

GAME DAY USA
2017 BASEBALL EVENTS
Revised: February 2017 and Subject to Change



Policies and Procedures

1. Game Day USA tournament management will make every effort to treat all teams with fairness. If questions or disputes arise about policies and procedures, coaches shall bring them to the attention of the Tournament Director to be dealt with. *Any interpretation and decision of the Tournament Director shall be final.*
2. Professional umpires have been assigned to each game. Coaches should treat them with respect. With regard to on-field calls, the decision of the umpires shall be final.
3. All teams must submit an online roster as directed by Game Day USA. All teams must check in upon arrival to verify and approve their Official Roster and receive an information packet. Once a roster is verified, it is frozen for that weekends' tournament. Teams cannot begin tournament play until their roster is submitted and verified. Teams who fail to submit a roster may be subject to a forfeit.
4. Game Day USA relies heavily on its proprietary Score Zone technology for allowing teams to get scores and standings from mobile phones and mobile devices. In the event of a technical failure (server, etc.) or human error (score keyed in incorrectly, etc.), the Tournament Director will work to correct the error as quickly as possible, and will post and/or communicate updated information. Teams should check back regularly in case changes are made that impact standings, seeds or brackets. In the unlikely event of a serious technology failure or outage, teams are required to send a representative to tournament headquarters for updates.
5. There will be spectator admission fees or parking fees for some events. Once spectator admission fees or parking fees are paid, there will be no refunds or rain checks. Specific spectator information for each event can be found online at GAMEDAYUSA.COM under Event Details.
6. Teams shall arrive on site 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, as games may start prior to published times. Teams may start and finish games with eight (8) uniformed and roster players. If a team has to play with eight (8) players, the ninth spot in the batting order is an automatic out. If a ninth uniformed and roster player arrives, that player may be inserted into the ninth spot in the batting order and the automatic out shall stop. If a team has seven (7) or less uniformed and roster players to start a game, or at any point during the game, the game shall be declared a forfeit. The forfeit score shall be 7-0 for tiebreaker purposes.
7. The home team for pool games shall be determined by a coin flip. The team that has traveled the greatest distance will call the flip. Either an umpire or a member of tournament management must be present for the flip. The higher seed based upon the original seeding will be the home team throughout the playoffs.
8. Teams should fill first and third base dugouts on a first come, first served basis, irrespective of home and away designation. If a team has back to back games on the same field, they should always remain in the same dugout, to avoid the extra time involved in moving bags, etc.
9. There will be no infield practice. Teams are allowed to play catch in the outfield area if the time allows. Never do flip drills into fences or step on foul lines.
10. Both teams shall report the final score to the Tournament Director or his/her designee immediately following each game. Since tiebreakers often come into play, accurate score reporting is critical. The event staff will provide scorecards to be turned in after each game. Teams who fail to turn in a scorecard within 4 hours from the conclusion of a game (or prior to the end of the last game of any given day) may be subject to the score turned in by the opposing team.
11. If a tiebreaker is needed to determine playoff teams (wildcards, etc.), the following tiebreakers shall be used:
 - a. Overall won-lost record
 - b. Head-to-head (***only applies when two teams are involved***)
 - c. Least number of runs allowed throughout the tournament
 - d. Total runs scored

- e. Coin flip
- 12. The Tournament Director may modify the number or length of games when necessary due to weather, field conditions, or scheduling issues. This includes modifying the time limit if games get backed up.
- 13. Each team shall provide one (1) parent or volunteer to assist with scoreboard operation, etc. as needed.
- 14. All teams are required to adhere to local park policies and ordinances. Alcohol and/or tobacco shall not be brought into the confines of the tournament venues. The Head Coach shall be ultimately responsible and accountable for the conduct of his players, assistant coaches, and spectators.

