

Hershey Little League's 2024 Summer Slam Baseball Tournament Rules

All field areas in use during the tournament are located on Derry Township School District property. A No Smoking/No Vaping/No Tobacco/No Alcohol policy is strictly enforced at all properties. HLL and its representatives reserve the right to disqualify any coach or team and remove any parent or fan from any field during any game.

All teams are guaranteed 3 games, weather permitting.

Rules for Play

All Little League International Tournament Baseball rules for 2024, updated Age Restrictions, will apply unless explicitly stated herein.

<https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/tournament-rules-baseball/>

NOTES:

- This includes the requirement that teams must use a continuous batting order (all players in the lineup, free defensive substitutions)
- Only bats bearing the USA Baseball approved marking or wooden bats are permitted for play. (No USSSA, NTS, BBCOR, BESR, etc)

EXCEPTIONS:

- Little League pitching rules do not apply. See details below.
- A coach IS PERMITTED to "warm up" a pitcher between innings to promote pace of play
- All players must adhere to the April 30/May 1 age cutoff. Example: a player born April 30, 2014 is considered age 10, a player born May 1, 2014 is considered age 9 for eligibility purposes. Any attempt to enter an ineligible player or to falsify player age may result in manager ejection and/or team disqualification from Summer Slam.
- No new inning shall be started once 1:45 game time has been reached. Ties are allowed in pool play.
- There is no time limit in championship games.
- Elimination games only: In the event of a tie after 6 innings or reaching the 1:45 time limit, the next inning will move immediately into International Rule play, with the player in the previous spot in the batting order to the leadoff batter that inning becoming a runner on second to start the inning. All other substitution rules remain in place as well as current batting order.
- During pool play the Home team is designated by coin flip at the pregame meeting. During the playoffs the home team will be determined by seeding. If there are multiple pools, and the championship game teams have the same pool seed, we will use existing tiebreakers (runs allowed, then run scored). If still tied, the home team will be determined by a coin flip.
- In 8U play, there is a 5-run limit per inning for the first 4 innings. The inning will conclude when the 5th run scores. Subsequent runs on the same play will not count. There is no run limit for subsequent innings.

Intentional walks are permissible in all divisions, when the defensive head coach informs the umpire in advance of the first pitch being thrown to a batter.

Dropped 3rd strike rule for batter to advance to an unoccupied first base (occupied with two outs) will apply for 11U and 12U only.

Infield fly rule will apply for 11U and 12U only.

At the end of pool play, teams will advance to either a consolation game or a single elimination bracket. The number of teams making the playoff round is at the discretion of the tournament director and based upon the total number of registered teams. The following criteria will be used to determine playoff seeding, in this order:

1. Win/loss record
2. Head-to-head winner if **two** teams have the same win/loss record
3. The number of runs allowed during pool play
4. The number of runs scored during pool play

The tournament director will provide umpire fees, balls, and scoreboard operation but will not provide an official scorekeeper. Each team is responsible for their own scorekeeper and differences must be resolved between the coaches, scorekeepers, and umpire in-charge.

-The home team is the official game scorebook of record for all games.

-At the completion of each game, both teams will confirm the scorebook and pitcher affidavits.

-GameChanger is encouraged as an appropriate substitute for a paper scorebook.

The assignment of teams to specific pools/slots will be determined as follows:

-At the discretion of the tournament director multiple teams from the same league will be separated, as necessary.

-Wherever possible, teams will be slotted by the tournament director based on specific conflicts

In the event of a tie after 6 innings or the time limit has been reached in an elimination game, International Rules for extra innings are in effect. There are no time limits for championship games. International rules dictate that, in the aforementioned situation, the player in the previous spot in the batting order to the leadoff batter that inning becomes the runner on second to start the inning. All other substitution rules remain in place as well as current batting order.

Pitching Rules:

-Players may not pitch more than 6 innings per day

-Players may not pitch more than a total of 8 innings in the tournament

-A player who pitches more than 4 innings in a day may not return to pitch in following day(s)

-A player who pitches more than 4 innings in a day may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day

-A single pitch delivered in a given inning will count as an inning pitched

Coaches/Player Code of Conduct:

We want to encourage a competitive and sportsmanlike environment. Unacceptable behavior by coaches, players or fans will not be tolerated. "Unacceptable Behavior" can be defined as, but not limited to: compromising the integrity of the game, swearing, throwing batting helmets/bats/gloves, arguing with umpires, etc. Infractions could result in ejection. Any ejection carries an automatic one-game suspension. If a player, coach or fan commits a second violation; it may result in expulsion from the tournament.

