

Dear ECTB Participating Coaches, Parents & Players:

We welcome you to the ECTB organization and anticipate your team will have an enjoyable, memorable and competitive season with us.

We ask that you take the time to review our Rulebook, Policies & Procedures Manual from start to finish as there is much informative and valuable information within its pages.

We have created the following Policies & Procedures for the betterment of our organization and those who participate within it. We pride ourselves on being straightforward; there are no hidden costs, no hidden rules.

We ask that as you review our policies & procedures you bear in mind that these policies have been created and are upheld to provide a standard way of conducting our organization. Everyone is treated fair and equal -no one is given partial treatment over another.

Policies & Procedures, Game & Playing Rules that have changed from the previous year are highlighted in gray.

Bear in mind as you review this manual that ECTB has an office staff as well as a field staff (Directors, Umpires, Field maintenance crews) that work diligently to provide your team with the best of the best in quality tournaments. Policies that outline Administrative Fees or penalties are enforced to again provide a standard within the organization as well as to assist in covering the cost of these dedicated staff members in conjunction with the other up-front costs involved in hosting events (i.e. website upkeep, field rentals, field insurance, field upkeep, etc).

We look forward to having your team with us for another season!

Sincerely,

ECTB Staff

ECTB OFFICE

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ELITE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT BASEBALL

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EVENT FIELD LOCATIONS

* Please review Field Addresses and Directions at our website www.ectb.org
under the information tab on the left of the home page*

ELITE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT BASEBALL

Official ECTB Team Manual

Please Note: This Manual (Rulebook, Policies & Procedures) is not inclusive. ECTB reserves the right to make changes, updates and additions to these rules, policies and procedures when deemed necessary by ECTB Officials. Teams not finding a rule in ECTB can refer to the online Rulebook that will have all updated changes and additions. The online Team Manual can be found at www.ectb.org under the INFORMATION link on the Home Page of the website.

Section A NAME AND OBJECTIVE

- A1. NAME:** This organization was established in 1999 as East Coast Tournament Baseball, Inc. In 2005, the organization legally changed its name to ELITE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT BASEBALL
- A2. OBJECTIVE:** The objective of ECTB is to organize and promote youth and adult baseball events for the love of the game. This organization is committed to providing opportunities for teams and individuals to compete in tournaments, leagues and showcase competitions that lead to state, regional and National Championships. ECTB strives to grow its organization across the United States thus the need to change the name of the organization from **East Coast** to **Elite Championship** to allow the promotion and growth of the organization beyond just the East Coast.

Section B MEMBERSHIP

- B1. TEAM MEMBERSHIP:** All teams participating in an ECTB function (i.e. tournament, league, official or sanctioned) are required to be licensed members with ECTB's organization. This is an annual membership due of **\$50 per team** (Non-Refundable) that must be paid prior to a team participating in their first event of that season.

1. A team's annual membership dues cover them for all ECTB events (official and sanctioned). ECTB membership allows teams to qualify for ECTB National events.
2. Teams can view the Manual on the website or purchase pocketsize manuals at the online store, www.ectb.org.
3. **Each team will receive their ECTB membership number for the current season. MEMBERSHIP SEASON: Membership runs from September 1st through August 31st for Membership only. All teams will be required to pay for their 2010 membership September 1st, 2009 to participate in the fall of 2009 and/or to purchase 2009 Fall Team Season Insurance.**
4. Teams need to print their team's ECTB membership certificate by logging onto the website with their assigned username and password.
5. Teams participating in ECTB events, whether Official or Sanctioned events, may be required to show their team ECTB membership certificate prior to the start of the event. ECTB does notify all Sanctioned Hosts and field directors as to anyone who is outstanding on meeting this requirement.
6. Teams that do not comply and pay their ECTB dues prior to the event start date will be required to pay this fee prior to taking the field. Teams will NOT participate until this fee is paid. NO EXCEPTIONS!

B2. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP: All teams participating in an ECTB League are required to be licensed members with ECTB's organization. Please see B1 for details about membership.

B3. TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION: ECTB offers two types of Tournament events on the website:

1. Official ECTB Events:

- a. Official events are conducted by ECTB Officials and will be advertised in **RED** (in most cases) and will have "ECTB" in the title of the tournament name (i.e. ECTB 5th Annual Mother's Day Classic). Some Official events will be listed in other colors if they are Wood Bat events or other types of events.

Check the Color Code Key on the website to determine what type of event you are interested in registering for.

- 2. Sanctioned Events:** Sanctioned events are hosted and conducted by individuals who have signed a contract with ECTB. These individuals have been granted approval by ECTB Officials to Host events and must follow the mandatory guidelines set forth by ECTB. Sanctioned events are NOT Official events.

Another Type of Sanctioned Event:

Option #1: These Sanctioned Events are listed on the website in TEAL. These events are sanctioned ECTB BUT they are Administrated by the actual host which means the Host is responsible to collect their own entry fees, follow up with teams regarding fees due, paperwork due, create their own brackets, schedules, etc. They are also responsible for any refunds to teams based on teams withdrawing from events or in the event of inclement weather and events canceled. They are required to follow ECTB's Refund Policies as well as all other Policies outlined in the ECTB Manual that pertains to hosting a Sanctioned Event.

All Sanctioned Events:

- a. Sanctioned events offer Invitational Berths to the annual ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) held annually in late July / early August. Check the tournament details to determine if the event offers a PAID berth (entry fee for the event is paid) or just an Invitational Berth (invitation to the NCS but not paid).
- b. Sanctioned events will follow the Official ECTB Rulebook as well as Official ECTB Policies and Procedures unless otherwise specified in the Tournament Details.
 - i. If a Sanctioned Host requests to have Addendum or Amended Rules, the Host is required to present this to ECTB when submitting their request to host an event. Addendum rules must be approved by ECTB.

- ii. If approved by ECTB, the Addendum / Amended rules will be included in the Tournament Details on the website and the Host will be required to provide each team with a copy of the Addendum / Amended rules at the start of the tournament.

ECTB CAN NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY FEES SENT DIRECTLY TO THE HOST OR FEES THAT HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO A HOST.

- B4. TOURNAMENT REGISTRATIONS:** All ECTB tournaments held prior to ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) events will qualify teams for NCS play.
1. Teams are eligible to register for any event in their own age bracket or any age division up.
 2. All registrations must be done via the ECTB website (www.ectb.org).
 3. Teams can register for as many events as they would like.
Registrations are not guaranteed for those events until payment is received.
 4. **“Intent to Participate”:** Teams can register with “Intent to Participate” BUT are not guaranteed a spot in that event until the tournament entry fee is received in full and only then based on availability. Teams that are registered with “Intent to Participate” can submit a Reservation Deposit to reserve a spot (based on availability) BUT must then submit the balance before the sixty (60) day deadline. See **B5** for further details on Reservation Deposits.
 5. Teams registering with a credit card and paying the entry fee in full have an automatic guaranteed spot in the event as long as there are still available spots in that bracket.
 6. Age Brackets should not exceed sixty-four (64) teams (per age bracket).
 7. An age bracket can be held with a minimum of three (3) paid teams.
 8. Brackets with less than three (3) paid teams will be canceled and teams that are registered for that bracket will be notified by e-mail.
 - a. If a bracket is canceled, paid teams will be issued a Voucher that they can use for a full cash refund or full transfer to another event.

- b. Teams in a bracket that is canceled due to lack of teams will be offered the option to play up in the next age division (where applicable).
9. Event registrations will be accepted (based on availability) up to one (1) week prior to the start of the event.

- B5. RESERVATION DEPOSITS:** Teams can pay a \$75 (**NON-Refundable**) credit card or check deposit to reserve a spot in an event that will hold that team's spot up to sixty (60) days prior to the start of the event.
- 1. Teams wishing to reserve spots in upcoming events will have the ability to log onto the website and submit a credit card deposit of \$75 (**NON-Refundable**) to reserve that spot. **ECTB will also accept checks for deposits on events but spots are not guaranteed until the check has been received in the office and recorded.**
 - 2. Teams can pay a reservation deposit on as many events as they would like.
 - 3. Reserved spots will be held up to sixty (60) days prior to the start of that event.
 - 4. Teams must pay the balance of the entry fee before the sixty (60) day deadline.
 - 5. Should a team decide to withdraw from the event, the deposit is **NON-Refundable**.
 - 6. If a team does not pay the balance of the entry fee by the sixty (60) day deadline, the reserved spot will expire and the team will **forfeit** the deposit.
 - 7. If a team loses their deposit (due to not paying the entry fee balance before the sixty (60) day deadline) and still wants to participate in the event, the team would be required to pay the full entry fee if there are spots remaining. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
 - 8. Reservation Deposits can be transferred under the following conditions:
 - a. The deposit has not yet expired for the current event it was placed on.
 - b. The tournament that the deposit is being transferred to is at least sixty-five (65) days from the date it is scheduled to start.

9. Deposits will only be accepted for Official ECTB Events. Deposit option is not available for Sanction Option #1 events (listed in Teal).

- B6. PAID WAITING LIST:** Once an age bracket for an event is full (all available spots are filled by either full payment teams or teams with a reserved deposit), teams that wish to pay in full or by deposit will be placed on a WAITING LIST.
1. A team on a Waiting List will obtain a spot in the bracket one of two ways:
 - a. Bracket opens up to additional teams.
 - b. A team drops out of the secured bracket.
 2. A fully paid team on a Waiting List will take seniority over a deposit team on a Waiting List. If a deposit team pays their balance, they will then take the next seniority spot on the Waiting List behind any other teams that are already paid in full on the Waiting List.
 3. If no spots open up and a team is on the Paid Waiting List, the team will be issued a Voucher that they can either request a full cash refund or they can apply it towards a future event.
 4. Age Brackets may initially be limited to the first eight (8) paid teams (unless ECTB determines otherwise based on the event / age divisions history of number of teams that participate in a specific event). Brackets will be evaluated and opened up to additional teams in increments determined by ECTB.
- B7. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:** All teams participating with ECTB (i.e. Tournaments, Showcases and Leagues) are required to have valid proof of Insurance on file with ECTB. Teams have the following options concerning insurance.
1. **ECTB TEAM SEASON INSURANCE:** ECTB provides discount rates to teams for season insurance. Teams can purchase ECTB Team Insurance by logging onto the ECTB website with their username and password or call the office for assistance. Policy coverage is clearly outlined on the website. ECTB Team Insurance is good from the date of purchase to the last calendar date of that year (i.e. January 1, current through December 31, current year).

ECTB TEAM INSURANCE RATES: To be eligible to purchase ECTB Team Insurance, a team must be a current ECTB member (see B1 Team Membership).

For current Team Insurance rates, please visit our website (www.ectb.org).

2. **ECTB EVENT INSURANCE:** ECTB offers teams that wish to only have coverage for a specific event the option to purchase Individual EVENT Insurance that covers their team from the start date to the end date of that individual event. The policy and coverage is the same as that indicated for season insurance listed on the website but only covers the team for the indicated dates of the event. This also can be purchased by logging onto the ECTB website with the team username and password.

EVENT Insurance: \$45 / Team / Event

3. **3rd PARTY INSURANCE:** Teams who already have Insurance coverage must request to their insurance company to have “**ELITE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT BASEBALL**” or “**ECTB, Inc.**” listed on their policy as “**Additional Insured**” and provide a copy of their insurance certificate to ECTB. The certificate sent to ECTB **MUST** actually list ECTB’s organization by name as Additional Insured to your 3rd party coverage or the certificate is not valid for the team to participate with ECTB. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
 - a. Teams submitting proof of 3rd party insurance should fax the certificate with a cover sheet to the ECTB office (Fax: 610-845-0566). The cover sheet **MUST** include the Team Name, Age group, Coach / Contact Name and Phone Number. If the policy / certificate covers multiple teams within an organization, please specify the age groups the policy includes and the exact names of the teams covered under the blanket certificate if the individual team names vary.

- b. Policies / Certificates sent to ECTB that are NOT easily identified will be placed in a folder for one (1) week. A team that faxed or mailed their certificate should follow up by checking the website to be sure that their policy was received and updated or call to confirm receipt. Any certificates that do not include the required information or are not claimed will be disposed of after one (1) week.
4. Teams that do not provide ECTB with VALID / Identifiable proof of insurance prior to the start of the Event, will be required to pay the **EVENT** Insurance fee (\$45 / event) at the field prior to taking the field for their first game. If a team has a team insurance certificate, they can provide the certificate to the Field Director BUT MUST ALSO pay the \$45 EVENT Insurance fee. The Field Director will turn the certificate into the office the Monday post the tournament.

If the certificate is determined to be valid with proper information and valid dates, ECTB will refund the team the \$45. A team will not participate until this fee has been paid. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Section C REFUND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- C1. WITHDRAWING FROM EVENT REFUND POLICY:** Tournament entry fee refunds due to a team withdrawing from an event will be made under the following conditions (this policy applies for both Official and Sanctioned events).
 1. **Written notice of request to withdraw from an event is required.**
 - a. Teams requesting to withdraw from an event **MUST** submit written notification (by e-mail or regular mail) to ECTB's office (info@ectb.org) requesting to have their team removed from the event.
 - i. Written request must include: Team name, age group and coaches name and the name and date of the event they are requesting to be unregistered from along with the actual request to withdraw.

