



SUPERCUP 2024

Organization:

SuperCup is organized by the baseball club Sokol Hluboká, in collaboration with the Institute for Baseball Development (IBD). After 10 years of tournament life, organized by IBD at the venue of Tempo Praha baseball club, a mutual agreement of a transfer of the tournament from Praha to Hluboká nad Vltavou, was realized. The driver of this change was to extend the realization team and secure more favorable conditions for further development during the second decade. SuperCup also continues a close collaboration with the Czech Baseball Association, is integrated to the national development system and has a fixed spot in the calendar. CBA and SuperCup jointly organize a qualification competition called Silver SuperCup to get 12-15 Czech teams that will take part in SuperCup.

Foreword:

Our main goal is to have fun and develop a strong relation of the kids to the game of baseball. We want to achieve the goal in a structured, positive environment.

The purpose of the tournament and a related program is to teach basic baseball skills: running, hitting, throwing and catching. In addition, the responsibilities of belonging to a team, respect for coaches and umpires, and a good sportsmanship, will be emphasized.

The above expressed goals are more important than the final position in the SuperCup.

All participants, namely organizers, coaches, scorers, parents, spectators are kindly asked to behave in a manner corresponding with the goals.

Motto of SuperCup 2024:

All baseball world is focused on shortening the game time. Therefore, all speed-up rules and overall behavior will be closely watched and consistently applied. There are proven records from all over the world and that these efforts bring results. SuperCup is aimed at providing the kids a maximum opportunity to enjoy game experience.

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Date and place:

From Friday, May 31st till Sunday, June 2nd, 2024.

Venue: Sokol Hluboká baseball club, Sportovní 1276, 373 41 Hluboká nad Vltavou, Czech Republic

Participants

The number of participating teams will be 24 in total. It is a sole decision of the organizing committee to set the final number of the participating teams.

At least 12 teams from the Czech Republic will win their invitation in the qualification system organized jointly by the Czech Baseball Association. Remaining 12 teams will be offered a "wild card" from the organizer. Placing of the teams in the pool brackets will follow the system announced well in advance, in case of the Czech teams. Wild card holders will be placed according to the drawing made by the organizer.

It is a long-term target for the organizers to invite winners of qualification systems from other countries, similar to that currently performed in the Czech Republic.

All participants are strictly obliged to participate, as a complete team in uniforms, in all official scheduled ceremonies, including the Closing ceremony!

SuperCup winner, Coach-pitch tournament and Masters:

Supercup consists of two parallel competitions. We will have a winner of the Coach-pitch tournament and also a winner of the Masters skills competition. The team having the lowest sum of the positions from both Coach-pitch and Masters will be the winner of the SuperCup. In case two teams finish with equal sum, then the better team from Coach-pitch tournament will be the winner of the Supercup.



Coach-pitch tournament

Basic round: 4 groups, 6 teams in each one. Teams play against each other in each group, two best qualify to the Final round. Teams from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th places form "Position rounds" and will compete for "small cups".
Position round: Teams from the third places form a new group of four and play each other for the 9th-12th place. The same applies for the teams from the 4th, 5th and 6th places respectively.

Final round: consists of 8 qualified teams, double elimination system, each team has a chance to win the tournament unless loses twice. Exception - final game: loser of the final game will finish on second place. No repeated final game.

Uniforms

All players must wear the same uniform with unique numbers on the back. The coaches and the coach-pitchers are allowed to have different uniforms but must be the same for all of them. Coaches and coach-pitchers may not have numbers on their back.

Time Limit/Determining Home & Away

All games except the final game will be played with a strict fifty minutes time limit or 6 complete innings. Final game will be played for 6 innings. No inning can start after time has expired. Time will be kept by the official scorers. We will not finish an inning if the home team is winning & batting when time expires. Home and away teams will be predetermined by the official schedule. Home team will be the team named first in the schedule. Home team takes the 3rd base dugout and the visitors take the 1st base dugout.

Bench

During the games only uniformed players and uniformed coaches (according to this tournament rules) are allowed to be present on the bench.

Parents and fans are strictly forbidden to enter the bench area during the game.

Each team management is responsible, in the relation to the Technical committee, for the behavior of its fans and players' parents.

SuperCup Tie Breaker Rule

Basic Round games can end in a tie. All other games must have a winner. If the game is tied after 6 innings or the time limit, the game continues to the next innings, no tie-break rule is applied until the 9th inning. From the 10th inning a tie-breaker rule according to the official rules will be applied (runner on 2nd base).

