



“LOCAL RULES” for FALL 2022

HIGHLIGHTED RULES ARE NEW/REVISED THIS FALL

Unless noted prior to the event, the following “local” rules will ALWAYS be in effect. If the rule is not discussed below, Southern Sports will follow the National Federation High School Rules (NFHS). Southern Sports reserves the right to change the following rules at any time. All teams will be made aware of changes prior to the start of their event. If there is a rules question for younger age groups that are not applicable with high NFHS rules, the tournament director will make the final decision on interpretation.

RESPONSIBILITY OF KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING RULES

It is the sole responsibility of each team’s head coach to understand all rules and guidelines that are presented in this document, as well as in the NFHS rule book.

FINAL DECISIONS

The Tournament Director shall have final decision on all tournament questions/decisions.

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

Your team will not be confirmed into any tournament until full payment is received. However, you can "hold" a spot if you need a few days to finalize your entry. You have 5 business days to pay in full for the tournament. If your entry is not received in 5 business days, your spot may be given to another team.

PAYMENT DEADLINE

The payment deadline for a tournament is 7 days prior to the beginning of the event. This is not valid should an event sell out earlier than 7 days prior to the event. See above “Registration Confirmation”.

TEAM ROSTERS

All teams must have an online player roster in the Southern Sports Promotion system prior to the first game of each event. If a team has previously submitted an online roster to Southern Sports, that will be treated as the current roster. It is the team’s responsibility to make any changes necessary to their Southern Sports roster for the current event. In the event that a roster is challenged, during an event, the current (online or recently submitted) roster will be the roster of record. If a team’s roster is challenged, via an official protest, that player must be on the team roster. If the player is not listed, the team will forfeit any games in which that player has played during the event. **IF THE CHALLENGED TEAM DOES NOT HAVE A ROSTER OF RECORD, THE TEAM MAY BE FORCED TO FORFEIT GAMES PLAYED TO THAT POINT. THE ONLY WAY TO VIEW ANOTHER TEAM’S ROSTER IS TO FILE A PROTEST DURING THE GAME, AND SUBMIT \$300 CASH AS A PROTEST FEE.**

PLAYERS ON MULTIPLE ROSTERS

No player is allowed to participate on more than one team for each event. For example, organization rosters have to designate players on one specific team in conjunction with their submitted rosters. In addition, no player is allowed to play on more than one team even if those teams are in different divisions,

or age groups. PENALTY FOR THIS VIOLATION IS TEAM FORFEIT OF ALL GAMES IN WHICH THE PLAYER PARTICIPATED IN WITH SAID TEAM(S).

MINIMUM PLAYERS

A team can play an official game with no less than 8 players. If a team plays with 8 players, that team must have a designated out for the 9th position in the batting order. If a team loses a player due to injury or illness, a designated out will be recorded in that position of the batting order. If there are no substitutions available.

AGE REQUIREMENT

May 1, 2023 will be the designated date to determine ages. Photocopies of birth certificates MUST be kept with the team coach/manager at all times. Failure to provide documentation, upon request, will result in an age/rules violation.

NEW SCHOOL/AGE CUTOFF RULE

- 7U Division Players who turn 8 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 1st grade. Also, any player turning 9 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 7u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 8U Division Players who turn 9 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 2nd grade. Also, any player turning 10 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 8u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 9U Division Players who turn 10 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 3rd grade. Also, any player turning 11 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 9u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 10U Division Players who turn 11 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 4th grade. Also, any player turning 12 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 10u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 11U Division Players who turn 12 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 5th grade. Also, any player turning 13 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 11u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 12U Division Players who turn 13 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 6th grade. Also, any player turning 14 prior to May 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 12u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.
- 13u Division Players who turn 14 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 7th grade. Also, any player turning 15 prior to May 1 will not be eligible.
- 14u Division Players who turn 15 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 8th grade. Also, any player turning 16 prior to May 1 will not be eligible.

***Verification of the new age cutoff must be kept with the team coach/manager at all times, or any other document that confirms current grade level. Failure to provide documentation, upon request, will result in an age/rules violation.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES/PROOF OF AGE

Each team MUST have copies of birth certificates available throughout the tournament. An age protest, like any other protest, requires a \$300 cash protest fee. If an age protest is lodged against your team, you MUST provide proof of age (eligibility). If you cannot do so, you lose the protest and the protesting team gets their \$300 back. If you are able to prove proper age (and eligibility) for your player, the protesting team loses the protest and the protest fee.

