

West Bend Thunder Tournament Rules

(U8, U9 & U10 Divisions)

All games follow **National Federation High School (NFHS)** rules, except where modified below.

Player & Team Rules

- Players must be in the correct age/grade division (age cutoff: **May 1**).
 - Rosters (max **15 players**) must be submitted prior to the tournament. Rosters are final unless approved by the Tournament Director.
 - A player may only appear on **one roster** during the tournament.
 - Teams must be ready to start up to **30 minutes prior** to their scheduled time. Games may start early.
 - Teams not ready to take the field within **10 minutes** of game time will forfeit.
 - Forfeit score: **10 runs allowed** to the losing team.
 - Teams must start with at least **8 players**. If starting with 8, the 9th batting spot is an **automatic out**.
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Game Rules

- Game length: **1 hour 30 minutes (1:30) or 6 innings max.**
 - No new inning after 1 hour 30 minutes
- **New inning** begins immediately after the 3rd out.
- If the home team is ahead when time expires, the game is over.

- **Mercy Rule:**
 - 12 runs after 3 innings (2½ if home team leads).
 - 10 runs after 4 innings (3½ if home team leads).
 - 8 runs after 5 innings (4½ if home team leads).
- **Championship Game:** No time limit. Mercy rules and 6 inning game stapply.
- Inclement weather: play stops immediately at lightning/thunder (30 min minimum delay).

Pool Play

- The furthest-traveling team calls coin flip for home/away.
- Games tied after time expires are recorded as **TIES**.

Bracket Play

- The higher seed is the **home team**.
- If tied at time limit → use **California Rule**: start next inning with 1 out and runner on 2nd (last batter out).

Game Play Rules

- Return the ball directly to the pitcher after an out.
- **5 warm-up pitches** between innings/pitching changes.
- No infield/outfield warmups after the 1st inning.
- **Courtesy runners** allowed for pitcher/catcher of record at any time . With 2 outs, catcher must have a courtesy runner. ****Courtesy runner can be any player in the lineup HOWEVER if that player's spot in the order comes up when they are still on base it will be an automatic out.

- Batting order options:
 - **Continuous Order:** All players bat, free defensive subs. If a player leaves (injury/illness), spot = out once, then skipped.
 - **No slash bunts** (show bunt then swing).
 - **No mandatory slide rule**, but runners must avoid contact:
 - Must slide legally or run out of the play.
 - Illegal contact/interference = runner out + possible double play (umpire's discretion).
 - Malicious contact = runner out + ejection (umpire's discretion).
 - **At U8 only:**
 - Runners cannot score on passed balls/wild pitches. They may score only if a play is made on another base.
 - **At U9–U10:**
 - Runners may score on passed balls/wild pitches.
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Pitching Rules

- Once a pitcher is removed, they cannot return as pitcher.
- **Pitching limits:**
 - **U8** → 6 consecutive outs per game, 18 outs for the weekend.
 - **U9–U10** → 6 consecutive outs per game. No limit for the weekend

*Coaches are responsible for players' health and safety.
- **One mound visit** per pitcher; second visit = pitcher must be removed.

Age-Specific Variations

Division	Bases	Mound	3rd Strike Advance	Lead Offs	Stealing	Delayed Steals	Infield Fly	Balks	Metal Spikes
U8	60'	43'	No	No	When ball crosses plate	No	No	No	No
U9	60'	46'	No	No	When ball crosses plate	No	Yes	No	No
U10	60'	46'	No	No	On release	No	Yes	No	No

Tournament Format

- **2 pool games**, then all teams seeded into single-elimination bracket.
 - **3 game minimum** guaranteed.
 - Seeding tiebreakers: Record → Head-to-Head → Runs Allowed → Runs Scored → Coin Flip.
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Umpires, Sportsmanship & Conduct

- **No protests allowed.** Umpire/Tournament Director decisions are final.
 - Poor sportsmanship by players, coaches, or fans may result in **ejection**.
 - Ejected persons may be removed for the day or tournament.
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Equipment

- No bat restrictions for U8–U10.
 - No metal spikes allowed.
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Fields & Facilities

- Green space available — share respectfully.
 - Do not hit into fences (soft toss prohibited).
 - Concessions available
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Weather / Refund Policy

- Schedule may adjust for weather.
 - 1 game played = 50% refund
 - 2 games played = no refund
 - Full refund minus \$50 administrative fee if the tournament is cancelled.
 - Full refund if a team cancels but their spot is filled by replacement.
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Contacts

Tournament Director

RUSS THULL

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