

2026 Finksburg Lions Summer Bash 12U/13U Tournament  
OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES



MLB rules with below edits will be followed with the exceptions of 2024 changes (ie pitch clock, etc will NOT be followed)

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Bases</u>	<u>Mound</u>	<u>Innings</u>	<u>Metal Cleats</u>	<u>Bat Restrictions*</u>
12U	70'	50'	6	No	See Below
13U	90'	60'	6	Yes	See Below

General Rules

Tournament Website

Follow the Finksburg Lions website for important news and updates leading up to and throughout the tournament. Games results and scheduling updates will be posted to this site on a timely basis.

<https://www.finksburgbaseball.com/>

Concessions

Concession stand of grilled foods will be in operation for your convenience at Roaring Run Park throughout the tournament. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Concessions are for the benefit of the Lions Club Please support the concession stand!

Dogs

**This is very important. Please inform your team parents in advance that dogs are NOT permitted anywhere on the grounds of Roaring Run Park.**

Uniforms

All players must wear matching team hats and numbered shirts/jerseys. No duplicate numbers.

Bat Restrictions

12U- 2 1/4", 2 3/4", 2 5/8" barrel are allowed- No double wall bats  
1.15 BPF bats and USA Youth Bat Standard bats are allowed  
USA Youth Bat Standard Stamp is not required  
Any little league decertified bats are illegal for this tournament.

13U 2 1/4", 2 3/4", 2 5/8" barrel are allowed- No double wall bats  
BBCOR/USA Bat Standard Stamped Bats are allowed  
Any NFHS decertified bats are illegal for this tournament.

Dropped 3rd Strike

Dropped 3rd strike is in effect for all divisions (ie it is a live ball and the runner can run to 1B)

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**Stealing Home**

Leading from 3rd and stealing home are allowed. NO Headfirst slides allowed into home plate. If the player slides head first into home plate he is automatically out. No exceptions

**Balks**

Balks will be called. However, one (1) warning per pitcher will be issued in preliminary round games only. No warnings in elimination games.

**Pre-game**

Coin flip prior to the game determines home and visiting team in preliminary round play. In elimination round play, the higher seeded team has its choice of home or visitor. Dugout selection is first come first served. Home team maintains the official scorebook.

**Official Game**

Four (4) innings shall constitute an official game or three and one half (3 1/2) innings if the home team is leading. However, a game called due to the time limit is an official game regardless of the number of innings completed. If a game is stopped for any reason (e.g. weather, lightning or darkness) before the game is official, the game is suspended and will be resumed from the point of curtailment at a time scheduled by tournament officials.

**Time Limit**

No new inning may be started after two hours, drop dead time limit is 2 hours and 15 minutes from official start of the game. A new inning officially starts as soon as the third out is recorded in the preceding inning.

If a game reaches the drop dead time, the score reverts back to the previously completed inning. Ties count as such in preliminary round p

The official game start time (determined by the umpire) should be noted in both scorebooks prior to the start of the game. All umpires should be using an official game clock that counts down from 2:00 hours - but, start times should be noted for back-up in case of a technical malfunctioning clock. If there is a lengthy stoppage of play (e.g. serious injury, weather, etc.) the game clock stops as well. Managers are responsible for addressing this with the umpire(s) **before** play continues.

Above time limit rule is in effect for all tournament games played except the **championship games**.

**If an elimination game** (excluding the Championship game) is tied after the 2:00 hour no new inning limit is reached, all subsequent innings begin with the last batter out in the preceding inning on second base (international tie breaker rule). If a **preliminary round game** is tied after regulation and prior to reaching the 2 hour no new inning time limit continue playing extra innings until the time limit prevents further play. Then, if still tied it is a tie.

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**Mercy Rule**

Fifteen (15) runs after 3 innings, twelve (12) runs after 4 innings and ten (10) runs after 5 innings. The home team does not bat if ahead by the mercy limit, but does bat if the visiting team goes ahead by the mercy limit in the top of an inning. Mercy rule is in effect for **all tournament games** played including the Championship Game.

**Courtesy Runners**

Courtesy runners are allowed for pitchers and catchers- must be last batted out or a player not in the line up

**Intentional Walk**

An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team, requested by coach or catcher, without pitching to the batter or on any ball/strike count. The ball is declared dead before the umpire awards first base to the batter.

