



China Cup Baseball Tournament

International School of Beijing

RULES

Tournament Details:

- Time limit: 7 innings or 2:15, whichever comes first. No new inning will start after the 2:00 mark; home team must have bottom of inning if needed.
- The official time will be kept at the Scorer's Table and will be stopped only in the event of bad weather or serious injury. (Flexibility may be required if bad weather persists.)
- Ties remain ties in round-robin play. (Extra innings allowed, time permitting.)
- Coaches will score their own games; confer with other coach at the end of each half-inning to confirm score.
- The scoreboards (both electronic and manual) are run by volunteers and merely indicate the score. The official scorebooks are kept by the coaches.

Hurry-up Rules - please inform your players of these so that we can maximize our playing time:

- Courtesy runner for pitcher (optional) and catcher (required). Please have designated runners ready and with helmet on so we can minimize the delay. These rules to be explained prior to tournament.
- On-deck batter retrieves all foul balls and passed balls with no runners on base; give to umpire when coming to bat.
- Warm-up pitches: 7 when pitcher enters game; 4 each inning after.
- Limit offensive conferences to three per game, 30 seconds each.
- Coaches may make one visit to the pitcher's mound per inning; a second visit will require a pitching change.
- Batters take one foot out of batter's box to take signals from coach, return ready to hit.

Warm Ups/Practice/Ground Rules

To be finalized by email early in the week of travel; to be discussed with the coaches following visitors' arrivals here in Beijing.

Tie-breakers:

Final rankings will be based on team records at the completion of round robin play. In the event of a tie between (or among) multiple teams, the following criteria will be used to break ties, in the order listed below:

- 1) head-to-head results between/among tied teams; then,
- 2) run differential in common games between/among tied teams. The formula will be as follows:

runs scored per inning of offence (divided by) runs allowed per inning of defense

The team with the highest ratio of those numbers will win the tiebreaker; 2nd place will take 2nd, etc.

To avoid confusion with regards to partial innings (e.g. a game ends with one out in the bottom of the seventh), an “inning” will be defined as one in which at least one batter has a plate appearance.

- 3) if the above tiebreaker does not resolve the tie between two of the three teams, their head-to-head results will determine their final rankings. If all three teams are tied, then teams will share awards.

Selection for Home/Away:

- Coin tosses will determine who the home team is for each game. This coin toss will take place during the meeting between coaches and umpires just prior to game time.
- The host school (ISB) will use the first base dugout for all its games.

Tournament Rules:

Other than specific rules mentioned above, the tournament will use “Federation Rules,” which is the set of rules used by the National Federation of High School Associations. The following are listed as reminders and for clarification of those that might differ slightly from Federation rules.

- The runner replacing the pitcher/catcher must be a player who has not entered the game. If no such players are available the last batted out player must be used.
- All balk, infield fly, fielding, base running rules are in effect. Pitchers and coaches especially need to be aware of the balk rules.
- Please remind fielders that they are not to obstruct runners’ access to bases when there is not a play at their base and that fake tags are not permitted.
- Players must slide to avoid contact into home plate. Players who lower their shoulder will be called out and may be ejected from the game if the violation is flagrant.
- Coaches must present two **exact copies** of lineup cards (enclosed in arrival packs) at the meeting just prior to the game, one for the umpire and one for the opposing team.
- Teams leading by fifteen runs after the completion of four innings (3 ½ if home team is leading) or ten runs after five or more innings (4 ½ if home team is leading) will be declared the winner and the game will end.
- Teams may have one designated hitter to take the place of one of the position players in the batting lineup.
- Starting players may re-enter the game in the same place in the batting order. Once a non-starting player or re-entered starting player leaves the game, he may not re-enter.