

USSSA Fastpitch Tournament Rules

Play will be governed by the Rules and bylaws of the USSSA

1. There will be a time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes to 1 hour 30 minutes, will vary with each tournament, in all games except: Championship
 - A. Issue with weather, Tournament Director, State Director and or State UIC to decide.
 - B. No New Inning shall start after the tournament time limit. If there is time left after the last out of an inning, a new inning shall start.
 - C. YOU START an INNING YOU FINISH the INNING.
 - D. **Ties are allowed in pool play.**
2. If a game is tied after regulation or the time limit rule in **bracket play**, the international tie breaker format will be used. The last completed at bat (not necessarily the last out) will go to second base. In case of weather or time issues, State Director and / or State UIC can call a game a tie after time limit and void the tie breaker rule.
3. Does USSSA have EP's and DP/Flex? USSSA uses the term AP to mean Additional Player. The AP's (you may use up to 2, but a total of 11 players) can be placed anywhere in the batting order and may go into the field defensively. AP's are treated as a starter. USSSA does allow for the DP/Flex, (Designated Player/Flex Player), The DP is listed in the batting order and Flex is listed in the last spot on the lineup card. For additional information please refer to Rule #5 of the USSSA Fast Pitch Rule Book Thirteenth Edition.
4. COURTESY RUNNER:
 - a. STATE TOURNAMENT, NIT, WORLD SERIES: USSSA allows the use of a Courtesy Runner for the Pitcher and Catcher; however the courtesy runner must be someone who has **not** participated in the game in any capacity. You cannot use the same courtesy runner for both in the same ½ inning. The courtesy runner cannot be replaced once used by the pitcher or catcher unless injured.
 - b. ALL OTHER TOURNAMENTS: In any effort to increase participation and speed up the game, USSSA Michigan allows a special courtesy runner rule, effective immediately, May 7, 2016:
 - i The player who made the last out (batted, tagged, forced, etc.) can be used as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher, whether or not there are substitutes available.
5. All Helmets and Face Guards must be NOCSAE approved and all bats must be approved.
 - a. All bats and helmets **MUST** be checked before every game. Coaches will have all bats and helmets lined up outside the dugouts before each game so the umpires can check them.
6. All on deck batters must use circle nearest their dugout. Umpires will not allow on deck batters to warm up in front of the other teams dugout. This is done to meet safety and insurance policies.

7. All Fields will be considered a closed field.
 - a. Any ball that is carried /thrown/hit beyond the imaginary line that extends from the backstop fence will be played by the book rule.
8. If there is a question regarding a rule interpretation, the game must be stopped if the manager questioning the rule submits a written request and a **\$100** protest fee. **Please inform Manager of this option.** All protests will be ruled on by the State Director or Assistant State Director, Tournament UIC and State UIC.
9. Coaches make sure that all your players are legally and properly equipped. No jewelry for example: rings, watches, bracelets, and any piercings. No rubber band bracelets for example: Live Strong or others.
10. All injuries must be reported to complex officials and Tournament Director or tournament UIC.
11. All coaches must have complied with the Michigan Concussion rules.
12. The USSSA Mercy Rules will be used in all tournaments.

A. 12 runs after 3 innings

B. 10 runs after 4 innings

C. 8 runs after 5 innings

13. In pool play if a team is playing a 4th game, it does NOT count in the standings. Their record is frozen after the 3rd- game. The game will count for the other team, because it is their 3rd- game.

14. Teams are allowed to start a game with 8 players, but they have to take an out in the 9th spot in the batting order. The out is recorded when the ball is in the circle and there is not the required batter to take her place in the order, not necessarily at the completion of the previous batter.

15. Teams will be seeded into the elimination bracket using the following criteria from pool play results.

Note this process continues and does not start over if a tie is broken when three or more teams are tied.

- a. Winning percentage.
- b. Number of wins.
- c. Number of losses.
- d. Winning percentage of tied teams versus each other.
- e. Average runs allowed.
- f. Average run differential with a max/min of +/- 8 per game.
- g. USSSA points.
- h. Date team entered the USSSA database.