



2017 NY GOLD PROSPECTS 12U TOURNAMENT RULES

July 7-9, 2017

Official Tournament Rules (12U)

Inclement Weather Policy - The Tournament Director is responsible for interpreting tournament rules and making decisions regarding weather or field conditions before the games have started. Once a game has started, the umpires are responsible for all decisions regarding calling or suspending a game on account of weather, darkness, or field conditions. All decisions of the Tournament Director and umpires are final.

Weather-Delayed Games - Time permitting and subject to the Tournament Director's discretion, any weather-delayed game will restart from the point where stopped (time and weather permitting), unless it is an Official Game (Four (4) innings is an official game - 3 ½ if the home team is ahead).

Rainout/Cancellation Policy - NY GOLD PROSPECTS tournament officials will make every effort to play pool games and the NY Gold Prospects 12U tournament. However, if games need to be cancelled due to weather, darkness, or field conditions, the following applies:

1. At the discretion of the NY GOLD PROSPECTS tournament officials, scheduled game times may be changed, games may be shortened to fit into remaining time, or the number of playoff participants may be adjusted to complete the tournament. If necessary, the 3-day tournament may become a 2-day, or even a 1-day tournament. In the event of a rain-shortened tournament, NY GOLD PROSPECTS tournament officials will offer teams a credit or refund as follows:
 - a) A full rainout, meaning no games are played, a refund of \$250 will be issued. No make-up tournament will be re-scheduled.
 - b) If only one game was played, the team will receive no refund, but a credit of \$150.
 - c) If only two games are played, the team will receive no refund, but a credit of \$50.
 - d) If three or more games are played, the team will receive no credit or refund.

All credits must be used in a 2018 NY GOLD Prospects Tournament.

Seeding - Pool games will determine seeding for the single elimination NY GOLD Prospects 12U tournament. If some games are cancelled, seeding for the tournament will be determined based upon games played, even if shortened. Seeding will be determined based on average runs allowed if an unequal number of seed games are played by teams. If all pool games are cancelled, then seeding will be based upon a random drawing.

Waivers - Waivers are required to be signed for all players, coaches, and assistants that will be on the field (including bat boys, if used).

Age Limits – Must not be 13 years old before May 1, 2017. However, Tournament Director may allow 12U Canadian teams that go by a different cutoff date.

EH Allowed - Extra Hitter(s) (EH) may be used at the coach's discretion. If using an extra hitter(s), you may use one, two, or three players at EH(s). The EH(s) **MUST** initially hit in the **TENTH, ELEVENTH and TWELFTH POSITION**. Only one (1) player may occupy each EH position per game. You may remove your EH(s) for the duration of the game at any time prior to their at-bat, without penalty. **You must notify the plate umpire prior to removal. EH(s) must be announced prior to the start of the game; no mid-game entry is permitted.** No use of Designated Hitter is allowed. No one player in a game can assume more than one offensive position (players always bat in the same order).

Mercy Rule - 6 inning games. 12 run mercy rule after 4 complete innings (3 ½ if home team ahead). Once the mercy rule is reached at the end of a inning where the mercy ruled team has had their at bat, the game ends including pool play, tournament play, and championship games.

Birth Certificates - Birth certificates are not required to be submitted to the Tournament Director, but coaches **MUST** ensure copies of all their players' birth certificates are on hand (either with the coach, parent, or guardian). Any age contesting must be completed before that game starts. Any birth certificate **MUST** be made available upon request by an opposing coach. Any age violation results in forfeit of the game contested.

Insurance - Each team must carry a team liability insurance policy and provide a copy of the insurance certificate to the NY GOLD PROSPECTS tournament officials prior to tournament play.

Umpires - All umpire rulings are final. Umpire has the right to call a game at their discretion due to weather, darkness, or field conditions. Two certified umpires for each game shall be used, subject to availability.

Lineups - A lineup card shall be given to the opposing team coach before each game. Player substitutions must be announced to the opposing coach. The lineup shall include the player name, position in the order, uniform number, and a list all substitutes and EH's for the game.

Official Game - Four (4) innings is an official game (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) in case of a shortened game due to weather, darkness, or field conditions.

Home/Away – Home and Away teams are by coin toss in Pool play and based upon seeding in the NY Gold Prospects single elimination Tournament.

Time Limits - 6 inning games; but a **2 hour time limit** in pool play. **No new inning shall start after exactly 2 hours**, as determined by the umpire(s). No delay of game will be allowed. Any inning started before 2 hours from the start time will be finished. For the 12U tournament, games will be played to the finish, weather, darkness, and field conditions permitting. In pool play, extra inning(s) may be played to settle a tie, but only if the extra inning(s) can be started before the 2 hour time limit.

