



Sparta Dome Baseball Spring Classic Rules & Expectations (updated 3/20/18)

**General Rules of Play:**

1. Teams may use a continuous batting order. All players other than the nine (9) defensive positions players are extra hitters and may move freely in defensive positions. Any players arriving after the game has begun, shall be added to the bottom of the batting line-up. When using the continuous lineup and a player has to leave the game for any reason, that position in the line-up becomes an out when that at-bat comes around.
2. The playing field shall be laid out according to the recommended dimensions:
  - a. **9U/10U - base paths 65', pitching distance 46'**
  - b. **11U/12U - base paths 70', pitching distance 50'**
3. Players are expected to wear non-metal cleats. Tennis shoes are permitted, but not recommended.
4. A flip of a coin between the two teams shall determine the home team for each pool play game. The highest seeded team shall choose home team/visiting for bracket play games in single elimination brackets.
5. Teams may play an official game with an eight (8) player line-up. If a team plays with an eight (8) player line-up, an out shall be declared for the ninth (9th) position in the batting line-up each turn at bat. A ninth (9th) player and all subsequent players may be added to the bottom of the batting line-up as soon as they become available. A team may continue a game with a minimum of eight (8) eligible players.
6. An imposed mercy rule shall be used to complete a game when necessary:
  - a. **15 runs after 3 innings**
  - b. **12 runs after 4 innings**
  - c. **8 runs after 5 innings**

7. In pool play, if a game is tied and the time expires, the score will be entered as a tie.
8. In bracket play, if a game is tied and the time expires, the (top and) bottom of the inning will finish.
  - a. The first extra inning will start with the last batted out on second base, 1 out, and a 1-1 count to all batters.
  - b. If a second extra inning is required, the last batted out will be placed on second base, the previous batter on third base, 1 out, and a 1-1 count to all batters.
  - c. If a third (or more) extra inning is required, the bases will be loaded, 1 out, and a 1-1 count to all batters.
9. All pool play games will be 90 minutes in length, All players and coaches are expected to run on and off the field to maximize playing time. It will be at umpire's discretion to speed up the game, limit pitches between innings, etc.
  - a. **Pool Play Games will be drop dead. No reverting the score.**
  - b. **Bracket Play Games will be finish the current inning (unless home team is ahead).**
  - c. Tie Brackers
    1. Points
    2. Head to Head
    3. Runs against
    4. Runs For
    5. Run Differential
10. A pitcher being substituted in the last 5 minutes of a game will NOT receive warmup pitches in order to prevent game delays.
11. Teams limited to one trip to the mound per inning except for the last inning. The second trip will result in the pitcher being pulled.
12. At any time, the offensive team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher of record. The courtesy runner shall be the player that made the last batted out.
13. Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the field and/or catcher. No jumping the fielder.
14. One offensive conference per inning.
15. Dropped 3rd strike rule will be in effect for all age groups.

## 16. Lead Offs, Steals, and Balks

- a. 9U - No lead offs. Stealing only once the ball crosses homeplate. Balks will not be awarded base. Very obvious balks will stop play.
- b. 10U - Lead offs and steals apply. Balks will not be awarded base. Very obvious balks will stop play.
- c. 11U-12U Leads offs and steals apply. Balks will be called for 11U & 12U – no warning will be given.

## 17. A ball that hits the top of the dome:

- a. In front of the pitcher's mound, is a foul ball, dead-ball.
- b. Behind the pitcher's mound that lands in fair territory is a live-ball, in-play.
- c. Behind the pitcher's mound that lands in foul territory is a foul-ball.

## **Sportsmanship**

1. All players, coaches, managers, sponsors, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. The league/tournament director has the authority to remove anyone from the event at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct. Any individual whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive shall, at a minimum be reprimanded with a warning. If warranted, the offending party shall be ejected from the game at the discretion of the umpires and/or Sparta Tournament Director.
2. Any player, coach, manager, sponsor, or spectator leaving their position or base, in the field, on the bench, in the dugout area, or grandstands to participate in a fight, brawl, or altercation shall be immediately ejected from the game.
3. Any coach, manager, sponsor, or spectator ejected from a game shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the playing field and/or grandstands for the remainder of the game. Any player ejected from a game shall either immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the playing field or be confined to the dugout area for the remainder of the game. Additional penalties may be assessed at the discretion of the Sparta Tournament Director.
4. If necessary, a team may be forced to forfeit a game and/or be removed from the tournament.

## **Sparta Dome Facility Rules and Expectations**

1. All players and coaches must complete the online waiver prior to participation.
2. Appropriate attire must be worn at all times.
3. No outside food or drink is permitted into the Sparta Dome other than water, in a plastic, sealed container. **No gum, Gatorade, or seeds on the turf, ever.**
4. Abusive or foul language, attempted confrontation, physical confrontation, or other behavior that is deemed inappropriate by Sparta management is not permitted and will result in immediate removal from the facility.
5. The Sparta Dome is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
6. Use proper etiquette and be courteous and respectful to all open play participants.
7. Pre-game warm up space may be limited due to the amount of teams participating. Batting cage use is included in the tournament fee, and is operated at a first come, first serve basis in thirty minute increments. Be respectful and fair. Teams may also choose to warm up in the outfields. There is no hitting or pitching into the walls of the dome. Please position players appropriately to avoid damaging the dome walls, injuring any spectators, and avoiding interference in any running games.
8. Lawn chairs are permitted. Fans can sit on the turf between the two fields, or upstairs on the mezzanine to view events. Coaches have the right to decide how close fans may get to their dugout areas.