



## TOURNAMENT RULES, PROCEDURES, & GUIDELINES



TITUS Tournaments will be played at Kodiak Park: 4110 Wrangle Hill Rd. Bear DE, 19701

### **Alternate Field Locations:**

#### **Caravel Academy**

2801 Del Laws Road  
Bear DE, 19701

#### **Newark National Little League**

709 North Brownleaf Road  
Newark DE, 19713

### **Team Insurance:**

Teams will need to provide their own insurance to cover their players and coaches before, during, and after competition in these events. Please make sure that the insurance lists: TITUS SPORTS ACADEMY, LLC; BEAR BABE RUTH of DE; and KODIAK PARK.



### **COVID-19 GUIDELINES – TOURNAMENT PLAY**



Here at Titus Sports Academy, Titus Baseball Academy, and Titus Tournaments we have taken specific and strong steps to minimize the risk of Covid-19 transmission to our participating teams, coaches, and fans, in addition to our own staff. Our top priority is the safety of our participants. The following guidelines, rules, and restrictions will be taken during our tournaments:

- Hand Sanitizer stations will be located at the entrance to the park as well as in common areas around the fields and in each dugout.
- Between games, benches and gate openings will be wiped by Titus Tournament staff.
- Titus Tournament staff, concessions staff, and umpires should wear masks.

#### **IN GAME**

- When not actively participating athletes and coaches should wear masks within the park
- Home plate umpire will stand behind pitcher's mound (socially distanced from pitcher) in order to call balls & strikes.
- Equipment (bats, gloves, catchers gear, etc), should not be shared between players.
- Base coaches should distance from baserunners, players and umpires in field of play.
- There should be NO physical contact between players and/or coaches (high fives, etc.)
- No spitting, chewing gum, or sunflower seeds
- Individual teams should use their own set of baseballs or softballs while warming up

#### **SPECTATORS AND FAMILIES**

- All spectators should maintain social distancing (6 feet of separation or greater) at all locations within the park including but not limited to on bleachers, at the concession stand, and near the dugouts while attending the events.
- It is required that all spectators above the age of 12 wear masks, unless doing so would cause issues with a pre-existing condition. Children 12 and younger are not required to wear masks, even though it is suggested.
- Spectators age 2 and younger should not wear masks due to the risk of suffocation.
- Please allow your athlete to leave the dugout and come to you rather than congregate at the dugout during or after a game.

#### **AT-HOME HEALTH SCREENING**

- Before attending a Titus Tournament Event, please evaluate your athlete and any spectators planning to attend by answering these questions:
  - o Does anyone in your house currently have a fever of 99.5 or greater
  - o Has anyone had trouble breathing, a cough, loss of smell or taste, muscle aches, or any of the other currently confirmed symptoms of Covid-19 infection.
  - o Has anyone had contact with someone who has been found as being positive of Covid-19 infection.
- If you OR a household family member of yours can answer YES to any of these questions, we advise you to stay home and limit interaction with teammates and others until cleared.



## **COVID-19 GUIDELINES – TOURNAMENT PLAY, CONT.**



*In addition to personal illness, if you have a pre-existing condition such as: respiratory condition; compromised immune system; are in a high-risk of contracting a virus like the coronavirus; or have recently come in contact with someone who is sick or has traveled to a state or country listed on the CDC's Risk Assessment, we encourage you to refrain from any public activities you can provide a negative Covid-19 test and/or until cleared by your healthcare provider.*

We appreciate everyone's diligence with the compliance to our guidelines. Following these rules allows us to operate our tournaments safely and continue to provide these young athletes with quality competition in a safe environment.

If a spectator is blatantly ignoring the guidelines and rules set forth here, Titus Sports Academy and Titus Tournaments reserve the right to have the individual(s) removed from the park. If a team or coach does not follow the rules the coach's team may be disqualified from the tournament and asked to leave with NO REFUND.

