



TOURNAMENT RULES

Royal Oak Sandlot Summer Classic
Revised 6/10/25

The Royal Oak (RO) Sandlot Summer Classic is focused on community based teams to make games competitive and fun. Following are the rules we will use to create a fun-filled, competitive event for everyone at our tournaments. These rules focus on providing a quality experience for all involved. Unless noted prior to the event, National Federation High School Rules will be used as the basis for our play, with the following notations overriding or supplementing those basic baseball rules.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Age Requirement: May 1st, of 2025 will be the designated date to determine age groups. We will honor the Canadian age cut of Jan 1st, 2025 for Canadian teams at AA & below. On September 1st, 2025, we will rollover to 2026 age groups.

CONCERNS:

- We are proud to say we had very few issues or protests last year. Still, issues can occur, and it's the right of the coach to protest.
- Protests: The Protest Fee is \$100 cash/Venmo (on rule interpretation only). Protests must be made prior to the next pitch being thrown or 5 minutes after the final out of the game. The Umpire(s) must be informed first of a protest made during the game but a PROTEST is not decided by an umpire. The Tournament Director will make the final decision on all Protests. Protests that result in an over-ruled decision will include a full refund of the fee. REMEMBER, you APPEAL to an umpire. YOU PROTEST to a TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. When deciding to protest, tell umpire you need a site director.

STANDINGS & SEEDING:

- Standings will be updated via the Tourney Machine App. Because scores matter, we ask that scores are reported along with victories, ties, and losses to the representative on-site under the information tent.
- Seeding is also determined by our tie-breaker rules. Tiebreaker rules:
 - Overall record
 - Head-to-head
 - Runs allowed
 - Run differential
 - Runs scored
 - Coin flip

In situations where there are three teams tied, head-to-head still can play a role IF there is a clear way to determine the three teams placement via head-to-head. Many times, in a three-way tie or more, runs will factor into the equation. A forfeit will have a tournament score recorded as 7 – 0. But, forfeits will NOT be included in tie-breaker score situations. We will USE percentages then based on total games played.

GAME PLAY:

Game Times: Starting time is forfeit time, unless delay is created by tournament officials. Official game time starts at completion of the pre-game meeting. With that said, the RO Sandlot Summer Classic is about kids playing baseball – and reasonable exceptions can be made due to unforeseen issues. Teams **MUST** be prepared to play by their scheduled times. Game times and field assignments will be emailed prior to tournament and posted on the tournament website. Games may start thirty (30) minutes early due to mercy or other factors, so please arrive to the fields at least thirty (30) minutes before start of game. Both teams must provide batting line ups, and teams must bat in provided order. Umpires/coaches must agree to (and note) starting time. Except the first inning, a new inning starts **AS SOON** as the last inning ended. The first team to arrive at the field before game time gets their pick of dugout. The home team is determined by the umpire via coin toss prior to the start of the game unless it's a seeded game – then the higher seed (i.e. 1 seed considered high, 2 seed is next highest, etc.) has the choice to be home or away. The home team is required to keep the official score book and should check their scorebook with the opposing team every inning. If a discrepancy is found, it must be brought to the umpire's attention before the next inning. Teams must provide their own scorebooks.

INNINGS / TIME LIMITS:

8U – 12U Divisions, games will consist of six (6) innings with a 1 hour and 30 minute time limit.
13U- 15U Divisions, games will consist of seven (7) innings with a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit.

No new inning shall start after the designated time limit. An extra inning may be played **IF** there is additional time but ties are allowed in pool play. In seeded play or playoffs, the following **TIE BREAKER** rule will be enforced in extra innings or if tied at the designated time limit: the player that made the last out in the previous inning will return to second base, the inning will start with zero (0) outs and play will resume with the next player in the line-up batting. Complete innings will be played until a winner is determined. The Championship game will be played with a 2 hour time limit. In the event that a tournament game cannot be completed within its time limit due to adverse weather, poor lighting/darkness or serious injury, the following guidelines applies: a game may be called after four innings of play (or 3 ½ innings of play if the home team is ahead) and will be considered as an official game played.

The tourney director has right to amend this rule due to weather & time factors on Sunday play. The tournament director reserves the right to make changes to the schedule that are in the best interest of the tournament as a whole. Weather may play an issue and time limits may need to be adjusted. We will make every effort to provide all teams with best possible solution if games are adjusted because of weather issues. If the event is canceled due to rain, awards will be assigned based on clear seeding.

MERCY RULES:

Mercy Situations: RO Sandlot Summer Classic wants kids to play and believes mercy rules have their place. With that said, teams should play for at least one hour in each game.

Mercy Rules - ALL DIVISIONS – Fifteen (15) run differential after three (3) innings, ten (10) run differential after four (4) innings and eight (8) run differential after five (5) innings. A losing team may elect to continue to play **IF** the game has not lasted a full hour. Games past the mercy will end at the conclusion of an hour of play. Mercy rules are in effect for championship games.

ROSTER MINIMUMS/MAXIMUMS:

A team must start with a minimum of 8 players. The team can play the entire event with just eight players – if necessary. Teams should carry no more than 15 players. If your team carries more than 15, please let tourney officials know by Wednesday prior to the start of the event as we can then allocate awards.

LINE-UP ISSUES (INJURIES & EJECTIONS):

It is the tournament director's discretion when dealing with an injury in the lineup. Likewise, it is the umpire & director's discretion when dealing with an ejected player. This RO Sandlot tournament does not like to punish coaches or teams for situations such as injury or one player's actions. There will be no penalty to coaches for a player leaving early or arriving late.

