

Ripken Baseball Tournaments

Frequently Asked Questions

We hope that all of the answers to your questions can be found in the information listed below. If not, please call us at 1-800-486-0850 and we will assist you in any way possible.

Q: Is there a dress code for the coaches?

A: Not specifically. Coaches are not required to wear a uniform during the games, but are expected to be dressed appropriately.

Q: How many coaches are allowed in the dugout?

A: Each team may have up to 4 adults (3 coaches and 1 scorekeeper) in the dugout at a time.

Q: What is the maximum number of players on the roster?

A: Each team may have no more than 15 players and 3 coaches on the roster.

Q: What is the age cut-off date?

A: Ages are based on the April 30, 2008 cut-off date. Whatever the players age is on April 30, 2008 is the age group they will participate in for the entire 2008 Ripken Baseball Tournament season. We have a convenient age determination chart available on our website with the tournament information. For all 2008 Fall Tournaments ages are based on the April 30, **2009** cut-off date. This means in most cases teams will move up an age group for all of our Fall Tournaments.

Q: Is proof of age required?

A: Yes. We need to verify the age of every player prior to the beginning of the tournament. Teams must submit birth certificates to our office prior to the tournament. No player will be allowed to participate in the tournament until proof of age is presented.

Q: Do the birth certificates need to be originals or copies?

A: Either is acceptable. Please submit birth certificates for all players at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the tournament. They can be either mailed or faxed to our office.

Q: How many umpires for each game?

A: 9u and 10u will have one umpire during pool play games and two during elimination rounds. 11u and 12u games will have two umpires at all games and four for the championship games. 13u and older age groups will have two umpires for all pool play and elimination round games and four umpires during the championship games.

Q: When will the tournament schedule be available?

A: The schedule will be posted on our website – ripkentournaments.com at least 2 weeks prior to the tournament. Each schedule is subject to change, so check back there often to make sure you have the most up-to-date information.

Q: When will the game results be posted?

A: We will post standings and results on the tournament board soon after each game ends. These results will also be posted on our website.

Q: Does Ripken Baseball keep individual stats for the tournaments?

A: No, Ripken Baseball will not keep statistics for any tournament in 2008.

Q: What happens if there is a tie?

A: Games can end in a tie during pool (divisional) play only. If a tie exists between two or more teams either for advancement to the elimination round or for seeding purposes, the following tie-breaker system will be used:

- 1) Head-to-head results (if applicable)
- 2) Average runs allowed per games played
- 3) Lowest single game runs allowed
- 4) Each subsequent lowest single game runs allowed (2nd lowest for each team, 3rd lowest for each team, etc.)
- 5) Coin flip

*A game featuring teams that are the same seed from different divisions will use a coin flip to determine home team.

Please note that **total runs scored** has no value in our tie breaker system. This is done to discourage teams from running up the score on their opponent.

Q: How will I know which seed my team is for the elimination round?

A: All information regarding results, standings, and seeding will be centrally located on the tournament board at the Ripken Baseball Academy. There will be extra copies there for coaches to take with them.

Q: Does the time limit apply if we are the last game of the day?

A: Yes. We must treat each game fairly. Early games may have ended due to the time limit so that the later games could be played on time. It would be unfair to allow the last game of the day to play beyond the time limit if earlier games could not do the same.

Q: Do we need to bring baseballs?

A: Game balls are provided by Ripken Baseball. Teams should bring their own practice balls.

Q: Does our team need its own insurance?

A: Yes. Each team must send us their Insurance Certificate prior to the tournament. **We must have “Ripken Baseball Camps and Clinics, LLC” and “Ripken Baseball Academy” listed as an ‘additional insured’ in the certificate holder section of the standard certificate of liability form.** This can be obtained by simply calling your insurance company and asking them to list that on the certificate. **Please note: we are not requesting to be added as a ‘named insured’ on your policy.**

Q: Are there pitching limits for the tournament?

A: Yes, we have posted the pitching limit chart in the rules section of the website. The limits are set where they are for two main reasons - to protect the arms of players that are still developing physically and to indirectly encourage teams to develop more pitchers so they are not relying on just a couple of arms for the tournament or the entire season. We realize that some coaches think that our limits are restrictive; however, we have had a lot of positive feedback from coaches and parents because we are looking out for the best interests of each individual player.

