



Tournament rules

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1. Tournament format

The Baseball Culture Summer Classic 2024 will be played in a four age groups (U13 – U15 – U17 - U23) double round robin format on Tuesday thru Friday, followed by Saturday's 3rd/4th place games and finals. Every team will play a total of seven (7) games.

1.1 Round Robin stage (pool play)

On Tuesday thru Friday all teams will face each other twice in each age group.

During this stage games can end in a tie. The SECOND round robin stage will determine who goes to the final (or 3rd/4th place game). The first round robin stage results won't count towards the standings.

If there is a tie in the final standings after Friday's games, the standings will be determined by:

- 1 – head to head result;
- 2 – TQB (total runs divided by total innings);
- 3 – a draw or coin toss.

1.2 Finals stage

On Saturday the number 1 will face the number 2 of the (2nd) Round Robin stage will play the final Championship game. The number 3 and number 4 will play a placement game for 3rd and 4th place.

Tie breaker

Saturday's games cannot end in a tie. If after the normal game time the score is still tied: Tie-Break! A tie-breaker means that the offensive team starts the inning with a runner on second base. That runner will be the player that is in the current line-up in the spot prior to the first batter of that inning. The usual substitution rules apply. There will be played until there is a winner. This may lead to changes in the tournament schedule.

1.3 Pre game at the field

After every game a field crew will prepare the field for the next game.

After the field crew has cleared the field for the pregame, teams can enter the field. Team managers shall discuss the use of the field for the remaining time until the game starts. Games will always start at the announced time. No extra time will be allowed to finish pregame routines.

No on-field batting practice is allowed before the games.

Team managers can consult the tournament director for the use of the batting cages.

Please make sure to do your pregame warmups away from the freshly drawn chalk lines, so the game can start on a beautiful baseball field with all lines in place.

1.4 Game times

The game times will be published in the tournament game schedule.

Game times can be changed by the tournament director at any time and without prior notification. So **ALWAYS** check the latest game times and tournament information (website).



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1.5 Game duration

Games will last a maximum of 5 complete innings, or 4 ½ innings with the home-team having the lead. After 80 minutes, no new inning will be started. That inning will be completed. If the home team is in the lead, the bottom inn will not be played.

Mercy rule

During one half inning a team can score a maximum of SIX (6) points. As soon as a team scores their 6th point, that half inning is over (no extra points beyond 6).

Play, don't delay!

Baseball Culture thinks delaying a game is unsportsmanlike!

If, in the discretion of the umpire, a game is intentionally delayed, the umpire will give one final warning to the team manager. If the team is again delaying the game, the umpire will dismiss the manager from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct, resume the game and advise the tournament director about the delay. The tournament director will make a final (non protestable) decision, which can lead to a 0 – 7 loss as the final result of the game.

2. Rules of play

Unless mentioned otherwise, all games at the Baseball Culture Summer Classic 2024 will be played under the official Dutch baseball rules ([Spelregels Honkbal 2024](#)). These rules are based on the Official Baseball Rules 2023 of Major League Baseball.

2.1 Protest and rule checks

- There will be no protests allowed during or after the games. Any protest regarding a ruling or judgement call is prohibited.
- A team manager is allowed to ask an umpire to consult the other umpire about a call or ruling, but the umpire is not required to do so.

2.2 Bats allowed

Wood and/or compound bats are allowed in all age groups.

For equality of competition and safety reasons all aluminum alloy or composite bats that meet the standards below are allowed (logo must be on the bat):

U13: USABat and BBCOR

U15: USABat and BBCOR

U17: BBCOR and Wood

U23: BBCOR and Wood

- ➔ No bat length restrictions apply. **If you can swing it, bring it!!**
- ➔ Entering the batter's box with a unallowed or illegal bat will result in an out and the dismissal of the player. Any extra penalty is at the tournament director's discretion.
- ➔ Umpires will conduct no pregame bat checks. Team managers are responsible for the use of allowed bats only by his players.



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3. Line-ups

Five minutes before game time the managers of both teams will hand over their line-up cards to the home plate umpire at the plate meeting.

3.1 All players in the line-up

All players will be on the line-up and bat in order of that line-up, during the Round Robin and Finals stage. There will be no limitations on their defensive positions except for returning to the position of pitcher or catcher (see "Pitchers and Catchers").

3.2 Mandatory play

Baseball Culture wants all players to play.

