

South Dakota Class A Baseball
9U, 10U, 11U, and 12U Rule Set
Updated: January, 2021

When not specifically addressed, NFHS rules will be utilized

Eligibility

Any team that meets the below list of requirements is eligible to register within the South Dakota Class A Baseball Program:

- Teams must be sponsored by the recognized local community baseball association within South Dakota. All associations will be named in the SD Class A Baseball bylaws
- All teams must be composed of players who meet the eligibility requirements of each individual association
 - When necessary, player eligibility guidelines of American Legion Baseball will be utilized
- January 1st of the current year will be used as the date of birth cutoff

Game Information, Run Rules, and Extra Innings

Field Dimensions

- 9U and 10U - 46' mound, 60' bases
- 11U and 12U - 50' mound, 70' bases

Game Length (All Ages)

- 6 innings

Run Rules (All Ages)

- 10 runs after 4 innings
- 15 runs after 3 innings

Time Limits (All Ages)

- State Tournament - 2 Hours
 - If the time limit expires while the home team is batting and ahead, the game will immediately end
 - The official start time will be declared when the home team takes the field in the top half of the first inning
 - Both dugouts must record the official start time
 - If the game is tied after the time limit expires, extra inning rules will be utilized
 - Games not affecting the outcome of the tournament will be declared a tie
 - The time limit may be adjusted by the tournament director as needed

Extra Innings

- The last batter to complete their at-bat will start at second base
- The offensive team will begin with one out

Bat Requirements (All Ages)

- USA bats or wood bats
 - Size/Weight ratio and barrel size don't matter

Lineup Options

9U and 10U

- Roster Bat
 - All players are to be in the batting order
 - Free substitution
 - If a player is unable to take their turn at bat, an out will be declared

11U and 12U

Teams may choose to utilize one of the following lineup options:

- Straight Nine - Starters may re-enter the game one time each, in the same spot in the batting order
- NFHS DH - A DH is allowed for any player. The DH and player being DH'd for are "married together". Starters may re-enter the game one time each, in the same spot in the batting order
 - Pitcher/DH may not be utilized
- Roster Bat
 - All players are to be in the batting order
 - Free substitution
 - If a player is unable to take their turn at bat, an out will be declared

Courtesy runners may be utilized for the pitcher and catcher, regardless the number of outs

- The courtesy runner(s) must be players who have not entered the game
- The courtesy runner(s) must be different for each position
 - If roster batting, courtesy runners may not be utilized

Pitching Rules

The following pitching rules will be utilize:

- Pitchers will be allowed to throw one game worth of innings per tournament
 - One pitch = one inning
- Pitchers will be allowed no more than two appearances per tournament
- Pitchers will be allowed no more than one appearance per game
 - If a team violates the pitching rules, they will be issued a forfeit for the game in which the rule violation occurred

Note: While pitch count is not utilized for SD Class A Baseball Tournaments, it is highly recommended that all teams follow the USA Pitch Smart guidelines

- Balks will be called at the 12U division

Baserunning Rules

- Stealing
 - 9U and 10U - the runner cannot leave the base until the ball crosses the plate
 - 11U - the runner cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand
 - 12U - leading off is allowed
 - Should a baserunner leave the base early, an out will be declared
- Unsecured third strike
 - 9U and 10U - the batter will be declared out
 - 11U and 12U - the unsecured third strike rule will be utilized

- Home plate
 - 9U and 10U - home plate is closed
 - A base runner may only advance home on a batted ball, walk, or hit by pitch
 - 11U and 12U - home plate is open

Additional Information

- State Tournament hosts will be determined at the annual fall meeting
- All coaches, in the field or dugout, must wear team shirt/uniform
- Ejections will carry a “plus one” penalty
 - This is for players, coaches, and parents/fans
 - If a parent/fan is ejected, the head coach of that team is also ejected
 - The head coach will not have a “plus one” penalty
- Official book must be verified each inning by opposing teams
- Tournament staff, in cooperation with the game umpires, will settle all disputes
 - Games may not be played under protest
- NFHS rules dictate that all catchers must utilize a hockey style catcher's helmet
 - NOCSAE certifications will not be required at this time
- The NFHS Slide Rule will be utilized
- Pre-game infield/outfield will not be allowed
- Metal cleats will not be allowed

State Tournament Information

- 2021 State Tournament Sites and Contacts
 - 9U through 12U - Mitchell - Luke Norden - luke.norden@k12.sd.us
- Three game guarantee
- Cost: \$275
 - Refunds will not be issued once the schedule has been released