

Diamond Dogs Summer Classic

Tournament Rules

Updated: June 1, 2026

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Diamond Dogs Classic. This annual summer tournament is always a great weekend of family fun and great competition for ages 8u, 9u and 10u! Please review the rules below to familiarize yourself with the details of the event.

All tournament play is scheduled to be held at 13 Acres Park (302 W. Dunbar, Mahomet IL-- corner of Dunbar & Turner, Mahomet IL). Taylor Fields (Hickory St, Mahomet IL) and Methodist Field (South Mahomet Rd, Mahomet IL) might be used if inclement weather prohibits play at 13 Acres Park.

Teams must provide payment, insurance documentation and registration on or before May 24th. Failure to do so may jeopardize a team's eligibility for play.

Each team will need to check in at the registration center at least 30 minutes prior to taking the field for their first game. Each team should have a copy of every player's birth certificate on hand in case requested.

Tournament t-shirts will be available. Details will be provided to coaching staff prior to the tournament.

Concessions will be available during the tournament. The menu will include a variety of ballpark foods sold at very reasonable prices. As the concessions proceeds are the organization's primary fundraiser from the tournament, we ask that you respect the rule regarding the PROHIBITION of personal COOLERS, OUTSIDE FOOD, TAILGATING and/or GRILLING, ETC. If a player, family, fan, coach, etc. is spotted with one or more of the above mentioned, your team will be held responsible. Consequences include forfeit of games and/or disqualification of play. (1st offense is a team warning, 2nd offense results in game forfeit, 3rd offense results in removal from the tournament without refund.)

A Home Run Derby contest will be available on Saturday at 13 Acres Park (Field 5). This allows players of all competing ages (8u, 9u, 10u) to battle for the title of Home Run Derby Champion of their age group! The winner for each age group earns bragging rights and a special award!

Additional Rules and Guidelines:

- 8U: 60' bases with NO lead offs, cannot start a new inning after 80 minutes of play (pool play & bracket play), home plate is "closed", no infield fly rule, 10 defensive players, maximum 5 runs per inning except in the last inning which allows up to 10 runs, no bunting or intentional walks, batters get a maximum of 5 pitches or 3 swinging strikes
- 9U: 65' bases with lead offs, cannot start a new inning after 90 minutes of play (pool play), cannot start a new inning after 1 hour 45 minutes of play (bracket play), home plate is "open", 9 defensive players with optional EH, 1 balk warning per pitcher, pitchers allowed 1 appearance per game. Coaches are encouraged to follow SmartPitch guidelines.
- 10U: 65' bases with lead offs, drop 3rd strike rule, cannot start a new inning after 90 minutes of play (pool play), cannot start a new inning after 1 hour 45 minutes of play (bracket play), home plate is "open", infield fly rule in effect, 9 defensive players with optional EH, 1 balk warning per pitcher, pitchers allowed 1 appearance per game. Coaches are encouraged to follow SmartPitch guidelines.
- All age divisions: Batting Order
 - Straight Nine: Nine (9) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card with or without a DH. All player substitutes, subject to NFHS substitution rules (Starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.)

- Extra Hitter: Ten (10) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. A DH can be used. Free substitution (defensive players) among the ten (10) players listed on the batting order. All player substitutes, subject to NFHS substitution rules (Starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.)
- Continuous batting order: All players in uniform (unless injured) in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. If a late player arrives after the lineup cards are exchanged, the player must be entered into the last spot in the batting order (The player must be listed on the official tournament roster). Free defensive substitution for all players throughout the game.
- The Head Coach shall declare his lineup choice to the opposing coach and the umpire(s) during the plate meeting prior to each game. Once a declaration is made, it cannot be changed for that game.
- If a team drops below the number of players in the batting order as determined by the Head Coach and no substitution is available, that spot in the batting order will be determined an out. (Example: Injury, ejection, player having to leave, etc).
- Four innings will be considered a complete game in the event of rain (or 3½ if the home team is ahead).
- A complete game is six innings.
- In the event that two teams are tied at the end of 6 innings (complete game) during bracket play, the California Rule will be implemented in extra innings. Each team will start their extra inning with the last batted out on second base, 1 out, and all batters will start with a 1-1 count. Teams tied at the end of 6 innings during pool play will be recorded as a tie.
- Teams should be onsite and prepared to begin play up to 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time, in the event the tournament is ahead of schedule.
- Pre-game infield warm-ups should be done in front of your dug-out area – please stay off of the lined field during warm-ups.
- Players are only allowed to play on one team and must be registered with that team.
- The designated home team will keep the official scorebook for the game; we encourage you to check with the other team between innings to confirm the score.
- Game cards (signed by each coach) will be completed and submitted to the registration table by the field umpire immediately following the game.
- All players must wear baseball caps, matching shirts with #s (no duplicates), and baseball pants; no shorts or metal cleats allowed.
- Helmets must be worn by the batting team while outside of dugouts on the playing field.
- Base runners must slide to avoid contact or risk ejection at the umpire's discretion.
- If a player gets sick or injured and has been taken out of the game, it will NOT be considered an automatic out for that team when batting as long as the team is batting everyone.
- Starters can re-enter one time in the same batting order, if not batting everyone.
- A team can choose to bat everyone with free substitution.
- Last batted out can be used as courtesy runner for pitchers and catchers when batting everyone.
- No protests – the umpire's decision is final.
- Good sportsmanship will be expected from ALL players, coaches, and spectators.
- Foul language, throwing of bats/helmets/other equipment, or other blatant unsportsmanlike conduct could result in an automatic ejection without warning.
- Teams are guaranteed 3 games -- weather dependent; In the event of inclement weather:
 - 0 games played; full refund minus \$100 administrative fee.
 - 1 game played 50% refund.
 - 2 games played 0% refund.
- Awards for 1st and 2nd place(s) for each age division - up to 13 per team.
- For 8U, if the Away team reaches a run differential that the Home team cannot overcome due to the inning run limit, the inning is still played to completion because the "runs allowed" statistic may be used as a tie breaker.

Run Rule for all age levels (8U, 9U, 10U):

15 runs after 3 innings.
10 runs after 4 innings.
8 runs after 5 innings.

Pool Play:

Each team will play 2 pool play games (weather dependent), then be seeded for playoffs.

Coin flip will determine the home team for all pool play games.

If the time elapses and the teams are tied after the completed inning, the game will be recorded as a tie during pool play games.

In case of the same W-L record, the higher seed will be determined as follows:

- Head to Head (when only 2 teams are involved)
- Fewest Runs Allowed
- Coin Flip

All rules are subject to change per the discretion of the Tournament Directors (Amy Frederick & Todd Metzger).

Rules of the Mahomet Recreation Field areas being used....please make sure all your players, coaches, families, etc. are aware of these rules.

- Absolutely no motor vehicles are allowed, except in designated parking lots.
- Parallel parking is allowed only on the 13 acres park side of the street, no head-in parking at 13 acres.
- No parking on the grass at any of the fields.
- No littering
- No fires
- No overnight camping or parking
- No glass containers
- Pets must be on a leash
- Be aware of foul balls entering the spectator areas
- No firearms
- No smoking
- No alcohol at the park