We understand and support that we are currently living in a time of uncertainty. If your team must withdraw from a tournament due to a Covid-19 positive test of one of your players, coaches, or family members and the tournament director is let know of the situation at least 48 hours before the beginning of the team's first game, that team will be given a 100% REFUND. Within 48 hours, due to the effect it will have on other teams, scheduling, and we will still offer a refund of 75%, or a credit to a future Titus Tournaments event. Once a game is played, if a team is forced to drop out of an event, there will be no refund.



**Please be safe and use common sense for your own health and the health and safety of others when deciding whether or not to attend our events. Together we can all continue to provide these athletes with valuable experiences and minimize the risk to each other.**

**THANK YOU!**



## ROSTERS

Rosters should be emailed to [tournaments@titusbaseball.com](mailto:tournaments@titusbaseball.com) using the spreadsheet provided to the head coach at least 24 hours prior to the team's first game. Failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of games. Coaches should have access to birth certificates for their roster at all tournament games. At check-in a tournament director will verify the roster with the coach.

The roster size can be unlimited for Titus Tournaments. A team can edit their roster up until their first game and may add during the tournament in the case of injuries/other extenuating circumstances with the approval of the tournament director.

A player cannot be on the roster for multiple teams within a single age group. If a player's name shows up on multiple rosters, they must designate which team they are officially on. If a player is not on the roster and is playing in a game that player will be immediately ejected from both the current game and the rest of the tournament. The game will not revert back, however that team will automatically lose any tiebreakers when determining championship brackets. Play will continue as it was at the point of ejection.

## BASEBALLS / EQUIPMENT

Game balls will be provided by the TITUS Baseball tournament director for all games. We will not provide baseballs for batting practice or pre-game work. All equipment should meet NOSCAE standards including batting helmets and catchers gear.

Titus Sports Academy, Titus Baseball, and our cooperating field locations are NOT responsible for any lost, stolen, or unattended personal items/equipment. We ask that players, coaches, and fans keep personal items and equipment with them at all times in order to eliminate any issues that may arise in this manner.

## FOUL BALLS

We would ask for all players, coaches, fans, and parents to be aware of foul balls at all times. There will be more than one game going on at a time, which can cause foul balls from different fields. Please return all foul balls to the umpire or the tournament director.



## PROTESTS

### PLAYING RULES OR ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT PROTEST

Protests will be heard and ruled on by the tournament director. The team protesting a playing rule must make cash payment of \$250 at the time of the protest to the tournament director on-site. If the protest is ruled in the protesting team’s favor the \$250 will be refunded. The ruling made by the director will be final. Protests must be filed and ruled on immediately. You cannot protest a play on the field if play has already been resumed, however any play that involved the judgement of an umpire will not be overturned and the \$250 will not be refunded. If you are protesting illegal equipment and committee rules in your favor, then the equipment in question will be removed immediately and play will continue (any prior game play leading up to that point remains as it was).

### AGE ELIGIBILITY PROTEST

For the fall season of 2020, age is determined by the age of the athlete on the date: **April 31, 2021**. Protests will be heard and ruled on by the tournament director. The team protesting must have convincing evidence that a player is not in compliance and the opposing coach has until the end of the game to provide proof of age with a copy of a birth certificate or other valid credential. From here three cases can occur:

1. If the credential is produced, and the player’s information on the roster is in compliance with the tournament, play will continue.
2. If the player’s information is not in compliance on the roster and/or credentials are not produced, the game will be forfeited, any prior wins will be forfeited, and the player and head coach will be ejected from the tournament.
3. In any other situation, the tournament director will make the fairest decision possible, and play will resume.

