



2025 Spring Playing Rules

Special Rules for Spring Championship Tournament

1. Special Rules for Spring Championship Tournament

- 1.1. All divisions and all teams will participate in an End of Season Spring Championship Tournament using a tournament format.
- 1.2. Pool games at the end of the Spring Season are **NOT** considered to be part of the Championship Tournament Special Rules for Spring Championship Tournament unless otherwise noted.
- 1.3. Player eligibility: To be eligible for the Spring Championship Tournament, each player must have played in over 50% of her team's games during the season, unless the games missed were due to injury or illness. A player must play with the team she is registered with.
- 1.4. All USA Softball Rules apply except for exceptions defined here in Special Rules for Spring Championship Tournament.
- 1.5. Minimum Playing Time:
 - 1.5.1. Offense: All Players Bat regardless of time on the bench.
 - 1.5.2. Defense: No player shall sit more than one consecutive inning at a time.
- 1.6. Pitching Limits do not apply to bracket or championship games.
- 1.7. USA Softball Rules will apply if a player leaves the game voluntarily or is ejected, she is declared out for that turn only. Any subsequent batting turns, there is no penalty.
- 1.8. Four (4) runs max per inning per team.
- 1.9. 8U: Maximum of 10 players will play on defense.
- 1.10. 8U: Coach Pitch: There will only be coach pitch for pool games and with the bases loaded. No coach pitch for bracket or championship games.
- 1.11. 10U/12U/14U: Maximum of 9 players will play on defense.
- 1.12. Hit by Pitch: A batter hit by pitch is required to take their base, except 8U Pool Play: A player is allowed the option to take their base or to continue batting.
- 1.13. **Home Team**
 - 1.13.1. Bracket/Championship games: Higher ranked team will be the home team.
- 1.14. **Protests:** There will be no protests permitted. All calls made by the umpire will be final.
- 1.15. **Seeding Games**
 - 1.15.1. The team with best record becomes #1 seed in the bracket, 2nd best record is #2 seed, etc. Seven (7) runs is the maximum differential used to calculate seeding for bracket games. In the event of ties, the following tie breakers will be in effect:
 1. Tie breaker #1: Head to head W-L (If more than 2 teams are tied, skip to #2)
 2. Tie breaker #2: Pool games total run differential
 3. Tie breaker #3: Runs scored in pool games
 4. Tie breaker #4: Coin toss
- 1.16. **Bracket Games**
 - 1.16.1. 1 hour 20 minutes no new inning, or 7 innings.
 - 1.16.2. USA Softball Mercy Rule applies: 12 runs ahead after 3 innings, 10 runs ahead after 4 innings and 8 runs ahead after 5 innings.



1.16.3. International Tie Breaker (See Appendix A) applies and takes effect immediately after regulation play and/or time limit has been reached.

1.17. Championship Final Game

1.17.1. 1 hour 20 minutes no new inning, or 7 innings

1.17.2. USA Softball Mercy Rule applies: 12 runs ahead after 3 innings, 10 runs ahead after 4 innings and 8 runs ahead after 5 innings.

1.17.3. International Tie Breaker (See Appendix A) applies and takes effect immediately after regulation play and/or time limit has been reached.

Appendix A: International Tie Breaker

When a softball game is tied with the game at the "no new inning cutoff", the International Tie Breaker rule goes into effect. At the start of each inning, a runner is placed on second base with the intent of accelerating opportunities to score and bringing the game to a speedier conclusion. The runner is the last batter to make an out in the previous inning and the on deck batter starts the inning at bat. At least one full inning must be played, allowing each team an at-bat and the same chance to score runs. If the home team scores to take the lead in the bottom half of the inning the game will end immediately. If the score remains tied, the same process is used in each following inning until a victor emerges (one team scores more runs than the other at the end of a completed inning). For 8U, if a tie results after playing one full inning of International Tie Breaker, teams will run a base race to determine a winner.