**1st Annual Guns and Hoses Battle of the Badges Softball Tournament**

**Event Overview:** Join us for the **1st Annual Guns and Hoses Battle of the Badges Softball Tournament**, a thrilling competition designed to showcase the athletic prowess, teamwork, and community spirit of our local heroes. This event will bring together SWORN Police, Fire, EMS and Military personnel from the local area to compete in a high-energy, double-elimination round-robin tournament, all in support of the **Forgotten Child Fund** and the **YMCA YCAP Program**.

**Tournament Format:**

* **Preliminaries:** Double Elimination Round-Robin Format
* **Playoffs:** *Single* Elimination Format
* **Regulations:** All games will be conducted under ASA Softball Regulations. See attached Abbreviated layout of rules. The exception to these rules is the field size and layout and the size ball that will be used.
* **Game Locations:**
	+ Preliminary Rounds: East Ridge Softball Complex *(TENTATIVE 8-17-2025)*
	+ Semi-Finals & Championship Game: **Chattanooga Lookouts, AT&T Field. Sunday September 14, 2025.**

**Team Composition:**

* Teams will consist of **12 sworn personnel** and **2 alternates**.
* **All players, including alternates, MUST be sworn/active-duty personnel.**
* **Identification will be verified prior to participation** to ensure compliance.

**Game Details:**

* Games will be held **simultaneously** across multiple (12) fields to maximize efficiency.
* ASA regulations will govern innings, time limits, and equipment standards.
* Field size will not be modified. You may play on a softball field, or baseball field.

**Participation Fee:**

* **$ 65.00 per person** to participate. This will include any fees we pay to play.
* **$ 45.00 per alternate to participate**
* **$ 25.00 per team sanction fee. Includes insurance.**
* The fee includes the cost of the official team shirt, which will be worn during games.

**Community Impact:** This event is made possible through the **dedicated participation of local area Police, Fire, and EMS personnel**. Your involvement not only fosters camaraderie among first responders but also directly supports two invaluable community programs:

* **Forgotten Child Fund**
* **YMCA YCAP Program**

Prepare to compete, connect, and contribute to a meaningful cause while enjoying the spirit of friendly rivalry. Let’s make this inaugural event a standout success!

**TOURNAMENT TO COMMENCE IN LATE AUGUST 2025**

**IF YOU KNOW ANY BUSINESSES THAT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THIS EVENT, PLEASE LET ROBERT KNOW!!!!**

**USA Softball 2025 Rules Synopsis**

**1st Annual Guns and Hoses Battle of the Badges Co-Ed Softball Tournament**

**1. Game Format:**

* **Double Elimination Format:** Teams will compete in a double-elimination round-robin.
* **Playoffs:** Single-elimination format for semi-finals and championship game.
* **Innings:** Standard games are 7 innings or a 60-minute time limit, whichever comes first.
* **Run Rule:** 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, or 10 runs after 5 innings to conclude the game early.

**2. Team Composition:**

* **Roster:** 12 sworn personnel per team with 2 sworn alternates (ID verification required).
* **Gender Requirements:** Teams must field a minimum of 4 female players on the field at all times.
* **Lineup:** Minimum of 9 players to start and continue a game (with at least 3 females).
* **Substitutions:** Free defensive substitutions; batting order must maintain alternating male/female sequence when possible.

**3. Equipment:**

* **Bats:** Must be USA Softball certified with the official stamp.
* **Balls:** Standard **12-inch softball** will be used for all players, regardless of gender.
* **Uniforms:** Team shirts provided and required during gameplay.

**4. Pitching Regulations:**

* **Arc:** Legal pitch arc is 6 to 12 feet.
* **Positioning:** The pitcher must have one foot in contact with the pitching plate during delivery.
* **Pitcher/Catcher Rule:** Teams must have at least one male and one female positioned between pitcher and catcher roles at all times.

**5. Base Running:**

* **Stealing:** Not permitted.
* **Sliding:** Allowed, but malicious contact is strictly prohibited.
* **Commitment Line:** Runners crossing this line must proceed home; no returning to third base.
* **Courtesy Runner:** One courtesy runner per inning, per gender, allowed.

**6. Batting Rules:**

* **Lineup Order:** Teams must alternate genders in the batting order when possible.
* **Walk Rule:** If a male batter is walked with a female batter following him in the lineup, the male batter is awarded two bases. The female batter has the option to bat or take first base.
* **Home Run Rule:** Limit of 3 home runs per team, per game. Excess home runs will result in an out.

**7. Conduct:**

* **Sportsmanship:** Zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike conduct, including profanity, fighting, or arguing with officials.
* **Ejections:** Players ejected for misconduct must leave the complex immediately.
* **Respect:** Positive, respectful interactions between male and female participants are expected at all times.

**8. Tie Breaker (if needed):**

* **International Rule:** Last batter from the previous inning starts at second base during extra innings (must maintain gender rotation).

This is a general overview. Full **USA Softball 2025** rules will be enforced. Teams are encouraged to review the complete rulebook for detailed compliance.

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