

Lenape Valley Baseball Association (LVBA) 2023 Spring Tournament Rules - 7U Division

1. Tournament Bat Rules
 - 7U - USA Standard Bats (No Tee Ball Bats allowed)
 - 8U - USA Standard Bats (No Tee Ball Bats allowed)
 - 9U - Any bat with USA stamped back (except if listed below)
 - 10U- Any bat with USA stamped back (except if listed below)
 - Wood bats may be used in all age brackets
2. Birth Certificates/Proof of Birth (Required):

For all players on your roster, Managers are required to carry some sort of proof of birth, typically a passport or birth certificate. If no proof can be provided on a player challenge, that player must be removed from the game, until proven eligible with LVBA. If LVBA deems that you have an ineligible player it will be an automatic forfeit.
3. Rosters: All rosters must be submitted by 3/1/23 to tournament@lvbaseball.org
4. Balls: LVBA will supply all game balls.
5. All players must play in at least 1 pool play game to qualify for playoff and championship games.
6. All games will be 6 innings.
7. Time Limits -All time limits will begin after the pregame ground rules conference.
 - Time Limit Pool Play - All pool play games will have a time limit.
 - No new inning after 1 hr 30 min.
 - Hard stop at 1 hr 45 min.
 - Extra Innings: If the time has not expired teams will play extra innings until time expires. Games can end in a tie in pool play.
 - Playoffs Time Limit: Same as pool play. If still tied after the time limit has expired we will use the playoff tiebreaker.
 - Playoff Tie Breaker After Time Has Expired - Last batted out from the previous inning will be placed at 1st Base, second to last batted out will be placed at 2nd base and the third to last batted out will be placed at 3rd base. The team at-bat will start the inning with 1-Out. The game will resume and continue every inning like this until one team is ahead at the end of a complete inning.
 - Championship Time Limit - No time limit unless it is deemed necessary by Tournament Director. Play until there is a winner. The higher seed will be the home team in all playoff/championship games.
8. Weather delayed games will continue from the exact point where they left off. A game will be official after a minimum of 3 full innings played.
9. Tie Breakers (Only exception to the below would be when teams are tied in points, the tie breaker would go to the team with more wins)
 - Two-Way Tie Breaker: When two teams finish in a tie for a playoff or tournament spot the following tie breaking formula will be used. {Please note you cannot break a 3+ way tie using a 2-way tie breaker, the 3+ way tie breaker must be used in that case}
 - A) Head to Head
 - B) Fewest Runs Allowed
 - C) Runs Scored
 - D) Highest single-game run differential.

- E) Lowest single-game runs allowed.
- F) Highest single-game runs scored.
- G) Coin Flip

- Three or more tie-breaker: When three or more teams are tied.
 - A) When all tied teams have played each other and one team has beaten ALL the other tied teams without a loss, that team will be awarded the playoff spot. All teams must have played each other to use this.
 - B) Fewest Runs Allowed
 - C) Runs Scored
 - D) Highest single-game run differential.
 - E) Lowest single-game runs allowed.
 - F) Highest single-game runs scored.
 - G) Coin Flip

10. Home/Away Team & Dugouts

- Coin flip by the umpire will determine home teams for all pool play. For playoffs, the higher seed will be the home team.
- The team traveling the furthest will occupy the 1st base dugout each game.

11. Between Innings warm up time limit:

- Teams are limited to 2 minutes between innings to warm up. The 2 minutes starts after the last out in the previous inning. A coach or another player should be prepared to warm up your pitcher if needed.

12. Mound visits:

- 1 trip per inning per pitcher, 2nd trip in an inning for the same pitcher the pitcher must be removed.

13. Only molded rubber/plastic bottomed shoes allowed, no metal spikes.

14. MERCY RULE

- For all games, including playoff rounds and championship games:
 - 15 runs after 3 innings
 - 10 runs after 4 innings
 - 8 runs after 5 innings.

15. Speed up (Catcher/Pitcher Courtesy Runner) rule:

- It is mandatory to have a player not in the line up or the last batted out run for the catcher/Pitcher with 2 outs. The catcher/pitcher is defined as the player who will be catching in the following inning.

