

2010 All-American Wood Bat Classic General Information & Playing Rules

<http://www.woodbatclassic.net>

Game schedules will be posted on the All-American Wood Bat Classic website on May 23, 2010. Seeded brackets will be posted shortly following the completion of Pool Play.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- AAWBC Refund Policy: All refund requests must be made in writing. Partial Refund deadline May 10, 2010. Partial Refund is tournament entry fee minus a \$125 admin fee. NO REFUNDS after May 10, 2010.
- Please notify all team personnel and accompanists of these rules. Any person attempting to violate any tournament rule(s) will be denied access into or ejected from the park / field.
- Fighting, altercations and / or verbal abuse from managers, coaches, players or spectators towards game officials, tournament officials or other participants will not be tolerated. Any person participating in a fight, altercation or verbal abuse incident will be immediately ejected from the park / field and local law enforcement will be notified.
- Each Park / School will have an on hand Site Coordinator at all times. If you can't locate the Site Coordinator at a Park / School, ask at the Concession Stand. The Site Coordinator is in charge of the schedules, brackets, pitching and protests at the site.
- **Each team is required to provide Two (2) New Game Ball per game for the entire tournament. (Including bracket play and championship games)**
- All Team Managers/Head Coaches are required to check-in at the Coaches Luncheon on Friday, May 28, 2010. Check-in will take less than 30 minutes. At check-in, all Managers will be given their Tournament Packets, Braves tickets, and pre-ordered bats and t-shirts.
- Teams must provide their own bulk drink coolers (one per team).
- **No pets, grills, food, drink or "INDIVIDUAL" coolers of any kind will be allowed in any AAWBC facility.**
- **A general gate admission will be charged. Admission applies to everyone except participating uniformed players and a maximum of four (4) coaches per team with proper identification (Must be worn at all times at the playing facilities).**
 - § 8 years old & older - \$7.00 per day / \$15.00 for the AAWBC Tournament Pass.
 - § Children 8 years of age and younger – are admitted free.
- The Tournament Director has the authority to revise or alter the tournament schedule and / or format at any time due to weather or other acts of God.
- Weather Instructions – If in doubt call the Weather Hotline (which will be given out to each head coach). Information is updated as soon as it's available. Please **DO NOT** leave messages on the Hotline they are not checked.

NOTE: Every effort will be made to complete each inning of each game. However, if a game is official and furthering the game would delay the tournament schedule, the game may be declared a complete game.

- Teams are not allowed any pre-game warm-ups in fair territory on the infield portion of the field. **ALL** pre-game warm-ups must be done in the outfield grass.
- Both teams Managers **MUST** completely fill out and sign an “AAWBC Official Score Card” immediately following each game. Please make sure the final score and all innings pitched by all pitchers are correct for both teams before you sign. Any team failing to sign an Official Score Card may be subject to future game forfeiture.

Game Preliminaries

- (a) Teams age 9 and up, can start a game with eight (8) players provided they take an out for the 9th player. If a team has not taken the field at the scheduled start time of a game, the game will be declared a forfeit. Teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start a game. Anything less than eight, the game will be declared a suspended game and will not be rescheduled. The suspended game will then be ruled a forfeit by the tournament director. Umpires have no authority to forfeit a game only tournament directors have that authority.
- (b) Teams having eight (8) players to start a game will automatically be designated the visiting team.
- (c) If a teams' ninth player arrives late to the game, the manager of that team must make an announcement at the plate conference before the game begins and advise both the plate umpire and the opposing team that he has a player that will be arriving late. When the player arrives, he will be announced to both the plate umpire and the opposing team and be placed in the ninth spot in the batting order. The game will resume as if he was there at the start of the game.
- (d) If batting nine players a team drops below nine eligible players due to an ejection, an automatic out shall be declared in that batting order position, providing there is no eligible substitute.
- (e) Teams will flip for home team in pool play games. In the elimination rounds of tournaments, the higher seeded team will be the home team.

