



**JP Sports**  
**Revised: March 1, 2026**  
**Subject to Change**

**Policies and Procedures**

1. JP Sports tournament management will strive to make this tournament the best of your season. If questions or disputes arise about policies or procedures, coaches shall bring them to the attention of the Tournament Director and/or JP Sports Director of Operations, Heath Smith. Any interpretation and decision of the Tournament Director and/or Director of Operations shall be final.
2. All coaches must enter the facility through the designated **Main Gate**, as outlined in the informational email distributed prior to the tournament. Coaches are responsible for reviewing all event communications and should regularly check their email for the most current updates and instructions related to their specific tournament location.
3. JP Sports will provide an Official Representative of JP Sports for each tournament location. The representative shall be either the Director of Operations, Tournament Director or Site Director.
4. Official brackets and game times will be posted on the JP Sports website at **i.playjpsports.com**. JP Sports will use this website as the official source for all tournament schedules, scores, and weather-related updates. Coaches are strongly encouraged to share the JP Sports website link with their team's players, parents, and fans so they can stay informed throughout the event.
5. Any tournament fees that are paid at check-in will be assessed a \$50.00 late charge fee and promotional discounts shall not apply.
6. JP Sports may charge spectator admission at certain events. Once admission has been paid, **no refunds or rain checks will be issued**, including in the event of weather-related delays or cancellations. Spectators are advised **not to enter the facility if there is a possibility of weather-related cancellations**. Event-specific spectator information, including admission details and designated entry gates, can be found at **i.playjpsports.com** under the **Tournament Information** section for the specific event.
7. All teams participating in **USSSA-sanctioned tournaments** must be properly sanctioned with USSSA. Please refer to **i.playjpsports.com** to determine whether a specific tournament is USSSA-sanctioned.
  - a. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in **removal from the tournament without a refund**.
  - b. The **USSSA roster is considered the official tournament roster**. The JP Sports roster submission serves **only as a liability waiver and registration record**, and does not replace the official USSSA roster requirement.
8. Team and Individual awards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Some events may have additional awards. In the event of rain and cancellations, awards are only awarded if Championship Game teams have been established. Awards are only awarded at the park. Under no circumstances will awards be shipped.

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9. Teams may start and finish a game with a minimum of **eight (8) uniformed, rostered players**. If a team begins the game with eight players, the **ninth spot in the batting order will be an automatic out**.
  - a. If the ninth uniformed, rostered player arrives during the game, that player **must be inserted into the ninth spot in the batting order**, and the automatic out will be removed.
  - b. If a team has **seven (7) or fewer uniformed, rostered players** at the start of the game or at any point during the game, the game **shall be declared a forfeit**. For seeding purposes, the score will be recorded as **7-0**
10. Teams should fill first and third base dugouts on a first come, first served basis, irrespective of home and away designation.
11. The home team for pool games shall be determined by a coin flip, and will keep the official scorebook. Either an umpire or a member of the tournament staff must be present for the flip. For bracket play the higher seeded team will be the home team.
12. No infield practice will be allowed. Teams are allowed to play catch in the outfield and take ground balls in foul territory, if time allows. No team shall do hitting warm up/practice into the fences.
13. Both team coaches **must sign the official scorecard** at the conclusion of each game. It is the responsibility of **both teams to verify and agree on the final score before the umpires leave the field**.
14. The Tournament Director may modify the number or length of games when necessary due to weather, field conditions, or scheduling issues. This includes modifying the time limit if games get backed up.
15. If a tiebreaker is required to determine playoff seeding or wildcard teams, the following criteria shall be applied **in order**:
  - a. **Overall Win-Loss Record** – Best record in the tournament.
  - b. **Head-to-Head** – Only applicable when exactly two teams are tied.
  - c. **Runs Allowed** – Fewest runs allowed during the tournament.
  - d. **Run Differential** – Calculated as runs scored minus runs allowed, **capped at +8 or -8 per game**.
  - e. **Runs Scored** – Most runs scored during the tournament.
  - f. **USSSA Points** – As determined by official USSSA scoring rules.
  - g. **Coin Flip** – Conducted by tournament officials if all other criteria fail to break the tie.
16. If using Pool Play, meaning all teams within a grouping play each other. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place teams from each pool will be given the first set of seeds based on the criteria in Policy and Procedure #15 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams from each pool will be given the second set of seeds based, and so forth.
17. Any team that forfeits in pool play may result in the team not advancing to the championship bracket.

