

Living Word Lutheran High School Youth Tournament Game Rules

Age Divisions & Eligibility

Baseball - The rules contained herein will apply to all divisions. Rules specific to a given age level will be noted as such. The cut-off date for eligibility is August 31. No player will be older than their respective age division prior to August 31 of the current year. Contact the tournament director for exceptions.

Softball - The rules contained herein will apply to all divisions. Rules specific to a given age level will be noted as such. The cut-off date for eligibility is September 1. No player will be older than their respective age division prior to September 1 of the current year. Contact the tournament director for exceptions.

Rosters

Team rosters will consist of a maximum of 15 players. Each player may only be on one team roster. No player will be allowed to play unless he is listed on the official team roster.

Game Play

The tournament will play "National Federation of State High School Rules" with the following clarifications and exceptions:

Base Path & Pitching Distances & Dropped 3rd Strike

Bases and pitching rubbers will be placed at the following distances:

	Base Length	Pitching Distance
U10	65ft	46ft
U11	70ft	50ft
U12 SB	60ft	40ft
U13	90ft	60ft 6in
U14	90ft	60ft 6in

Dropped 3rd Strike is in play

Game Length

u10-u12	6 innings	1 hour 40 minutes
u13-u14	7 innings	1 hour 40 minutes

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The time limit will begin with the first practice pitch of the game.

A new inning will not start after the time limit has elapsed. If the 1 hour and 40 minute time limit elapses during an inning, the game will be played until the conclusion of that full inning, regardless of time.

Tie Breaker

If a game is tied after the regulation innings, we will use the California tiebreaker method. Each ½ inning will start with the last player at bat in the previous inning on 2nd base. Each batter will start with a 1 ball-1 strike count, and play resumes normally. Play continues until there is a winner.

Mercy Rule

If a team is behind by 15 or more runs at any time after:

- 3 innings for U10-U12
- 4 innings U13-14

If a team is behind by 10 or more runs at any time after:

- 4 innings for U10-U12
- 5 innings U13-14

The game will be declared ended.

Courtesy Runner

A courtesy runner may be used at any time for the pitcher or the catcher. They must be the pitcher or catcher of record. The same player may not be used for both in the same inning. The runner must be a player not in the game and may not be used as a substitute for any other player in that same ¹/₂ inning. If no eligible player is available to courtesy run for the catcher when there are 2 outs, the player who made the last out may run for the catcher.

Softball Courtesy Runner

Courtesy runners shall be allowed for the pitcher and catcher only. The courtesy runner shall be the last out. If an offensive player is injured, a courtesy runner may be used, however, the injured player may not return during that game.

Baseball Leading Off

Leading off is permitted during baseball games.

Softball Leading Off

Leaving from a base is not permitted until a ball has left the pitcher's hand.

Infield Fly

The infield fly rule is in play.

Players

There may be no more than 9 players in the field at one time. The Tournament will allow the game to start and be played with 8 players. If the game is started with 8 players, the 9th position is an automatic out each time that position comes to bat.

Teams may choose to use a continuous batting order and bat their entire team. If a team uses a continuous batting order, then they may also freely substitute their players on defense without regard to the re-entry rule. If a player leaves the game for illness/injury, there is an automatic out for that player when their spot comes up in the batting order, and each subsequent time, the player will be skipped without penalty. If a player leaves the game for a reason other than illness or injury, there is an automatic out for that player each time their spot comes up in the batting order.

Extra Hitter

The extra hitter (EH) is optional for all age divisions. The tournament does not use the designated hitter (DH) rule. A coach may choose to bat his entire lineup (team), but the other team does not have to. In this case, all players are considered starters. Should a team decide to use an extra hitter, please communicate this decision during the coaches' meeting before the game.

Re-entry

Re-entry of starters in their original batting order position is allowed. It is against the re-entry rule to allow a starter who has left the game to come back into the game in any position in the batting order other than the one he occupied when he started. Re-entry of subs is not allowed.

Pitchers

For the **U10-U12** division, a pitcher may pitch **3 consecutive innings per game**. Once removed as a pitcher, a player may not return as a pitcher. One pitch thrown counts as one inning pitched.

For the **U13-U14** division WIAA pitcher substitution rule applies. Pitchers in the U13-U14 division may pitch for 4 innings per game. One pitch thrown counts as one inning pitched.

For the **U12 softball**, unlimited innings.

*Should a pitcher exceed the above rules, and the team gains a clear advantage from it, they will forfeit the game. Each field will have a scorekeeper to keep track of the above statistics. Umpires will be told to check with the scorekeeper after each inning. It is still up to the coach to pull their pitcher at the correct time.

Balks will be called after one warning. The balk warning is given once per team per game. (No balks in softball)

Slash Bunts

For safety reasons, slash bunts are prohibited. A slash bunt is when the batter shows a bunt, then pulls back and swings away or slaps at the ball. Penalty — Batter is called out, and no runners may advance.

Sliding Rules

There is no mandatory Slide Rule. A legal slide is deemed as head or feet-first.

When there is a potential play at the plate, and the catcher is attempting to catch a thrown ball, the runner must either make a legal slide (head or feet first) or avoid contact. The catcher has the right to be in the base path to field the thrown ball. The runner is responsible for avoiding contact. If the catcher is not attempting to receive a thrown ball and is in the base path, then the catcher has committed obstruction, and the runner is awarded home. The runner has the right to reestablish his base path by running no more than 3 feet to either side of the base path to avoid contact. If the runner does attempt to avoid contact and there is incidental contact, then this is a judgment call by the umpire; if the runner commits malicious contact, the runner is out and may be ejected.

Equipment

Metal spikes are only allowed in the U13-U14 division.

Helmets

Helmets must be worn at all times by any offensive player on the playing field for any reason.

Bats

There are no bat restrictions.

Uniforms

All players on one team must have the same uniform, if possible.

Miscellaneous

In the event of foul weather, the field administrator reserves the right to shorten the tournament. Factors such as field conditions, lightning, team travel, neighborhood restrictions, pending weather reports, or other circumstances unforeseen at the time of this writing may be taken into consideration.

NO REFUNDS. In the event the tournament is shortened due to acts beyond our control, there will be no refunds.

MUSIC. The tournament will provide music between innings and games. We ask you to please refrain from playing walk-up music for batters.

Standings

Standings are determined in this order:

1. Wins/Losses

2. Head-to-Head
3. Runs Allowed
4. Runs Scored
5. Coin Toss