Rosters and Birth Dates

- 15. A player may only be on one roster in any given tournament, regardless of age division, except as described below in Section 16.
- 16. It is common in the 14U age division for teams to have a hybrid of high school and non-high school players. Since high school players are often not eligible for travel baseball until late May, 13U players may be listed on both a 13U and a 14U roster in any given tournament. This only applies to the 14U age division and only applies prior to June 1 of any given year. In the event that a 13U player is going to “play up” with a 14U team, the start of a game is not to be held up to wait for players coming from other games.
- 17. While we encourage teams to have matching player uniforms, there is no penalty for players on a roster that participate with a different jersey and/or different numbers than listed on the roster.
- 18. Team rosters contain personal information such as player date of birth, email addresses and coach’s personal information. In the interest of protecting player and coach privacy, rosters can only be viewed by Game Day USA staff. Only a Head Coach may ask the Tournament Director about players listed and if they meet the age and/or roster qualifications. To protest a player’s eligibility, see the policy below.
- 19. Any Head Coach that would like to formally challenge the eligibility of a player shall make this known to the Tournament Director at least one (1) hour prior to the player’s next game. A \$100 cash challenge fee should be posted at the time of the challenge. The purpose of the fee is to minimize unsubstantiated challenges. Provided this process is followed, the Tournament Director or his/her designee will investigate. If the player is ruled eligible, the \$100 cash challenge fee shall be forfeited. In the instance of an age challenge, if the birth certificate cannot be produced before game time, the player in question is ineligible to play for that game. If the birth certificate shows the player is over age, the team must forfeit all games the player in question participated in. The forfeit score shall be 7-0 for tiebreaker purposes. If any player eligibility challenge is valid and upheld, the \$100 cash challenge fee shall be promptly returned.
- 20. The birthday age cutoff is April 30. Each Head Coach shall have copies of player birth certificates on hand at every game, and shall be prepared to present them to the Tournament Director upon request.

Playing Rules

The official playing rules for the tournament shall be the NFHS (high school) rules with the following exceptions:

21. Length of Game

Ages 8U-12U will play six (6) innings; ages 13U and above will play seven (7) innings.

22. Batting Order and Extra Players

15U and above shall follow NFHS rules regarding Batting Order, Extra Players and Substitutions.

In the 8U-14U Age Divisions, teams have the following three (3) *options* with regard to batting order and extra players:

- a) *Straight Nine*: Nine (9) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. No designated hitter. All other players are substitutes, subject to the NFHS substitution rules (starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.).

- b) *Extra Hitter:* Ten (10) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. No designated hitter. Free substitution (defensive players) among the ten (10) players listed on the batting order. All other players are substitutes and subject to the NFHS substitution rules (starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.).
- c) *Continuous batting order:* All players in uniform (unless injured) in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. If a late player arrives after the lineup cards are exchanged, then the player must be entered into the last spot in the batting order. Free defensive substitution for all players throughout the game.

The Head Coach shall declare his choice to the opposing coach and the umpire(s) during the plate meeting prior to each game. Once a declaration is made, it cannot be changed for that game.

23. Arm Health and Recommended Pitching Limitations

Tournament management will not be involved in counting pitches or regulating pitching during tournament events. The ultimate responsibility of managing pitch counts rests with each team's Head Coach.

Game Day USA endorses the Pitch Smart program, developed by USA Baseball and Major League Baseball. This program is a series of practical, age appropriate guidelines to help parents, players and coaches avoid overuse injuries and foster long, healthy careers for youth pitchers.



About Pitch Smart: USA Baseball and MLB team up to help young players reduce arm injuries by providing a comprehensive resource for safe pitching practices. Baseball is a safe game to play at all ages, but research has shown that pitching too much – particularly at a young age – can increase a pitcher's risk of injury.

Risk Factors: Some factors that increase the risk of arm injury include:

- Pitching while fatigued
- Not taking enough time off from baseball every year
- Throwing too many pitches and not getting enough rest
- Pitching on consecutive days
- Playing for multiple teams at the same time
- Throwing breaking pitches at a young age



Recommended Pitch Count Limits and Recommended Rest:

Age	Daily Max	Recommended Rest				
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	-	-
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
15-16	95	1-20	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
17-18	105	1-20	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

See the full recommendations and explore resources provided by the Advisory Committee at PitchSmart.org.

