

Majors/9IH Season-End Tournament 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Fields</u>
Monday, June 24	5:30pm (Three play-in games)	Rec Center
Tuesday, June 25	5:30pm (Two bracket games) 7:30pm (One “friendly”)	Lake Ann Park
Thursday, June 26	5:30pm (Two “friendly” games) 7:30pm (Championship game)	Lake Ann Park

We’re trying a slightly different approach to our end-of-season Majors tournament this year:

Single-Elimination. Single-elimination is still the best option for a tournament that works within our historical “end before July” target, while not taking over too much of our already limited May-June game calendar.

Avoiding Byes. Six-team brackets usually give two teams a bye, while the other teams play an extra game to advance to face the bye teams. Byes aren’t great because they’re either granted based on record (which creates incentives counter to the development focus in Majors) or at random (which isn’t a good way to grant large advantages). So, instead of byes, we’re trying a new structure...

Play-In Games. To ensure that every team plays the same number of games to win the tournament, we’ll use Monday as a play-in game for a four-team, single-elimination bracket:

- The three winners of the play-in games will advance to the bracket; and
- The fourth bracket team will be the losing team with the smallest play-in margin of defeat (tiebreaker: fewest play-in runs allowed per inning played)

MONDAY(6/24): Play-In Games

Game 1: Orioles vs. Mets

Game 2: Phillies vs. Dbacks

Game 3: Pirates vs. Rangers

“Friendly” Games. At each round, teams that don’t advance will get to play a “friendly” game (i.e., similar to our regular games), so that everyone still plays three games during the week. All “friendly” games will also be at Lake Ann Park.

Championship Game. The championship game will be at 7:30pm at Lake Ann, which is where the other two Thursday games are played at 5:30pm. I’m hoping this creates a chance for a bigger audience for the game, as everyone will be in one place.

Schedule Updates. Schedule updates will go out each night, after results are reported.