

2023 Gopher State Sliding Into Fall Classic

Rules & Regulations

The following rules and regulations will govern the play in the Gopher State Sliding Into Fall Classic. 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 MYAS Tournament Director, the Head of Officials, 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 playing your first game. Teams will be withheld from competition until they have completed the pre-event check-in process.

Eligibility:

Fall Classic rosters are classified as "Open." There are no restrictions on geographic boundaries. The determining date for the age of the competitor is **May 1, 2024**.

Note: A player may only be rostered on one team participating in this tournament. Should an eligibility protest be filed during the tournament, you must be able to prove the player's eligibility. If a player is found to be ineligible after a team's first game has started, both the player and the team will be disqualified.

Only the following documents are acceptable as proof of age (to be presented at check-in):

- 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 acceptable.**
- 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 as referenced above.
- 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
- Current valid Passport
- Current valid Driver's License
- Age documentation on school letterhead

Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

MYAS/Youth 1st Conduct Policy: Any player, coach, or spectator who violates the posted Youth 1st Environment 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 spring/summer season.**

Note: Any player, coach, or spectator who violates the Minnesota Softball/MYAS/Youth 1st Conduct Policy before, during or after a contest, may forfeit their team's opportunity to continue participation in the Gopher State Baseball League the league AND the actions may result in a temporary or permanent banishment from any Minnesota Softball/MYAS sponsored tournaments. 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.

Tournament Seeding:

Teams will be arranged in pools/brackets(if numbers dictate) in a semi-random fashion.

Home Team

Determination: The home/visiting team for all games will be determined at the pre-game meeting via coin flip by the umpire.

Infield Practice: "Taking infield" will not be allowed prior to tournament games. Our host organizations would appreciate all pre-game warmups be done only in the outfield or in the infield foul territory.

Game Length: **10u-12u:** 6 innings **13u-15u:** 7 innings

Time Limits: **10u-12u:** 1 hour 45 minutes **13u-15u:** 2 hours

Note: The "stopwatch" 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.

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 is reached.

Note: if a bracket game is tied the game will be played until a winner is determined.

Pitching / Base Distances: **10u-11u:** 46 feet / 60-65 feet

12u-13u: 52-54 feet / 65-70 feet

14u-15u: 60 feet, 6 inches / 90 feet

Note: Portable or temporary pitching mounds may be used in the 13U division.

Pitching Restrictions: **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, 14u & 15u: A player may pitch a maximum of 105 pitches in a tournament.

Note: If a player 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. Pitchers' pitch counts will be posted at the Tournament Headquarters.

PENALTY for violations of pitching restrictions: The head coach will be ejected from that game and the next scheduled game. The offending pitcher will be suspended from the pitching position for the following game. The **second offense** during the same tournament results in suspension of the coach for the remainder of that tournament, as well as possible imposition of further sanctions subject to the review of the MYAS Baseball Board of Advisors.

Curve balls will **NOT** be allowed in the 10-12u age divisions. Fastballs, knuckleballs and changeups are the only pitches allowed in the 10-12u age divisions. **First offense** – warning; **second offense** – ejection from the pitcher's position.

Umpires: **10u-13u:** One MYAS certified umpire will be used in all games.

14u-15u: The goal is to have two MYAS certified umpires used in all games.

Metal Cleats: Metal cleats are prohibited in 12u. Metal cleats may be worn in the 13u and older age divisions.

10-Run Rule: **10u-12u:** The game will end at the conclusion of 4 innings (3½ if the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs).

13u-15u: The game will end at the conclusion of 5 innings (4½ if the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs).

15-Run Rule: The 15-run rule will apply after 3 innings (2½ if the home team is ahead). This rule applies to all ages and divisions.

Base Running: 10u: A runner may leave the base after the 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 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 10-11 & under divisions, a player sliding headfirst into home plate will be called out.

12's 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 Interference and Obstruction in the NFHS rule book.

**Continuous Batting/
Free Substitution:**

10u-13u teams will use continuous batting and free substitution. **No exceptions!**

NOTE for 10u-13u 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 Sub FAQ* under "Documents" on the Baseball page of www.myas.org.

Starting Pitcher: **This rule applies for all ages:** Only the starting pitcher may be withdrawn and re-enter once.

**14-18U 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.

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.

NOTE: 14U/15U teams will have the option to use free substitution and continuous batting. 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.

Each team's lineup must list a minimum of nine players to start a game. A game will be forfeited to the offended team when a team is unable to provide nine players to start the game or cannot provide eight players to finish the game (NFHS Rule 4-4-1f).

1. A "rostered" player may be placed at the end of your lineup if he/she is not present at the start of the game (this applies to teams that start a game with nine players).

2. 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 the game.
3. An out will be called at that spot in the batting order ONLY if a team drops below nine players.

Courtesy Runner:	<p>10u-13u: 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>14u & 15u: 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>
Baseballs:	Two Gopher State Diamond baseballs will be provided for all games. If additional baseballs are needed, teams should supply them alternately.
Equipment:	All bats, helmets, catcher's gear, footwear, and other equipment must conform to National Federation rules and regulations.
Bat Rule:	<p>All bats must comply with the MYAS/Gopher State/USSS) Bat Standards for the 2023 season. All regulations are posted under the Baseball portion of the www.myas.org website.</p> <p>Drop Rules: The 14u age division will use the "-5"(may use "-10") drop rule; and the 13u division will use the "-10" rule.)</p> <p>NOTE: With the transition from spring/summer to fall, the MYAS/Gopher State will be flexible with ages when there is a change in the length to weight ratio or bat drop (i.e. 14u)</p>
Uniforms:	Team jerseys should be of identical color and should have at least a six-inch number on the front and/or the back.
Forfeits:	<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>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Forfeit Fines:	If any team forfeits a game they will be assessed a fine. First Offense: \$100; Second Offense: \$200 and the team will be suspended from MYAS events for one year pending appeal to the MYAS Baseball Board of Advisors.
Roster Limit:	Rosters may consist of no more than 18 players. Your roster is frozen once it is submitted to the MYAS office. In the case of injuries players may be added, but coaches must clear additions with the MYAS baseball office. It is mandatory that coaches input their rosters via their MYAS Portal at www.myas.org .
Tourney Information:	Please call your specific Tournament Director first! This is the individual located at Tournament Headquarters. In case of rain or inclement weather, log onto www.myas.org in the Gopher State Sliding Into Fall Classic portion on the Baseball web page in order to determine if your game has been canceled, postponed or rescheduled.
Awards:	<p>1st-2nd Place: Individual Awards</p> <p>Awards will be prorated for any division with eight or more teams.</p>

MYAS Refund Policy

- If a team drops out of a tournament prior to the entry deadline, a full refund will be issued.
- Teams 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 (i.e. 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 reasons listed in the previous bullet point, teams can elect a 75% refund of their entry fee or have 100% of their entry fee applied to a future MYAS event.