

**UNITED STATES SPECIALTY
SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

2003/2004 Official Baseball National By-Laws

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UNITED STATES SPECIALTY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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USSSA BASEBALL 2003-2004
NATIONAL BY-LAWS

RULE I

Name and Objective

- 1.01** This organization shall be known as USSSA Baseball
- 1.02** The objective of USSSA Baseball is to organize and promote youth and adult baseball to perpetuate the interest and love of the game. To organize and provide an opportunity for teams to compete in tournament and league competition that leads to state, national, and world championships in their respective competitive classes in their age group.

RULE II

Membership

- 2.01 TEAM MEMBERSHIP.** A team registration fee shall be charged to participate in the USSSA Baseball program. Team membership must be paid seasonally, ending July 31st.
- 2.02 UMPIRE MEMBERSHIP.** Each umpire must pay a yearly membership fee. In addition to USSSA membership, each umpire may elect to purchase an optional insurance plan that will cover the umpire during non-USSSA Baseball contests.
- 2.03 LEAGUE PARTICIPATION.** In all USSSA Baseball sanctioned leagues teams will qualify for State Championship and/or Nationals and/or World Series play.
- 2.04 TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION.** In all USSSA Baseball sanctioned tournaments teams will qualify for State Championship and/or Nationals and/or World Series play.
- 2.05 DIVISION OF PLAY.** USSSA Baseball will offer four divisions of play: "Major", "AAA", "AA" and "A". The main criteria for classifying teams shall be the overall defensive and offensive strength and overall experience of the team.

RULE III

Team Eligibility

- 3.01** No team shall be allowed to compete in USSSA Baseball sanctioned leagues or tournaments without paying their team registration fee to the Association.
- 3.02** A team must be composed of not more than twenty eligible players.
A. Coaches or managers must be included in the twenty in order to be eligible to play.
- 3.03** The cut-off date for adding players to a team roster shall be in accordance with rules set forth in these by-laws.
- 3.04** Each State Director will adopt an acceptable method to classify teams. Each State Director has sole authority to classify teams within their respective state. A State Director has the authority to classify and/or re-classify any team during the current season, except when the USSSA Baseball National Committee has assigned a classification to the team.

RULE IV

Individual Player Eligibility

- 4.01** Any player who before August 1 reaches the below listed birthday is not eligible to participate in that division.

Division	Birthday
5 & Under	Sixth
6 & Under	Seventh
7 & Under	Eighth
8 & Under	Ninth
9 & Under	Tenth
10 & Under	Eleventh
11 & Under	Twelfth
12 & Under	Thirteenth
13 & Under	Fourteenth

14 & Under	Fifteenth
15 & Under	Sixteenth
16 & Under	Seventeenth
17 & Under	Eighteenth
18 & Under	Nineteenth
Open	Must be 18 or older
28 and over	Must turn 28 in calendar year
38 and over	Must turn 38 in calendar year

- 4.02** A player is eligible to compete in the USSSA Baseball program as long as he abides by the USSSA Constitution, By-Laws when listed as a member of an eligible team.
- 4.03** A Tournament Director may not manage, coach, participate as a player, or umpire in any tournament in which he serves as a Tournament Director.
- 4.04** When a team qualifies for a State, Nationals or World Series, the team roster will be frozen, whether a team accepts the berth or not.
- A.** The team roster becomes frozen immediately at the qualifying event. Players will be bound to this qualified team up to and including the team's respective State, Nationals or World Series. A player cannot legally be on any other teams roster within the same age group. A team may decline any berth that is passed down. If a team accepts a berth that is passed down, the team roster is frozen. The team manager shall be allowed to add a maximum of three players to the qualified team's roster. Players may be added as late as 72 hours prior to the start of the Nationals or World Series. Such additional players can only be added to rosters that have openings to allow for such add-ons.
 - B.** A team manager may release up to three players from his team's qualified roster. A team manager cannot replace a released player with an add-on.
 - C.** All players added to qualified rosters must meet the following requirements:
 - 1.** Players cannot be on another qualified team's roster in the same age division.
 - 2.** Players who are added to a roster of a qualified team must not have played for a qualified team of higher classification during the current season.
 - 3.** The State Director has authority to approve or reject all roster additions.
- 4.05** A player that is released from a qualified team's roster cannot return to that team during the current season.
- 4.06** A team with a qualified roster with less than nine players, which has used all options for additions and releases, may apply for status of disbandment with the State Director. If approval is given, the team forfeits all berths and sponsor travel monies earned. A disbanded team may not reform.
- 4.07** A player who is in violation of the Association's Constitution and/or By-Laws and regulations shall be considered an illegal player.
- 4.08** Anytime during a tournament game or after, or after the completion of a tournament, if an illegal player is discovered, up to one year from the tournament date, penalties may be applied.
- 4.09** If a player is found to be an illegal player due to an age violation and is discovered during a game or tournament, this will result in the offending team losing the game and/or being ejected from the tournament, being placed last in the standings and forfeiting all awards, sponsors travel money, and tournament berths that would have been awarded at the tournament. Other penalties may apply.
- 4.10** If a player is found to be an illegal player due to an age violation after the completion of a tournament, this will result in the offending team being placed last in the standings and forfeiting all awards, sponsors travel money, and tournament berths that have been awarded at the tournament. Other penalties may apply.
- 4.11** All players participating in USSSA Baseball tournament play shall have photocopies of their original birth certificates or a USSSA sanctioned ID card in the possession of their team manager. Failure to have a copy of the birth certificate available upon demand will result in the offending team losing the game, being ejected from the tournament, being placed last in the standings and

