

BASEBALL – Page 1

GUIDING BODIES

United States Police and Fire Championships (USPFC)
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Major League Baseball Rules (as modified below)
www.mlb.com http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/foreward.jsp

Designated hitter rule per MLB rules.

EVENTS

UNISEX: 18+

Rosters are limited to a maximum of 24 players plus a non-playing coach/manager. The coach/manager may be sworn or non-sworn (within USPFC guidelines). However, only sworn coaches/managers who submit an eligible entry and participate as a coach may receive a medal. See the GENERAL SPORT RULES for coaches/managers release of liability requirements.

OFFICIALS

Sport Coordinator: The sport coordinator must be on site at all times or designate an assistant sport coordinator to handle lead responsibilities when it is necessary for the sport coordinator to be away from the location.

Assistant Sport Coordinator: This person can assist the sport coordinator during the tournament. If more than one location is being used for this event, an assistant sport coordinator must be designated for each additional complex.

An "Umpire-in-Chief" shall be appointed to handle the scheduling and monitoring of the umpires utilized in the tournament. The "Umpire-in-Chief" will also attend the mandatory coaches meeting.

Two umpires will be used for all games. Exception: three umpires will be used for all play-off games.

BRACKETING

The tournament will be a double elimination tournament which will determine medal winners.

SCHEDULING

Recommended scheduling for baseball is as follows:

The baseball competition will require four to five days depending on the number of teams that enter.

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The length of all games will be 7 innings.

Time limit: Two hours and thirty minutes

After 5 innings, if one team is 10 or more runs ahead the game will be called.

After 7 innings, if the teams are tied, the game will continue one inning at a time (extra innings) until a winner is determined.

Exceptions: for playoff play only:

All medal games will be 9 innings (gold, silver, bronze games only.)

GENERAL SPORT RULES for Baseball

The official batting line up requires a minimum of nine (9) batters. Teams may bat through their entire order of rostered and available players or include any number between nine (9) and the maximum of twenty-four (24) batters, team limit. (All batters must be on the official team roster.) After a game has begun, a team may elect to add additional batters to their line up to increase the original number of batters (at the end of the 5th inning, no additional players may be added to the line-up. **During medal play, there will be no additions to the bottom of the line-up during any inning.**

Should a team not list all of their game available players as batters they may substitute any of those players into any batting order position. That player must then bat in the inserted batting order position until substituted for; pinch hitters are considered substitute batters. Once a batter is replaced in the lineup batting order that player may not bat for the remainder of the game; the player is still eligible to participate on defense without penalty for substitution. Teams must complete the game with the same number of batters as on their official game batting lineup. Should a listed batting lineup position not have a batter available when that position comes to bat that position will receive an automatic out each time throughout the game.

Open defensive substitution is permitted throughout the game. Players may change on field and bench positions at any time in each and every inning. Rostered and available players may play any one of the nine (9) defensive positions during an inning without a penalty for substitution. This will allow greater player participation.

Speed Up Rule: When the catcher is on base or reaches base with 2 outs, he/she will be replaced with a courtesy runner. This is to allow the catcher time to put his/her equipment on prior to the start of the next half inning. The courtesy runner will be a player on the same team that made the last out. This substitute does not affect the playing status of the catcher or the courtesy runner. **NO OTHER COURTESY RUNNERS WILL BE ALLOWED.** Playoff games will not use the speed up rule. (Teams might consider having another team member or coach available to warm up the pitcher until such time as the catcher is available during the playoff rounds.)

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Designated runners will not be allowed.

Uniforms - All players shall wear similar color and style shirts with an arabic number of contrasting color at least six (6) inches in height on the back. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers (Numbers 03 and 3 are examples of identical numbers.) Players without numbers will not be permitted to play.

Metal cleats will be allowed.

Protests will not be received or considered if they are based solely on a “judgment call” made by an umpire. Protests presented due to rules interpretation and after an on diamond umpires only conference will be decided by conference between the diamond coordinator and the on-field umpire crew-chief. The resulting decision(s) will be applied and be final.

Players, coaches, managers or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, officials or spectators; or commit other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. This includes behavior on and off the field at the venue site. The penalty for violations by a player is, at minimum, prompt ejection of the offender from the game. The offender must leave the field or spectator area immediately. If the offender refuses to leave, his/her team will forfeit that game. Penalties may also include suspension from following games. If a player is ejected from the last game of the tournament, the player may be suspended from future games in the following years. Severe offences may result in being suspended temporarily or permanently from future United States Police and Fire Championships.

A MANDATORY COACHES/MANAGERS MEETING WILL BE HELD PRIOR TO THE START OF THE TOURNAMENT. A coach/manager or representative from each team must be present at this meeting. The Sport Coordinator, Assistant Sports Coordinator and the Umpire-in-Chief for the tournament will discuss rules and answer any questions.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVES WILL SUBMIT THEIR FINAL SIGNED TEAM ROSTERS AT THE COACHES/MANAGERS MEETING. NO ADDITIONAL PLAYERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE ADDED TO THE ROSTER AFTER THIS MEETING.