



Coaches,

Updated: 09/23/2025

Be sure you are aware of all rules and rule changes. Team First reserves the right to amend these rules at any time for specific tournament play. National High School Federation Baseball Rules will be enforced with the following exceptions.

If there is a contradiction with language found in any printed copy of this addendum and the version most recently updated online, the online version shall supersede.

** When playing up an age division AA and AAA teams may play in any classification (AA, AAA, Major, Open) Major Teams playing up an age division MUST play at least AAA or Major or Open.

Major teams are NOT eligible to play AA when playing up an age division.

EX: 13 Major may ONLY play 14 AAA, 14 Major, and 14 Open **

1. Youth Bat Specifications:

Penalties for illegal bats will be assessed as per the NFHS rule book. 1st violation - Batter is pronounced out (if discovered before a pitch to next batter) & head coach is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. 2nd violation (Same Game) - Batter is pronounced out (if discovered before a pitch to next batter) and head coach is ejected. Subsequent violations: batter is pronounced out (if discovered before a pitch to next batter) and head coach is ejected. When a batter is pronounced out for violation of bat rules, the defense may take the penalty or result of the play. The head coach penalties apply in either case.

Updated Bat Rules 10.28.2024

Please see updated highlighted bat rules below. Bats must have the USSSA/NTS Stamp BPF 1.15 Certification to be used in Team First and its Affiliate Events. Example of stamp is attached. USABat, BBCOR, and Wood Bats are also Allowed

<p>9-12u</p> <p>Metal/Composite Bat</p> <p>All bats must have a branding label or stamp providing USSSA BPF 1.15 Certification</p> <p>USABat, BBCOR and Wood also allowed</p>	<p>12u</p> <p>-5 Easton HypeFire is approved for Team First play outside of a 12u event</p>
<p>13u</p> <p>Metal/Composite Bat</p> <p>All bats must have a branding, label or stamp providing USSSA BPF 1.15 Certification, length/weight ratio vary by division</p>	<p>13u</p> <p>13u Major and Open -5 or -3</p> <p>13u AAA/AA -8 or -5</p>
<p>14u-18u</p> <p>Metal/Composite or Wood Bat</p> <p>Please double check your event specific bat restrictions as some events have stricter bat restrictions.</p> <p>Wood bats must be composed of a single piece of wood.</p>	<p>14u-18u</p> <p>14u Open and Major- -3 BBCOR</p> <p>14u AAA/AA- -5 or -3</p>

Safety and integrity of the game are two major factors at Team First events, and with the implementation of the following changes, we are taking the next steps in providing an updated and premier experience on the baseball field. While these bats are currently still certified by their manufacturers, performance of these bats over the extended life span continues to become increasingly unsafe for our participants.

ALTERED BATS

"A bat which has been subjected to change in its physical makeup outside the original manufacturers product"

At any point, a Team First Director or UIC may request to inspect a bat that is at a Team First sanctioned event. If the owner/user refuses to allow the requesting body to inspect the bat the owner/user accepts an automatic three-year suspension from Team First sanctioned events. Alternatively, the owner/user can allow the bat to be inspected so a conclusion can be formed as to whether the bat was altered.

The owner/user of the bat have the responsibility of having knowledge whether a bat is altered.

DAMAGED, WORN, OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE ON BATS:

Bats that are damaged in any way, including but not limited to cracked, warped, missing a knob/cap, having a rattle, etc. are not legal for Team First sanctioned events.

Bats may not have any certifying markings or graphics worn off the bat. Bats that have certifying or identifying markings worn off the bat shall be removed from play.

No substance shall be added to the bat barrel. The barrel of the bat and all identifying marks or graphics shall be free of any foreign obstruction. If a foreign substance is discovered as being used or identifying marks on the bat are not visible the bat shall be removed from play.

2. Youth Pitching Regulations:

Balk Rule

The MLB balk rule will be enforced. When a balk is called it is NOT a dead ball. A called balk will remain a LIVE ball. The balk is not considered an automatic dead ball.

The fake to third and throw to first play remains LEGAL for TF Youth events. Also, in the windup position, a pitcher is permitted to have his "free" foot on the rubber, in front of the rubber, behind the rubber, or off to the side of the rubber.

Daily Limits

- 7U-8U: Daily max is 15 outs **OR** 50 pitches.
- 9U-10U: Daily max is 18 outs **OR** 75 pitches
- 11U-12U: Daily max is 18 outs **OR** 85 pitches.
- 13U-14U: Daily max is 21 outs **OR** 95 pitches.

The pitcher may finish the batter upon reaching the daily pitch count limit. I.E. A 13U pitcher begins the batter at 94 pitches he may finish the current hitter then must be removed from the game.