PROTESTS

\$300 cash (**on rule interpretation only**). Must be paid at time of protest. Protests must be submitted before the next pitch of the game, if the protest is play specific. It is the sole responsibility of the head coach to call time and communicate with the umpire to stop the game in order to protest a rule interpretation. More general protests must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the game, and before the umpires leave the field. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee is returned to the team who filed the protest.

GATE FEES

At selected parks, we will charge a \$75 team gate fee, and at others we will collect individual gate fees. This will be communicated prior to each event. When we collect an individual gate fee, all spectators entering our park facilities will be charged each day.

Adults \$7.00 per person

Seniors/Teenagers \$5.00 per person
under 12yrs FREE.

FIELD DIMENSIONS

7u and 8u – 40' Pitching Mound; 60' Base Length

9u and 10u – 46' Pitching Mound; 65' Base Length

11u and 12u – 50' Pitching Mound; 70' Base Length

13u – 54' Pitching Mound; 80' Base Length

15u and Older – 60'6" Pitching Mound; 90' Base Length

TIME LIMIT PER AGE GROUP (ALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES WILL HAVE 15 MINUTES ADDED)

If a championship game begins after 7pm on a school night, the time limit will not be extended. ONLY the tournament director can alter this guideline. All game time/time limit information must be discussed at the home plate meeting.

7u and 8u - 1 hour 30 minutes, or 6 innings (Championship: 1 hour 45 minutes)

9u and 10u – 1 hour 30 minutes, or 6 innings (Championship: 1 hour 45 minutes)

11u and 12u - 1 hour 40 minutes, or 6 innings (Championship: 1 hour 55 minutes)

13u and above - 1 hour 40 minutes, or 7 innings (Championship: 1 hour 55 minutes)

When a 3rd out is made to end an inning, if there is any time left on the official clock, a new inning will start. For example, a new inning will be started if there are just seconds left in the game. There is NO rule at Southern Sports that prohibits a new inning from beginning when there is any amount of time remaining on the official clock.

RUN RULES FOR ALL AGE GROUP

After 2nd Inning = 20 runs

After 3rd Inning = 15 runs

After 4th Inning = 10 runs

After 5th, 6th, or 7th Inning = 8 runs

PRE-GAME WARM-UP

All teams are encouraged to warm-up as much as possible before game time. No pre-game infield. Players cannot warm-up in the fair territory area of the infield.

LINE-UP OPTIONS

Teams have 5-choices for your lineup: (1) Bat a traditional 9 player line-up, (2) Bat 9 with a DH, (3) Bat 10/Play 9 with an EH, (4) Play 10 or 11 with an EH and a DH or (5) Bat the entire roster (Continuous batting order allows for FREE Defensive Substitutions). Such line-up must be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game. If a team uses a line-up that contains substitute players, all starting players may be removed and re-enter the game once, but must re-enter in their original position in the batting order. Non-starters are not allowed to re-enter. When a starter re-enters, the player in the starter's batting position in the batting order must be removed from the game and is ineligible for the remainder of the game. If a team uses a line-up that contains ten (10) players, the player in the Extra Hitter position has free defensive substitution. If a team uses a continuous line-up, all players other than the nine (9) defensive position players are Extra Hitters and may move freely in defensive positions with the exception of the pitching position. When using the continuous lineup and a player has to leave the game for any reason, that position in the line-up becomes an out when that at bat comes around. A starting pitcher can re-enter the game as a pitcher later in the game. No other pitchers can be pulled from the pitching position and re-enter the game as a pitcher later in the game.

IF A TEAM DOES NOT FOLLOW THIS RULE, IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OPPOSING HEAD COACH TO STOP PLAY. AT THAT TIME, THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION, AND MAKE THE FINAL DECISION ON CONTINUING PLAY.

GAME BASEBALLS

Teams must provide all game balls. Two new balls are required to begin each game. The baseballs are not required to be a specific brand but must be comparable to Diamond DOL-1 baseballs.

GAME TIME/START TIME

There is no "grace period" for teams. If a team is not present at game time, it will result in a forfeit. **Game time starts at the completion of the home plate meeting, and the game time will be announced at the conclusion of that meeting.** No changes in games time limits will be allowed....ALL game time limits will follow what is stated in these rules unless altered ONLY by the tournament director. The umpire crew is the only "official" timed clock. To begin a new inning, there must be time left on the "official clock" when the third out of the previous inning occurs.

HOME TEAM

Determined by coin flip in pool play. In bracket play the better seeded team will be given choice of home/visitor. Home team is required to keep the official book. The visiting team is required to have an adult manage the field score board (when applicable)

THIRD - FIRST "PICK-OFF"

The traditional third-first pick-off play is allowed in Southern Sports events. Once the pitcher disengages with the rubber he is identified as a fielder.

