



## Sycamore Titans Spring Swing Tournament Rules

- I. **Age Cutoff:** April 30<sup>th</sup>, per USSSA. A player's age on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is the youngest age level a player is eligible to play or meet the grade level exception per USSSA Rules. Teams will consist of no more than 13 players that meet the maximum age requirement in your age group. Team managers should have a team roster, birth certificates, and insurance on hand and available upon request. If a team cannot provide these documents, they will forfeit the tournament.
- II. **Field Dimensions:** The following base length and pitching distance will be used for each age group below:
  - A. 9U – 46' mound / 60' bases
  - B. 10U – 46' mound / 65' bases
  - C. 11U & 12U – 50' mound / 70' bases
  - D. 13U – 54' mound / 80' Bases
  - E. 14U – 60'6" mound / 90' Bases
- III. **Coin Flip:** The home team is determined by a coin flip. The home team will be the official score book and will compare the score each inning with the opponent scorekeeper and umpire.
- IV. **Line-up:** Coaches should turn in their line-up to the umpire and the opposing coach. The line-up card should include the player number and first and last name of all players in their proper position in the batting order.
- V. **Final Score:** At the end of each game, the winning team will notify or text the final score to the Tournament Director, Gregg Moore, at (630) 390-8776 and Tournament Coordinator, John Bradley, at (815)-751-2519. This must be done within 30 minutes after the game ends. Example text would be:  
**8:00AM, Field 4, 12U, Sycamore Titans - 3 vs. Aurora Stars - 2**
- VI. **Bat Restrictions:**
  - A. 9U – 12U: Bats used MUST conform to USSSA standards. If a team is caught using a non-authorized bat it will be an automatic forfeit.
  - B. 13U - 14U: Bat use is restricted to -8 bat w/ USSSA 1.15 BPF stamp, -3 BBCOR or wood bat.
- VII. **Game balls:** The Tournament will provide all game balls. Two balls per game will be used except in the event of poor field conditions or in the discretion of the individual Field Coordinator.
- VIII. **Baseball Shoes:** There are no metal or hybrid metal-molded spikes allowed, except at the 13U & 14U age divisions. Fully Molded cleats, rubber cleats or baseball turf shoes are allowed.
- IX. **Game length:** All divisions will be played with a one hour and forty minute (1:40) time limit, except for the championship games on Sunday. No new inning will start after the one hour and forty minute time limit. Whether there is a game following or not has no bearing on the time limit. Tie games will be recorded for pool play. The time limit is determined when the last out of the inning is recorded. Umpire has the final say on this matter. **Time limits may be changed by the Tournament Director in order to get the Tournament concluded. Please be ready to play up to 30 mins before the listed game time.**
- X. **Game time is forfeit time.** For seeding purposes, teams will be credited for forfeit wins and receive 6 runs added to their run total.



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- XI. **Game called because of weather:** A 6-inning game = 3 innings or 2 ½ if the home team is ahead. A 7-inning game = 4 innings or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead, will determine a completed game. Games suspended will begin where it left off, if not an official game as described above.
- XII. **Tie Breakers:** If a tiebreaker is needed to determine final pool play standings, the following criteria shall be used.
- A. Win-loss record
  - B. Head-to-head (only applies when two teams are involved)
  - C. Runs Allowed – Fewest to Most
  - D. Run Differential
  - E. Runs Scored – Most to Fewest
  - F. Coin Flip
- XIII. **Mercy Rule:**
- A. 12 after 4 innings, or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead.
  - B. 10 after 5 innings, or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead.
- XIV. **Rosters:**
- A. 8 players minimum to play an official game. If playing with 8, the 9<sup>th</sup> batter does **NOT** constitute an out.
  - B. The team roster must be completed via SportsEngine prior to the start of each team's first game. Additionally, proof of insurance with Sycamore Youth Baseball name on the policy must be submitted to the Tournament Director, Gregg Moore, at [gmoore18@outlook.com](mailto:gmoore18@outlook.com) prior to the start of the team's first game. If you do not email the insurance prior to the start of the tournament, you may turn in your documents at the registration table prior to your first game.
- XV. **Pitching restrictions:** No pitching restrictions at any level. However, these are young arms so please use common sense and good sportsmanship in your decision. **Any pitcher hitting two batters in one inning or three batters in one game shall be removed from the pitching position immediately, but will be allowed to reenter the game in a different position. Once you have removed a player from the pitching position, he/she cannot pitch again until the next game.**
- XVI. **Manager visits:** A manager is allowed one visit per pitcher per inning. The pitcher must be removed on the second visit. Managers must ask and receive permission from the umpire before entering the field of play and making a visit to the mound. A visit will not be charged in health concern cases.
- XVII. **Intentional walks:** No pitches need to be thrown.
- XVIII. **Batting Order:** A continuous batting order must be used at all levels. Teams are allowed free defensive substitution among all hitters. Example, one team may bat 12 and their opponent 13 if that is the number of players available for that game. If players arrive late or leave early, they will still be allowed to play provided the scorekeeper of the opposing team is notified at the time of the appearance/disappearance. Players arriving late are inserted as the last batter in the order. Players leaving early will not count as an out in the order, unless the total number of players on a team drops to 8, at which time, an out will be called in the position vacated. If a team neglects to notify the opposing scorekeeper of the changes prior to the start of the game or an inning, an out will be called.



