



# GOPHER STATE MIDSUMMER CLASSIC



The following rules and regulations will govern play in the Gopher State Midsummer Classic, **with no exceptions**. **The official rules will be the National Federation of State High School rules except where modified below**. Any situations not covered here or in the National Federation rule book will be determined by the Tournament Committee, which consists of the Tournament Director, the Umpire in Chief and the Tournament Host.

***It is your responsibility to read, understand and adhere to the rules.***

## NOTICE

**Coaches:** You or an adult representative (team manager) must check your team in at the designated Tournament Headquarters prior to your first game.

All “AAA”, “AA”, or “A” traveling teams from the state of **Minnesota** are eligible to participate. All teams must be from a bona fide baseball association to participate. The MYAS Baseball Board of Advisors reserves the right to review the eligibility of any team. NO “Major” division teams will be allowed to participate. The MYAS organization guidelines are available to view at [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org)

Teams that participate in an “AAA” level traveling baseball league must compete at the “AAA” level for the Gopher State Midsummer Classic. “AA” level traveling teams have the option of competing in the “AAA” or “AA” level in the State Tournament. The “A” level Midsummer Classic is strictly designed for teams that compete in an “A” and/or recreational baseball league or program.

**May 1, 2025, at 12:01am** is the determining date for the age of the player.

**Note:** A player may only participate on **ONE** team in **ONE** age/division of the Midsummer Classic.

## ELIGIBILITY

Should an eligibility protest be filed during the tournament, a team must be able to prove each player's eligibility. (**Note:** A \$100 cash fee must accompany all eligibility protests. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.) Players without proof of age or grade level will be disqualified and could force your team to forfeit.

**In the event of an eligibility protest, one of the following applicable documents should be made available to prove a player's age and/or grade eligibility:**

- 2024-2025 report card showing player's age.
- A photocopy of their birth record from the state, county or municipal bureau of vital statistics on the place of birth; **hospital records are not accepted**
- A photocopy of the delayed registration of birth if the athlete's birth was not recorded on the day of birth, issued by the same bodies
- Consular Service form FS-240, “Report on Birth” issued by the U.S. State Department
- Immigration and Naturalization forms I-151 and I-25 and form number 43-R311-7 issued by the U.S. Department of Justice

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**The Gopher State Midsummer Classic is a community-based program.** Players that make up official rosters are eligible to participate on teams that are from the community of their parent's or legal guardian's residence or from their school attendance area. The Midsummer Classic will recognize a team if they are part of a bona fide association (consisting of multiple teams of perpetual nature) within their community. Individual teams that are formed from outside an association will not knowingly be allowed to participate in the tournament under any circumstances. Teams must be formed by their community via a democratic, non-biased process (such as a random draw or draft).

**Note:** If you need further clarification on team or player eligibility, please call Eric Rathke at (763) 746-1730 prior to sending in your registration. Some cases may require further review by the MYAS baseball staff.



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## TEAM GATE FEE

Each participating team must pay a pre-tournament gate fee to the host **PRIOR** to playing their first game. This fee eliminates any on-site gate (spectator admission or parking) fee. You will not be allowed to play your first game until the gate fee is paid to the **Tournament Host**. Additional information on the gate fee is available on the MYAS website - [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org).

## CONDUCT POLICY

**MYAS/Youth 1st Conduct Policy:** Any player, coach, or spectator who violates the posted Youth 1st Environment policy before, during, or after a contest will forfeit their team's opportunity to continue participation in the tournament, **and** the actions may result in a temporary or permanent banishment from any MYAS-sponsored events. The on-site Protest Committee reserves the right to uphold this policy.

All disciplinary action will be sent to the Youth 1st Alliance Conduct Review Committee, an independent group, for review and recommendations at the completion of the tournament. Notification of any disciplinary action may also be shared with other Minnesota event operators during the subsequent spring/summer season.

## TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The MYAS has adopted a tournament format that guarantees a minimum of three games. Bracket and/or pool play systems will be used based on the number of teams entered and field availability. However, the MYAS reserves the right to adjust the tournament format to best serve the exact number of participating teams.