Every player is in the line-up Tuesday thru Saturday. If during the Round Robin stage a player does not get an at-bat because of the time limit of games, this player has to be in position 1-4 in the line-up for the next game.

Tuesday thru Friday all players in a team must have at least 1 full at-bat. An at-bat ends when the batter is put out, reaches 1st base and scores or is put out on the bases, or the inning/game ends. If during the Round Robin stage a player does not get an at-bat because of the time limit of games, this player has to be in position 1-4 in the line-up for the next game.

4. Pitchers and Catchers

4.1 Warm up pitches

A new pitcher on the mound (starting or relieving) will have one (1) minute to throw a maximum of eight (8) warm up pitches. Between innings the pitcher will have one (1) minute to throw a maximum of five (5) warm up pitches. If a new pitcher starts an inning the maximum number of pitches is eight (8).

4.2 Pitch count or innings restriction

- Home team is responsible for the pitchcounts (check with the Scorer)
- Coach needs to take out the pitcher when max pitchcount is reached (after the at bat) Pitcher can continue in the game at a different position
- A pitcher that is taken out of the game can't return as a pitcher in the same game.
- A pitcher that stays in the game (different position) can only return as a pitcher ONCE in the same game
- As discussed in the coaches meeting: **Please be responsible with your pitchers. You don't HAVE to go for the max as a coach. Younger players in higher age groups and none pitchers are at risk.**

4.3 Minimum # of batters faced

U13/U15: A pitcher may be substituted after he has faced (and finished) **1** batter, if he cannot continue due to an injury or if the inning/game ends.

U17/U23: A pitcher may be substituted after he has faced (and finished) **3** batters, if he cannot continue due to an injury or if the inning/game ends.



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Ruling: If a pitcher faced only one batter in an inning and the 3rd out is made, and then starts the next inning, there will be **no** minimum batters he has to face. (This is different from the official baseball rules)

4.4 Mound visits

U13/U15: There is a limit of one (1) 30 second visit by a coach or manager for each pitcher. If a pitcher is on the mound for the second time after being substituted as a pitcher (to bench or other position), he will not get another visit.

U17/U23: The official Dutch baseball rules apply. Visits will be limited to 30 seconds.

At all age groups, visits to the pitcher by the catcher must be limited, and must be granted by the umpire.

4.5 Return at pitcher or catcher position

U13/U15: A pitcher or catcher who is replaced from that position can return to that position once per game.

U17/U23: A pitcher or catcher who is replaced from that position cannot return to that position.

5. Running the bases

5.1 Leads, pick offs and balks.

Runners may take a lead. Pick-offs are allowed. Balks will be called.

5.2 Avoid contact

The normal rules to avoid contact and for sliding are in effect for this tournament.

Baseball Culture wants to point out that all players must play fair and make an effort to avoid contact with other players in any situation.

If, in an umpire's judgment, there is intentional contact, the umpire will call the runner out on the play.

If, in an umpire's judgment, there is intentional and malicious contact, the player will be ejected from the game and face a minimum suspension of one (1) game.



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6. Miscellaneous

6.1 Dismissal or ejection

If a player, manager or coach is dismissed or ejected from a game, the umpire(s) will report this to the tournament director, who will make a final decision about any suspension and/or penalty.

6.2 On-deck batter

One (1) on-deck batter with a helmet on is allowed outside of the dugout at the designated area. All offensive players, managers and coaches stay in the dugout, except when they are coaching at first or third base, batting, running the bases or warming up in the bull pen.

6.3 Electronic devices in the dugout

During the game, electronic devices are allowed **IN THE DUG OUT ONLY**. No player, manager, coach or score keeper is allowed to have them on the field.

6.4 Infield Fly rule

The infield fly rule is in effect at all age groups.

6.5 Intentional Walk

Baseball Culture does not like walks. But sometimes a team manager needs to call for one. If so, the manager can signal the plate umpire, who will then grant the batter first base.

6.6 No rule / the rule is unclear

If a tournament rule is unclear to a manager before a game, the manager can ask the Technical Director to explain the rule. During the game, the on-field umpire's explanation will be final and not debatable.

During a game the umpires can also use rule 8.01c of the Dutch official baseball rules 2022 to solve any baseball situation: *"Each umpire has authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules."*

Any other situations, which are not covered by these tournament rules or any other BCSC 2024 rules, are to be ruled by the tournament director at his/her discretion.

Protests against any decisions by umpires or the tournament director will not be permitted.

Technical Director
Jeroen Groenemans