- ii. Written request must be dated and signed by the individual making the request. If the person making the request is not the contact listed for that team, the individual must include their affiliation to the team as well as a valid phone number.
 - iii. ECTB will only remove a team once a written request has been received and approved and confirmed by an actual contact for that team. The team will be unregistered per their request on the date the written request is received.
- 2. Withdrawing from an event **AT LEAST** thirty (30) days **PRIOR** to the event start:
 - a. **Withdraw / Requesting Refund:** Team **requesting a cash refund** will receive their entry fee less a \$75 **NON-Refundable** Administrative fee.
 - b. **Requesting to Transfer Entry fee on file:** Team requesting to withdraw and **transfer the fee** to a future ECTB OFFICIAL ONLY event will receive a **full** entry fee transfer. No Administrative fee will be retained.
- 3. Withdrawing from an event **WITHIN** thirty (30) days of the event start date **BUT PRIOR** to fourteen (14) days of the event start date.
 - a. The team will be issued a CREDIT ON FILE of their entry fee LESS \$150 **NON-Refundable** Administrative fee. The CREDIT ON FILE will be available to use for the remainder of that current season only and will expire (null/void) at the end of that current season (calendar year). There will be **NO CASH refunds** for teams withdrawing from an event within thirty (30) days of the start of the event BUT PRIOR to fourteen (14) days of the event.

- b. Teams requesting to have their entry fee transferred to a future event will be allowed to transfer their entry fee to a future event **less** \$150 **NON-Refundable** Administrative fee. Teams will be required to pay any balance due on the transferred entry fee. Teams transferring a fee will not be marked paid for the event they transferred to until the balance of the entry fee is received.
4. Withdrawing from an event **WITHIN** fourteen (14) days of the event start date:
- a. **Teams requesting to withdraw from an event within fourteen (14) days of the event start date will FORFEIT their ENTIRE entry fee. There will be NO refund / No credit. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

C2. INCLEMENT WEATHER REFUND POLICY: In any tournament, ECTB will endeavor to conduct that tournament in accordance with its published tournament format (i.e. game guarantee, dates, etc.). However, ECTB reserves the right to change that format at any time due to circumstances beyond ECTB's control. There will be no refund or adjustments of entry fee due to situations outside of ECTB's control except as expressly stated herein. This policy is in effect for ALL events (Official & Sanctioned).

RAIN DATES: Rain dates are at the discretion of ECTB and the Sanctioned Host. ECTB reserves the right to **not** hold rain dates based on field and date availability as well as the general consensus of teams regarding their interest in making up the event.

1. **NO GAMES PLAYED / EVENT RESCHEDULED / TEAM RESPONDS WILL RETURN (CANCELED PRIOR TO EVENT START): IF NO games** have been played and the event is canceled (**PRIOR** to the start of the event) due to weather and the event **IS** rescheduled and a team responds that they **WILL** be returning for the event makeup:

- a. Teams will be given a deadline to respond as to whether they will be returning for the scheduled rain date.
- b. Teams returning for a scheduled makeup date will have their entry fee transferred in **full** to the makeup event.
- c. If a team initially responds that they are returning for the makeup date and then changes their mind (once the deadline to respond passes), the team will forfeit their entry fee in full. (This is pursuant to Section C1-4a, Withdrawing from an Event).

2. NO GAMES PLAYED / EVENT RESCHEDULED / TEAM NOT RETURNING (CANCELED PRIOR TO EVENT START): IF NO games have been played and the event is canceled (**PRIOR** to the start of the event) due to weather and the event is rescheduled and a team responds that they **WILL NOT** be returning for the event makeup OR does not respond by the deadline given, a team will be given the following options:

- a. Teams unable to return for a rescheduled makeup date will be issued a **VOUCHER** (found on the team's home page when logging onto the ECTB website with their username and password).
- b. The Voucher will be issued at seventy-five percent (75%) (of original entry fee) cash refundable or credit transferable.
 - i. **CASH Refundable:** Teams not returning for a rained out event will be able to cash in their voucher for a 75% cash refund. The refund will be issued within twenty-one (21) days of the "cash refund" request.
 - ii. **CREDIT / Transfer Value:** Teams not returning for a reschedule of a rained out event will be able to keep their credit voucher on file for up to one (1) full year from the date it is issued or apply it to a future event of equal or greater entry fee value. Teams are responsible to pay the remaining balance of an event they are transferring a voucher towards in order to secure their spot in that event.

3. **NO GAMES PLAYED / EVENT NOT RESCHEDULED (CANCELED PRIOR TO EVENT START):** IF NO games have been played and the tournament is canceled (**PRIOR** to the start of the event) due to unplayable weather conditions and the tournament **CANNOT** be made up at a future makeup date, teams will be issued a VOUCHER (See above Section C2 --#2 a and b).
4. **GAMES STARTED (EVENT CANCELED AFTER EVENT STARTS):** Once a tournament has officially started (a tournament is considered **OFFICIALLY STARTED** once at least one (1) or more teams scheduled to participate in an event has started its first game in the event) and the event is canceled due to unplayable weather conditions, **ECTB will offer the following CREDIT (only) vouchers to teams:**

Three (3) Game Guarantees:

Team Completes:

- 0 games – 75% credit (only) voucher issued
- 1 game – 50% credit (only) voucher issued
- 2 games – no credit

Four (4) Game Guarantees:

Team Completes:

- 0 games – 75% credit (only) voucher issued
- 1 game – 50% credit (only) voucher issued
- 2 games – 25% credit (only) voucher issued
- 3 games – no credit

No cash value or refund will be available in these situations.

Sanctioned Events (Option #1 ONLY - Listed in TEAL): ALL Hosts opting to Host Option #1 Sanctioned Events MUST issue REFUNDS (NO CREDITS) to ALL teams due a refund due to withdraw or inclement weather based on the above outlined entry fee percentages. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Refunds MUST be issued to teams within fourteen (14) days of withdraw or event cancellation where applicable!

Sanction Events / Hosts:

Sanctioned Hosts – Option #1: must refund teams directly based on the above outlined policies (Option #1 events – Host must refund teams). Host CANNOT hold credits on file for teams that have withdrawn timely or due to weather cancellation.

C3. CANCELED EVENTS / BRACKETS REFUND POLICY: An age group / bracket will be held as long as there are at least three (3) paid teams in a given age bracket. In the event that an age bracket has less than the minimum three (3) teams required, ECTB will offer the following options:

1. Teams in a bracket that does not meet minimum required teams will be offered the option to play up an age group (i.e. 13u play up in the 14u bracket). These teams will be given a deadline to notify ECTB of their decision to play up.
 - a. If there is a difference in the entry fee, the team will be required to pay the difference if they opt to play up.
 - b. Once a team notifies ECTB of their intent to participate in the next age up age group, they will be considered locked into that event. If the team changes their mind and decides to withdraw after informing ECTB that they will play up, they will be subject to the refund policy outlined in Section C1 – Withdrawing from Event Refund Policy.
2. Teams in a bracket that does not meet minimum required teams that do NOT wish to play up an age bracket will be issued a **VOUCHER**. The Voucher can be accessed by the team logging on the website with their username and password. The Voucher will be issued at the full amount of the entry fee originally paid and can be used one of two ways:

- a. The **VOUCHER CASH Refund** can be cashed in at **full** entry fee value. Cash refunds are issued by ECTB within twenty-one (21) days from the date the voucher “cash request” is made unless a specific request is received from the team indicating the need for an immediate refund.
 - b. The **VOUCHER Transfer Value** can be transferred at **full** entry fee value to a future OFFICIAL event of equal or greater value. If the event the Voucher is being applied towards has a higher entry fee, the team is required to pay the balance due and will not be marked paid (secured the spot) until the balance is paid.
3. Only teams that are in the bracket that did not reach minimum team requirement have the option to withdraw from the event without penalty of entry fee if the age bracket is canceled within the thirty (30) day cancellation policy. This means that teams in the age bracket up do not have the option to back out within thirty (30) days (without penalty) because they don't want to participate against younger teams. (i.e. 13u bracket canceled, two (2) teams from 13u bracket opt to play up in the 14u bracket. Teams originally in the 14u bracket do not have the right to withdraw without penalty because they don't want to play against two (2) 13u teams.)
 4. Sanctioned Events – Option #1 (TEAL events): Host is responsible to refund teams when a bracket is canceled due to lack of teams.

C4. LEAGUE REFUND POLICY: Refunds for teams registered and paid for Sanctioned ECTB leagues will be subject to the following policy:

1. **Written notice of request to withdraw from a Sanctioned League is required.**
 - a. Teams requesting to withdraw from a Sanctioned league are required to log onto the website and unregister their team from the league. When doing so, the website will indicate, based on the date the team is unregistering, if there is any penalty.

C5. SHOWCASE PLAYER: Refunds for players registered to participate in ECTB/US All Star Showcases will be subject to the following refund policy:

1. **A player who wishes to withdraw from a Showcase must submit written notice of their request to withdraw.** ECTB will only unregister the player once the written notice is received. Written notice can be sent to ECTB via e-mail (info@ectb.org) or regular mail and should be sent to ECTB's Office Administrator.
 - a. The written request must indicate players name, age, and player's ECTB/US All Star ID number as well as their request to withdraw.
 - b. If a player is withdrawing from a showcase or event due to an injury, a player **must** include an Official dated physician's note (on physician letterhead).
2. A player registered to participate in a Showcase event that requests to unregister from a showcase **at least** seven (7) days prior to the start of that Showcase will receive a refund of their entry fee **less** a \$50 **NON-Refundable** Administrative fee.
3. A player registered to participate in a showcase event that requests to unregister from a Showcase event **within** seven (7) days of the start of that showcase / tryout will **FORFEIT** their **ENTIRE** entry fee.
 - a. **INJURED PLAYER Withdraw:** If a player is withdrawing **within** seven (7) days of the showcase event due to injury and the player has been seen by a physician and provides ECTB with an official physician's note indicating the injury, ECTB will issue a full refund of the showcase fee **less** a \$50 **NON-Refundable** Administrative fee.
4. If ECTB cancels a showcase / tryout for whatever reason, ECTB will issue all registered / paid players a full refund of their entry fee.

C6. STARS EXPERIENCE: Payment, Cancellation & Refund Policies, Disclaimer:

1. **STARS Program – Payment Policy: Initial registration deposit of \$200 due upon registering and must be submitted with form. Balance of remaining amount indicated on registration form will be processed sixty (60) days prior to event start. If registration is received within sixty (60) days of event, balance will be processed within seven (7) days of initial deposit. If registration is received within thirty (30) days of event, entire amount will be processed at time registration is received. All fees MUST be paid IN FULL thirty (30) days prior to the event start.**
2. **STARS Program – Cancellation and Refund Policies *Please read in its entirety***
 - a. **Cancellation due to PLAYER injury:** Any player who has paid fees towards a STARS Team Event that suffers an injury requiring them to withdraw / cancel out will be subject to the following Refund Policy:
 - i. Must submit an official Physician's note on physician letterhead documenting the injury and the physician's requirement that the player not participate. Withdraw will be effective the date of postmark on the letter.
 - b. Notification of Injury Withdraw received PRIOR to thirty (30) days of the event start:
 - i. FORFEIT Entire Deposit paid.
 - ii. ECTB will refund fifty percent (50%) of remaining monies paid to date (if applicable).
 - c. Notification of Injury Withdraw received thirty (30) days or within thirty (30) days of the event start:
 - i. FORFEIT ENTIRE FEES paid – NO REFUND. NO EXCEPTIONS!
 - d. **Cancellations FOR ANY OTHER REASON OTHER THAN PLAYER INJURY:** Any player / parent / family who has paid fees towards a STARS Team Event that withdraws / cancels out will be subject to the following Refund Policy:

It is **STRONGLY** suggested that all players 14 and under be accompanied by at least one adult as ECTB cannot guarantee supervision of your child at all times **UNLESS** you have made specific arrangements with your coach or another parent attending this event and he / she is willing to assume complete responsibility of your child.

C7. VOUCHER GUIDELINES: ECTB requests teams follow these guidelines when using their vouchers.

1. Once a team has applied a voucher to another event, the Voucher's value will be that of the transferred value as outlined.
2. A Voucher cannot be transferred more than once! If a team withdraws from the event that they applied their voucher towards, the voucher becomes null and void.
3. A Voucher cannot be applied to an event of lesser (entry fee) value. A Voucher can only be applied to an event of equal or greater (entry fee) value. Teams are responsible to pay any entry fee balances on the event the voucher was transferred to in order to be marked paid for that event.
4. If a team withdraws from the event that they applied their voucher towards **prior** to thirty (30) days of that event, the team will receive a seventy-five percent (75%) refund of their original entry fee together with (if applicable) any additional fees paid for that event.
5. If a team withdraws from the event they applied their voucher towards **within** thirty (30) days of the event but **PRIOR** to fourteen (14) days of the start date, they will receive a **credit only** of their entry fee less a \$150 **NON-Refundable** Administrative fee.
6. If a team withdraws from the event that they applied their voucher towards within fourteen (14) days of the start of the event they transferred their voucher towards, they will **FORFEIT** their **ENTIRE** entry fees based on the policy outlined in Section C1.

7. When a Voucher is issued to a team, the Voucher will appear on the home page of all contacts listed for that specific team. Once a contact clicks on the voucher and either applies it to another event or cashes it in for a refund, the voucher will be spent. Team contacts should be sure to consult with one another and make a decision regarding the voucher. Once the Voucher is spent, it cannot be reversed. ECTB will not be held responsible for Vouchers pulled by a contact person who should not have had access to the Voucher if they are listed as a contact for that team.
8. Vouchers will **NOT** replace any entry fees already on deposit for an event. This means a team cannot apply a Voucher to another event that they have already paid for.
9. Vouchers are considered redeemable for up to one (1) full year from the date they are issued. If a team does not apply the Voucher to another event or request a cash refund (if applicable) within the designated time frame, the Voucher will become NULL and VOID and the team will forfeit that entry fee.
10. Vouchers can only be issued for Official ECTB events and Sanctioned Events.
11. Vouchers do not apply for Sanctioned Events – Option #1 (TEAL events).
12. Vouchers issued as CREDIT ONLY have NO CASH VALUE. NO EXCEPTIONS!