Game

The team mentioned in the schedule as first is the home team.

The game is finished after 6th inning or after the limit. In case the time limit is over during the bottom of the inning and the home team at bat is ahead, the game is over. The game is considered as completed in case that, after the 50 minutes time limit, the bottom of the inning is finished.

On top of that, after 45 minutes, the game ends if not 4 full innings have been played and one of the teams leads by 6 or more runs.

The coaches should assist the umpires to play as many innings as possible by pushing their teams to hustle, run in and out of the field between the innings and take quickly their positions in both defense and offense.

Each inning consists of 5 runs or 3 outs, whichever occurs earlier.

The sixth and ever following inning does not have a limit of 5 runs and are finished only as soon as three players in offense are put out.

In case the game is after 6 innings or the time limit tied, the game continues until a winner is set. No Tie-breaker rule is applied. In case the game can end in Tie (below), the game is always finished after 6 innings or time limit.

Ties are allowed only in the Basic rounds. All other games must have a winner.

Mercy rule

No mercy rule is applied.

Equality (Ties) of games

All ties after the preliminary and position rounds will be settled as follows (in order):

1. The team that won the game(s) between the teams tied shall be given the higher position;
2. The team that has the best Team's Quality Balance (TQB*);
3. The team that has the best Earned Runs Team's Quality Balance (ERTQB).
4. Highest batting average in games between the teams tied
5. A coin flip.



* Teams Quality Balance (TQB) is the sum of runs scored divided by the number of innings played on offense minus the number of runs allowed divided by the number of innings played on defense. $(RS/IPO) - (RA/IPD) = TQB$. When applying point 2, 3 or 4 and one team is selected for the higher or the lower position and the remaining teams are still tied with the same result of TQB, ER-TQB or batting average the order to settle this tie between these remaining teams starts again at point 1. When applying this rule 1(one) out is 1/3rd of an inning.

Substitution/Re-entry

Player from the starting roster is allowed to re-enter the game again after being substituted in case, that the substitute has completed one at bat or has played defensively a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs. The re-entering batter has to take the same position in the batting order.

Substitute Catcher: in order to speed up the game, a substitute (reserve) catcher, equipped with the catching gear according to the rules, must be ready to temporarily substitute the regular catcher until he is ready to enter the game after being involved in the offense during the previous inning. The regular catcher must do all effort to replace the substitute catcher as soon as possible. The substitute catcher can enter the game later on at any position in the defense.

As a matter of fact, the team has to be equipped with two complete sets of catcher's protection gears.

Masters:

Representatives of all teams will compete in basic baseball skills. The competition consists of following categories: Throwing, Hitting, Running, Infield teamwork.

Always three different players of the team participate in each of the three Master skills disciplines – throw, hit, run. The last 4th discipline - Teamwork – is designed for 6 infielders.

All disciplines are evaluated according to the conversion charts. The complete summary determines the team position in Masters competition.

Masters – The team has to go through all disciplines within 30 minutes, according to the official schedule (if not stated different by the technical commission – for example due to the weather).

The final form with all results will be fulfilled and duly signed by the commissioner in charge and the team manager, immediately after the last discipline is finished.

ALL STARS GAME (ASG)

There will be an ALL STARS GAME to the program, which will be played and organized as stated below. The primary goal of the game is to create relationships among the individual teams, enrich the accompanying program and give the children the opportunity to "taste" an atmosphere of a "night" game under the lights.

The ASG will begin on Saturday, June 2nd at 9:00 PM on the baseball field and will be played without a time limit for 6 innings. Tie score counts.

Two All Stars teams will be formed, one All Stars International (consisting of players from foreign participants) and All Stars Czechia (consisting of players playing for Czech teams). Each team will ideally have 12 players, provided that 12 foreign and 12 Czech teams participate in the tournament (which is the goal of the organizers for 2024). If there are more Czech teams, the number of All Stars Czechia teams will correspond to the number of Czech teams in the tournament. In this case, the number of players in the All Stars International team will be limited to 12. The teams that placed highest in the previous year will have the priority right to add players to the total number of 12, each team can then nominate a maximum of one additional player.

In the offensive line-up, all team members will listed, from the beginning of the game, regardless of whether they play defense or not. Changes in defense are allowed without any limits during the whole game.

