

## Official Aspiring Athletes Tournament Rules

1. Game length will be 7 innings. The mercy rules are as follows: 15-after 3 innings, 10-after 4 innings, and 8-after five innings. No new inning may start after the 1 hour 50 minute time limit has expired, unless a tie game exists. The time limit will be waived for the semi-final or championship games.
2. In the event of a tie, each subsequent inning will continue where it left off in the batting order, however, the inning will begin with the bases loaded and two outs. The runners on base will be determined by their position in the batting order. The runner on third base will be the batter in the batting order that precedes the first batter of the extra inning. The runner on second base will be the batter in the batting order that precedes the runner that is on second base.
3. Home team in ALL games will be determined by a coin flip. Official score book to be kept by home team with visiting team-confirming score after each inning.
4. Starting and finishing a game: A team may start a game with 8 players. If the 9th player shows, he must be inserted in the last batting position. A team starting a game with 9 players may finish with 8 provided there are no available players. A team starting a game with 10 players may finish with 9 providing that there are no available players. If a team loses a player due to injury or illness and must play with 8 (9 if started with 10), his spot in the batting order will be skipped. However, if the shortage is caused by an ejection, then that spot in the batting order will be an automatic out.
5. Re-entry rule: A starting player once removed from the game may re-enter the game one time, provided he is placed into his original spot in the batting order. A substitute player, once removed from the game, may not re-enter. NOTE: The pitcher must stay in the game to go back to pitcher and he must be removed from the pitching position on the first trip to the mound that inning. If the pitcher leaves the game for a sub, pinch-hitter, or pinch-runner, he may not pitch again in the game, but may re-enter in a non-pitching position.
6. Optional Additional Hitter (AH) may be used. The AH may bat in any spot in the lineup, but must be in the batting order at the start of the game. The AH may enter the game as a position player. The AH is subject to the "re-entry" rule, as is any other position on the field. YOU MAY NOT USE A "AH" AND "DH" IN THE SAME GAME. ONCE YOU USE A DH AMERICAN LEAGUE RULES APPLY TO YOUR LINE-UP.
7. Malicious Contact: The runner may attempt to avoid the tag. Runner will be called out and ejected from the game if malicious contact is deemed by the umpire.
8. Speed-up Rule: An optional courtesy runner may be used for the catcher with two outs. The runner must not be in the current batting order. If no bench players are available, the player who made the last out will run for the catcher.
9. Balks: One warning per pitcher for ages 10-12. No warnings for 13 and up.
10. Pitching Rule: No restrictions

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11. At the conclusion of each game, there will be one form that each manager must sign and turn into an Aspiring Athletes representative. An umpire will give this form to you.
12. Bat Restrictions: None
13. Spikes: No restrictions
14. American League Rules: The tournament will be played by American League rules, except as stated above.
15. There are no protests. Aspiring Athletes representatives will be available for all games.
16. Rosters: Players must be on the official team roster that will be submitted to Aspiring Athletes. Maximum roster limit is 15 players.
17. Age and Birth Certificates: A player cannot turn the next age prior to May 1st. Birth certificates must be in the possession of the manager at all times. If a manager is not able to produce a Birth Certificate during a game, that player's team will forfeit that game."
18. Field Dimensions:
  - a. 10U 46' mound; 65' bases
  - b. 11U and 12U 50'6" mound; 70' bases
  - c. 13U and 14U 54' mound; 80' bases
19. Behavior: A player, coach or fan may be ejected for foul language, abusive behavior, and malicious contact. The ejection is for the remainder of that game and the following game. A second ejection will result in dismissal of that person from the tournament. If ejected, that person must leave the field area. Failure to comply will result in forfeit of the game. Managers are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their coaches, players and fans. Only the manager should communicate with the umpires during the game.
20. Rain-outs: If a game is stopped due to weather, it will be continued at the point of stoppage, unless the game has gone 4 ½ innings with home team ahead or 5 innings with visiting ahead, at which point the game will be declared complete. Rain-out number is **216-556-2829**
21. Rainout Policy: No games are played- 75% refund; 1 game played- 50% refund; 2 games played- 0 refund.
22. Weather washes out playoffs: In the event that the playoffs are cancelled due to the weather; the rankings going into the playoff round will determine the final standings in that age group.
23. Umpires: Umpires will make the final decision on the field for all judgment calls.
24. Tournament Playoffs washed out: If the tournament playoff round is cancelled due to weather the tournament rankings will be determined by pool play. Ex.: Cleveland Indians have a 3-0 record and ranked the #1 seed going to the playoff round. The Cleveland Indians are losing in the 3rd inning 8-0 and the rains come and

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cancel the playoff round. The Cleveland Indians are declared the winners of the tournament.

Aspiring Athletes reserves the right to make changes to rules during the duration of the tournament.

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