Twitter: @MLBPitchSmart

Instagram: PitchSmart

Facebook: Facebook.com/PitchSmart

24. Bat Restrictions

Ages 8U-14U: Bats must be stamped 1.15 BPF and will have no weight drop restriction. Alternatively, BBCOR and/or wood bats may be used. BESR stamped bats are illegal and cannot be used.

Age 15U and Above: Bats must be BBCOR certified. All BBCOR aluminum bats are limited to -3 drop and must be stamped BBCOR Certified per NFHS rule. Alternatively, wood bats may be used.

Illegal Bat Penalty for All Ages: It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to insure the bats used by players meet the requirements of the Game Day USA published bat rules. A batter is in violation of the rule when said batter steps into the batter's box with an illegal bat. An illegal bat must be pointed out to the umpire prior to the first pitch to the next batter, or before all defensive players leave fair territory. Penalty: The batter is out. All outs recorded during the time at bat count. Runner(s) will not be allowed to advance on a batted ball. If there are two (2) infractions by the same team during a game, the team's Head Coach will be ejected.



25. Time Limits

The game start time shall begin with the first warm up pitch. The home plate umpire or base umpire shall monitor the official time, and it is preferred that the time be announced publicly to minimize confusion later. All games shall have a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit, except the championship game. Expiration of the time limit shall be ruled upon at the moment the final out in a half inning is recorded.

An inning may be finished, but a new inning cannot be started after the time limit expires. If the home team is ahead when the time limit is reached, the game is over (a) immediately after the top half of the inning is finished or (b) at the moment the time limit is reached and the home team is ahead in the bottom half of the inning.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to modify time limits in the event of weather or scheduling issues.

26. Mercy Rules

Mercy rules shall be fifteen (15) runs after 3 innings, ten (10) runs after 4 innings, and eight (8) runs after 5 innings. Mercy rules shall be in effect for all games, including the championship game.

27. Base Distances and Field Dimensions

Every effort will be made to make sure base distances, pitching distances, and field dimensions are accurate. Since Game Day USA works with many different public and private facilities, dimensions are sometimes slightly off. So long as the field dimensions are reasonable and the same for both teams, play shall not be stopped to reinstall bases or pitching rubbers.

28. Official Baseballs for Tournament Play

The Wilson A1030 is the Official Ball of Game Day USA. Game balls will be provided to start each game, but will not be replenished throughout the game. Teams are expected to assist in retrieval of foul balls and home run balls. Teams should always have tournament quality used baseballs on hand to toss in if the original game balls are lost or not returned to the umpires.

29. Metal Spikes and Footwear for Synthetic Turf Events

Metal spikes are not allowed in age groups 8U-12U. Likewise, metal spikes are generally prohibited for all ages on fields with synthetic turf, and/or fields with portable pitching mounds. Any athlete that may play on a synthetic turf field and/or be called to pitch on a portable pitching mound must be prepared with non-metal footwear (varies by facility). Acceptable footwear in these cases includes turf shoes, plastic cleats, molded cleats, or gym shoes.

30. 8U and 9U Only

8U Division: There will be no leadoffs and stealing will be permitted only after the ball crosses the plate. There will be no dropped third strike, and a runner may only score from third base on a) a batted ball, b) a walk, c) a hit by pitch, or d) if played upon by the pitcher or catcher. No balks will be called.

9U Division: Leadoffs are permitted. There will be no dropped third strike. Umpires shall issue one balk warning per pitcher before enforcing any balk penalty.

31. Extra Innings and Tie Games

If a game is tied after the time limit expires or when the regulation innings have been completed, the following Game Day USA tiebreaker will be used. In the first extra inning and every $\frac{1}{2}$ inning thereafter, each team will start with a man on second base and 1 out. The base runner will be the last batted out from the previous inning. Each batter will start with a 1-1 count. The game will continue in this format until a winner is determined. If a winner is not determined after three (3) extra innings, the game shall be recorded as a tie. Likewise, if weather or darkness prevents a tie game from being completed, then the game shall be recorded as a tie.

