

Far North Coast Baseball Association Inc



Since 1937, Home of the FNC
TIMBERJACKS

TIMBERJACKS FRIENDSHIP SERIES TOURNAMENT RULES 2017

Proudly Sponsored by:



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GENERAL

Far North Coast Baseball Association will set the final schedule.

The **Tournament Director's** decision is final in regard to all disputes during the Timberjacks International Friendship Series. Umpire judgment rulings are final.

ORDER OF BENCHING

The **First Named** team in the official schedule of games will be regarded as the **Home Team, Field First** and occupy the **Third Base** dug-out or bench.

OFFICIALS

Each team at this tournament shall supply:

1. An Approved Scorebook
2. Appropriate Accredited Coaches
3. A Suitably Experienced Scorer
4. Appropriate Accredited Umpire

ROSTERS

There is no minimum or maximum playing roster. Coaches are encouraged to select sufficient players to fulfill tournament rules. No exception will be granted to teams in breach of tournament rules.

THE PLAYING FIELD

Grade	Game Type	Basepaths	Pitch Distance
Under 12's	Little League	70 ft	46 ft
Under 14's	Baseball	80 ft	54 ft
Under 16's & 20's	Baseball	90 ft	60 ft 6 in

REGULATION GAMES

Grade	Game Time	Max Runs/Inning	Mercy Rule
Under 12's & 14's	6 Innings or 1¾ hours	6	10 Runs after 4 Innings
Under 16's & 20's	7 Innings or 2 hours	9	10 Runs after 5 Innings

In all grades, one hour of play or four (4) complete innings (whichever is first) shall constitute a complete game should it be necessary to call it early. If the game does not reach the one hour mark or 4th inning then the game will be declared a draw.

If the top of an innings is in progress when the allocated time for a game expires, the game will then be called.

If the bottom of an innings is in progress when the allocated time expires, that part of the innings will be completed. The maximum time allowed for such completion of the innings, however, shall be ten (10) minutes. At the end of this time, the game is then called. The batter will not complete turn at bat and the game will thereupon finish. If the winning run is scored in this half innings, the game will end after that one runner crosses the plate. If the winning run should result from a home run (or ground rule double), then all runs batted by that hit will score.

In all FINALS (if designated), the game will be the same duration as regular games, with extra innings played if needed for a result.

RANKING OF THE TEAMS

In the event of two teams finishing on equal points, placings shall be awarded on a head to head basis.

In the event of more than two teams finishing on equal points (where head to head is unable to separate), the team with the least runs scored **against** will be the higher placed team, then the remaining teams will be ranked by the same original process (head to head, and if applicable runs scored against).

Not all games in the pool are taken into account when calculating the runs against formula. Only the runs against in the head to head games (amongst the tied teams) are taken into consideration.

PARTICIPATION

40% participation is required for all players - (ie 40% of the total defensive out throughout the tournament).

The Head Coach is responsible for ensuring players on their teams satisfy the participation requirements. Infringements shall be noted by the Tournament Manager, for a ruling and subsequent disciplinary action **(if any)**.

Circumstances during a championship may provide participation problems for Field Managers. The Tournament Manager will address each case on its merit.

PITCHING & CATCHING

Age Group	Able to pitch same day or next day	1 days rest from pitching	2 days rest from pitching	Daily Maximum
Under 10's	1 – 20	21 – 29	30 +	35
Under 12's	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 +	75
Under 14's	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 +	85
Under 16's	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 +	95
Under 20's	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 +	105

NOTE: Pitchers are permitted to exceed the above thresholds **ONLY to finish** the batter to which they are pitching. The pitch count at the start of the batter will determine whether or not the daily minor or daily maximum will be applied.

Pitchers are allowed to pitch in more than one game on the same day provided that they do not exceed the Daily Minor limit in their first outing and the daily maximum is adhered to.

Pitchers are not permitted to exceed two (2) pitching outings for the tournament.

A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

A catcher plays the position of catcher for four or more innings is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of that day.

A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, may return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game. This will count as another outing.

THE PENALTY FOR ANY BREACH OF THE PITCHING RULES

Automatic one game suspension of Manager.

State Bodies notified.

Fine \$100.00

DESIGNATED HITTERS

A Designated Hitter will be allowed for Under 20's only.

RE-ENTRY

Any of the nine (9) **starting** players may withdraw and re-enter- once, provided that:

- There are no available substitutions (that is, fresh replacements), and
- It is a result of an injury or ejection (or a pitching restriction enforcement and the pitcher must leave the field as a result) and such re-entry player occupies the same position in the batting order, and
- The re-entry player cannot remain in the game if the person that he/she substituted for re-enters the game.

Penalty: Loss of game.

EQUIPMENT

Players **must** wear **full** protective equipment **at all times** when catching or warming up a pitcher. This includes the bull pen **For example:** Mask, helmet, box, chest protector, throat protector and leg guards. Adult Coaches warming up a pitcher are only required to wear a mask.

BATS

Under 12's	<p>The bat must be a baseball bat, which meets Little League specifications, and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or of material and colour tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards. Little League (Majors) and below: it shall not be more than thirty-three (33) inches in length nor more than two and one-quarter (2$\frac{1}{4}$) inches in diameter. Non-wood bats shall be labelled with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Little League (Majors) and below, for regular season play and Tournament, composite barrel bats are prohibited unless approved by Little League International. A list of approved and licensed composite barrel bats can be found on the Little League website at www.LittleLeague.org.</p>
Under 14's	<p>It shall not be more than 34 inches in length; nor more than 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. All composite barrel bats shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour. If a 2$\frac{1}{4}$ barrel bat has no composite materials, it may be used provided it is labelled with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less. (NOTE: Solid wooded barrel bats do not require a BPF label.)</p>
Under 16's & Under 20's	<p>It shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inchlong bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces). All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour. Aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.</p> <p>Any Junior player playing in a Major League (A Grade) competition must swing wood.</p> <p>Females may use -5 ounce bats.</p> <p>Under 20's are encouraged to swing wood.</p>

SPEED UP RULE

No runners will be permitted for catchers. Coaches are encouraged have a bench player ready, in **full** catching gear, to warm up pitchers at the changeover of innings.

