3-Game Tournament Rules

Tournament Director Contacts:

Call or text Rick & Brian - 908.291.7010

Our Tournaments are intended to be for the enjoyment and development of the players.
Players and their parents take their lead from the team's coaches.
<u>You are their role model</u>.

We require all team rosters to be loaded onto the USA Softball website at NortheastFP.com. All full-time and guest players participating in an event must be on your roster by the time of your first game of an event. If a player is challenged and does not appear on your roster, she will be removed from the event and your team may forfeit the game.

This tournament is sanctioned by USA Softball and governed by its rules with the only exceptions in this document. Regardless of this, the umpire's decision is *FINAL.*

- There will be no pre-game warm-up allowed on infields. Pitchers may use foul territories to warm up.
- All players must be eligible for the age group they are playing in, per the USA Softball Age Rule chart

<u>Tournament Format (all ages)</u>:

- All games (other than Seed 1 v 2 of a 6-team pool) are 1hr 25min, finish the batter. The score DOES NOT revert. The Seed 1 v 2 game of a 6-team pool is 1hr 20min, finish the inning.
    - Bracket seeding tie-breakers are:
        - Record
        - Head to head record
        - Runs given up
        - Runs Scored
        - Coin flip
- At Home Run Tournaments we like to stay on schedule. All games may begin up to 15 minutes early if both coaches agree and the Umpire is ready. The Tournament Directors may start games early to correct the schedule from a late start or when weather may become an issue.

2026 USA Softball Age Chart

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. The player's age and division is indicated on the right.

SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	AGE	DIVISION
2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	5	6U
2018	2018	2018	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	6	6U
2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	7	8U
2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	8	8U
2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	9	10U
2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	10	10U
2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	11	12U
2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	12	12U
2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	13	14U
2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	14	14U
2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	15	16U
2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	16	16U
2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	17	18U
2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	18	18U

Game Format (all ages except where noted):

- Mercy rules apply for all games - 12 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings.
- Further traveling team calls the coin toss for Home/Away.
- Ties are allowed in pool play. Score does not revert to last inning.
- Base runners may take a lead once the pitcher **releases** the ball.
- 10U & 12U Only: No "Butcher Boy" hitting. Fake bunting and swinging away is *NOT* allowed. If this occurs, a dead ball will be called. The batter is out, and runner(s) return to their original bases.
- 08U only:
    - Games are 6 innings. 5 Run limit per inning. Unlimited runs in 6th inning.
    - Teams must roster bat.
    - Infield Hit - Base runners are limited to one base on all batted balls hit in the infield. No advances are allowed for overthrows to any base.
    - On an outfield hit (any ground or fly ball hit at least 10 feet beyond an infielder or any ball that is fielded by an outfielder), base runners may take additional bases. The play stops when the ball is secured by an infielder on the dirt. Runners who have not attained the halfway point between bases when the play stops will be sent back to the prior base by the umpire.
    - No bases can be stolen. Base runners may take a lead once the ball crosses the plate.
    - Coaches will pitch from 35 feet and will use 11 inch balls.
    - Players will receive 6 coach pitches to put the ball in play. If the 6th pitch is deemed unhittable by the umpire, the player will get an additional pitch. If the 6th pitch is fouled off, the player will get an additional pitch to put the ball in play.
- 10U only:
    - Games are 6 innings. 5 run limit per inning, unlimited runs innings 4-6.
    - Teams may play 3 or 4 outfielders in the field.
    - Teams may roster bat but do not have to. If a team decides to bat only 10 players all remaining players will be treated as subs.
    - Pitching distance will be 35 feet and will use 11 inch balls.
    - No dropped third strike, no infield fly
    - Slapping is allowed, but batters cannot square to bunt, pull-back and swing
    - Stealing of 2nd and 3rd base only. Runner is allowed 1 stolen base per pitch, and cannot advance on an overthrow to any base. No continuation walks allowed.
- 12U only:
    - Games are 7 innings. No run limit per inning.
    - 3 outfielders play the field
    - Teams can bat in any of the formats allowable by USA Softball.
    - Any base can be stolen and continuation is allowed on walks. Dropped third strike, infield fly and look back rules are in effect.
    - Pitching distance will be 40 feet and will use 12 inch balls.
- 14U/16U/18U only:
    - Games are 7 innings. No run limit per inning.
    - Teams can bat in any of the formats allowable by USA Softball.

- In an attempt to get in full games, a continuing pitcher will receive 4 warm ups the first inning, 3 every inning thereafter. A new pitcher will receive 4 warm ups.
- There is no limit to how many times a pitcher may be put in per game.
- Only one trip to the mound is allowed per inning per pitcher, all subsequent trips in the inning must be to remove the pitcher from pitching.
- Stalling will not be permitted as determined by the umpire – if so determined; the umpire may override the time limit if a team is determined to be intentionally stalling.

Allowable Batting Lineup Formats (all ages except 8U, which must roster bat):

- Teams may choose from one of the following formats allowed by USA Softball:
    - Straight nine (9 batting)
    - Nine plus DP/Flex (9 batting)
    - Roster bat (full roster batting)
    - Nine with an EP (10 batting)
    - Nine plus DP/Flex and EP (10 batting)

Courtesy Runners

- Courtesy runners are allowed for pitchers and catchers at any time.
- The courtesy runner is a substitute not in the game (if not batting entire line-up), or the last batted out (if batting entire line-up). Or an injured player that has been identified and agreed to by both coaches and umpires prior to the start of the game
- The pitcher and catcher are identified as the last players who physically played that position.

Weather

- Inclement Weather – in the event of inclement weather it may be necessary to play shortened games or to adopt an alternate format for the tournament. We reserve the right to change the tournament format as needed.
- We reserve the right to adjust the rules, schedules, brackets, and field locations, if necessary, in order to complete the tournament. Every attempt will be made to honor the game minimum – however, if a situation develops where a team forfeits or the weather does not cooperate, every attempt possible will be made to reschedule, shorten or cancel games in order to complete the tournament.
- Rain and cancellation policies can be found on our website

Score Reporting

- Winning coach should text the game score to the group chat immediately following the game
- The Tournament Directors have the final say on all disputes.

Other Information

- Umpire decisions are final. No protests allowed. Video replay does not exist.
- Game time is forfeit time – to be enforced by the Umpire and/or at the Tournament Director's discretion. In rain situations, please do not leave the fields as the schedule may be adjusted without

prior notice.

- Please do not impede the progress of the game. Any signs of poor sportsmanship, actions that demean opposing players, fans, or the umpire may be grounds for the offender(s) to be removed permanently from the game and premises. And if serious, the possibility of their team forfeiting the game. **Any coach/player ejected from a ball game by an official, will also be suspended from the team's next game (at minimum) – with further penalty if warranted.**
- Alcohol is forbidden at ALL complexes. There is no smoking allowed inside any park. Walk to the roadway or parking areas.
- Teams are responsible for cleaning out their dugout! PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING BEHIND and put all trash in the proper containers or bag. WE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN PROPERTY! **Please have the girls, coaches and parents clean up after themselves.**