



COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) 2024 Rules of play

Updated 11.28.2023

All COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) tournaments will follow the Official Rules of Professional Baseball (as published by the National Baseball Congress) and the following rules of play:

Team Eligibility Requirements:

2.1 Team Composition

- Teams entered in any COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) tournament shall have a roster composed of a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 24 players.

2.2 Rosters

- Team manager or Coach will be solely responsible for completing the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) online roster. **Online rosters must be completed 20 days prior to the start of an event, failure to do so may result in removal from the event with no refund.** Roster must include all players, coaches and assistant coaches (**a minimum of 3 adults must be registered. If the Manager will not be attending games 4 adults are required**), bat kids etc. ANYONE IN THE DUGOUT OR ON THE FIELD. Failure to register a coach, assistant coach or bat kid may result in a forfeit.
- If the opposing team finds a player in a game that does not appear on the team's online roster and it is brought to the attention of the home plate umpire by the head coach, with no revised roster submitted using the procedures outlined below, the player must immediately be removed from the game and an out will be charged unless an eligible substitute is available. If the player is not immediately removed from the game, a forfeit will be declared.
- All players, coaches and spectators are required to follow all guidance set by the state, city and county. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit with no refund.
- A player may appear on one or more COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) rosters during the tournament season (year) Refer to 2.6 Player Eligibility. A Player may not play on one or more rosters during the same event.
- Roster adds and parent/guardian acceptance to the team **Online rosters must be completed 20 days prior to the start of an event, failure to do so may result in removal from the event with no refund.** A roster add will not be considered in effect until both have been completed. Rosters will be locked after the first 2022 COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) event your team participates in. To make any changes to the locked roster after it becomes official you must email your request to info@cabacolorado.com 96 hours prior to start of

play. Include team name, age, division and manager of account. Proof of insurance coverage must be submitted for added player unless covered by current policy.

- If a player is discovered during the event not on the online roster, the player and head coach will be removed for the remainder of the event.
- COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors reserve the right to review individual situations and make final decisions on roster rules. COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors also reserve the right to review player transfers and issue decisions on roster moves.

2.3 Proof of age/Grade

- During all COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) tournaments proof of age/grade must be available onsite and immediately available throughout the entire tournament. The player must appear on the online roster and an acceptable form of proof (see below). Any ineligible player MAY cause the team to be disqualified or put in as last seed. Each case will be looked at by the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors to determine if the player is ineligible. Head Coach/Team Manager as listed on the online roster may inquire with COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) Failure to produce proof of age documentation upon request of the tournament directors will result in the player being declared ineligible for participation. Final determination of eligibility is at the discretion of the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors.

Acceptable forms of proof of age/grade are:

- A certified copy of a U.S. birth certificate
- Certified documentation of naturalization
- Military Certificate of birth or passport.
- Current school issued report card
- Official school ID with grade

2.4 Annual team registration

- A Coach/Manager may register their team with COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) at the appropriate level of play at the beginning of the season. Teams may request to re-sanction by submitting the Division Change Request form on the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) website. Final determination of level is at the discretion of the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) Directors.
- Upon completion of each tournament COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors will review ALL teams' rankings and tournament performance and at that time may require teams to move in their level of play. Final determination of level is at the discretion of the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors. This process may take up to 21 days.

2.5 Eligibility

COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) offers competition in individual age levels 8-18. In the 8–14-year-old age groups, the player's age and grade will be the guidelines for a player's eligibility. Birth Certificates or acceptable forms of proof of age as outlined in section 2.3 are required for all players, at all times. If a player is participating using the grade exception, they will also be required to have a current report card or school I.D. on site at all games.

divisions. NOTE: A player's age on April 30th of the year of participation shall be the player's age for that season. NO EXCEPTIONS.

AGE DIVISION	PLAYER AGE ON APRIL 30	PLAYER GRADE BASED AGE
8U	8	9 /2nd
9U	9	10 /3rd
10U	10	11 /4th
11U	11	12 /5th
12U	12	13 /6th
13U	13	14 /7th
14U	14	15 /8th

2.6 Player Eligibility

- Players may not play on one or more roster in the same weekend in a COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) event. Any ineligible player (A player found to be playing on multiple teams/rosters during a COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) event) An ineligible player, as defined above, MAY cause the team(s) to be disqualified or put in as last seed. The player, parents and managers could face suspension at the discretion of the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors.
- No roster changes may be made less than 48 hours prior to the start of the tournament (See 2.2) unless approved by the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors.