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- XIX. **Bunting:** Allowed at all levels **EXCEPT 9U, BUT** pulling back and swinging away is not allowed. The first offense will result in a verbal warning to both teams and managers. A second offense for either team will result in that team's manager being ejected.
- XX. **Base Running/Lead Offs:** No leadoffs are allowed at 9U and 10U levels. Players cannot leave a base they occupy until the pitched ball has passed home plate or has been hit. Lead-offs are allowed at the 11U - 14U levels. At these levels players can steal any base at any time.
- XXI. **Dropped Third Strike:** Dropped third strike rule only applies at the 11U - 14U levels. Please reference IHSA rules for clarification of the dropped third strike rule.
- XXII. **Infield Fly Rule:** Infield fly rule will be in effect, where appropriate in the judgment of the Umpire, at the 11U - 14U levels only. Please reference IHSA rules for clarification of the infield fly rule.
- XXIII. **Balks:** There are no balks at the 9U & 10U levels. At 11U, 12U and 13U, the Umpire shall give one balk warning to each pitcher before the balk rule is enforced.
- XXIV. **Slide rule:** All runners must slide to avoid contact on close plays where a tag may occur. A collision between runner & fielder will be the umpire's discretion on calling the runner out and their decision is final. A player ejection, based on the slide rule, is for the rest of the game and if the Umpire and Tournament Director determine it was intentional and flagrant they may impose additional game suspensions. Head first slides are only allowed at the 11U - 14U levels.
- XXV. **Courtesy runners:** At any time, the team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher of record for the **NEXT** inning on defense. When there are two outs, a courtesy runner **MUST** be used for the catcher in order to keep up the pace of the game.
- XXVI. **Infield warm-up:** Not allowed. Warm-ups must be done outside the playing field due to time restrictions. Teams can play catch in the outfield if time allows before their scheduled game.
- XXVII. **Team batting warm-ups:** Permitted in the batting cages and open areas. Warm-up areas include the areas between fields, outside the batting cages, or near the parking area. **Soft toss into facility fences is strictly prohibited and finable by the Sycamore Park District. The (2) batting cages beyond the outfield of Fields 1 & 2 and (3) batting cages beyond LF on Field 4 can be used prior to and in-between games.**
- XXVIII. **Protective Gear:** All players are strongly encouraged to wear protective athletic support and a hard cup.
- XXIX. **Uniforms:** The jersey/shirt of all players must be tucked into their uniform pants when on the playing field.
- XXX. **Umpires:** Every effort has been made to assign umpires with requisite skill and knowledge for the age level assigned. IHSA "patched" umpires have been assigned to as many games as possible, based on availability. Any "unpatched" umpire working behind the plate has a minimum of 3 years of umpiring experience. Any "unpatched" umpire working in the field has a minimum of 2 years of umpiring experience. Sycamore Titans and Sycamore Youth Baseball seek to foster the development of umpires to help the sport grow. We welcome any feedback, positive or negative, directed solely to the tournament director or coordinators.



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- XXXI. **Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated:** Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will serve the remainder of that game, plus the next game. **Whether or not a player's or coach's conduct was unsportsmanlike will be determined by the umpire and the site supervisor.** Managers and coaches are responsible for the behavior of the entire team, parents/fans included. At the umpire's and site supervisor's discretion, unruly fans will be warned once, and then ejected from the ballpark for the remainder of the tournament. The Umpire(s) are in control of the games once the teams occupy their respective dugouts. Failure to cooperate with these conduct rules can result in the forfeiture of the current game and Tournament elimination.
- XXXII. **Smoking/Alcohol:** There is no smoking in the dugouts or on the fields. No alcohol is to be consumed at the complex.
- XXXIII. **Awards:** 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place will be given awards at the conclusion of bracket play for each age level.
- XXXIV. **Schedules:** Sycamore Titans reserves the right to adjust the schedule in the event of potential weather or other unforeseen events.
- XXXV. **Rain-out Policy:** 100% refund less a \$50 administrative fee will be given if (0) zero games are played. 50% refund will be given if (1) one game has been completed. 0% refund will be given if more than (1) one game has been completed. If the tournament is to be canceled due to inclement weather before we even start, we will do our very best to communicate the cancellation in a timely manner via email.
- XXXVI. **IHSA rules apply if not designated.**