forfeiting all awards, sponsors travel money, and tournament berths that would have been awarded at the tournament.

- 4.12** Any State Director, National Director, Executive Board Member, or Executive Committee Member shall not be eligible to participate in the program as a player, team manager, or team sponsor in tournament play unless approval is given by the next higher level of authority.

RULE V

State and Invitational Tournaments

- 5.01** The State Director or directors appointed by the State director shall conduct all tournaments to assure that USSSA policies/rules are being followed at all times.
- 5.02** No team will be allowed to compete in any tournament unless they are registered with the Association. A team can only participate in a State Championship tournament in one state during a season.
- 5.03** **Major** – A team's roster must be composed of at least 50% state residents from the state in which the State tournament is being held. **AAA** – A team's roster must be composed of at least 50% state residents. Players not residing in the home state must reside in a contiguous state.
- 5.04** Amounts to be charged as entry fees for such tournaments shall be left up to the discretion of the State Director.
- 5.05** The number of trophies and awards to be awarded will be left up to the discretion of the State Director.
- 5.06** Each State Director shall adopt an acceptable system to be used for qualifying teams for State, Nationals and World Series participation. Established league participation may be included if such a system is so desired.
- 5.07** No tournament shall be considered as sanctioned by the Association if all applicable fees and registrations are not paid to the Association within 72 hrs after completion of the tournament.
- 5.08** Only USSSA Baseball licensed baseballs can be used in all sanctioned events.
- 5.09** State tournaments shall be scheduled to provide each team at least two games of participation. This can be changed at the site of the tournament, by the Tournament Director with approval of the State Director, after the starting date of the tournament has begun and it is determined that it would not be feasible to attempt to continue the original plan due to weather conditions or other acts of God. A substitute plan will be decided upon at the tournament site.
- 5.10** No change to a team's roster will be allowed after the team has begun play in its first game during a tournament.
- 5.11** Each State Director with approval of the Vice President of Baseball sets refund policies.

RULE VI

World Series and Nationals

- 6.01** The USSSA Baseball program will use the "Pool-Play" format in its World Series and Nationals. Teams will be placed in pools where they will play a round robin within their pool. A double elimination format will be used in the championship bracket following pool play. A single elimination consolation tournament will be held for the teams, which do not qualify for the championship bracket. The exact format of the tournament; e.g., number of pools, number of teams in each pool, and seeding out of pools will be set by the USSSA Baseball National Committee.
- 6.02** World Series and Nationals play shall be under the jurisdiction of the USSSA Baseball National Committee. The Association's Vice President of Baseball shall appoint a duly qualified person to serve as Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall supervise the event and be responsible for insuring that the tournament is run according to all rules, procedures, and terms of the written contract and to insure that the event is run according to all rules and regulations of the Association. The Tournament Director, in carrying out his or her duties, shall report directly to the Association's the Vice President of Baseball.
- 6.03** All teams receiving berths to World Series or Nationals must play in their home State's State Tournament, provided such a State Tournament is held. Failure to play in the State Tournament, if held, will result in forfeiture of the World Series or Nationals berth. State Director has the authority to waive this rule.