Safety Rules

- (a) Due to Insurance Regulations, only Game Officials, Coaches and Players on the team's official Nations Baseball roster are allowed on the playing field during the game. Bat Boys that are not on the official team roster and or without a protective Batting Helmet are not allowed on the playing Field. Photographers without written consent from the director, etc., are prohibited from being on the playing field and should be outside of the team dugout.
- (b) For the safety of all players and umpires, only one coach is allowed outside the dugout when his team is on defense. All other coaches must be in the dugout or outside the fence of the playing field when their team in on defense.
- (c) When a team is batting, only the 1st base and 3rd base coaches will be allowed outside the dugout. Any other coaches for said team must stay in the dugout or outside the fence of the playing field.
- (d) While on offense, only the batter and the on deck batter shall be outside of the dugout fence.
- (e) A bat boy/girl may leave the dugout to retrieve a bat after all playing action is completed provided they have a double flap helmet while on the field.
- (f) All bat boys/girls must have a helmet with two earflaps when not in the dugout.

(g) Catchers are required to wear helmets that protect both ears and the back of the head. Either throat protector or mask protecting the throat must be worn. Skullcaps are not permitted in 13u and below. Catchers are also required to wear a protective cup.

(h) A player participating in any Nations sanctioned game shall not wear jewelry.

PENALTY: The umpire shall ask the player to remove the jewelry. Play shall not be resumed until the jewelry is removed or the player is replaced. This is not an ejection or an out.

Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so as to remain visible.

(i) Shoes with metal cleats may not be worn by players that are playing as a twelve (12) year old or younger.

(j) The use of cell phones is prohibited on the playing field by players, coaches or umpires.

(k) If the runner from third base is running toward home plate attempting to steal or is participating in a squeeze play, the following apply: 1) The batter has two options take the pitch or attempt to bunt the pitch. PENALTY – Failure to do so will result in the following: 1) The batter is called out 2) All runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch 3) The third base coach is ejected. NOTE: With the bases loaded, three balls and two strikes on the batter, coaches please have your runner on third start running towards the third base dugout and not sprinting towards home plate. UMPIRES: In this situation, please be aware that this is not a steal play or squeeze play if the batter swings the bat. Do not enforce the penalty with this circumstance.

Rosters

(a) Rosters must be online in the Nations computer before any team plays in a sanctioned Nations event. Rosters are public information that can be accessed by any director, coach or parent. The success of the Nations roster system depends on the accountability of many. To that extent, the following rule has been implemented: "Your opponent's roster is available on the Nations website for your review. Please verify the legality of your opponent's game roster before you take the field. Commencement of play designates your acceptance of your opponent's roster and game results will not be changed. Any coach guilty of fraud in regards to a roster will immediately be suspended from play and reported to the Nations Baseball State Director." Therefore, regarding rosters, the only protestable offense during a game begins is the use of a player that does not appear on a roster at all.

(b) Coaches are responsible for all aspects of player eligibility. Players found to be illegal due to age will result in both the player and coach being suspended and the team forfeiting the game and tournament in which the violation was caught. Players not appearing on the roster at all will be immediately removed from the game, and forfeits and suspensions may apply.

Substitutions

(a) Keep in mind there is no free defensive substitutions in Nations Baseball and a DH is only available in the 15u and above program, if the player is playing a defensive position he must be in the batting order.

(b) A team may bat nine, ten or the entire roster. In ages 15 and up, this can be with or without a designated hitter. When batting your entire roster there is no designated hitter.

(c) If a team is batting the entire roster, there is free substitution on defense, except for the pitcher.

(d) If a team is batting nine players, any of the starters may be withdrawn and reentered one time, including a player who is the designated hitter, provided such player returns to the lineup in the same batting position in which he left.

Roster Batting

- (a)** If a team is batting the entire roster, and a member is unable to continue due to injury or illness, the team will not be penalized when it's the missing players turn to bat. His batting spot will be skipped over without penalty.
- (b)** If a team is roster batting (nine or more players) and a player on the original lineup card arrives before the entire lineup has been batted, he may be added to the end of the batting order provided he is announced to both the plate umpire and the opposing team when he arrives to the field.
- (c)** Players who arrive late for the start of the game shall be added to the team batting order at the end of the lineup and bat when this position comes up. Players who leave before the game is over may do so. Their position in the lineup will be ignored for the rest of the game and no out will be charged unless the batting order fall below nine players.
- (d)** If roster batting, any time the batting order is reduced by an ejection, an automatic out shall be declared in that batting order position.

Courtesy Runner for Pitcher or Catcher

- (a)** Courtesy Runner for pitcher and catcher is recommended but not mandatory.
- (b)** Subs will be used first as a courtesy runner. In the event a team doesn't have a sub then the batter who made the last recorded out must be used as a courtesy runner.
- (c)** Any one sub may only run for one batter per inning.
- (d)** If a starter is taken out of the game, he may be used as a courtesy runner.