PITCHING RULES:

There will be no pitching restrictions. Management of pitching is at the sole discretion of the head coach. The tournament is not responsible for coaches' decisions on pitching. The tournament expects coaches to use good judgment in using their pitchers safely.

Maximum 3 hit-batters per pitcher per game for 11U-15U. (Umpire does have discretion to amend this rule)

BALKS:

8U-10U – Balks – Unlimited & Educational; Umpire's discretion.

11U-13U: One balk warning;

14U-15U: No warnings.

BATS:

Bats must comply with USSSA rules or USA rules. Both are accepted as well as wood bats at the RO Sandlot Summer Classic.

14U – USSSA Rules.

15U and older – BBCORE

Bats will not be checked prior to the game. If a coach has a question about a bat, he may request umpire to check that particular bat. If the request for a bat check becomes too extreme and a mockery to the game, all bats from both teams will be checked. The time limit will continue to run during the bat check.

BATTING LINE-UP:

All ages may bat entire line-up, or may also choose to bat nine or ten (EH for 10 hitters).

POSITION PLAYERS:

8U: 10 players are allowed in the field (includes 4 outfielders). Teams can agree to play only 9.

9U-15U: Standard 9 players in the field.

COURTESY RUNNERS:

With two outs, a courtesy runner for pitcher or catcher is allowed by using last batted out.

FIELD DIMENSIONS (*Base/Pitching distances*):

8U Kid Pitch: 40-60

9U: 46-60

10U: 46-65

11U/12U: 50/70

13U: 54/80

14U-15U: 60-90

COACHING STAFF:

Four (4) coaches per bench – exceptions can be made to adjust for larger staff. Coaches **MUST** stay in dugouts. Please call time-out from umpire to request to come on the field of play.

INFIELD WARM-UPS:

All teams are encouraged to warm-up as much as possible before game time; however, no practice may be taken on the infield prior to the game.

Baseballs are provided by the tournament. WE expect teams to assist in returning foul balls to umpires. When 2-3 balls are hit foul, teams may want to throw a ball in to save time and pace of game.

Playing surface is as it remains at the tournament fields. No seeds, no gum, no metal cleats on the turf field at Memorial Park whereby a \$250 fine could be enforced.

BASE-RUNNING:

8U, 9U and 10U –

- No lead-offs – One warning per team.
- Stealing – One base per pitch; Leave after ball crosses plate.
- Stealing home – A team can steal home once per inning. After the first time, they may advance only on a batted ball, bases loaded walk or if the defense makes a play on that runner
- No dropped third strike advancement.

11U-15U:

- Unlimited Stealing & Lead-offs.
- Players may advance on dropped third strike.

SLIDE RULES:

We advise all players to slide at close plays – and the runner must avoid contact. This is an umpire discretion area – and will be determined by the umpires on the field. The umpires can warn players and teams to a forced slide in plays at the base. Malicious contact at any base is forbidden and automatic ejection.

SPIKES/CLEATS:

8U-12U rubber or plastic sheeted shoes only.

13U-15U: May wear metal cleats EXCEPT on turf field at Memorial Park. Most 15U games are on the turf field at Memorial Park.

TEAM & COACH BEHAVIOR:

Use of tobacco products is prohibited within game field fences for all coaches and players, on all fields and in the dugouts.

Any player or coach ejected from a game will need to meet with the tourney director for potential further suspensions. Umpires can only eject coaches from a game.

Bad sportsmanship, foul language & Physical confrontation - This tournament has "zero tolerance" for any physical confrontations by players, coaches, fans, or anyone else. Upon the first violation, the violating party shall be removed from the facility and the tournament. Any profanity, verbal abuse, physical abuse by any player, coach or parent directed towards umpires, opposing teams, park officials or tournament officials can result in immediate team removal from the tournament as determined by the tournament director or his assistant directors. RO Sandlot Summer Classic Tournament understands that sports can bring out the worst in people – at times. The expectation is that this is at the minimum – and that all attendees and participants will do their best to maintain proper behavior.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to amend any rule, schedule, diamond location, format, combine age brackets, to accommodate time constraints, weather situations, etc. All participants & attendees are competing & viewing at their own risk -- and by participating, they agree to hold Royal Oak Sandlot League, the City of Royal Oak, all Tournament Officials, all facilities, and all umpires harmless from any liability resulting from participation in the tournament.

We sincerely appreciate your team's assistance in keeping the parks clean. Please pick up your dugout and spectator areas after your games are done. Copies of birth certificates of all your players and proof of liability insurance must be available along with tourney roster. These items should be in the coaches' possession.

WEATHER ISSUES:

- IF ONLY ONE GAME IS PLAYED, TEAMS WILL RECEIVE A REASONABLE REFUND FROM THE EVENT AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE COVERAGE OF FIXED OPERATION COSTS (FIELDS, VENDORS, ETC).
- IF TWO OR MORE GAMES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELATIONS.
- REMEMBER, IF YOU START A GAME, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED FULL IN TERMS OF PLAYING UMPIRES, FIELDS & MATERIALS REGARDLESS OF TOTAL INNINGS PLAYED.

QUESTIONS:

Please reach out to rosandlotclassictourney@gmail.com and we'll get back to you as soon as reasonably possible.