



## **SHBGFS END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT RULES 2024**

The tournament will be a double elimination bracket play. Seeding in bracket will be determined by final divisional standings. Exception 8U, seeding will be random hat draw. For 10u and 12u the highest seed will be the home team throughout bracket play.

### **Sportsmanship:**

1. Team managers are responsible and must have control of their players, coaches, family, 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 South HB Executive Board Members have the responsibility and authority to eject (out of sight and sound) any team personnel, player, family, or spectator for any act or behavior considered unsportsmanlike conduct. If any ejected person refuses to leave a fourfieture will apply for that team. 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.

### **Bracket Game Length, Pitching Restrictions, & Per Inning Run Limits:**

- 12U- 7 innings OR 1:40 (one hour and forty minutes) No new inning. No pitching restrictions. No run limits.
- 10U- 6 innings OR 1:30 (one hour and thirty minutes) No new inning. No pitching restrictions. No run limits.
- 8U- 5 innings OR 1:25 (one hour and twenty-five minutes) No new inning, 1:45 drop dead. Run Limits: 4 runs per inning max for 1<sup>st</sup> (3) innings, Innings 4 and beyond are open, no maximum.
- Regular season pitching restrictions for 8U will remain in effect throughout bracket play (9 outs per pitcher, 3 appearances per pitcher).
- 8U - There is no coach pitch during the tournament in any circumstance.

### **Championship Games:**

14U, 12U and 10U – Championship games will be 7 innings for 14u & 12u. 6 innings for 10u, and have no time restrictions. There are no pitching restrictions for 14U, 12U and 10U during the championship game, and there are no per inning run limits, all innings are open.

8U- Championship games will be 5 innings and have a time restriction of 1:30 no new inning, 1:45 drop dead. No pitching restrictions for the championship game only. Run limit is (5) per inning, innings 1-3. Inning (4) and thereafter is open with no run limits.

Home team will be the team that advances from the winners bracket. Loser bracket team will be visitor.



### **Other rules and notes:**

USA Softball Run Ahead Rule (mercy rule) section 9. A, 1 will remain in effect for all divisions throughout the play-off tournament. 15 after three innings, 12 after four innings or 8 after five innings.

**Courtesy Runners** are only allowed for the pitcher and catcher of record. If a substitution is made and for either, and that substitute player has not yet entered the game defensively for that position they are not yet considered the pitcher or catcher of record. The courtesy runner will be the player that is furthest in the line up from the current batter (unless on base) – (The courtesy runner is NOT the last out).

Ties after end of time when a game has reached its inning maximum, will be broken using the **“tie breaker rule”** of the official rules of softball (section 11). The game continues until a winner is determined. (tie breaker rule places the last out on 2<sup>nd</sup> base at the start of the inning).

Coaches are responsible for reporting the scores to the UIC during the course of the tournament.

Good luck to all teams in the tournament!

### **8U – Rules supplement:**

- Home plate is closed; no stealing of home allowed.
- Stealing is restricted to (1) base at a time.
- Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule is not in effect.
- Infield Fly rule is not in effect.
- The team on the top of the bracket is the home team for field set up and take 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.
- **Coin-toss** determines home team for game play (coaches’ choice at the plate meeting)
- All games must have a winner.
- There is no coach pitch during the tournament in any circumstances.
- Batter will be awarded a base-on-balls (walk) at ball 4.
  - A batter who is awarded 1<sup>st</sup> 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 returned to the correct base. When the playing action has been completed, a dead ball will be declared, and the runner returned to the proper base.

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- **Overthrow Rule:** only (1) base is allowed on an overthrow. This rule is an umpire judgement call it is not an appeal play and thus cannot be challenged.
  - To clarify exactly how this rule applies:
    - An overthrow to 1<sup>st</sup> base allows the runner to advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base if they choose to but the runner is subject to being put out during the attempt to move to 2<sup>nd</sup>. If there is a throw to 2<sup>nd</sup> that doesn't mean the runner would then be entitled to 3<sup>rd</sup> if there is an overthrow to 2<sup>nd</sup>. The runner may only take 2<sup>nd</sup> base. (Yes, this is essentially a free attempt for the defense to make a play)
    - **An overthrow to 1<sup>st</sup> is any ball that is thrown to 1<sup>st</sup> base, that then passes into foul territory or goes outside the field of play.**
    - Other runners may also advance only (1) base as well on the same overthrow. This means they can advance to the base they are entitled to AND are then allowed one more base due to the overthrow (if they choose to continue running they are subject to being put out) this means a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> is entitled to 3<sup>rd</sup> base and if an overthrow at 1<sup>st</sup> occurs the same runner may attempt to advance to home and is subject to being put out on that advance.
- **To Stop Play** - the ball must only pass the plane of the pitching circle.
  - Runners are entitled to their forward base only if they are at the halfway point or greater to that next base. If the runner is less than halfway to their forward base at the time the ball passes the plane of the pitching circle that runner must return to their base. This is an umpire judgement call, and it is not an appeal play and thus cannot be challenged.
- **Bracket games** are (5) innings or 1:25 (one hour and twenty-five minutes) no new inning.
  - Regular season pitching restrictions for 8U will remain in effect throughout bracket play (9 out per pitcher, 3 appearances per pitcher).
  - Run Limits: 4 runs per inning max for 1<sup>st</sup> (3) innings, Innings 4 and beyond are open, no maximum.
- **8U- Championship game**
  - 5 innings and have a time restriction of 1:30 no new inning, 1:45 DROP DEAD.
  - No pitching restrictions for the championship game only (3 appearances per pitcher does still apply)
- Run limit is (5) per inning, innings 1-3. Inning (4) and thereafter is open with no run limits.
- PLAYTIME RULES – A player cannot sit out (2) consecutive innings. In the EOS Tournament there is no infield requirement.