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### Subject to Change

18. Forfeits - If a team forfeits for any reason other than pitching, they are removed from the event and placed in last place. If a team forfeits in a winner's bracket game, they will be moved to the loser's bracket.
19. If using preliminary play, we will just seed the teams that are advancing using the criteria in Policy and Procedure #15.
20. All teams are required to adhere to local park policies, rules and ordinances. Alcohol, tobacco, and coolers shall not be brought into the confines of the tournament venue. Personal water jugs for players is acceptable. The Head Coach shall be ultimately responsible and accountable for the conduct of the team's players, assistant coaches and spectators.

### Roster and Birth Date

21. A player may only be on one roster in any given tournament, regardless of the age division.
22. For USSSA sanctioned tournaments, teams **MUST** comply with USSSA roster rules and regulations, unless otherwise stated within this document.
23. Team rosters contain personal information such as player date of birth and full name, etc. In the interest of protecting player and coach privacy, rosters can only be viewed by JP Sports staff. Only a Head Coach may ask the Tournament Director about players listed and if they meet the age and/or roster qualification. To protest a player's eligibility, see the policy below.
  - a. Any **Head Coach** who wishes to formally challenge the eligibility of a player must notify the **Tournament Director**. Only the **Head Coach** of a team may submit an **age challenge**. Each Head Coach is allowed **one (1) age challenge per tournament**. If the challenge is upheld, the coach is granted an additional challenge, and this process continues as applicable.
  - b. Penalties for ineligible players will be enforced in accordance with **USSSA rules**.
  - c. **Important:** All roster or age challenges **must be made during live play**. Challenges submitted **before the first pitch or after the final out of the game will not be accepted**.
  - d. The **birthday age cutoff** for all divisions is **May 1st**. For detailed information and exceptions, please refer to **Addendum 1** at the end of this Rules Document, which provides a full explanation of the age cutoff policy.
24. It is recommended that Head Coaches have all player's birth certificates available at all times. If a player's birth certificate cannot be produced to the tournament director upon request the player will be ruled ineligible.
25. The birthday age cutoff is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**JP Sports**  
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**Subject to Change**

**Playing Rules**

Unless otherwise noted herein, the playing rules for JP Sports Tournament will follow in accordance with USSSA National Rules first, then the Official Major League Baseball Rules as published by the Sporting News.

26. Length of Game

- a. Ages 8U–12U: Games will be six (6) innings with a 1 hour 40 minute time limit. No new inning may begin after the time limit expires.
- b. Ages 13U–14U: Games will be seven (7) innings with a 1 hour 40 minute time limit. No new inning may begin after the time limit expires.
- c. Ages 15U and above: Games will be seven (7) innings with a 1 hour 50 minute time limit. No new inning may begin after the time limit expires.
- d. Non-Gold Bracket Championships: All games will have a 1 hour 40 minute time limit.
- e. Midday Championship Games: Any championship games scheduled in the middle of the day will follow a 1 hour 40 minute time limit.
- f. Gold Championships at the End of the Day: If no games are scheduled on the designated field after the championship, a 2 hour time limit will apply. No new inning may begin after the time limit expires.
- g.

27. Batting Order

- a. Straight Nine: Nine (9) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card with or without a DH. All player substitutes, subject to NFHS substitution rules (Starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.)
- b. Extra Hitter: Ten (10) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. A DH can be used. Free substitution (defensive players) among the ten (10) players listed on the batting order. All player substitutes, subject to NFHS substitution rules (Starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.)
- c. Continuous batting order: All players in uniform (unless injured) in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. If a late player arrives after the lineup cards are exchanged, the player must be entered into the last spot in the batting order (The player must be listed on the official tournament roster). Free defensive substitution for all players throughout the game.
- d. The Head Coach shall declare his lineup choice to the opposing coach and the umpire(s) during the plate meeting prior to each game. Once a declaration is made, it cannot be changed for that game.
- e. If a team drops below the number of players in the batting order as determined by the Head Coach and no substitution is available, that spot in the batting order will be determined an out. (Example: Injury, ejection, player having to leave, etc).

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**JP Sports**  
**Revised: March 1, 2026**  
**Subject to Change**

28. Pitching Rules and Limitations

- a. Tournament management will not be involved in counting pitches or innings for pitchers.
- b. JP Sports endorses the Pitch Smart Program, developed by USA Baseball and Major League Baseball. This program is a series of practical, age appropriate guidelines to help parents, players and coaches avoid overuse injuries and foster long, healthy careers for young pitchers.