\*\*If there are any questions regarding the age requirements, please email [Tournaments@TitusSports.com](mailto:Tournaments@TitusSports.com)\*\*

Dates for Age Determination (Born After Date)						
11u	12u	13u	14u	15u	16u	17u
4/31/2009	4/31/2008	4/31/2007	4/31/2006	4/31/2005	4/31/2004	4/31/2003



## **SUSPENSIONS/EJECTIONS**

Any player or coach that is ejected from a game will be subject to suspension upon review by the tournament director. If a team acts unruly or unsportsmanlike, TITUS Baseball reserves the right to eject that team from the current tournament and possibly ban that team from future events for a certain length of time. In the interest of maintaining a quality event, the tournament director reserves the right to eject any person from the site for unruly or unsportsmanlike behavior.

## **FAN CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Likewise, fans are asked to follow the code of sportsmanship as we serve each of you by providing a secure, comfortable, and enjoyable experience at all of our venues. The Fan Code of Conduct has been instituted to make sure that your experience is consistent with our commitment. All fans are asked to refrain from the following:

- Obscene, abusive, and/or racist language, gestures, signage or behavior directed towards game officials or visiting team's fans, players or coaching staff is prohibited. Additionally, obscene or indecent clothing or related material will not be admitted into any venue.
- Verbal or physical confrontation, including dangerous, abusive or profane behavior is prohibited.
- Disruptive actions or behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or illegal, including but not limited to throwing objects on the playing surface or unauthorized trespassing on the playing surface or other restricted areas will result in immediate removal from the event.
- Any other action, deemed by the tournament director, Titus Tournament staff, or field umpires as detrimental to the tournament, its participants, staff, or spectators.



## **PAYMENT & REFUND POLICY**

### **PAYMENT POLICY**

Titus Tournaments requires any team registering for a tournament to make a non-refundable deposit payment. Registration for all events is limited and first-come, first-served. Payment in full for all events is due 14 days prior to the start of the event. Your final payment will be automatically billed to the method of payment used for your deposit. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover are accepted online and by phone. Checks can be sent to and made out to Titus Sports Academy, 205 Gabor Lane, Newark DE, 19711.

### **REFUND POLICY**

All requests for refunds must be made by email to [tournaments@titusbaseball.com](mailto:tournaments@titusbaseball.com) 14 days prior to the start of the event. There will be absolutely no refunds for cancellations within 14 days of the tournament start date.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If an even is disrupted by inclement weather, we will do everything we can do to stay close to the original game schedule and the original tournament format schedule. Rain out games may not be made up depending on time and field constraints. In case of scheduling changes, it is the team's responsibility, not the tournament director, to make sure they are aware of the changes. This information will be sent directly to coaches when available as well as on our website.

### **REFUND POLICY (Weather Related)**

<b>3-Game Minimum Tournaments</b>	<b>4-Game Minimum Tournaments</b>
Play 0 Games-100% Refund	Play 0 games- 100% Refund
Play 1 game – 75% Refund	Play 1 game – 75% Refund
Play 2 games – No Refund	Play 2 games – 50% Refund
	Play 3 games – No Refund



## **TITUS TOURNAMENT: GAME PLAY RULES**

### **BATTING CAGES/PRE-GAME SCHEDULE**

When batting cages are available at the location, they will be scheduled for each team in accordance with the tournament structure (see: Tournament Structure). Both teams will have 15 minutes to hit before their game. Home teams as listed by the tournament schedule will have the cages starting 50 minutes before game time is scheduled, and the away team will have it 35 minutes before the game time is scheduled.

There is no pre-game infield/outfield but teams may utilize the outfield before the game to get groundballs and/or fly balls.

### **IMPORTANT RULES AND INFORMATION**

**1. NON-BRACKET TIME LIMIT:** All pool games will be played with a strict one hour and 50 minute drop dead time limit. No new inning can start after the one hour and 40 minute mark. Time will be kept by the umpires. The time will start immediately after the conclusion of the pregame meeting. If the home team is batting and is ahead as the time limit exceeds, the game will end immediately. At the drop dead time, the team leading is the winning team, regardless of inning.