Event Limits

- 7U-14U: Each Player is allowed 24 outs over a 3-day period.
- If a player records more than 9 outs in a day, they are required 2 days rest.
- 100 Pitch maximum over 2, 3 or 4 day events
- 140 Pitch maximum over 5+ day events
- Players can pitch in more than one game in a day if they do not exceed daily limits.

The pitcher may finish the batter upon reaching the event pitch count limit. I.E. A 13U pitcher begins the batter at 99 pitches he may finish the current hitter then must be removed from the game.

Once a player has been removed from pitching they may not return to the mound in the same game.

No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for three consecutive days, regardless of pitch counts.

No pitcher shall appear in three games in the same day, regardless of pitch counts.

The definition to be utilized for the purpose of the pitching restrictions for end of a day shall be any time of night or day that the facility is closed and teams have a break in playing prior to the next days games.

Pitchers who record outs or pitch in a game that is forfeited will still have those outs/pitches counted toward their limitations.

3. Pitching Violations:

The pitcher must be replaced on the mound immediately upon notice of a violation, not a forfeit.

4. Game Procedure:

Field Dimensions

- 9U-10U: All games will be played on 46x65 fields.
- 11U-12U: All games will be played on 50x70 fields.
- 13U: Games will be played on 54x80 or 60x90 as specified per event
- 14U: All events will be played on 60x90

TEAMS DEPARTING BEFORE THE END OF THE TOURNAMENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IN THE PLAYOFFS!

If this happens, the second-place team out of the pool or the next best team. The Tournament Director will rule in the fairest possible way.

Pool Play:

- Game times may vary by event. Directors reserve the right to adjust game lengths to benefit the event. Directors will rule in the fairest way possible.
- 14u Games are 2 hour 00 minutes
- 11-13u Games are 1 hour 45 minutes
- 9-10u Games are 1 hour 45 minutes; 6-8u games are 70 minutes.
- No inning can start after the time limit.
- Time will be kept by the TF Field Director or Umpire.
- For each team's pool games the home team will be predetermined.

Championship Round/Playoffs:

- No two teams from the same organization will match-up in their first playoff game unless the game is affected by a bye (Applicable to brackets with 9+ teams).
- Championship Games are no Time Limit if time allows.
- The home team in Championship Play will be the higher seed except when there is no seeding. When there is no seeding, the home team will be determined by a coin flip. This is the case even if the schedule says otherwise.
- Director reserves the right to enact pool protection at their discretion. If two teams have previously matched up in pool play, lower seeds may be switched to provide teams with new opponents for the first round of bracket play.

Extra Innings

- Texas Tie Breaker, last 3 hitters on base with 1 out.
- Balk is the MLB ruling (NOT a dead ball)
- The base runners will be placed as follows:
 - Last hitter from previous inning @ 1st Base
 - Hitter before him in the lineup @ 2nd Base
 - Hitter before that in the lineup @ 3rd Base
 - Normal substitution rules apply to these runners.
 - The hitting team will start the inning with one out.Play continues until one team is ahead at the end of an inning.

13U-14U:

Championship games will be played with regular extra innings through the 9th inning. Starting in the 10th inning the last three hitters from the previous inning will load the bases with 1 out.

9U-12U:

Championship games will be played with regular extra innings through the time limit. If time has expired, the last three hitters from previous inning will load the base with 1 out.

Time limits will apply for Semi-final games respective to each age group.

5. Forfeits:

A team should do everything within their power to start the game with 9 eligible players. Should a team not be able to begin with 9 players a game may begin with 8 players with the 9th lineup spot being an automatic out. A game can be finished with 8 players. If there are no eligible subs the player leaving the original lineup will be recorded as an out until he is able to return. Any intentional forfeit could result in the forfeiting team being eliminated from the tournament. The tournament committee will rule on all forfeits. No team should benefit from the result of a forfeit in an unfair manner. This rule could result in a dispute and the tournament committee reserves the right to look at and rule in the fairest possible way. The committee's decision will be final! A forfeit score will be the average runs scored for the winning team to 0 for the losing team. Only the Head Director can call a forfeit.

6. Taking Infield:

No infield will be allowed during the tournaments. Park rules will determine if a team can hit in the outfield.

7. Mercy Rules:

9U-12U

- 15 after 2
- 12 after 3
- 8 after 4

13U-14U

- 15 after 3
- 12 after 4
- 8 after 5

8. Equipment:

Metal cleats cannot be worn for divisions 12U and younger. Metal spikes may be worn in divisions 13U and older.

Any player catching must wear all necessary protective gear including a catcher's helmet with a facemask, throat guard (separately attached or built in), chest protector, chin/leg guards, and an athletic supporter. Note: Players in 12U and younger divisions must wear a catcher's helmet that fully covers both ears.

