

Policies and Procedures

Official Tournament Rules | Spring 2026

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| Event | 2026 Spring Riverbrawl Classic |
| Dates | April 24-26, 2026 |
| Location | Defoe Park, Bay City, MI |
| Divisions | 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U |
| Rules Base | Modified High School Rules |
| Time Limit | 90 minutes (no limit for Championship) |

Umpires

- Umpires are assigned to each game.
- Coaches must treat umpires with respect.
- All on-field calls made by umpires are final.

Team Arrival & Minimum Players

- Teams may arrive 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time — games may begin earlier than published.
- A game may start and finish with a minimum of eight (8) uniformed and rostered players.
- If playing with eight (8) players, the ninth spot in the batting order is an automatic out.
- If a ninth player arrives, they may be inserted into the ninth spot and the automatic out will cease.
- If a team has seven (7) or fewer uniformed and rostered players at the start or during a game, it is declared a forfeit — score of 7-0 for tiebreaker purposes.

Home Team Designation

- Pool games: Home team determined by coin flip. The team traveling the greatest distance calls the flip, with an umpire or tournament management member present.
- Playoffs: The higher seed (based on original seeding) is the home team.

Dugout Assignments

- Teams occupy first and third base dugouts on a first-come, first-served basis, regardless of home/away status.
- Teams with back-to-back games on the same field must remain in the same dugout to avoid delays.

Pre-Game Warm-Ups

- No infield practice prior to games.
- Teams may play catch in the outfield if time allows.

- Flip drills into fences or stepping on foul lines is prohibited.

Tiebreaker Criteria

If a tiebreaker is needed to determine playoff teams, the following criteria apply in order:

1. Overall won-lost record
2. Head-to-head (applies only to two-team ties)
3. Least number of runs allowed throughout the tournament
4. Total runs scored
5. Run differential
6. Coin flip

Game Modifications

- The Tournament Director may adjust the number or length of games due to weather, field conditions, or scheduling issues, including modifying time limits if games are delayed.

Venue Policies

- All teams must comply with local park policies and ordinances.
- Alcohol and tobacco are prohibited within the tournament venue.
- The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of players, assistant coaches, and spectators.

Rain Policy

- 0 games played due to weather: Full refund minus \$100, plus \$100 off next year's tournament. (Covers baseballs, medals, field preparation, and administrative expenses.)
- 1 game played: 50% refund issued.
- 2 or more games played: No refunds given.

Playing Rules

The tournament follows modified high school rules with the following specifications:

Field Dimensions

- Ages 9U-10U: 46 ft mound / 60 ft bases
- Ages 11U-12U: 50 ft mound / 70 ft bases

General Rules

- Pitching Limits (9U-12U): Maximum 3 innings per game / 8 innings total. One pitch constitutes an inning.
- Substitutions: Free substitutions are allowed.
- Time Limit: 90 minutes.

Mercy Rule

- 12 runs after 3 innings
- 10 runs after 4 innings
- 8 runs after 5 innings

Intentional Walks

- No pitches are thrown. Notify the umpire and the batter is awarded first base.

Courtesy Runners

- Optional for the pitcher and catcher. The last player out serves as the courtesy runner.

Time Limits

- Game time begins with the first warm-up pitch, monitored by the home plate umpire.
- 9U-12U: No new inning starts after 90 minutes for pool and bracket play. Ties remain ties in pool play.
- Championship Game: No time limit.
- The Tournament Director may adjust time limits due to weather or scheduling issues.

Division-Specific Rules

9U and 10U Divisions

- Runners may lead off and steal bases.
- Dropped 3rd Strike rule is NOT enforced.
- No balks.

11U and 12U Divisions

- Runners may lead off and steal bases.
- Dropped 3rd Strike rule IS enforced.
- Balks: 1 warning, then enforced.

Weather & Field Conditions

Game Completion

A game is considered complete if halted by weather, darkness, or field conditions after:

- 6-inning game: 3 innings completed (or 2½ if home team leads).

If a game is not official, the Tournament Director may:

7. Suspend the game and resume it later, OR
8. Cancel it and exclude it from standings.

Championship Game — Weather Interruption

- If interrupted and not official, the winner is determined by the score at the end of the last completed inning.
- If tied or the first inning is not complete, the higher seed is named Champion.

Tournament Director's Authority

- The Tournament Director reserves the right to make decisions in the best interest of the tournament, including rule modifications as needed.

Ejection Policy

Coaches / Managers / Scorekeepers

- Must leave the facility immediately upon ejection.
- Automatically suspended from the next game, including semi-finals and championship games.

Players

- Automatically suspended from the next game, including semi-finals and championship games.

Parents / Fans

- Must leave the facility immediately upon ejection.
- Automatically suspended for the remainder of the tournament.