## HOME/VISITOR

**All games – the home team will be determined by a coin flip.**

## INFIELD PRACTICE

"Taking infield" will not be allowed prior to tournament games.

## GAME LENGTH

**9-12 & under:** 6 innings; 1 hour 45 minutes  
**13 and above:** 7 innings; 2 hours

**Note:** The "stop watch" for pool play and bracket games does not begin until the actual start of the game (the first pitch) and not necessarily the time listed on the tournament schedule. No new inning will be started after time has expired.

## TIME LIMITS

Time limits pertain to all pool play games and all bracket play. **Note:** There will be a 10-minute grace period for a team's first tournament game **only**. If a bracket game is tied the game will be played until a team wins.

## IN CASE OF A TIE

If a game is tied at the end of regulation and the time limit has not been reached, extra innings will be played. Extra innings will be played until a winner is determined or the time limit has been reached. In the event of pool play tie breaker situations, a tie game will be scored as ½ of a win and ½ of a loss.

## PITCHING/BASE DISTANCES

**9-10** 46 feet / 60 feet  
**11 & under** 46 feet / 60-65 feet  
**12-13** 52 feet / 75 feet  
**14 and above** 60 feet 6 inches / 90 feet

**Note:** Portable (temporary) pitching mounds **may** be used in 10U-13U divisions.



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## PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

9U-10U: A player may pitch a maximum of 85 pitches in a tournament.

11U-12U: A player may pitch a maximum of 95 pitches in a tournament.

13U & above: A player may pitch a maximum of 105 in a tournament.

**Note:** If a pitcher reaches their maximum number of allowed pitches during an at-bat, they may finish pitching to that batter but then must immediately be removed from the pitching position. Pitcher's pitch counts will be posted online.

**Note:** Pitchers may NOT re-enter the pitching position once removed.

Curve balls are not allowed in the 9U-11U divisions. The **first offense** will be a warning; the **second offense** will be an ejection from the pitcher's position.

**PENALTY for Violations of Pitching Restrictions:** The head coach of the team will be ejected from that game and for the next scheduled game. A **second** occurrence during the tournament results in suspension of the head coach and pitcher (from the pitcher's position) for the remainder of the tournament, as well as possible imposition of further sanctions subject to the review of the MYAS Baseball Board of Advisors.

## BALK RULE

**9U-11U:** No balks will be called.

**All other divisions:** Any fake pitch will be considered a balk. Warnings will be issued for all other infractions.

## UMPIRES

At least one certified high school umpire will be used in all games.

## 10-RUN RULE

**9U-12U:**

The game will end at the conclusion of 3½ innings if the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs. The game will end after four innings if the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs.

**13U and above:**

The game will end at the conclusion of 4½ innings if the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs. The game will end after five innings if the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs.

## 15-RUN RULE

**All Ages and Divisions:** The game will end at the conclusion of 2½ innings if the home team is ahead by 15 or more runs. The game will end after 3 innings if the visiting team is ahead by 15 or more runs.





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## BASE RUNNING

**9-10U:** A runner may leave the base after a ball crosses the plate. The runner is out upon leaving the base early. On a dropped third strike, the batter is out and the base runners may advance at their own risk.

**NOTE for 9U Tournament Play:** A runner occupying 3rd base may only advance to home on a batted ball or an attempted play on the runner at third base.

**NOTE for 10U Tournament Play:** A runner is allowed to advance/steal home on a passed ball.

**11U:** A runner may leave the base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. The runner is out upon leaving the base early. On a dropped third strike, the batter is out and the base runners may advance at their own risk.

**In the 9U-11U divisions, a player sliding head first into home plate will be called out.**

**12U and Above:** National Federation Rules apply.

**RUNNERS ARE NEVER REQUIRED TO SLIDE** but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground. Diving over a fielder is illegal.

For any questions regarding Interference and/or Obstruction rule interpretations, reference the NFHS rule book.

## CONTINUOUS BATTING & FREE SUBSTITUTION

9-13u and 14/15A teams will use continuous batting and free substitution. No Exceptions!

14AAA, and 14AA will have the option to use continuous batting and free substitution. This must be declared to the umpire and the opposing head coach prior to the start of the game and will continue for the remainder of that game.