2.7 Proof of Insurance

- All teams participating in any COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) Sanctioned event must upload to COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) proof of General Liability and Participant Accident Coverage. Coverage may either be through COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) or a similar policy that will cover the team for COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) events. It is required that all insurance name COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) additionally insured and be at a minimum of 1 million dollars of coverage. Address for additionally insured- CABA Colorado PO Box 280653 Lakewood CO 80228
- **Insurance must be submitted 20 days prior to the start of an event, failure to do so may result in removal from the event with no refund.**

2.8 Concussion Certification

- Certification certificates must be signed off online 48 hours in prior to the start of the event. When signing up and paying to participate in a COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) sanctioned event, you certify that you and all coaches on the field have completed a qualified concussion training course. Qualified courses would be Chase, Heads up, ASA, NFS, or comparable courses. All training must be updated annually and certificates provided upon request. By signing off, you are attesting that your coaches have concussion certification as outlined by Senate Bill 40 – The Jake Snakenberg Youth Concussion Act.

- COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) state tournament bids will be earned by:

- **To qualify you must be registered for State, pay and play in at least 2 CABA Colorado events within the regular season prior to State. A post state registration will not count.**

We will accept 1 tournament cancellation due to weather or field closures as a played event.

Teams must complete 1 CABA event within the season so their team can be properly ranked and qualified for your age and division of registration.

Qualification is based on the 2 tournament criteria regardless of a team’s location.

(CABA) State Directors reserve the right to offer at large berths.

State registration will open after the first event. Your team will have 24 hours after the first COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) event to register to guarantee a spot. You must be registered prior to the Komen and your registration will be confirmed concluding the event if not previously qualified. COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) will notify teams 30 days prior to State if your team does not meet qualification parameters. An at large berth may be given upon review by the State Directors.

- Pool Play/Tie breaker criteria State Tournament/3 Game Format:

(1) Win/loss record

(2) Head to head. **(Only when 2 teams are tied)** if there are more than two teams tied we will move to #3 Head to Head

(3) Average Runs Allowed (vs all teams played not just tied teams).

(4) Average Run Differential (against all teams not just tied teams) (maximum +/- 7 runs per game).

(5) Strength of Schedule

(6) Common Opponents

(7) Coin Flip (system generated)

3.1 Playing field and equipment.

- **3.01 A** The playing field dimensions for all COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) events shall be as follows:

AGE DIVISION	PITCHING DISTANCE	BASE LENGTHS
8U	40'	60'
9U	43'	65'
10U	46'	65'
11U	50'	70'
12U	50'	70'
13U	54'	80'
14U	60'	90'

Age's 8U-12U Metal spikes are **prohibited**.

- Age's 13U- 18U Metal spikes are allowed unless noted on portable mound or turf fields. **** If the metal spike rules are violated at any level of play and the infraction is detected, while the pitcher in violation is on the mound, the situation will be reviewed and a MINIMUM of the head coach ejection will be enforced. Additional consequences may include player and head coach removed from the tournament, forfeiture of game and elimination of team from the event. (CABA) State Directors reserve the right to make the final decision.**
- **3.01 C** All players are to be fully uniformed in baseball pants, socks, baseball caps, shoes and jerseys. Jerseys are not required to match.
 - The catcher shall wear appropriate protective gear including a catcher's helmet which fully covers their ears, with face mask and a throat guard, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup.
 - Offensive players and base coaches under the age of 18 must wear a double ear flap batting helmet at any time when outside of the dugout.
 - No visible jewelry of any kind will be allowed.(Exception: Medical Alert ALWAYS allowed)

● **3.01 D Bat Restrictions**

			
8U	YES	YES	YES
9U	YES	YES	YES
10U	YES	YES	YES
11U	YES	YES	YES
12U	YES	YES	YES
13U	YES	YES	YES
14U	YES	YES	YES

- ALL 8-13U MUST HAVE A BAT STAMPED WITH ONE OF THE ABOVE APPROVED BAT STAMPS
- ALL 14U MUST HAVE A BAT STAMPED WITH THE BBCOR or USSSA CERTIFIED STAMP **(-5 ONLY ALLOWED) All 14u players must use a maximum drop 5 (-5) bat with the 1.15 BPF Mark Permanently stamped**
- (NOTE: A 13YR OLD TEAM PLAYING UP TO 14'S MUST FOLLOW THE 14U BAT RULES)
- WOOD BATS ALLOWED AT ALL AGES
- Any bat declared unsafe will be removed immediately from the field of play.
- If a bat is declared non-compliant (as outlined in the chart above) prior to being used in the field of play:
 - First Offense- bat is removed and player and coach are warned. If bat is discovered after ball has been put in play, play is nullified and batter is called out.
 - Second Offense - the player and head coach will be ejected for the remainder of the game and an additional game played with COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA). If bat is discovered after ball has been put in play, play is nullified and batter is called out.
- Withdrawn/Disallowed Bats will be noted on the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) website.