- 6.04** State Directors must approve all entry forms and team rosters of teams entering World Series and Nationals. If a state does not have a State Director, then the Vice President of Baseball can give such approval. A properly completed letter of transmittal form must accompany each entry fee and entry form for World Series or Nationals. State Directors may not issue a letter of transmittal for teams from another state. Rosters approved by State Directors cannot be protested except for age violations or acts of fraud.
- 6.05** When a team has qualified to compete in a World Series or Nationals and for some legitimate reason cannot compete, the State or Area Director may select the next team in line to take their place or may select a substitute plan to award the berth.
- 6.06** A deadline for accepting entries in World Series or Nationals shall be set by the USSSA Baseball National Committee.
- 6.07** It shall be mandatory that the following awards are presented at all World Series.
- A.** Championship team award
 - B.** Second Place team award
 - C.** Third Place team award
 - D.** Fourth Place team award
 - E.** Individual awards to each member and manager of the first, second, third, and fourth place teams.
 - F.** Consolation Championship team award
 - G.** Consolation Second Place team award
 - H.** Individual awards to each member and manager of the consolation first and second place teams
 - I.** Suitable award to outstanding defensive player
 - J.** Suitable award to outstanding offensive player
 - K.** Suitable award to tournament most valuable player
 - L.** Certificate for every participant
 - M.** A minimum of 15 suitable awards will be given to players on the All-Tournament team. All awards, where applicable, must bear the name of USSSA Baseball or the USSSA Baseball logo and must identify the specific event.
 - N.** The USSSA Baseball National Committee must approve all awards.
- 6.08** A team must participate in the highest World Series in which it wins a berth unless the team is re-classified by the State Director.
- 6.09** Any team in a World Series or Nationals that forfeits a pool-play game, by virtue of not having enough players to start a game, shall not be eligible for championship play regardless of record.
- 6.10** Players, coaches, and managers participating in a World Series or Nationals cannot be charged any additional fees to gain admission to said playing site. Coaches and managers in World Series or Nationals are limited to three (3) passes.

RULE VII

Acts of Disbarment

- 7.01** Acts of disbarment include:
- A.** Physical attack on an umpire or other tournament official or Association Officer during a game or immediately following a game, played under the administration of the Association.
 - B.** Player, coaches, manager, or sponsor threatening an umpire, tournament official, Association Director, or Association Officer.
 - C.** Any officer, director, umpire, player, coach, manager, or sponsor fighting, using unsportsmanlike conduct or abusive tactics or derogatory or unbecoming acts that are detrimental and not in the best interests of USSSA Baseball.
 - D.** Destruction of property or the abuse of hotel property or failure to pay hotel or motel bills.
 - E.** Participating in a tournament in which cash prizes are offered. In referring to cash prizes, the following shall define a cash prize: "Cash prize" shall mean prizes in cash or in merchandise that is easily converted into cash that is awarded to players or teams based on the final standings of a tournament or other competition. A player or team may receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred, as long as the amount of the reimbursement is not dependent on the standings of the event. The above acts shall apply to a player and/or team.