16. No pre-game practice will be allowed on the infield. Practice prior to the game will be limited to the outfield.

17. Score Reporting: Lenape Valley Baseball will supply an official scorekeeper for each game. At the completion of each game, the scorekeeper will submit the final score to the Tournament Director.

18. If a player is injured and unable to bat, the injured player's spot in the order will be skipped without an out being recorded. Once an injured player's spot in the batting order is skipped, that spot will be skipped for the duration of the game.

19. Should a player arrive after the start of a game, they may be added to the end of the original batting order unless the last spot in the order has made a plate appearance. The player will be allowed to play defense.

20. Runners will remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. No leads.

21. A runner leaving early will receive a warning from the umpire and a replay of the pitch will occur, unless the defensive team records an out on the play. Each team will be allowed (1) warning per game. Any subsequent violation will result in the baserunner being called out and replay of the will occur unless the defensive team records an out on the play.
22. POG Pins - Each coach will be given 3 POG pins. At the conclusion of each pool play game and the first playoff/consolation game, each coach is asked to pick a player from the opposing team and award them a POG pin. Recipients of a POG pin should be those players that demonstrated during the game great effort, sportsmanship, and overall love for the game of baseball. It does not necessarily have to be the MVP of the game, although each coach is free to award their POG pin to whomever they wish. It is asked that coaches do not award a player a POG pin that has already received one.

7U DIVISION (Coach Pitch)

1. Each team will receive (1) warning per game about thrown bats. A 2nd and additional occurrences of a thrown bat per game will result in the batter being called out.
2. Play will be "Coach Pitch" with the coach pitcher positioned at the front of the pitching mound as indicated by a painted line. Coach pitchers are permitted to coach their hitters throughout the at bat as long as it does not slow the game up.
3. Coaches will pitch to their own team.
4. Once a ball is in-play, the Coach Pitcher should not interfere in the play.
5. If an in-play ball (batted or thrown) unintentionally hits a "Coach Pitcher", the ball is still in-play, unless the umpire deems the Coach Pitcher did not make an adequate attempt to avoid interfering in the play. The umpire may then call the play dead and call the batter/runner out with no advancement by baserunners. The umpire may otherwise deem, using his judgment, in placing runners as a result of a stoppage in play due to the Coach Pitcher getting in the way or colliding with a player attempting to make a play.
6. Each batter will receive a maximum of 5 pitches. 3 swinging strikes is an out. If the batter does not reach base or put the ball in play after 5 pitches, their at-bat will end without reaching base and an out will be recorded.
7. A batter will not strike out on a 5th pitch foul ball but will continue to receive additional pitches as long as the batter fouls the extra pitch off, no takes of extra pitches is allowed unless the pitch is discarded by the umpire.
8. A pitch may be discarded by the umpire, if the umpire in his judgment deems the pitch "unhittable".
9. If a hitter is hit by a pitch, the pitch will be called "unhittable" unless the batter swung at the pitch.
10. Coaches may not argue the umpire's "unhittable" ball decision and may be ejected for doing so.
11. Maximum of 10 batters per inning or 3 outs, whichever comes first.
12. All players present during the game must bat in a predetermined order.
13. A 9 or 10 player defense may be utilized, with a "pitcher" and 3 or 4 outfielders positioned across the outfield (no short fielder at any time). The "pitcher" is to be lined up even with the normal pitching rubber and within a few feet to the left/right of the Coach Pitcher.
14. Free substitution of players on defense.

15. All fielders must play within reasonable (umpire's discretion) proximity to that position's normal location. All outfielders must be positioned outside the infield dirt (on the grass).
16. No bunting is allowed.
17. There is no stealing.
18. There is no advancement by baserunners on wild pitches and catcher's passed balls.
19. On balls hit to the outfield, runners must stop once the ball reaches the infield and the ball is ruled "Under Control" by the umpire.
 - "Under Control" is defined as in the hand/glove of an infielder/pitcher/catcher.
 - Once the ball is "Under Control" the play will be called dead and all runners must return to their previous base unless the umpire deems a runner had passed the mid-point prior to the ball being "Under Control". No further continuation of the play will occur.
20. Baserunners may not advance on an overthrow. Infielders should be encouraged to freely make the attempt to throw to a base for an out. Baserunners should only be advancing by more than one base when the ball is hit into the outfield.