<b>Recommended Pitch Count and Recommended Rest</b>						
<b>Age</b>	<b>Daily Max Pitching</b>	<b>0 Days Rest</b>	<b>1 Day Rest</b>	<b>2 Days Rest</b>	<b>3 Days Rest</b>	<b>4 Days Rest</b>
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	66+
17-18	105	1-20	31-45	46-60	61-75	66+

- c. A pitcher removed from a game may not re-enter the same game as a pitcher.
- d. Balks:
  - i. 8U No Balks, if an out occurs on the balk, it will result in a dead ball and the base runner will return to the base of origin prior to the balk.
  - ii. 9U one balk warning per pitcher, per inning.
  - iii. 10U and 11U, one balk warning per pitcher per game.
  - iv. 12U and above no balk warnings.

29. Base Distances and Field Dimensions

<b>Age</b>	<b>Pitching (Ft)</b>	<b>Bases (Ft)</b>
8	40	60
9-10	46	65
11-12	50	70
13	54	80
14 and up**	60	90

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**JP Sports**  
**Revised: March 1, 2026**  
**Subject to Change**

29. Bat Restrictions:

**Age & Division Bat Rules:**

- **8U–12U:** BPF 1.15, USSSA stamped.
- **13U:** BPF 1.15, maximum drop of -8.
- **14U A–AAA:** BPF 1.15 or BBCOR, maximum drop of -5.
- **14U Major/Open and above:** BBCOR or **wood only**.

**Wood Bat Division Rules:**

All wood bat divisions **must use one-piece wood bats**. Composite wood bats or two-piece BBCOR bats are **not permitted** in wood bat divisions.

**Penalty for Illegal Bats:**

1. A batter is in violation when stepping into the batter's box with an **illegal bat**.
2. The infraction must be **reported to the umpire before the first pitch of the next batter** or **before all defensive players leave fair territory**, whichever occurs first.
3. **Penalty:**
  - The batter is **out**.
  - Any outs recorded during the at-bat **remain in effect**.
  - **Runners may not advance** on the batted ball.
4. If a team commits **two (2) illegal bat infractions in a single game**, the **Head Coach will be ejected**.

**Thank You for Playing Baseball with JP Sports!**



**JP Sports**  
**Revised: March 1, 2026**  
**Subject to Change**

30. Time Limits:

- a. The game start time shall begin at the plate meeting. The home plate umpire or base umpire will be the official game time. If the game time is not announced, it is recommended that the Head Coach ask for the official start time.
- b. Official Time Limits
  - i. 8U Coach Pitch will be 1:10
  - ii. 8U Player Pitch will be 1:30
  - iii. 9U-14U will be 1:40
  - iv. 15U and Up will be 1:50
  - v. Championship Games will have a time limit of 2:00 if the game falls at the end of the day. All Championship Games in the middle of the Sunday schedule will be 1:40.
- c. Expiration of the time limit shall be ruled upon at the moment the final out in a half inning is recorded.
- d. An inning may be finished, but a new inning cannot be started after the time limit expires. If the home team is ahead when the time limit is reached, the game is over (a) immediately after the top half of the inning is finished or (b) at the moment the time limit is reached and the home team is ahead in the bottom half of the inning.
- e. Games may start up to 30 minutes early. Please have your team ready to play 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Please check in to see where your field is at.
- f. The Tournament Director reserves the right to modify the time limits in the event of weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

31. Mercy Rules:

Mercy Rules shall be twelve (12) runs after 3 innings and eight (8) runs after 4 innings. Mercy rules shall be in effect for all games, including championship game.

32. Game Balls

JP Sports will provide 4 game balls to start each game, but will not be replenished throughout the game. Teams are expected to retrieve foul balls and home run balls. Teams should always have tournament quality used baseball on hand to toss in if the original game balls are lost or not returned to the umpires.

33. Metal Spikes and Footwear

Metal spikes are not allowed for 8U-12U. Metal spikes are NOT allowed for Synthetic Turf Events, nor are they allowed on portable pitching mounds for any ages. Any athlete that may play on a synthetic turf field and/or be called to pitch on a portable pitching mound must be prepared with non-metal footwear.

JP Sports will use portable mounds for almost every tournament. Acceptable footwear in these cases includes turf shoes, plastic cleats, molded cleats, or gym shoes.

**Thank You for Playing Baseball with JP Sports!**



**JP Sports**  
**Revised: March 1, 2026**  
**Subject to Change**

34. 8U and 9U Only

8U Division: There will be no leadoffs and stealing will be permitted only after the ball crosses the plate. There will be no dropped third strike, and a runner may only score from third base on a) a batted ball, b) a walk, c) a hit by pitch, or d) if any runner is played upon by the pitcher or catcher. No balks will be called.

9U Division: Leadoffs are permitted. There will be no dropped third strike. Umpires shall issue one balk warning per pitcher per inning before enforcing any balk penalty. No infield fly at 8u and 9u.

