

Northeast Premier Baseball

The complete rulebook. These rules govern all NPB tournaments unless a tournament's own detail page states otherwise.

01 GAME FORMAT

Pool play games and bracket games are 6 innings or a 1 hour 40 minute time limit (whichever comes first). There is no time limit in the championship game.

Game Length

6 innings for pool play, 6 innings for bracket play. Championship games have no time limit.

Time Limit

1 hour 40 minutes. No new inning starts after 1:30.

Mercy Rule

Game ends if a team leads by 15 after 3 innings or 10 after 4.

Home Team

Determined by coin flip in pool play. Higher seed is home team in bracket play.

02 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Players must meet age requirements as of April 30 of the current tournament year. Birth certificates required at check-in.

Age Cutoff

Players must not have reached the age limit of the division before May 1 of the current year.

Roster Size

Minimum 8 players, no maximum. Rosters frozen 24 hours before first game.

Documentation

Original birth certificate and signed waiver required.

03 PITCHING

Northeast Premier Baseball does not have specific pitching limitations at our tournaments. The responsibility ultimately lies with coaches and parents to ensure that each player's health and development is maintained properly.

04 EQUIPMENT

All equipment must meet current league specifications. Illegal equipment results in an out and ejection of the offending player.

Bats

8U–12U: All bats must be stamped BPF 1.15 or BBCOR or a USA Bat. Must be a baseball bat — no restriction on weight, length, or barrel size as long as the bat has the BPF 1.15 stamp. Wood bats allowed.

Helmets

Batting helmets required for all batters, on-deck hitters, and base runners.

Catchers Gear

Full catcher's gear (mask, throat guard, chest protector, shin guards, cup) required.

Cleats

Rubber cleats only for 12U and below. Metal cleats permitted in 13U and above.

05 GAME PLAY

Standard High School rules apply with the following modifications for youth play.

Leadoffs

11U and 12U leading off is prohibited. 10U and below — runner may leave when the ball crosses home plate.

Balks

One warning in 11U and 12U. Standard High School rules in 13U and up.

Courtesy Runner

Optional courtesy runner allowed for pitcher and catcher only.

Infield Fly

Standard infield fly rule applies in all age divisions.

Bunting

There is no 'slash bunting' allowed.

First-to-Third Pickoff

There are no first-to-third pickoff moves allowed.

Force Play Slide

Any runner is out when he does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or legally alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play, does not slide in a direct line between the bases. A runner may slide away from the fielder to avoid contact or alter the play of the fielder. Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal.

06 TIE-BREAKERS

When games end tied or pool standings require a tiebreaker, the following order applies.

Extra Innings

International tie-breaker: runner placed on second base.

Pool Standings

1) Wins/Losses, 2) Runs Allowed, 3) Runs Scored, 4) Run Differential, 5) Coin Flip.

Championship

International tie-breaker, same as above, until a winner is decided.

07 SUBSTITUTIONS

Free defensive substitution. Re-entry rules apply to the batting order.

Re-Entry

Starting players may re-enter once, in their original batting position. Substitutes may not re-enter.

EH / DH

Extra Hitter (EH) and Designated Hitter (DH) permitted. Must be declared at the beginning of the game.

Continuous Batting

Teams may elect to bat all rostered players in a continuous lineup. Decision is per-game.

08 CONDUCT & PROTESTS

NPB enforces a zero-tolerance policy for unsportsmanlike conduct. Coaches are responsible for their team, parents, and spectators.

Ejections

Ejected personnel must leave the field complex immediately. One-game minimum suspension.

Protests

Rule interpretation protests only. Must be lodged with the umpire before the next pitch. \$100 fee, refunded if upheld.

Sportsmanship

Two unsportsmanlike warnings result in ejection. Coaches are responsible for parent conduct.

09 WEATHER & DELAYS

In the event of rain we will do everything within our power to stay as close to the game schedule as possible. However, because of limited field availability we may have to deviate from the printed schedule. If and when we need to alter the schedule, we use the following procedures/priorities as our guide.

Minimum Games

Our first priority always will be to make sure that each team plays its minimum number of games. We will try to maintain the original schedule as much as possible. In the event of weather or darkness, it may not be possible to accommodate schedule requests.

Time Limits

The tournament may be changed to lesser time limits or fewer innings in order to complete the tournament.

One Day Event

The tournament may be changed to a one-day game event.

Official Game

All weather-shortened games are official if 3 complete innings have been played. If the home team is winning, the bottom of the inning does not need to be completed.

Suspended Games

Games stopped by weather issues (if not official) will be considered suspended and finished from that point.

Communication

Communication regarding weather and schedule changes will be handled via email to coaches and messages on the Northeast Premier Baseball website.

10 BRACKETS & SEEDING

Seeding is determined by pool play results. Bracket play is single-elimination unless otherwise noted.

Pool Play

Each team plays 2 pool games and at least one game the following day.

Seeding

By win-loss record, then tiebreakers (see Section 06).

Bracket Format

Single-elimination through finals. Top seed or seeds receive a bye if applicable.

Game Guarantee

Each team is guaranteed 2 pool games and 1 bracket game.

Northeast Premier Baseball LLC · npbtournaments.com · Questions about a specific event should go through the Contact page.