

Festival Baseball/Softball Guidelines

Revised 5/8/23

Middle school games will be controlled by the National Federation rules with the following exceptions:

- Offense:
 - **Three outs** or bat **one time** through the line up or **score 6 runs**, move from offense to defense
- Leadoff
 - Lead off ok when umpire is ready to drop ball
- Screen/Machine
 - If a hit ball goes into the screen or hits the pitching machine, it is a single and the runners move up a base.
- Batters go into the batters box with a 1 and 1 count.
 - When batters step in to hit they have one strike and one ball
 - Feeder will show the ball and then put it in the machine with no hesitation
- *Speed up rule for catchers*
 - *If a catcher gets a hit, the last out may become the runner*
- Pitching Machine Speed
 - Will be the same for both teams
 - The speed is to be agreed to by both coaches **before** the game starts
- Umpire feeds the machine, they are in the middle of the infield can see all bases and see the strike zone
- Umpire will also put the ball in the machine the same way each time. (This will also keep one more body out of the infield)
- Game time is **one hour** drop dead time, with no new inning after 50 minutes (no matter what the situation)
- Foul balls
 - Both teams are responsible for foul balls on your side and behind the plate. If balls are not returned promptly it will cut down playing time
 - Each team should bring at least 6 new balls to the Festival
- Any thrown ball that hits the screen is a live ball.
 - *Exception:* Ball thrown back to Pitcher from the Catcher
 - Pitcher must be behind screen until after the pitch
- **NO STEALING OR BUNTING during Festival Games**