Electronic Communication Devices: Adoption of NCAA Pitchcom Protocols - The use of exclusively one-way electronic communication devices that transmit pre-recorded message(s) or signals for the purpose of relaying the pitch or play call from the dugout to the field (to the pitcher or other defensive or offensive players) is permitted. The use of an in-ear communication device with direct or live audio remains restricted to the defensive position of catcher.

9. Trips to the mound:

The members of the coaching staff (including the manager) can make one mound visit per pitcher per inning without needing to remove the pitcher from the game. If the same pitcher is visited twice in one inning, the pitcher must be removed from the mound.

10. Lineups:

Hitting Lineup:

- You may bat 9,10,11 players or your roster.
- You must declare at the start of the game, and once the first pitch has been thrown the lineup is locked, and the number of batters may not be changed.
- May start game with 8 players, 9th player spot is an out when he comes up in lineup.
- DH Allowed
- The 10th and 11th hitter if used will be designated as an EH and XH on the lineup card.
- The EH and XH may bat at any spot in the order.
- The EH and XH is the same as any position on the field as far as substitutions are concerned.
- The starting pitcher is allowed to DH for himself and bat in any slot in the order but must be listed a P/DH on the lineup card. Team
- can bat its entire lineup.

Roster Batting Rules

- Injury
 - **Batter:** If a batter cannot fulfill his time at bat due to injury or illness, that player will be eliminated from that entire game. His spot in the batting order will be an automatic out each time.
 - **Runner:** If a runner cannot continue his time on the bases, that player will be substituted under the Courtesy Runner rule for Roster Batting. He will not be allowed to participate in the remainder of the game. His spot will be an automatic out.
- Ejection or Injury
 - A player ejected while roster batting will result in the team losing that player for the entire game. His spot in the batting order WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC OUT EACH TIME.
- Courtesy Runner – Roster Batting
 - The Courtesy Runner shall be the player making the last batted out.

11. In Case of Rain:

All rain out games may not be made up depending on time constraints. In case of scheduling changes, it is the team's responsibility, not the tournament committee, to make sure they are aware of the new schedule or any scheduling changes. This information will be posted on the tournament web site when it becomes available. Note: No special requests will be honored if rescheduling becomes necessary. Tournament format is subject to change at any time if deemed necessary and will be determined based on the fairest outcome for all teams. All coaches should make sure the tournament committee has current contact info. If games are cancelled, pool winners and championship qualification will be determined by the tie breaking procedures (listed below).

Lightening Policy: When lightening is detected within 8 miles of the competition site, the competition shall be suspended. Competition may be resumed when lightening is no longer within the 8 mile range. 30 minutes must elapse between from the time of the last lightening strike. A 10 minute warm-up period will be granted to both teams before play resumes. This is not a 30 minute per lightening occurrence policy.

12. Stop in Play:

If a game is stopped, the game must start within 1 hour of the stop in play. If games are not resumed, they will become suspended or called official. Games called by umpires that cannot be resumed within 1 hour will be considered an official game, if 4 innings have been completed, or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead (13U-14U: after 5 innings or 4 1/2 if the home team is ahead). After 4 complete innings, a tie score will be recorded a tie in pool play. The tournament director can extend the 1 hour if there are extenuating circumstances, i.e. lightning detector, working on fields, etc. A suspended game will resume where the game was halted. In the event play is stopped for any reason before or during the Championship round, first place, second place, third place, etc. will be awarded based on TF Seeding and Tie Breaker Rules.

13. Protests:

Judgment calls are not eligible for protest.

14. Roster and Roster changes:

All players must be listed on the official roster prior to the teams first scheduled game. If a player is listed on more than one roster, the player listed will make a decision as to which roster, he is legally on. This decision is up to the individual player. No player can appear in a tournament game for more than one team, including separate age groups. Once the player has appeared in a game, the player may NOT participate with another team in the same weekend, regardless of age division or classification. This INCLUDES separate TF tournaments

- The team's manager is responsible for all aspects of the eligibility of the players on his team and that they meet the requirements.
- A player who is in violation of the age eligibility shall be considered an illegal player.
- If anytime during a tournament game, a player is discovered illegal due to an age violation or participating on more than one team in ANY TF tournament in the same weekend, the team is subject to forfeit. The first team a player participates for is their official team. *This does not apply to Pitch Smart violations
 - Once an event (Age division that the player participated in) concludes, a player may go play for a different team in a different tournament, as long as the tournaments do not overlap. (Championship game of first tournament must be complete prior to first pitch of second tournament) This player will not be considered an illegal player since the events do not overlap.

