# 31 North Baseball Rules

Fall 2026

Any problems occurring at any park will be resolved through the chain of command.

> **NOTE**: If you have a problem it will go to that Park's President; if he or she cannot solve the problem, it will then be turned over to the President of 31 North. Any problem must be reported within 48 hours.

Except where otherwise specifically set forth in these rules, the official rule book of USSSA Baseball shall govern the rules of play.

Time Limits will be as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Ragball (3 & 4 year olds)** | **1 Hour 00 Minutes** |
| **5/6 and 7/8 age groups** | **1 Hour 15 Minutes** |
| **9/10 Age Group** | **1 Hour 30 Minutes** |
| **11/12 Age Group** | **1 Hour 30 Minutes** |

## Ragball Rules

- Each team must bat the entire roster each at bat. Every player shall play in the field each inning.
- Each batter and runner shall only advance 1 base at a time per hit. The last batter shall clear the bases.

## All Age Groups (5U – 12U)

- Each team must bat the entire roster.
- Each player must play at least 1 complete inning in the field on defense.

## Travel Baseball Players

Travel Baseball Players- A Travel Baseball Player is defined as any player who is currently on the roster of a USSSA team actively playing tournaments during the current season.

- No more than four (4) Travel Baseball Players are allowed on any recreational team roster within 31 North.

- If a team wishes to roster more than four (4) Travel Baseball Players, a vote must be taken by the members of 31 North.

- Each park shall receive one (1) vote, cast by its designated park representative.

- A majority vote will determine whether additional Travel Baseball Players may be permitted on that roster

## 5/6 Rules

- Teams in age groups 5-8 may play with **NINE** players or borrow **ONE** from another team in that age group to make 9 or 10 provided the borrowed player is from your park. If you go to another park with nine players, you must play with nine. Borrowed player **MUST** play outfield and bat last. If at any time you have 8 kids or less (counting borrowed players), game can still be played but will be considered a forfeit.

- **Tee Rules**
  - Age of each player will be determined not by their age on the current date, but by their age according to the USSSA age cutoff date (USSSA rule 3.00).
  - **5 Year Old and Under**: 5 year olds and under will use the 4/2 format. Players will receive four pitches but if they fail to get a hit, they will then get two attempts off the tee. The coach may elect to pitch to the batter, however if a 5th pitch is thrown, the batter must finish the at-bat WITHOUT the tee. (In the judgment of the umpire, if the coach is intentionally throwing un-hittable pitches, the batter is out. Once the batter is called out, the pitching coach will receive a warning, and then on the next instance he will be removed.)
  - **6 Year Olds**: For the entire season, 6-year-olds will receive 6 pitches during each at-bat. Players will not strike out on three swings. 6-year-olds **ARE NOT ALLOWED** to use the tee.

- Outfielders **can not** make a play in the infield or call timeout; they must throw the ball in to an infielder before time is called.
- Defensive coaches will be allowed to be on the field. Defensive coaches must be in foul territory and must be even with or behind the outfielder on whichever side of the field they are on.
- Coach is allowed to pitch from a minimum of 25'. There will be a 20' foul arc. Pitcher's circle is centered at 47' from home plate with the front of the circle at 42' from home plate.
- No intentional walks are allowed. No bunting or fake bunt/swing is allowed.
- Game is called for run rule only when one team is mathematically eliminated due to maximum 7 runs per inning.
- Refer to USSSA Baseball Rule 8.00 – Coach Pitch Specific Rules in the USSSA Official Rules for additional information.

## 7/8 Rules

- Teams in age groups 5-8 may play with **NINE** players or borrow **ONE** from another team in that age group to make 9 or 10 provided the borrowed player is from your park. If you go to another park with nine players, you must play with nine. Borrowed player **MUST** play outfield and bat last. If at any time you have 8 kids or less (counting borrowed players), game can still be played but will be considered a forfeit.
- Coach is allowed to pitch from a minimum of 32'. There will be a 20' foul arc. Pitcher's circle is centered at 47' from home plate with the front of the circle at 42' from home plate.
- No intentional walks are allowed. No bunting or fake bunt/swing is allowed.
- Defensive coaches **will not** be allowed on the field.
- Game is called for run rule only when one team is mathematically eliminated due to maximum 7 runs per inning.
- Refer to USSSA Baseball Rule 8.00 – Coach Pitch Specific Rules in the USSSA Official Rules for additional information.

