



Hershey Little League's 2025 Summer Slam Baseball Tournament Rules

All field areas in use during the tournament are located on Derry Township School District property. A No Smoking/No Vaping/No Tobacco/No Alcohol policy is strictly enforced at all properties. HLL and its representatives reserve the right to disqualify any coach or team and remove any parent or fan from any field during any game.

Coaches/Player Code of Conduct

We want to encourage a competitive and sportsmanlike environment. Unacceptable behavior by coaches, players or fans will not be tolerated. "Unacceptable Behavior" can be defined as, but not limited to: compromising the integrity of the game, swearing, throwing batting helmets/bats/gloves, arguing with umpires, etc. Infractions could result in ejection. Any ejection carries an automatic one-game suspension. If a player, coach or fan commits a second violation; it may result in expulsion from the tournament.

This year our tournament will feature our youth umpires who have been umpiring games all spring for our rec. season. No abuse of our umpires will be tolerated and disciplinary action will be taken against any fan, coach, player or team who subjects our umpires to abuse. Youth umpires are the reality of trying to hold rec tournaments during the proliferation of travel tournaments.

- Distracting the pitcher while he is in the process of pitching is not permitted.
- Distracting the batter while he is in the process of batting is not permitted.
- Any chants or cheers by players or fans should focus on positive reinforcement of their teammates, and not negative chants towards opposing players/teams.

General Tournament Policies and Procedures

Team Roster: Each team is responsible for submitting to the tournament director the eligible roster on or before the first day of the tournament by uploading the roster onto the Hershey Little League website. Each team may roster up to 15 players. Only those players listed on the roster are eligible to play in the tournament. Therefore, the opening day roster is the final roster and additions to it will not be accepted once the tournament begins. A copy of a birth certificate or a passport will be needed for each player competing.

Pitching Affidavits: A pitching affidavit will be presented to the opposing team before the start of each game. Each team will mark on the affidavit the inning counts for the opposing team's players. At the end of the game each manager/scorekeeper will sign off on the affidavit. Any violation of pitching rules will result in forfeiture of the game that the violation occurred in.

Weather: A game is considered complete after 4 innings (3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead) and the game is called because of weather. If Tournament needs require it, Tournament Director may choose to consider a game final after completion of a shorter period, with consultation with Coaches of the affected teams.

In the case of lightning, when a 30 minute delay is required, the clock will continue to run during the delay. If the game being played does not reach regulation and the 1:45 clock runs out,

the teams affected may be asked to resume at a later time. Any later game will begin on time assuming the weather threat has dissipated.

The tournament director, his designee, or the field prep staff will determine if the games are to be canceled prior to the start of the game. Once the game has begun, it is the umpire who will call the game.

Weather Refund Policy:

- a. If 0 Games Played – full credit towards next year's tournament at any age level.
- b. If 1 Game Played – \$300 credit towards next year's tournament at any age level.
- c. If 2 Games Played - \$150 credit towards next year's tournament at any age level.

If Weather occurs, we will do our best to make all games occur in a reasonable manner and will do everything reasonably possible to complete the tournament.

Batting Cages/Warmups: Teams on-deck for the next game have priority use of all cages. If cages are unoccupied, tournament teams may use them for team practice for up to 45 minutes.

Teams are allowed to begin batting practice in the designated cage 1-hr before listed game time. There will be no warm-ups or infield practice on the infield dirt. Teams will be permitted 15-minutes each of on-the-field pregame warm-ups limited to the outfield grass.

- North Field cages, located directly behind North Field outfield fence
- South Field cages, located beyond right field outfield fence
- Memorial Field cages, located adjacent to Memorial Field (high school/Legion field) may be used ONLY if there is no Legion or Teener game/practice.

The tournament director or umpire may reduce or eliminate this time interval at their discretion. This may be required in cases where the tournament game schedule must be maintained.

Protests: Problems that arise or protests that are made will be heard and the outcome determined by the tournament director or his designee. All protests must be filed within 30 minutes of game completion and prior to leaving the premises the day/night that the game was played along with a protest filing fee of \$50.00. A decision will be made by the tournament director and HLL prior to the next game being played for the teams in question. All protests must be filed at the registration table. An upheld protest will result in a refund of the protest filing fee. A denied protest will result in forfeiture of the fee. Please bear in mind that protests will only be heard when the situation involves violations or interpretations of a playing rule, the use of an ineligible pitcher, or the use of an ineligible player. Protests on decisions involving an umpire's judgment will not be considered.

Miscellaneous

- Please do not allow horseplay and maintain the safety of all in the dugout and batting cage areas.
- Please pick up all trash at the end of each game from the dugout area.
- Please exit the dugout immediately after the conclusion of your games, unless you are playing in the following game. For post-game meetings, please address your team at a discrete location outside of the field area after clearing the dugout.
- Please allow all players/coaches from previous games to exit the dugouts prior to entering for a game.
- Only coaches and players are allowed in the dugout area. All other spectators must remain outside the marked areas.