Speed Up Rules

- (a)** The defensive team may give an intentional base on balls by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. It is a dead ball when an intentional base on balls is being awarded, no runners can be put out or advance. An intentional base on balls is only in effect for ages nine 9 and above. There will be no intentional base on balls for coach pitch or tee ball.
- (b)** The batter must keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout his time at bat with the following exceptions: 1) The batter swings at the pitch 2) The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch 3) The batter attempts a drag bunt 4) The pitcher or catcher makes a play or attempted play at any base 5) The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound 6) The plate umpire calls time 7) The catcher does not catch a pitched ball. If the batter leaves the batters box and one of the above exceptions does not apply, the umpire may call an automatic strike if he determines leaving the batters box delayed the game. The batters box is defined in the rulebook even if it is not marked on the field and all batters box restrictions still apply.
- (c)** There will be no infield warm up between games in tournament play.

Slide Rule

- (a)** A legal slide can be either feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground. If a runner slides he must slide within reach of base with either a hand or foot without going past the base.

(b) On a force play if the runner slides, it must be on the ground in a direct line between the two bases, stopping at the base. The runner may slide or run in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. PENALTY – An illegal slide causes both the runner and the batter-runner to be called out and all other runners to return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

(c) No player shall initiate malicious contact. The question of what is malicious is umpire judgment. PENALTY – The player initiating malicious contact shall be removed from the game. NOTE: There can be a collision where both players go head over heels and not be malicious contact. The key for malicious contact is "intent", "if the runner deliberately or intentionally runs into the fielder to break up the play or cause harm to the fielder". Keep in mind that the younger ages are just learning the game and sometimes there will be contact by the runner not sliding and running into the catcher. Remember the key word is "INTENT".

(d) Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide the slide must be legal.

(e) To prevent contact, if the fielder has the ball or his receiving of the ball is imminent the runner has the following choices: 1) Slide 2) Give Up 3) Go Around or 4) Go Back If contact results due to the runner failing to do one of the above, the runner shall be declared out.

(f) If a defensive player is obstructing the runner (judgment call by the umpire), contact by the runner is not illegal unless malicious. Example: If a runner is going towards home plate from 3rd base and the catcher has to come up the line towards 3rd base to catch a thrown baseball.

Pitching Limits

(a) All age groups that are scheduled for six (6) innings, a pitcher may not pitch more than eighteen (18) outs in any given day. All age groups that are scheduled for seven (7) innings, a pitcher may not pitch more than twenty-one (21) outs in any given day.

(b) For all age groups 16 and under where six inning games are played, a pitcher may not pitch more than twenty-seven (27) outs in a week (Monday thru Sunday) or a specific tournament no matter if it is a three, four or five game guarantee. For all age divisions 16 and under where seven inning games are played, a pitcher may not pitch more than thirty (30) outs in a week or a specific tournament.

(c) A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal from the mound.

(d) When a pitcher takes his position at the beginning of each inning, or when he relieves another pitcher, he shall be permitted to pitch not to exceed eight (8) preparatory pitches to his catcher during which play shall be suspended.

Regulation Game Times

5U-6U (1 hour & 15 min)

7U-8U (1hour & 30 min)

9U-12U (1hour & 45 min)

13U-18U (2 hours)

Time Limits Guide

(a) Innings that start within the time limit will be completed. The umpire shall announce, if the home team is batting and winning, "Time has expired, ball game". If the visiting team is batting and behind in the score and time expires, the umpire shall announce, "Time has expired, we will complete the inning".

- (b) If the teams are ready and want to start early, the time will start on the catcher's throw down. If the game is starting late, the clock will start on the umpire's announcement of start at the completion of the pre-game conference. No umpire shall ever start the clock without making an announcement to both teams.
- (c) An inning is deemed to begin at the moment the third out is made in the previous inning.
- (d) The umpires are the sole judge of time as long as there is no official game clock.
- (e) The umpire shall not stop the clock unless there is a serious injury or a weather delay that stops the game. The umpires on the field will determine a serious injury and the decision to stop the clock is of umpire judgment.