**2. INNINGS:** 9U-12U will play 6 inning games. 13U-18U will play 7 inning games.

**3. MERCY RULES:** 12 runs after 3 innings; 10 runs after 4 innings; and 8 runs after 5 innings.

**4. TIE GAMES:** All non-playoff games that are tied at the completion of the game or the time limit will be recorded as a tie. No extra innings will be played in pool games.

**5. FORFEITS:** All forfeits that occur at any time will result in 6-0 win (9-12u) or 7-0 win (13-18u).

**6. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS:** There are no pitching restrictions for our Titus tournaments. However, it is highly advised to monitor your players pitch counts. Coaches can refer to PitchSmart: <https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines>

**7. TRIPS TO THE MOUND:** Removal of a pitcher occurs after the second coach visit to the mound within an inning. Umpires will limit and enforce the limit of player mound meetings.

**8. BALKS:** 9u-10u no balks. 11u-12u one warning per pitcher. 13u-18u dead ball, no warnings.

**9. INFIELD FLY RULE:** There will be NO infield fly rule for 9u-11u. Regular rules for 12u-18u.





**10. CATCHER DROPPED 3<sup>RD</sup>-STRIKE:** 9u-10u the batter is automatically out. 11u-18u regular baseball rules.

**11. STARTING THE GAME:** All games must be started with at least 8 players. If a team does not have at least 8 players at the start of the game, then the team will forfeit. If a team starts with 8 players then an automatic out will be called every time the 9<sup>th</sup> slot in the batting lineup comes up. If and when a 9<sup>th</sup> player arrives at any time during the game, that player is to be inserted immediately into the lineup and the game. Any other player(s) that arrive after the 9<sup>th</sup> player can only be used as a legal substitute. The tournament director will determine if a start time can be delayed from its original time.

**12. HITTING LINE UP:** Team can choose to bat 9, 10, or 11 and use a combination of DH, EH, and XH; or they can bat their entire lineup. It is the coaches' responsibility to convey the batting lineup decision to the opposing coach. It is each team's responsibility to verify the accuracy of the opposing team's lineup prior to the first pitch of the game. The DH can bat anywhere in the lineup and can hit for anyone. The DH may be pulled at any point for the player they are hitting for. The EH and XH may bat anywhere in the lineup. The EH and XH are considered defensive positions for substitution purposes. If a team chooses to bat the entire lineup then they will be granted free defensive substitution. If one of your players gets hurt while batting the entire lineup, that player's spot becomes an automatic out. Any protests on the hitting lineup must be brought to the umpire's and tournament director's attention at the time it occurs.

**13. RE-ENTRY RULE:** If a team does not bat the entire lineup and substitutes are available, all age groups will use the standard NFHS re-entry rule. Starters may be re-entered once (including the DH, EH, and XH), as long as the player occupies their original position in the batting order. If a team substitutes for the pitcher while on defense, that pitcher is no longer able to pitch in the game. If a team substitutes for the pitcher when on offense, but then re-enters the pitcher before going out on defense, that pitcher is still the 'pitcher of record' and can continue to pitch in the game.

**14. COURTESY RUNNER:** Courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher at any time. If you have substitutes they will be your courtesy runner. If you don't then use the player who made the last out(s).

**15. INTENTIONAL WALK:** In all ages the coach can call for an intentional walk (do not need to throw/ball is dead).



**16.OFFICIAL GAME:** Games called due to the weather by the umpires or the tournament director that cannot be resumed will be considered complete after 4 innings or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead for all age groups. If after 4 complete innings there is a tie score then it will remain a tie score if in pool play. At times the tournament committee will suspend/cancel games due to weather. The tournament committee will decide on crowning a champion in the event playoff games are stopped for any reason before the Championship round.

**17.SCORING:** We recommend that all teams (home and visitors) keep a scorebook. The official scorer of the game will be the tournament director. It is the team's responsibility to check every inning with the tournament director to confirm the score.

**18.BAT RESTRICTIONS:**

- 9u-12u: Any bat with USA or 1.15 BPF Certification.
- 13u-18u: Must be -3 BBCOR. (**NO COMPOSITES, DEMARINIS**).

