



2022 “Wood Bat Classic Baseball Tournament” Rules

General Rules

- All 12U and 11U games are played on 50/70 fields. 10U and 9u tournaments are played on 46/60 fields.
- Any game that may need to be suspended for weather will be continued from the point of stoppage. An official game is considered 4 innings, (3 ½ innings if home team is ahead.)
- Rainouts will be re-scheduled as time permits. If inclement weather requires it, the time limit per game may be reduced to 1 ½ hours and/or the tournament format may be modified. If rainouts cannot be re-scheduled, Rainout Refunds will be provided as follows for pool play games:
 - Complete Rain out - 75% refund of fees paid
 - One game played - 50% refund of fees paid
 - Two games played - No refund

Team/Roster

- Player eligibility
 - 12u Players that turn 13 before May 1st of this year are not eligible for 12u tournament
 - 11u Players that turn 12 before May 1st of this year are not eligible for 11u tournament
 - 10u Players that turn 11 before May 1st of this year are not eligible for 10u tournament
 - 9u Players that turn 10 before May 1st of this year are not eligible for 9u tournament
- Rosters (maximum of 14 players) along with proof of insurance and birth certificates must be submitted to the Tournament Director prior to your first game. Roster changes are not permitted after the 1st pitch of the 1st game.
- Tournament is limited to teams that are based in a community/recreation baseball program, such as Little League, Cal Ripken, etc. All players on a team shall be from the same intramural program. Private travel teams are not permitted to register. Nor-Gwyn reserves the right to request an eligibility letter from your corresponding community program confirming all rostered players were a part of the same intramural program during the season.
- Only the team manager, 3 assistant coaches and scorekeeper will be permitted in the dugout during tournament games.

Tournament Format –

(Subject to change based upon enrollment/cancellations which are out of Nor Gwyn's control)

- It is the intent of Nor-Gwyn Baseball to have a “pool play” format for its Tournaments for all age groups.
- For 5/6-team groups (12u, 11u, 10u, 9u):
There will be two pools of teams, each playing 2 preliminary games. The bottom 2 teams in each pool according to rule #4 below will move on to a consolation game. The top 2 teams in each pool according to rule #4 below will move on to a single elimination tournament; the top seed in pool A will play the second seed in pool B, and the top seed in pool B will play the second seed in pool A. The winners of these games will play for the championship.

For 8-team group:

There will be two pools of teams, each playing 3 preliminary games. The top 2 teams in each pool according to rule #4 below will move on to the championship game.

We reserve the right to change formats based on the number of registered teams.

- Due to last minute team cancellations, weather, or other extenuating circumstances, Nor-Gwyn Baseball reserves the right to change the pool play format to a championship bracket type format (or a combination of the two) if necessary.
- Pool play and wild card tiebreaker rules: (Note: for ties of 3 teams or more, skip to tiebreaker #4 – continue in this fashion until there are two teams remaining then the tiebreakers between the remaining two teams starting with #1 as indicated below).
 - Number of wins
 - Number of wins + ties
 - Head to Head
 - Lowest Total of Runs Allowed
 - Highest total run differential (not greater than 6/game)
 - Coin Flip
- The score of a forfeit will be calculated as follows:
 - The score for a forfeited game shall be based on the forfeiting team giving up one run per inning for a complete game.
 - Additionally, they shall not score any runs for the game. Example: A 6 inning game score will be 6-0.



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Playing Rules

- **Games**

- Home team will be decided by coin toss prior to each pool game
- Home team will be the higher seed during Championship game
- A regular game will be six innings. 10 run mercy rule will be used after 4 completed innings, 8 mercy run rule will be used after 5 completed innings. No new innings may be started after 1 hour 45 minutes of game play, except in case of tie. In the event of a tie, 1 extra inning will be played in order to break the tie. If the game remains tied, the score will stand as a tie. This does not apply to the championship game.
- Any game that may need to be suspended for weather will be continued from the point of stoppage. An official game is considered 4 innings, (3 & 1/2 innings if home team is ahead.)