Participating players shall have photocopies of their original birth certificates (US) or passports (International) in the possession of their team manager. Electronic copies of ID documents are accepted. Failure to have a copy of a birth certificate, in the event of a protest, could result in suspension for the remainder of the event until such document can be produced for the team or individual. Driver's License is permitted. For events classified by graduation year or grade level, transcripts/report card from a players most recent academic semester shall be in the possession of their team manager.

15. Scoring:

We recommend that all teams (home and visitor) keep a scorebook. The official scorebook and lineup card for the game will be kept by tournament staff, in case of emergency where staff cannot keep book the home team will be the official scorer. In a situation in which tournament staff and the home team are unable to score the visitor would become the official book. All subs should be reported to the umpires. To eliminate scoring disputes scorekeepers should check with the official scorer during and after the game.

• Lineup cards must be fully filled out with players first name, last name, position, and accurate jersey numbers. All substitutes should be listed with accurate jerseys numbers. Failure to produce a complete lineup card can result in games not starting on time. Lineup cards are to be given to the official scorekeeper before the home plate meeting.

16. Sportsmanship:

In the interest of maintaining a quality event, the tournament committee reserves the right to eject any person from the site for unruly or unsportsmanlike behavior. Such behavior shall include but not limited to:

- Physical attack on an umpire, tournament official, associate director, associate officer, and/or any player or fan prior, during, or immediately following a game played under the authority of Team First. Assault on an official is a felony in some states.
- Players, coaches, managers, fans, spectators, or sponsors threatening an umpire, tournament official, associate director, or associate officer with physical harm.
- Any player, coach, manager, sponsor, fan, spectator, director, or officer who engages in physical fighting.
- Using unsportsmanlike conduct or abusive language, symbol tactics, or derogatory or unbecoming acts.
- Destruction of property or abuse or failure to pay.
- Competing under an assumed, false and/or altered name.
- Tournament hosts have the authority to eject a player, fans, or team anytime during a tournament of committing any of the above listed offenses.
- A player, spectator, fan or coach ejection carries removal from that game only.
- Any spectator, coach, manager, or player who is ejected for the second time during the tournament will be eliminated from participating for the remainder of the tournament.
- Any event that results in physical altercation (before, during or after a game) could result in a forfeit for both teams. Tournament committee reserves the right to remove teams from playoff contention.
- Any participant that is ejected by an umpire after a contest is completed must sit the next scheduled game. If it is the last game of the tournament the offender may be required to sit the first game of the next tournament that the team plays in.

17. Courtesy Runners:

Courtesy runners can be used for the Pitcher and Catcher at any time but must be a VALID SUBSTITUTE. In addition, the same substitute CANNOT run for more than one position (Pitcher or Catcher) in the same game. Additionally, if a team is batting their entire lineup, the courtesy runner will be the last batted out. If the last batter not on base is unavailable (i.e., he is the catcher or pitcher), the designated runner will roll back until such time as a possible substitute can be found.

18. Legal Slide:

A legal slide can be either feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground prior to contact with the fielder. If a runner slides head first, the runner's arm/arms and torso must be on the ground prior to contact with the fielder.

19. Jumping Over A Fielder:

A runner leaving his feet to avoid a fielder that is either in possession of the ball or in the act of fielding is illegal. The ball is dead and the runner is called out. No runners may advance from the last base legally occupied at the time of the illegal act. The runner does not have to contact the fielder and the fielder does not have to control the ball for this to be considered an illegal act.

20. Officials:

Team First shall utilize officials who are registered with OSHAA and administer the contest in accordance with Team First rules and expectations.

21. Seeding and Tie Breaker Rules:

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. Least total runs allowed in pool play.
5. If still tied – Total runs scored in pool play
6. Coin Flip

22. No Dropped 3rd Strike for all 9u events.

23. Not covered in the Rules:

In the event any item is not covered in these rules or NFHS rules, the tournament committee will make the fairest possible ruling and that ruling will be final!

Prospect Fields at Crawford Woods Rules

- No Team Batting Practice on the Field, This Includes Outfields
- No Team Infield on Infields, Ground Ball/Fly Balls Allowed in Outfield **Only**
- No Seeds or Gum Allowed in the Dugout
- Players Must Take Their Practice Swings Behind The Fence

Team First tournaments and events will adhere to the following Youth Grad Year and Age Restrictions for the Fall 2025 Spring/Summer 2026

Players born on/after May 1 are eligible. **ONLY TWO** school grade exemptions per team will be allowed for players who are in the Playing Grade who turn {Age Group} years old before May 1st. However, those players must be born on/after January 1 to be eligible.

All Rosters and Insurance must be submitted on Playbook365 before your First Game!