**Starting Line-up**

Our intent is to encourage coaches to play as many players as possible and provide each coach with options. The coach must determine **prior to the game** how many batters he wants in his starting line-up and this must be communicated to the umpire and the opposing coach/scorekeeper.

**Offense:**

Team may bat nine (9), the entire roster or any number in-between. However, once the number of batters is established, it must remain the same throughout the game. A substitute is defined as any player not placed in the original batting line-up to begin the game. As soon as a substitute bats or runs for another player, the substitute and the original starter are locked into that batting line-up slot and either one may bat or run at any time (in that line-up position only). If no substitutes are available and a player is ejected from the game, an out will be recorded each time that spot in the line-up is scheduled to bat. A team may play with 8 players, but must start the game with 9. A team with only 8 players must take an out each time the missing player is scheduled to bat. If an injury occurs to a player on a team batting more than 9 players and if the injury prevents the player from batting and no substitutes are available, his spot in the line-up going forward may be skipped without penalty. If he recovers, he may return to the line-up. If an injury occurs to a base runner and no substitute is available, the last batter out may take his place on the bases.

**Defense:**

Any player on the roster may assume any defensive position in the field at any time throughout the game with one exception. A player once removed from the pitcher position may not return to pitch later in the same game. Note: Defense has nothing to do with the offensive batting line-up - any rostered player is eligible to play in the field at any time (without regard to whether or not he is in the batting line-up).

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**Pitching Restrictions**

There are no per day or tournament maximum limits imposed, but coaches should use good judgment in determining who is allowed to pitch in each game.

One pitch constitutes an inning pitched and a pitcher once removed from the pitcher position may not return to pitch later in the same game. Coaches are highly encouraged to monitor **pitch counts** closely.

Pitcher is removed when manager makes 2nd trip to same pitcher in the same inning.

A pitcher must be removed when he hits 2nd batter in a single inning, or 3rd batter in game.

A manager may not visit the mound more than once during an at-bat.

**Collision Rule- Will use NCAA Interference "must slide" Rule**

On any force play, the runner must slide AND slide directly to the base or remove himself from the play in such a manner as to not interfere, intentional or unintentional, with the fielder making a play. In addition, the runner cannot interfere with a fielder's ability to throw the ball in any way.

A runner is out when he does not slide and his not sliding creates illegal contact and/or illegally 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. This is true even when the runner did not intend to cause contact. In the case of potential double play, not only is the runner who created the violation is out, but also the other runner trying to be doubled up on the play.

**If in the judgment of the umpire the collision is intentional or flagrant, the offending player will be ejected from the game.**

**Additional Important Information**

**Pre-game Warm-ups**

No batting practice/infield practice is permitted on the infield prior to the games. Teams should have ~30 minutes between games for warm

**Protests**

No protests are permitted on any umpire judgment calls. If there is a valid dispute over a rules issue, the decision of the tournament site director (or designee) will be final. **Resolve any disputed rule questions before play continues.**

**Player Eligibility**

The age cutoff date is April 30 of the currency year.

If a coach/manager questions the eligibility of a particular player or players, he may do so privately with the tournament site director (or designee). He/she will investigate and resolve eligibility questions as quickly as possible. Player eligibility protests must be addressed during the game or immediately (within 15 minutes) following the game.

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**Photography**

Spectators and/or coaches are not permitted onto the field for purposes of taking photographs and/or video during the period beginning with the first pitch through the final out of the game. However, there are no restrictions for this activity outside the fence line boundaries.

**Game Results Reporting**

Immediately following the conclusion of each game, the **winning** team is responsible for turning in the Game Summary Sheet to the site tournament director. Failure on the part of the winning team to communicate the game result within one hour of the completion of a game will result in the game being declared a tie and the runs allowed by the team that actually won the game on the field will be increased to the same number of runs allowed by the losing team.

Note: Game Summary Forms will be provided on site by tournament officials

**Tie Breakers**

The following tie breakers will be used (if necessary) to determine seeding following preliminary round play:

**Two-way tie:**

- Head to head competition (only applies when only two teams are tied)
- Lowest total runs allowed (if head to head does not apply)
- Highest total runs scored
- Coin toss

**Three (or more)-way tie:**

- Lowest runs allowed in ALL games will determine the highest seed  
(but if one team beat **all** other tied teams, they are the top seed)
- After highest seed is determined and two teams remain tied, revert to two-way tie breaker procedures.
- Note - if all tied teams did not play each other then head-to head does **not** apply.