**NOTE Continuous Batting:** An injured batter or runner that cannot continue to participate will be replaced by the last player to be put out. This will end the injured player's participation for the remainder of that game. This will NOT be recorded as an out unless it drops the batting line-up below nine players. Please see Continuous Batting/Free Substitution FAQ under documents on the baseball page of [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org)

## STARTING PITCHER

This rule applies for all ages (10-19u): The starting pitcher MAY NOT re-enter the pitching position once removed.

## 14-19u Re-Entry: (NFHS Rule 3-1)

**Starting Players:** Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once, including a player who was the designated hitter (any starting player, not just pitchers), provided said player occupies the same position in the batting order whenever they are in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.

**NOTE for 14AAA/AA:** The Extra Hitter (EH) option will NOT be used in tournament play.

**Exception:** Replacement of injured players and/or courtesy runners. If an active player sustains an injury that requires them to leave the game and their team has used all of their available substitute players, the coach may substitute for the injured player with the first player on the bench who had previously lost their eligibility via the re-entry rule.



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<b>COURTESY RUNNER</b>	<p><b>9-13u &amp; 14/15A:</b> A courtesy runner (the last runner to be put out) will be allowed only for the catcher and only when there are two outs.</p> <p><b>14AAA/AA and above:</b> will use the NFHS courtesy runner rule (NFHS pg. 64 Speed Up Rules). At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher or catcher. Projected substitutions are not allowed. Courtesy runners are only allowed for the catcher of record. Players who have already participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners until all players have participated.</p>
<b>BAT RULE</b>	<p>All bats must comply with the <b>MYAS/Gopher State/USSSA Bat Standards</b> for the 2025 season. All regulations are posted under the Baseball portion of the <a href="http://www.myas.org">www.myas.org</a> website.</p> <p><b>Drop Rules:</b> The 15u and above age divisions will use the “-3” drop rule. (BBCOR Bats) The 14u age division will use the “-5” drop rule. The 12u-13u divisions will use the “-10” rule. The 9u-11u divisions may use any drop size they desire.</p>
<b>BASEBALLS</b>	<p>Two MYAS baseballs will be provided for all games. If additional baseballs are needed, teams should supply them alternately.</p>
<b>UNIFORMS</b>	<p>Team jerseys should be of identical color and should have at least a six-inch number on the front and/or the back.</p>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<p>All bats, helmets, catcher's gear, footwear and other equipment must conform to National Federation rules and regulations.</p>
<b>METAL CLEATS</b>	<p>Metal cleats are prohibited in 10-12u. However, metal cleats may be worn in the 13u and older age divisions.</p>
<b>FORFEITS</b>	<p>Tournament officials will administer the rule so that any team that intentionally causes a forfeit will NOT benefit and will NOT advance to the championship round unless the Tournament Committee determines there were extenuating circumstances causing the forfeit.</p> <p><b>A game will be considered a forfeit when a team is unable to provide at least nine players to start the game or cannot provide eight players to finish the game. A 10-minute grace period will be given for a team's first pool play game. All other tournament games will be considered a forfeit at the scheduled game time.</b></p>
<b>TOURNAMENT SEEDING</b>	<p>Teams will be arranged in pools or brackets in a semi-random fashion. Every possible effort will be made to avoid placing teams together that are from the same association/community.</p>
<b>INCLEMENT WEATHER</b>	<p>In the event of inclement weather during the tournament, the MYAS Tournament Director and/or MYAS baseball staff members reserve the right to adjust the tournament format to assist with the progression of the tournament.</p>
<b>AWARDS</b>	<p>1st – 4th Place: Individual awards</p> <p>NOTE: Awards will be prorated for any division with fewer than eight teams</p>



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## REFUND POLICY

If a team drops out of a tournament prior to the entry deadline, a full refund will be issued.

Any team dropping out of a tournament ***after*** the entry deadline will ***not*** receive a refund.

If a tournament should have to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances (weather, loss of electricity, etc.) a prorated portion of your entry fee will be returned based on the number of games played.

If a tournament is cancelled, with no games played, due to any of the above reasons, teams can elect either a 75% refund of their entry fee or have 100% of their entry fee applied to a future MYAS event.

