**Round Robin Rules for Softball**

A **Round Robin** tournament format ensures that each team plays against every other team at least once. Here are the standard rules and guidelines for organizing and playing in a Round Robin softball tournament:

**1. Tournament Structure:**

* **Team Matchups:** Every team plays against all other participating teams.
* **Game Scheduling:** The number of games each team plays depends on the total number of teams:
  + **4 teams** = 3 games per team
  + **5 teams** = 4 games per team, and so on.
* **Fields & Time:** Utilize multiple fields if available to speed up the tournament. Set strict time limits to maintain the schedule.

**2. Game Rules:**

* **Standard Softball Rules:** Follow ASA, USSSA, or your league’s official rules unless modified for the tournament.
* **Innings:** Typically 5-7 innings per game or a time limit (e.g., 60-75 minutes) with no new inning after the time expires.
* **Mercy Rule:** Optional—e.g., 10-run lead after 4 innings to keep games on schedule.
* **Tiebreaker Rule (if needed):** Use the international tiebreaker rule—start extra innings with a runner on second base.

**3. Standings & Scoring:**

* **Win = 2 points**, **Tie = 1 point**, **Loss = 0 points** (or modify based on preference).
* Standings are determined by total points accumulated.

**4. Tiebreakers for Final Standings:**

If teams have identical records, apply these tiebreakers in order:

1. **Head-to-Head Results**
2. **Run Differential** (runs scored minus runs allowed)
3. **Fewest Runs Allowed**
4. **Most Runs Scored**
5. **Coin Toss** (if all other criteria are tied)

**5. Championship Game (Optional):**

* For larger tournaments, the top two teams can face off in a final championship game.
* Alternatively, standings alone determine the winner after all games are played.

**6. Player & Team Conduct:**

* Enforce sportsmanship rules strictly—zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike behavior.
* Umpire decisions are final unless a clear rule violation occurs.