32. Intentional Walks

There will be no pitches thrown to intentionally walk a batter. Notify the umpire, and the batter will be awarded first base.

33. Courtesy Runners

Courtesy runners are optional at any time for the pitcher and catcher. The courtesy runner shall be a player not currently in the lineup. If a team is batting their entire roster, the courtesy runner shall be the last batted out. The pitcher or catcher for this rule is the pitcher or catcher of the previous inning. If this situation arises in the first inning and no outs have been recorded, the pitcher or catcher shall remain on the bases until an out is recorded.

34. Ejections

If a coach is ejected from a game, he will be suspended for the remainder of the game and for the next game the team plays. If a player is ejected during a game, he will be suspended for the remainder of the game. If a team is batting their entire lineup and/or no substitutes are available, the name of the ejected player will remain in the batting order and count as an out when the batting order reaches that player.

35. Injuries and Early Departures

If a player becomes injured (as ruled by the umpire) and is unable to continue playing, his spot in the batting order shall be skipped with no penalty unless the team has a legal/available substitute. Once an injured player leaves the batting order, he is done for the remainder of that game.

36. Game Called Due to Weather or Field Conditions

A game will be considered complete if weather, darkness or field conditions prevent the game from being completed:

6-inning game = 3 innings or $2\frac{1}{2}$ if home team is leading, will constitute a completed game.

7-inning game = 4 innings or $3\frac{1}{2}$ if home team is leading, will determine a completed game.

If a game is not official as described above, the Tournament Director will either:

- (a) suspend the game and arrange to have it resumed where it left off, or
- (b) cancel the game such that it does not count toward tournament standings.

Should a Championship game be interrupted by weather, darkness or unplayable field conditions, and is not an official game per the above Rule, then the Championship team will be determined by the score at the end of the last full completed inning. If score was tied at end of last completed inning or if the first inning of the game is not completed, the higher seed shall be named Champion.



37. Game Schedules

Game Day USA will release the Official Schedule for each event on the Tuesday prior to the event by Midnight or sooner if possible. Teams must be prepared to play in any of the time slots for the scheduled days of the event.

38. Honor The Game

Game Day USA management emphasizes that the primary purpose of all tournament events is to create positive competition experiences and lifelong memories for the participants. All adults (coaches, parents, officials) should conduct themselves with this fundamental notion in mind. Compromising the integrity of the game or making a travesty of the game are unacceptable and will be grounds for disqualification.

39. Refund Policy

Once an entry fee is paid for an event, no cash, check or credit card refunds will be issued for any reason, unless Game Day USA cancels the event in advance of the event weekend due to insufficient participation. If a team registers and subsequently is unable to participate, provided reasonable notification in writing:

- a) Team can be transferred to another Game Day USA tournament, subject to availability;
- b) Team can receive a full credit, valid through the following season; or
- c) Team can transfer the credit to another team and receive compensation from the transferee team

If an event is cancelled at any time or shortened due to inclement weather or field conditions, Game Day USA will issue credits as follows:

- 0 games:* 100% credit toward a future Game Day USA event either later in 2017 or in 2018.
- 1 game:* 50% credit toward a future Game Day USA event either later in 2017 or in 2018.
- 2nd game started:* 25% credit toward a future Game Day USA event either later in 2017 or in 2018.
- 2 or more games completed:* No credits due.

40. Game Day USA Rules Highlights - At A Glance

	8U	9U	10U	11U-12U	13U	14U	15U-18U
Base Distance	60'	65'	65'	70'	80' (most)	90'	90'
Pitching Length	40'	46'	46'	50'	54' (most)	60'	60'
Game Length	6 innings	6 innings	6 innings	6 innings	7 innings	7 innings	7 innings
Time Limit - Normal	1 hour, 45 minutes						
Leadoffs	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stealing	Once ball crosses plate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Balks	None	One warning per pitcher	No warnings				
Run on Dropped Third Strike	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bats	1.15 BPF, BBCOR or Wood	BBCOR or Wood. Aluminum bats limited to -3 drop.					
Cleats (Natural)	Rubber	Rubber	Rubber	Rubber	Rubber/Metal	Rubber/Metal	Rubber/Metal
Cleats (Synthetic)	Rubber	Rubber	Rubber	Rubber	Complex Guidelines	Complex Guidelines	Complex Guidelines