C8. REFUND DISCLAIMER: ELITE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT BASEBALL cannot now or ever be held liable and/or responsible to issue refunds greater than the NET amount (amount being retained in the ECTB office **less** fees forwarded to a Sanctioned Host prior to scheduled event). ECTB retains **NON-Refundable** Administrative fees as outlined. It is understood and agreed that ECTB charges an Administrative fee from all fees collected in conjunction with Official and Sanctioned events. ECTB will **ONLY** issue Vouchers when it has received and cleared all fees associated with the event (i.e. Tournaments, Leagues, and Showcases).

**Section D
ELIGIBILITY**

D1. COACHES AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. **ONLINE TOURNAMENT ROSTERS:** The Head Coach (or Team Administrator) for each team is required to submit an online Tournament Roster for EACH tournament they participate in. The Roster should be submitted at least one (1) week prior to that particular event. A Tournament Roster can be accessed by logging on to the website with a username and password to the team's home page. Scroll down until you see the heading (in black) that reads "Registered for These Tournaments". By clicking on the name of the tournament, it will take you to an Options page.

Click on View / Submit Event Roster link. Select each eligible player that will be participating in that particular event. Once you have selected each player, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Update Tournament Roster. This will submit the roster you plan on using for that event. You can always go back and add players and resubmit the Roster up until the tournament start. ECTB checks each Roster prior to the event and will notify you if you have any illegal players.

- a. **ROSTER MAXIMUM:** A team must be composed of no more than twenty (20) players for all age divisions.
- b. A team must be listed from the state in which fifty percent (50%) of the players are from.
- c. Coaches need to complete **ALL** required fields when filling out and submitting their team rosters.
- d. **ILLEGAL PLAYERS:** If a coach submits an illegal player on his roster, ECTB will contact the coach to make him aware of this and advise him to remove the illegal player from the roster immediately.

- e. **FALSIFYING BIRTH DATES:** If a Coach is found to have falsified birth dates for players when submitting his Roster, the coach will be suspended from coaching any team within ECTB's organization for a period of time determined by ECTB (see Section G – Acts and Reasons for Suspension).
- f. **Follow up at the field:** Upon arriving at the field for a team's game, Field Directors will have a copy of any team(s) that submitted illegal players on their roster. The Field Director is instructed to approach the offending team to review their lineup card. If it is noted at that time the illegal player is listed as participating in the lineup, the coach will be advised that the game will not begin until the illegal player has been removed from the lineup and a legal replacement is put in that spot in the lineup. If the coach does not immediately remove the illegal player, the offending team will forfeit that game and have a determined number of runs placed against them. The offending team will be removed from the remainder of the tournament.
- g. If the offending team confirms and removes the illegal player, the game will commence, BUT the team WILL be questioned and their lineup card will be reviewed at ALL subsequent games for the remainder of the tournament.
- h. **Teams that want to participate in ECTB events and remain in good standing with ECTB will participate with a legal roster and win events fair and legally.**
- i. Event Rosters must be submitted no later than the Wednesday prior to the start of the event.
- j. Additions and changes to an Event Roster can be made and submitted up to and no later than Friday morning (noon cut off) prior to the start of the event.
- k. Any changes to a team roster after this cut off would have to be done at the field with the Field Director (at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of a team's first game).

- c. Batboy **MUST** have a parent sign the Waiver Release form in order to be eligible to be in the dugout with the team. The Batboy **MUST** wear a helmet covering both ears **AT ALL TIMES** while in the dugout as well as when on the field! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Any batboy not wearing a helmet or not listed and signed for on the waiver will be removed immediately and will not be eligible to be the batboy for the remainder of that event. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
 - d. Team / Coach Waiver **MUST** be handed in to the Field Director prior to the start of that team's first game of the event! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Teams that do not have a valid Waiver ready to turn in to the Field Director will be given a blank waiver and will be required to complete the Waiver with parent signatures along with the individual players forms and turn it in to the Field Director before they are allowed to start play. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
3. **ECTB MEMBERSHIP:** Each team is required to submit their current ECTB Membership Dues. Membership is valid from September 1, through August 31, annually. Each Team will need to renew their membership again starting September 1st to be eligible to participate in any events starting Labor Day of the current year (and each consecutive season at this time). For further details review Section B1.
 4. **PROOF OF TEAM INSURANCE:** Each Team is required to have a valid proof of insurance on file in the ECTB office for the current season. For further details, review Section B8.
 5. **PLAYER BIRTH CERTIFICATES:** The Head Coach is required to have a valid copy of ALL Participating player's Birth Certificates with him **AT ALL TIMES** during the event and be able to provide them for review if requested during the event by an Event Official (Umpire, Field Director, or Tournament Official). Failure to be able to produce valid birth certificates immediately upon request is grounds for the team being dismissed from the event and forfeiture of any awards.

6. **OUTSTANDING ISSUES:** The Head Coach (or Team Administrator) is required to have ALL of the above requirements handled prior to the start of their first event. Should a team have any outstanding issues; a Field Director will address those issues at the field prior to the team being allowed to take the field for their first game. Field Directors are responsible to collect ALL outstanding issues (including fees due) and are NOT PERMITTED to allow play to begin without collection of ALL outstanding issues. NO EXCEPTIONS!

D2. TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

1. **QUALIFYING TEAM ROSTER** for National Championship Series (NCS) **EVENTS:** When a team qualifies for a State or ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) event, the team's roster will be frozen when the team accepts the berth.
 - a. A team roster becomes frozen immediately at the event the team qualifies at. Players are bound to the rostered team for which they qualified on. Winning Team Rosters will be kept on file in the ECTB office to confirm teams are participating in the Championship events legally.
 - b. A coach can add up to and no more than three (3) players to the roster that he qualified with. Additional players can only be added to rosters that have openings to allow for these additions.
 - c. Players can be added to a qualified roster up to seventy-two (72) hours prior to start of the state or NCS event.
 - d. **A Coach can release up to five (5) players from his team's frozen roster BUT he cannot replace a released player with a player addition.**

- e. All players added to a qualified frozen roster must meet the following requirements.
 - i. Players cannot play on another qualified team's roster in the same age group.
 - ii. Players who are added to the frozen roster of a qualified team must not have played for a team of higher classification during the current season
- f. A player that is released from a qualifying team's roster cannot return to that team during the current season. A player may be released from only one (1) qualified roster during the current season.
- g. A team with a frozen roster that drops below nine (9) players who has used all options for additions and releases may apply for status of disbandment with the State Director of ECTB or Officials. If approval is granted, the team forfeits berth(s) and the berth becomes null and void.
- h. A disbanded team can reform for the remainder of that season but must re-qualify for a new berth.

D3. INDIVIDUAL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

- 1. A player is eligible to compete in ECTB programs and events as long as he abides by ECTB's bylaws, policies and procedures and playing rules.
- 2. Player age cut off is May 1st of each year. No player on a team can turn the next age before May 1st of the following year or he is considered an illegal player (i.e. If a player is 14 years old and plays on a 14u team, he cannot turn 15 years old prior to May 1st of the next year or he is considered illegal).
- 3. A player can compete in events on multiple rosters as long as he is not rostered on another team participating in the same age division. A player cannot be rostered on more than one team in the same age division of an event. (Example: You play for a 15u team in the Memorial Day event and later that day you play for a 16u team in the same event.)

4. The player **MUST** be on all team rosters he intends on playing for in that event at the start of the event. He can **NOT** be added to a roster after the start of the event.
5. A player playing for multiple teams within a single event is required to comply with the uniform requirement which means he must be in full uniform of each team he plays for. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
6. A player can compete in a tournament with a team other than his own but **within** his same organization **ONLY** during a consolation game to avoid a team forfeit. A player(s) can only play in age groups up. A player cannot play any age group under him. (Example: A 13u player participating on a 13u team that has three (3) teams from the same organization (in three (3) different age groups) participating in the same event.
The 14u team is going to have to forfeit their consolation game due to injured players. The 13u player from the 13u team can play up for the 14u team, even though he is rostered on the 13u team in order to allow the 14u team to play their 14u consolation game. The 13u player **cannot** play down for their 12u team.)
This is **ONLY** for a **consolation game** and **ONLY** for teams **within the same organization.**
7. A Field Director may not participate as a player in any event in which he is serving as a Field Director.
8. At any time during or after a tournament game or after the completion of a tournament, a player is found to have been participating illegally, that player will be suspended from ECTB participation for up to one (1) full year. Penalties may be applied to the illegal player, the Coach and/or the offending team causing the player, the Coach and the entire team to be suspended from future participation with ECTB. ECTB will closely monitor these infractions.

9. A player who is in violation of any of ECTB's policies, procedures and playing rules will be considered an ineligible player. Any player, who is found to have any legal action taken against them, will be considered an ineligible player as well.
10. **PLAYER BIRTH CERTIFICATES:** All players participating in an ECTB event, league or showcase are required to provide a copy of their birth certificate to their coach.

Section E TOURNAMENT FORMATS

- E1. OFFICIAL ECTB EVENTS:** Official ECTB events will endeavor to follow the advertised tournament format outlined on the ECTB website under Tournament Details.
1. ECTB shall provide each team a **MINIMUM** of three (3) games of participation in an event (two (2) games of pool play and a seeding game). This can be changed prior to or during the event by an ECTB Official if it is determined that it is not feasible to attempt to continue with the three (3) games guaranteed plan due to weather conditions or other acts of God.
 - a. Should this occur, ECTB will notify all teams involved of a substitute plan.
 2. **CONSOLATION GAME REQUIREMENT:** Events that offer a four (4) game guarantee (please check the Game Guarantee per event for specifics), ECTB will provide teams that do not move into the final four of an event age bracket, with a consolation game against another team in that age bracket, depending on the type of event and format.

- a. Teams are **REQUIRED** to play their consolation game if they are in the Consolation round. For further details on this policy, review Section I #23 – Consolation Game Requirement. **This policy will be enforced to ensure that all teams that want to play a consolation game will receive a consolation game or compensation for the loss of a consolation game.**
 3. Only ECTB approved baseballs will be used.
 - a. **ECTB will provide teams participating in Official ECTB events with a designated number of ECTB approved baseballs. ECTB will have ECTB baseballs available to purchase at the event. Teams will be required to purchase or provide any additional baseballs needed beyond the maximum determined and provided by ECTB.**
 4. All Official events will allow teams to qualify for the annual ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) event.
 - a. Qualifying teams will be offered Berths to the ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) Berths are offered as PAID or INVITATIONAL. Teams should check the Tournament Details to determine as to what type of Berth the event is offering.
 - i. A **PAID** Berth means that the team's entry fee into the NCS is paid. Any other fees associated with the NCS would be the team's responsibility.
 - ii. An **INVITATIONAL** Berth means that the team is invited to the NCS but the team is responsible to pay for their entry fee and any other fees associated with the NCS event.
- E2. SANCTIONED EVENTS:** Sanctioned Events advertised on ECTB's website have received approval from ECTB through a screening process. All approved Sanctioned Host's are required to follow the Tournament Format they have indicated and been approved for.

1. Sanctioned Host's are required to follow the Tournament Format that is outlined on the ECTB website. In the event of unforeseen circumstances (inclement weather or other Acts of God), ECTB requires the Sanctioned Host to notify team's with a substitute plan that meets ECTB's approval.
2. ECTB requires Sanctioned Host's to provide a minimum of three (3) games per team in an event barring any unforeseen circumstances.
3. Entry fee amounts (excluding NCS events) and number of awards are left up to the discretion of the Sanctioned Host BUT must meet ECTB's approved guidelines. Once a Sanctioned Host advertises fee amounts and awards, he cannot alter this unless approved by ECTB.
4. Sanctioned Host's have the option to provide or require that the teams provide baseballs.
5. Berths will be offered at all Sanctioned Events. It is at the Sanctioned Host's discretion as to whether he offers PAID or INVITATIONAL Berths. Once a Sanctioned Host advertises the type of berth being offered, he will not be able to alter this unless approved by ECTB.
6. ECTB reserves the right to cancel a Sanctioned Event at any time for any reason ECTB feels is in the best interest of the ECTB organization, the teams and/or the Sanctioned Host. ECTB will properly notify the team's involved and will promptly issue any fees associated with the canceled event **as long as the fees were collected by ECTB.**

E3. ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) EVENTS:

The ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) is held annually in late July to early / mid August (depending on a team's age division). ECTB will endeavor to follow the NCS format outlined on the website barring any unforeseen circumstances.

1. ECTB Officials will determine and set NCS entry fees and awards for all age brackets of the NCS.
2. Teams qualify for the NCS events by one of the following ways:
 - a. A Team wins a Berth (INVITATIONAL or PAID) at an Official or Sanctioned ECTB event or league.
 - b. A Team participated in four (4) or more events between Labor Day and July annually.
 - c. Any Team that acquires fifty (50) points or more through ECTB league or tournament participation will be able to automatically register to play in the NCS.
 - d. Any Team that does not have a least fifty (50) ECTB points or has not participated in at least four (4) events can apply to receive a special invitation (At Large Berth) to the event by ECTB Officials. ECTB Officials will issue the award of an At Large Berth based on Team History, participation (team must have some ECTB points), location of the team (teams from states outside of ECTB standard team base) and availability in the age division applied for.
3. Berth Acceptance Requirements: Teams must respond to and accept their berth by July 15th of that current year.
 - a. Invitational / Paid Berths to the annual ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) are only offered to teams that place 1st through 4th Place in an event sanctioned by ECTB.
 - b. The Invitational Berth is NOT a paid berth unless indicated on the berth. Teams are responsible to secure their entry with payment of the entry fee.