During Friday, the organizer will determine the managers of both teams, who will then nominate 3 assistants from among the coaches of the other teams.

Players will use their club uniforms and will receive ASG team caps from the tournament organizer.



Team Roster

Completed Team Roster (preferably with photos of the players) must be sent not later than on April 15th, 2024.

All categories on the team roster must be completed (i.e.; birth date, uniform number, positions etc.) in order for your team to start play. The roster size can be unlimited for the number of players on the team. There can be no more than 4 coaches (*1 manager, 3 coaches, scorekeepers etc.*) allowed in the tournament. A “wild card holder” can add to the roster all the way up to the first game. Once your first game begins rosters will freeze and no new players can be added.

Tunnel Time / Pre-Game

Use of the batting tunnels will be possible at the venue. Priority is given to teams warming up for a scheduled game. Pre-game infield/outfield will be allowed only before the first game of the day.

Teams are expected to bring their own practice balls for the batting tunnels.

Organizers will provide balls to all the games.

First Aid

There will be first aid equipment on site for all of our games. We will be able to provide basic first aid and determine the severity of the injuries. In case of a serious injury there is a hospital reachable within 15 minutes from the field.

Transport will be secured by the organization committee.

Meals and beverages

There will be a catering at the venue, offering all meals during the day, breakfasts included. The organizing committee will do its best to subsidize lunches and dinners. This however cannot be guaranteed, as it depends on the subsidies provided by the sponsors. In any case the meals will be at very reasonable prices (7 to max 9 EURO per warm quality meal). There are also many restaurants within a walking distance from the field.

All teams will be provided with drinking water during the games.

Accommodation

SuperCup will provide help to the teams to select a reasonable (price/quality ratio) accommodation. Details will be communicated well in advance.

Organizing Committee also offers to arrange a reasonable accommodation and meals on the field for other persons accompanying the team (parents, excess players, fans, etc.)

Protests

Protests will be received and ruled on by the tournament technical commission. The protesting team must make cash payment of €10 at the time of the protest. If the protest is ruled in the protesting team's favor the €10 will be refunded. The ruling made by the technical commission will be final. Protests must be filed and ruled on before the next pitch.

No team may protest a game after the final out is recorded.

Suspensions

Any player or coach who is ejected from a game will be subject to a 1 game suspension.

NO EXCEPTIONS.

The technical commission keeps the right to prolong the suspension based on an evaluation made after the game.

Age Requirements

Category 10U

Participating players must be born on or after January 1st 2014 and on or before December 31st 2018.

Both boys and girls are allowed to take part in the tournament.

Payment and Refund options

Invited teams may be asked to deposit a guarantee of €300 not later than until March 31st, 2024.

A full refund will be issued for any request made more than 45 days prior to the start of the event. Any cancellations made inside the 45 day window will result in loss of payment.

The complete deposit will be paid back at the end of the second day of the tournament.

Note: The organizing committee goal is to organize a great event for the kids and well in advance is preparing related documentation, the event will be televised etc. Therefore, any cancellation might have a huge negative impact on the smooth flow of the tournament.



Inclement Weather

If rain comes into play, we will do everything we can do to stay close to the original game schedule. If we need to change the schedule because of the inclement weather, we will do our best to try to maintain the original tournament format schedule but please understand that the format may be changed to lesser time limits or fewer innings to complete the tournament. All rain out games may not be made up depending on time constraints. Principles of "rain out" scenario will form a part of the tournament schedule.

Tournament official ball

The official ball is 9INCH Rawlings, model ROTB5.

Bats

May not be longer than 31 inches and the barrel may not exceed 2^{5/8}) inches in diameter.

Certification: The bat must bear the logo of USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard.



In case a team would like to use wooden or composite bats, such a one must be presented to and approved by the tournament technical committee prior to the start of the game.

Field

The minimum distance of the outfield fence from the home plate for an out-of-park homerun is 40 meters.

The pitcher's circle is 3 meters in diameter with a center 14,03 meters (46 feet) from the top of the home plate. It is recommended that the outfield fence will form a circle of 39 m in radius centered in the middle of the pitcher's circle (14,03 m from the home plate).

Not Covered In the Rules

In case that the situation is not covered in the rules, the tournament committee will make the fairest possible ruling and that ruling will be final.

The Regulations are subject to change, the valid version will be available at <http://supercup.baseball.cz/>.

By own hand

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