



**The Hitting Club, LLC Baseball Tournaments
Information & Rules**

Contact Information:

thehittingclub@gmail.com 484-644-1253

Office: 128 E Philadelphia Ave 2nd Floor, Boyertown, PA 19512

www.TheHittingClubLLC.com

Tournament Information & Rules

National High School Federation Baseball Rules will be enforced at tournaments hosted by The Hitting Club LLC, unless otherwise specified below.

Registration

All teams registering for any tournament hosted by The Hitting Club, LLC must submit a completed roster form, payment, waiver and release form, and proof of insurance to enter a tournament. Deposit is required to be considered 'registered' for the tournament. Proof of insurance, official roster form, and waiver and release form must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the date of the tournament.

Check-In

Coaches are required to report at least 30 minutes prior to their first game of the tournament to check in with the tournament director. Coaches should be prepared to address any questions regarding tournament rules or policies.

Insurance

Teams participating in tournaments hosted by The Hitting Club are required to provide proof of insurance that lists The Hitting Club, LLC as additionally insured. This should be emailed or mailed to The Hitting Club a minimum of 10 days prior to the tournament. Teams are required to have proof of insurance with them at all times.

Eligibility

Players must be in compliance with the age requirements outlined below. The cutoff is April 30th for all teams and age groups. Players cannot be double rostered in the same age division and cannot change teams in the same age division during the specified tournament. Teams are responsible for keeping a copy of the birth certificate for each player at all times. If a player is found to be older than the cutoff for the division they are playing in, the team will forfeit the current game as well as any previous games in which said player has played, and the team will be disqualified from the tournament. If no proof can be provided on a player challenge, the player must be removed from the game/tournament until proven eligible. Use the chart below to determine your team's 2024 Age Division utilizing the birth date (month/year) of your oldest player.

2024 Age Eligibility Chart

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Jan	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U	20U
Feb	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U	20U
Mar	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U	20U
April	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U	20U

May	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U
June	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U
July	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U
Aug	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U
Sept	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U
Oct	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U
Nov.	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U
Dec	7U	8U	9U	10U	12U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U

Official Roster

Official rosters must be finalized and submitted by all teams at least 10 days prior to the first game of the tournament. Roster can be an unlimited number of players. Any player on the bench must be on the official roster. Players not found on the official roster will NOT be eligible to play in that tournament. If an ineligible player is found to have played in a game, then it will result in a team forfeit. No player may be added to the roster once the tournament has begun. Coaches/scorekeepers must be listed on the roster/waiver form.

Tournament Director / Field Director

The Tournament Director will be on site at all times. Director is responsible for reviewing team documentation, interpreting tournament rules, making determinations regarding weather, and other decisions regarding the operations of the tournament. All decisions made by the director are final.

- a. There will also be a Field Director who is the official scorekeeper of a particular game, to whom protests and other game-time concerns should be reported to. The Field Director reports to the Tournament Director.

Payment & Refunds

The Hitting Club, LLC requires teams participating for a tournament to pay in full for the tournament prior to the start of the event. A non-refundable deposit of (\$150) is due at time of registration. Fees must be paid in full at least 30 days prior to the start of the tournament.

- a. Requests for refunds of tournament fees must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the start of the event.
- b. There will be no refunds granted for cancellations within 30 days of the start of the tournament.
- c. In the event that the tournament does not meet the minimum team requirement or if The Hitting Club chooses to cancel the tournament due to the number of teams, full refund of the entry fee and deposit will be issued.
- d. WEATHER RELATED REFUND POLICY:

- a. 0 games played: entry fee minus the \$150 non-refundable deposit
- b. 1 game played: 50% of entry fee minus the \$150 non-refundable deposit
- c. 2 games played: no refund

Scheduling

Teams **MUST** be available to play for all scheduled time slots on the dates indicated for each tournament. This typically includes Friday through Sunday (possibly Monday for Holiday events).

Equipment

3 baseballs are provided by The Hitting Club per game. Teams are responsible for gathering foul balls which must be returned to the umpire following each game. Teams are required to use their own equipment (practice balls, helmets, bats, gloves, catcher's gear, first aid, and any other necessary equipment) for warm-ups and game play.

- Bat restrictions: Our tournaments are run as either wood bat OR or -3 BBCOR. Please see your specific tournament description to determine which bats your team is able to use. For wood bat tournaments: We will allow composite, bamboo and Baum bats
- Catcher's mask: all catchers masks must be NOCSAE certified at all ages
- Cleats: Metal cleats are permitted.

Pre-Game / Warm-ups

There are batting cages available for use on a first come first served basis. The use of other fields and facilities on the park property is **not permitted** unless approved by the tournament director. Hitting any type of ball, into nets, fences, etc. is not allowed on any part of any field. Please hit **OUTSIDE** of the fences. Note: there is no pre-game infield/outfield. Warm-ups between innings are limited to 2 minutes.