COLLISION RULE

Players are **encouraged** to slide feet first into bases and home plate. No penalty will be applied for sliding head first.

The Little League interpretation for anti-collision will be enforced. Whereby a runner does not need to slide if he/she is attempting to get around a defending player and the contact is incidental.

Should the contact be deemed unnecessary, the umpire will call the runner out, all other runners will return to their last legally occupied base, no runners will advance unless forced and no runners will score on the play.

DECLARATION RULE

In the event that the **visiting team** draws level or takes the lead in a game, it shall have the right **once, and once only** in a game, to forfeit its remaining "outs" in that half innings. This is done by informing the UIC. The UIC shall immediately inform the Opposition Team Manager and scorers and instruct the home team to leave the field and prepare to bat. This declaration must be made prior to the allocated finishing time of completion of the game. If the visiting team comes to bat again, it shall resume from when the declaration was made (i.e. no automatic outs are recorded for the declaration of an inning);

BALLS

Teams are to collect all foul balls and return them to the Umpire In Chief. No balls will be supplied to teams prior to games.

SHOES

Under 12's	Rubber Sole
Under 14's	Metal Cleats Permitted
Under 16's	Metal Cleats Permitted
Under 20's	Metal Cleats Permitted

SCORERS

Scorers are responsible for tendering result sheets to the Scorers Co-Ordinator within 30 minutes of the completion of each game.

Before the winner is declared, scorebooks may be vetted for any rule anomalies.

UMPIRES

Umpires are required to meet in changeroom at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time (unless umpiring duties interfere).

Umpires are responsible for timekeeping and ensuring the result card is accurate.

The Umpire In Chief is responsible to sign the card (ensuring the name of all umpires are identified on the result card)

REPORTED PLAYERS

Should any player, non-playing coach or manager be ordered from the game by an umpire for any misdemeanour, the person concerned will appear before the tribunal of the FNCBA prior to such person's next game in the Timberjacks Friendship Series.

The Tribunal will comprise the Tournament Director, at least two FNCBA officials (or his/her appointed representative). It will not include any members of a competing teams' staff or delegation.

The Tribunal is authorised to impose whatever penalty is deemed necessary.

Full details of the tribunal matter will be submitted to the Secretary of the ABF and Baseball Queensland Inc. after the completion of the Program.

PURPOSE

Coaches, Parents and Officials must keep the following in mind:

- (a) These rules are for the protection of the players and must be adhered to. Any team wishing to obtain an exemption from any rule must formally write to the Tournament Director at least two weeks prior to the event and obtain a written exemption.
- (b) **This is a tournament for the development of Junior Baseballers.** All players must have playing time. Coaching staff, parents and supporters are all encouraged to support all teams and that winning is not the priority. **Development is the goal ... not winning!**

BREACH OF TOURNAMENT RULES

In the event of any coach of team being found to be in breach of these Timberjacks Tournament Rules, the offending team will be fined **\$100.00 per offence**. Coaches in breach, notification will be sent to governing bodies and may face revocation of their accreditation.

UNDER 12's SPECIFIC

- (a) Base-runners may not leave their base until the pitch crosses the front of home plate. Should the umpire observe such an infringement, the runner is sent back to the last legally occupied base. If the pitch is hit into fair territory, the infringing runner is called out. All other plays resulting from that hit shall stand.
- (b) Coaches are encouraged not to allow their players to take extra bases in a "suicide" manner with the intention of enticing an overthrow. This is a breach of the Coaches Code of Conduct. Should the umpire observe such infringements, on the first infringement the runner(s) shall be called **out**. On the second and subsequent infringements, the runner(s) shall be called **out**, the Coach ejected and face tribunal disciplinary actions.
- (c) There are no balks.
- (d) There are no dropped third strikes. If the catcher drops the third strike, the hitter is automatically out.
- (e) **Pitchers and Catchers may only play those positions for a maximum of nine (9) defensive outs in any game.** However, should six (6) or more runs be scored in any one innings, this shall be considered as three (3) defensive outs for that inning.
- (f) If players have played in the outfield at any time in two (2) successive games, they must play their next game as an infielder. For dispensation from this rule, please write to the Tournament Director seeking approval.
- (g) **There is no advancing home on a pass ball or wild pitch. Runners are encouraged to score on hit balls.**
- (h) In the event that the count upon a batter in the Under 12's competition reaches ball four, the Soft Pitch/Toss rule will come into effect.
 - i. The following shall apply:
 - a. The batter begins with one strike.
 - b. The batter cannot bunt.
 - c. The catcher must take up a position in the catcher's box.
 - d. The pitcher must stand at the pitchers plate.
 - e. The coach shall deliver a Soft Pitch from in front of the pitching plate.
 - f. If ball four is reached again, the Coach must deliver the Soft Toss from the foul line.
 - ii. The ball must travel at least 15 feet from the home plate. If the ball fails to travel this distance, it shall be called a foul ball.
 - iii. A batter who achieves a safe hit from a Soft Pitch/Soft Toss Pitch shall not run more than two bases (*exception home run over fence*). The batted ball will remain in play. When a Soft Pitch/Toss Pitch is being made, the runners are not permitted to take a lead and are also restricted to advancing two bases only (*exception home run over fence*).