- F. Paying or receiving compensation in consideration of participating in baseball competition. The above acts shall apply to a player, team, or sponsor.
 - G. Receiving money directly or indirectly by capitalizing on athletic ability, athletic prominence, or fame in baseball except that a player or team may use his/her name and likeness to advertise, recommend, or promote the sale of baseball sporting goods equipment or other goods and services if it is done pursuant to a registered personal services contract.
 - H. By knowingly competing with or against illegal or suspended players.
 - I. By participating in or permitting a fraud to be perpetuated.
 - J. Any official of the Association who refuses to submit funds to the Association that is due to the Association.
 - K. Competing under an assumed name.
 - L. Submitting a check, for any reason, that cannot be negotiated for payment.
 - M. Failure to show up after entering a World Series or Nationals, unless reasonable advanced notice is given.
 - N. Purposely using false information to hurt the Association.
 - O. An illegal player may be suspended for one year.
 - P. Violating the contract rights granted to any individual by the Association under its constitution. The penalty for violation of this paragraph shall be immediate suspension from any activities of the Association.
- 7.02** Any USSSA Baseball officer or Director that violates any articles of the constitution or USSSA Baseball policies may be suspended.
- A. Any USSSA Baseball officer or Director that fails to submit fees and/or information due the Association within 14 days of receipt thereof by that officer or Director may be suspended.
 - B. Any USSSA Baseball officer, Director, umpire, or participant that is suspended for any reason, shall not be allowed to participate in any capacity within the Association, until such suspension has been lifted.
- 7.03** Only State Directors, and/or the USSSA Baseball National Committee, have the authority to issue disbarments for a period of one year from the time of the incident. The State Director in the state in which the offense occurred may act upon any offense that occurs as described in Rule VI. Should the State Director not take action, he or she shall submit the incident to the player or team's home State Director to be acted upon. The USSSA Baseball National Committee shall rule upon any disbarment beyond the one-year suspension anytime it convenes. In order for such action to be effective, reasonable notice (at least 30 days) shall be given to the offending person before the convening of the USSSA Baseball National Committee. Such notice shall be deemed sufficient if sent by registered mail to the address of the offending party last on file with the USSSA National Office or the USSSA Baseball State Director's office; and contains a written statement of the offense and the length and terms of the requested additional disbarment beyond the one-year suspension.
- 7.04** The offending party may appear at the convening of the USSSA Baseball National Committee and give evidence on it behalf as to why the additional suspension or disbarment should not be imposed. The decision of the USSSA Baseball National Committee shall be final and binding and not be the subject of an appealable issue.
- 7.05** Players or other announce participants, who have been disbarred or declared illegal, may use the appeal process procedure set forth in the constitution, except as limited by the provisions of section 7.03.
- A. Any person so disbarred or suspended shall have the right to apply for reinstatement to membership in the Association, on an annual basis, provided he gives the Disbarment Committee, through National Headquarters, 30 days written notice of his intention to so reapply. The USSSA Baseball National Committee shall act on such applications at the annual meeting of the Association.
- 7.06** State Officers and Director have the authority to issue indefinite suspensions for players, teams, and other announced participants who fail to meet financial responsibilities to that State's Association.
- 7.07** Tournament Directors have the authority to eject a player or team anytime during a tournament.

- 7.08** All reports of suspension must be in writing and submitted to the USSSA National Headquarters within five (5) days of the suspension. Copies of such suspensions shall be sent to the party against whom it is directed.

RULE VIII
USSSA Baseball Playing Rules

Playing rules not specifically covered shall follow the Official Major League Baseball Rules as published by the Sporting News. The State Director also has the authority to administer rules within his respective state as deemed appropriate with the approval of the Vice President of Baseball.

8.01 RECOMMENDED FIELD DIMENSIONS

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>BASES</u>	<u>PITCHING</u>	<u>FOUL LINES</u>	<u>CENTER FIELD</u>
5&under	55	-	140	175
6&under	55	-	140	175
7&under	60	-	150	185
8&under	60	40	160	185
9&under	65	44	170	190
10&under	65	46	180	210
11&under	70	50	200	240
12&under	70	50	230	275
13&under	80	54	260	300
14&under	80	54	275	300
14&under Major	90	60-6	320	375
15&under	90	60-6	320	375
16&under	90	60-6	320	375
17&under	90	60-6	320	375
18&under	90	60-6	320	375
Adult	90	60-6	320	375

8.02 EQUIPMENT

- A.** All players must be fully uniformed, which includes the following: Pants, sox, cap, and team shirts with numbers that are non-duplicating at least three inches in height.
- B.** Managers and coaches must wear a baseball cap with team insignia and will be properly dressed (coaches may wear coaches' shorts).
- C.** While in the field, as a defensive player, caps must be worn.
- D.** Protests on uniforms will not be allowed. It shall be the Tournament Director's responsibility regarding uniform legality. Violation of the uniform rule will result in the violator being allowed to conform or be removed from the game.
- E.** Metal spikes are prohibited in age divisions 12 and below
- F.** All bat boys/girls must wear a double-ear batting helmet when outside the dugout.
- G.** The catcher must wear all appropriate protective gear: mask, chest protector, shin guards, protective cup, catcher's helmet and throat guard.
 - 1. Age divisions 12 and below: The catcher must wear a protective helmet that fully covers both ears.
- H.** Bat Limitations (Ages 15 and above) – All bats must conform to the National Federation of High School Association's bat limitations.

