

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE
ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
8U, 9U AND 10U TRAVEL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT – 2025
Rules and Guidelines

GENERAL

Please distribute these Rules and Guidelines to all assistant coaches, and please stress that we require good sportsmanship from all coaches, assistant coaches, players, and parents. ENJOY and WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT WEEKEND!

AGE CUTOFF: A player's age on April 30, 2025 is his age for the Tournament. Please have birth certificates available for inspection for all players on your roster. Prior to the start of the tournament, all teams must submit a roster indicating each player's birthday.

INSURANCE CERTIFICATE: Prior to the start of the tournament, each team must submit a certificate of insurance naming the New Castle Baseball and Softball Association (NCBSA) as a named insured.

SCHEDULES AND SCORES: Can be found using the TourneyMachine app on your mobile device (search New Castle Memorial Day Tournament) or on the TourneyMachine website at:

<https://tourneymachine.com/public/mobile/WebApp/index.aspx?IDTournament=h20250513191041264e9983d54481a4e>

SUBMITTING SCORES: After each game, both teams must email the game score to both newcastlememday@gmail.com and Registrar@ncbsa.net. This is critical for updating standings, determining playoff seedings, etc. Please do so ASAP after the conclusion of each game.

CLEAN-UP: After each game, please make sure that your dugout area is cleaned up and ready for the next team and ask your fans to do the same in the bleachers/seating areas.

GAME RULES

PITCHING: Player safety is our greatest concern. Please be cognizant of your pitchers' arms and let safety and health be the overriding considerations. We do not have specific limitations at our tournament. The responsibility ultimately lies with the coaches and parents to ensure that each player's health and development is properly maintained.

Below are pitching recommendations for the Tournament:

- Pitchers should pitch no more than a total of 9 innings for the Tournament weekend.
- Pitchers should throw a maximum of 6 innings in any one day.
- Please be aware of the innings your pitcher pitched in their town leagues during the week of the Tournament.
- Please try to protect your pitchers' arms and pitch them prudently. We strongly suggest not having a pitcher pitch 3 innings a day on 3 consecutive days.

The following pitching rules will be enforced for the Tournament weekend.

- A coach may make 2 trips to the mound per inning (for each pitcher). At any time in the game, any pitcher receiving a 3rd visit in an inning must be removed for another pitcher.
- Once a pitcher is removed from a game he can no longer pitch in that game.

BASE STEALING:

- For 9U and 10U there is unlimited stealing, including of home.
- For 8U there will be only one base per steal attempt (*i.e.*, no advancing on an overthrow after a stolen base) and runners are not allowed to steal home.
- There is no limit on the number of steals per innings for any of the age groups.
- Players may not leave the base until after the ball crosses home plate. In the event that a player leaves early, the umpire will provide a first warning and the

player will return to his base. Thereafter, the umpire can call the player out or return him to the base at his discretion.

NUMBER OF OUTFIELDERS:

- 8U: 3 or 4 outfielders (up to each team; teams in the same game do not have to play with the same number of outfielders)
- 9U and 10U: 3 outfielders

ROSTERS/BATTING:

- Teams may bat 9 players, the entire lineup, or anything in between. Once the number of batters is determined, it must remain for the entire game. A substitute is anyone not placed in the original batting order. Once a substitute bats or runs for a player, the substitute and the original starter are locked into that batting position and either one may bat or run in that position only. Any player may be withdrawn from the game and re-entered once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever in the lineup.
- If a team bats entire roster or has no subs when a starter is injured, no out will be recorded each time the injured player's spot comes up to bat, but the injured player cannot return to the game. If a player is injured in the field he may return to the game as long as his lineup spot has not come up.
- A team must field at least 8 players for the entire game, otherwise the team will forfeit that game.

RUN RULES:

- Maximum of 6 runs per half inning for all age groups. No run limit in the 6th inning (or the last inning if the game is cut short because of the time limit). The teams and the umpire will decide before the top of the inning if that inning is to be the last inning due to the time limits and therefore have unlimited runs allowed in that inning.
- Games will be called early if there is a 10-run differential after four innings (or 3½ innings if the home team is leading). If both teams and umpire agree, games can be finished, although the win and final score is determined when the 10 run rule kicks in.

OTHER:

- No slash bunting
- No dropped third strike rule
- The infield fly rule will apply for 10U only.
- Courtesy runners are permitted (but not required) for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time in the inning. The last batter in the lineup who made an out will serve as the courtesy runner.
- No balks
- If there is a double base at first base, on all plays at first base on a batted ball, the runner must touch the orange (outside) base and the first baseman must be in contact with the white (inside) base when a play is being made. If there is a base hit, the runner can touch either base.
- “Slide or avoid contact” rule. Players are not required to slide into all bases, if they are avoiding contact. No headfirst sliding into a base although a player may dive headfirst back to a base.