**19.LEADING/STEALING:** 9u-11u must wait until the ball crosses the plate to leave the base (46' 60). First violation is a warning and after that they will be called out. 12u-18u regular leading and stealing rules apply.

**20.DUGOUT RULE:** All players and coaches must be completely inside the dugout. Coaches are responsible for their player's safety around the dugout area. One player may be in the one-deck area which is located at the entry to the dugout. Players must stay on their respected sides when on deck.

**21.NOT COVERED IN THE RULES:** In the event any item is not covered in the playing rules, the tournament director will make the fairest possible ruling and that ruling will be final!



## PLAYOFFS

### POOL PLAY TIE BREAKER RULES

For pool play when all teams play common opponents this system will be used for advancing and seeding out of pool play. Tie games are counted as ½ wins for calculating winning percentage.

1. Pool play overall record (winning percentage)
2. If two teams are tied - Head to Head winner
3. If three teams are tied – If one team has defeated both other teams, that team advances. If not go to #4.
4. Total runs allowed in pool play.
5. If two teams still tied-head to head, If three teams still tied –Total runs scored in pool play
6. If two teams still tied-head to head, If three teams still tied –Highest single-game run differential
7. If two teams still tied-head to head, If three teams still tied –Lowest single-game runs allowed
8. If two teams still tied-head to head, If three teams still tied –Highest single-game runs scored
9. If still tied –Coin flip

### PLAYOFF SEEDINGS

1. Overall record (winning percentage)
2. If still tied: Total runs allowed in pool play
3. If still tied: Total runs scored in pool play
4. If still tied: Highest single game run differential
5. If still tied: Lowest single game runs allowed
6. If still tied: Highest single game runs scored
7. If still tied: Coin flip

\*If there is a case where all teams have not played the same amount of pool play games then we will base best overall record off of their winning percentage. If multiple teams have 100% winning percentage but a different number of wins than the team with the most wins will be presumed a better seed than the other team. For example: 3-0 is presumed better than 2-0

### PLAYOFF & CHAMPIONSHIP TIME LIMIT

If after 6 innings for 9-12u or 7 innings for 13-18u or 1 hour and 50 minutes the two teams will go into playoff tie-break using a modified version of MLB's extra inning rules. The last batter from the previous inning will go to 2<sup>nd</sup> base and the team will start with 1 out. Play continues until a winner is determined.

### AWARDS

A championship banner will be presented to tournament champions. Tournament champions and runners-up will also receive TITUS Baseball Tournament Dri-Fit shirts.



## SHOWCASE RULES

All showcase games will follow the schedule below. Refer to your specific schedule in order to determine arrival time.

<b>*Teams are expected to be warmed-up prior to this schedule. Arrive accordingly.</b>	
<b>50 min prior to 1<sup>st</sup> pitch</b>	<b>Home Team – BP in cage</b>
<b>35 min prior to 1<sup>st</sup> pitch</b>	<b>Visiting Team – BP in cage</b>
<b>10 min prior to 1<sup>st</sup> pitch</b>	<b>Dual Infield/Outfield</b>

**1. TIME LIMIT:** All showcase games will be played with a strict one hour and 40 minute drop dead time limit. No new inning can start after the one hour and 30 minute mark. Time will be kept by the umpires. The time will start immediately after the conclusion of the coach-led dual infield/outfield.

**2.HITTER/INNING RULE:** In order to maximize exposure while monitoring time, all innings will be a maximum of 5 batters, or 3 outs, whichever occurs first

**3.PITCHING RESTRICTIONS:** There are no pitching restrictions for our Titus showcases. However, it is highly advised to monitor your players pitch counts. Coaches can refer to PitchSmart: <https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines>

**4.HITTING LINE UP:** There are no restrictions on lineup, order, or defensive substitutions. Coaches will set the lineups and may make moves as they deem necessary. This includes courtesy and/or pinch runners.