

## Tournament Rules

**Time Limit:** No New Inning after 1 hr. 30 min. (all games)  
Please bring a timer and record the start time in case your timer malfunctions.

**Home Team:** Pool Play: Coin Flip  
Bracket Play: Higher seed has choice (Flip if same seed)

**Tiebreaker:** Pool Play: Games may end in a tie. Use ITB if time left on game clock.  
Bracket Play: Tiebreaker after 7 innings or when time expires.

The runner put on 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the batter scheduled to bat last in that particular inning. Double check, referring to your line-up, that the teams are putting the correct runner on 2<sup>nd</sup>. If it is determined that the incorrect runner was put on base, correct without penalty.

**Run Rules:** 10 runs after 4 innings.  
8 runs after 5 innings.  
6 runs after 6 innings.

## Line-Ups

### Defensive Substitutions

- Pool Play: Unlimited defensive substitutions. Anyone on the line-up card, whether they are batting or not, can be a starter or substitute defensive player. Unlimited means, reentry rules do not apply unless then are going into bat.
- Bracket Play: If a player, not in the line-up, plays defense, they must be reported and used as a substitute. EPs are considered in the line-up.

### Offensive Line-Up

- Pool Play: Unlimited batters. Teams can bat as many players as they want. Additional batters shall be listed as an EP. One FLEX may also be used. The integrity of the batting order must be maintained. If a team is batting all players or no substitute is available and a player is injured, ejected, or leaves for any reason, an out will be recorded when the vacant position is scheduled to bat.
- Bracket Play: Same as Pool Play.

### Courtesy Runners

- Pool Play: Courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or catcher. The CR must be the last out or someone that has never been in the game. Either one can be used at any time. If the last out is a pitcher or a catcher, then go to the next last out. If the last out is from a previous inning, then use that player. If there are no outs in the first inning, then go to the player that is batting last in the line-up. Note: It is last out, NOT last batted out.

- Bracket Play: USA Softball Rule 8-10

\*If the bracket game is a consolation game, then teams can choose to play by pool play substitution rules.

## Other Items

**Walks:** There are NO intentional walks. Pitches must be thrown.

**Hit-By-Pitch:** In USA Softball, for a batter to be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base on a hit batter, the batter must make an attempt to avoid being hit (Rule 8-1-F). We should be lenient on this rule as we don't want to reward a pitcher that has thrown a fast ball into the batter's box. A batter "bracing for impact" should be interpreted as an attempt. However, if an easily avoidable pitch hits the batter's front foot or leg that remained motionless, then that would be a situation where 1<sup>st</sup> base may not be awarded.

**One Foot in Box:** Rule 7-4-N is another rule where we should show lenience. If a player is taking many steps out of the batter's box AND the pitcher is ready to pitch, we should remind them of the rule. After a couple of reminders, they should comply and we hope we will not have to call a strike on the batter.

**Out of Play:** Often, with temporary fences, there will be a gap between the end of the fence and the fence that surrounds the field. If the ball rolls past that imaginary line, the ball will be out of play, probably a ground rule double. At pre-game, I often hear umpires explain to coaches that the player should raise their hands if it rolls out of play. The advice is fine but just remember, regardless of what the player does, the player does NOT determine if the ball is in play or out of play. If it's close, I hope to see an umpire in the outfield making this call.



**Collapsible Fence:** Temporary fences are designed to collapse if a player runs into it. Please review Rules Supplement # 20: Falling Over the Fence on a Catch.