Q: What size bats are legal for our age group?

A:

- For the 9u/10u age groups – 2 ¼ inches in diameter with no weight restrictions
- For the 11u/12u age groups – 2 ¼ to 2 ¾ inches in diameter with no weight restrictions
- For the 13u age group – 2 ¾ inches in diameter with no weight restrictions
- For the 14u/15u age groups – No 2 ¾ inches in diameter with a -3 weight differential only

Q: What happens if it rains?

A: Our first priority is the safety of everyone at the facility. If the fields are judged unsafe, we will suspend, postpone, reschedule, or cancel games as needed. There are numerous factors in deciding when games are allowed to continue and we weigh each of those before making a decision.

In the event of rain we will do everything within our power to stay as close to the game schedule as possible. However, because of limited field availability we may have to deviate from the printed schedule.

If and when we need to alter the schedule, we use the following procedures/priorities as our guide:

1. 1. Our first priority will always be to make sure that each team plays it's minimum number of games.
 - We will try to maintain the original schedule as much as possible
2. 2. We will attempt to have a championship game
 - We will never name a champion of a tournament without a championship game
 - We may eliminate the quarter-final or semi-final round to ensure a championship game

Q: Are all of the dugouts covered?

A: No. Some of the fields at the Ripken Baseball Academy do not feature covered dugouts at this point. Teams may bring portable tents to cover the open dugouts if they wish.

Q: Do we need to bring water for the dugouts?

A: No. Ripken Baseball will provide ice water and cups in each dugout for all of the tournaments.

Q: How do I get to the satellite fields?

A: The satellite facilities are all within 10 miles of the Ripken Baseball Complex and specific directions can be found in the 'General Tournament Information' section of the website.

Q: Are tournament t-shirts and other Ripken Baseball merchandise available at the tournaments?

A: Yes. We will have merchandise set up at the Ripken Baseball Academy site throughout the tournament. 'The Hangar' will be open at Ripken Stadium as well.

Q: Will there be concessions available?

A: Yes. We will have a concessions stand at the Ripken Baseball Academy site from approximately 10:00am to 5:00pm each day of the tournament. The concession stands in Ripken Stadium will not be open for our tournaments. Generally speaking, the satellite facilities will not have concessions.

Q: Are players and their families allowed to bring food and coolers to the complex?

A: Yes. Although, we do ask that everyone make sure their trash is disposed of properly.

Q: Are there restaurants near the complex?

A: There are several dining options near the Ripken Baseball Complex and other satellite fields including fast food and sit-down style restaurants.

Q: Where is the best place to stay?

A: Ripken Baseball has partnered with several of the area hotels to assure that your stay with us is a quality stay both on and off the field. Hotel Partners include:

- Wingate Inn (410-272-2929)
- Clarion Aberdeen (410-273-6300)
- Sleep Inn & Suites(410-679-2997)
- Ramada Inn (410-679-2997)
- Best Western (410-679-2997)
- Holiday Inn (410-272-8100)
- Hampton Inn (410-670-6000)

Please call us at 1-800-486-0850 for further details and contact information.

Q: What is there to do for fun in the area?

A: There are numerous options within easy driving distance of the hotels and our complex. First of all, we are approximately 25 miles away from Baltimore, which offers a wide variety of family entertainment options. Also, the White Marsh area features many dining, shopping, and entertainment options. More locally, there is a movie theatre, two different miniature golf/batting cage facilities, and a shopping mall.

Q: What is the admission to the facility?

A: Admission at the Ripken Baseball Academy, Ripken Stadium, and all satellite field locations is free.

Q: Is there a place to sit at the Ripken Academy for parents and fans?

A: Each field at the Ripken Baseball Academy features grass berm seating. There are no bleachers at this point for parents and fans so we do recommend teams bring portable chairs or blankets to sit on.

Q: Is there handicap accessible parking?

A: Yes. At our facility and all other satellite facilities, there is plenty of handicap accessible parking.

Q: Can we bring pets to the tournament?

A: No. We unfortunately had a few incidents with pets at our facility which has forced us to adopt our current policy.