35. Extra Inning and Tie Games

Pool/Preliminary Play: If a game is tied after the time limit expires or when the regulation innings have been completed the game will be scored as a tie.

Bracket Play: If a game is tied after the time limit expires or when the regulation innings have been completed the following JP Sports tiebreaker will be used. The batter previous to the batter due up will be placed at 2<sup>nd</sup> base with one out. (Example: The #5 batter in the lineup is due up, the #4 batter will be placed at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Regardless if the #4 batter scored the previous inning or was not the last out). The game will follow this rule until a winner can be determined. Every batter will start with a 2-1 count.

36. Intentional Walks

There will be no pitches thrown to intentionally walk a batter. Notify the umpire, and the batter will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base.

37. Courtesy Runners

Courtesy runners **are optional** for the **pitcher and catcher of record** from the previous inning at any time.

**Rules for Courtesy Runners:**

1. The courtesy runner **must be a player not currently in the batting lineup.**
2. If the team is **batting the entire lineup**, the **last batted out** shall serve as the courtesy runner.
3. In the **first inning**, if no outs have been recorded, the **last batter in the lineup** may be used as the courtesy runner.
4. If a courtesy runner **is on base when their position in the batting order comes up**, the same courtesy runner rules apply, and a **new eligible runner** must be substituted.

**Thank You for Playing Baseball with JP Sports!**



**JP Sports**  
**Revised: March 1, 2026**  
**Subject to Change**

38. Ejections

If a coach is ejected from a game, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the game. If a player is ejected during the game, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the game. Note: If a team is batting their entire lineup and/or no substitutes are available, the name of the ejected player will remain in the batting order and count as an out when the batting order reaches that player.

Any fan that is ejected must leave the park immediately for the remainder of the day and is subject to being banned for the tournament. Head Coaches are ultimately responsible for their fans and can face ejections for fan behavior.

Suspensions: If a coach/player is ejected, they're subject to a suspension. Suspensions will be determined by the Tournament Director and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The Tournament Directors ruling is final.

39. Game Protest

Formal protests are not allowed. However, Head Coaches are allowed to request a rules interpretation by the Tournament and/or Site Director. The procedure for getting a rules interpretation is to ask for time, prior to another pitch being thrown and informing the Home Plate Umpire that you would like a rules interpretation by the Tournament and/or Site Director. The Tournament and/or Site Director will come to the field to discuss the ruling. The game clock will NOT be stopped for rule interpretation. Head Coaches may NOT request to stop play for judgment calls. Our primary goal is to make sure that rules are enforced properly, if you have a question please ask a JP Sports Director.

40. Game Called Due to Weather or Field Conditions

A 6-inning game is considered completed after 3 innings or 2.5 if the home team is leading. A 7-inning game is considered completed after 4 innings or 3.5 if the home team is leading.

If the game is not official as described above, the Tournament Director will either (a) suspend the game and arrange to have it resumed where it left off, or (b) cancel the game such that it does not count toward tournament standings. Should a Championship game be interrupted by weather, darkness, or unplayable field conditions, and is not an official game per the above Rule, then the Championship team will be determined by the score at the end of the last full completed inning. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning or if the first inning of the game is not completed, the higher seed shall be named Champion.

41. Game Schedules

JP Sports will release the tournament schedule on Tuesday the week of the tournament by 8pm. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to double check their teams schedule throughout the week for any changes.

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42. Respect the Game and Sportsmanship

JP Sports management team emphasizes that our tournaments are about providing high quality tournaments in a positive environment. All adults (coaches, parents and officials) should conduct themselves with this fundamental notion in mind. All teams (coaches, players and fans) should be respectful of the game and their opponents. Unsportsmanlike conduct by anyone will be terms for removal from the tournament facility.

43. Refund Policy

a. Tournament Withdrawal Policy

- i. JP Sports will provide a full refund minus a \$150 withdrawal fee for any team withdrawing from tournaments up to 14 days prior to the scheduled start of the event.
- ii. Tournament withdrawals within two weeks from the start date forfeit all tournament fees.
- iii. No withdrawal refunds are eligible for JP Sports Turf Tournaments. These tournaments sell out quickly and space is limited.
- iv. No withdrawal refunds once a tournament is sold out.

b. Rainout Policy

- i. 0 games started = Full refund minus \$100 administrative fee.
- ii. 1 game started = 50% refund of tournament entry and 50% refund of prepaid gate (if tournament has prepaid gate). No refund of spectator admission if taken at the park.
- iii. 2 games started = No refunds.
- iv. JP Sports will do their best to issue refunds within 90 days. It may take up to 180 days in some instances.
- v. Teams may transfer to another tournament with no money lost. In the event the tournament they are transferring to cost more the team will be responsible for the extra cost.

c. Act of God/ Illness Policy

- i. Any Act of God or Illness Cancellation will result in a \$100 administrative fee kept by JP Sports. This goes for any tournaments cancelled due to local or national government rules and guidelines.
- ii. Teams can transfer to another event during the calendar year.
- iii. The fee is subject to change without notice.

d. Lack of participation by teams will result in a full credit in future JP Sports tournaments.

