

## 2019 Futures Challenge Tournament Rules

1. In pool play, the team listed first will occupy the first base dugout. A pre-game coin flip will determine the home team. In bracket play, the highest seeded team will be the home team and will occupy the third base dugout. If two teams with equivalent seeds meet, a coin flip will determine the home team.
2. There will be a one hour and ten-minute time limit on each game in the 12U and 14U divisions—no new inning starts after one hour ten minutes, except for the championship game which is not time-limited. 10U division time limit is 75 minutes.
3. Games will be 6 innings, unless shortened by the time limit. In pool play, two points are awarded for a win and one point for a tie. There CAN be ties in pool play, but not in bracket play. In bracket play only, the international tie breaker will be used after 6 innings or the time limit, whichever comes first.
4. We will play a 12-run mercy rule after 3 innings, 10 after four innings, and 8 after 5 innings.
5. The home team will keep the official score. There will be no infield practice before games. Teams may use the edges of the field for grounders or the outfield for fly balls. Every effort will be made to start games promptly at the scheduled times.
6. No game protests will be allowed. All decisions will be finalized on the field. Make every attempt to set a good example for our young athletes. Settle it and move on.
7. Courtesy runners are allowed for the pitcher and catcher. Courtesy runners must be used first from the group of players who are not yet in the game. Once everyone has been in the game, the player who made the last out of the previous inning is the courtesy runner. Should any other situations arise involving courtesy runners, umpire's decisions on courtesy runners are final.
8. In the interest of getting as many girls as much playing time as possible, **you can place as many EP's (extra players)** in a lineup as you'd like (bat everyone if you'd like). You do NOT have to have that many in the lineup, but the option is there for coaches. An EP is simply an extra batter, and they may be substituted freely defensively for any player but must remain in the same position in the lineup (i.e. bat 10, play nine in the field, or bat 11, play nine in the field). A DP/Flex may also be used.
9. 10U Format: There is one pool of three teams. Each team will play two pool games. The top two seeds will advance to the championship game.
10. 12U Format: There is one pool of five teams. Each team will play two pool games followed by a seeded single game elimination bracket play as shown on the schedule.
11. 14U Format: There are two pools of three teams. Each team will play two pool games to determine seedings for single elimination bracket play as shown on the schedule.
12. You must play all scheduled games. We want to provide as much opportunity for the girls to play as possible. Weather permitting, each team is guaranteed 3 games. In the event of inclement weather, every effort will be made to play all the scheduled games. Keep your fingers crossed for no rain!
13. No metal cleats allowed in the 10U or 12U division.
14. 10U will pitch from 35 feet and use an 11-inch ball. 12U will pitch from 40 feet. 14U will pitch from 43 feet.
15. TIE BREAKER RULES: If two teams are tied for points in the final pool standings, we will use the following rules to determine places:
  - Tiebreaker #1: Most wins
  - Tiebreaker #2: Head to Head
  - Tiebreaker #3: Least number of runs allowed
  - Tiebreaker #4: Coin flip.