8.03 GAME RULES

- A.** A flip of a coin between the two managers will determine the home team before each game.
- B.** In World Series or Nationals play, time limits may be used for pool-play and consolation brackets, if approved by the Vice President of Baseball.
- C.** Age divisions 12 and below shall play 6 inning games. Age divisions 13 and above shall play 7 inning games.

- D.** A team may continue a game with one less player than it started with, whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection.
1. If the player leaving the game is a runner, he shall be declared out.
 2. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat.
 3. The player who has left the game cannot return to the lineup, except for Communicable Disease Procedure Reasons.

E. MERCY RULE

<u>LENGTH OF GAME</u>	<u>RUN DIFFERENTIAL</u>	<u>START INNING</u>
6 innings	15	3 rd inning
6 innings	8	4 th inning
7 innings	15	3 rd inning
7 innings	12	4 th inning
7 innings	8	5 th inning

NOTE: In enforcing these rules, the home team shall not bat if the mercy requirement is met prior to the bottom half of the listed inning.

- F.** Whenever a tag play is evident, runners must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder. Malicious contact shall supercede all obstruction penalties.

Penalty: Runner shall be declared out and may be ejected at the umpire's discretion.

Note: When enforcing this rule, the umpire should judge the runner's intent. If the umpire feels that the contact was unintentional, then the runner should only be declared out. If the umpire feels that the contact was intentional and/or malicious, then the runner should be declared out and ejected.

- G.** At any time, the team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the current pitcher and catcher. The courtesy runner must be someone not presently in the lineup and may appear as an offensive player one time per inning. The re-entry status of the courtesy runner, pitcher, and catcher, shall not be affected by this rule. If a courtesy runner is determined to be ineligible, a proper replacement (if available) will be substituted.
- H.** In age divisions 12 & under and younger, an intentional walk may take place by announcement from the catcher or pitcher.
- I.** In all age divisions starting players may re-enter once, but must re-enter in their original position in the batting order. Non-starters are not allowed to re-enter. When a starter re-enters, the player in the starter's batting order must be take out of the game and is ineligible for the remainder of the game.
- J.** In all age divisions, an Extra Hitter (EH) will be allowed. This will give a team a 10-player line-up that must be declared before the start of the game and used the remainder of the game. The player in the EH position, while not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as though they are for substitution purposes. The re-entry rule applies for the EH.
- A.R.- Baker is the EH and batting 2nd. Charles is the catcher and batting 3rd. Baker can become the catcher and Charles the EH. Both players would remain in their original batting order.*
- A.R.2. – All players can move freely in defensive positions – the EH is considered a defensive position.*
- K.** In age groups 15 and above, if the Extra Hitter is not be utilized, then the Designated Hitter (DH) may be utilized in accordance with the National Federation of State High School Associations baseball rules.

1. A DH may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game.
2. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the DH in the starting lineup.
3. A DH for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer.
4. Failure to declare a DH prior to the game precludes the use of a DH in that game.

5. If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the DH is used, that player becomes the new DH.
6. The player who was the DH may re-enter as the DH under the re-entry rule.
7. A DH and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation.
8. The role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when: (a) The defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the DH batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits, or runs for the DH; (b) The DH or any previous designated DH assumes a defensive position.

8.04 PITCHING

The end of the day for this pitching limitation rule is the time of day or night when the ballpark is shutdown and the teams go home for the night break. Games that, either because of rain delay or otherwise, extend past midnight or start late at night past midnight and before the teams take the night break, will still count as though they are on the previous day's play. If the game continues after the night break (the next day), that part of the game will count as though it was the following day.

LIMITATIONS

1. Column A represents the number of innings a player can throw in 1 day and still pitch the next day.
2. For purposes of this rule in the columns listed, a pitcher is in violation of this rule if he makes any appearance above the pitching limits.
3. For all cumulative totals in this rule, one out equals one-third of an inning, two outs equal two-thirds of an inning and three outs equal a full inning.
4. In age divisions 12 and below, a player that pitches two consecutive days must rest the third day regardless of the number of innings pitched.
5. Exceeding the maximum innings allowed in the case of a double or triple play will not be counted against the pitcher.
6. It is the responsibility of each team's manager to challenge pitching violations by notifying the umpire and then the Tournament Director.
7. Any innings pitched, or outs recorded, during a game that is forfeited shall count towards all pitchers' allotted innings.

