



# 2025 Land O' Lakes Baseball League Postseason Playoff Tournament Rules

## *Rules subject to revision by Executive Director*

The following rules and guidelines are established to provide equality to all teams involved in the tournament. The umpires have total authority in making any decisions on the field. In special cases, the umpire in chief and executive director will be responsible for settling any unforeseen situations.

## **Eligibility and Tournament Format**

1. All full members of the Land O' Lakes Baseball League are eligible to participate in the tournament.
2. The Playoff Tournament format is single elimination.
3. Players must be fully registered and have completed the minimum games played or have league waiver approval to be eligible to play. Any unregistered or unapproved player participating in a game will result in the team's automatic forfeiture from the tournament. It is the manager's responsibility to verify player eligibility. Contact the executive director with any questions.

## **Game Rules and Format**

4. Major League Baseball rules apply wherever applicable, unless noted below.
5. Games are 9 innings in length, unless otherwise specified.
6. Mercy Rules:
  - 20 run rule after 5 innings
  - 15 run rule after 6 innings
  - 10 run rule after 7 innings
  - 8 run rule after 8 innings
7. Games tied after 9 innings will use MLB Playoff Extra Inning rules to revert to the traditional format, meaning there is no automatic runner on second base to start extra innings.
8. Player Substitutions:

- Re-entry allowed for starters only, but only one time per starter
- Designated hitter (DH) allowed for any player
- "Ohtani" Rule is permitted
- A courtesy runner for the catcher is permitted

## Scheduling and Timing

- Teams must arrive at minimum 75 minutes prior to scheduled game time.
- Games start at assigned times or 20 minutes after the prior game finishes.
- Pre-Game Field Access:
  - Each team receives 10 minutes of infield/outfield practice prior to games
  - Home team: 30 minutes before first pitch
  - Visiting team: 20 minutes before first pitch (unless behind schedule)
- First Game of the Day:
  - Teams may hit on the field if permitted
  - Home team has field until 50 minutes before first pitch
  - Visiting team gets field 50 minutes before first pitch
- Batting Cage Access (if available):
  - Higher seeded team: 75 minutes prior to game time
  - Lower seeded team: 50 minutes prior to game time

## Team Assignments and Logistics

- The highest seeded team is designated as the home team.
- Dugout Assignments:
  - Highest seeded/Home team: 3rd base dugout
  - Lowest seeded/Away team: 1st base dugout
  - Exception: Host team gets choice of dugout
- The home team (or team assigned by the Executive Director) is responsible for scoring the game via GameChanger.
- At game conclusion, teams must immediately vacate the dugout facility. Incoming teams warm up in the outfield while the host site and previous team clean the dugout and prepare the game surface.

## Umpiring

- Umpire Assignments:
  - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd round playoff games: Two umpires
  - Championship weekend: Four umpires

19. Umpires will enforce hustle on and off the field between innings, including during pitcher warm-up. Teams must have someone warm up the pitcher if the catcher is delayed putting on equipment.

## **Lineup Requirements**

20. Lineups must be imported into GameChanger and physically submitted to the home plate umpire, PA announcer, scorekeeper, and opposing manager 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time.
21. All lineups MUST include: first name, last name, position, and jersey number.

## **Conduct and Behavior**

22. Chirping to umpires or opposing players (bench jockeying) will not be tolerated and will result in ejection from the playoff tournament.
23. Players deemed out of control will be ejected from both the game and the remainder of the playoff tournament. If ejected players refuse to leave the field or continue disruptive conduct, the team faces automatic forfeiture.
24. Each manager is responsible for controlling their team, dugout, and crowd.

## **Uniform and Appearance**

25. Anyone in the dugout must wear a complete matching uniform unless approved by the league. This includes uniform pants, team jersey or team apparel, and hat.
26. Coaches on the field must wear skull caps or helmets.
27. Metal cleats are not allowed in West Bend.

## **Host Site Responsibilities and Rules**

28. Host sites are responsible for assigning a site director and must read the pre-game statement if a PA system is available.
29. The National Anthem is to be played prior to all playoff games unless no PA is available.
30. The home team is responsible for paying for the umpires the day of the game. The league will reimburse the home team after the 3rd round games.
31. Baseballs will be provided by the home team until the final four. The final four host site is responsible for baseballs.
32. Each starting pitcher receives a new baseball in plastic wrapper 30 minutes before scheduled start time.
33. Concessions: Absolutely no carry-ins allowed at host ballparks. Team managers are responsible for enforcement. Violations by fans or players may result in tournament forfeiture.

- 34. A suggested donation should be made by fans per day to the host ballpark (amount determined by host).
- 35. Each team must assist the host site in retrieving foul balls and home run balls.
- 36. Note: Some venues do not allow dogs (e.g., Monches and West Bend).

## **Weather Contingencies**

- 37. In the event of rain, every effort will be made to complete all games. Please remain flexible. Rainouts will require next day or weeknight makeup games regardless of team preferences or game eliminations.
- 38. If weeknight games are needed they will be played at the choice of the executive director in conjunction with each team and umpire in chief.