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**JP Sports**  
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**Subject to Change**

44. Hotels

Travel teams that require overnight stays for JP Sports tournaments are required to use one of our approved 2026 Hotel Partners. JP Sports has a great working relationship with each of our listed hotel partners and each is blocking rooms at competitive rates. Specific information on the travel partner varies based on the location, please reference the tournament details on [www.i.playjpsports.com](http://www.i.playjpsports.com) for that information.

In the event that JP Sports offers an opt out, the fee will be \$500 per team. Please note that this opt out is not available for all tournaments and/or locations. Please contact a JP Sports representative for additional information on each specific tournament.

Failure to comply with the “Stay to Play” may result in your team not being scheduled and/or the opt out fee being assessed at check-in. Teams inside of 90 miles are automatically exempt from the “Stay to Play” requirement.

45. Weather Information

All teams are strongly encouraged to have their **parents and fans follow JP Sports on Facebook** for timely weather updates.

JP Sports will also send **notifications to parents and coaches** through our official communication system. Teams and families should **monitor emails and text messages** for the most current information regarding their events.

46. Indoor Specific Rules

A link to the **indoor-specific rules** will be provided in the tournament description. Additionally, a **copy of the indoor rules** will be sent to all coaches via the **welcome email** prior to the event.

**JP Sports MVP Program, All-Star Weekend and All-American Team**

**MVP Program:** At tournament check-in, coaches will receive **MVP tags** for each game.

- After each game, the **Head Coach or their designated Assistant Coach** shall award an MVP tag to a player from the **opposing team**.
- Teams are encouraged to **gather around home plate** after each game for an informal MVP presentation, allowing coaches to **model good sportsmanship** and providing a memorable moment for players.
- If a coach has **extra MVP tags** after their team is eliminated, these may be awarded to players on their own team.

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## JP Sports

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Subject to Change

**All Star Nominations:** Players who receive MVP tags are encouraged to be **nominated for post-season All-Star Weekend**.

- Coaches may submit nominations online at [www.playjpsports.com/MVP](http://www.playjpsports.com/MVP).
- Nominated players will receive an email invitation to **JP Sports All-Star Weekend**.
- Space is limited; coaches are encouraged to **nominate their best players promptly**, and nominees should **accept and enroll immediately**.

### **All-Star Weekend:**

Chicago ASW - (Wheeling - Arlington Heights) - July 24-26, 2026

Quad Cities - (TBK Bank Sports Complex, Bettendorf, IA) - July 31-Aug 2, 2026

Peoria - (Louisville Slugger Complex, Peoria, IL) - August 7-9, 2026

Bradley - (315 Sports Complex, Bradley, IL) - August 14-16, 2026

This event is a celebration of the hard work and dedication of these young athletes. The All-Star weekend will have an Opening Ceremony, Skills Competition, Special Guest will be in attendance, and 3 Game Guarantee Tournament. Please come take part in this great weekend! We have so many great things in store for this weekend! Players must attend All-Star Weekend to be eligible for the JP Sports All-American Team.

**JP Sports All-American Team:** The **2026 All-American Team** will consist of players from the 2026 All-Star Weekend.

- All-American teams will compete at the **Baseball Fest in Panama City Beach, Florida**, at the **Panama City Beach Sports Complex**.
- The tournament will be held **December 27, 2026 – January 1, 2027**, with **All-American Team check-in beginning December 27**.
- Teams will be coached by **highly qualified coaches**, including High School Coaches, NCAA All-Americans, and other experienced professionals.
- Participation in the JP Sports All-American Team is **highly recommended** for top-level players.

### **JP Sports – Management Team**

John Pieritz - Founder and President

Heath Smith - Director of Operations

Keith Darmody - Tournament Director

Donnie Weaver - Tournament Director / Umpire Coordinator Chicago-Northside

Justin Roessler – Tournament Director / Umpire Coordinator Quad Cities

### **JP Sports – Social Media**

Like Us on Facebook – [whhttps://www.facebook.com/PlayJPSports](https://www.facebook.com/PlayJPSports)

Follow us on Twitter - @Playjpsports

Tag us on Instagram

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