**Guns and Hoses Softball Tournament Rules**

**1. General Information:**

* The tournament is open exclusively to first responders, including police, fire, EMS and military personnel.
* All participants must provide valid identification verifying their employment as a first responder.
* Teams will be categorized as "Guns" (law enforcement) and "Hoses" (firefighters/EMS), though mixed teams are permitted if needed. Military evenly distributed between Guns and Hoses sided teams.

**2. Team Composition:**

* Each team must have a minimum of 12 players with 2 alternates and a maximum of 15 players on the roster.
* All rostered players must be active first responders or active military.
* Substitutions are allowed but must be declared before the start of each game.

**3. Game Format:**

* Games will follow a single-elimination format unless otherwise specified.
* Each game will consist of 7 innings or 60 minutes, whichever comes first.
* If the game is tied at the end of regulation, extra innings will be played until a winner is determined.

**4. Playing Rules:**

* Official ASA/USA Softball rules will govern gameplay unless modified by this document.
* A coin toss will determine the home team for each game.
* The mercy rule applies: 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings.

**5. Batting:**

* Continuous batting order is encouraged to allow all team members to participate.
* Each batter starts with a 1-1 count.
* No bunting or chopping allowed.

**6. Fielding:**

* Standard slow-pitch softball defensive positions apply.
* A maximum of 10 players allowed on the field at one time.

**7. Pitching:**

* Slow-pitch arc must be between 6 to 12 feet.
* No quick pitching or excessive speed; all pitches must have a clear arc.

**8. Base Running:**

* No metal cleats allowed.
* Courtesy runners permitted for injured players (last out made).
* Sliding is allowed, but malicious contact will result in an automatic out and possible ejection.

**9. Conduct:**

* Zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike conduct, including arguing with officials, profanity, or aggressive behavior.
* Ejections may result in suspension from the tournament based on the severity of the offense.

**10. Equipment:**

* Teams are responsible for their own bats, gloves, and uniforms.
* Tournament organizers will provide game balls.
* All bats must meet ASA/USA Softball certification standards.

**11. Safety:**

* Helmets are encouraged but not mandatory.
* First aid kits will be available at all fields.

**12. Tournament Scoring and Advancement:**

* Win = 2 points, Tie = 1 point (in round-robin, if applicable), Loss = 0 points.
* Tiebreakers: Head-to-head record, run differential, total runs scored, coin flip.

**13. Disputes:**

* All disputes must be addressed to the tournament director immediately after the play in question.
* The tournament director's decision is final.

**14. Awards:**

* Trophies or medals will be awarded to the champion and runner-up teams.
* Special recognition for MVP and best sportsmanship may be awarded.

**15. Weather Policy:**

* In the event of inclement weather, games may be delayed, rescheduled, or shortened at the discretion of the tournament director.

By participating in the Guns and Hoses Softball Tournament, all players and teams agree to abide by these rules and uphold the spirit of friendly competition and camaraderie among first responders.