3.2 Game Preliminaries

- **3.02A** Home team will be determined by a coin toss for pool games. For ALL bracket games higher seed will have the choice of home team or visiting team.
 - Home team will be the official scorebook. Electronic score books will be allowed as long as a printable copy is available at the request of the tournament director. Home team will complete game card given them by umpire.
 - Upon completion of the game, both coaches must sign the game cards and verify the score and pitching. Once you sign a game card, you are stating that the information on the card is correct. Any objections to the game cards will require the head coach or team manager, as listed on the online roster, to submit the online scores/pitching inaccuracies with 2 hours of game completion. Refusal to sign the game card will result in forfeiture. COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors have the final say on any changes once score cards are submitted.
- Pool Play/Tie breaker criteria (Regular Season)
 - (1) Win/loss record
 - (2) Head to head. **(Only when 2 teams are tied)** if there are more than two teams tied we will move to #3 Head to Head.
 - (3) Average Runs Allowed (vs all teams played not just tied teams).
 - (4) Average Run Differential (against all teams not just tied teams) (maximum +/- 7 runs per game).
 - (5) Coin Toss -by site director and witness if team or team Representative has left the facility- Once you move from one tie breaker to the next you do not go back.

- **3.02B Batting Lineup:**

Teams have 3 options and only these 3 options for a lineup:

1. A batting lineup of 9 players with legal substitutes on the bench. A substitution can be made with legal players. Upon substitution, the original player in the batting lineup can re-enter in the original batting spot only. The original substitute taken out of the game is not eligible to play on offense or defense anymore. Players in the batting lineup can play any defensive position at any time. Players not in the batting lineup are NOT allowed to play defense at any time. Prior to any substitutions the plate umpire must be notified. NO DH permitted at any time.
 2. A batting lineup of 10 players with legal substitutes on the bench. A substitution can be made with legal players. Upon a substitution, the original player in the batting lineup can re-enter in the original batting spot only. The original substitute taken out of the game is not eligible to play on offense or defense anymore. Players in the batting lineup can play any defensive position at any time. Players not in the batting lineup are not allowed to play defense at any time. The EH can be placed anywhere in the lineup. The EH can play defense at any time. NO DH permitted at ANYTIME.
 3. A batting lineup of all players present with no substitutes on the bench. All players can play any defensive position at any time. Any player taken out of the lineup will be counted as an out unless noted as an injured player with a concussion or where blood is present.
- A team's lineup choice must be declared prior to the start of the game and must be used for the entire game. If a violation is determined **(CABA) State Directors reserve the right to make the final decision.**
 - At no time is using a DH allowed for 8-14U.
 - NO courtesy runners allowed 8-14s. See **3.03e**
 - Lineup is established at the plate meeting.

- **3.02 b1:** If a team uses a lineup with substitutes, starters must return to the original batting slot in the lineup once after being removed. Starters **MUST** return into the same batting slot which they started the game in. Substitutes may not reenter the game once removed.
- **3.02 b2:** If a team uses a lineup batting 9 or 10 players there is free defensive substitution with the players in the lineup.
- **3.02 b3:** If a team bats their entire lineup all players not playing defensive positions are extra hitters, free defensive substitution is also allowed for all players when batting entire lineup.
- **3.02 b4:** A team may play with 8 players; however an out must be taken each time the 9th position comes to bat.
 - a) If a player leaves the game due to injury or illness he/she may not return to the lineup once his batting position comes to bat. His batting position shall be skipped and an out assessed if no eligible substitutes are available to take his spot. Exceptions: If during a play it is determined by the head coach, or acting head coach, that a possible concussion has occurred, the player shall be removed from the game without penalty. Players removed for possible concussion must have a signed medical release prior to returning to any game for the remainder of the tournament. In addition if a player leaves the game for a Communicable Disease reason, the player who recorded the previous out assumes the runner's position on base and for all remaining at bats the players turn in the batting order shall be omitted for the remainder of the game without penalty.
 - b) A 9th player and all subsequent players may be added to the bottom of the lineup if the player arrives at any point after the game has begun.

