

Rail Yard Classic FAQs

Q: Can we use USSSA Bats?

A: Yes. Bats shall not exceed 2^{5/8} inch diameter.

Q: What is the distance of the pitching machine?

A: The tail of the machine must be in contact (typically draped across) the pitching rubber which is 46 feet. It can be moved back or fourth to a degree to ensure consistent strikes, but it should be in or very close contact.

Q: Will there be concessions?

A: The Home Run Grill will be open during the tournament. They have burgers, hot dogs, fries etc.. Quite possibly the best concession stand in youth sports. <https://www.facebook.com/homerungrill>

Q: What type of pitching machines will be used?

A: Louisville Slugger Black Flame. All settings set to "4". The nub setting may be changed as needed to throw strikes. Hight and Arc settings may be changed to accommodate the need to throw strikes, but the spring will be set to 4.

Q: Can we bring our own machine?

A: No

Q: With the 6 max runs per inning, what if the batter hits the ball over the fence to potentially score more than 6?

A: You can only score 6 runs

Q: Do we need to bring game balls?

A: Nope. Provided by tournament.

Q: What type of ball will be used?

A: We will be using a hard balls similar to the Diamond DLL-1

Q: Who monitors the 2 hour time limit?

A: The games are assumed to have started on time, so anyone (ump, coaches, tournament official) can call it out at the 2 Hour mark. The umpire should then make the call. IF A GAME STARTS LATE, THE START TIME MUST BE AGREED UPON BY THE UMPIRE AND COACHES UPFRONT SO THE END TIME CAN BE ADEQUATELY ADJUSTED.

Q: Are there any specific player jewelry or pitcher sunglass rules?

A: There is not, but it is at an umpire's discretion to determine if it causes a safety issue or distraction. If so, the umpire can ask the player to remove it.

Q: Mercy Rule. If the visiting team starts the top of the fourth winning 8-0 and scores two to six runs to go up by 10 or more runs during the inning, does the home team still gets to bat in the bottom of the inning?

A: Yes. The rule does not apply until the losing team has 4 material at bats.

Q: Mercy Rule. If in the bottom of the fourth, the home team started the inning winning 9-0 and then scores 10th run – is the game immediately over?

A: Yes

Q: Is the 2 hour a hard stop and the game ends, or is it that the top of a new inning cannot start?

A: A new inning cannot begin after the 2 hour mark. Any inning started prior to 2 hours can be played until completion.

Q: Can we use the electronic scoreboards?

A: Yes!! You just need an *adult* to get the controller from the concessions stand. Know your field number and be prepared to leave a set of keys in exchange so you don't accidentally drive off with it. Most (but not all) of our fields have electronic scoreboards. They are easy to operate.

Q: Should we be wearing our away (dark color) jerseys for the tournament? Or should we be wearing a Jersey based upon the dugout assigned to the team?

A: Either or both. Some teams only have one jersey, so come as you are.

Q: Rule number 13 – There will be a six-run limit per inning with exception of the 6th inning or any extra inning. This will not be in effect for any presumed 'last inning' prior to the 6th inning. Does this mean if we are in the 5th inning and based on the 2 hour time limit (no inning starts after that), this will be the last inning, then there is no run limit this inning?

A: No, the only unlimited inning will be the 6th or beyond. There should never be a "declared" last inning.

Q: Can games go into extra innings?

A: Only elimination games can go into extra innings.

Q: Where can our team warm up before games?

A: If there are no games on your field ahead of time, you can warm up on the field. Please limit to the outfield with shared time with the opponent in the infield. We do have batting cages with 3 tunnels, please be courteous to other teams. There are several parks and schools in the area which are not great:

- Egypt Park (Green Space)
- Northside/Dudley School (Green space)
- Potter Park (4 very rough fields)

Q: Do we need to wait for the umpire to flip the coin for home vs away?

A: No, flip away. Dugouts are pre-determined.

Q: Are pets allowed at your complex

A: This is private property. **THERE ARE NO PETS ALLOWED.** Please spread the word.