



5-Game Tournament Rules

Tournament Director Contacts:
Call or text Rick & Brian - 908.291.7010



Our Tournaments are intended to be for the enjoyment and development of the players.

Players and their parents take their lead from the team's coaches.

You are their role model.

Rosters should be submitted via the USA Softball website and teams must have copies of roster and birth certificates on hand for potential challenges.

This tournament is sanctioned by USA Softball and governed by its rules with the only exceptions in this document. Regardless of this, the umpire's decision is *FINAL*.

- There will be no pre-game warm-up allowed on infields. Pitchers may use foul territories to warm up.
- All players must be eligible for the age group they are playing in, per the USA Softball Age Rule chart

2026 USA Softball Age Chart



Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. The player's age and division is indicated on the right.

SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	AGE	DIVISION
2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	5	6U
2018	2018	2018	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	6	6U
2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	7	8U
2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	8	8U
2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	9	10U
2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	10	10U
2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	11	12U
2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	12	12U
2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	13	14U
2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	14	14U
2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	15	16U
2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	16	16U
2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	17	18U
2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	18	18U

Tournament Format (all ages):

- Pool play: no new inning after 1hr 15min. If time is called when the Home team is batting and ahead, the game will end immediately.
- Bracket play: no new inning after 1hr 20min. Tied games will go to ITB the inning after time has expired. Consolation games may end in a tie without going to ITB.
- Seeding tie-breakers are:
 - Record
 - Head to head record
 - Runs given up
 - Total run differential from all pool games
 - Coin flip

Game Format (all ages except where noted):

- Mercy rules apply for all games - 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.
- Pool play: Farthest traveling team calls the coin toss for Home/Away. Bracket play: Higher seed can choose Home/Away.

- 10U & 12U Only: No “Butcher Boy” hitting. Fake bunting and swinging away is NOT allowed. If this occurs, a dead ball will be called. The batter is out, and runner(s) return to their original bases.
- 10U only:
 - Games are 6 innings. 5 run limit per inning, unlimited runs innings 4-6.
 - Teams may play 3 or 4 outfielders in the field.
 - Teams may roster bat but do not have to. If a team decides to bat only 10 players all remaining players will be treated as subs.
 - Pitching distance will be 35 feet and will use 11 inch balls.
 - No dropped third strike, no infield fly
 - Slapping is allowed, but batters cannot square to bunt, pull-back and swing
 - Stealing of 2nd and 3rd base only. Runner is allowed 1 stolen base per pitch, and cannot advance on an overthrow to any base. No continuation walks allowed.
- 12U only:
 - Games are 7 innings. No run limit per inning.
 - 3 outfielders play the field
 - Teams can bat in any of the formats allowable by USA Softball.
 - Any base can be stolen and continuation is allowed on walks. Dropped third strike, infield fly and look back rules are in effect.
 - Pitching distance will be 40 feet and will use 12 inch balls.
- 14U/16U/18U only:
 - Games are 7 innings. No run limit per inning.
 - Teams can bat in any of the formats allowable by USA Softball.
- Games are 7 innings. No run limit per inning. Three outfielders play the field.
- Teams can bat in any of the formats allowable by USA Softball.
- Any base can be stolen and continuation is allowed on walks. Dropped third strike, infield fly and look back rules are in effect.
- In an attempt to get in full games, a continuing pitcher will receive 4 warm ups the first inning, 3 every inning thereafter. A new pitcher will receive 4 warm ups.
- USA Softball standard substitution rules apply
- Only one mound trip is allowed per inning per pitcher; all subsequent trips in the inning must be to replace the pitcher.
- Stalling will not be permitted as determined by the umpire – if so determined; the umpire may override the time limit if a team is determined to be intentionally stalling.
- No infield or outfield warm up balls allowed after the first inning.

Courtesy Runners

- Courtesy runners are allowed for pitchers and catchers at any time.
- The courtesy runner is a substitute not in the game (if not batting entire line-up), or the last batted out (if batting entire line-up).
- The pitcher and catcher are identified as the last players who physically played that position.



Weather

- Inclement Weather – in the event of inclement weather it may be necessary to play shortened games or to adopt an alternate format for the tournament. We reserve the right to change the tournament format as needed.
- We reserve the right to adjust the rules, schedules, brackets, and field locations, if necessary, in order to complete the tournament. Every attempt will be made to honor the game minimum – however, if a situation develops where a team forfeits or the weather does not cooperate, every attempt possible will be made to reschedule, shorten or cancel games in order to complete the tournament.
- Rain and cancellation policies can be found on our website

Score Reporting

- Both coaches should text the game score to 908.291.7010 immediately following the game
- The Tournament Directors have the final say on all disputes.

Other Information

- Umpire decisions are final. No protests allowed. Video replay does not exist.
- Game time is forfeit time – to be enforced by the Umpire and/or at the Tournament Director's discretion. In rain situations, please do not leave the fields as the schedule may be adjusted without prior notice.
- Please do not impede the progress of the game. Any signs of poor sportsmanship, actions that demean opposing players, fans, or the umpire may be grounds for the offender(s) to be removed permanently from the game and premises. And, if serious, the possibility of their team forfeiting the game. **Any coach/player ejected from a ball game by an official, will also be suspended from the team's next game (at minimum) – with further penalty if warranted.**
- Alcohol is forbidden at ALL complexes. There is no smoking allowed inside any park. Walk to the roadway or parking areas.
- Teams are responsible for cleaning out their dugout! PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING BEHIND and put all trash in the proper containers or bag. WE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN PROPERTY! **Please have the girls, coaches and parents clean up after themselves.**

