



Canton Travel Rules 2026

	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U-18U
Governing Rules	USSSA Governed by Major League Baseball Rules							NFHS
Stealing	Yes. One base per pitch. Runner may not leave the base until the pitched ball crosses the plate. Runner may not steal when the catcher throws the ball back to the pitcher after a pitch.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stealing Home	No	Limited	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation	No limitation
	Runner can only advance home on a batted ball or force walk.	A maximum of 1 successful steal per inning as a result of a steal or pitcher-catcher exchange (wild pitch, passed ball, catcher to pitcher toss)						
9U Clarifications: 1) If a runner on 3rd scores on a steal or as part of a pitcher-catcher exchange and the scoring team has already scored their 1 allowable run for the inning, the runner is returned to 3rd base without penalty. 2) If a runner on 3rd attempts to score on a steal or as part of a pitcher-catcher exchange and the scoring team has already scored their 1 allowable run for the inning and the runner is tagged out before reaching the plate, that runner is out. The stealing home rule does not protect that runner from being put out. 3) A failed suicide squeeze is considered a steal attempt.								
Roster/Player:								
Minimum/Maximum Roster Count	Minimum of 9 players. Maximum of 20 players.							
Minimum/Maximum # of Hitters in Line-up	All Uniformed Players Hit							9 or 10 w/Extra Hitter Note: USSSA Rule 7.02.D.1 governs EH use.
	Continuous batting order for 14U and younger							U15-U18 may bat entire roster if identified prior to the game. Once it is initiated it can not be changed.
Minimum Defensive Playing Time	6 Outs Player/Game This rule applies to all games including those ending in a tie, by mercy or time limit. Coaches must manage this to insure that all players play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs regardless of the length of the game							None
4th Outfielder	For U8 only; If both managers agree prior to the game, a 4 th outfielder may be used. If used, this additional player may only be positioned in the outfield.	Not Applicable						
Late Players	For all games, in the event that less than nine (9) players are available at game time, a fifteen (15) minute grace period is allowed from game time for a 9th player to arrive and enter the game. If nine (9) players are available at game time, the game must begin with those players available. In the U8-15 continuous batting order any players arriving after the start of the game are to be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. Late players may be added until the end of the third inning.							
Absent Without Injury or Illness	For all games, if a player is a hitter in the batting order, this position will be declared an 'out' should this player become absent during the game for a reason other than injury or illness. Another player may replace the absent player defensively but may not hit in the absent player's position in the line-up. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game.							
Absent with Injury or Illness	For All games, if a player is removed from a game due to injury or illness, his/her position in the batting order will be skipped without penalty. The injured or ill player may not re-enter the game once their position in the batting order is skipped. The injured or ill player may reenter the game provided his/her position in the line-up has not occurred. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game. In the U8-U18 continuous batting order, if a batter is injured and unable to complete the at-bat, the at-bat is skipped without penalty. If a batter is injured during his/her at bat, the next batter will assume the injured batter's balls/strikes count.							
Ejected Players, Coaches and Managers	Any player, coach or manager ejected, for any reason, will receive a mandatory 1 game suspension to be served during the next game. An ejected player's position in the batting order will be declared an 'out' for the game from which he/she is ejected. Additional suspensions and/or disciplinary actions may be enforced pending the board review. During the suspension the player, coach or manager may not enter the confines of the park or recreational area that supports the field of play. A team must play with a minimum of nine (9) defensive players to complete the game. Failure to report a suspended player, coach or manager will be grounds for additional suspensions.							
Equipment:								



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Bat Restrictions:	<p>USSSA Rules Apply. The maximum diameter shall not exceed 2-3/4 inches and the maximum length shall not exceed 36 inches. Bats should not exceed the 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) as defined for baseball bats by ASTM Standards.</p> <p>Big barrel bats (diameters of 2-5/8" or 2-3/4") must have the USSSA 1.15 BPF mark. Older big barrel bats will not be allowed. Small barrel bats (diameter of 2-1/2") must have the USSSA 1.15 BPF mark as well.</p> <p>Also, BBCOR-certified and solid (one-piece) wood bats are legal.</p> <p>Team managers will be responsible for enforcing bat rules. Prior to the start of play, the manager from each team should identify which bats are legal and remove from the dugout any bat identified as illegal. If a player is found to be using an illegal bat, that bat will be removed from play at that point and play will continue. If that bat is used again during the game, the manager or head coach of the team will be ejected and the bat removed from play.</p>							NFHS Rules Apply. Any solid (one-piece) wood baseball bat will be legal. The only legal non-wood bats will be BBCOR-certified baseball bats. The bat may not exceed minus three (-3) in differential between length and weight.
Maximum Bat Drops	None					-8	-5	-3
Spikes/Shoes	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Rubber or Plastic Cleats Only (No Metal)	Metal, Rubber or Plastic Cleats Allowed	Metal, Rubber or Plastic Cleats Allowed	Metal, Rubber or Plastic Cleats Allowed
Speed-up:	Penalty: If a player is found in violation, they will be ejected. See Ejected Players rule.							
Courtesy Runner for Pitcher and/or Catcher	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Optional w/2 outs	Refer to NFHS rules under section titles "Speed-Up Rules"
Pitch Clock	The MLB pitch clock is <u>not</u> used.							
Field Dimensions:								
Pitching Distance	40' 0"	46' 0"	46' 0"	50' 0"	50' 0"	54' 0"	*	60' 6"
Base Distance	60' 0"	65' 0"	65' 0"	70' 0"	70' 0"	80' 0"	*	90' 0"
Batter:								
3rd Strike Rule Applies?	No. On a dropped 3rd strike, the batter is out and the ball is live.		Yes					
Infield Fly Rule	Yes							
<p>NFHS RULE 2 - PLAYING TERMS AND DEFINITIONS SECTION 32: SLIDE Article 1 . . . A legal slide can be either feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground. If a runner slides, he must slide within reach of the base with either a hand or a foot.</p> <p>Article 2 . . . A slide is illegal if: a. the runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into the fielder, or b. the runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in a standing position, or c. the runner goes beyond the base and then makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder, or d. the runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg, or e. the runner tries to injure the fielder, or f. the runner, on a force play, does not slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases. Exception: A runner may slide or run in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. (8-4-2b).</p> <p>NFHS RULE 8 - BASERUNNING SECTION 4: RUNNER IS OUT Article 2 . . . Any runner is out when he: b. does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play, does not slide in a direct line between the bases Exception: A runner may slide or run in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. (8-4-2b). Note: Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. (2-32-1, 2) Penalty: The runner is out, the ball is dead immediately, and interference is called. On a force-play slide with less than two outs, the runner is declared out, as well as the batter-runner. Runner shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. With two outs, the runner is declared out. The batter is credited with a fielder's choice.</p>								