

2025 SELECT TOURNAMENT RULES

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The current USA Softball Official Rules of Softball and the USA Softball of Southern California Rules & Regulations shall be enforced at this event.

1. **Game Time:** Will be 6 innings or one hour, 15 minutes, whichever occurs first.
 - A. The Championship game shall have a time limit of one hour, 20 minutes.
 - B. No new inning shall start after the time limit has expired unless the score is tied.
 - C. The final inning will be completed once started per Rule 5, Section 3
 - D. The 'run-ahead rule' shall be used in all games at 15 runs after three innings, 12 runs after four innings or eight runs after five innings.
2. Tie-Breaker rule per Rule 5, section 11 shall be in effect after 6 innings (in lieu of 7 innings) or the top of the next inning after the time limit (as noted in 'A' above) has expired. (The offensive player due to bat last in the half inning will be placed on 2nd base.)
3. Five Runs per inning will be in effect through the first three (3) innings.
 - A. The half inning will be declared over when the offensive team scores five (5) runs.
 - B. Additional runs in excess of five (5) during continuous action shall not count.
 - C. All additional innings beginning in the fourth inning will be open.
4. **Offense:** Bat-around SHALL be used.
 - A. All eligible players, present, shall be listed on the line-up and bat in the order presented at the plate meeting.
 - B. The Designated Player (DP) or Flex will not be used.
 - C. In case of injury while on offense, the last out may be used for the injured player. If a player cannot bat and run the bases the next time through the line-up, they will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the game for safety reasons. No out will be recorded unless the team has gone short-handed as in Rule 4, Section 1, Paragraph D (Less than nine (9) players)

A courtesy runner can be used for any player that is injured while on offense, **the last player available according to the lineup** may be used ~~for~~ as the courtesy runner. If a player cannot bat and run the bases the next time through the line-up, they will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the game for safety reasons. No out will be recorded unless the team has gone short-handed as in Rule 4, Section 1, Paragraph D (Less than nine (9) players).

A courtesy runner can be used for the pitcher and catcher of record anytime these players are on base. The courtesy runner will be **the last player available according to the lineup**. For example, if the catcher is hitting 6th, gets on base and the offensive team wants to use the courtesy runner. Then the player in the 5th offensive position will be the courtesy runner, unless this player is on base. If this is the case, the player in the 4th offensive position will be the courtesy runner, unless this player is on base. If this is the case, the player in the 3rd offensive position will be the courtesy runner, unless this player is on base and so forth.

5. **Stealing:** One base, per pitch, per runner. Runners may only advance one base from where they were at the time of the pitch. Stealing home is not permitted - Cold Home Plate
 - A. Runners are not permitted to advance on an over-throw. Any runner attempting to advance beyond the one base they are permitted is at risk of being put out.
 - B. A runner who makes it safely to the next base beyond the base permitted, including home, will be returned to the correct base. When playing action has been completed, a dead ball will be declared and the runner returned to the proper base.
 - C. A batter who is awarded 1st base on a walk/base-on-balls may not steal second on the ball four pitch. A batter-runner who attempts to advance in this situation will be ruled on the same as paragraph 5.B

6. **Defense:** Ten players ONLY on defense. The ten players may play anywhere in fair territory except for the catcher who will be in the catcher box.
7. Outfielders do not have to be on the Grass.
8. No player may start closer to home plate than the distance of the pitcher's plate but may move closer to home plate after the ball is released by the pitcher. Effect – No Pitch
9. Unlimited defensive substitution is permitted except for the pitching position, which will be governed by USA Book Rule
10. The Infield Fly or Dropped Third Strike Rules will not be used.
11. **Pitching distance:** 30 feet.
12. **Base Distance:** 55 feet between bases will be used when available. 60 feet is acceptable.
13. **Softballs:** The Worth 'RIF' 10" will be used softball used in this tournament for this age group. Should the RIF 10" be unavailable a substitute Approved USA Softball of Southern California Ball will be used.

A. Check-in:

1. Check in at the tournament desk one hour prior to your team's first game at the site of your first game.
2. Line-up forms, Game Result Card and tournament brackets will be provided. USA Softball of So Cal Line-up Forms ONLY shall be used. The forms are available at the Tournament Director's table.
3. A Player Roster listing players name and Date of Birth must be turned in. Only players listed on the roster are permitted to play for the duration of the tournament. No new players can be added after Check-in.
4. All Adults on the field or in the dugout including warm-ups must have a cleared Background Check and be SafeSport Certified for the current playing season. Adults must check-in with the tournament director and receive a Wristband to be worn on the field, in the dugout including warm-ups.

B. Ground rules for the tournament:

1. Practice on infield dirt is NOT permitted. Teams may warm-up between the foul lines and the fence. If a relay player is used, they must stay on the grass. Pitchers may not use the pitcher's plate and circle.
2. The team listed on the top of the bracket shall occupy the 1st base dugout, except in back-to-back games played on the same field when the team playing the consecutive game does not change dugouts.
3. Home team is the official scorekeeper.
4. Home team is determined by a coin toss at the umpire pre-game meeting with coaches.
5. Softballs for the tournament will be provided, and will be the ONLY softballs used.
6. USA So Cal Line-up Forms ONLY shall be used. They are available from the Tournament Director.
7. Double bases will be used at first base in all So Cal USA Softball Championship Tournaments.

C. Protests:

1. Playing rule protests must be made prior to the next pitch and a decision rendered by the Tournament UIC. The game will be stopped and the manager must be prepared to discuss the rule interpretation involved.
2. Eligibility protests shall be ruled upon according to USA Softball Code.

D. Clarifications:

1. When a delay in the schedule occurs, it is the responsibility of the team manager to check the bracket boards and contact the Tournament Director for possible changes to game times and /or fields.
2. Tobacco products of any type are prohibited on school facilities, and from ALL dugouts and field of play.
3. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are prohibited from the facility.
4. All players are encouraged to wear like-colored uniforms and helmets.
5. All regulations of the tournament site shall be followed.

E. Sportsmanship:

1. Team managers are responsible and must have control of their players, coaches, and team followers at all times, including off the field of play.
2. The USA Code of Conduct and the USA Softball of Southern California Code of Conduct shall be enforced throughout the tournament. Any act or behavior considered contrary to the objectives and purpose of USA Softball will not be tolerated.
3. Artificial noisemakers of any type are NOT permitted (i.e. horns or cans filled with rocks).
4. Umpires and USA Softball Representatives have the responsibility and authority to eject (out of sight and sound) any team personnel or spectator for any act or behavior considered unsportsmanlike conduct.
5. An ejected coach, player, or other team personnel is ineligible to participate in the team's next game. Illegal participation in the team's next game by ejected personnel results in team forfeiture. A second ejection in the same tournament makes the participant ineligible for remainder of tournament. Each sanction (ineligible for next game, team forfeiture, and ineligible for remainder of tournament) may be appealed to the Tournament Protest Committee.