



UNITED SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION



2024 Rules of Play

1. The **AWS 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.
- Player may enter and exit the game defensively at any time and in any position.
- 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 9 players and cannot play with fewer than 8
- If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the line up provided you have not gone through the complete batting order.
- In the event of an injury or illness resulting in a player being removed from the game, there shall be no "out" when the player is due to bat and they are skipped over.
- In the event a player is ejected from a game, an "out" shall be recorded each and every time the player's spot in the batting rotation comes up.

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	Mens	Mens
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.
- **Round Robin Game duration: No new inning after 60 Minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first**
- 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).
- **All championship games will be No new inning after 75 Minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first.**
- 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 (15 runs after 5 complete 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
- Maximum of 3 Courtesy runners will be granted per game, any player can be a courtesy runner
- A 3 home run differential is in effect. Exceeding the limit is an OUT
- A 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 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
- 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.
- UPSA committee has final say on any tournament matters/rules that are not explicitly listed on this page. Rules are subject to change without notice by UPSA to maintain the integrity of the tournament

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.
- UPSA supports commitment line
- Sliding is permitted except at home plate

8. Infield Fly Rule

- Rule is in effect

9. Bats / Ball

- All bats must meet AWS requirements.
- USBA Tournaments will use the 11" Ball - Softball Canada Standard (Cor .47) for the Womens and the 12" Ball - Softball Canada Standard (Cor .47) for the Mens

10. Bunting

- Bunting is not allowed in all Divisions.

11. Overthrows - Out of Play

- All runners, including the batter-runner, will be award 2 bases based on the position of the runners when the ball is thrown.

12. Scores / Standings

- Scores / Standings will be kept for each game for all divisions.
- 2 points per win. 1point 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.

13. 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.