



# USBA 2025 Rules of Play

1. The **NSA rules** and the **Host Association Rules** of Play govern this tournament.
2. No protests are allowed: the **umpires' decision is final**.
3. No rulebooks or rule papers allowed on the field during the game.
4. **Players**
  - All players must be registered and Photo ID or Birth Certificates or Health Cards must be available upon request.
  - The penalty for ineligible players is expulsion of the player/ team from the tournament.
  - Unlimited defensive substitution of all the players is permitted.
  - No metal spikes permitted. Steel and Plastic toecaps must be removed for base running
  - All registered players will bat in rotation every game
  - Teams must start each game with min 9 players

## 5. Ejections:

Any coach and or player ejected from a game as a result of their conduct must leave the ball park within five minutes. Failure to leave within 5 minutes will result in the disqualification of the entire team. The ejected coach or player will automatically be required to sit out of their next scheduled game.

If a coach or player is ejected from a game, they may seek the Tournament Convenors approval in order to coach or play in the next scheduled game. The convener has the right to apply a one game suspension or a tournament suspension depending on the reason why the coach or player were ejected in the first place.

Fans may or may not be allowed to be ejected by an umpire (depending on the Assoc's policy) If fans are not allowed to be ejected, they are the responsibility of the Head Coach. Harassment and / or misconduct by fans will result in a warning followed by the ejection of the Head Coach, if the warning is not heeded. If a coach is ejected they may seek the Tournament Convenors approval in order to coach the next scheduled game.

Any player or players involved in the consumption of any drugs or alcohol near the playing area, that player and team shall be ejected and the team will be fined \$100.

## 6. Game

### Pitching Distances and running Distances

	Ladies	Ladies	Men	Men
Division	Pitching	Bases	Pitching	Bases
(19U)	50'	70'	50'	70'
ADULTS	50'	70'	50'	70'

- The plate umpire will keep the official time and will call out the official start time with the first pitch.
- **1 and 1 count will be in effect, EXCEPT FOR FINALS**
- Third Strike Foul, is an out. Runners are not allowed to tag up and run on a caught third strike foul.
- **Round Robin Game duration:**  
Men's: No new inning after 60 Minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first  
Women's: No new inning after 50 Minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first
- **Playoffs Game duration:**  
Men's: No new inning after 60 Minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first  
Women's: No new inning after 60 Minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first
- **Championship Game duration: Will be 7 innings(men and women's)**
- A game suspended by the umpire because of rain or darkness will be considered a regulation game if 4 innings (or 3 ½ if the Home Team is ahead) have been completed in round robin play. For championship or consolation games a regulation game will be 5 complete innings (or 4 ½ if the Home Team is ahead).
- An infield ball is permitted only while the pitcher is warming up.
- Home teams are to be decided by a flip of a coin with the umpire presiding. The team that is the farthest away will make the call.
- The official score will be that of the home team and the score sheet turned into the tournament convenor at the end of each game.
- Each team is responsible for supplying a score keeper for each game.
- Blood Rule: All cuts must be covered and a change of clothes made if necessary.
- The mercy rule is in effect for all games ( 12 runs after 4.5 or 5 innings)
- A mercy rule will apply a maximum of 5 runs per half inning, the last inning will be open.
- Only 7th inning is Open or the final inning called by the umpire. Game can not end during an inning
- **3 HOME RUN DIFFERENTIAL IS IN EFFECT. Exceeding the limit is an OUT**
- Pitched ball must have a minimum height of 6 feet and a maximum of 12 feet, as per the judgement of the Umpire.
- Managers are responsible for throwing away all litter/garbage in and around the dugout at the end of each game. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine.
- Home plate is part of the strike zone. Player must stand on home plate(board) to make an out at home. No player can be tagged out at home plate. Player will be called out if he touches the home plate or strike zone matt while coming around to score a run
- A minimum of 1 game is required for a player to play in the playoffs
- **5 MAN IN-FIELD; Only permitted in POOL A**
- **MANDATORY PITCHERS MASK;** All Pitchers must bring/wear a pitchers mask.
- Any player or players involved in the consumption of any drugs or alcohol near the playing area, that player or players shall be suspended and the team will be fined \$100. The team that this player or players belong to will be put on probation until further notice.
- **TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO BE AT THE DIAMOND 20 MINS BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED TIME, GAMES MAY START EARLY (NO GRACE PERIOD WILL BE PROVIDE)**
- **ERRANT BALLS;** Teams must retrieve their foul or home-run balls **or their first batter of the next inning may be called an out.** Send someone to get the balls – you hit it, you go get it.