- c. PAID berths are offered for specific events (check the website for which events offer PAID berths). A PAID berth only covers the team's entry fee. No other costs are included. A team who wins a PAID berth MUST submit their acceptance of the berth to ECTB in order to secure their spot.
- d. An Invitational Berth can be accepted by an invited team up to July 15th based on availability in that age division. Teams that want to secure their teams spot should submit their berth acceptance and payment as soon as possible.
- e. Teams that return their berth acceptance (Invitational) guarantees that ECTB will hold a spot for them in that age division based on availability. Teams must understand that entry fee and any other fees associated with the NCS are due by the deadline. If entry fee is not received by the deadline, the team will be removed from the event and replaced with a team from the waiting list.
- f. Teams participating in the NCS need to understand the following requirements:
 - i. All teams participating in the NCS are required to stay in Sponsoring Host Hotels (if a team requires hotel accommodations) designated by ECTB.
*Teams will be removed from the event if found to be in non-sponsoring hotels.
 - ii. All teams participating in the NCS MUST have a Representative present at the Coaches Check-In Meeting held before the event's official start. Teams will be notified in advance of the date, time and location of the Coaches Check-In Meeting. This procedure may change per ECTB Staff annually.
 - iii. All teams need to be prepared to start play Friday morning (the official start date). Games can and will begin as early as 10 am on all days of the event (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)
 - iv. "Special Requests" will NOT be accepted for the NCS as this is a Seeding Tournament.

- g. Refund Policy: Teams registered and PAID for the NCS:
- i. A Team's entry fee is refundable less a \$75 **NON-Refundable** Administrative fee as long as the team's written withdraw is received prior to thirty (30) days of the event start date should the team decide not to participate.
 - ii. There are NO refunds of entry fees if a team withdraws from the NCS within thirty (30) days but prior to fourteen (14) days of the event start date. A team will forfeit \$150 of their entry fee and the remaining balance of their entry fee will be issued in a **credit only** for future ECTB participation. *The credit is only good for the remainder of that current season. The credit will be null / void if not used by the end of that current season.
 - iii. A team will forfeit their entire entry fee (retained by ECTB) if a team decides not to participate and withdraw from the event within fourteen (14) days of the event start date. NO EXCEPTIONS!
 - iv. Once all teams have played at least one (1) game in an event and ECTB determines it necessary to cancel due to inclement weather or other Acts of God, there will be NO refund of entry fee. Credit Vouchers will be issued as outlined under Section C2. Every effort will be made to get as many games in as possible.
 - v. An event may be dropped to three (3) or two (2) game minimum due to unplayable weather conditions. There will be no refund of entry fee. Every effort will be made to get as many games in as possible.

- vi. If the event is a total wash due to inclement weather and no games are able to be played, teams will receive a Voucher that is issued at seventy-five percent (75%) cash refund or seventy-five percent (75%) credit transfer. ECTB retains twenty-five percent (25%) team's entry fee to cover upfront costs put out to prepare for and host the event.
4. Teams are seeded for the NCS based on the ECTB Point System.
 - a. **ECTB POINT SYSTEM:** Teams earn points during the season (from Labor Day weekend events of the previous year through July events of the current season). These points are totaled and teams are seeded based on the number of points they have accumulated. For further details about the ECTB Point System, see Section K1.
5. All NCS age divisions will follow the ECTB Style format for the NCS Event as posted and determined annually by ECTB.
6. ECTB will determine the location as to where each age division of the ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) will be held.
7. ECTB will determine and appoint a qualified Host or Tournament Director for each NCS age group. ECTB will require the Host or Tournament Director to follow the format set forth for ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) events.
 - a. ECTB Officials shall supervise and oversee approved Hosts / Directors to ensure that proper procedure, rules and requirements are being upheld within the rules and regulations of the organization and the Tournament Format.
 - b. ECTB reserves the right to offer a Skills Competition at each NCS age bracket event for all teams to participate in if they so wish.

8. All NCS age bracket events may **OFFICIALLY** begin play **Friday morning at 10 am**. The event will continue Friday through Sunday with games as early as 8 am on each day of the event. **ALL teams participating in the event are REQUIRED to be available to begin play at this time. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
9. **ECTB will reserve the Monday post the event as a RAINDATE for the NCS weekends. This date will ONLY be used if the event is not able to be completed in the Friday through Sunday schedule due to weather beyond ECTB's control.**
10. **SPECIAL REQUESTS: Special Requests will NOT be considered nor honored for ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) events.**
11. ECTB Officials reserve the right to cancel an NCS age bracket due to lack of Entries (an NCS age bracket must have a minimum of six (6) paid teams in order for the bracket to take place). If an age bracket is canceled, ECTB would properly notify the teams involved and promptly refund fees.
12. NCS age brackets can host a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of sixty-four (64) teams per age bracket.
13. A team can participate in the NCS for any age group they qualified for. (Example: 13u team won a berth in a 13u and 14u bracket, that team can participate in both the 13u NCS age division as well as the 14u EASWC age division when applicable.) Position based on current points does not apply for additional NCS events out of the standard age group you played annually.

Section F
SPORTSMANSHIP

- F1. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP:** ECTB wants **ALL** participants to be positive role models in the sport of youth baseball. ECTB strongly **REQUESTS** that coaches **REQUIRE** their teams (players and coaching staff) to take the field at the completion of each game to shake hands with the opposing team. Win or loss, this is the proper way to act and build character in our youth.
- F2. MISCONDUCT:** All players, coaches, managers and spectators are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at **ALL** times during an event, league and/or showcase. Any individual whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive will **at minimum** be warned and may be removed from the playing field or stands at the discretion of Tournament Officials (i.e. Tournament Director, Host, Field Director and/or Umpires).
1. Foul or abusive language will **NOT** be tolerated under any circumstances.
 2. Throwing equipment will be an automatic ejection. If this violation occurs a second time during the event, the offending individual will be removed from the premises and could cause the entire team to forfeit the remainder of the tournament and/or be suspended from ECTB events for the remainder of the season. **COACHES MUST CONTROL THEIR COACHING STAFF, PLAYERS AND FANS!!!**
 3. Under **NO** circumstances are alcoholic beverages permitted on or at any premises being used for an ECTB event (Official and Sanctioned). Anyone caught with alcohol in their possession will be asked to leave the premises immediately and will be considered warned. Anyone refusing to leave will cause their team to forfeit their game and could cause the team to be removed from the remainder of the event.

4. **NO ONE** (coaches, players, fans, etc.) is permitted to smoke in or around the dugouts or on the playing field. Anyone caught smoking in these restricted areas will be asked to leave the premises and will be considered warned. Anyone refusing to leave will cause their team to forfeit their game and could cause the team to be removed from the remainder of the event.
 5. As indicated, the matter of disorderly conduct will be taken serious. **ECTB has a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY in effect AT ALL TIMES during an ECTB event. This policy will be enforced TO THE FULLEST EXTENT!! **ECTB is an organization for youth, promoting youth. As adults, we should be looking to set good examples for our youth to improve the quality of youth sports. This is an effort we all must stand united in. We ask that all Coaches discuss and address these issues with their players, coaching staff, parents and fans prior to their participation with ECTB so that everyone is clear on the policies that will be enforced concerning these areas.****
- F3. PROTESTS:** Umpires will work to settle all problems on the field. Protests will be allowed for age and pitching violations or rule interpretations only. Protests must be declared to the Umpire in Chief before the next pitch following a dispute. **No protest will be allowed following the game.** Tournament Officials and the Umpire in Chief will rule on all protests and their decision will be final at that time.
1. Tournament Officials will be available at all times. If you have any questions, please immediately address the issue at hand with an official. ECTB Director's cell phone numbers will be available to teams for all OFFICIAL events.

Section G
ACTS AND REASONS FOR SUSPENSION

G1. OFFENDERS: COACHES, MANAGERS, SPONSORS, PLAYERS, SPECTATORS, SANCTIONED HOSTS, And ECTB OFFICIALS AND STAFF: ECTB reserves the right to remove, dismiss, and suspend any individual found to be acting in a manner considered by ECTB to be inappropriate or not in the best interest of their own team, other individuals or the ECTB organization. Acts and reasons for suspension include:

1. Physical attack on a Tournament Official or Association Officer (i.e. Umpire, Field Director, Host, and any other Employee of the organization) during a game or immediately following a game played under or Sanctioned by the administration of the ECTB association. In the same respect, any Official who physically attacks a player, coach, spectator or another Official.
2. Verbally threatening an Official or an Official verbally threatening a player, coach, spectator or another Official.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct, including fighting, abusive tactics, derogatory or unbecoming acts that are considered detrimental and not in the best interest of the ECTB organization.
4. Destruction of property (this includes but is not limited to: field, park, and/or complex facilities and/or the abuse or destruction of hotel property as well as failure to pay hotel bills).
5. Participating in a tournament in which cash prizes are offered. Cash prizes are defined as receiving or paying compensation in consideration of participating in baseball competition.

6. Receiving money directly or indirectly by capitalizing on athletic ability, athletic prominence, or fame in baseball except that a player or team may use his / her name and likeness to advertise, recommend or promote, the sale of baseball sporting goods, equipment or other goods and services if it is done pursuant to a registered personal services contract.
7. By knowingly competing with or against ineligible or suspended players.
8. By participating in or permitting a fraud to be perpetuated.
9. Any Team, Coach, Player, Official or staff member of the association who refuses to submit funds, in a timely fashion, to the association that are due to the association. This can cause not only the Coach and Team to be ineligible for further participation (both in Sanctioned as well as official ECTB events, leagues and other ECTB affiliated opportunities) BUT Players who participated on the team in question as well. Players can be suspended for an entire season and not be eligible to participate on any other team in any ECTB opportunities.
10. Competing under an assumed name.
11. Submitting a check for any reason that cannot be negotiated for payment.
12. Failure to show up after entering an event and/or league unless reasonable notice has been given.
13. Purposely using false information to hurt the association.
14. Violating contract rights granted to an individual by the association.
15. ECTB Officials or staff that does not uphold or violates any policies and procedures of the association.

G2. ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Only ECTB Officials have the authority to issue suspensions for a period of time determined by ECTB.

1. If the offense occurs during an Official event, ECTB Officials will determine the action to be taken against the offender.
 - a. ECTB will provide the offender with written notification as to the offense he / she is being charged with and the action being taken against the individual. Notification will be sent certified mail.
 - i. The Suspension notification will include the length of suspension.
 - ii. ECTB reserves the right to include a monetary penalty with the suspension. In the event that a monetary penalty is issued, ECTB will issue a deadline that the penalty needs to be paid in order for the offender to avoid further action. The offender's suspension will become effective from the date that the penalty is received in the ECTB office.
 - iii. Monetary Penalties can range from \$100 to \$1,000 per Suspension.
 - iv. Each Suspension will be reviewed on an individual basis and based on several components, ECTB will determine the length of the suspension, whether there will be a monetary penalty and how much as well as the Requirements of Suspension.
 - v. An individual who has been served a suspension is required to abide by ALL Suspension Guidelines / Requirements for the entire length of the suspension.
 - b. The Offending individual then has fourteen (14) days from the date of notification to respond to or appeal the charges.
 - i. Should the individual accept the charges (by either not responding or by confirming the charges in writing) ECTB will proceed with the determined suspension / disbarment.

- ii. Should the individual deny the charges he / she must do so, within fourteen (14) days of receiving notice from ECTB, with written notification.
- c. Any offending individual who provides a written statement denying the charges being placed against him within the designated time will be entitled, if ECTB so determines, to an informal Hearing before a Committee of ECTB Officials. ECTB reserves the right to deny any offending individual the right to a hearing before the ECTB Committee.
 - i. The offending party would be required to be present at the Hearing and would be required to provide evidence on his / her behalf as to why the suspension is not justified.
 - ii. Any individual involved in the occurrence would be welcome to take part in this hearing to provide any pertinent information or evidence to the contrary. Individuals other than the offender are not required to be present at the hearing.
 - iii. The decision of the ECTB Committee shall be final and binding and not be the subject of an appeal issue.
- d. If ECTB determines that there is no need for a Hearing or the Offender admits to the charges against him, ECTB will uphold the suspension as initially issued and the Offender is responsible to serve his suspension as outlined in the original notification. In the event that the suspended individual does not abide by the suspension guidelines and / or monetary penalties are not submitted by the deadline ECTB has indicated, the individual will be considered in Poor Standing with ECTB and remain suspended indefinitely with no further consideration to rectify the situation. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

2. If the offense occurs during a Sanctioned league or event, the Sanctioned Host / Director are required to provide a written statement to ECTB within five (5) days of the occurrence. Once the statement is received, ECTB Officials will follow the procedure outlined above in Section G2.
 - a. Should the matter come before the ECTB Committee for a hearing, the Sanctioned Host / Director would be required to be present at the hearing.

3. If the offense that occurred becomes that of a legal investigation, ECTB will be required to notify the offending parties of ECTB's action (suspension / disbarment) that will become effective immediately and will be upheld until the matter has been legally settled or dismissed at which time ECTB will re-evaluate based on the outcome and determine how to proceed.
 - a. If the occurrence is settled out of court or is dismissed, ECTB will commence with the hearing procedure indicated in Section G2. The Offender will still be required, if ECTB so determines, to present his / her case before the ECTB Committee.
 - b. The decision of the ECTB Committee shall be final and binding and not be the subject of an appeal issue.
 - c. ECTB reserves the right to uphold a suspension / disbarment issued by ECTB even in the event that the individual is cleared of charges legally.
 - d. If the occurrence is settled out of court or dismissed, ECTB reserves the right to overturn a suspension / disbarment issued by ECTB without holding a Hearing before the ECTB Committee if so determined by ECTB Officials.
 - e. If legal charges are confirmed and upheld, ECTB will uphold any suspension / disbarment and reserves the right to extend the suspension / disbarment to the fullest extent. ECTB is not required in this instance to hold a hearing. ECTB reserves the right to issue additional suspensions beyond one (1) year based on the severity of the occurrence as well as the legal action taken.

4. ECTB reserves the right to suspend any team with outstanding fees due to the association, including but not limited to Sponsoring hotels and other organizations that participate with ECTB. Until such fees are received and cleared by the respective parties, the team will be considered not in good standing and not eligible to participate. ECTB reserves the right to extend suspensions as ECTB sees fit based on the individual situation at hand even if the outstanding fees have been received and cleared.
5. ECTB reserves the right, as an independently owned entity, to refuse access or participation to any individual(s) or team(s) that ECTB feels is a "conflict of interest to the organization" or "in POOR Standing". ECTB is not required to provide these individuals or teams notification of this unless a written request is received from the individual / team. ECTB is not required to provide any information beyond a written statement indicating that ECTB considers the individual / team as a "conflict of interest". ECTB reserves the right to deny these individuals access to the ECTB website as well as ECTB reserves the right to deny these individuals from participating in any affiliated event, league or showcase.
6. ECTB Officials and Sanctioned Hosts / Directors have the authority to eject any player and/or team at any time during an event if any of the listed policies, procedures and/or rules outlined by the association is found to be broken or abused by said Offender.
7. As a suspension draws to an end, ECTB reserves the right to extend any suspension / disbarment as so determined. ECTB is required to provide written notification to said individuals of any extension to a suspension / disbarment. Should ECTB so choose to extend a suspension / disbarment, such individuals will be given the option to present their request for reinstatement at an informal hearing before ECTB's Committee. In this situation, individuals would proceed as indicated in Section G2.

8. Anyone who has been served a Suspension who refuses to sign for the certified letter of notification or who refuses to honor the Suspension guidelines set forth by ECTB will be considered in Poor Standing with ECTB and will be denied future participation indefinitely. ECTB reserves the right to pursue whatever legal action necessary to have a noncompliant Suspended Individual removed from attending or attempting to participate in any ECTB Affiliated function or facility being used for the purpose of an ECTB function.

Section H ECTB PLAYING RULES

- H1. SEASON AGE ELIGIBILITY:** ECTB endorses the age determining date proposed by USA Baseball. Effective in 2010 and all consecutive seasons, the age determining date will be May 1st instead of previously used August 1st cut off. This age change date will also affect all affiliated events hosted by ECTB.
1. ECTB will play all tournaments by using the NEW May 1st age cutoff date effective immediately. The change for all tournaments occurs in the fall after ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) events are completed and/or starting Labor Day weekend events.
 2. To determine your individual players age eligibility, please use the Age Calculator at www.ectb.org by clicking on INFORMATION (tab on left of home page) and then choose ECTB Event Age Calculator and enter the date of birth of a specific player to determine their age eligibility for that specific season.

3. ALL age groups will move up to their next age level starting Labor Day weekend tournaments and all fall events thereafter. This requirement is to assist teams in preparing for the next spring season. (Example: If a team played 10u in the spring and summer of a given season and is participating with ECTB in an event that same season that occurs in the fall, they will be required to play as a new 11u team.) By moving teams up in the fall of every season, teams will have a head start at any new changes that come with the next age level of play (i.e. field dimensions).

H2. FIELD DIMENSIONS: The following field dimensions can be used in any ECTB Official or Sanctioned Event.

1. **6 through 8 under:**
Option 1: 40 ft. mound / 60 ft. bases **ECTB Standard**

2. **9 and 10 under:**
Option 2: 46 ft. mound / 60 ft. bases **ECTB Standard**
Option 3: 46 ft. mound / 65 ft. bases
Option 4: 46 ft. mound / 70 ft. bases

3. **11 and 12 under:**
Option 1: 46 ft. mound / 60 ft. bases
Option 2: 46 ft. mound / 65 ft. bases
Option 3: 50 ft. mound / 70 ft. bases **ECTB Standard**

4. **13 and under:**
Option 1: 54 ft. mound / 80 ft. bases
Option 2: 60 ft. mound / 90 ft. bases **ECTB Standard**

5. **14 through 19 under:**
Option 1: 60 ft. mound / 90 ft. bases **ECTB Standard**

H3. EQUIPMENT / UNIFORMS: All players must be fully uniformed. A full uniform consists of pants, socks, cap and team shirt with numbers that are non-duplicating and at least three (3) inches in height. All players on a team must be outfitted in matching uniforms unless prior approval granted by ECTB.

1. A full use batting helmet which covers the top and back of the head and the side of the face must be worn by every player while in the on-deck circle, when at bat and while on the bases.
2. While on the field as a defensive player, team caps must be worn.
3. All batboys / batgirls will wear full use batting helmets AT ALL TIMES. NO EXCEPTIONS! Batboys / batgirls seen without a batting helmet at all times will be removed IMMEDIATELY from the dugout / playing field.
4. Managers and coaches should wear clothes with team insignia and be properly dressed (coaches may wear team uniform or coaches shorts). ONLY.....four (4) coaches allowed in a dugout for games. This includes a scorekeeper or batboy as they can be part of the total of four (4) allowed.
5. The catcher must wear all appropriate protective gear including mask, chest protector, shin guards, protective cup, catchers helmet and throat guard. In age divisions 12u and under, the catcher must wear a protective helmet that fully covers both ears.
6. Metal spikes are prohibited in age divisions 12u and under.
7. Protests on uniforms will not be allowed. It shall be at the Tournament Director / Field Director's discretion to determine uniform legality. Violation of the uniform rule will result in the violator being allowed to conform or be removed from the game.

H4. TIE BREAKERS FOR FINAL SEEDINGS: To determine the top spots for the final seedings in an event, ECTB will use the following format:

1. Overall record of wins / losses. In the event teams do not have any wins but have multiple ties, teams with multiple ties cannot be rated higher than a team with a win for reseeding purposes without having a win. Points achieved through ties are non factors in the reseeding process.
2. Head to head winner (if more than two (2) teams are tied and one (1) team has beat all the teams that are tied, they automatically advance, regardless of runs allowed).
3. Least runs allowed (to get the #1 seed) or if the #1 seed has been determined, use this criteria to get the #2 seed. After you have determined which team of the three (3) advances, revert back to head to head to advance the next team to either 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Place.
4. **If still tied, throw out the highest number of runs scored of your games and add the other two together to determine the winner to advance** (Example: Team A – game one scored 10 runs, game two scored 5 runs, game three scored 2 runs...throwing out the high game, Team A scored 7 runs. Team B – game one scored 5 runs, game two scored 5 runs and game three scored 4 runs...throwing out the highest scoring game, Team B scored 8 runs and advances to the Championship game.)
5. If still tied after using all of the above criteria, ECTB will take the team with the highest amount of ECTB points prior to the start of the event and that team will advance. If all else fails, ECTB will resort to the International Tie Breaker Rule. **This is ONLY used to determine advancement into the final seedings or single elimination rounds.** International Tie Breaker Rule PER this determination: Each team will start with bases loaded, no outs and play to win an inning. If one (1) team scores more than the other in a complete inning, game is officially over.
Play will continue until there is a winner.

6. **The final game (Championship game) has no time limit.** The ten (10) run rule is still in effect for the Championship game after four (4) innings of play.

H5. 8 AND UNDER PLAYER PITCH: 8 and under will play 40' x 60', six (6) inning game.

1. Runners on base cannot advance when the defense has control of the ball in the infield (Umpire discretion).
2. Runners can advance at their own risk once a pitched ball has passed home plate.
3. When a runner tries to advance prior to the ball passing home plate, the following will apply:
 - a. If the runner is safe, the runner returns to the original base.
 - b. If the runner is tagged out, the runner is out.
 - c. If the ball is hit, the defensive team has the option of the result of the play or no pitch.
4. Runners may not advance from third base to home unless the runner is batted home or forced by a base on balls. Runners may not advance from third on a passed ball or wild pitch.
5. The batter cannot advance to first base after a missed third strike.
6. Nine players will be used on defense.
7. The balk rule will not apply.
8. A pitcher may only pitch a maximum of three (3) innings per game by same pitcher.
9. The batting order will consist of ALL players on the team roster at the beginning of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted as the last batter.

10. ALL players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the order.
11. A maximum of seven (7) runs per inning or three (3) outs, whichever comes first.
12. Free substitution on defense. Batting order must remain the same.
13. Defensive coaches are not allowed on the field of play and must coach from the dugout.
14. Infield fly rule does not apply.

Section I
BASEBALL TOURNAMENT GAME RULES

- I1. **COIN TOSS:** Only in Pool play rounds will there be a coin toss. A toss of a coin between the two managers will determine the home team before each game.
 1. After Pool Play rounds are complete and ECTB reseeds all teams for final seeding or single elimination rounds, the team who has the higher seed will automatically be the home team in single elimination play only. In final seeding rounds, we will still use coin toss. Home team is the official scorekeeper for each game. It is the visiting team's responsibility to ensure the score of the game is correct at the conclusion of each inning.
 2. Visiting Team will have the choice of dugout in all games other than Pool Play.
- I2. **PRE-GAME WARM UP:** Teams are **not guaranteed** field time before the start of all their games. Practice time before games is only allowed when games are running on schedule. When possible, the visiting team shall be allotted five (5) minutes of field time followed by the home team receiving five (5) minutes of field time. Immediately after, play will commence with the home team staying on the field.

- 13. ECTB STANDARD TIME LIMITS:** ECTB will determine and approve game time limits for events.
1. 12 and under: One hour, forty-five minutes (1 hour, 45 minutes)
13 and up: Two hours (2 hours)
 2. The **Semi-Final Games** (Trophy Rounds) time limit will be extended fifteen (15) minutes to allow for games to be completed in their entirety. (Example: 12u – two (2) hour time limit, 13u – two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes)
 3. **Championship Games:** There will be NO time limit for a championship game in any event.
 4. **Seeding and Final Round Games:** Games that are tie at the conclusion or by time limit must finish the game using the International Tie Breaker Rule **ONLY** in seeding and final rounds. Both teams will play to win an inning starting with a runner on second base, no outs and playing until there is a winner. To start the tie breaker, the last batted out from the previous inning becomes the runner on second when starting the tie breaker inning. When starting the tie breaker, the game shall continue from where it left off in the batting order at the conclusion of time called or the number of game innings that were completed.
 5. **Pool Play and Consolation Games:** All Pool Play and Consolation games tied at the end of regulation or time limit will be posted as tied.
 - a. **Pool Play:** All games must be played and completed entirely. All games will be rescheduled from the point where they are stopped. All time left on the clock when the game is called must be recorded and turned in to the ECTB Director along with the score and the inning of the game, the count, the number of outs and the Umpire must sign the book of the home team. This is where the game will be continued from at a later time unless agreed by both teams to end game as official.

- b. **Consolation Game:** Minimum Requirement of four (4) innings to be a complete game or three and a half (3½) if the home team is winning. Consolation games do not need to finish the bottom half of an inning if the home team is winning at the end of time limit or due to darkness / inclement weather.

14. ECTB STANDARD GAME INNINGS: ECTB will determine and approve the number of innings played in a game.

1. 12u and under age divisions: 6 Inning Games
13u and up age divisions: 7 Inning Games
2. During inclement weather, ECTB reserves the right to shorten games by one (1) inning in an attempt to complete a scheduled event.
3. Mercy Ruling: Games can be called for Mercy Rulings after the specific number of complete innings, providing the home team has the certain run lead. After the specific number of complete innings, the game is official.
 - a. Fifteen (15) Run Lead after three (3) complete innings. (If the visiting team is winning by fifteen (15) or more after the top of the third inning, the home team must bat for the inning to be completed. If the home team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs at the start of the third inning, the visiting team will bat in the top of the third and if they do not come back, the game will be complete. If the home team reaches a fifteen (15) run lead during the bottom of the third inning, the game is over once they have gone up by fifteen (15) runs.
 - b. Twelve (12) Run Lead after four (4) complete innings (follows the same template as (a) above).
 - c. Eight (8) Run Lead after five (5) complete innings (follows the same template as (a) above). *This applies in any inning hereafter that either the home or visiting team gets an eight (8) run lead.

- 15. PLAYERS:** A team can begin play with eight (8) players – the ECTB allowed number of players to start. That team will receive an out for the ninth slot in the batting order (if a ninth player shows up during the game, the player can be inserted into the last spot in the batting order which would eliminate the automatic out). Teams cannot change to free substitution when starting with eight players (in the event that a team has additional late players show up – nine (9) is the maximum for the remainder of this game). Teams can **NEVER** finish a game with eight (8) players on an ejection.
- 16. SLIDING:** ECTB does not have a mandatory slide rule. However, players are encouraged to slide if at all possible to **avoid malicious contact**. When a defensive player clearly has the ball and is waiting for the runner and the runner deliberately, with force (Maliciously) crashes into the defensive player, the runner is declared out. The offender is ejected, the ball is dead and all runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. This is a judgment call and the Umpire's decision is FINAL.
1. Head first slides are allowed at Home Plate. Players are allowed to slide head first into a base for advancement.
 2. Forced Play Slide Rule: The intent of the Forced Play Slide Rule is to ensure the safety of the defensive player. This is a safety as well as an interference rule. This rule pertains to a forced play situation regardless of the number of outs.
 - a. On a forced play at any base, including home plate, the runner must slide on the ground in a direct line between the two bases. This is a legal slide even if contact is made with the fielder.
 - b. On the ground, the forced slide can either be a head first slide or a slide with one leg and buttocks on the ground.
 - c. Directly into a base means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases. (A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the individual slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the defensive player.)

3. Contact is allowed if the runner:
 - a. Makes a legal slide directly into the base, or
 - b. Is on the ground at the time of contact and the fielder moves directly down the line between the two bases to attempt a play. Interference shall NOT be called.

4. It is an ILLEGAL slide if:
 - a. The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder.
 - b. The runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop up slide into the fielder. A pop up slide is a legal slide as long as the runner does not make contact with or alter the play of the fielder.
 - c. The runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position.
 - d. The runner goes beyond the base and makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder. (Beyond the base refers to any part of the offensive player's body that makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder beyond the base.)
 - e. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg, or
 - f. The slide is flagrant (if the runner's slide is determined to be intentional, the individual shall be ejected from the game).

5. If the runner, on a forced play, makes an illegal slide at any base, including home plate, interference will be called.

6. **Penalty:** With less than two (2) outs, the batter / runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance. With two (2) outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.

- 17. COLLISIONS:** ECTB's intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible. ECTB is looking to discourage unnecessary and violent collisions with the catcher at home plate and with infielders at bases.
1. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the Umpire shall judge:
 - a. Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked) or
 - b. Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the base (plate) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder.
 2. Penalty: If the runner:
 - a. Could have avoided the collision and reached the base, or
 - b. Attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
 3. Approved Rulings:
 - a. If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the base (plate), the runner may make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base or plate.
 - b. If the collision by the runner was flagrant, the runner shall be declared out and ejected from the game.
 - c. The ball shall be declared dead if the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line clearly without the ball or is not in the immediate act of catching the ball. Obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball shall be called.

18. MALICIOUS CONTACT: Players are **REQUIRED** to know that malicious contact is **ILLEGAL**. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate where the Catcher is blocking the plate. Any player who, in the judgment of the Umpire, maliciously runs into another player is automatically ejected and is declared out. ECTB Umpires are instructed to enforce this rule if they witness any intentional and/or excessive force or if they suspect intent to injure another player.

1. **Penalty:** The offending player (whether offensive or defensive) shall be removed from the game.

19. COURTESY RUNNER: It is **NOT MANDATORY** with two (2) outs, to use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher. Teams will have the option to use a Courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher at any time during an inning but must follow all options and rules regarding Courtesy Runners listed below.

1. Option 1: If a team opts to bat their entire line up, they must use the last official batter of the previous inning as the Courtesy Runner. The second choice is to use the second last batter of the previous inning if the team needs a second courtesy runner that inning (this only occurs when the pitcher and catcher reach base in the same inning).
 - a. First Inning Only: In the event that the pitcher or catcher bat in the first inning of play and need a courtesy runner, they must:
 - i. Use someone from the bench (not already in the starting lineup), or
 - ii. If batting the entire lineup, use the last batter posted in the starting lineup at the start of that game.
 - b. If you choose to bat all players in the game in your order one (1) through twenty (20), you will be allowed free substitution for the game defensively and all pitching rules will apply. If a courtesy runner is needed for the pitcher or catcher, the player making the third out from the previous inning must run (this rule only applies to teams batting all players). The re-entry status of the courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher is not affected by this rule.

- c. If a team chooses to bat their entire lineup and a player cannot continue due to injury, an out will not be recorded until the lineup is reduced to ten (10) or less players. Players injured must be crossed off on the lineup and are not allowed to return during that game.
2. Option 2: If a team opts to bat nine (9) or ten (10) batters, the courtesy runner must be someone not in the current batting order of the game. (Example: Starter who is now on the bench or player who just arrives or someone who has not been in the game at all.) The exception to this rule is if there are no additional players on the bench; refer back to Option 1 for Courtesy Runners.
 - a. RULE: The courtesy runner(s) cannot be the same player for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning at any time.

I10. INTENTIONAL WALK: ECTB will allow the Head Coach or Catcher of the defensive team to announce to the Home Plate Umpire that they would like to **intentionally** walk a batter.

No pitches are necessary, and the batter will be awarded first base.

I11. RE-ENTRY: In all age divisions, starters may re-enter once but must re-enter in their original position in the batting order. Non-starters are not allowed to re-enter. When a starter re-enters, the player in the starter's batting order must be taken out of the game and is ineligible to re-enter for the remainder of the game.

Exception: The exception to the rule is if all players have been used in the game and an injury occurs to a starter not substituted for during the game and all players have been used. At this time, the following is allowed:

1. A non-starter must be placed in the injured starter's position.
2. If all non-starters are currently in the game, one of the non-starters must be moved to the injured players batting position and the original starter must go back in his original batting order. **A starter can NEVER be moved into another starters batting position.**

3. The player that was injured is finished for the game and cannot return.
4. If the sub should get injured in the game, the spot in the order will be recorded as an out.

I12. ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION:

1. If a team is caught with an illegal substitution, it shall be treated in the same manner as a player batting out of order, per the major league rule.
2. If the illegal substitution is caught before the illegal player comes to bat, the proper player will be inserted into the lineup.
3. If the illegal substitution is caught during the time the illegal player is at bat, but before he reaches base, the illegal player is removed and the proper player will be inserted into their proper batting order and will assume the count of the illegal player (follow Pro Rule for batting out of order).
4. If the illegal substitution should reach base and the opposing team protests "batting out of order", that player is now OUT. If the opposing team does not protest the illegal substitution prior to a pitch being thrown to the next batter or an attempted play has occurred, the illegal substitution is now considered legal and the batting order shall continue. (Example: #7 batter was illegally substituted with #8 batter, #8 batter reaches base and no protest is voiced or if protest occurs, the next batter MUST be the #8 batter. The #7 batter slot is lost.)

I13. DESIGNATED HITTER: In age divisions of 13u and up, the Designated Hitter (DH) may be utilized.

1. A team using a DH is required to make the opposing team as well as the plate umpire aware of a DH prior at the start of the game. This must be addressed when covering field ground rules. Both teams must exchange lineup cards with the opposing team and the plate umpire.

2. The DH can only bat for the pitcher.
 - a. If the starting pitcher has a DH batting in his spot in the order and he leaves the mound but stays in the game in another defensive position, the starting pitcher then replaces the DH in the batting order and this eliminates the DH for the remainder of the game.
3. The DH can bat anywhere in the lineup if a team chooses this option.
4. The DH is a free batting spot only.

I14. EXTRA HITTER: In all age divisions, one (1) Extra Hitter (EH) will be allowed unless a team chooses to bat their entire lineup. If your team is batting their entire lineup, follow Section I9, b and c.

1. A team using an EH is required to make the opposing team as well as the plate umpire aware of the EH prior to the start of the game. This must be addressed when covering field ground rules. Both teams must exchange lineup cards with the opposing team and the plate umpire.
2. A team using an EH will have a ten (10) player lineup and this lineup must be used the remainder of the game.
3. If a team is unable to continue a ten (10) player lineup for any reason, the spot will be marked as an out.
4. The player in the EH position, while not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as though they are for substitution purposes.
5. The re-entry rule applies for the EH (Example: Ron is the EH and batting fourth (4th). Bob is the catcher and batting seventh (7th). Ron can become the catcher and Bob the EH. Both players would remain in their original batting order. All players can move freely in defensive positions. The EH is considered an offensive position for batting order purposes.)

6. Once a pitcher leaves the mound and goes to the bench, he cannot return to pitch even if he occupies the EH position (EH is not a defensive position).

I15. STEALING RULE: Free stealing is allowed for age groups 10u and older.

1. 8u and 9u Divisions:
 - a. 8u and 9u cannot steal home.
 - b. The ball must offensively be put in play for the runner to advance from third.
 - c. The only other way a player can advance from third is a bases loaded walk.
 - d. The defensive team will have no penalty in trying to pick off the runner stealing second. If third base is occupied, the runner on third cannot advance during a steal play. This will allow catchers to learn and attempt to throw the runner out trying to advance per base. While attempting to pick off runner, all over throws will not allow advancement. Players are awarded the base they were stealing only.
 - e. In the event that a player has reached base, he must remain on the base. If he steps off the base, he is at risk of the opposing team making a play. He may not advance. His only option is to return the base that he is currently at. There is no penalty for the defensive team to make an attempt to get him out as stealing is not allowed.
 - f. Common Rule for 8u to 10u Divisions: **PLAYER MAY NOT LEAVE HIS / HER BASE UNTIL THE BALL LEAVES THE PITCHERS HAND.** If a player leaves early, he / she will be called out and the pitch will be a dead ball.

I16. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS: For age divisions 9u and up, there are NO pitching restrictions. For age divisions 8u and under, please review Section H5 – 8u and Under Player Pitch.

1. All pitchers once removed from the mound in any game may not return to pitch in the same game.

I17. BAT RESTRICTIONS:

1. 14u and under: There are no bat restrictions.
2. 15u and up: Minus three (3) is the only bats allowed. Exception: Wood bats, metal wood bats and composites.
3. Wood bat events are wood only. No composites, no metal wood bats allowed.
4. **Penalty:** If a player is caught in the game using a minus four (4) or higher and has made contact with the ball (fair or foul), he is automatically called out, the play is dead and all runners must go back. The offending player is then ejected for the remainder of the game. Umpires are required to enforce this rule. This penalty will be enforced only if the violation was caught prior to no pitch having been thrown to the next batter. If this rule violation is caught before the player makes contact with the ball, the batter will be required to use a legal bat and the count will continue.

I18. FORFEITS: A team that forfeits a game due to cheating, fighting or ejections will be automatically removed from the remainder of the tournament and will not be permitted to continue with the scheduled games. **Exception:** If so agreed upon by the opposing team and the remaining opposing teams, for the sake of game play, the offending team may be allowed to play the remaining games **BUT ALL games will be recorded as losses for the offending team.** This decision will be based on individual situational basis with all parties in agreement and approved by ECTB officials.

1. A team forfeiting due to the above reasons or if a team leaves the field by choice and does not complete their game, the result will be:
 - a. All runs given up prior to the forfeit will be added to their runs allowed plus an additional fourteen (14) runs. The opposing team's runs will be recorded as well. (Example: Team A is winning three (3) to one (1). Team B leaves the field.

Team B will be penalized with fourteen (14) additional runs against them plus the three (3) already scored from the game. Score recorded will be seventeen (17) to one (1).

I19. EJECTIONS

1. **EJECTIONS (Players and Coaches):** Any player or coach ejected from a game for any reason will be required to sit out the remainder of the game they were ejected from as well as their next game. If a coach or player is ejected a second time anytime throughout the remainder of the event, the offender will be permanently removed from the remainder of the tournament and must leave the premises for the remainder of the event. **This applies for ALL games (including pool, semi-finals and finals). NO EXCEPTIONS! Any player or coach not abiding to this rule will cause their team to forfeit from the event.**
 - a. Any time a team has three (3) player or coach ejections within a game, it is an automatic forfeit and cause for dismissal from the remainder of the event. Fourteen (14) additional runs will be placed against the offending / forfeiting team and all points accrued from this event will be forfeited as well (ECTB points).
 - b. **PENALTY AND SUSPENSION RULE : EJECTIONS DURING SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL GAMES** – The penalty for ejections in semi-finals and Championship Games will be as follows:
 - i. 1st Occurrence: \$100 Penalty for your first occurrence.
 - ii. 2nd Occurrence: \$200 Penalty for your second occurrence.
 - iii. 3rd Occurrence: \$500 Penalty for your third occurrence.
 - iv. 4th Occurrence: \$500 Penalty WITH a full one (1) year Suspension.

- c. Players and Coaches ejected during semi-final and final games will be sent a Suspension form. The form must be filled out and returned with the Penalty fee of the occurrence listed above within fourteen (14) days of that ejection occurrence or prior to the teams next event (if sooner than 14 days). Failure to pay the penalty within this time period will be cause for immediate indefinite Suspension. Once a player or coach receives four (4) ejection occurrences, he will be served with his one (1) year suspension and the suspension will begin from the date that the Suspension form and penalty fee are received in the ECTB office. Any player or coach who does not abide by the Penalty fees in the time period allotted will not be permitted to participate in any way and is not allowed to attend any ECTB affiliated events (including Sanctioned and Official events, leagues or other ECTB programs). Parents are responsible for their minor child's ejection fees. Ejected players may not be rostered on upcoming tournament rosters until their fees are paid.
 - d. ECTB staff will monitor these penalties / suspensions closely. Any coach / player who has an outstanding penalty that attempts to participate or attend (attend is defined as physically being on any grounds being used for an ECTB affiliated event) will result in their team immediately being removed from the tournament they are participating in, forfeiture of entry fee paid and review of possible team suspension for the remainder of the season. See Section G – Reasons for Suspension.
2. **EJECTIONS (Parent or Fan):** Parents or fans ejected from a game will be dismissed from the remainder of the tournament (must leave the premises – any common grounds of the current location the event is taking place). The ejected Parent / fan has five (5) minutes to leave the premises or the Head Coach will be ejected as well. Head Coach will be subject to standard ejection rules (meaning he would then be required to sit out the next game). It is the Coaches responsibility to make sure his parents and fans are under control at all times.

(Fan is defined as anyone associated with your team; this includes but is not limited to parents, siblings, grandparents, sponsors, etc.)

- I20. SAFETY RULE:** Each team will receive one (1) Team Warning when the infraction occurs of a player throwing his bat. After the team warning, players will be called out if the violation occurs at anytime during the remainder of the game. If the player is called out, all play will stop, all runners will return to their base at the time of the pitch. If the thrown bat causes an injury, forcing a player to leave the game, the batter who caused the injury will be ejected for the remainder of the game and must sit out the next game of the event. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- I21. TIME OUTS:** Coaches delays can occur when a coach deliberately stops the game for a team meeting, trips to the mound and not hustling their players on and off the field when three (3) outs occur. The offending team then becomes subject to delay of game penalties and the game can be changed by the plate Umpire or the Tournament Official in order to complete the game or add time onto the game. This is providing the team making the infraction is winning and the opposing team gets the plate Umpire to impose that an infraction has occurred. The plate Umpire makes both teams aware of the ruling immediately. A coach on his second trip to the mound in an inning must remove the pitcher. (The maximum trips to the mound in a single game are four (4).) All other trips, the pitcher must be removed unless injury occurs).
- I22. CATCH AND CARRY RULE:** There is no catch and carry allowed. All players must catch the ball with both feet inside the out of play lines. If a player makes a play in foul territory and his momentum carries him out of play after making the catch, the ball is dead and all base runners will be advanced one (1) base. (Coaches should review with their teams where the out of play lines are prior to the start of the game at each field.)
- I23. CONSOLATION GAME REQUIREMENT:** ECTB determined it necessary to add the policy / penalty in the 2004 season and will continue to follow this requirement in order to ensure teams receive the number of games ECTB guarantees in our tournament format.

1. Teams that have not made it into the winner's bracket are placed in the consolation round and are REQUIRED to play their consolation game. **Should a team decide to not play their consolation game against another consolation team, the team choosing not to play will incur a penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) of that tournament entry fee, which is due to ECTB within two (2) weeks post the conclusion of the event.** If a team owing this penalty does not submit this fee within his two (2) week deadline, the team will be suspended from future events as well as forfeit any points accrued during this event and any fees on deposit with ECTB (for events, leagues, showcases that have already been received in the ECTB office) UNTIL this fee is submitted and received.
2. If a team shows up for the consolation game and no opponent shows up (within a reasonable amount of time), the team should contact the Head Director and make him aware of the situation. At that time, the Head Director will make an effort to find a replacement team. If a team does not notify the Head Director that their opponent did not show up and the team leaves, ECTB will consider this a joint decision by both teams and no penalty or compensation will be enforced.
3. Any team that is left without a consolation game (meaning ECTB is unable to find a replacement team to play the team who wants the consolation game) will be awarded a **credit only** VOUCHER of twenty-five percent (25%) of the entry fee within two (2) weeks post the conclusion of the event as compensation for the loss of their consolation game. If ECTB is able to find a replacement team, this penalty will not be enforced. (Example: Teams A and C are scheduled to play a consolation game and Teams B and D are scheduled to play a consolation game. Teams A and D both choose to leave without playing a consolation game, Teams B and C are able to be matched up to complete a consolation game.)

4. If two (2) teams that are scheduled to play a consolation game both agree to not play the consolation game, no penalty will be issued as it was a mutual decision by both opponents to not play the consolation game.
This joint decision **MUST** be called in to the Head Director by **BOTH** teams and will be recorded as a tie (both teams will receive ECTB points for the game.)
5. In the event ECTB is able to find a replacement to play your consolation game, points will be awarded based on the outcome of the game. There will be no additional forfeit points awarded.
6. This policy will **ONLY** be enforced if ECTB is unable to find a replacement team to play a team who wishes to have a consolation game but is unable to because their opponent did not show up. No cash will be awarded. The compensation will be strictly credit issued in **VOUCHER** form for the team to use towards future ECTB participation (See Voucher Guidelines).

I24. THUNDER / LIGHTNING RULE: If lightning is seen, the Umpire will stop the game immediately and the general rule is to wait twenty (20) to thirty (30) minutes after the last lightning strike before allowing the game to resume. It is at the umpire's discretion (based on how far off the lightning may be) as to when he determines to stop the game.

I25. GAMES NOT COMPLETED: Games not completed (due to lightning, inclement weather, darkness or other acts of God) will be handled as follows: All games must be recorded at the point at which they are stopped (including all pertinent information – teams involved, time left in game, score, inning, outs, count, who's at bat). Umpire should sign the scorebook at the time the game is stopped. The completion of the game will be based on the following:

1. The standard is that all games must be finished from the point at which the game was stopped and ECTB will reschedule the completion of the game. This does not include consolation games (will be marked as complete or canceled).

2. Other than the standard, if both teams agree to not finish the game, score will be recorded as final (Pool Play).
3. ECTB has stamped the game as official after four (4) complete innings and the game is tied or the game has no effect on the reseeding process.

I26. RULES NOT COVERED: This is a general rulebook used as a basis for primary guidelines set forth by ECTB for functions associated with the organization. Playing rules not specifically covered in this rulebook should be referred to ECTB Officials to be addressed. ECTB will follow as the next order of established rules the Major League Baseball Official Rulebook.

1. ECTB reserves the right to alter, change, add and delete rules, policies and procedures at any time throughout the season as situations occur that would require ECTB to re-evaluate a rule or create a rule to further benefit the individuals participating with this organization.
2. ECTB will ALWAYS make any and all updates to this manual available to individuals on the ECTB website (www.ectb.org) under ECTB Official Rulebook. Teams not finding a rule in their pocketsize manual may need to consult the online manual that will carry all updates.

Section J OFFICIAL AND SANCTIONED LEAGUE RULES

- J1.** All Leagues advertised on ECTB's website are considered Official or Sanctioned Leagues and will be required to follow ECTB's policies and procedures including but not limited to Refund Policy, Suspensions and Team / Player / Coach Eligibility.

Each Sanctioned League Coordinator will be advertised on the DETAILS of that league with contact information. Each League Coordinator is required to provide all teams participating within that league a complete list of that League's Specific Guidelines and Rules.

**Section K
MISCELLANEOUS**

K1. ECTB POINTS RANKING: Teams in all age divisions that participate with ECTB will receive points through the ECTB point system. These points will be issued for games played, wins, losses, ties, and tournament results.

1. Criteria and points established for National ranking in ECTB Tournaments

Final Results	Standard Event	Holiday Events	State/Regional International Championships	National Invitational Tournaments	Elite All Star World Classics
1 st place	30	50	70	90	150
2 nd Place	25	45	65	80	140
3 rd Place	20	40	60	75	130
4 th Place	15	35	55	70	120
5 th – 12 th	10	30	45	60	100
13 th – 19 th	5	25	30	50	75
20 +	2	10	20	30	50

2. Ala-Carte Games & League Points

Membership Ala Carte Games	Sanctioned League Games	Bonus Points will come in the Power Rankings
Win Game + 3	Win Game + 5	
Tie Game + 1	Tie Game + 2	
Participate + 1	Participate + 1	

Sanctioned League Teams after they accrue 10 games in our program in a season will be eligible for the Power Rankings based on the winning percentage of the team they face in a game or tournament. Example: if your record as recorded within our program is 14-1, you are at 933% and you lose a game in league play or tournament play to a team with a lesser record the team with the lesser percentage will receive bonus points for that game. This is only available if both teams are in the bonus stages, which will be after their first tournament or first league games totaling 10 or more. These Power Rankings are not applicable in ala carte games.

K2. HOST HOTELS: All teams requiring hotel accommodations for Official ECTB events are **REQUIRED** to stay in ECTB HOST Hotels advertised on the ECTB website under the Tournament Details AS LONG AS there are affiliated Host Hotels available (review the DETAILS page of the event to determine if Host Hotels are arranged for the event(s) you are entering).

Please follow the step by step instructions when making your Hotel reservations. Please be aware that ECTB secures large blocks of rooms at affiliated Hotels for your team's convenience. Teams that require Hotel accommodations are required to stay in Affiliated Host Hotels (when applicable) in order to be eligible to participate in ECTB events.

If your team is **COMMUTING** (within one (1) hour driving distance), please indicate so under **Travel Accommodations**.

1. After reviewing the list of Affiliated Host Hotels for Official ECTB events, please...
 - a. **HOTEL CONTACT:** Call the Hotel at the number provided and ask to speak with the designated HOTEL CONTACT person (listed for that hotel). If that specific person is not available, please leave a voicemail for them and they will return your call. Provide the following information when leaving a voicemail: your name, team name, return number, date of interest and number of rooms you are interested in.

- b. **ECTB TEAM:** Identify your team as an ECTB TEAM to ensure that you receive the designated room block and rate. If you don't identify your team as ECTB, often the hotel will not realize that there are rooms set aside specifically for the ECTB Teams and tell you they have no availability.
- c. **VERBAL RESERVATION:** Upon speaking with the Hotel Contact, make a VERBAL RESERVATION (this may require you to provide a credit card to hold a block of rooms for your team).
- d. **BOOK AS A TEAM: ALL TEAMS MUST BOOK AS A TEAM – DO NOT** book as individuals. A team includes coaches, players, parents and fans that wish to all stay together in the same hotel.
- e. **SUBMIT ROOMING LIST:** Both ECTB and the Host Hotels require each team to submit a Team ROOMING LIST prior to their arrival. The Rooming List can be found online by logging onto the ECTB website (www.ectb.org) with your team's username and password and clicking on Travel Accommodations (follow the prompts) or you can fax the HOTEL CONTACT person your rooming list directly to the hotel.
- f. **CONFIRMATION NUMBERS:** Once the Hotel has received your rooming list, they will provide you with your Room Confirmation Numbers. Teams that do not submit their rooming lists by the indicated deadline may be in jeopardy of securing their rooms for the event.
- g. **CANCELLATION POLICY:** Each affiliated Host Hotel has its own specific cancellation policy. Please review this policy with the Hotel Contact Person when making your reservation.

- h. WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY: Each of the affiliated Host Hotels listed have agreed to the ECTB Host Hotel Weather Cancellation Policy which requires that the hotel release teams of any financial responsibility for rooms canceled due to weather beyond ECTB's control, causing us to CANCEL / POSTPONE an event. In such instances, ECTB will notify the Host Hotels of an event cancellation / postponement BUT the teams are still required to call in and officially cancel their rooms.
- i. HOTEL COORDINATOR: The HOST HOTELS listed on the ECTB website have agreed to reserve large numbers of rooms for ECTB events because they are TEAM FRIENDLY and look forward to your stay with them. ECTB wants all teams to feel welcome, safe and comfortable at the affiliated Host Hotels listed on our website. Anyone having any issues, problems or concerns prior to, during or post their stay at one of our Host Hotels should contact us immediately.
 - Hotel Coordinator: Stacey Johnson
 - Office: (610) 845-3282
 - E-mail: Stacey.johnson@ectb.org
- j. TEAM COURTESY: Just as ECTB expects the best out of our affiliated Host Hotels, we expect the same courtesy from the teams that represent our organization at the Hotels. ALL Teams are required to be courteous, polite and on their BEST BEHAVIOR while staying at the Host Hotels. Any teams displaying unfavorable / disruptive behavior, language or destruction of property will be removed from the remainder of the event as well as future participation in any ECTB affiliated events.

K3. NON-HOST HOTELS: Teams attending OFFICIAL ECTB events that require hotel accommodations that opt to stay in **NON Host Hotels WILL** be removed from the event with no notification. All fees paid to the ECTB organization associated with the event will be forfeited by the team and the team will be banned from ECTB events for the remainder of the season.

1. Teams requiring hotel accommodations found to be staying in NON host hotels **PRIOR** to the start of the event.
 - a. Will be asked to comply with ECTB's requirements and move to a HOST hotel (if Host hotels are still available at that time). ECTB will not be held responsible for any cancellation fees incurred by an offending team that must cancel out of their non-affiliated hotel rooms.
 - b. Will be removed from the event if the team refuses to comply.
 - c. Will be banned from further events for the remainder of the season if the team refuses to comply OR is found to be a repeat offender of the Host Hotel policy.
 - d. Teams found to be staying in non-affiliated hotels that refuse to comply will forfeit any fees paid in association to the event due to not following proper ECTB policy to participate.
2. Teams found to be in NON-affiliated Hotels **DURING** or **POST** the event:
 - a. Will be given one (1) warning and advised of the requirements.
 - b. Will be closely monitored for future events concerning their hotel accommodations.
3. If a team is found to be a repeat offender concerning staying in NON Sponsoring Hotels when Host Hotels are available, the team will be removed from future events and suspended for the remainder of the season or indefinitely.
4. In the event that ALL HOST Hotels (within reason) are sold out or unable to accommodate a team's specific needs (i.e. number of rooms, room type) **ONLY** then are teams permitted to go outside the ECTB HOST Hotel group. **This requires the team to notify ECTB of the situation and be granted approval from ECTB.**
5. If an event does not list affiliated HOST Hotels, teams are free to make their travel accommodations as they see fit.

K4. COMMUTING: If your team is Commuting, please indicate this on the website. (Please note: ECTB defines a COMMUTING TEAM as a team within driving distance to the fields (under one and one-half 1½ hours) that will be driving from home to the field DAILY). Commuters should realize that games will begin as early as 8 am during an event and MUST allow enough time for travel to arrive on time to their games as ALL teams are subject to 8 am games.

K5. EVENT DATES AND GAME TIMES: In most instances, Official ECTB events are listed on the website including Friday dates. ECTB incorporates Friday into our event dates in the instances where some age groups may start play on Friday evenings based on lighted field availability. ECTB rarely starts games any earlier than 6 pm on a Friday. (**Exceptions:** Holiday weekend events, ECTB National Championship Series (NCS) events and Mansfield University summer events.)
Game times can and will begin in most cases as early as 10 am during an event. Teams should make proper arrangements to ensure that their team is on time to their scheduled games.

K6. SPECIAL REQUESTS: ECTB attempts WITHIN REASON to honor team's Special Requests whenever humanly possible. If a special request is **not** noted in a team's special request box prior to the TENTATIVE schedule being created, ECTB will NOT alter the schedule to accommodate. Teams with special requests WITHIN REASON must submit their request PRIOR to the tentative schedule being posted. ECTB will review each special request and ATTEMPT to accommodate whenever possible. Submitting a Special Request does not guarantee that it will be accommodated. Teams requesting such things as "no early games on any days" or "no late games on any days" or "no games against a certain team" CANNOT and WILLNOT be accommodated.

SPECIAL REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED NOR HONORED FOR NCS EVENTS!!!

SPECIAL REQUESTS DISCLAIMER

When registering for tournaments on the ECTB website and you would like to place a special request for a tournament, please do so on your registration page in the box labeled SPECIAL REQUESTS. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of the requests that are made during the registration process are honored. The likeliness of getting your request honored lessens with each day that you wait to place your request. ECTB would appreciate it if all requests would be submitted at least two (2) weeks prior to the start of the event so that all requests can be honored at the time the schedules are created. Scheduling requests made within two (2) weeks prior to the start of the tournament will no longer be accepted. If you are unsure of your requests at this time, please send an e-mail to info@ectb.org and we will update your request where possible.

K7. SCHEDULES: ECTB endeavors to provide teams with a tentative schedule several days prior to the start of the event (in most instances the Tuesday prior to the start of the event). Tentative schedules are subject to change for any reason ECTB sees fit.

Schedules become OFFICIAL usually the Thursday before the start of the event after 5 pm barring any unforeseen circumstances. ECTB makes every effort to keep as close to the original Tentative schedule whenever possible but makes no guarantees that the Official schedule will be the same as the tentative schedule. Teams are HIGHLY advised to NOT go by the tentative schedule but wait for the schedule to say 'OFFICIAL' before printing and notifying their players and parents.

Unforeseen circumstances unfortunately occur after a schedule is published OFFICIAL. In these situations, ECTB makes every effort humanly possible to make as few changes as absolutely necessary to proceed. If an Official schedule is changed (i.e. loss of a field, team withdrawing, inclement weather, etc.), ECTB will notify the teams immediately affected by these changes via e-mail notification.

K8. EVENT UPDATES / NOTIFICATION: Teams participating in Official ECTB events will be able to find out updates (i.e. cancellations, field or game time changes, reseeding, etc.) concerning the events they are participating in by the following means of communication:

1. **E-mail Notification:** ECTB's first line of communication with teams about changes or updates during an event is by e-mail notification. Team "Contacts" should check their contact information periodically or at least one (1) week prior to the start of an event they are participating in to make sure that the e-mail address is a valid and working e-mail. Teams that have access to a lap top during the event are wise to bring one along as this is one of ECTB's first measures utilized to notify teams as well as team's will have first hand access to schedules as they are changed or updated.
2. **Contact Cell Phone Numbers:** ALL individuals listed as a "Contact" for a team are ADVISED to keep their cell phone numbers UPDATED in our system. ECTB suggests that this be checked periodically or at least one (1) full week prior to an event a team is participating in. ECTB relies STRONGLY on this means of communication to update teams of important issues that directly affect their team.
3. **ECTB Office Phone Message:** ECTB will endeavor to update the main office phone message with all pertinent updates throughout an event. Teams should NOT leave messages related to an event on the message machine as the office staff is not available on weekends to listen to or respond to messages left at this number during an event. Teams are advised to utilize the cell phone numbers of the Field Directors that are provided to them in their Tournament Packets to address any and all issues related to and during the event.

4. **ECTB Reseeding Hotline: ECTB has a Reseeding Hotline set up for all OFFICIAL ECTB events (hosted by ECTB).** This hotline will be used for all teams after the completion of Pool Play and/or for weather related updates.

Dial (610) 845-3282 (ECTB main office line) when message starts, press:

- a. 8u – Press 128
- b. 9u – Press 129
- c. 10u – Press 130
- d. 11u – Press 131
- e. 12u – Press 132
- f. 13u – Press 133
- g. 14u – Press 134
- h. 15u – Press 135
- i. 16u – Press 136
- j. 18/19u – Press 138

Please listen to the entire message before ending your call to ensure that you obtain ALL pertinent information related to your age division.

Please be aware: ECTB (this includes office staff as well as Field Directors) will NOT address phone calls received from parents or persons not listed as a team “Contact” for said team (this includes before, during or after an event). ECTB provides updates to the “Contact(s)” that are registered for that team. These “Contact(s)” are then responsible to provide the information back to the team parents and players.

K9. FIELD DIRECTORS: Official ECTB events will have assigned Field Directors at all events and whenever possible at each field or complex. Field Directors will be identifiable by ECTB STAFF t-shirts and hats.

1. ECTB Field Directors will be in charge of providing each team with a Tournament packet prior to the start of each team's first game of an event.
2. ECTB Field Directors are REQUIRED to collect any OUSTANDING paperwork (Individual Player Waiver Release forms, Coaches Waiver and/or Birth Certificates) as well as any OUSTANDING fees (Membership dues, EVENT insurance) PRIOR to allowing each team to start their first game. They are NOT REQUIRED to allow tournament play to begin until ALL OUSTANDING issues per team are addressed and collected.
3. ECTB Field Directors are REQUIRED to make sure that each team is participating legally by checking the lineup card against the roster each team has submitted prior to the event start. Any discrepancies must be reported back to their superior – Head Director or an ECTB Official.
4. ECTB Field Director's cell phone numbers will be made available to teams both on official schedules advertised on the website and also in the Tournament packet handed out at the field. **These cell phone numbers are ONLY to be used during the tournament for assistance with directions, rule clarification and other tournament related issues. Teams are NOT to contact these individuals using these cell numbers at any other times for any other reasons.**

K10. ECTBUA UMPIRES (Elite Championship Tournament Baseball Umpire Association): All Official ECTB events will only contract and utilize umpires who are registered members of ECTBUA and/or other approved affiliated associations. All decisions on how the umpire association will operate unify and/or schedule events will be done under the direct supervision of the Umpire in Chief and the ECTB Office.

K11. FIELD LOCATIONS / DIRECTIONS: ECTB endeavors to provide teams with the most up to date accurate driving directions to our event fields. ECTB cannot be held responsible for situations beyond our control (i.e. road construction, traffic delays).

1. Directions and complete physical addresses of the fields most frequently used for ECTB events can be found on the ECTB website (www.ectb.org) under Field Directions. Teams not finding directions that will best assist them from the location they are coming from can also find directions by other internet means such as www.mapquest.com.
2. Additional fields may be used at times. Teams that find they are assigned to a field not listed here in the manual when reviewing OFFICIAL schedules of an event they are participating in should view and print the directions found on the website for that field or visit www.mapquest.com.
3. Teams traveling from a Host Hotel to a field should use www.mapquest.com and enter the address of the Host Hotel they are staying at and their destination (field physical address for driving directions to that field).
4. We apologize for any inconsistency or errors in driving directions and request prompt notification of such so that we may correct them on the website.

K12. ECTB EVENT COLOR KEY

OFFICIAL ECTB events are listed in RED.

The events listed in **RED** are hosted and directed by ECTB and the ECTB Staff. These annual events were started by Terry Schadler (owner / operator). Several of the Official ECTB events have been established since 1999.

Mansfield University / ECTB events are listed in BLACK.

Events listed in **BLACK** are events hosted at Mansfield University. Mansfield University has hosted ECTB sanctioned events for eight (8) years. Teams that participate in Mansfield University events qualify to participate in the ECTB National Championship Series. Teams participating in Mansfield University sanctioned events are **REQUIRED** to stay in the Mansfield University Residence Hall (Players & Coaches) as this is a requirement set by the university.

OFFICIAL ECTB Wood Bat events are listed in ORANGE.

If only a particular age group of an Official ECTB event is noted in **ORANGE**, then only that age group in the tournament is wood bat. **ONLY** wood bats are accepted. We do not honor the use of composites or metal wood bats.

ECTB Sanctioned events are listed in TEAL.

Tournaments listed in **TEAL** on the ECTB website are Sanctioned events hosted by individuals who have filled out a current ECTB Sanctioned Event Contract. Sanctioned Host's will have their events listed on the ECTB website and ECTB will send out periodic mass emails to the Team database to assist with filling these events. The Host of Sanctioned events is responsible to administrate his own event, collect his own entry fees and follow all policies outlined by ECTB.

A Sanctioned Host is responsible to make sure that all teams participating in his event turns in all required paperwork prior to the event (this includes proof of insurance, membership dues, online roster and a Team Waiver). These events are NOT official ECTB events. Individual Hosts are solely responsible for any fees collected as well as refunds. In the event of inclement weather it is the Host's responsible to make a decision and notify teams. If refunds are due, the Host is responsible to refund teams based on the ECTB refund policies outlined in the ECTB Policies & Procedures Manual. ECTB is not financially liable for any fees paid to a Sanctioned Hosts.

OFFICIAL (BOYS) NTIS EVENTS & INDIVIDUAL Player Tryouts/Skill Evaluations are listed in GRAY.

All showcase events/ Stars Evaluations are listed in **GRAY**. These events are run by ECTB and include identification showcases and travel team opportunities which advance teams or players to National Team Showcases or ECTB Elite / Experience Teams or help promote the players to be seen on a National Level.

OFFICIAL (GIRLS SOFTBALL) & INDIVIDUAL Player Tryouts/Skill Evaluations are listed in BROWN.

All showcase events/ Stars Evaluations are listed in **BROWN**. These events are run by ECTB and include identification showcases and travel team opportunities which advance teams or players to National Team Showcases or ECTB Elite / Experience Teams or help promote the players to be seen on a National Level.

OFFICIAL (GIRLS SOFTBALL) events are listed in PURPLE.

The events listed in **PURPLE** are hosted and directed by ECTB and the ECTB Staff. These annual events were started by Terry Schadler (owner / operator). Several of the Official ECTB events have been established since 1999.

ECTB (GIRLS SOFTBALL) Sanctioned events are listed in PINK.

Tournaments listed in **PINK** on the ECTB website are Sanctioned events hosted by individuals who have filled out a current Sanctioned Event Contract. Sanctioned Host's will have their events listed on the ECTB website and ECTB will send out periodic mass emails to the Team database to assist with filling these events. The Host of Sanctioned events is responsible to administrate his own event, collect his own entry fees and follow all policies outlined by ECTB. A Sanctioned Host is responsible to make sure that all teams participating in his event turns in all required paperwork prior to the event (this includes proof of insurance, membership dues, online roster and a Team Waiver). These events are NOT official ECTB events. Individual Hosts are solely responsible for any fees collected as well as refunds. In the event of inclement weather it is the Host's responsible to make a decision and notify teams. If refunds are due, the Host is responsible to refund teams based on the ECTB refund policies outlined in the Policies & Procedures Manual. ECTB is not financially liable for any fees paid to a Sanctioned Hosts.

COLLEGIATE / ADULT Age Events are listed in LIGHT BLUE.

For all collegiate or adult age events, listed in **LIGHT BLUE**, teams are allowed unlimited rosters and all players can be from age 18 and older. Special suggestions or recommendations may be added for a ADULT style event posted on the website.

ECTB RECREATIONAL/TOWN sanctioned events are in GREEN.

The events listed in **GREEN** are programs for local little leagues, local town all-star teams, and recreational programs. Most events are where the Single A or AA Registered teams should play.

K13 Weather Insurance

ECTB has a NEW option available to teams. Weather (rain and/or snow) Insurance is available for teams to purchase at a very reasonable rate.

BE SMART...

YOUR Team can pay \$50 per event MORE for your team's entry fee to secure a COMPLETE and TOTAL refund of your entry fee (LESS the \$50 Weather insurance - that is NONREFUNDABLE). Here are the policies in effect for purchasing Weather Insurance:

1. Weather insurance is ONLY available for OFFICIAL ECTB events (events listed in RED or BLACK on the website).
2. Weather insurance is ONLY available up to 14 days prior to the event. Once we are within 14 days of the event it is NO LONGER available to purchase.
3. IF your team purchases Weather Insurance for an event and that event is rained out or canceled due to snow PRIOR to ever starting - your team will be issued a voucher at FULL entry fee that you can either cash in or transfer to another official ECTB event.
4. Once a Tournament has started, a game has actually been played in one (1) or more age divisions of a given event, if the event is canceled once it has officially started, weather insurance is NULL/VOID. We result back to the policy outlined in the Rulebook under Section C2 regarding number of games your team played determines the percentage of the credit ONLY voucher your team issued (there is no cash value).

5. If your team opts to purchase weather insurance and the tournament does not have any rain or snow, the weather insurance is NONREFUNDABLE. It's just like when you pay for car insurance, just because you didn't have an accident all year, doesn't mean that you're getting the premium you paid for the car insurance back. Insurance does not work that way. ONCE Weather Insurance is purchased, whether used or not used - it is NONREFUNDABLE. No exceptions.

6. PLEASE NOTE: If a team is applying a CREDIT ONLY voucher towards an entry fee that they wish to purchase Weather Insurance for, Weather insurance can be purchased for that event BUT the cash value of that voucher will ONLY be issued at the actual CASH amount paid towards that entry fee! Credit only vouchers applied towards an entry fee remain only CREDIT VALUE and cash cannot be requested nor will it be refunded for credit only vouchers.

ECTB Administrative Fee : When a tournament is rained or snowed out, ECTB retains 25% of every teams entry fee (that has not purchased WEATHER Insurance) to cover the costs incurred because it DOES actually cost money to prepare for events - we pay a fulltime staff, insurance, phone, electric, rent, website and upkeep fees, trophies, medals, baseballs (all preordered in bulk at the beginning of the season that MUST be paid for whether we use them or not) as well as tournament t shirts that are event specific and other numerous upfront, nonrefundable items to us so we have costs that make it impossible to refund everyone 100% of their entry fee when an event rains out. This policy has been in effect for the last eight (8) years. We apologize that we are not able to give everyone a 100% refund. As much as we are HERE FOR THE KIDS to PLAY BALL (and we TRULY are), we are a business, we do need to pay our employees and our bills and survive like every other company.

If anyone has any further questions on how Weather Insurance works or how to go about purchasing it, please feel free to contact us further at 610-845-3282.