



# RULES & TIE-BREAKERS

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

## TOURNAMENT RULES

- To be eligible, **players may not turn 17 prior to May 1, 2008.**  
*Penalty: If physical evidence is presented or a team admits to using an illegal player (born before May 1, 1991), all games in which the illegal player participated shall be forfeited.*
- The National Federation (NFHS) Baseball Rules will be used.
- The USA Baseball Coaches Code of Ethics will be used.
- Games shall be seven (7) innings in length. If a team is losing by 10 or more runs after having batted in at least five innings, the game is ended at that point.
- In the Championship rounds of the semifinals and finals, every effort within reason will be made to complete games to a full seven (7) innings if weather should interfere.
- No team will play in more than two (2) games per day during the event unless due to rescheduling.
- No player may pitch more than a total of 12 innings during any consecutive three-day period. No player may make more than four appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. NOTE: Throwing one pitch constitutes an appearance. Should a double or triple play cause a pitcher to exceed the permitted 12 innings in three consecutive days, that action, in and of itself, shall not be construed as a violation of this rule. *Penalty: Game shall be forfeited if a protest is filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.*
- Any participant (player, coach, fan, etc.) ejected from a game shall have the circumstances of his/her ejection reviewed by a tournament committee consisting of the USA Baseball Director, Site Supervisors and Umpire Director. The committee shall then decide what additional penalty, if any, shall be applied to that person. The additional penalty may include suspension from a subsequent game(s) or suspension from the tournament all together.

## TIE-BREAKER RULES

(For seeding purpose; in order of use)

1. Head-to-Head competition provided all teams have played each other.
2. Fewest runs allowed (overall)
3. Fewest earned runs allowed (overall)
4. Highest team batting average (overall)
5. Coin Flip

## MISSION OF THE TOURNAMENT

1. To provide a substantial number of games for each team within a balanced schedule.
2. To allow a competitive tournament format with opportunities to advance within the tournament.
3. To provide a pleasant and exciting baseball tournament while allowing for social activities within the area.
4. To develop the tournament into an exciting annual event that teams from all across the USA work toward throughout the year.
5. To broaden the foundation of the Olympic athlete-development pipeline by providing insight into the potential players for future USA Baseball National Teams, including the 16U National Team, 18U National Team, National Team (collegiate), Olympic Team (professional), and World Baseball Classic Team (professional).

## TOURNAMENT FORMAT

(Based on 72 Participating Teams)

### Pool Play: (Sat – Tues)

- Each team plays five (5) pool-play games
- 72 teams divided into 18 four-team pools by region (e.g. if 18 teams from Florida register, one will be placed in each pool)
- Each four-team pool plays a round-robin (three games)
- After three games, 72 teams are seeded #1-72 and are placed into 18 four-team pools again by overall seeding (e.g. #1-4, #5-8, etc.)
- Each team plays two others from their pool (two games)

### Championship Round: (Thurs – Sat)

- After five games, 72 teams will be seeded #1-72 and the top 32 will advance to the single-elimination championship round with the other 40 teams playing consolation games
- **Day One: (Thurs)**
  - 32 teams reduced to final eight by day's end (possible two games per team)
  - Consolation Round (one game per team)
- **Day Two: (Fri)**
  - Quarterfinals and Semifinals (Final Four)
  - Consolation Round (one game per team)
- **Day Three: (Sat)**
  - Bronze and Gold Medal Games

## HELMET RULE

In accordance with new rules recently enacted by Major League Baseball, USA Baseball has adopted the following two rules regarding coaches participating in all levels of National Team activity as well as participating in USA Baseball sanctioned events.

1. Coaches must wear a helmet to be on the field. A hard helmet is required; no-flap, single flap, and double flap helmets are permitted, while "skullies" and cap inserts are not permitted.

During USA Baseball sanctioned events, if a coach comes out to his position without a helmet (as if to begin an inning), the umpire should direct the coach to put on a helmet immediately.

If the coach does not immediately move to comply with the umpire's direction, the individual is to be ejected from the game.

2. During USA Baseball sanctioned events, until a batted ball passes a coach, a coach is not permitted to position himself closer to home plate than the coach's box nor closer to fair territory than the coach's box.

The umpire shall instruct a coach who is not in accordance with this rule to position themselves in an acceptable position immediately.

If the coach does not immediately comply with the umpire's direction, the individual is to be ejected from the game.