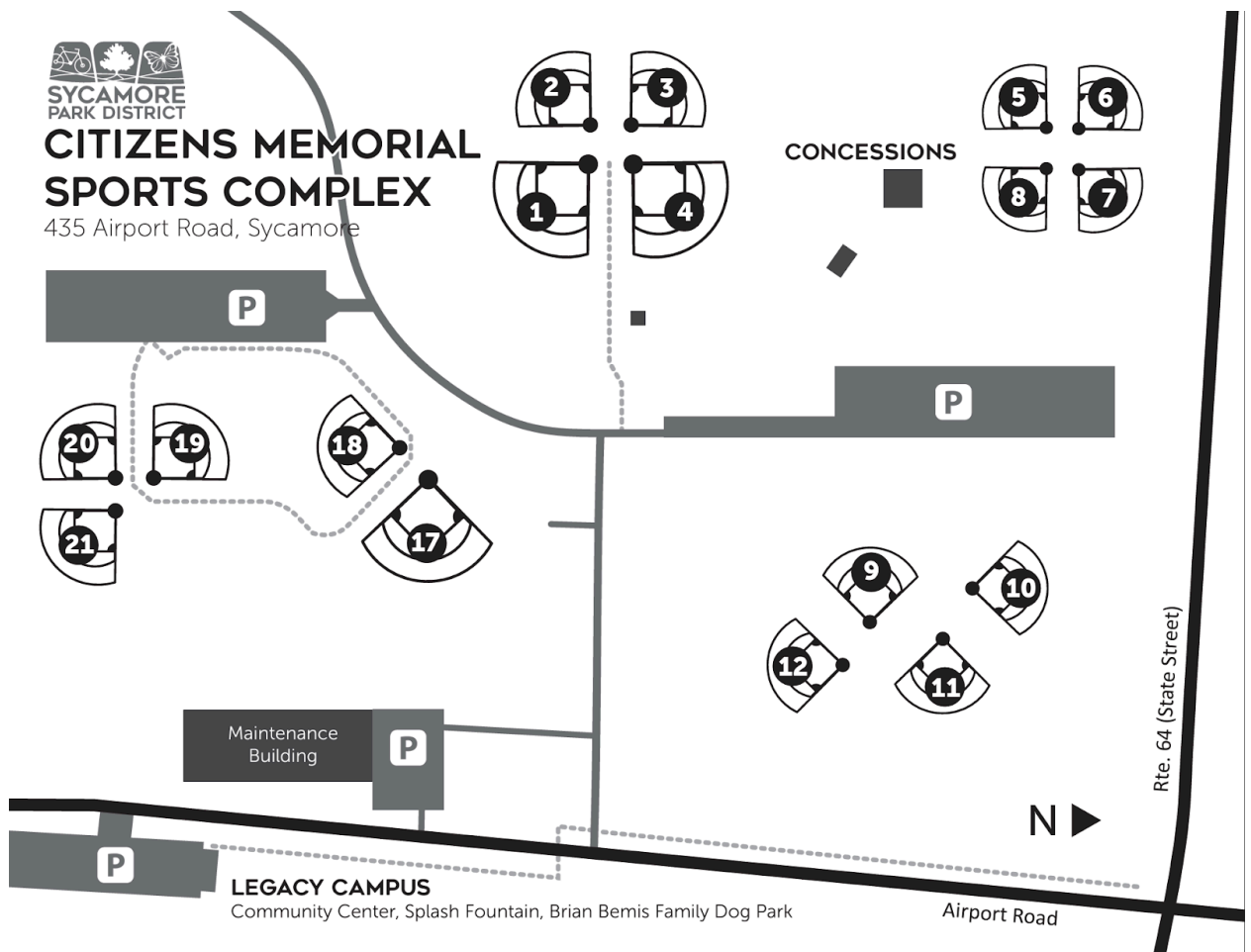


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## TOURNAMENT CONTACT

Spring Swing Tournament Director - Gregg Moore (630) 390-8776  
Spring Swing Tournament Coordinator - John Bradley (815) 751-2519  
Spring Swing Tournament Coordinator - Jarod Gale (815) 761-6427

*\*Tournament rules are subject to change at any time by the Spring Swing Tournament Director.*



revised 4/2025

The tournament check-in and director/coordinators will be located at the gazebo adjacent to the concessions building.