



# Arkansas Tournament Rules

**2026 Season**

Updated 1/1/2026

## **THESE RULES SHOULD BE USED BY ALL ARKANSAS TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS**

Additional Individual Park Rules May Be Added

Any individual park rule changes must be clearly visible on the tournament sites web page.

For Rules not covered in the Arkansas State rules, please refer to the USSSA National By-Laws and MLB rules.

### **BAT RULES:**

Arkansas will be using the drop 5 (-5) bat standard for 14u. Unless otherwise stated in a specific local event.

### **ENTRY FEE PAYMENT POLICY:**

ALL tournament entry fees are required to be Paid Online at USSSA.com. If you are NOT PAID, you will not be included in the brackets. NO TEAM WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY UNTIL ALL PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. If yo

u back out of an event after the Monday at 11:59pm, deadline you will be responsible for the entry fee.

### **GATE POLICY:**

If a person does not pay the gate fee, they are subject to face up to a 4-tournament suspension. (This includes not paying the gate, running through the gate, jumping the fence, using a fake stamp, wrist band or ticket, etc.)

If someone is suspended, it the manager's responsibility not to allow them in the park. If a suspended person is caught in the park, their team's game will be a forfeit.

### **DOUBLE BOOKING:**

ANY TEAMS THAT DOUBLE BOOKS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH ENTRY FEES AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY UNTIL THEY ARE PAID. YOU MUST EMAIL THE DIRECTOR AND REMOVE YOUR TEAM

BEFORE ENTERING ANOTHER. YOU WILL BE CONSIDERED DOUBLE BOOKED IF YOU ARE IN MORE THEN ONE EVENT PRIOR TO 11:59 PM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE EVENT.

**REFUND POLICY:**

If you have paid your tournament entry fee and the tournament is canceled due lack of teams, you will receive a FULL refund.

If you pull out of the tournament after the Monday prior to the start of event or you are a “no show” you will receive NO refund.

**RAIN OUT REFUND POLICY:**

If a TEAM has played:

- NO games – 90% REFUND
- ONE game – HALF REFUND
- TWO games or more – NO REFUND

It is the team Managers responsibility to contact the tournament director for rain out information. Information should be posted on the city's website. The tournament director cannot be expected to contact each team if a tournament is rain out.

In case of rain the tournament director, with the assistance of the state director, has the right to modify or amend the tournament in order to finish the event and award points.

**SPORTSMANSHIP:**

GOOD sportsmanship is expected by players, coaches, and fans at all times. Razzing, heckling, chanting, or making rude remarks towards opponents is strictly prohibited. Unruly coaches, fans or players can be removed from the park for the duration of the game. Any Coach, Player or fan using loud OBSCENE LANGUAGE WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME if severe enough they will also have to sit out the following game.

Each Park and or Tournament Director has the right to ban Boom Boxes or any loud noise makers.

ANY COACH OR FAN THAT IS CONSISTENTLY EJECTED FROM THE GAME CAN BE SUSPENDED UP TO 1 FULL SEASON

Directors have the right to refuse entry to any team.

**GAME TIME LIMITS:**

- 6 – 8u                      6 innings / 1 hour 15 min
- 9 – 12u                    6 innings /1 hour 30 min
- 13 and over              7 innings /1 hour 30 min

Championship games can either be played out to the complete number of innings allowed in their age group or have time a limit of: 8U and below of 1 hour and 30 min or 9U to 15U of 2 hours.

**RUN RULES:**

- 6 Innings 15 runs 3rd Inning.
- 6 Innings 8 runs 4th Inning.
- 7 Innings 15 runs 3rd Inning.
- 7 Innings 12 runs 4th Inning.
- 7 Innings 8 runs 5th Inning.

If a team is 20 runs ahead after the competition of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning the game is automatically over. The 20-run rule does not apply to any events played outside of Arkansas, or the Fall or Spring State Championships or any World Series.

**FORFEITS:**

All forfeits must be approved by the State Director.

- Forfeits - If a team forfeits for any reason other than pitching, they are removed from the event and placed in last place. \*A player that is missing from the roster (may or may not cause the team to forfeit).
- If a team forfeits for a pitching violation in pool play, the game is forfeited, and the team will be the last seed based on teams with the same record for bracket play.
- The violating pitcher will not be allowed to pitch for the remainder of the event.
- If a team forfeits in a winner's bracket game, they will be moved to the loser's bracket.
- If a team forfeits in an elimination game, they will be removed from the event.
- Anytime a team is discovered to have committed a pitching violation, the team manager will be removed from the complex for the remainder of the event. This penalty is enforced regardless if a protest was made.

\*Note a missing player from a roster is not an automatic forfeit. Each case will be reviewed by the State Director to determine eligibility.

**BRACKET GAMES:**

Bracket games will be played out until there is a winner. In case of a tie, either by playing your max innings or time has run out; the teams will start the extra inning with a runner placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base with no outs, this will continue until there is a winner.

**CLASSIFICATIONS:**

Any team can be re-classified at any time during the season.

The top 2 teams in the Spring State Championship will be moved to a higher class for the following season.

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

All teams must play in the same class in which they are playing in the World Series. No team can play up in age in a lower class. (Example- an 11 Major cannot play 12 AA or 12 AAA). A team can play up in class in the same age but can be reclassified depending on their finish.

A team CANNOT add more than 1 higher classed player from a younger team to their roster prior to the state tournament without the players playing in at least two events with that older team before the state tournament. The Arkansas State Director reserves the right to alter, change, or abbreviate the tournament format, when necessary, in order to complete the tournament or correct errors.

In case of rain on Friday, pool games times will be reduced, or teams will play one pool game. In case of rain on Saturday, bracket games will be seeded by the national system using all complete games. If games are rained out on Sunday, there will be one attempt to complete the tournament on Monday. If no games are played, the tournament will be rescheduled for the following weekend. All games that cannot be completed due to Weather, light failure or other acts of Nature will be considered a suspended game and will be resumed exactly where left off when the tournament resumes. (Exceptions: field availability or time restraints.)

#### **LEAGUE/ ALL-STAR:**

- All-Star players must have played in at least 50% of their leagues played games.
- All-Star teams are selected by the league in any manner they choose.
- Unlimited Single A players are permitted to play on an All-Star team.
- A maximum of 3 AA players can be on a roster competing in the All-Star State Tournament.
- No AAA or Major players will be allowed to play no matter what their age. (Example) 11Major or 11AAA CANNOT be on a 12 All-Star roster playing in the All-Star State Tournament.
- The Tournament Director along with the State Director will determine the eligibility and class of all the players.
- Playing on a Fall AAA, or Major roster does not count against a player's All-Star eligibility.
- Any players that were listed on their High School Baseball Varsity's Team's roster will NOT be permitted to play in any All-Star State Tournaments.
- All-Star teams can play together starting March 1<sup>st</sup>

#### **FALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:**

Teams must play in at least 1 fall tournament to play in the AA division. Teams that have not played must play in the Open Division or have an approved AA roster from the previous season.

#### **ADDITIONAL RULES:**

Any rule not found in the USSSA National By-Laws, or the Arkansas Tournament rules will be an MLB rule.