PENALTY: Any violation of pitching limitations shall result in immediate forfeiture of the game.

BALKS

In age divisions 10 and below, pitchers will be allowed some leniency in regard to balks. Pitchers will be called for all major violations and warned for minor violations that do not affect the outcome of a play. In all other divisions, balks will be strictly enforced without warning.

TRIPS TO THE MOUND

When a team is charged with its second trip to the mound, in the same inning, to the same pitcher, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. The pitcher may be moved to another defensive position.

PITCHING CHART

Column A – The number in this column represents the most innings a pitcher can pitch in 1 day and still pitch the next day.

Example: In the 10&under age division, a pitcher may throw up to 4 innings in 1 day and throw again the next day. But if that pitcher throws 4 1/3 innings or more in 1 day, he cannot pitch the next day.

Column B – The number in this column represents the most innings a pitcher can pitch in 1 day.

Example: In the 10&under age division, a pitcher may throw a maximum of 6 innings in 1 day. The pitcher would not be allowed to pitch the next day.

Column C – The number in this column represents the most innings a pitcher can pitch in 2 consecutive days.

Example: In the 10&under age division, a pitcher may throw a maximum of 8 innings in 2 consecutive days. This is to be interpreted as a pitcher would be able to throw any combination of innings that equal 8 as long as the first day does not equal more than 4 innings due to column A requirements.

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>
8&under	3	4	6
9&under	4	6	8
10&under	4	6	8
11&under	4	6	9
12&under	4	6	9
13&under	5	7	11
14&under	5	7	11
15&under	5	7	12
16&under	5	7	12
17&under	NONE	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED
18&under	NONE	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED
Adult	NONE	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED

NOTE: It is important to remember that in age divisions 12 and below, pitchers that pitch 2 consecutive days must rest the third day – regardless of innings pitched (see 8.04(1) LIMITATIONS 4).

- L.** The following rules will determine which teams will advance out of their pools.
 1. WIN-LOSS RECORD
 2. HEAD TO HEAD
 3. FEWEST RUNS ALLOWED
 4. HIGHEST RUN DIFFERENTIAL – Determined by taking total runs scored minus total runs allowed. The maximum run differential per game is +8 or –8.
 5. COIN TOSS

A.R.1 – The score of the game at the time of a forfeit, if the losing team forfeits, shall be the score of record for purposes of this rule.

A.R.2 – When three or more teams are tied, only fewest runs allowed and highest run differential shall be used to determine who shall advance.

8.05 MACHINE-PITCH, COACH-PITCH, AND T-BALL

- A.** Fair Ball Arc – There will be a 20-foot arc drawn from 1st baseline to 3rd baseline in front of home plate. A ball must go past this line to be fair.
- B.** Safety Arc – There will be a 30-foot arc drawn from 1st baseline to 3rd baseline in front of home plate. Infielders must stay behind this line until the ball is hit.
- C.** A base runner is out for leaving the base before the ball is hit or reaches home plate. Stealing is not allowed.
- D.** 10 players will play in the field with 4 outfielders. The 4th outfielder may not be allowed to assume an infield position. All outfielders must stay behind the baseline.
- E.** The batting order shall constitute all players on the team roster at the beginning of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted as the last batter. All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the order.
- F.** A maximum of 7 runs per inning or 3 outs. Including the last inning.
- G.** Free substitution on defense. Batting order must remain the same.
- H.** No bunting except for 8U machine pitch (see rule 8.05 N)
- I.** Defensive coaches are not allowed on the field of play and must coach from the dugout.

J. Umpires will call “time” after every play and declare the ball dead. “Time” should be called as soon as the lead runner is not attempting to advance. “Time” does not have to be called by the participants.

K. A player can only be intentionally walked one time per game.

L. Infield fly rules do not apply.

M. Machine-Pitch and Coach-Pitch ONLY

1. Pitching Circle – Shall be 10 feet in diameter with the front edge at 42 feet from the back point of home plate.
2. A batter shall receive a maximum of 6 pitches or three swinging strikes.
3. The defensive player listed as pitcher cannot leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit.
4. Courtesy runner for catcher only (Optional). Must be the player that made the last out. If no outs have been recorded the courtesy will be the previous batter not on base.

