

Middle Point Ballpark Festival 8U Tournament Rules

1. Games are six innings in length. There is a 10-run rule in effect any time after four innings of play. **For round robin games only** – No new innings may start after 1:45 from official game time. Tournament games will be played with no time limit.
2. Each half inning will consist of ten batters or three outs, whichever comes first. Any time you have less than ten batters, the open spot(s) will constitute an out. Ten players are to be on the field with four outfielders playing normal outfield positions (they cannot play as an extra infielder). Teams may finish with nine players due to injury but the empty batting spot will constitute an out. The last inning of play will be unlimited batters.
3. All players in attendance must be in your batting line-up. Official rosters must be turned in prior to your first game with a maximum of 15 players.
4. All players must play defensively in two innings in a five or six inning game or one inning in a four inning game. Players cannot turn 9 years old before March 1st of the current year. 2 player exceptions as of Feb 1st of the current year. **Coaches – you are advised to have copies of birth certificates available in case of question.** Any player not having proof available if a question arises may be subject to suspension for the remainder of the tournament. If birth certificates are requested by one team, their team is subject to providing all certificates for their players in return (keep that in mind).
5. The center of the 10 foot radius pitchers circle will be 40 feet from home plate. You may pitch from anywhere inside the pitchers circle (one foot must be in the circle). The pitchers helper must have one foot inside the circle at the time of the pitch. Bases will be set at 60 feet.
6. Play is stopped when the ball is either in the possession of the player pitcher in the pitcher's circle or in the possession of any defensive infield player with the lead base runner no longer making progress to the next base. When play is stopped, the runner who is more than halfway to the next base may advance to that base at their own risk. Any runner not halfway will return to the previous base if not called out on the play. On a batted ball to the pitcher, the pitcher may hold the baseball, but runners will be allowed to advance one base if a play is not made on a base runner.
7. Batters will receive no more than six pitches. If a foul is hit on the sixth pitch, batter will continue to bat until a hit or the next pitch that is not a foul ball.
8. If a batter throws their bat, a team warning will be issued on the first offense. Any offenses thereafter result in automatic, dead-ball outs.
9. When the ball is put into play, the adult pitcher must leave the field of play in a direction that least interferes with the play. If the adult pitcher causes interference on the play the batter and/or any runners may be called out at the discretion of the umpire. If the adult pitcher is contacted by a hit ball from the batter, it is a dead ball. The batter is not charged with a pitch and resumes the at-bat. Adult pitchers may not coheres the opposing team to throwing him/her the ball to intentionally not catch the ball. Umpires will look to call time as much as possible to also avoid these attempts of poor sportsmanship.
10. If there is two strikes and the batter foul tips a ball into the glove of the catcher, and the catcher retains control of the ball, the batter is out. The ball does not need to be over the head of the batter. **Catchers are to wear the normal catcher's equipment.**
11. If an overthrown ball goes into foul territory, runners may advance at their own risk. If the ball goes out of play the runners will advance one base.
12. No leading off or stealing.
13. During pool play, the home team will be determined by a coin flip. During tournament play, the higher seed will be awarded home team.
14. 2-1/4" diameter bats allowed for both Non-USA and USA Stamped Bats. 2-5/8" bats allowed but ONLY with USA Stamp. No wooden bats allowed.
15. There will be no infield fly rule.
16. No infield on diamond prior to games. Ground balls may be taken in foul territory or fly balls in outfield.
17. The Avoid Contact Rule applies. Runners do not have to slide, but they must avoid contact. Any aggressive contact may result in a player being called out and possibly being ejected. This rule is at the umpire's discretion. If there is going to be a play made, the coach should instruct their players to slide.
18. If eligible, players from the same town/district may play up or down respectively on rosters in a different age tournament
19. Tournament seeding will be determined by overall record. In case of ties we will determine the higher seed by: (1) Head to Head (2) Runs Allowed. (3) Runs Scored. (4) Coin Flip.
20. 1 Ball will be supplied by each team at the beginning of each pool play game. During tournament play, we will supply game balls.
21. No protests of calls are allowed. All umpires decisions are final.
22. Please respect the umpires! Most of them are volunteers. Any disrespect towards them will not be tolerated.