Time limit

To ensure on-time game play, **ALL** tournament games will have a time limit. Time begins as soon as the plate meeting ends. Innings started prior to the time limit will finish. No new inning can start after the time limit.

All games will have a strict one hour and 50 minute time limit

- a. No new inning may be started after the one hour and 50 minute mark
- b. Time will start immediately following plate meeting
- c. Official game time will be kept by umpires
- d. Home team is determined by a coin flip for each pool play game; if the home team is ahead upon the time limit, the game will be declared final immediately.

- e. Championship game time limit is 2 hours and 15 minutes. No new inning will start after this time limit. If the game is completed and still tied upon reaching the time limit, teams will play extra innings until the 2 hour and 15 minute mark. If the game is still tied upon reaching the time limit, please follow the playoff tiebreaker rule.
- f. Tournament director reserves the right to modify time limits at any time.

Field Dimensions

Field dimensions will be listed on the individual tournament page.

Protests

Any protest must be made at the time of the event in question. Protesting coach must notify the umpire, opposing team manager, and a tournament official (typically the Field Director) of the protest.

- a. Teams are unable to protest a play if game play has already resumed.
- b. If the protest is regarding illegal equipment and the director rules in your favor, said equipment will be removed immediately and play will continue.
- c. Incidents that can be protested: illegal equipment, age eligibility, official roster compliance. **Judgment calls by the umpire can NOT be protested.**
- d. Protests must have convincing evidence / proof of non-compliance.
- e. The tournament director has the final authority to settle all disputes.

Inclement Weather

In the event that weather conditions affect the tournament schedule, every effort will be made to keep to the original schedule. Games canceled due to weather may or may not be made up, depending on the remainder of the tournament schedule. By registering for a tournament with The Hitting Club, you are agreeing to the factors that weather may play in tournament scheduling. Refund policy related to weather is as follows:

- d. 0 games played: entry fee minus the \$150 non-refundable deposit
- e. 1 game played: 50% of entry fee minus the \$150 non-refundable deposit
- f. 2 games played: no refund

Home/Away Teams

In pool play, home and away teams will be determined by a coin flip. In playoff and championship games, the higher seed has their choice of home or away.

Dugouts

Only 3 coaches and 1 scorekeeper (or 4 total coaches) will be permitted in each dugout. No parents, children, batboy/batgirl, or any other individuals will be allowed in dugouts

at any time. Failure to comply with this rule will result in being removed from the dug-out and field of play.

- a. Dugout assignment: the team traveling the furthest distance will occupy the first base dugout. If there is an issue, the umpire or Field Director will assign teams.

Suspension/Ejections

Any player or coach who is ejected from a game will be suspended for the team's following game. The ejected player or coach is not permitted in the dugout for the following game. Upon ejection, the Coach or Player must completely leave the premises. Failure to comply with these policies will result in a team forfeit. Any player, coach, parent, or other spectator that is ejected from a game can be subject to further suspension by the Tournament Director or other Tournament Official. Tournament Officials reserves the right to remove or eject **any** person from the tournament premises for unsportsmanlike actions.

Lineups

Teams may use the following options when choosing a lineup. Head coach is responsible for informing umpires and opposing teams head coach on how they intend to bat their players. Below are the options for choosing lineups:

- a. Team may use nine players in their lineup. No designated hitter (DH).
- b. Team may use nine players in their lineup with the option of batting a DH. DH may bat for anyone in the lineup and is considered a starter for re-entry purposes.
- c. Team may use ten players in their lineup with the 10th batter as an extra hitter (EH). The EH may change position or go from EH to the field at coach's discretion.
- d. Team may choose to bat their entire roster. When utilizing roster batting, if a player is unable to bat in their spot in the lineup, an out will be recorded for their spot in the lineup.

Innings

All tournament games are intended to be 7 innings.

Starting the Game

All games must be started with at least 8 players. The 9th position will be an automatic out until that position is filled. Teams are required to forfeit if they do not have a minimum of 8 players at the start of the game. If the game begins with 9 players and one is ejected or removed due to injury, the team may continue but an out will be recorded in the batters place in the lineup. Lineup cards must be exchanged at the plate

prior to the start of the game. *The Hitting Club reserves the right to begin games early if time allows. Please be prepared to play at least 30 minutes before scheduled start time.*

Forfeits

All forfeits will be scored 7-0

Mercy Rules

- a. 12 runs after 3 innings
- b. 10 runs after 4 innings
- c. 8 runs after 5 innings

Courtesy Runners

Courtesy runners for pitcher and catcher are optional at any time in the game. A courtesy runner can be a player not currently in the lineup, or the last batted out. The same player cannot be used as a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher in the same inning.

Re-Entry

Starters must re-enter at the same place in the batting order. If a substitute is replaced by a starter then that substitute cannot re-enter.