## 9/10 Rules

- Teams in age groups 9-12 may play with **EIGHT** players or borrow **ONE** from another team in that age group to make 8 or 9 provided the borrowed player is from your park. If you go to another park with eight players, you must play with eight. Borrowed player **MUST** play outfield and bat last. If at any time you have 7 kids or less (counting borrowed players), game can still be played but will be considered a forfeit.
- Offense is limited to 7 runs maximum per half inning. Half inning ends once the 7$^{th}$ run scores.
- Bases will be 65 feet in distance. Pitching distance will be 46 feet from home plate.
- Base runners **ARE** allowed to lead off.
- Dropped 3$^{rd}$ strike rule WILL NOT be enforced in the fall.
- USSSA baseball run rule 7.03 will be enforced. Refer to Chart 7.03.B-1 in the USSSA Baseball Rules. Run rule is 15 runs after 3 inning or 8 runs after 4 innings. Game may also be called in 9/10 when one team is mathematically eliminated due to maximum 7 runs per inning.
- Pitch count will be used instead of innings pitched. Refer to the table below.

## 11/12 Rules

- Each team MUST bat the roster. Teams in age groups 9-12 may play with **EIGHT** players or borrow **ONE** from another team in that age group to make 8 or 9 provided the borrowed player is from your park. If you go to another park with eight players, you must play with eight. Borrowed player **MUST** play outfield and bat last. If at any time you have 7 kids or less

(counting borrowed players), game can still be played but will be considered a forfeit.

- Bases will be 70ft in distance. Pitching distance will be 50 feet from home plate.
- USSSA run rule 7.03 will be enforced. Refer to Chart 7.03.B-1 in the USSSA Baseball Rules. Run rule is 15 runs after 3 inning or 8 runs after 4 innings.
- Pitch count will be used instead of innings pitched. Refer to the table below.

| **Pitch Count & Required Rest Limitations** | **Required Rest (Pitches)** | **Required Rest (Pitches)** | **Required Rest (Pitches)** | **Required Rest (Pitches)** | **Daily Max (Pitches)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *NO REST REQUIRED* | *1 Calendar Day* | *2 Calendar Day* | *3 Calendar Day* | |
| **9/10** | 1-35 | 36-50 | 51-65 | 66+ | 75 |
| **11/12** | 1-35 | 36-50 | 51-65 | 66+ | 85 |

## All age groups – batting the roster

In 5-8 yr olds if a player(s) becomes ill, injured, leaves, etc. and you are left with only 8 players or less, you forfeit the game. If you start the game with 9 or 10 players and a player becomes injured or ill and that batter cannot bat, then the game will continue but it will be an automatic out when his spot in the line-up comes up. Once the player is removed from the game he cannot return. If b/c you are batting your roster you have 11 or more kids in the lineup and one of them becomes ill, injured or leaves and has to be removed from the game, then it will not be considered an out. Their spot will be skipped in the line-up for the remainder of the game. Once removed from the game that player will not be allowed to re-enter the game. If a player shows up late for the game and the line-up has already been turned in, then you may choose not to play them or bat them in the last spot of the batting line-up. You must notify the other team before the child bats.

In 9-12 yr olds if a player(s) gets hurt, injured, leaves, etc. and you are left with only 7 players, you forfeit the game. If you start the game with 9 players and a player becomes injured or ill and that batter cannot bat, then the game will continue but it will be an automatic out when his spot in the line-up comes up. Once the player is removed from the game he cannot return. If b/c you are batting your roster you have 10 or more kids in the line-up and one of them becomes ill, injured or leaves and has to be removed from the game, then it will not be considered an out. Their spot will be skipped in the line-up for the remainder of the game. Once removed from the game that player will not be allowed to re-enter the game. If a player shows up late for the game and the line-up has already been turned in, then you may choose not to play them or bat them in the last spot of the batting line-up. You must notify the other team before the child bats.