



## **Rules & Format for 2026 Ohio USSSA/Double Eagle Sports Tournaments:**

- **USSSA umpires and rulebook will govern all play with exception to rules noted below.**
- Pool games will be scheduled for 70 minutes – complete the inning. Bracket games will be scheduled for 75 minutes – complete the inning. The ITB will be used to break game ties at the time limit or after 7 innings in **bracket play only**. The championship games will have a 90-minute (1 hr-30 mins) time limit and will use ITB if tied after 7 innings. **Teams must be prepared to play up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.**
- Coin flip will determine home or away during pool play. **In bracket play, the higher seed will be home in each game. If 2 teams of the same seeding play, then there will be a coin flip. The winner of the coin flip is automatically the home team in all flip scenarios.**
- Teams have the option to use 2 AP (Additional Players) along with the DP/Flex rule for a 12-person line up. Roster batting can also be used for both Pool and Bracket play, but short-handed rules will apply.
- A courtesy runner is permitted for the pitcher and/or catcher. The player who had the last completed at bat, **if no unused substitute is available**, is eligible to be a courtesy runner. This is one time per inning for either the pitcher and/or catcher.
- USSSA mercy rule will be in effect. 12 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings and 8 after 5 innings. **CLASS C – 10u/12u/14u only. There is a 5 run per inning cap in pool play.**
- JEWELRY RULE - Modified to allow stud earrings, while continuing to prohibit dangling hoops, necklaces, bracelets, rings, etc. judged by the umpire to be dangerous. **Also requires batters to wear play indicators (wristbands) as they were designed to be worn (on the wrist, not the belt).**
- Bats must display the 2012 or 2022 USSSA logo or may be subject to be confiscated. Confiscated bats can be picked up when a team has been eliminated from the event.
- Metal cleats are permitted in age groups 13u & up (**unless park rule prohibits them**).
- If a team doesn't show for their scheduled game, the game will be recorded as a 7-0 win in the bracket for their opponent and the game will count toward the guarantee.
- Coaches, please verify the final score with the game umpires before they leave the field of play. Once the scorecard has been turned in there will be no changing of the final score of completed games.
- There will be no protests allowed on judgment calls (balls/strikes, fair/foul, safe/out). For any protest involving rule interpretation, the fee is \$100 cash. If the protest is upheld, then the \$100 will be returned. If the protest is found to be not valid, then the fee is forfeited. A rule interpretation protest must be made before the next pitch is thrown. Protest is not valid until the fee is paid to the home plate official and rule being protested is made known.
- Protest fees on player eligibility or roster issues are \$100 per-player-protested cash.
- In the advent of bad weather, every effort will be made to get the games in. We will reduce game times, if necessary, but our priority is to play the games. If there is a weather situation, please verify with a tournament official what the procedure will be to start the games back up. **We may use the USSSA online system to send out e-mails and texts to report on rain delays PRIOR to the event. During the event, weather updates will be handled by tournament staff onsite and thru our app.**