



## **RULES**

### **Dates**

Saturday, March 2nd - Sunday, March 3rd

### **Address**

API

740 Route 3 South Gambrills, MD 21054

Phone: (410) 923-2100

### **Parking**

- Please see attached Property Diagram.
- Families are encouraged to park in API's overflow parking lot located at Regency Park 730 MD Route 3 South Gambrills, MD 21054. This parking lot is accessed directly from Route 3 South.

### **Check In**

- Coaches must check-in the API Lobby /Front Desk and submit a completed waiver for each player participating in the tournament and a copy of their official roster.
- Players not playing in the first game each day can assemble in the designated warm-up area.

### **Rosters**

- All teams are required to carry with them at all times a copy of their official roster, a copy of each player's birth certificates and a copy of their insurance. In the event of a player's age challenge each team must show the player's birth certificate or valid State-issued ID with birth information. If player is found to be ineligible the player will be removed from tournament, the head coach will be ejected from the remainder of the tournament. There will be NO FORFEITS because of an ineligible player. A sub may replace the ineligible player if one is available, otherwise an automatic out will take place in the same manner as an injured player.
- A player may appear on ONLY one roster at a time. Any player found to be participating with more than one team shall result in the second team's disqualification, and suspension of the player for the remainder of the tournament.

### **Warm Up Area**

- The designated warm up area will be on Turf Field #1 in the Sports Hall or Flex Court #1 and #2 in the Main Building.
- Warm up area may be used by teams preparing to play only.



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- The warm up area can be used by up to two teams at once. Warm-up areas and schedule will be available upon arrival.
- Teams scheduled to first game of day can begin warm-ups one hour before start time.

### Unique Rules Air Dome

- **Out of Play:**
  - When the ball is lost in any netting. (Umpires discretion)
- **Foul Balls:**
  - All balls that hit lights or ceiling in foul territory.
  - All balls that hit lights or ceiling in fair territory will be played.
  - All normal rules apply.
- **Home Runs:**
  - When the ball hits the white part of the ceiling/wall below the last row of lights in center field, right-center field or right field. (Umpires discretion)
  - When the ball clears the netting in left field and left-center field.
- **Ground Rule Doubles:**
  - When the ball is lost in the left field netting.
  - Any ball that passes the left field netting into the seating area.

### Unique Rules Sports Hall

- **Out of Play:**
  - When a ball is lost in any netting. (Umpires discretion)
- **Foul Balls:**
  - All balls will that hit lights, fans or ceiling in foul territory.
  - All balls that hit lights, fans or ceiling in fair territory will be played.
  - All normal rules apply.
- **Home Runs:**
  - When the ball hits the white part of the ceiling/wall below the last row of lights in center field, right-center field or right field. (Umpires Discretion)
  - When the ball clears the netting in left-field and left-center field.
- **Ground Rule Doubles:**
  - Balls that go into center field or down the foul lines and pass through any openings in the nets are considered ground rule doubles.



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## **Special Indoor Rules**

- No cleats allowed. Tennis shoes or turf shoes only.
- No sunflower seeds, gum or open-container sports drinks food on the turf.
- Coaches no chewing tobacco or sunflower seeds.

## **Home/Visitor**

- Each team will play (1) game as Home team and (1) game as Away team in Pool Play rounds.
- Higher seed will have choice for all Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Championship games.

## **Mercy Rule**

- 12 run lead after 3 complete innings
- 10 run lead after 4 complete innings
- 8 run lead after 5 complete innings

## **8U Pitching**

- Kid Pitch - 1st thru 3rd innings
  - Flat Ground Mound at 40'
  - No player can pitch more than (3) innings per day. (1) pitch constitutes a full inning.
- Coach Pitch - 4th thru 6th (or extra) innings
  - Coach pitch from 30-40'
  - Three (3) swinging strikes or seven (7) total pitches constitutes an out.
- Hit Batsmen - 2 per inning. 3 per game. Pitcher must be removed if either occur.
- No Balks.

## **Bat Restrictions**

- None

## **Pitcher Warm Up Time**

- Pitchers will be given 5 minutes to warm up prior to the first inning.
- For 2nd inning, pitcher will get 4-6 pitches for warm up.



