

2019 Hopedale Girls Softball Invitational Tournament

12U Tournament Rules

GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES

- USA Softball rules apply except as stated in these tournament rules.
- Guaranteed 3 pool play games; top 8 seeded teams reach single elimination playoff round
- Rosters are limited to 15 players.
- Coaches must check in with tournament director one hour prior to their first game and present the following:
 - Official USA Softball Roster signed by state commissioner
 - Birth certificates or player ID cards
 - Proof of insurance
- Lineups are to be provided to the official scorer at least 10 minutes before each game.
- Each team must provide its own insurance coverage, first aid needs and supplies.
- A 12" ball will be used.
- All games (except the championship game) will have a time restriction. No inning may be started after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the start of the game. Any inning started prior to that will be completed. The official scorekeeper will keep time. Pool play games can end in a tie.
- Games will be 6 innings unless reduced by the time rule.
- Protests will be settled on the field. The umpire's decision is final.
- Any game suspended for any reason will be resumed at the point of suspension.
- A 15-run mercy rule will apply after 3 innings, 12-run mercy rule after 4 innings and 8-run mercy rule after 5 innings
- A maximum of 10 fielders will be used in the field, including four (4) outfielders. Outfielders must be in the outfield grass prior to each pitch.
- Teams must field a minimum of 9 players by game time. Those who fail to do so will forfeit that game.
- Free substitution will be used in the field except for the pitcher. Only the starting pitcher can be reinserted as a pitcher.
- If a batter is removed from the batting order, except for illness or injury, an out will be called for her position in the order. Umpire discretion prevails.
- Injured players missing an at bat cannot return to the game and cannot have courtesy runner.
- Courtesy runner for pitcher and catcher only. Courtesy runner must be last out (not last out of an inning)
- Infield fly rule is in effect.
- Dropped third strike is in play.
- Warm up pitches - when the third out of an inning happens, the defense taking the field for the next half of the inning has one minute before the first pitch is thrown starting the new inning
- Smoking (or use of any tobacco product) by coaches, assistant coaches or scorekeepers in or around the playing area is prohibited.
- Cheering is encouraged. Derogatory comments, chants or gestures toward opposing team players by players, coaches and/or fans will not be tolerated. Umpires discretion is final.

- MVP balls signed by each team member will be exchanged after each pool play game only. Each team is responsible for providing their own MVP balls.

TOURNAMENT SPECIFIC RULES

FRIDAY/SATURDAY POOL PLAY GAMES

- No inning is to start after 1 hour 30 minutes of playing time
- Last inning is decided by both teams prior to start of an inning if full game cannot be completed. The official scorekeeper will keep time. Pool play games can end in a tie.
- Home team decided by coin toss
- One umpire per game

SUNDAY ELIMINATION GAME SEEDINGS

- Top 8 teams (out of 10) reach elimination playoff round
- Seeding based on Win/Loss/Tie record, then:
- Fewest Runs Allowed (first tie-breaker)
- Most Runs Scored (second tie-breaker)
- Coin Flip (third tie-breaker)

SUNDAY ELIMINATION GAMES

- No inning is to start after 1 hour 30 minutes of playing time
- Last inning is decided by both teams prior to start of an inning if full game cannot be completed. The official scorekeeper will keep time.
- International Tie-Breaker in effect
- Higher Seed is Home Team
- 2 umpires per game

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

- No Time limit
- International Tie-Breaker in effect
- Higher Seed is Home Team
- 2 umpires

PITCHING:

- USA Softball fast pitch rules apply except as stated in these tournament rules.
- Pitchers may use windmill or modified fast pitch style.
- The pitcher's mound will be 40' from home plate.
- The pitcher must start with two feet in contact with the rubber.
- Except for the starting pitcher, a pitcher removed from that position may not return to pitch in that game. However she may play any other position in that game.
- The pitcher will be removed from the game if she hits 3 batters in one inning or 5 batters during the course of the game or umpire discretion.

BATTING:

- All players are to be included in a continuous batting order.
- The first thrown bat will result in a team warning. Each time after, any player from that team throws a bat in the same game she will be called out. Umpire discretion will rule.
- If a batter is hit by a pitch, and in the umpire's opinion the player made a reasonable attempt to avoid the pitch, she will be awarded first base.
- Bunting is allowed.
- No fake bunts (to draw in the infielders) then swinging away/slashing - once batter shows intent to bunt, the batter must either bunt or take the pitch

BASE RUNNING:

- There is not a slide rule in USA Softball. Runners must avoid major contact – you can go over, under or around. The decision on if there is interference or obstruction is at the sole discretion of the umpires. Being a judgement call, umpire discretion is final.
- Runners may not leave the base until the ball leaves the pitchers hand. Runners must return to the base when the ball is returned to the pitcher.
- Stealing of second, third and home is allowed. There will be no limit of steals per inning.
- If a catcher or pitcher makes a pickoff attempt and the ball goes out of play, runners will be advanced one base. Advancing home on a pickoff attempt is allowed.
- A batter can advance to first base on a dropped third strike.
- A courtesy runner may be used only for the pitcher/catcher. The courtesy runner shall be the girl who made the last out.
- Continuation play on a walk will not be allowed.

WEATHER RELATED DELAYS/REFUNDS

- Every effort will be made to play all pool play games and elimination round games
- In the event it is not possible to play all pool play games, elimination round seeding will be at discretion of tournament director
- If the tournament is shortened due to weather, teams will be entitled to a partial refund based on number of games each team plays. If 2 or more games are play played, no refund will be made.