BRACKETS AND PLAYOFFS

PLAYOFFS: The top 2 teams in each division will play in the championship game. These games will be held on Monday morning (weather permitting). The highest team in the standings will be the home team for the championship game.

TIEBREAKERS: If there is a 2-way tie in the standings we will use the following in determining playoff seeding:

- 1) If two teams are tied, the head-to-head results between those teams will be used to determine the tie.
- 2) Runs allowed.
- 3) Runs Scored
- 4) Coin Flip

If there is a 3-way (or more) tie in the standings, we will use the following in determining playoff seeding:

- 1) Runs allowed.

2) Runs Scored

Head-to-head is not considered in any scenario with 3 or more ties.

START TIMES AND GAME DURATION:

- Games should begin as close to the scheduled start time as possible. Subject to the time limits described below, all games are 6 innings, barring mercy rules (see above). Non-playoff games can end in a tie if it is either too dark to continue or the time limit has been reached, otherwise teams should complete extra-inning games. The umpire will be responsible for calling a game for darkness.
- For non-playoff games, regardless of where things stand, the top of an inning cannot start more than 1 hour and 50 minutes after the time the game started. There will be no time limit for the championship games. The teams and the umpire will decide before the top of the inning if that inning is to be the last inning and therefore have unlimited runs allowed in that inning.
- if a game is tied after 6 innings and the time limit has not been reached, teams may play extra innings and the 7th inning and all subsequent innings shall be played with a "California Rule" whereby the last batted out shall start the beginning of the inning at 2nd base. The inning will be begin with this runner at second base and no outs.

FIELDS

The Town of New Castle will be maintaining the fields over the full weekend. The tournament and all coaches, player families and anybody not employed by the town are restricted from performing any field maintenance. If a field is unplayable as a result of weather, the game will be cancelled or rescheduled after the field situation is corrected by the town employees.

PITCHING RUBBERS: Pitchers will pitch from 42 feet at 8U and 46 Feet at 9U & 10U. Some fields have multiple pitching rubbers. The portable mound should be lined up on the front rubber on Gedney 1, Millwood, and the Recreation Field and back Rubber on Gedney 2.

SAFETY

Safety is a priority. All fields at Gedney Park have fenced in, on-deck areas. On-deck batters may take practice swings in those areas. Otherwise, no players are allowed to swing bats in an on deck circle or any areas during the game. Outside of the “on deck” cages, players are only allowed to swing their bats when they are at bat. Coaches: Please make sure you enforce this rule.

BATS: Wood or USA Baseball (Non-wood bats must have a USA Baseball stamp or label.)

HELMETS: Any player at-bat, on the bases, or in the coaching boxes must wear a double ear-flapped helmet.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Good sportsmanship is critical for both kids and coaches. The umps will try to call the best games that they can. **Please do not argue with the umps about calls and absolutely do not argue with umps about balls and strikes.** If you want to discuss a call or situation with an umpire or the opposing coach, please call time out and discuss it in conversational tones. Remember, the kids and the fans are watching all of us and are here for fun.

OTHER

UMPIRE FEES: Will be paid for by the Tournament hosts.

BASEBALLS: Will be provided to the teams by the Tournament hosts (directly to coaches or to umps prior to each game).

HOME TEAM DETERMINATIONS: Home teams have been decided on a rotating basis by the tournament committee and communicated to all coaches. Every team will be home and away at least once during pool play.

TROPHIES: Championship and runner up teams will receive trophies in each age group.

RAIN AND FIELD ISSUES: In the event of field closures due to rain, Tournament game schedules will be adjusted to get as many games in as possible and to complete the Tournament by Monday evening. If we play fewer games than expected registration fees will be pro-rated and teams will receive full or partial refunds. In the event of rainouts we ask you to be very flexible in rescheduling and note that some games might have to be played on additional fields or at times outside of your originally stated preferences.

In the event that a playoff or championship game is rained out and cannot be played on Monday then we will work with the teams to try and reschedule the game(s) during the following week. If the game(s) cannot be rescheduled then the tournament winner(s) and runner-up(s) will be determined by seeding.

Rainouts and scheduling changes will be emailed to coaches and updated on the website. Coaches should speak with the Tournament directors before taking actions related to schedule changes.

Andrew Milano and Brad Hanan (Tournament directors) will be reachable by cell all weekend and we will have additional Tournament representatives on the fields all weekend.

Questions or disputes may be directed [to newcastlememday@gmail.com](mailto:newcastlememday@gmail.com) or:

Andrew Milano – (917) 640-4223

Brad Hanan – (773) 206-7814

Thanks for participating and Play Ball!

New Castle Travel Baseball and Softball Association Committee