N. Machine-Pitch ONLY

1. Any batted ball hitting the pitching machine is dead and the hitter is awarded 1st base. All runners advance one base.
2. The front legs of the pitching machine will be placed at 42 feet.
3. Recommended pitching speed is 36-39 for 7&under and 39-42 for 8&under.
4. Bunting
 1. Allowed in 8U Machine-Pitch only.
 2. A team may only bunt twice per inning.
 3. No fake bunts allowed. If a player “shows” bunt then they are committed to attempt to bunt or take the pitch. Penalty for swinging after “showing” bunt, player declared out and no shall runners advance.

O. In Coach-Pitch ONLY

When a batted ball hits the Pitching Coach, the following rules shall apply:

1. If in the umpire’s judgment, the coach did not make a legitimate attempt to get out of the way, then the batter is declared out. No runners shall advance.
2. If in the umpire’s judgment, the coach did make a legitimate attempt to get out of the way, then the ball becomes dead and a no pitch is declared.
3. Pitcher’s Line – A line drawn from the pitcher’s circle to the fair ball arc.
 - a. The pitching coach must keep one foot on or straddle the pitcher’s line.
 - b. The pitching coach cannot coach while in the pitching position, either verbally or physically and once the ball has been hit, must position himself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any play at all.

P. In T-Ball ONLY

1. A full-use catcher’s helmet and mask is the only catcher’s gear required.
2. A batter is allowed three swings to put the ball in play or is declared out.
3. 8 1/2” baseball will be used.

8.06 8 & UNDER PLAYER PITCH

A. Runners on base cannot advance when the pitcher is on the pitching rubber with the ball in possession and the catcher is in position to receive a pitch.

B. Runners can advance at their own risk once a pitched ball has passed home plate.

1. When a runner tries to advance prior to the ball passing home plate, the following will apply.
 - a. If the runner is safe, the runner returns to the original base.
 - b. If the runner is tagged out, the runner is out.

- c. If the ball is hit, the defensive team has the option of the result of the play or no pitch.
- C. Runners may not advance from third to home unless the runner is batted home or forced by a base on balls. Runners may not advance from third on passed balls or wild pitches.
- D. The batter cannot advance to first after a missed third strike.
- E. Teams may bat nine or use the EH as described in rule 8.03 (J)
- F. Nine players will be used on defense.
- G. The balk rule will not apply.
- H. Runners cannot advance once the pitcher has possession of the ball within the mound area. EXCEPTION: Runners may advance when the ball is hit to the pitcher and not time is called.

Rule IX

Sportsmanship

- 9.01 All players and coaches will be expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- 9.02 Any player, coach, or parent/fan, whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive will, at minimum, be warned and may be removed from the playing field and/or stands at the discretion of the tournament officials and/or umpires.
- 9.03 Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated under any circumstances
- 9.04 Cursing or throwing equipment will be an automatic ejection.
- 9.05 A team may be forced to forfeit and/or be removed from the tournament, if necessary.

RULE X

Coach or Player Ejections

- 10.01 If a coach is ejected from a game, they must sit out the remainder of that game and at least the following game. Additional penalties may be assessed as deemed by the Tournament Director.
- 10.02 A player ejected must sit out the remainder of that game.
- 10.03 Anyone ejected may be asked to leave the park at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- 10.04 As these rules indicate, the matter of disorderly conduct will be taken seriously. The tournaments your team will be participating in will include some of the finest baseball teams in the world. The level of competition will be high and at times fierce. Because of this, please remind your team and parents to be extra aware of good sportsmanship.

RULE XI

Protests

- 11.01 Umpires will work to settle all problems on the field. Protests will be allowed for age and pitching violations or rule interpretations only. Protests must be declared to the Umpire-in-Chief and then to the Tournament Director before the next pitch following the dispute. No protest will be allowed following the game. Tournament officials and Head Umpire will rule on all protests and their decision will be final.
- 11.02 Protest fee is \$100.00 cash. The fee shall be returned only if the protest is upheld.
- 11.02 A Tournament Director will be available at all times. If you have any questions, please talk to the Tournament Director.

RULE XII

Umpires

- 12.01 All tournaments and leagues played under the jurisdiction and administration of the USSSA Baseball program shall utilize only umpires who are registered with the Association.

RULE XIII

Items Not Specifically Covered

- 13.01 Team and player eligibility and other rules not specifically covered in these rules shall be referred to the USSSA State Director with guidance from the Vice President of Baseball.