3.3 Games

- Game time begins after the coin flip. The plate umpire will be the official time. Failure to field a team within 15 min may result in a forfeit. A forfeit will be recorded as 7-0. A team that forfeits a pool-play game may not be eligible for championship play regardless of record. Per pitch innings allowed will be reduced upon the director's discretion.
- **3.03a:** A regulation game shall be 6 innings or 1 hr and 45 minutes for 8U-12U and 7 innings or 1hr and 45 min for 13U-14U. There shall be a 2 hour time limit for championship games. The run rule is in effect for all games. There will be no continuation of a game. Game will be scored as "not played" if not completed by run or rule. **(CABA) State Directors reserve the right to make the final decision.**
- **3.03b:** Run Rule- 8U-14U/ 20 runs after 2 innings, 15 runs after 3 innings; 10 runs after 4 innings; 8 after 5 innings.
- **3.03c:** In case a game cannot be completed due to weather, light failure or an act of God the game, is considered a completed regulation game if:
 - 8U-12U for a 6 inning game 3 innings have been completed, or if the home team has scored more runs in 2 innings or 2 ½ innings than the visiting team has scored in 3 innings or if the home team scores 1 or more runs in its ½ of the 3rd inning to tie the score.
 - 13U-14U for a 7 inning game 4 innings have been completed, or if the home team has scored more runs in 3 Innings or 3 ½ innings than the visiting team has scored in 3 innings or if the home team scores 1 or more runs in its ½ of the 3rd inning to tie the score.
- **3.03d:** Pool games will end in a time limit OR when the inning limit is reached. Pool play games can end in a tie. Elimination games that are tied at the end of regulation play (time or inning limit) will finish the game using California tie breaker.

a winner is determined.

(Example: the game ends in a 3-3 tie. The visiting team determines the #8 batter is due up. The team will put the #7 batter on second and there will be one out in the inning and both teams will play like this until a winner is decided.

- **3.03e:** Courtesy runners will not be allowed. (**Exception:** if a player/batter is removed from the game due to injury, a courtesy runner can be used and it will be the last recorded out. The injured player/batter is not allowed to return to the lineup unless the player/batter has been removed due to blood present. If there is no eligible substitute, the spot in the lineup will be an out unless blood is present or a player/batter has been removed for a concussion).
- **3.03f:** An intentional walk may be issued by informing the home plate umpire. The 4 pitches need not be thrown.
- **3.03g:** When a close play is evident, the runner must either attempt to avoid contact (malicious contact intended to dislodge the ball in the catcher's possession which can cause injury) or slide. Failure to do so, could result, depending on the point of contact, in the player being ejected and possibly called out. **There is NO mandatory slide rule.**
- **3.03h:** Tie Breakers will be determined by Win/Loss record, head-to-head (only if 2 teams are tied), runs allowed, run differential, and coin flip. The maximum differential will be +/- 7.
- **3.03i:** Mound Trips: Coaches may make one mound trip per pitcher per game, upon the second (2nd) mound trip the pitcher must be removed from the mound.

3.4 Pitching

- **3.04a:** A pitcher may NOT return to pitch in a game once removed from a game as the pitcher.
- **3.04b:** Innings pitched will be recorded by 1/3 of an inning. 1 out = 1/3 inning pitched, 2 outs = 2/3 of inning pitched, and 3 outs = 1 full inning pitched. If no outs are recorded the pitcher is not charged with any innings pitched. If a pitcher has 1/3 inning left and a double play is turned the pitcher is not in violation due the continuous play.
- **3.04c:** Each pitcher is allowed the following innings pitched. There are no per day restrictions for number of innings pitched. Innings may be used at the coaches' discretion. CABA Baseball does not pitch count.
- There are no additional innings awarded a pitcher for a 3 Game format. All events are a 3-game format EXCEPT- Mountain Event. Violation listed below.
- 4 Game format starting with the 5th game played, 6th = 1 more inning etc. (Mountain Event ONLY 4 game format event) Each player on the roster will be granted (1) additional inning per game played.

