

Ballparks National Baseball Rules 2021

BPN adheres to the MLB rulebook with the following exceptions (and discounting the current commissioner's recent changes).

In pool play the home team is determined by coin flip prior to each pool game at the home plate umpire ground rules meeting. Umpires conduct the coin flip process.

During bracket play, the higher seeded team will be the home team in all games.

Pitchers must be removed after second coaches mound visit in the same inning to the same pitcher.

Game balls are issued to umpires prior to game play. Teams should be prepared to present additional balls when needed and aid in recovering foul balls and home run balls.

Scores should be reported to the umpires after every half inning. The scorecard kept by the umpires is official and will be signed by the head coaches at the conclusion of the game. Once signed the scorecard is official. If a coach declines to sign or leaves the field without signing, that scorecard will be official.

The Home team maintains the official scorebook. Any score discrepancy must be settled before the scorecards are signed.

LINEUP OPTIONS

1. You may bat the roster and have free defensive substitutions.
2. You may bat 9 with or without substitutions.
3. You may bat 10 with free defensive substitutions and with or without batting lineup substitutions.

Starting players in options 2 and 3 may re-enter one time in their original batting position. Substitutes removed from a game are ineligible to return. All substitutions must be reported to the home plate umpire and both scorekeepers.

If a player cannot make his turn at bat due to injury or sickness and there is no substitution available, that at bat is recorded as an out. This rule may be waived if agreed upon by both coaches and the umpires.

A team may play with seven players but the 8 and 9 spots in the order must be recorded as outs.

You may use a courtesy runner at any time for the pitcher and catcher. The courtesy runner must be the last batted out or a sub if available. A given courtesy runner can only run once per inning. If playing with 8 players the 9 spot will be recorded as an out.

POOL PLAY PROCEDURES

Pool play can be on a time limit as determined by BPN. On traditional time limit games, the inning in which time expires may continue to its conclusion if necessary.

Pool play with Hard Time limits end at the end of the allotted time and the score stands as is. If tied the tie goes into the pool play as a tie.

If elimination games are ties after time expires, each team will start their half inning with a runner at second base (last batted out of the previous inning) and the game will play until a winner is declared.

For seeding purposes standings tie breakers are as follows:

1. Head-to-head play
2. Total runs allowed. If there are an uneven number of games played by teams in a given pool, average defensive runs allowed will be used.
3. Run differential.
4. Average runs allowed (per inning played)
5. Runs scored. Or average runs scored if needed.
6. Coin flip

Forfeits are recorded as 6-0. A team that forfeits is ineligible for bracket play.

The field umpire and/or the Umpire in Chief (UIC) may declare a forfeit for reasons including but not limited to: failure to appear/on time, refusal to play, intentionally delaying game, leaving the field when required on a timely basis and violating game/facility policy.

All coaches, managers, players, umpires and fans are to conduct themselves with proper sportsmanship at all times. Failure to do so may result in ejection and/or removal from BPN. Umpires are not required to give a warning prior to an ejection. This includes but is not limited to: fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, obscene language, threatening behavior, throwing equipment, a coach or fan appearing to be under the influence of any substance that puts someone at risk or any other hostile act.

Coaches are ultimately responsible for the behavior of their players, staff and fans.

BPN facility rules must be followed. Failure to do so may result in ejection and/or forfeiture of game(s).

9u RULES

Dropped third strike rule does not apply.

No stealing of or advancing to home on a passed ball or wild pitch.

A runner at third base MAY advance to home if a play is attempted at any base.

Five (5) runs maximum per half inning. Unlimited in the 6th (final) inning

One balk warning per pitcher before a balk is called.

MERCY RUN RULES

20 after 1 inning

15 after 2 innings

12 after 3 innings

10 after 4 innings

8 after 5 innings

FOR WEATHER RULES REFERENCE BPN COACHES PACKET

LINE-UP CARDS

Each team will provide a lineup card with player first and last names and number.

BAT RESTRICTIONS

All bats must be stamped USSSA 1.15BPF or USA stamped or BBCOR or wood bat.

GAME AND ROSTER PROTESTS

Protests shall follow MLB procedures on the field and stop play to file protest.

No protests of judgement calls

Only protests of incorrect rules interpretations or illegal players or equipment will be considered.

\$50 cash protest fee must be presented at the time of protest, only refunded if protest is upheld.

ROSTER RULES

All teams must have a current roster with parent signatures and birth certificates with them at all times during BPN events.

Guest players and roster changes are allowed up until the first game of a given event.

Ineligible players will result in a game forfeit.

RULES OF CONDUCT

In addition to BPN park rules team head coaches are responsible for the behavior of all assistant coaches, players, and fans. Violators of behavioral misconduct are subject to game ejection. The violator(s) must leave the playing/viewing area. Failure to comply may result in game forfeiture.

MOUND/BASE DISTANCES

9u 46/65

10u 46/65

11u 50/70

12u 50/70

13u 55/80

BAT RESTRICTIONS

All ages: Bats must be stamped USSSA 1.15 BPF

Or USA

Or BBCOR

Or wood

BPN does not enforce a "must slide" rule however, any slide, non slide or any activity that in the umpires judgement, interferes with a play the runner(s) shall be called out and may be ejected from the game.

A catcher may not block the plate without the ball and should provide a lane to the plate when in possession of the ball. BPN recommends that the catcher establish a position on either side of the foul line to assure a lane is present.