Special note: A team with 2 ties in preliminary round play equates to a team with a 1 - 1 record.

**Playing Conditions**

The tournament director will make all decisions regarding playing conditions prior to each game. He/she will determine whether or not the field conditions are fit to play with the safety of the players first and foremost in mind at all times. If possible, your team will be notified two (2) hours or sooner prior to a scheduled game if the game will be postponed or delayed due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions. After a game starts, the umpire is responsible for stops/starts. Any indication of lightning in the area will immediately stop play. Weather related make-ups/continuations will be re-scheduled by the tournament director.

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**Refund Policy**

We make every effort to get as many games played for our participating teams as possible. Unfortunately, weather conditions beyond our control occasionally conspire against us. In the event that the tournament is abbreviated, the following refund policy will apply to all teams. Two (2) games played, no refund. One (1) game played, \$200 refund. No games played, \$350 refund.

**Official Team Roster and Insurance**

Every team must complete and submit a Tournament Team Waiver and Roster Form and Certificate of Insurance (prior to the first game of the tournament). Finksburg Baseball should be listed as "Additional Insured" on the certificate (if possible). The team roster contains player birth date certification and serves as your team's **official roster**. Participating tournament teams are limited to a maximum of sixteen (16) players.

The head coach/team manager is required to maintain in his/her possession a copy of the official team roster and a copy of each player's birth certificate or government issued ID in the event that an eligibility question arises. We would not expect that an ineligible player would ever be asked by a coach/manager to play. However, if that were to occur and it is discovered, the player and his head coach/manager will be disqualified for the remainder of the tournament. A game underway will be forfeited immediately to the opposing team as would a game completed in which the ineligible player participated (final score recorded as 7 - 0). The team (without its head coach/manager and the ineligible player) may continue to play in the remainder of the tournament.

**Sportsmanship:**

We certainly anticipate that tournament games will be emotionally charged and competitive. However, we also expect that every participant and spectator will conduct him/herself at all times in a manner that is appropriate for youth baseball. Accordingly, arguing with or complaining about umpire judgment calls (balls/strikes, out/safe or fair/foul) or any display of inappropriate behavior (to include foul language used) by coaches, managers, players, parents or other spectators simply will not be tolerated. Anyone (except players) in violation of this sportsmanship rule will be asked to leave the premises immediately by either the umpire or tournament site director. If after five (5) minutes the offending person is not out of sight and sound of the field, the team will forfeit the game in progress (final score recorded as 7 - 0). An ejected player will be restricted to the dugout. Anyone ejected from a game may be suspended from participating or being a spectator at the next game. Possible exceptions: (1) If a player is ejected for throwing his bat unintentionally (in the judgment of the umpire) he would not be suspended for the following game. (2) If the tournament director upon a review of the events leading to the ejection and discussions with game officials and all parties involved determines that further game suspension is not warranted.

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Each team will be issued 3 balls at the beginning of the game and will be replenished as necessary by tournament director or designee. Please be understanding of umpires judgement in these new conditions- see sportsmanship clause above

If a coach puts an illegal baseball into the game and it is discovered the following shall occur.

1. The ball will automatically be removed from the game and.
2. If the illegal ball is pitched, it will be considered an illegal pitch and a ball will be awarded to the batter.
3. If the ball is discovered after the play the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play prior to the next pitch, play or feint to a base.
4. The head coach (manager) shall be restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game.
5. Second occurrence the head coach ( manager) will be ejected.

Team head coaches/managers are 100% responsible for the conduct of their assistant coaches, players, parents and any other related spectators. If anyone other than the head coach/manager is ejected by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct, the team's head coach/manager may be suspended for the next game (see possible exceptions above).

Anyone who threatens a tournament official, umpire, opposing coach or player (either physically or verbally) will be asked to leave immediately and may not return for the duration of the tournament.

Team managers should make certain that everyone associated with the their team is fully aware of the sportsmanship rules in advance of the tournament. The games should be fun for all involved, especially the **kids playing** in them.

**RECOMMENDATION TO MANAGERS/COACHES:**

**Print out a copy of this rules document and carry it with you. Read it carefully and share it with your assistants, players and team parents/spectators so that everyone is fully informed about the rules and other tournament matters.**