## **7. Base running/Lead Off Rule**

- Stealing is not allowed.
- Anticipation is acceptable but lead-off is forbidden. Runner(s) may leave a base only if the ball is hit, crosses home plate or hits the ground. Anticipation rule is in effect.
- USBA supports commitment line
- Sliding is permitted except at home plate

## **8. Bats / Ball**

- All eligible USSA/NSA SPO/SPN bats are ok to be used for tournament play. Any team using an illegal deemed bat will forfeit the game and a fine of \$100 must be paid before the next scheduled game. If fine is not paid, team will forfeit the remainder of the tournament.
- USBA Tournaments will use the 12" Ball - Softball Canada Standard (Cor .47)

## **9. Bunting**

- Bunting is not allowed in all Divisions.

## **10. Scores / Standings**

- Scores / Standings will be kept for each game for all divisions.
- 2 points per win. 1 point for a tie
- If the Home team is leading or goes ahead in the bottom of the 7th the inning or the last inning the game is over.
- Tournament standings will be determined by points. Ties will be broken based on head to head (in a full round robin), then run differential and then. Runs against divided by innings played, and then Runs for divided by innings played and then if necessary, Flip a Coin.
- POOL B: due to odd number of teams the 11th team(Scarborough) will play 4 games, one game will be drawn to not count

## **11. Cheering**

- Positive cheering only. The conduct of the team, its spectators and the coaches are the responsibility of the team coaches. In the event of harassment or derogatory remarks originating from the players, coaches or fans, the umpires will issue warnings. If these warnings are not heeded, it will lead to the ejection of the individual(s) involved, and the umpire may call the game awarding the non-offending team with a default win.

## **12. INTERNATIONAL RULES IN PLAYOFFS EXCEPT FOR FINALS;**

- International Tie Breaker Rule- When a softball game is tied at the end of seven innings, the International Tie Breaker rule goes into effect. At the start of each inning, a runner is placed on second base- the runner will be the last batter scheduled to bat in this inning. Any eligible courtesy runner may be substituted for this runner. At least one full inning is played, allowing each team the same chance to score. If the score remains tied, the same process is used in each inning until a victor emerges (one team scores more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning).

## **13. SUBSTITUTION Rule;**

- All players eligible to play in a game must be listed on the line-up card submitted to the umpire. The line-up card must list the surname, given name and uniform number (if available) of the line-up players in the correct batting order. The surname, given name and uniform number (if available) of all substitutes must also be listed on the line-up card for each of the participating teams.

All players on the line-up must be present at the start of the game. The start of the game is at the Coaches conference with the umpire. Starting player may be pulled from the line-up and re-entered once back in the same spot in the batting order. Substitutes may take the place of a starting player. Once a substitute has been pulled from the line-up, he/she may not re-enter the game. All substitutions must be reported to the plate umpire at the time a substitution enters the game. Failure to notify the umpire of a substitution would create an **illegal substitution (refer to NSA Rulebook)**.

**14. COURTESY RUNNERS:**

Maximum THREE (3) courtesy runners per game. Any team member can run and one person can be a pinch runner more than once. NOTE: If a courtesy runner is on base when their turn at bat comes, the at-bat is recorded as an OUT. Substitutions or changing out runners to avoid the OUT may not be used. If a courtesy runner is used to replace an injured player, it will count against your teams three courtesy runners.

**15. LINE UP;** Must have min 9 players on the field and ALL players must be of 18 years of age or older You will be allowed to bat up to a **maximum of 12 batters**. If a team starts with the use of an EP, that team must finish the game with an EP. If the EP or any other player is injured or removed from the game with no substitute to replace them, that spot in the batting order will be an out.

**COMMITTEE RIGHTS** The committee reserves the right to make decisions that they feel are in the best interest of the event as a whole. Furthermore, the committee reserves the right, without notice, to change game times or event format to ensure the safety of the participants and completion of the. **Any team deemed trying to “throw” a game** during round robin play for the purpose of manipulating round robin seeding (placing in a lower playoff division) may be awarded the win by either the plate umpire or the USB A committee or, and at the committee’s discretion, ejected from the event as a whole.

- **If a rule is not stated above, NSA Canada rulebook will apply (below link)**

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