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### Visits to the Mound

- 1 visit per inning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> visit must result in change of pitcher

### 8U Specific Rules

- 40' mound - 60' bases
- No dropped 3rd strike rule, ball is dead for all runners.
- No infield fly rule.
- Live Play Rule - For base running purposes, play does not begin or resume ("live play") until the batter hits the ball officially in play. Neither a base-on-balls, hit by pitch, passed ball, wild pitch or overthrow from catcher to pitcher constitutes a "live play" for these purposes.
- Dead Ball Rule - For base running purposes, play ends or ceases (a "dead ball" occurs) when the pitcher has control of the ball within a 10' radius around the rubber (umpires discretion). At this point in time, the umpire must determine the position of the base runners at the moment of the "dead ball". Base runners who have reached at least a point mid-way (30 feet) between the bases may advance to the next base. Base runners who have not yet reach the mid-way point must return to the preceding base. If the pitcher attempts a continuance of play by attempting to throw-out an advancing runner after the ball has been returned to him (from a fellow player) within the "infield area" the pitcher has forfeited a "dead ball" and has officially resumed the ball in play, allowing players to advance. A "dead ball" will not occur again until the ball returns back to the pitcher in the "infield area". Walks of any kind, bases on balls or batters hit by a pitch, are considered "dead ball" activities. Runners do not advance except as typically caused by the walk itself.
- Stealing is NOT permitted.
- Bunting is NOT permitted.
- HEAD FIRST slides are not allowed to any base except if player is diving back to base. Runners must AVOID CONTACT and attempt to get to the base or plate and not trying to interfere with the fielder in any way.
- Maximum of five (5) runs per inning. 6th inning and extra innings are unlimited.

### Batting Order (Line-Up)

- Teams may bat 9 batters.
- Teams may bat 10 batters. An (EH) may be used in the batting order (line-up). If you start with an (EH) you must end with an (EH) or take an out at that at-bat.
- Teams may bat entire roster then use free defensive substitutions in the game.



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- When batting their entire line-up, if a player is unable to bat at any time solely due to on field injury, then no out will be called but the player is no longer eligible to play in the rest of game offensively or defensively

### **Re-Entries:**

- Starters may re-enter ONLY. (Must remain in same batting order number)
- No subs can re-enter.

### **Courtesy Runners**

- A courtesy runner for the catcher and pitcher is allowed with 2 outs. The runner must be a player not in the game or was last out.

### **Ejections**

- Coaches and fans ejected from a game must exit the venue immediately and not return for the rest of that game plus their next scheduled game. Players may stay with their respective teams but may not participate in rest of that game plus the next scheduled game provided they display a sportsmanlike manner for the duration of the game.

### **Intentional Delays**

- The umpire and tournament directors reserve the right to eject any player, coach or fan for intentionally delaying a game. A forfeit may be enforced at the Tournament Director's discretion.

### **Protest**

- Judgment calls are final. A coach may politely ask the umpire who made the call to clarify a rules interpretation. The umpires on the field will make a final decision on the field. Tournament Director will have final say on rules. There are no paid protests.

### **Scorebooks**

- The home team will be the official scorebook. The visiting team is encouraged to maintain a book also.

### **Start of Game**

- All teams are expected to be at fields ready to play 15 minutes prior to game time. Please be prepared to start games early if field, umpires and teams are ready to play. Teams must have 9



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players to start game NO exceptions. Teams may finish with 8 players (out will be taken for vacant spot in lineup).

### **Reporting Scores**

- It will be the winning teams responsibility to report the score to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of game completion.

### **Tie Games**

- Pool play games can result in a tie.
- Bracket/seeded games will be resolved by the use of a Modified California Tie-Breaker:
  - Every half inning following the 6<sup>th</sup> inning will start with bases loaded and two outs. The bases will be loaded by the 3 batters prior to the first batter of the inning; furthermore, the batter occupying first base should be the last batter before the batter at the plate. The same batting order is to then be followed.

### **Ranking For Final Seeds**

Seeding for Elimination Round will be determined in the following order:

1. Total points (Win=4 points; Tie= 2 points; Loss= 0 points)
2. Head to Head only if two teams are tied.
3. Runs allowed
4. Runs scored
5. Coin Flip

### **Game Length**

- All Games except Championship game will follow a strict 1 hr 45 min time limit which means no new inning after 1 hr 45 min.
- Time will be kept by the Umpires.
- For Championship game, teams will continue normal innings until game is completed.