- **Playing Time**

- Batters do not need to play the field. You may bat only 9 players, 9 players & an EH, or your entire lineup. Players are not permitted to change their position in the batting lineup. Batters may not occupy more than 1 position in the offensive lineup.
- If a player is unable to bat due to injury, if you do not have a substitute (a player that is not in the batting lineup), that at-bat will be an automatic out. (** If the injury is severe enough to warrant medical care, the tournament director may be petitioned to waive this rule.)
- Any of the starting nine players (ten, if the EH is being used) may be removed and re-enter once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the line-up. A starting player can only re-enter while his team is on defense. A substitute player who is removed may not re-enter.
- If you are batting your entire lineup then free substitution in the field is permitted.
- Each team is encouraged to play all their players, but there is no minimum mandatory playing time.

- **Sportsmanship**

- Harassing of opposing players, coaches or umpires will not be tolerated in any form; this rule also includes any fans. Anyone breaking this rule will be asked to leave the complex area immediately, NO EXEMPTIONS.
- At the umpire’s discretion, players and coaches are subject to ejection for throwing equipment, un-sportsmanlike conduct, foul language, malicious contact... etc. Any player that is ejected for “malicious contact” is suspended and cannot participate in their next game. Malicious contact is unnecessary contact with intent (or high likelihood) to cause injury.

- If a coach or player is ejected twice, they are barred from the tournament.
 - Protests shall only be based on incorrect interpretation of rules, not on umpire judgment calls (i.e. safe/out, fair/foul, etc.) and must be formally and properly lodged with the umpire in charge of the game at the time the manager believes a rule was incorrectly interpreted. In the event a proper protest is lodged, the Wood Bat Tournament director will meet at the affected field and decide the protest before the game resumes. Before protesting a call, remember that we're here to promote sportsmanship and be examples to our young men.
- **Awards**
 - Team trophies/medals will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams.
- **Batting**
 - All bats must be wood bats (NO COMPOSITE BATS.)
 - Once a player shows bunt on a pitch, they may not swing away on that pitch. Violators will be called out. No wiggling the bat when attempting a bunt will be tolerated. Violators will be given one warning. A second violation will result in the batter being called out.
 - Dropped Third Strike
 - 9u & 10u: Batters may not attempt to advance to first
 - 11u & 12u: Batters may attempt to advance to first on a dropped third strike if first base is unoccupied or there are 2 outs. Other runners may advance at their own risk.
 - Home run balls must be returned to the umpire for handling/presentation.
- **Pitching**
 - Pitchers cannot pitch more than 6 innings per game, 6 innings per day and 12 innings in the entire tournament. One pitch constitutes an inning.
 - Once a pitcher is removed from a game, he cannot re-enter the game as a pitcher.
 - Balks will be called after a pitcher has received one warning (per game). The warning will be an immediate dead ball.
 - Coaches are allowed one mound visit per inning, per pitcher. The pitcher will be removed on the second mound visit. If a pitcher is injured, it will not count as a mound visit as long as no game strategy is discussed.
- **Base running**
 - If a play is being made on a runner, the runner must slide OR avoid contact. The umpire may call out any runner who fails to slide and does not avoid contact. Any FLAGRANT contact may result in ejection of the player from the game and/or the tournament. Fielders are NOT permitted to block bases. The decision of the umpire is FINAL.
 - Head first sliding to a base is not permitted. Head first sliding back to a base will be permitted.
 - A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher with 2 outs in an inning. The courtesy runner must be a player not in the game at the time. If no bench player is available, the player who made the last out shall be used.
 - Stealing/Leads
 - 9u & 10u:
 - Runners may not leave the base until the ball is past the batter.
 - Stealing of all bases is permitted.

- When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate (rubber) and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base-runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached the batter. Once the pitcher and catcher have established position, a runner who is not on-base must return to their base. Any runner that taunts while off their base or leaves a base after their position is established has taken an illegal lead. As such, the team will be given one warning. If it occurs a second time, the runner will be called out.
- 11u & 12u:
 - Stealing of all bases is permitted with unlimited leads.

- **Miscellaneous**

- 11u & 12u: Infield fly rule shall be in effect
- Each player must wear a protective helmet whenever batting or running the base paths.
- NO infield practice is permitted before games.
- NO swinging of bats outside of fields, on-deck circles, or batting cages. No soft toss against fences. THIS WILL BE STRONGLY ENFORCED.
- All players while not on the field must be in the dugout, unless warming up.
- Within the dugouts, only the on-deck batter is allowed in the on-deck area, all other players must be in the dugout area. No bats are permitted in the dugout area.
- NO METAL SPIKES
- Rules that are not covered in the tournament rules will be governed by the Official Ripken Baseball Rules book.