
NEW TO TOURNAMENT BASEBALL?

TRI-CITY TRIDENTS | 2027 Parent Guide | Faith • Family • Baseball

Tournament baseball is different from Little League. This guide explains what families can typically expect. Individual tournament rules and formats always take precedence.

HOW A TYPICAL WEEKEND WORKS

Tuesday — Schedules released: Organizers typically publish initial game times and opponents the Tuesday before the tournament. Times and fields can change.

Saturday — Pool play: Our teams typically play two games against assigned opponents with varying experience and ability. Results usually determine Sunday seeding.

Sunday — Bracket play: Expect approximately one to three games, depending on bracket placement, results and the event format. Some events have Gold, Silver and Bronze brackets; not all do.

HOW MANY GAMES?

Many tournaments guarantee 3-4 games across the weekend. For Tridents families, a common experience is two games on Saturday and one to three on Sunday. Bracket advancement can change the number of games played. Guarantees and formats vary by event.

POOL PLAY, SEEDING & TIEBREAKERS

Pool-play results help determine seeding and bracket assignments. Organizers may use wins and losses, runs allowed, run differential or head-to-head results as tiebreakers. Opponent strength can vary considerably in pool play.

PLAN FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND

Keep both Saturday and Sunday available. Sunday opponents and game times may not be confirmed until Saturday games finish. Coaches will communicate arrival times and updates through GameChanger.

WHAT TO BRING

Uniform, glove, bat, protective equipment, water, snacks, sunscreen or layers, and anything needed for downtime between games. Keep acceptable player age-verification documentation available in case tournament officials request it.

UNDERSTANDING GAME RULES

A few common differences from Little League

PITCHING LIMITS & REST

A common tournament rule we normally see is a 105-pitch maximum for the weekend. Under that particular rule, if a player throws 40 pitches or more on Saturday, the player must have one day of rest and cannot pitch on Sunday.

This is not a universal tournament rule: organizers may use different pitch thresholds, rest requirements or innings/outs limits. Coaches confirm the actual rules for each event.

During Saturday pool play, pitchers may be removed early—even when pitching well—to preserve eligibility for Sunday bracket games. Coaches also consider overall workload, including Little League participation, and may use more conservative limits for arm safety.

FIVE-RUN INNING LIMIT VS. MERCY RULE

In some Little League divisions, a half-inning ends once the batting team scores five runs. That automatic five-run switch generally does not apply in tournament baseball. Unless the event has a specific per-inning cap, a team keeps batting until three outs are recorded—even if it scores 10, 15 or 20 runs in that inning.

Teams may continue scoring with a large lead because runs scored or run differential can be used for bracket seeding or tiebreakers, depending on the tournament. Not every event uses those criteria.

A mercy rule (run rule) is different: it ends the entire game when a team leads by a specified margin after the required number of innings. Examples only: 10 runs after four innings or eight runs after five. The organizer sets the actual rule.

BATS & EQUIPMENT

All tournaments on the Tridents 2027 schedule allow USSSA-approved bats (often called AAA bats). Players may use these bats provided they meet the applicable age-division and event equipment requirements.

GAME LENGTH, TIES & EXTRA INNINGS

Tournament games often have inning and time limits; a new inning may not begin once the clock expires. Pool play may allow ties, while bracket games generally require a winner and may use special extra-inning procedures.

PLAYER AGE VERIFICATION

Parents must be able to provide acceptable proof of their player's age when tournament officials request it. An opposing team may challenge eligibility, and organizers may request verification at any time. Ask your coach which documents the event accepts.

PARENT FAQ & QUICK CHECKLIST

Why was my child pulled from pitching early?

Coaches may be managing pitch thresholds, mandatory rest and Sunday eligibility. Under the common example in this guide, a player reaching 40 pitches Saturday cannot pitch Sunday.

Why didn't the teams switch after five runs?

Unlike some Little League divisions, most tournament formats do not automatically end a half-inning after five runs. Play generally continues until three outs, subject to the event's rules.

Why would a team keep scoring with a big lead?

Runs scored or run differential may affect bracket seeding. A mercy rule may eventually end the game, but it is different from a five-run inning cap.

Will we know Sunday's schedule on Tuesday?

Not necessarily. Sunday opponents and start times often depend on Saturday pool-play results and bracket placement.

How many games should we plan for?

Typically two Saturday games and one to three Sunday games. Many events guarantee three or four total games; formats vary.

Are Gold, Silver and Bronze brackets guaranteed?

No. Bracket divisions depend on the number of teams and tournament format.

Can my player use an AAA bat?

Yes. All Tridents 2027 tournaments allow USSSA-approved (AAA) bats. Age-division and event equipment requirements still apply.

WHAT SHOULD I CHECK BEFORE EACH TOURNAMENT?

- Game times, fields and arrival instructions
- Game guarantee and bracket format
- Pitching limits and rest requirements
- Per-inning caps, mercy rules, time limits and tiebreakers
- Approved bats and required age-verification documents
- GameChanger messages from coaches

OUR TRIDENTS APPROACH

We value development, sportsmanship, teamwork and character alongside competition. Pitching decisions consider player safety, workload and the whole weekend—not just the current inning.

IMPORTANT: This is a parent orientation guide, not an official tournament rulebook. Rules can differ by event, age group and organizer. The event's published rules and officials govern.