

## FAIRGROUND GIRLS' TOURNAMENT RULES

**Weather - In case of delays or postponement we will send emails and post on the registration site. We don't offer a rain out line.**

- **Check In:** Insurance information, and your roster shall be given to the field director at the complex before your first game. If you have put your roster online a copy of roster is still needed. Please have copies of ALL your players birth certificates in case of any questions. **Please don't email Insurance or Rosters to us. They are to be handed into the registration table before the first game.** Any player not listed on roster will not be permitted to play and released from tournament. The field directors will be stationed near the concession area. You will be also asked to verify the name of the contact person, hotel information, and contact.
- **Tournament Rules will follow USA Softball Rules and USA Softball procedure code with the following exceptions and clarifications listed below.**
- **For B CLASS TOURNAMENTS ONLY:**

### **FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE OR WERE ON A COLLEGE ROSTER:**

We will allow **no more than three college players** on a team in our B Class Tournaments. We will allow D-2, D-3, and JUCO Players only. D-2 players can't pitch. **We will not allow any D-1 players to play in our B Tournaments.** If a player was on any college roster even, though they red shirted or quit team, they were still on a college roster.

- **Time Limit: Pool games (70 minutes) Bracket games ( 70 minutes)**
    - A new inning starts at the completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> out by the home team of the previous inning.
- At the 70-minute expiration mark we will finish the inning. If the home team is winning and batting when time expires the game is over. Please note we do 70-minute games, however most tournaments only offer a four-game guarantee. We offer teams five games, however most play at least six games.
- Game time begins at the conclusion of the pre-game meeting. The official clock is declared by the umpires.
  - The umpires **may** suspend the clock at their discretion.
  - Tactics designed to speed up or slow down a game will not be tolerated and may end up in ejection or forfeit.
  - Each team has **sixty seconds** to prepare to start the next half-inning which includes warmups.
  - **Run-ahead rule:** as follows will be in place for all games:
    - 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 after 5 innings.
    - In **pool Play** games, **games can end in a tie.**

- a. The ties will be recorded as such in pool play after 70 minutes has elapsed.
- In **Elimination Round (Bracket) games**, ITB will begin after 70 minutes has elapsed or 7 innings have been played (whichever comes first). We will play until a winner is declared.
  - a. The last batter due up on the offensive team will be placed on second base to start each inning in ITB.

**Note:** A substitute with eligibility may be used to run in this situation.

- **Championship Play seeding, criteria,** and if necessary, the tournament winner shall be based upon (In Order)
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#### **Pool Tiebreakers:**

1. Record (Winning pct, number Wins)
2. Head-to-Head (Used only when all tied teams have played each other)
3. Points Allowed (An average is used if teams have not played an equal number of games)
4. Points Scored (An average is used if teams have not played an equal number of games)
5. Computer Generated Coin Flip (A system random number generator breaks ties at this stage)

**Note:** If the system cannot break ties at a particular tiebreaking stage, the system will move to the next tiebreaker and not return or revert back to a previous tiebreaker.

**Note about the Head-to-Head tiebreaker:** Head-to-Head is ignored if all tied teams do not play each other at least once. For example, if three teams are tied, and one team plays the other two, but the other two do not play, this tiebreaker is ignored (regardless of the outcome of the two games played by the first team).

**NOTE:** A Forfeit is a 7-0 win. Completed game procedure follows USA rules.

- **Equipment**
  - **Batting helmets must be NOSCAE stamped and have a approved facemask (no chinstrap requirement)**
  - **Head Coach**—will attend plate meetings and verify that players and equipment are legal. Onus is on the Head Coach. Penalty for illegal equipment/player **MAY be ejection of player/coach**
  - Jewelry will follow the USA Softball rule.
  - 14U and above are permitted to wear metal cleats.
  - **Batter failure to control bat may result in an out. We must keep catchers and umpires safe.**
- **Line ups:**
  - Pool AND Bracket play: ALL five line up options are allowed (Page 42)
  - Courtesy Runners follow rule 8-10-A.3 Pg 108. Pitcher/Catcher only. **Sameplayer may NOT run for both.**
  - ALL subs/changes **must** go through the umpire.

