

# Machine Pitch Tournament Rules

**USSSA rules will be used with the following exceptions:**

1. Free substitution is allowed on defense. Each team shall field a 10-player defensive line up with four outfielders. A team may play with nine players (must have 3 outfielders), but not with eight.
2. An inning consists of seven runs or three outs.
3. Each batter will receive a maximum of six (6) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes. Pitches that are not hittable, as judged by the umpire shall not be counted.
4. The pitching machine shall be set at 39 mph using the machine's speed dial. .
5. A game shall consist of six innings provided the game is not called due to the weather, or as noted in (2) above, except an inning shall not start after 1 ½ hours has elapsed unless the score is tied, including the championship game. An inning shall start when the third out is made on the home team.
6. In the event of rain, which causes postponement of any game in progress that is not an official game (3 ½ or 4 innings) the game will be suspended and completed to the point where it is an official game if the tournament is continued.
7. The home team shall be determined by the flip of a coin between the opposing managers during the pool play portion of the tournament. During championship bracket play, the home team shall be the team that is the higher seed. The home team shall occupy the first base dugout and shall be the official scorekeeper. Please flip prior to taking possession of a dugout. The umpires will insist on you being in the correct dugout.

8. USSSA Rule **8.04.M** Mercy Rules:

<b>LENGTH OF GAME</b>	<b>RUN DIFFERENTIAL</b>	<b>START INNING</b>
6 Innings	15	3rd Inning
6 Innings	8	4th Inning

**Rule 8.04.M Comment:** In enforcing this rule, the home team shall not bat if they are winning and the mercy requirement is met prior to the bottom half of the listed inning. Likewise, if the home team is batting and meets the mercy requirement in the bottom half of a listed inning the home team shall cease batting at that moment and the game will end.

9. All players on the roster shall be in the offensive line up.
  10. Play is over when any defensive player has control of the ball inside the pitching circle.
  11. A courtesy runner is permitted for the catcher when there are two outs and shall be the player who made the last out.
  12. A base runner shall be called out when he does not slide or attempt to slide or avoid contact on any close play and contact is made. In addition, any flagrant or violent contact caused on the part of the base runner shall result in his immediate ejection from the game.
  13. A base runner shall not leave the base until the ball is hit.
14. The following distances will be used in the tournament.

<u>Age/Grade Division</u>	<u>Between Bases</u>	<u>Pitching Distance</u>
8-Under/2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Machine Pitch	60'	44'

**The following general information shall be adhered to during this tournament.**

1. No batting practice is permitted at the 3&2 complex.
2. No baiting of umpires, profanity, or abusive language will be tolerated.
3. Any player, coach, manager or attached spectator that is ejected from a game shall not be permitted to participate in the next game that the team may play, except for ejection caused by no contact (slide) rule violation.
4. In the event the tournament is rained out, money shall be refunded as follows: No games played, full refund. One game played, two-thirds refund. Two games played, 1/3 refund.
5. Trophies will be awarded to the first-place team and its members and the second-place team and its members.
6. Game balls will be provided.
7. Each team will be responsible for providing a scorekeeper and one of these scorekeepers shall run the scoreboard.
8. No bottled or canned beverages are permitted into the complex.
9. No alcoholic beverages of any kind are permitted on the premises.