HEAD FIRST SLIDE

12u and younger: In age groups 12u and younger, base runners whose helmet includes a face mask or C-Flap, head first slides are not allowed. If a base runner slides head first when advancing to any base, and their helmet includes a face mask or C-Flap....1st offense is a team warning, and thereafter, the baserunner will be called out.

13u and above: Head first slides are allowed

SLASH BUNT

A slash bunt is when a batter shows intent to bunt, and then pulls the bat back, and takes a full swing.

- 12u and below – SLASH BUNT IS NOT ALLOWED

Penalty: Batter is called out if attempted...does not have to make contact.

- 13u and above – SLASH BUNT IS ALLOWED

BAT RULE (USABats stamped bats are allowed)

7u–12u: There is no restriction on weight or length as long as the bat has been marked with “BPF 1.15” stamp. “USABat” stamped bats are also allowed. Wood bats are allowed.

13u: must swing either a -5 stamped 1.15 BPF, -3 BBCOR or wood.

14u and Older: All bats must be -3 BBCOR or wood.

Effective January 1, 2021, the following bats may not be used in Southern Sports events:

-2015 Demarini CF7 (-5)

-2015 Easton XL1 (-5)

-2016 Demarini CF8 (-5), (-8), & (-10)

-2017 Demarini CF Zen Balanced (-8)**

-2017 Demarini CF Zen SL 2 3/4" (-10)**

-2017 Demarini CF Zen Zero Dark 2 3/4" (-10)**

-2017 Demarini CF Zen (-5)

-Louisville Slugger Blue Meta Composite (33/30 model only)

-2018 Dirty South Kamo BB KA 8 (30/22, 31/21, 32/22, 31/23, 32/24 only)

-(Easton) Ghost X (30/20 only - USA Baseball Marked)

****Re-tooled models of these bats may be used in Southern Sports events. Once returned from the manufacturer, these bats will have updated model numbers and new orange end cap and stickers indicating the corrected performance standards.****

COURTESY RUNNERS

If using substitutes: As per NFHS rules, a courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher. The courtesy runner must be a substitute player that has not been in the game. A courtesy runner may run for either the pitcher or catcher, but not both in the same inning. Two courtesy runners (one for pitcher, one for catcher) may be used if the team has eligible substitutes for both roles. If there are no substitutes available, THE TEAM MAY USE THE LAST BATTED OUT AS THE COURTESY RUNNER. THE SAME RUNNER CAN NOT RUN FOR BOTH THE PITCHER AND CATCHER WITHIN THE SAME INNING.

If batting the entire lineup: The last batted out can be used as a courtesy runner for the entire game for the pitcher and catcher. The same runner can not run for both the pitcher and catcher within the same inning. If there is no batted out recorded, the last player to bat that is not actively on base, can then be used as a courtesy runner. If no such player exists, the last person in the lineup can be used.

PITCHING LIMITS

For Sunday Only Events:

8uKP thru 12u = 6 innings per player

13u and above = 7 innings per player

Although there are many resources and opinions on arm care in youth sports, we would like to offer you information with "Pitch Smart" as you plan for the weekend. The following link is one resource for you <https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines>

PITCHING

- 1) Players should always have molded cleats, or turfs, with them in case they are asked to pitch on a temporary mound. NO METAL CLEATS ALLOWED ON TEMPORARY MOUNDS.
- 2) The starting pitcher is the ONLY pitcher allowed to be re-inserted as the pitcher, if he has not been removed from the line-up.
- 3) At the beginning of each inning, warm-up pitches are not to exceed 8 (for new pitcher) and 5 (for returning pitcher)

METAL SPIKES

Allowed in 13u and above divisions ONLY. NO METAL SPIKES ON TEMPORARY MOUNDS.

VISITS TO THE MOUND

As per NFHS rules, each team is allowed three charged visits to the mound within a game. A charged visit is a trip in which the manager or coach does not remove the pitcher. After the three charged visits are used, every trip to the mound will result in the pitcher being removed. A visit is not "charged" when the manager removes the pitcher from the mound. Remember, charged visits are cumulative for the entire game (visits are not tracked "per pitcher"). No restrictions on visits per inning.

TIED POOL PLAY GAMES

There are no extra innings in pool play games. A pool play game that ends in a tie, after the completion of all innings, will be recorded as a tie.

CANCELED GAMES DURING POOL PLAY

Any pool play game that is canceled, will be recorded in the scoring system as a tie score of 3-3 for the sole purpose of continuing the bracket/seeding process for the event.

