



2026 Tournament Baseball Rules

Welcome and thank you for participating in the 2026 Spirit Lake Baseball Tournament hosted by the Spirit Lake Youth Athletic Association. The tournament rules are intended to protect the safety of players while promoting fast, fun, and competitive play. Games will start at 8:30am on Saturday, June 20th with Sunday, June 21st as a backup date. A refund of 80% of the entry fee will be issued in case games can't be played on the 20th or 21st due to weather.

Divisions of Play are 10U (4th Grade), 11U (5th Grade), 12U (6th Grade), 13U (7th Grade)

1. Have Fun! It's for the kids!
2. Game length:
 - a. 5 innings. No new inning after 75 minutes on umpires official time.
 - b. Except for championship, games with a tie score after 5 innings will be considered a draw
 - c. Championship games – No time limit
3. There will be a 5 run limit per inning.
4. Mercy rule:
 - o 11 after 3 innings; 6 after 4 innings
 - o If the team that's down mathematically cannot win the game after 3rd or 4th inning, the game is over immediately. If the home team cannot win or tie going into the final inning, or in the bottom of the final inning, due to max runs allowed per inning, or the time limit has expired, the game is over immediately.
5. Field setup:
 - a. 10U – 60' bases / 46' mound
 - b. 11U - 60' bases / 46' mound
 - c. 12U – 75' bases / 50' mound
 - d. 13U - 90' bases / 54' mound
6. Base Running: All base running is live.
 - a. Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and/or catcher. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties. Malicious contact is solely up to the discretion of the umpire.
7. Pitching: Max of 6 innings for the tournament. Take care of young arms. Any violation to the innings pitched rule shall result in immediate forfeiture of the game. It shall be the responsibility of each team manager to challenge pitching violations and notify the umpire and the tournament director.
 - a. Balks may be called only if there is obvious, intentional, or repeated misuse of the rules of pitching). Technical violations giving no advantage shall not be penalized (per the umpire's discretion given the age of players.) One warning per pitcher shall be given.
8. Bat Rules: USA or USSSA stamped bats are acceptable.

9. Home team will be determined by a coin flip.
10. Dugouts occupied on a first come basis. Please help us in cleaning out your dugout and team areas after each game. Also help us in running the scoreboards by supplying one parent or non player to run the controls during each game. Scoreboard controls are located in the dugouts.
11. Teams may bat 9 or their entire lineup if they choose. Substitutions will be unlimited with the exception that once removed, a pitcher may not return to the game as a pitcher.
12. Pregame warm-ups will be taken in the outfield only. No infield will be allowed.
13. Infield fly rule shall be in effect.
14. Courtesy runners are encouraged for all pitchers and catchers. Courtesy runner may be the last out made or a substitute.
15. No Metal spikes
16. Criteria to determine the division winner:
 - a. Win / Loss record
 - b. Head to Head Results
 - c. Total Runs Allowed
 - d. Total Runs Scored
 - e. Coin Toss
17. Score Reporting: Umpires will have official score cards, one card per game. Umpire will turn in scores as games progress.
18. Unless specifically stated, High School Federation rules will apply.
19. Tournament pairings will be sent out one week prior to tournament
20. Player Eligibility

10U Division Players who turn 11 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 4th grade. Also, any player turning 12 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 10u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.

11U Division Players who turn 12 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 5th grade. Also, any player turning 13 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 11u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.

12U Division Players who turn 13 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 6th grade. Also, any player turning 14 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 12u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.

13U Division Players who turn 14 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 7th grade. Also, any player turning 15 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 13u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade.

21. Fields

10U will play on the West field and East field

11U will play on the High School Softball field East field

12U will play on Majors field

13U will play on the High School Baseball field