ALL DIVISIONS

1. No head first sliding. A runner may dive head first BACK to a bag (over run, coming back after a pitch or ball put into play).
2. No infield fly rule.
3. When a pitcher is in contact with the pitching rubber and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their base until the ball crosses the plate. There will be no delayed steals of home or any base. Specifically, once the catcher has the ball and is returning it to the pitcher who is in contact with the pitching rubber area, all base runners must return to their respective bases.
4. When a base runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate and the batter does not hit the ball, the runner must return to that previous base. If a play is made on that runner and he is called out, the out stands.
5. When a base runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate and the batter hits the ball, the runners are permitted to continue. If a play is made on the runner or runners and they are put out, the out or outs will stand. If not put out the runner or runners must return to their original base or bases or to the nearest unoccupied base that is nearest the one they left. In no event shall a batter advance beyond first base on a single or error, second base on a double, or third base on a triple. The umpire shall determine the base value of the hit ball.
6. When any base runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate and the batter bunts or hits the ball within the infield, no run shall be allowed to score. If three runners were on the bases and the batter reaches first safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied at the start of the play except the runner who occupied third base, which runner shall be removed from the base without a run being scored.
7. Must Avoid Tag Rule
 - When a base runner is approaching a base or home plate and the defensive player is in possession (or about to be in possession) of the ball, then the runner must slide or avoid the tag. If in the umpire's judgment the runner does not slide or avoid the tag and makes contact with the defensive player then the runner is called out and the ball would be declared dead. If a runner attempting to reach home plate (or any base) intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for causing a possible injury to a defensive player. (This

is an umpire's judgment call.) However, in accordance with Major League Baseball rules, a defensive player is not permitted to block a base or home plate when not in possession (or about to be in possession) of the ball—umpire would apply the obstruction rule in this case.

8. "Hidden Ball" play will not be allowed.
9. The batter will be ruled out when a third strike is caught or dropped by the catcher.
10. If first base is unoccupied on a dropped third strike, the batter will be ruled out and no throw to 1st base will be required.
11. Each Manager will be solely responsible for conduct of their players, their families, their spectators/fans and their own behavior.
12. During games, no more than (4) adults: Manager and (3) Assistants/Scorekeeper will be permitted in the dugout area.

13. PITCHING LIMITATIONS/RESTRICTIONS:

- A) This is a WARM UP tournament. The next MLB Hall of Famer or even High School fireballer is not taking the mound for your team. Respect your players' futures and don't push their pitch counts.
- B) Due to the short duration of the Tournament, pitching limitations will be determined by pitch counts and not innings pitched.

C) Pitch Limits

Age	Max. pitches Saturday to be eligible to pitch Sunday (0 Days Rest)	Daily Pitch Limit for all games played that day	Total Pitches Allowed for Tournament
8	Up to 35	35	60
9-10	Up to 35	50	75

- D) Each team will be on the honor system with managing their pitch counts. Team scorekeepers are encouraged to check-in with each other and the tournament official scorekeeper each half inning to validate score and pitch counts.
- E) Once a pitcher is removed from the position (did not complete an inning), said player may not re-enter that game again as a pitcher.
- F) If a pitcher reaches his or her daily maximum while facing a batter, he or she may finish pitching to that batter before being removed from the pitching position and the count will revert back to where it was when he started the at bat for days rest purposes.
- G) Catcher Rule:
 - A pitcher who delivers 35 or more pitches in a game CANNOT play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day.
 - Any player who has played the position of catcher in 4 or more innings in a game CANNOT pitch for the remainder of the day.
- H) A player may not pitch more than six innings in any two consecutive games. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit. One pitch to a batter is considered as having pitched an inning.