**2023 GVSU Baseball Tournaments Rules**

1. No schedule changes allowed, except by Tournament Committee. Final rosters must be submitted no later than 2 days before the tournaments begins.
2. Age Restrictions:  A player’s age on May 1 is his/her age for the entire year.  Players falling within one month of that time frame will be permitted to attend on a case by case basis.
3. Teams are responsible for retrieving foul balls. The umpires will ask for additional baseballs if the teams fail to retrieve and return foul balls.
4. AABC Connie Mack Rules Will Apply. DH is optional, and can only bat for the pitcher. If the DH (or the pitcher) enters the game as a defensive player, the team no longer has a DH. One EH (extra hitter) is optional, in addition to the DH. MHSAA courtesy runner rule for catchers and pitchers may be used. Courtesy runner can ONLY be a player who has not yet played in that game. NCAA slide rule in effect. Only starters can re-enter and have to re-enter at the spot in the batting order they started in.
5. The EH adds a tenth batter to the batting order. If a team is playing with both the DH and the EH (this is not uncommon), then you have eleven players in the lineup, ten of whom bat.
   * **The EH must be declared on the starting lineup**. An EH cannot be added to the lineup after lineups become official at the plate meeting.
   * **The EH may bat in any spot in the batting order**. However, the EH spot in the batting order may not change during the game. That is, if you have the EH in the three-hole at the start of the game, the EH remains in the three-hole for the entire game, irrespective of substitutions into and out of the EH slot.
   * **The EH is eligible for substitution and re-entry into the game**. Whatever substitution and re-entry rules are in effect for the league and level, these rules apply equally to the EH. This means you can sub in a new EH during the game, and in most cases re-enter the original EH later in the game
   * **The EH may be entered into the game defensively**. Combined with the free re-entry rule, this means that a manager can make defensive moves that include the EH, including swapping a defensive player for the EH, whereupon the defensive player that was just swapped out can become the new EH. In short, the manager can shuffle his ten players in the batting order (excluding the DH, of course, if also in the game) among the nine defensive positions. These are defensive swaps, not substitutions.
   * **The EH role may not be eliminated during the game**. Once you start with an EH, you must keep the EH for the entire game. The only exception is if your team drops to only nine players due to injury, ejections, or players leaving early.
6. Managers will flip for home team. In bracket play, highest seed is the home team.
7. Bat Restrictions: Participants will be subjected to the -3 BBCOR High School rules on bats. If there is a bat discrepancy we will refer to the NFHS and if has not been outlawed by them, the bat will remain legal. Teams competing in wood bat tournaments have no weight distribution limits.  **COMPOSITE wood bats are legal during all wood bat tournament play!**
8. All games are scheduled for 7 innings. Exceptions to this could be games ending early due to Mercy rule, extra inning games within the time limit. 2 point win/1point tie. No inning to start after 1hour and 50 minutes. No game will go longer than 7 innings if games are rescheduled due to weather. Official scorer and umpire to keep time. Mercy rule will be 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings. Championship game will have a 2:30 time limit to protect pitchers from overuse.
   * **If two teams in the same pool are 4-0, a 3 inning game will be played on Saturday evening (if sunlight allows) or Sunday morning . The tie breaker game will consist of the “international tie breaker rules.” Runner on 2nd nobody out. Last batted out will be placed on 2nd base.**
9. Any throwing of equipment, outburst of temper, or conduct unbecoming of the game of baseball will result in the immediate expulsion from the game. Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game is done for the remainder of that game and next game. A second ejection by the same person will result in disqualification from the remainder of the tournament.
10. Protests: $100 must be presented at the time of the protest and protests must be settled before play continues. Home plate umpire and tourney chief will decide protest. Money will be refunded if protest accepted. Ejections cannot be protested.
11. Field ground rules will be determined by umpires at respective sites prior to game.
12. No refund of entry fee if **2** games are played. If only one game is played, 50% credit will be given to team for another GVSU tournament. If no games are played, then 100% credit will be given to another GVSU tournament.
13. Teams withdrawing within one month of the tournament will forfeit all registration fees.  There are **NO** refunds or credits for withdrawal within one month of the event.
14. Home team will be the official scorer for each game.
15. Champion Tie Breaker Formula: A. Head to head competition, B. Least runs given up, C. Greatest difference in runs between opponents for all games, D. Most runs scored.
    * 3-way tie: head to head only valid if all teams have played each other. (see b.)
    * If one of the tied teams defeated both other teams, they advance and receive the higher seed even if all teams have not played each other.
16. Each team to provide 2 baseballs per game.
17. **There is a ONE time gate fee ($10 for tournament pass; $6 for a day pass), seniors (60+ Y.o.) and children (under 18 y.o.) are free, at every tournament.  This fee covers all fields and all games for the entire weekend.  A wristband will be provided at the time gate is collected.**
18. Every rule listed above is subject to change at any time, with integrity being a priority, by the Tournament Staff.