Distracting the pitcher while he is in the process of pitching is not permitted.

Distracting the batter while he is in the process of batting is not permitted.

Teams that do not appear within 15 minutes of their scheduled game time will be assessed a forfeit.

Each team may have a maximum of 15 players and 3 coaches, including the scorekeeper. If a younger sibling will be used as a bat boy he/she must wear a helmet.

All teams must be uniformed.

Eligible players must come from a Municipal/Civic/Recreation League based All-Star Team. Teams must present a copy of team insurance at or prior to registration. Hershey Little League and Derry Township School District must be listed as additionally insured entities.

If a team is found to be a "travel/academy/club" team (players from multiple rec organizations/leagues) and/or has misled Hershey Little League in any manner, the offending team will forfeit any wins and will be automatically withdrawn from the tournament with no refund.

Team Roster:

-Each team is responsible for submitting to the tournament director the eligible roster on or before the first day of the tournament. Each team may roster up to 15 players. Only those players listed on the roster are eligible to play in the tournament. Therefore, the opening day roster is the final roster and additions to it will not be accepted once the tournament begins. A copy of a birth certificate or a passport will be needed for each player competing.

Pitching Affidavits

A pitching affidavit will be presented to the opposing team before the start of each game. Each team will mark on the affidavit the inning counts for the opposing team's players. At the end of the game each manager/scorekeeper will sign off on the affidavit. Any violation of pitching rules will result in forfeiture of the game that the violation occurred in.

Weather

A game is considered complete after 4 innings (3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead) and the game is called because of weather.

In the case of lightning, when a 30 minute delay is required, the clock will continue to run during the delay. If the game being played does not reach regulation and the 1 hour and 45 minute clock runs out, the teams affected may be asked to resume at a later time. Any later game will begin on time assuming the weather threat has dissipated.

The tournament director, his designee, or the field prep staff will determine if the games are to be canceled prior to the start of the game. Once the game has begun, it is the umpire who will call the game.

Weather Refund Policy:

- a. If 0 Games Played – full credit towards next year's tournament at any age level.
- b. If 1 Game Played – \$300 credit towards next year's tournament at any age level.
- c. If 2 Games Played - \$150 credit towards next year's tournament at any age level.

If Weather occurs, we will do our best to make all games occur in a reasonable manner and will do everything reasonably possible to complete the tournament.

Batting Cages/Warmups

Team's on-deck for the next game have priority use of all cages. If cages are unoccupied, tournament teams may use them for team practice for up to 45 minutes.

Teams are allowed to begin batting practice in the designated cage 1-hr before listed game time. There will be no warm-ups or infield practice on the infield dirt. Teams will be permitted 15-minutes each of on-the-field pregame warm-ups limited to the outfield grass.

-North Field cages, located directly behind North Field outfield fence

-South Field cages, located beyond right field outfield fence

-Memorial Field cages, located adjacent to Memorial Field (high school/Legion field) may be used ONLY if there is no Legion or Teener game/practice.

The tournament director or umpire may reduce or eliminate this time interval at their discretion. This may be required in cases where the tournament game schedule must be maintained.

Protests

Problems that arise or protests that are made will be heard and the outcome determined by the tournament director or his designee. All protests must be filed within 30 minutes of game completion and prior to leaving the premises the day/night that the game was played along with a protest filing fee of \$50.00. A decision will be made by the tournament director and HLL prior to the next game being played for the teams in question. All protests must be filed at the registration table. An upheld protest will result in a refund of the protest filing fee. A denied protest will result in forfeiture of the fee. Please bear in mind that protests will only be heard when the situation involves violations or interpretations of a playing rule, the use of an ineligible

pitcher, or the use of an ineligible player. Protests on decisions involving an umpire's judgment will not be considered.

Violation of rules/conduct will be enforced by the umpire.

Miscellaneous

Please do not allow horseplay and maintain the safety of all in the dugout and batting cage areas.

Please pick up all trash at the end of each game from the dugout area.

Please exit the dugout immediately after the conclusion of your games, unless you are playing in the following game. For post-game meetings, please address your team at a discrete location outside of the field area after clearing the dugout.

Please allow all players/coaches from previous games to exit the dugouts prior to entering for a game.

Only coaches and players are allowed in the dugout area. All other spectators must remain outside the marked areas.