

2024 Stratford Spring Swingoff Tournament Rules – U11 Division

Pitching Distance: 35 Feet

Ball Size: 11 inch

Base Distance: 45 Feet

Game Length: 6 innings or time limit. Only one new inning will start after 1h30 minutes of play*

Open Innings: Only the 6th inning is open unless the time limit forces the final inning to be open.**

Mercy Rule: 9 runs after 3 innings, 7 runs after 4 innings or 5 runs after 5 innings

**All Games will be six innings, or be ended due to time limit. Only one inning will be started after the 1 hour and 30 minute mark. Inning must be announced as the last inning by the umpire prior to the start of the inning, after discussion with the coaches. If the game starts late, the 1 hour 30 minute mark is determined from the time the game started, not the initial scheduled start time. The final inning will be an open inning. Umpires will have the final say on the interpretation of this rule.*

***If the home team does not get to bat in the bottom of their last inning (because they are the winning team), the final score of the game reverts back to the score at the end of the previous inning.*

Game Rules Applied to Both Divisions:

- Sliding is allowed.
- Bunting is allowed.
- Pitchers can only pitch a maximum of *3 innings per game*. If a semifinal or championship game goes to 7+ innings, there are no pitcher restrictions anymore.
- *3 runs* may be scored per inning except in the open inning. This 3 run rule is used to speed up our games.
- The Infield Fly rule will apply.
- All games will have unlimited defensive substitutions and teams will bat all players on their roster.
- Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball *after it crosses the plate*.
- A player stealing a base can take 1 base at a time. Also, In the U11 Division, players cannot steal home.
- The batter is out on a called or swinging strike 3, even if the catcher drops or misses the ball. Batter cannot run however other baserunners may advance. (as stated above - 1 base at a time, Home is not allowed)
- The international tiebreaker rule will be used for all playoff games including the Championship game. Extra innings will begin with a player on 2nd base (player that was last out in the previous inning)

Tournament Cancellation/Team Refunds due to Weather

- If a team does not get to play any games, they will be reimbursed their full payment minus

the deposit

- If a team only plays 1 round robin game, they will be reimbursed half their payment minus the deposit
- Once a team plays 2 round robin games, there will be no reimbursement.
- If we are unable to play the medal round on Sunday because of weather, we will go directly to the Tiebreaker Rules to determine medal winners. (1st and 2nd) There will be no reimbursement.

Tie Breaking Rules

After round robin – positions will be determined by wins and losses. If the teams are tied in wins and losses the positions will be declared as follows:

A. If 2 teams are tied and they played each other in the round robin play, whoever defeated the other will get the higher position. If they tied, go to Tiebreaker Rule C. If two teams are tied and they did not play each other in Round Robin, go to Tiebreaker Rule C.

B. If 3 or more teams are tied for any position, the first scenario in breaking the 3 or more team tied positions is the best record between the tied team's games. (*This can only apply if all tied teams played each other*) If all teams did not play each other, Teams with the best run differential (see C) will be declared the highest to the lowest positions.

C. Run Differential Percentage. Run Differential Formula is as follows:
Runs Scored/Overall Runs Scored + Runs Allowed

- Example. A team has 2 wins and 1 loss after round robin play. They won their first game **7-3**, lost their second game **2-1** and won their third game **7-5**.
- Runs Scored=15
- Overall Runs Scored + Runs Allowed = 25
- $15/25=60\%$

D. If 2 or more teams are still tied after all previous scenarios a Coin Flip will take place for positions.

Extra Information:

- Please note, there is no 7 run differential rule, as we are using Run Differential Percentage.
- As noted in our rules, If the home team does not get to bat in the bottom of their last inning (because mercy rule is implemented), the final score of the game reverts back to the end of the previous inning.