Honoring and Recognizing Special Athletes

MVP Tags: Coaches will receive, at check-in, MVP tags for their games. Following each game, the Head Coach (or his designee Assistant Coach) shall award an MVP tag to the MVP of the game from the opposing team. It would be best if teams would gather around home plate after each pool game for an informal MVP ceremony. This gesture will allow coaches to model good sporting behavior to their young athletes, and the round of applause from the spectators will be a special moment for the players involved.



Nominate Your Best Players: Coaches can nominate their best players for post-season All-Star Weekends Presented by DeMarini. The nomination process is quick and easy online at GAMEDAYUSA.COM/ALLSTAR. Nominees will receive an automated email with an invitation to these special and prestigious events. In 2015, over 2,500 athletes participated in Game Day USA's All-Star program Presented by DeMarini. 2016 events are expected to fill quickly, so coaches should nominate their best players immediately, and interested nominees should accept and enroll immediately. MVPs (described above) automatically qualify, and can enroll at GAMEDAYUSA.COM/ALLSTAR.



Disney Baseball Opportunity: The best players from Game Day USA's All-Star events will be hand-picked by independent baseball professionals to represent Game Day USA at a winter Disney Baseball event at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. This past season, 190 athletes participated, and Game Day USA enjoyed unmatched success, with four (4) championships and nine (9) finalists. Enrollment in any Game Day USA All-Star event is a prerequisite for participation at Disney.

Game Day USA Junior All-American Games Fueled by Gatorade: Game Day USA will be hosting two Junior All-American Games Fueled by Gatorade this season; one at the home of the Chicago Cubs Spring Training Complex in Mesa, AZ, and the other at the home of the Baltimore Orioles Spring Training Complex in Sarasota, FL. These three day events will feature players from all over the United States and Canada being assigned to teams based on age and position. Players can be nominated by their coaches at any time via an online nomination form as well as being nominated by Game Day USA Staff and Scouts throughout the season at Game Day USA tournaments and All-Star events. Visit GAMEDAYUSA.COM/ALLAMERICAN for more information.



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Champions Day at MLB Ballparks: White Sox, Brewers, Reds, or Cardinals. Visit GAMEDAYUSA.COM/CHAMPIONS



GAME DAY USA – MISSION STATEMENT

To develop and administer innovative destination events nationwide that provide a positive and memorable experience for athletes and families, and provide a significant benefit to the local community and economy.

GAME DAY USA – VISION STATEMENT

To be an industry leader and national brand in sports event management by providing superior customer service, attracting and retaining the best talent, and long-term partnerships.

GAME DAY USA - MANAGEMENT TEAM

Rich Janor
President/CEO

Don Flynn
Executive VP

Mary Kay Lang
Executive VP

Mike Moyzis
VP – Special Events

Ryan Rosmonowski
VP – Finance and Ops

Mike Smith
Senior VP

GAME DAY USA - SPECIAL EVENTS *NEED UPDATED INFO*

Game Day USA National Championships – **GAMEDAYUSA.COM/NATIONALS**

Locations: Chicago Suburbs, IL; Milwaukee, WI; Grand Rapids, MI; Cincinnati, OH; Indianapolis Area, IN

All-Star Weekends Presented by DeMarini – **GAMEDAYUSA.COM/ALLSTAR**

Locations: Branson, MO; Sandusky, OH; Waukegan, IL; Glen Ellyn, IL; Grand Rapids, MI; Cincinnati, OH; Columbus, OH; Crown Point, IN; Indianapolis Area, IN; Milwaukee, WI

Game Day USA Junior All-American Games Fueled By Gatorade – **GAMEDAYUSA.COM/ALLAMERICAN**

Champions Day Experience at Major League Baseball Ballparks – **GAMEDAYUSA.COM/CHAMPIONS**

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Thank You for Playing Baseball with Game Day USA!