

16. A pre-game coin flip will determine the home team. Higher seeds will always be home team in playoff rounds.
17. The Michigan High School slide rule will be in effect for all ages (must avoid contact).
18. There will be no protests. Umpires decision is final.
19. All teams are required to use protective helmets. Batters, runners, and on-deck hitters must have helmets on at all times. Metal cleats may only be worn by ages 13-18u.
20. Catchers are required to wear-full equipment: mask, chest protector, shin guards, protective helmet and an athletic cup.
21. Bat Rules: 8u to 14u can use Small Barrell Bats (2 1/4") or Big Barrell Bats (2 5/8" or 2 3/4"). Bats must meet 1.15 BPF standard marked on the bat or BBCOR certified mark permanently on the bat. 15u to 18u can use Small Barrell Bats (2 1/4") or Big Barrell Bats (2 5/8" or 2 3/4"). Bats must be NHSF approved with the appropriate BBCOR certification marked permanently on the bat.
22. Mercy Rule- If a team is ahead by:
 - a. 15 run after 4 innings (7 inn. Game) / after 3 innings (6 inn. Game)
 - b. 10 runs after 5 innings (7 inn.) / after 4 inn. (6 inn.)
 - c. 8 runs after 6 innings (7 inn.) / after 5 inn. (6 inn.)
23. *If the home team reaches the required runs before the end of their at-bats, the game will end immediately.
24. Dropped 3rd strike in the 10-9u division will be an automatic out.
25. 10-9u division will be allowed a 10th player in the outfield, if desired.
26. 10-12u games will be 6 innings, 13-18u games will be 7 innings or a 1 hr. 55 minute time limit.
27. 10-9u division will not be allowed to steal or leave the base until the ball has crossed home plate. Lead-offs and steals are allowed in the 11-14u divisions.
28. 10-9u division will not be allowed to advance to home plate unless by a batted ball, walk, balk or hit batsman.
29. There will be one (1) warning per balk / per pitcher in the 12-9u divisions.
30. Teams will be limited to 8 runs per inning.
31. Ages for each division are determined by the age of a player as of April 30, 2012. International teams age cut-off will be determined by January 1, 2012.

Total Baseball reserves the right to make decisions it feels are in the best interests of its league and participants.

Total Baseball contact information:

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Website (schedules/rules/directions) www.totalsportscomplex.com (Total Baseball / Tournaments tab)

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