- Player leaving the game for injury will not incur an out if roster batting, but she may not return in that game. If she has not come to bat...no out recorded in her spot...But: if she is on base at the time of injury-there is an out...because you can't change the batting order.
- **SEE THESE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:** [Line Up Options](#) [Courtesy Runners](#)
- **Conferences**
  - Defensive: 3 per game. On the fourth, and each subsequent conference in a regulation game, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position. 1 per inning when in the ITB.
  - Offensive: 1 per inning between the coach and any offensive player.
- **Pitching**
  - A pitcher may be removed as a pitcher, move to a different defensive position and return as a pitcher one time per inning— she will not receive any warm up pitches when she returns in that inning.
  - The pitcher may start with one or both feet on/in contact with the pitching rubber. Any step backwards, must be done prior to Start of pitch (pitcher hands separating).
  - Distances: 14, 16 & 18U – 43ft., 12U – 40ft., 10U – 35 ft.
- **Miscellaneous Tournament Information**
  - **Game time is forfeit time** – To be regulated by tournament director's discretion. In rain situations please do not leave fields, as the tournament schedule may be adjusted without prior notice.
  - **Teams should be ready to play 30 mins ahead of schedule. IF the prior game ends early.... we WILL begin the next game early.**
  - **Home Team** shall be determined by flip of coin for ALL POOL games.
  - **Bracket Games** Highest seed picks home/visitor.
  - **Championship Games will have** a time limit; however, the run rule will remain in place for ALL games.
  - **Head Coach** must sign umpire's game slip with final score and winning team indicated. By signing, the head coach verifies that the score and winning team are correct. **Once signed, score is a final. The head coach WILL check board for accuracy before leaving complex. Board is FINAL after last game of day.**
  - **ALL Player's**, both starters and substitutes, may re-enter game one time.
  - **Protest** on a "Rule interpretation" will be settled by the UIC in a timely manner. Protest cannot be made on an umpire's judgment call – only rule applications. Fee for protest is 150 cash at time of protest.
  - **Practice and Warm up areas** will be designated at check in. Please don't hang or climb on fences.
  - **Short Handed Player's Rule. A team must have 8 players to start a game and will record an automatic out in the ninth spot in the batting order. A**

**team may start or finish the game with 8 players unless due to an ejection. If an ejection takes a team below 8 players.... game is now forfeit.**

- **Additional Information:**

- Announce ALL substitutions/changes to the umpire.
- Coaches must remain in dugout during the game; dugouts do NOT extend toward the plate. Non-playing members are to remain in dead-ball territory until time has been called by umpire.
- Please do not impede the progress of the game – any signs of poor sportsmanship, actions that demean opposing players, fans, or the umpire are subject to be removed permanently from the game and premises. Any coach/player ejected from a ball game will be reviewed by the tournament committee and further action may be taken.
- **REST ROOMS AT ALL FACILITIES ARE OPENED BY MUNICIPALITY AT 7:10AM. We have no control over rest rooms at our facilities.**
- **Alcohol is forbidden at ALL complexes.**
- **Additionally, please do not smoke near players. All our parks are SMOKE FREE.**
- **Pets are not allowed around fields. Please use outer pet trails for animals.**

**COMPLEXES:**

Our complexes are on the Maryland and Pennsylvania state lines.

We play in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Complexes from Maryland to

Pennsylvania is just 15 minutes apart. For Motels it is safe to stay in

Hagerstown, Maryland. Again, from Maryland complex to Pennsylvania

Complexes they are 15 minutes apart.

**Final Say:**

- The tournament director reserves the right to adjust the schedules, brackets, and field locations as needed to complete the tournament due to inclement weather or darkness. 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, the Tournament Director will try to reschedule games or shorten games. If the need arises to determine a champion prior to all games being completed, the Tournament Director is to determine a champion.