

2024 Centex Series Eligibility and Team Formation Guidelines & Rules

Approved March, 2024

Each Association must enter at least 4 total teams across all divisions to be eligible to participate in the 2024 series.

Each association must designate at least one contact person which will be that associations Centex representative and the sole contact responsible for all of that association's teams. All communication between Centex committees and or organizers will only be handled through this representative so each association must have at least one person who represents and is responsible for all that associations teams. Centex committee members and organizers will not communicate with individual teams only the associations representative.

The team selection process must be approved by the Centex committee before teams are allowed into Centex tournaments. For 2024 the age cutoff date will remain April 30th to determine player age.

- 1) All players must have been registered with the association they are planning to play for in Centex for the spring season of the current year. They must have played for a recreational team during the spring season at that association and must have participated in at least half of their team events during that spring season.
- 2) If a player has played for an open, select or tournament team in a sanctioned tournament like Nations, Super Series, USSSA, Triple Crowne, Centex Elite or other between March 1st 2024, and June 25th, 2024 they are not eligible to be placed on a Centex All Star team.
- 3) Associations can send as many teams as they choose in each age group. The leagues will no longer specify Division 1 or Division 2.

For the 2024 season each association will rank according to skill level all teams being entered within an age division (i.e 8U #1, 8U #2, 8U #3 etc)

The "Three Man Committee" or other appointed Centex committee will then distribute all teams into divisions accordingly based on the total number of teams entered in each division.

- 4) As some associations separate teams in an age group for league play (i.e. American/National), rule 4 applies to the pool of players being drafted from for Centex team formation (which means that associations will determine the size of the pool they are selecting from based on the total number of teams within that division). Teams chosen from a pool of eligible teams of 4 teams or fewer may not have more than 5 players from any one team. Teams chosen from a ~~total~~ pool of eligible teams of 5 or more teams may not have more than 4 players from any one team. No more than 6 players on any Centex roster can have played on the same team in any nonleague game between March 1, 2024 and May 11, 2024.
- 5) Players must be listed on the team official registration form; coaches must have a copy at the game. Players may not switch teams and players cannot be added to the roster after turning in the form.
- 6) No Centex team can play or practice together before May 11th 2024.
- 7) Any exception to the above team formation rules must be approved by the rules committee prior to May 17th 2024.
- 8) Teams, Coaches or Players found to be in violation of any of the above rules will be subject to penalties deemed appropriate by the rules committee which could include suspension and or exclusion from any or all Centex events and games.

Definition of pool of eligible teams – The total pool of eligible teams is the total number of teams in a specific age bracket registered and playing the spring season, that have players on them that would be eligible to participate in the CenTex Series, at that association regardless of which division they are in.

For example: Association A has 156 8U players registered for spring 2023. There are 3 select teams which play in USSSA tournaments, 4 National League teams (which have kids eligible to play in Centex) and 6 American league teams (which also have kids eligible to play in Centex). This association has a total of 10 teams with kids eligible to participate in Centex, therefore their total pool for calculations in rules (3) above would be 10 teams. However, for the purpose of rule (4) above they could consider the 4 team national league one pool and the 6 team American League a separate pool.

2024 Bat Rule:

- **All bats** must be labeled with either of a BBCOR, 1.15BPF stamp or the official USA Baseball Stamp (USABat).

1) For ages 6 and under- The maximum diameter shall not exceed two and five eighths (2-5/8") inches.

2) For ages 7 and older- The maximum diameter shall not exceed two and three quarters (2 3/4") inches.

All bats must be commercially manufactured for baseball play, softball bats or bats altered after manufacture to reduce or add weight will not be allowed.

It is the manager's responsibility to ensure compliance with this rule.

Penalties – Use of an illegal bat shall not be grounds for ejecting the player or declaring the batter 'out' except as follows: **A)** If the umpire discovers that a bat does not conform to the Centex bat rule stated above before a ball has been put in play, the umpire will remove the illegal bat from the game and issue a warning to the manager. Warnings will be recorded on the game card. **B)** If the umpire discovers that the bat does not conform to the Centex bat rule stated above after the ball has been put in play and before the next legal pitch, the defensive team will have the choice of the result of the play or the batter being called 'out'. If the batter is declared 'out', all runners must return to the base officially occupied before the pitch. **C)** A second offense incurred during the Centex series will result in the manager being ejected in addition to application of the first offense penalty.