<u>Age</u>	Total Innings	<u>Age</u>	Total Innings
8	6	13	7
9	6	14	7
10	6		
11	6		
12	6		

- **3.04d:** Any violation of the pitching rules may result in but are not limited to:
 - Player and/or coach ejection/. Further penalties are at the discretion of the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors.
 - In case of a pitching violation, tournament director/site director must be advised of the violation from the head coach while the pitcher in violation is on the mound and the game must be stopped and time called.
- **If pitching rules are violated and the infraction is detected, the situation will be reviewed and a MINIMUM of the head coach ejection will be enforced. Additional consequences may include the player ejection from game, player and head coach from the tournament, forfeiture of game and elimination of team from the event. (CABA) State Directors reserve the right to make the final decision.**
- **3.04e: Balk Warnings:**
- Age 8U No Balks
- Ages 9U-10U 1 balk warning per pitcher, per game.
- Ages 11U-18U there will be no balk warnings.

3.5 Code of Conduct:

- **3.05a:** All players, coaches, managers, and spectators will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their parents and their spectators.
- Physical contact with an official, opposing staff or site staff will not be tolerated under ANY circumstances and will result in an immediate ejection for the remainder of the event.
- Abusive language or cursing will not be tolerated under any circumstances and will result in immediate ejection for the remainder of the event. This includes any communications to CABA Colorado Staff and Directors.
- Throwing of equipment will result in immediate ejection for the remainder of the event.
- All players, coaches and spectators are required to follow all guidance set by the state, city and county. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit with no refund.
- If a team is removed from an event: they will forfeit their entry fee in its entirety and may be suspended from any future COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) events
- All players and coaches agree to terms and conditions at the time of registration. A violation of the terms and conditions may result in removal from the event or future CABA Colorado events.
- **3.05b:** At the discretion of the umpire, site director or tournament director, any player, coach, manager or spectator whose conduct is unsportsmanlike or abusive shall at a minimum be given a warning. If warranted the offending party shall be ejected from the game and or additional future games as well as the player associated with the spectator, coach or manager.
 - 1) Verbal warning
 - 2) Restricted to the dugout
 - 3) Removed from facility for the remainder of the event
- **3.05c:** Any non-player (Coaches, Parents, Grandparents etc.) ejected from a game shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the fields and/or stands for the remainder of the game. Ejected persons are required to leave the park or venue. Further penalties are at the discretion of the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors. Failure to comply may result in the player associated with the Coach, Parents, Grandparents etc. being removed from the event.

8U DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES ONLY

8u division specific rules ONLY.

8U DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES ONLY 8u division specific rules ONLY. No leadoffs, no stealing home -- a runner *starting a play* at 3rd Base may *only* advance home on a batted ball or when *forced* home by a walk, hit batter, or other force play (bases loaded). For 8u, note that a walk is considered a "Dead Ball" situation -- the batter may only take 1st Base and any forced runners may only advance one base.

A runner starting from 1st or 2nd Base may advance home as a continuation of a play (there is not a mandatory "red light" at 3rd Base for a play in motion). For example, a runner is legally stealing 3rd base and an overthrow occurs then the runner may advance home on the continuation rule.

8U allows stealing of 2nd & 3rd base only. Runner may leave base only after the ball crosses plate: 1st Offense = Dead Ball / warning; 2nd Offense = Dead Ball / offending runner is called out, other runners return to previously occupied bases, no ball/strike charged to batter).

Batter may not run on dropped 3rd strike ... bunting is allowed. 10 run MAX. per half inning. No balks.

Additional Rules:

Games WILL be played in adverse weather conditions. The tournament format may be changed at the discretion of the COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) State Directors. Format changes may include but are not limited to: Shortening of game times or innings, schedule changes(one day event) and shortening of brackets. Teams choosing to not participate due to format changes will not be issued a refund. Teams and coaches accept this policy by entering the tournament. All teams must be prepared to play starting at 8am each day of the tournament.

- 9's will play straight baseball at all divisions.
- A forfeit WILL NOT be granted at a team's request.
- Infield warm-ups: NO pre-game infield warm ups are allowed
- Dugouts are first come first serve.
- If a team fails to show up for a registered event: they will forfeit their entry fee in its entirety and may be suspended from any future COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) events.
- If a team is removed from an event: they will forfeit their entry fee in its entirety and may be suspended from any future COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) events.
- **No awards will be given if an event does not complete in its entirety. Entirety is defined as by run or by rule. Please see 3.03a and 3.03b.**
- It is the intention of COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) to provide 2 officials for each game. COLORADO AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (CABA) does not however guarantee 2 officials for each game. As such, no refunds or credits will be issued.
- CABA COLORADO is bound by State and Local mandates.
- *RULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE*