



CABA COLORADO – 2026 TOURNAMENT RULES-FAQ's

New Rules for 2026 are highlighted

(Updated: November 2, 2026)

All CABA Colorado tournaments follow the **Official Rules of Professional Baseball** (as published by the National Baseball Congress) **plus** the specific rules below.

TEAM & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Team Roster Requirements

- Teams must have **8 to 24 players** on their roster.
- Rosters must be submitted **online 30 days before** the tournament.
- **Minimum of 3 adults** must be on the roster (4 if manager won't be in attendance).
- Anyone in the dugout or on the field (coaches, assistants, bat kids, etc.) **must** be listed.
- **Failure to register all personnel may result in a forfeit.**

Roster Management

- Rosters lock after your first CABA event of the year.
- To make roster changes after lock:
 - Email info@cabacolorado.com **at least 10 days** before the next event.
 - Include team name, age group, division, and manager's info.
 - Added players must be covered by the team's insurance. Sole responsibility of the team manager.

Player Roster Rules

- Players **cannot** appear on more than one team's roster in the **same event**.
- Players **may** appear on different rosters in different events throughout the season.
- If a player not on the online roster plays in a game:
 - They must be removed immediately. There will be an admin fee associated with adding the player during the tournament. This fee will be due immediately via your team sideline account/Venmo
 - If not removed, the team **may forfeit** the game.

Age & Grade Verification

- Proof of age/grade must always be available on site.
- Acceptable documents:
 - Certified birth certificate
 - Naturalization papers
 - Passport or military birth certificate
 - School report card or ID with grade

April 30 is the age cutoff date. A player's age on this date determines their playing age for the season. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule other than the Grade exception.

INSURANCE & CERTIFICATIONS

Team Insurance

- General Liability and Participant Accident Coverage are **required**.
- Coverage must:
 - List “CABA Colorado” as **additionally insured**
 - Include at least **\$1 million** in coverage
 - Be submitted **20 days before the tournament**
 - Address: PO Box 280653, Lakewood, CO 80228

It is the team manager's responsibility to submit insurance and ensure its valid. Rosters and Insurance are the responsibility of the Manager on record. It is not CABA Colorado's responsibility to ensure these are in good order prior to the participation in an event.

Concussion Training

- All coaches must complete annual concussion certification.
- Training must meet standards under **Senate Bill 40 – The Jake Snakenberg Act**.
- Certification must be acknowledged at time of registration.

TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE & RULES

State Tournament Qualification:

To qualify for State:

- Play and pay for **at least 2** CABA Colorado tournaments **before** State.
- One weather-related cancellation still counts as a “played” event.
- Post-State registration **does not** count toward eligibility.
- Final qualifications are determined by **CABA State Directors**.

Tiebreakers (Pool Play & State)

Used in this order:

1. Win/loss record
2. Head-to-head (ONLY if 2 teams tied) if there are more than 2 teams tied move on to #3
3. Average runs allowed (vs all teams played not just tied teams)
4. Run differential (max ± 7 per game) against all teams not just tied teams
5. Strength of schedule
6. Common opponents
7. Coin flip (system generated)

FIELD, EQUIPMENT, & GAME SETUP

Metal Spikes

- **8U–12U:** Metal spikes **not allowed**
- **13U–14U:** Allowed **except** on turf or portable mounds

Uniforms & Safety Gear

- Unique numbers mandatory (no repeat numbers), matching uniforms recommended. A uniform consists of baseball pants and shirt.
- Catchers: Helmet, mask, throat guard, chest protector, shin guards, protective cup
- Batters & base coaches under 18: Double ear-flap helmets
- **No jewelry allowed including smart watches**, except medical alerts.

Bat Rules

- **8U–13U:** Must use bats with approved stamps (USSSA/BPF 1.15 or USA) **Wood bats allowed** at all ages
- **14 AAA/AA/U Events:** Must use BBCOR (-3 drop) OR USSSA/BPF1.15 (-5 drop only) **Wood bats allowed** at all ages
- **Penalty for non-compliant bats:**
 - **1st offense:** Bat removed, warning issued
 - **2nd offense:** Player and coach ejected for current and next game

Withdrawn bats are listed on the CABA website.

GAME RULES

Game Time

- CABA Baseball will be providing 3 game balls per game. Teams are responsible for retrieving foul balls. Any additional balls that may be needed will be supplied by the teams.
- Game time starts **after coin flip**.
- **A forfeit may be imposed** if team doesn't take field within **15 minutes**. (Unless delayed on another field)
- **6 innings or 1h45m** for 8U–12U, **7 innings or 1h45m** for 13U–14U.
- **Championship games**: 2-hour time limit.

Run Rule

- **20-run lead after 2 innings**
- **15-run lead after 3 innings**
- **10-run lead after 4 innings**
- **8-run lead after 5 innings**

Incomplete Games (Weather, etc.)

- **8U–12U**: Game is official after **3 innings** (or 2.5 if home team leads)
- **13U–14U**: Official after **4 innings** (or 3.5 if home team leads)

Ties & Extra Innings

- **Pool games may end in ties**
- **Bracket games use California Tiebreaker**:
 - Last batter out starts at 2nd base, 1 out

Lineup Options:

A lineup must be presented to the opposing team before each game begins. Game Changer will not be accepted as official for the lineup.

1. **Bat 9:** With subs. Re-entry allowed once. No DH.
2. **Bat 10:** EH allowed. Same rules as above.
3. **Bat entire lineup:** Free defensive subs. No bench subs.
 - Must declare lineup type **before the game**
 - **No DH** or **courtesy runners** for 8U–14U
 - Teams may play with 8 players (9th spot = automatic out)

Pitching Rules

- **Pitchers cannot return** once removed from the mound
- Innings tracked in thirds (1 out = $\frac{1}{3}$ inning)
- **No pitch counts** — just inning limits. Pitch count is the responsibility of the team.
- Ages 8-12 6 Inning Total for the event/ Ages 13-14 7 Inning Total for the event.
- **Mountain Event Exception:** Extra innings granted starting with 5th game

****Pitching rule violations may result in coach/player ejections or forfeit at the discretion of CABA COLORADO State Directors.**

Balk Warnings

- **8U:** No balks
- **9U–10U:** One warning per pitcher
- **11U–18U:** No warnings

CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

Code of Conduct

- Coaches/Managers are responsible for **players, parents, and fans**
- Grounds for **immediate ejection**:
 - Physical contact
 - Abusive language or threats
 - Throwing equipment
- **No refunds** for teams removed due to misconduct

Ejections:

- **Non-players** (coaches/parents) ejected must leave the facility immediately. Failure to do so may result in the ejection of the team from the event with NO refund.
- Further actions may be taken, including suspension

SPECIAL RULES

8U-Specific Rules

- **No leadoffs**
- **Stealing only allowed to 2nd and 3rd**
- **No stealing home** unless forced (walk, HBP, etc.)
- **Walk = dead ball** — only 1 base allowed
- **No dropped 3rd strike rule**
- **Max 10 runs per half-inning**
- **No balks**

One-Way Communication-

- One-way electronic communication devices are allowed to be used by every player in the field; both on defense and offense. The use of a smartwatch (ex: iOS or Android) is illegal and subject to the penalty listed below.
- **PENALTY:** The umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender(s) of that team will be ejected along with the head coach.

GENERAL NOTES

- No infield warmups before games
- Coin toss for home team during pool play. Higher seed for bracket play.
- **Music / Artificial Noise Makers:** No music (walk-up or warm-up) OR artificial noise makers are allowed at any park. While it seems to be a bit strict, music / noise makers can escalate a potential minor situation into something that is much more severe and unpleasant for all involved.
- No video replay. Game Changer is not the official book. GC is a scoring tool used by teams and is not required by CABA.
- No guaranteed umpires per game (2 officials **not guaranteed**)
- Dugouts are first-come, first-served
- **No awards** if the event isn't completed (by run or rule) A team's seed indicates its starting position in the bracket and **does not represent a win**.
- CABA is subject to local/state mandates

RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Always refer to cabacolorado.com for the most current rules and updates.