



2026 Center of the Nation Classic



Minors (10u) Tournament Rules

****Divisions will play in accordance with the current Cal Ripken Baseball rules and regulations with the exceptions that may be listed below.***

Game Length and Play – Standard Game 5 innings

- 1) All games will end at the bottom of an inning and no new inning should start after **1 hour and 40 minutes**.
- 2) The following mercy rule will be in effect: 10-runs after four (4) innings.
- 3) Each half inning prior to the fifth inning (unless an inning such as the fourth is declared to be the final inning by **BOTH** coaches prior to the start of the inning) will end when the first of either of two situations occurs:
Three (3) outs are recorded **OR** Five (5) runs have scored.
- 4) The fifth or final inning, will end **ONLY** when three outs are recorded **OR** as agreed by both coaches, in the event of mercy. There is no limit to the amount of runs that may be scored in the final inning.

Seeding Criteria

- 1) Overall Record, 2) Head to Head, 3) Runs Allowed, 4) Runs Differential 5) Coin Flip

Equipment

- 1) All bats **must** be in accordance with USABAT Standard to be used. Wood bats are permitted.
- 2) The catcher must have full equipment to include throat guard. Anyone warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.
- 3) Metal cleats are **not** permitted.
- 4) All Batters, base runners, and players acting as a base coach **must** wear a helmet that covers both ears.

Pitching Rules

- 1) Pitchers may pitch a maximum of **2 innings per game and 6 total innings** for the tournament.
- 2) One pitch in an inning is considered an inning pitched.
- 3) Pitchers will be allowed **5** warm-up pitches between innings.
- 4) There is no balk rule in effect.
- 5) If a pitcher takes another position on the field, he/she may not pitch again in that game.
- 6) A violation of the pitching rules will result in forfeiture of the current game.

Batting

- 1) A "running" Batting Order will be observed.
- 2) The infield fly rule is **NOT** in effect.

Slide Rule

- 1) All base runners **must** make an attempt to slide directly into the base if there is going to be a play.
- 2) Umpire discretion will be applied and will be the **final** decision on **all** slides.

Base Running

- 1) The runner may steal a base **after** the pitch crosses home plate.
- 2) **Home is closed** - Stealing home/taking home on a pass ball is **NOT** permitted.
- 3) If a team is leading by 7 runs or more, they may no longer steal bases.
- 4) Any attempt to run into a fielder with the intent to dislodge the ball will result in ejection from the game.
- 5) Courtesy runners are encouraged (**not required**) for the catcher.

Sportsmanship

- 1) This is a **no** tolerance tournament. Bad sportsmanship by a player or coach is subject to ejection from the game/tournament.
- 2) Players need to hustle on and off the field.
- 3) Have fun!



2026 Center of the Nation Classic

Majors (12u) Tournament Rules



**Divisions will play in accordance with the current Cal Ripken Baseball rules and regulations with the exceptions that may be listed below.*

Game Length – Standard Game 5 innings

- 1) All games will end at the bottom of an inning and no new inning should start after **1 hour and 40 minutes**.
- 2) The following mercy rules will be in effect: 12-runs after three (3) innings, 10-runs after four (4) innings.
- 3) There will be no ties. Games will go extra innings, if needed, to determine a winner. Extra innings begins with the sixth (6) inning.
 - The last batter from the previous inning will start on second base at the beginning of any extra innings needed.

Seeding Criteria

- 1) Overall Record, 2) Head to Head, 3) Runs Allowed, 4) Runs Differential 5) Coin Flip

Equipment

- 1) All bats must be in accordance with USABAT Standard to be used. Wood bats are permitted.
- 2) The catcher must have full equipment to include throat guard. Anyone warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.
- 3) Metal cleats are not permitted.
- 4) All Batters, base runners, and players acting as a base coach must wear a helmet that covers both ears.

Pitching Rules

- 1) Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 2 innings per game: 6 innings per day.
- 2) One pitch in an inning is considered an inning pitched.
- 3) Pitchers will be allowed 5 warm-up pitches between innings.
- 4) If a pitcher takes another position on the field, he/she may not pitch again in that game.
- 5) A violation of the pitching rules will result in forfeiture of the current game.
- 6) Only egregious Balks will be called i.e. failure to throw home after starting pitching motion

Batting

- 1) You may elect to bat all players on the roster with free substitution. If you bat 9 or 10 batters, you are allowed one reentry for that player.
- 2) Infield Fly will be called with runners on 1st&2nd or 1st,2nd,&3rd with less than 2 outs on a fly ball that could be caught in fair territory by a 12 year old infielder with ordinary effort based on umpires judgement

Slide Rule

- 1) All base runners must make an attempt to slide directly into the base if there is going to be a play.
- 2) Umpire discretion will be applied and will be the final decision on all slides.

Base Running

- 1) The runner may steal at will.
- 2) *Home is open* - Stealing home/taking home on a pass ball is permitted.
- 3) The batter may run on a dropped third strike.
- 4) Any attempt to run into a fielder with the intent to dislodge the ball will result in ejection from the game.
- 5) Courtesy runners are encouraged (not required) for the catcher.

Sportsmanship

- 1) This is a no tolerance tournament. Bad sportsmanship by a player or coach is subject to ejection from the game/tournament.
- 2) Players need to hustle on and off the field.
- 3) Have fun!



2026 Center of the Nation Classic



Tournament Lightning, Cancellation, and Refund Policy

Suspension of Play Due to Lightning and/or Thunder.

- 1) All Suspension of play announcements will be made from the main press box.
- 2) Play will be suspended if lightning/thunder is detected within 8 miles of the location using the lightning app.
- 3) Once play has been suspended, 30-minute wait time after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
- 4) Any subsequent thunder or lightning after beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count will begin.

We all want to get games in, but no game in this tournament is more important than the player's safety.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

If the tournament is cancelled, the following refunds will be allocated to participating teams.

Any team that has participated in **LESS THAN** one completed contest – \$200 Refund.

Any team that has participated in 1 contest but less than 2 completed contests – \$100 Refund.

Any team that has participated in 2 completed contests – Box of Baseballs Returned.