



The prevailing rules will be USA Softball playing rules with the exceptions noted below:

Time Limit – Pool and Bracket - game time is no new inning after 75 minutes or the completion of 6 innings, whichever comes first. Game time begins at the start of the first warm up pitch.

- The Umpire will notify the Scorekeeper of the start time.
- The Umpire will be the official timekeeper.
- Ties can occur in Pool Play. – See Tiebreaker Rule for Bracket Play
- If time has expired and the hometeam cannot catch up, the game will end.

Scorekeepers – Scorekeepers must sit close to the home plate umpire.

- The official Scorekeeper (home team) will log the official start time in the official scorebook.
- Scorekeepers will not cheer or coach during the game.
- Failure to provide a scorekeeper will result in a forfeit.

Home Team - Home team will be decided by a coin toss during the pre-game meeting.

Dugouts – The team in the top position on the bracket will take the 3rd base dugout. The team on the bottom position on the bracket will take the 1st base dugout. If a team has back-to-back games, they will occupy the same dugout for both.

Sportsmanship – Any player, coach, manager or spectator displaying unsportsmanlike behavior will subject themselves and/or their team to suspension from the game and/or forfeiting the game.

Lineup – All players present at game time must be in the batting lineup.

- The batting order remains the same throughout the game, even after defensive substitutions.
- If a player leaves the game, her position in the batting order will be skipped to the next batter with no penalty, however once she has missed an at bat, she may not reenter the game.



- There will be no penalty for a player who has been taken out due to injury.

Fielding Players – The 8U division will play with a Rover (10 players) with the tenth player playing anywhere at least 10 feet behind the baseline.

- A team can start a game with eight (8) players before forfeiting a game.
- A team may finish the game with eight (8) players.
- Outfielders must be 10' from the baseline at the time of the swing.
 - 6 Infielders, 4 Outfielders for 10 player team.
- No guest players allowed.

Pitching – No pitcher may pitch more than 2 innings in the first 4 innings. Limit of 3 innings per game.

- If a tie occurs at the time limit of a game, or at the end of five innings, the current pitcher is allowed to continue pitching even if it exceeds her normal inning limit.
- During the Championship Game, there is no restriction on the number of innings a pitcher may pitch.

Substitutions – The 8U division will have open defensive substitutions, however, no player shall sit more than two innings per game.

- The integrity of the batting order will be maintained throughout the game.

Base Running – All NorCal base running rules are in effect

- Look Back Rule IS in effect.
- Runners can only advance one base on a batted ball being fielded in the infield that has not crossed the 10' outfield line.
- Runners and batter/runner may advance extra bases while a hit ball remains in the outfield and must stop at the next base once the ball is in control in the infield. Control will be a ball caught in the glove or hand or an attempt catch and within reach.
- Runners and batter/runner may be put out if they advance beyond the base they are entitled. At the end of the play, the umpire will return all runners to the base(s) they are entitled to if they have not been put out.



Stealing – Base stealing is not allowed.

- Leaving the base up to a Maximum of 15'
- Leaving a base with the intent to achieve the next base without holding until a batted ball is put in play is not allowed.
 - The ball will be ruled dead, and all runners will return to their original base

Courtesy Runner – At each coach's option, a courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and catcher with two outs.

- The courtesy runner will be the last batter to make an out.
- If running for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning, then the second runner will be the out prior to the last out.

Infield Fly Rule –Rule not in effect.

Dropped Third Strike – Rule not in effect.

Illegal Pitching – Illegal pitch will not be called. However, the pitcher must make every attempt to pitch legally. If in the umpire's opinion the pitcher is gaining a gross advantage from an illegal pitch, then the coach must correct or remove the pitcher.

Run Rule – There will be a four-run (4) limit per inning, per team.

Mercy Rule – Rule in effect: 12 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.

Hit by Pitch – If a batter is hit by a pitch, she shall be awarded first base.

- A pitch that hits the ground before hitting the batter is still considered a hit by pitch.
- The batter must make an attempt to get out of the way of the pitch.

Taking the field - There will be one minute to switch from offense to defense between innings, at which time the Umpire will put the ball in play.

At the beginning of each inning, Pitchers will be allowed up to five warm up pitches, after which the Umpire will begin calling balls or strikes against the offending team (one minute or 5 warm-up pitches, whichever comes first).

Injured Player –

- a. When a player is not injured seriously, all efforts should be made to encourage her to continue to play. Once a player has left a game for an injury, she cannot re-enter the game.
- b. Under no circumstances may an injured player re-enter a game. If this happens, the **PLAYER AND THE MANAGER WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME.**
- c. The umpire (not coach or manager) must declare the player as an injured player, and this must be noted as such in the official scorebook.
- d. If the injured player is a batter, the player who made the last out may assume the strike count, so the 'at bat' may be completed. If the injured player is a runner, the player who made the last out may take her place on the last base she reached safely.
- e. When the injured player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, her place in the batting order will be skipped to the next batter with no penalty.

Tie Breaker – Bracket Play ONLY: After time has expired (inning is completed or the end of 5 innings) and game is tied, the next inning starts with a runner on 2nd base (last batter from previous inning).

If after the inning is completed and the game is still tied, the runner will start at 3rd base for all remaining innings until there is a winner.

Forfeit – If a team fails to start play within five minutes after the scheduled game start time, that team will forfeit the game.

Umpires – At least two umpires will be provided for every game.

- All protests during Tournament Play will be resolved that evening of play by 3 impartial Executive Committee members, preferably the President, Umpire-In Chief and the Vice President.
- Any coach or manager wishing to protest a rule interpretation of a game **MUST** submit \$50.00 cash at the time of protest.
- If they win the protest, the manager will be refunded the \$50.00.
- If they lose the protest, the manager will forfeit the \$50.00. USA Rule 11 and the following will apply:
 - All protests must be conducted through the Umpire. The time and inning during which the protest occurred must be logged into the scorebook. The protest must be made prior to the umpire leaving the field of play.
 - Each team will present its case to the Executive Committee members separately, beginning with the team that filed the protest.
 - After all presentations are made, the Executive Committee will decide the issue with a closed door vote.