- All teams are guaranteed 3 games, weather permitting.
- The tournament director will provide umpire fees, balls, and scoreboard operation but will not provide an official scorekeeper.
- Each team is responsible for their own scorekeeper and differences must be resolved between the coaches, scorekeepers, and umpire in-charge.
- The home team is the official game scorebook of record for all games.
- GameChanger is an appropriate substitute for a paper scorebook.
- At the completion of each game, both teams will confirm the scorebook and pitcher affidavits. Home team should report the score to the registration tent/concession stand and update in the GameChanger tournament App.
- The assignment of teams to specific pools/slots will be determined at the discretion of the tournament director. Multiple teams from the same league will be separated, as necessary.
- Wherever possible, teams will be slotted by the tournament director based on specific conflicts.
- Teams that do not appear within 15 minutes of their scheduled game time will be assessed a forfeit.
- Each team may have a maximum of 15 players and 3 coaches, including the scorekeeper.
- If a younger sibling will be used as a bat boy he/she must wear a helmet.
- All teams must be uniformed.
- Eligible players must come from a Municipal/Civic/Recreation League based All-Star Team. Teams must present a copy of team insurance at or prior to registration. Hershey Little League and Derry Township School District must be listed as additionally insured entities.
- If a team is found to be a "travel/academy/club" team (players from multiple rec organizations/leagues) and/or has misled Hershey Little League in any manner, the offending team will forfeit any wins and will be automatically withdrawn from the tournament with no refund.
- Only bats bearing the USA Baseball approved marking or wooden bats are permitted for play. (No USSSA, NTS, BBCOR, BESR, etc).
- To promote speed of play and eliminate disputes during a game, all players should line their bats up outside of the dugout when they arrive at the field. Bats will be inspected by the umpires and confirmed that they have the USA Baseball logo.

Sunday Bracket/Consolations

At the end of pool play, teams will advance to either a consolation game or a single elimination bracket. The number of teams making the playoff round is at the discretion of the tournament director and based upon the total number of registered teams. The format will be relayed to teams prior to the start of the tournament. Changes may be made for need due to weather considerations.

The following criteria will be used to determine playoff seeding, in this order:

1. Win/loss record (win percentage).
2. Head-to-head winner if **two** teams have the same win/loss record.
3. The number of runs allowed during pool play.
4. The number of runs scored during pool play.

Gameplay Rules

If a rule is not specifically addressed in this Supplement, then the default rules are those used by the latest Little League International tournament rules.

<https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/tournament-rules-baseball/>

- Games are 6 innings or 1:45 time limit (no new inning may begin after 1:45 has elapsed from the start of the Umpire's meeting). Tournament Director reserves the right to shorten games in the event that weather forces the need to get games in and complete the tournament.
- There is no time limit in championship games.
- Teams must use a continuous batting order (all players in the lineup, free defensive substitutions)

EXCEPTIONS TO LLI TOURNAMENT RULES

- Little League pitching rules do not apply. See details below.
- A coach IS PERMITTED to "warm up" a pitcher between innings to promote pace of play.
- A pitcher is permitted EIGHT (8) warm up pitches between innings and then play must begin.
- All players must adhere to the April 30/May 1 age cutoff. Example: a player born April 30, 2014 is considered age 11, a player born May 1, 2014 is considered age 10 for eligibility purposes. Any attempt to enter an ineligible player or to falsify player age may result in manager ejection and/or team disqualification from Summer Slam.
- Ties are allowed in pool play.
- Elimination games only: In the event of a tie after 6 innings or reaching the 1:45 time limit, the next inning will move immediately into International Rule play, with the player in the previous spot in the batting order to the leadoff batter that inning becoming a runner on second to start the inning. All other substitution rules remain in place as well as current batting order.
- During pool play the Home team is designated by the tournament director. Each team will be "home" one game and "visitor" one game during pool play. During the playoffs the home team will be determined by seeding. If there are multiple pools, and the championship game teams have the same pool seed, we will use existing tiebreakers (runs allowed, then run scored, then a coin flip).
- In 8U play ONLY, there is a 5-run limit per inning for the first 4 innings. The inning will conclude when the 5th run scores. Subsequent runs on the same play will not count. There is no run limit for subsequent innings.
- Intentional walks are permissible in all divisions, when the defensive head coach informs the umpire in advance of the first pitch being thrown to a batter.
- Dropped 3rd strike rule for batter to advance to an unoccupied first base (occupied with two outs) will apply for 11U and 12U only.
- Infield fly rule will apply for 11U and 12U only.
- Slash bunts – an indication by a batter that he intends to bunt, then pulling the bat back and swinging – are NOT permitted in 10U and younger divisions. If a slash bunt is attempted and not completed, a strike will be called on the hitter (this includes if he sets up to bunt, pulls the bat back to bat, but does not swing). If the slash bunt puts the ball into play, the hitter will be called out and all runners will return to their previous base, unless the defensive team elects to accept the result of the play in the field.

Pitching Rules

- Players may not pitch more than 6 innings per day (Friday games are counted as part of Saturday).
- Players may not pitch more than a total of 8 innings in the tournament.
- A player who pitches more than 4 innings in a day may not return to pitch in following day(s).
- A player who pitches more than 4 innings in a day may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day.
- A single pitch delivered in a given inning will count as an inning pitched.

Run Rule

If after three (3) innings, one team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede victory. If after four (4) innings, three and half innings if the home team is ahead, one team is ahead by ten (10) runs, the manager of the team with least runs shall concede victory to the opponent. There is no 8 run rule in tournament play. See LL Rule 4.10(e).

Thank you for your participation in making Hershey Summer Slam a success. Please reach out to tournament staff if we can assist you in any way to make your visit a pleasant one. Have a great tournament and please come back in the future. Our aim each year is to open registration around January.