Intentional Walks

Batter can be granted first base at request of the coach.

Balks

There are no warnings on balk calls.

Contact / Sliding Rule

Runners must avoid contact during a close play. If contact is not avoided, runner will be called out. Calls regarding contact are at the discretion of the umpire. If the umpire determines that a runner's attempt to a base or home plate is malicious, the runner may be ejected from the game. Runners **MUST** slide when a play is being made at home plate. If the runner neglects to slide, the runner will be called out and all runners will return to their bases at the time of violation.

Tie Games

All non-playoff games tied after the time limit will end as a tie. There are no extra innings nor extra time in pool play. Playoff games that go into extra innings will follow the tie-breaker rule below:

If teams are tied at the end of the time limit, the game will go into the tie-breaker rule.

- a. Last batted out on second base. No outs, no count on the batter.

If the teams are still tied after the first tiebreaker inning, base runners will be placed as follows:

- a. Last batter from the previous inning on second base
- b. Second to last batter on third base
- c. No outs, no count on the batter.

If the teams are still tied after the second tiebreaker inning, base runners will be placed as follows:

- a. Last batter from the previous inning on first base
- b. Second to last batter on second base
- c. Third to last batter on third base
- d. No outs, no count on the batter.

Pitching / Trips to Mound

While there are no pitch count restrictions, The Hitting Club **strongly** recommends following the Pitch Smart program, developed by Major League Baseball, to determine age appropriate guidelines for pitchers. Below are the recommended pitch limits and recommended days of rest. Responsibility for managing pitch counts lies with the Head Coach. The second trip to the mound with the same pitcher in the same inning results in removal of the pitcher. Once a player is removed from the mound/ they cannot return to the mound in the same game.

Age	Daily Max	0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	–	–
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
15-16	95	1-20	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
17-18	105	1-20	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

Scorekeeping

Both head coaches are expected to submit a lineup to the Field Director prior to the start of the game. Lineup should be complete with first and last names and numbers of all players and substitutes. The Field Director is the official scorekeeper for the game. Both teams are still expected to keep score in their own books.

Seeding

Pool winners will advance to playoffs. Seeding results will be available on The Hitting Club website once pool play games have been completed for your age division. Playoff seeding procedure is as follows:

1. Overall record (winning percentage)
2. If still tied: Total runs allowed in pool play
3. If still tied: Total runs scored in pool play
4. If still tied: Highest single game run differential
5. If still tied: Lowest single game runs allowed
6. If still tied: Highest single game runs scored
7. If still tied: Coin flip

Winning percentage: wins/total games played. A tie is counted as .5 win; two ties do not equal a win; wins are valued more than ties. If multiple teams have 100% winning percentage but a different number of wins, then the team with the most wins will be presumed a better seed than the other team. For example, 2-0 is presumed better than 1-0.

Pool play tie breakers: When a tie breaker is needed, the following criteria are followed from one through nine until a team is eliminated and then the criteria starts over again at one. Rules are repeated until one team remains.

1. Pool play overall record (winning percentage)
2. If two teams are tied- Head to Head winner
3. If three teams are tied- If one team has defeated both other teams, that team advances. If not go to #4.
4. Total runs allowed in pool play.
5. If two teams still tied- head to head, If three teams still tied- Total runs scored in pool play
6. If two teams still tied- head to head, If three teams still tied- Highest single-game run differential
7. If two teams still tied- head to head, If three teams still tied- Lowest single-game runs allowed
8. If two teams still tied- head to head, If three teams still tied- Highest single-game runs scored
9. If still tied- Coin flip

Official / Complete / Suspended Game

In the event of inclement weather, darkness, or field conditions preventing the completion of a game, games with 3 innings (or 2 1/2 if the home team is ahead) will

count as a completed game. If a started game is suspended and not completed, the game must be replayed from its point of interruption, if permitted by time and weather. Note: a Championship game must be played in its entirety.

Awards

The Championship team will be awarded a prize. There are no awards for second place.

First aid

There will be first aid equipment on site for all tournament games.

Game Updates

Game updates will be shared on our website www.thehittingclubllc.com/tournamentupdates. Primary communication is through email (thehittingclub@gmail.com) or call/text 484-644-1253. Schedules for the next day will be posted following your divisions

Alcohol / Tobacco Policy

No alcohol or tobacco products of any kind are permitted at tournaments hosted by The Hitting Club. Many of our tournaments are hosted on school campuses and community parks which do not permit the use of these products on their premises.

Upon concern over an event not covered in the rules, the Tournament Director and other Tournament Officials will put all efforts into making the fairest possible rulings. The Hitting Club, LLC reserves the right to adjust tournament rules and formats when necessary, at any point in a particular tournament to ensure better service for our teams.

Last updated 8/3/2024
