



## **2009 USSSA 16U & High School-Varsity World Championships Rules**



Welcome to the USSSA 16U and High School-Varsity World Championships. The following summary of rules and guidelines were developed in order to make coaches aware of key points of the tournament. USSSA Baseball rules will be followed and USSSA Baseball reserves the right to amend these tournament rules prior to tournament play. Any such rule change will be made clear to all coaches at the mandatory scheduled coaches meeting.

### **LOCATION & DATES**

Kissimmee, FL

Houston Astros Spring Training Facility (Osceola County Stadium and surrounding fields)

July 26 – August 1, 2009

### **COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES**

- All coaches must present credentials for the tournament at designated check in time.
- All coaches must attend a mandatory scheduled coaches meeting.
- All coaches must read these rules as well as the USSSA Baseball rules and make his team and assistant coaches aware of them.
- All coaches are responsible for the actions and behavior of their parents, players and staff.

### **CREDENTIALS & AGE REQUIREMENTS**

- It is **MANDATORY** to use [www.USSSA.com](http://www.USSSA.com) online roster form.
- Roster must be online one week prior to the event start. No team will be allowed to start the tournament without a completed roster online.
- USSSA 16U and High School Varsity Elite World Series allows open rosters.
- All rosters are completely frozen one week prior to tournament start date. Any hardship changes after final freeze date must be approved by the Program Director.
- Each team must submit a valid certificate of insurance in order to participate in the event.
- Age Requirements: The cutoff date will be May 1st for both the 16U and High School Varsity age groups. The High School Division requires that a player has high school eligibility remaining.
- No college players are eligible. Players must be 19 or under and have high school eligible remaining.
- Coaches will be required to submit birth certificate of each player at designated check in time.

### **TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

- Saturday, July 25 – Coaches will check in
- Sunday, July 26 – Amateur Baseball Report (ABR) ID Camp: Five tool skills evaluation (hitting, fielding, speed, power, arm strength). Pitchers & catchers will undergo a separate evaluation. Scouting services will be provided by ABR. Top collegiate and pro scouts will be in attendance.
- Monday and Tuesday, July 27-28 – Each team plays four pool games
- Wednesday-Friday, July 29-31 – Championship bracket games
- Saturday, August 1 – Championship game
- The tournament format will be pool play plus a double elimination championship round. Each team is guaranteed a minimum of 6 games (weather permitting).

### **TIE BREAKERS & SEEDING**

USSSA tie breaking procedures will be followed. (Rule 6.12)

1. Head to Head
2. Runs Allowed (Versus All Teams Played Not Just Tied Teams)
3. Run Differential (Maximum +/- 8 Runs Per Game.)

4. USSSA Point System
5. Coin Flip

In the case of a tie breaker involving a team that won due to a forfeit, that team's average runs allowed and run differential will be used.

### **TOURNAMENT GENERAL RULES OF PLAY**

Please make your self aware of the rules that apply to this tournament. It is your responsibility as the coach to have a complete understanding. **The tournament will follow USSSA rules.**

- **Game Length** – All games will be 7 innings and played until a winner is determined.
- **Team Arrival at The Field** – Teams need to be at their scheduled field at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled start time.
- **Home Team** – Determined by coin flip in pool play and championship game. The home team will be the higher seed in bracket play. (8.03.A)
- **Dugouts** – Home team will be on the third base side. Visiting team will be on the first base side.
- **Lineups** – Lineups must be turned in to the press box and the official scorer 30 minutes prior to your scheduled game time. Please print first and last names along with uniform numbers and position. Also include all available subs.
- **Batting Order** – Teams have the option to bat their 9 position players, 9 position players and have an Extra Hitter (8.03.D.1), or 8 position players with a DH (for any position). (8.03.E)
- **Substitutions** – Starter may re-enter once at their original position in the batting order. (8.03.D.1(a))
- **Courtesy Runners** – Can run for the Pitcher & Catcher only, at any time throughout the game. The runner must be anyone that has not officially entered the game. A pinch runner may only run once in an inning. If all players have entered the game then only those players that are ineligible to re-enter can pinch run. If all players are eligible to re-enter the game then any one of those eligible players may pinch run.
- **Slide Rule** – If a tag play, runner must slide or seek to avoid contact (at all bases). (8.07.I.12)
- **Mercy Rule** – Will be in affect if a team is winning by 15 or more runs after trailing team has completed 3 innings of batting, 12 or more runs after trailing team has completed 4 innings of batting, or 8 or more runs after trailing team has completed 5 innings of batting.
- **Inclement Weather** – In the event of inclement weather, we will make every effort to complete the game. Games will be considered suspended until ruled different. A game can be considered complete after 4 complete innings or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead. The decision to determine a game complete will be up to the Tournament Director. There will be a strong effort to complete all games. The Tournament Director's decision is final (8.04.N.2)
- **Team Forfeit** – If a team fails to arrive at the field or fails to take the field one minute after the umpire starts the game, that team will forfeit (pending unavoidable circumstances). (8.04.S.1) Any team that forfeits a pool-play game shall not be eligible for bracket play regardless of record. (6.10) Tournament Officials will have the option to waive this rule in the case of extenuating circumstances.
- **Ejections** – If a coach or player is ejected then he must sit out the remainder of that game. Additional penalties may be assessed as deemed by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director has the option to remove a coach or a player from the tournament for unsportsmanlike conduct. (12.00)
- **Dugout Maintenance** – It is each team's responsibility to clean up following your games. Please pick up all trash and leave the dugout just as you have found it.

#### **Exceptions:**

- **Extra Innings** - Game speed rules may apply at the umpire's discretion (limit warm-up pitches between innings, no warm-ups for fielders, etc).
  - **Protests** – Protests will be on rule interpretations only. A rule in protest must be presented to the Tournament Official immediately. No pitch will be thrown until a protest is resolved. The Tournament Official's decision is final.
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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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