

BLOOMINGTON TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT POLICIES

BTBA uses the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Rules of Play for tournament games. Further rules concerning equipment, rosters, pitching, and base distances are provided by the Metro Baseball League (MBL). Additionally, BTBA has formed the following policies to address situations not covered by NFHS or MBL. Where BTBA policies are shown to be in conflict with either NFHS or MBL, then the rules of NFHS and MBL will take precedence.

I. WEATHER

A. Suspending Play

Should lightning be spotted nearby, play will be suspended immediately. Play will not resume until 20 minutes have passed without further lightning.

Umpires may suspend games at any time if they believe weather conditions make the game unplayable. Games will not resume until the umpires have determined that weather conditions have improved sufficiently and the Field Supervisor has determined that the fields are playable.

The Field Supervisor may suspend a game at any time if fields are deemed unplayable. The Field Supervisor will notify the Umpires and the Tournament Coordinator when fields are returned to playing condition.

B. Player and Fan Safety

If there is a severe weather warning in the area, play will be suspended immediately and all people should leave the park until further notice. If the severe weather siren sounds, there may not be time to leave the park safely. In this case, the safest location is in the restrooms. Dugouts, usually east-facing dugouts, may also provide adequate protection if restrooms are full or there is not enough time to get there.

C. Limits to Weather Delays

The tight schedule for most tournaments does not allow for lengthy weather delays. Significant delays may result in the shortening of games, or the elimination of either the quarter-final or semi-final rounds. BTBA will use the following guideline for handling weather delays.

Weather delays will be limited to 1 hour per game (not including the time it takes to prepare the field for resumption of play). If the rain delay exceeds 1 hour and the game has reached official game status (4 innings for 10U-12U, 5 innings for 13U-16U) then that game is considered completed. If the rain delay exceeds 1 hour and the game is not yet official, the game will continue once the rain delay is over, but will be limited to official game length (4 innings for 10U-12U, 5 innings for 13U-16U).

These are guidelines only, and may be adjusted based on actual conditions, weather forecast, and progress of the tournament.

D. Tournament Withdrawal, Refund and Cancellation Policies

If weather or field conditions cause the cancellation of the tournament after the tournament has begun, the following policies will apply:

1. If a team decides to withdraw prior to the tournament commencing the following rules apply. A full refund if notification in writing is provided to BTBA tournament coordinator prior to Feb 15. After Feb 15, a refund will be granted only if a replacement team is found.
2. If the tournament is cancelled prior to the completion of pool play, then no state tournament bids can be handed out without the specific approval of the state associations offering the bids. Teams that have not completed any games will receive a refund of their tournament fees minus a \$75 administration fee. Teams that have completed 1 full game will receive a 50% refund of tournament fees. Teams that have completed 2 full games will receive a 25% refund of tournament fees. Teams that have completed 3 full games will not receive a refund.
3. If the cancellation of the tournament occurs after all teams have completed their pool games but before all first-round bracket games have reached official status, the final tournament places are determined by the position of the teams after pool play.
4. If the cancellation of the tournament occurs before all semi-final games in an 8-team bracket have reached official status, then the final tournament positions will be determined by Runs Allowed during the Quarter Final round only. If any teams are tied, then their positions will be determined by Run Differential (not to exceed +10 or -10) during the Quarter Final round only. If any teams are still tied, then their positions will be determined by a coin toss.
5. If the cancellation of the tournament occurs before the championship game has reached official game status, then the winner will be determined by total Runs Allowed during the bracket play including all full innings played in the championship game. If there is a tie, then the winner will be determined by Run Differential (not to exceed +10 or -10 in any single game) during bracket play including all full innings of the championship game.

II. INJURIES

Please note, BTBA does NOT have hired medical personnel onsite during tournaments. Parents are responsible for any medical care provided to their injured child. **If a parent of an injured child is not on site, it is the responsibility of the injured player's coach to seek appropriate medical care and notify the parents.**

Often times, medical personnel may be in attendance as spectators and offer assistance to an injured player. Please note that BTBA has no way of verifying the medical credentials of such spectators.

All teams should have their own first-aid kit and ice packs to handle injuries to their players.

Nearest Urgent Care Facilities:

Fairview Clinics - 600 W. 98th St, Bloomington 952-881-2651

St. Francis Regional Medical Center - 1455 St Francis Ave, Shakopee, MN 952-428-3000

The Doctors Office - 800 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 952-942-7337

III. PARK RULES

The City of Bloomington establishes park rules which all participants of a BTBA tournament must obey. **Head Coaches are responsible for the behavior of its players, coaches, and spectators.** Violations will be brought to the attention of the head coach who is expected to resolve the situation immediately. Violation of park rules may result in forfeiting an out, forfeiting an inning, or forfeiting the game. Park rules include, but may not be limited to:

- . No drinking alcoholic beverages in the park, parking lot or surrounding city property
- . No smoking in the park
- . No fires/cooking in the park
- . No fireworks in the park
- . No littering in the park
- . No scooters or skateboards in the park
- . No other nuisances in the park
- . No one in the park after 10PM without consent from the City of Bloomington

IV. RULE VIOLATIONS

BTBA strongly believes that games should be decided on the playing field. However, rules are developed to ensure fair play and sometimes a game is decided not by the final score, but because of a rules violation. Here is BTBA's position on rules violations.

Neither the BTBA nor the Umpires are responsible for detecting all possible rule violations. It is up to head coaches to monitor their opponents to ensure all rules are followed.

BTBA will provide team rosters, innings-pitched logs and umpire score cards for review by any team at any time.

BTBA will not be responsible for alerting coaches about players reaching innings-pitched limits. Nor will BTBA alert the opposing coach of an innings-pitched violation. **It is the responsibility of the coaches to review the innings-pitched logs for their own team and their opponent's team prior to completion of their game.**

Umpires are responsible for noting the official start time of the game. Umpires will monitor game time to the best of their ability, and alert teams when the time limit is being approached. **But it is the sole responsibility of the coaches to monitor game time and report to the umpire when the time limit has been reached.**

It is the express policy of BTBA that once the game is over and teams have begun to shake hands, the results are final. **If a head coach suspects a rule violation, they must inspect the umpire card and innings pitched logs BEFORE the handshakes begin.** In this case, keep your players in the dugout and notify the umpire and opposing team of a possible rules violation. Repeat: once the hand shakes begin, the results are final.