Mercy Rules (Mercy Rules are in effect for all games including Championship Game)

(6) Inning Games

- 18 after 2 complete innings or if the home team is ahead after 1 ½ innings.
- 15 after 3 complete innings or if the home team is ahead after 2 ½ innings.
- 8 after 4 complete innings or if the home team is ahead after 3½ innings.

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- 8 after 4 complete innings or if the home team is ahead after 3½ innings.
- 8 after 5 complete innings or if the home team is ahead after 4½ innings

Tournament Game Cards

- (a) Umpires are responsible for keeping track of the score by innings, number of out recorded per pitcher and listing the final score. Umpires are to print legibly so that there is no question of the above information.
- (b) After the game, game cards are taken immediately to the site coordinator /tournament director. Managers will have thirty (30) minutes to sign the card after their game ends to verify the final score and pitching records. Failure to sign card within the allotted time means that you are in agreement with the contents on the card as scribed by the umpire.
- (c) Umpires are instructed to leave the field immediately after game and not to approach managers to sign game cards.

Protests

- (a) Team must notify the home plate umpire and the tournament director will come to the field to address the protest.
- (b) If a team protests, that team must pay \$100.00 Protest Fee before protest will be heard by the Tournament Director.
- (c) If the protested ruling is reversed, the \$100.00 protest fee will be return to the team which made the protest.
- (d) If the protested ruling is not reversed, the teams making the protest will forfeit its protest fee.
- (e) The game clock will not be stopped for the protest.
- (f) Protest can not be made after a game has been completed.

Designated Hitter

- (a) The designated hitter rules below apply to ages 15-18. There is no designated hitter in ages 14U and below.

- (b) A hitter may be designated (not mandatory) for any one starting player and all later substitutes for that player.
- (c) A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup.
- (d) Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of the designated hitter during the game.
- (e) The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when: 1) The defensive player or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs for the designated hitter or 2) The designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

Coach Pitch

- (a) Each batter will be allowed Six (6) pitches. If a batter hits a foul ball on the sixth pitch, he will be allowed to continue batting until he does not make contact with the ball or puts the ball in play.
- (b) A fair batted ball hitting a coach pitcher will be declared a foul ball if the umpire rules that the coach pitcher's contact with the ball was unintentional. If in the umpire's judgment a coach pitcher intentionally makes contact with a batted ball, the batter will be out and no runner can advance.
- (c) Umpires will call "time" after every play and declare the ball dead. "Time" should be called as soon as the lead runner is not attempting to advance. "Time" does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule.
- (d) Coach Pitch teams will roster bat. Teams can begin a game with eight (8) players but one player must be a pitcher and one player must be a catcher.
- (e) The catcher shall be located in the catcher's box, no more than four (4) feet behind home plate.
- (f) There will be no: 1) Base on Balls 2) Base Awards for Hit By Pitcher 3) Infield Fly Rule 4) Base Stealing 5) Bunting (players must take a full swing).
- (g) Runners may not leave their bases until the pitched ball crosses the front edge of home plate. A runner who leaves early will be declared out and the pitch will be called a no pitch.
- (h) A coach pitcher is prohibited from coaching while in the pitching position either physically or verbally.
- (i) Courtesy runners are allowed for the catcher only.
- (j) There is no bunting or soft swings in 7U & 8U Coach Pitch tournaments in Georgia.

Sportsmanship

- (a) The umpires will handle UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT if the unsportsmanlike conduct is on the field of play. If an umpire has a problem with a fan or parent outside of the field, the umpire should go to the manager of the team that the problem is with and have the manager handle the situation. If the manager fails to handle the situation then the umpire will eject the manager from the game. The manager then has the option of handling the situation himself or getting a facility director to handle the situation.
- (b) The Tournament Director will determine the severity of anyone ejected from a game.

Depending on the severity of the infraction that caused the ejection, the Tournament Director may, remove the person from the game site, suspend the ejected person for one or more games during the tournament. In a cause were there is fighting all parties involved may be suspended from any future Nations Baseball events.

Suspended Games

(a) If a game is called due to weather or other hazardous conditions, it will be ruled an official game provided 3 ½ innings have been completed if the home team is ahead or four innings if the home team is behind for seven inning games. It will be ruled an official game provided 2 ½ innings have been completed if the home team is ahead or three innings if the home team is behind for six inning games.

(b) All games stopped by an umpire for weather or other reasons before the game is declared official shall be a suspended game.

Major League Rule Book: http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/definition_terms_2.jsp