

2023 TVBL Tournament Rules

Overview of Rules

RULE	14U, 13U	12U, 11U	10U, 9U
# Of innings	7	6	6
Time Limit	1hr 45 mins	1hr 40 mins	1hr 30 mins
Mercy	15/3. 10/4. 8/5	15/3. 10/4. 8/5	15/3. 10/4. 8/5
Bat Size	34" 2 ¾ diameter	34" 2 ¾ diameter	34" 2 ¾ diameter
Composite Bats	BPF 1.15 "fingerprint"	BPF 1.15 "fingerprint"	BPF 1.15 "fingerprint"
Pitching/Base	14U 60'/90', 13U 56'/80'	50'/70'	46'/60'
Metal Cleats	Yes	No	No
Advance 3rd strike	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lead offs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pitching Limits	NO	No	No
Rocket Rule	Optional	Mandatory	Mandatory
Infield Fly	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stealing Bases	Yes at own risk	Yes at own risk	Yes at own risk
Balks Called	Yes	1 warning	1 warning

THE WINNING TEAM MUST TEXT THE SCORE TO Jason Prusinski at (616)706-5452. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A FORFIET!

Please include name, BOTH Teams, score and age division.

For your convenience you are not required to check in. **HOWEVER**, TVBL Staff reserves the right to ask for Birth Certificates and Insurance at any time. Teams **MUST** produce **ALL** documents when asked. If missing **ANY** birth certificates or your insurance is not valid TVBL directors reserve the right to refuse any players participation and/or disqualify any team without refund. **PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION** for the fairness and safety of everyone.

- All Tournament information, scores, schedules, seedings, weather, updates throughout the weekend will be posted the website TVBL.org Please refer to the website for ALL information.

GENERAL RULES:

- April 30 is the standard recognized age cutoff date to determine players age. I.E. Your player is 12 years old April 30 then turns 13 on May 1 or later then your player is eligible to play 12U
- MHSAA rules apply unless specified differently
- Lineup – 9U - 12U. All teams will use a continuous batting order (rocket rule, free substitution). All players in uniform, on the roster **MUST** bat in a line-up established prior to the game starting. Late arriving players will be entered into the line-up at the end of the batting order unless the batting team has gone through the order one time, and then the late arriving player may not enter the line-up.
- Lineup 13U – 14U may decide to use a continuous lineup (rocket rule free substitution) OR bat 9 players. A DH (designated Hitter) can be used hitting for a person playing in the field and/or an EH (extra hitter) can be used for a 10th hitter in any part of the hitting lineup.
- Team rosters. All teams must start a game with a minimum of 8 players in the batting order, however each batting spot less than 9 becomes an automatic out when that turn in the order comes up.
- **Players may only play for ONE team in the TVBL tournament for the safety and fairness of everyone. If a player plays for more than one team in the TVBL Tournament the player will be**

ejected from the entire tournament, and teams that participated in rostering the player may forfeit games.

- If a batter bats out of order, the proper batter is called out. Any hit or advance made by the batter or runners due to the hit, walk, error or other reason is nullified. The next batter is the one who follows the proper batter who was called out. Any appeal regarding an out-of-order batter must be made prior to a pitch being delivered to the next proper batter.
- Pitchers once removed cannot return in same game as a pitcher.
- A courtesy runner is allowed for the pitcher and catcher of the current (not previous not next) inning and must be the last batter that made an out or a player not currently in the lineup.
- Infield fly rule IS in effect.

GAME START/LENGTH:

- 13U & 14U Games 7 innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes
- 11U, & 12U Games 6 innings or 1 hour and 40 minutes
- 9U & 10U Games 6 innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Be prepared to start 30 minutes prior to game time. Infield/outfield warm-ups may not be allowed to keep games on schedule. Warm-ups should be done off the field.
- Coin flip determines home team. Home team keeps official book.
- Playoffs/Championship game. Higher seed chooses to be home or away.
- A team may play with a minimum of 8 players without forfeiting. 7 or less players will result in a forfeit. Forfeit time is 5 minutes after scheduled game time and will be recorded as a 7-0 victory.
- Weather: You must be ready to start on time regardless of weather. Unless you were informed of a delay by the Tournament Director, or it's posted on the website then your team must be at the field ready to play at your scheduled time. Failure to do so could end in your team forfeiting.
- **Championship Games have no time limits. Mercy rule is always in effect.**
- **TVBL reserves right to modify this rule in case of inclement weather/darkness.**
- **All Tournament information, scores, schedules, seedings, weather, updates throughout the weekend will be posted the website TVBL.org Please refer to the website for ALL information.**