Ties - Ties are recorded if they come into play in pool play, even in an official game that was shortened.

Uniforms - All players for a team shall wear a uniquely numbered, but generally matching uniform. No changing of a uniform during a game is allowed. **Players must have jerseys tucked in at all times.**

No Jewelry - NO jewelry - earrings, necklaces, rings, etc.

Metal spikes - **No metal spikes.** Only plastic or rubber cleats are allowed.

Balls - NY GOLD PROSPECTS 12U tournament will supply 4 game balls for each game. **Please bring extra balls in case they are needed.**

Bats – No size or weight restrictions, but **NO WOODEN BATS. No Modified bats.**

Helmets - Batters, base runners, and player base coaches must wear a batting helmet.

Leading Off - Base runners are allowed to lead off and steal.

Courtesy Runner - A courtesy runner can be used for the **CATCHER and PITCHER of RECORD ONLY** at any time. This is not a substitution and is optional. Courtesy runners cannot be in the current lineup.

Defensive Rotation - The current batting line up can be rotated in the field defensively **only after the completion of the first defensive inning.**

Slide Rule - A player must slide or attempt to avoid contact on all close plays (umpire discretion call). Headfirst sliding is permitted only into first, second, or third base. Headfirst sliding is **NOT allowed into home plate.**

Slash Bunt - A batter is not allowed to "slash bunt." A batter that fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing will be out, the ball will be dead and no runners may advance.

Balks - Balks will be called following Major League rules. There will be one warning per pitcher per game in seeding pool games only, until the 12U single elimination tournament begins. The warning will be an immediate dead ball. All balk calls after the warning will be delayed dead balls.

Must Field 8 Players - Must be able to field 8 eligible players at the scheduled start time of the game, or a **forfeit** will be registered. If only 8 players, then an out must be registered as the missing player has their scheduled at bat. Teams should be at their assigned field ready to play **fifteen minutes** before scheduled game time.

Forfeit - For any forfeit, a 7-0 score will be awarded to the non-forfeiting team.

Infield/Outfield Practice - Pregame infield/outfield practice is permitted once field preparation is completed, time permitting.

Warm-ups - Players or coaches warming up a pitcher must have facemask and chest protector.

Re-Entry Rule - Starters may re-enter in the same offensive spot once. Substitutes cannot re-enter the game once they have been removed.

Exception: Whenever a ninth player is needed (due to injury or otherwise) and all legal substitutions have been used, removed substitutes can re-enter the game in a different offensive position. In this event, EHs must remain in their current position in the batting order, but can enter the game in a defensive position. This change must be announced to the opposing team and to the plate umpire at the time of injury.

Pitchers - Any pitcher can re-enter as pitcher as long as he/she stays in the game. Once removed from the game, the pitcher can re-enter the game defensively, but not as a pitcher.

Pitchers - It is up to the discretion of the coach as to the number of innings per tournament or number of pitches that a pitcher may pitch. Coaches please protect the health of players. The pitcher must be removed from the game: a) upon two visits to the pitcher in any inning, or b) upon a total of three visits to the pitcher in a game.

Seeding Tiebreaker Rule – In order to break any tie in seeding pool play and for ranking, the following are used: record, then head-to-head, then lowest runs allowed, then highest runs scored, then highest run differential, then coin flip.

Conduct- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their assistants, their players, and their fans/players' parents. Promote good sportsmanship both on and off the field and encourage lifelong friendships. Unsportsmanlike or threatening conduct will not be tolerated. Any coach ejected from a game will be removed from G&T Sports Park premises for the remainder of the tournament, and may not return as a spectator or parent. **Any player ejected from a game will be suspended from the following two consecutive games.**

Rules – Major League Rules shall apply, as modified by these Official Tournament Rules (based on Cooperstown Rules). Where in conflict, these Official Tournament Rules shall override and govern.

Rules Interpretation - Coaches have the right, at any time, to call the Tournament Director to a field for a rules interpretation (Director Call). This does not include **JUDGMENT CALLS** made by the umpires. This action is in lieu of protests. In order to properly handle such Director Calls, play must be stopped and the Tournament Director must be called **BEFORE** the next pitch. If the disputed call involves the last play of the game, the protesting team must appeal before the umpires leave the confines of the field.

Changes – The **Tournament Director** reserves the right to change or modify/clarify these rules, with proper notice.

Final Score Reporting - Please report the official score and innings played to the Tournament Director immediately after the game.

Updated 7-6-17