CRITERIA FOR SEEDING IN BRACKET PLAY (process does not re-start at any point)

- 1) Won – Loss record
- 2) Head to Head (*utilized ONLY if two teams are tied. If more than two teams are involved in this tie-breaker, this step will NOT be considered*)
- 3) Runs Allowed
- 4) Run Differential (max = -7/+7)
- 5) Runs Scored
- 6) Coin Toss

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME FORMAT

All Championship games will have 15 minutes added to the age group's normal time limit. Run rules are still in effect. No coin toss...Highest seed will be given the choice of home/visitor. In the event of a tie at the end of an official game, the last "batted out" will be placed on second base with no outs and the game will continue until a winner is declared at the conclusion of innings played. **FOR CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES THAT BEGIN AFTER 7:00PM ON A SCHOOL NIGHT, WILL NOT HAVE TIME ADDED TO THE NORMAL TIME LIMIT.**

ENDING A GAME – IS CALLED PRIOR TO THE NATURAL ENDING OF THE GAME

Should an official game end due to circumstances such as lights/darkness issues, the final result will correspond to the score at the end of the last completed inning.

The exception is if the home team is losing after the last completed inning and scores enough runs to equal or exceed the opponent's score in the bottom half of the incomplete inning, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called.

COMBINING AGE/CLASSIFICATION GROUPS

Southern Sports Promotions reserves the right to combine age/classification brackets. (Example: 9U with 10U or AAA with Major) This decision will be based on the number of teams that enter into each age group division.

ADVERSE WEATHER

Southern Sports Tournaments will be played in adverse weather conditions. The format may be changed to lessen time limits or reduce innings to complete the tournament. Coaches and teams accept these conditions when entering the tournament.

OFFICIAL GAME

In the event of natural occurrences to include weather, field conditions, or any other situation that causes a game to be STOPPED and it cannot be physically or reasonably continued, the game will be considered an official game if the teams have played 3 1/2 innings with the Home Team winning or 4 complete innings if the Home Team was losing after 3 1/2 innings. If stoppage is required after the 4th inning, the winner will be determined based on the last inning both teams completed an equal number of times at bat. For instance, if the Visitors are batting in the top of the 5th and they score 3 runs to go up 5 to 4, if the game is STOPPED, the Home Team will be declared the winner because at the bottom of the 4th, they were winning, 4 - 2. This is based on a STOPPED game that cannot be completed for various reasons to include time constraints, not a POSTPONED or DELAYED game that can be continued. If stoppage is required before a game can be considered "official", and the game cannot be continued:

During pool play, the team winning after the last completed inning (that was played) will be considered the winner, **regardless of the inning**. During bracket play, the winning team will be the highest seeded team in this scenario. Only Tournament and/or Site Directors can STOP a game and consider it an official game.

FINAL STANDINGS IN EVENTS THAT ARE NOT FINISHED

If an event is canceled while in progress, final standings will be determined in the following way....

1) For there to be final standings, all teams in a specific division MUST finish all pool play games. The final standings will be based on the criteria section for seeding to bracket play

REFUND POLICY

If the event is completely canceled due to rain/other, teams will receive a full credit towards a new registration within the same season (i.e fall or spring)

1 Game Started = 50% refund

2 Games Started = 0% refund

if any refund is given, a \$75 administrative fee will be deducted from total fee.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you communicate 15 days before the tournament start date, a full refund will be given. If you communicate 10 to 14 days before, 50% of your fee will be returned. If you communicate 9 or fewer days before, no refund will be given. Online payment service charges are non-refundable.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

Posted on our website AND phone app by 11:59pm Wednesday night

CODE OF CONDUCT

Southern Sports Promotions, and all facilities we participate at during our events, have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy on behavior by players, parents, and coaches. This includes, but is not limited to,

- Alcohol is never allowed at a Southern Sports event.
- possession of alcohol on park property
- use of foul language
- **any type harassment towards players, parents, coaches, umpires, tournament officials, park staff or others**
- interference with games

Any individual who conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner is subject to removal from the tournament, and from the park property, without further explanation. All head coaches are responsible for the behavior of their team. If it is deemed necessary, the head coach can be ejected from the game due to behavior of his/her players, parents, coaches, or team spectators. In extreme situations, teams can also forfeit games due to the behavior of their coaches, players, parents or team spectators.

PLAYER AND COACH EJECTIONS

Any player or coach ejected from a game, will not be allowed to participate in the next game. Tournament Director will make all final decisions on suspensions.