PLAYER/COACH CONDUCT RULE DISPUTES

- The head coach has the right to ask for a ruling or dispute a call in a professional manner.
Judgment calls are not open to protest.
Any protests for any reason must be put in writing and the team protesting must pay a fee of \$100 per protest. The \$100 fee will NOT be returned regardless of the determined outcome. Any protest not following the above will not be heard and the directors answer is FINAL.
- NO CHATTER is to be directed at opponents.
- NO BARRELING/running over of any defensive player allowed. Offenders will be called out and may be ejected.
- Intentional delay of game by manager, coach, or player shall result in an immediate ejection of the offender.
- Charging/being aggressive with another player or an umpire will result in the offender being ejected.
- ANY ejected player or coach will miss the rest of the game PLUS THE NEXT SCHEDULED GAME.
- No Coach or player shall use any form of tobacco or alcohol on the playing field or in the bench area.

Note: The tournament directors have the right to remove any or disallow the use of noise objects from the stand areas that they believe are a distraction to the game being played.

EQUIPMENT:

NO METAL CLEATS ALLOWED FOR 9U, 10U, 11U or 12U!!

RULE FOR LIONS Fields 1 and 2 Only:

Metal cleats will be allowed on the field of play for 13U and 14U players. No metal spikes may be worn outside the fenced area of Fields 1 and 2 or on any other field. All metal spikes shall be put on in the dugouts and shall be removed before the player steps outside the fence enclosing the field, even during games. A first violation by any member of a team shall result in a warning to the violating team. A second violation at any time during the tournament by any member of that team shall result in the forfeit of an ongoing game, or in the case of a team not currently playing, a retroactive forfeit of the team's previous game. Any player wearing metal spikes on the deck near the concession stand shall be ineligible for the remainder of the tournament, even if no prior warning was given.

Jerseys/Catchers:

- All players must wear shirts with a number or name of player for purpose of identification.
- All male catchers must wear a protective cup. All catchers must use a catcher's mitt when catching.

Bats:

- ALL BATS MUST BE STAMPED WITH THE USSSA 1.15 BPF "FINGERPRINT" MARK, USA BAT, BBCOR, or wood.

PITCHING:

- Pitch counts and innings pitched will not be tracked HOWEVER it is highly recommended that teams follow the standard USA pitching guidelines.
- Coach may visit a pitcher or call a defensive conference once per inning without making changes. Second visit or conference in an inning, pitcher must be removed.
- A pitcher must be removed if they have hit 3 batters in the same inning.
- No chains outside the shirt, long strings hanging from gloves or tinted sunglasses may be worn by the pitcher.
- Non-prescription sunglasses of any kind are not permitted for use by the pitcher.
- No white may be worn, taped or painted from the pitcher's elbow through the hand on the pitching arm.

Tie Games:

- If the game is tied at the time limit, the game ends in a tie. If time allows, go immediately to the tie breaker rules below (International Rules).

Tie breaker used for games tied at the end of regulation: last person out in the previous inning starts new inning on second base with 1 out and a 1 -1 count with each batter.

- Tie breaker seeding:
 1. Head to Head (if 3 or more teams with same record then head to head is thrown out go to #2)
 2. Run Allowed vs tied teams
 3. Runs Allowed in all games
 4. Run Differential +/- 10
 5. Coin Flip

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND:

In the championship and consolation rounds (Sunday games), the higher seed may choose home or away. If same seeds vs each other the coin flip.

WEATHER/DARKNESS:

- TVBL reserves the right to shorten games due to inclement weather or darkness.
- Any shortened game considered complete if the teams have played at least 3 complete innings (2 ½ innings if the "home" team is ahead).
- In case of rainout, no refunds of any kind and no re-scheduling of any games or the tournament will occur.

THE WINNING TEAM MUST TEXT THE SCORE TO Jason Prusinski (616)706-5452. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT. Please include name, BOTH Teams, score and age division.

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Thank you for participating in the 2023 TVBL Tournament, we are excited to welcome everyone to the 26th annual TVBL Tournament! Have fun, play hard and demonstrate good sportsmanship! Coaches it's imperative you TEXT the scores to 616-706-5452 Immediately following your game as All information, scores, records, seedings, etc will be updated throughout the weekend at TVBL.org Saturday Night seedings: Will be posted on the website ASAP please know we want to get these posted as much as you want to see them. Please DO NOT CALL OR TEXT asking when it will be done it will only slow us down. I can ASSURE you it is our top priority, but this cannot be done without everyone's cooperation throughout the weekend. Thank you!

Best of luck to all teams!

Jason Prusinski
2023 TVBL Tournament Director