



NORTHVILLE EARLY BIRD TOURNAMENT

24TH ANNUAL

MAY 11TH – 13TH 2018

2018 TOURNAMENT 12U SOFTBALL RULES

GENERAL RULES

- A legal starting lineup is a minimum of 9 players. No games will be played when a team has seven or fewer players available. If a team has only eight batters, the ninth batter will be an automatic out.
- If a player leaves the game before the conclusion due to an injury, she may be skipped over.
- Free defensive substitution is allowed for all players. This means that any player on the bench who is not in the official batting order may play in the field at any time.
- The ball to be used is the 12-inch softball (game balls to be provided by tournament host).
- Pitching rubber will be 40 feet from home plate and bases are 60 feet.
- All teams must have a copy of each player's birth certificate available for review by the Tournament Director prior to the first game. Any team found to be using an ineligible player would forfeit all Tournament games in which the ineligible player has participated.
- Infield practice will not be available between games.

GAME RULES:

- 3 outs, or 5 runs maximum per inning (whichever comes first). There will be unlimited runs starting in the 4th inning.
- 3 strikes will be a strikeout and 4 balls will be a base on balls.
- Base runner can score on a passed ball.
- A base runner may steal on the release of the pitch.
- If the runner leaves early they will then be considered out.
- Infield fly rule is in effect.
- Play ends when the pitcher has possession of the ball in the chalked circle. A runner who violates this must go back.
- If a runner rounds first and stops, and then makes a move toward 2nd base, the runner must try to advance to 2nd base, or they will be called out if they return to 1st base.

- A courtesy runner can be used for either the catcher or the pitcher at any time. The last out will be the courtesy runner.
- If a player is ejected from the game, when they come to bat they will be an automatic out. If a player is injured or leaves early from the game, they will be skipped in the batting order with no penalty. If a team falls below the nine player limit in the batting order, the ninth spot will be an automatic out.
- On close plays at any base except first base, the runner shall slide or give themselves up. A player can be called out and even removed from the game if the umpire feels that the contact should have been avoided.
- A batter can steal first base if the catcher doesn't catch the third strike and first base is unoccupied. The batter must beat the throw to first base to be considered safe. If there are two outs and first base is occupied, the batter can steal first base if the catcher doesn't catch the third strike.

RUN RULES:

- 15 runs after 3, 10 runs after 4, and 8 runs after 5. Time limit. 5 run max for first 3 innings, unlimited runs after that.
- No NEW inning will start after 1:20 minutes. If you are in the middle of the inning when the time limit hits, you will finish that inning. All runs and least number of runs could play into tie breaking, so even though you may be down by more than 5 runs, games will be finished at the conclusion of the inning – if the time limit hits.
- If the game is tied after the time limit during pool play games, the game will end in a TIE.

Tie Breaker

1. Head to Head
2. Least runs given up
3. Most runs scored
4. Coin flip

WEATHER

The following weather-related protocols will be observed: In the case of lightning or severe rain, all competition will be halted and all guests will be asked to proceed to safety. The competition will resume when the weather clears or be postponed to the following day (in the case of severe weather).

In the case of light rain, competition will continue until safety becomes an issue. If all games are rained out on Championship Day, the highest placed team, of the two scheduled to play each other, will automatically win each game. If the two teams scheduled to play each other are tied for the highest place, there will be a coin flip conducted by the tournament director.

In the event unusual conditions necessitate the rescheduling, curtailment or cancellation of games for the safety of participants, the Tournament Director shall have absolute authority to make changes in order to best serve the interests of the Tournament.

- Each manager/coach must provide contact information (i.e. contact name, hotel name, hotel phone, room number, cell phone etc.) at registration on the first day of the tournament.
- If games are postponed to the following day, they will be played after the completion of that days scheduled games.

- **Delays/Cancellations:** Any game not legally completed because of inclement weather or any other unforeseen developments shall follow the guidelines below:
 - Before a game becomes a regulation game, it shall be declared a suspended game and play shall be resumed from the point of suspension.
 - After a game has become a regular game, it shall be ruled a complete game.
 - A tie game after the time limit or the inning limit is considered a completed game in pool play.
- **Discipline:** Managers/Coaches will be responsible for the behavior of their fans. The umpire will have the authority to warn and ultimately eject the coach and or fans that behave in an abusive or disruptive manner. Unnecessary noise making, causing a disturbance, will be halted (including pounding on the bleachers).
- **Ejection:** An ejected player or manager/coach must leave the playing area (this means that the offending individual shall not be seen or heard from for the duration of the game) and **MAY BE SUSPENDED FOR THE NEXT GAME***. Any player or coach ejected from a second game shall be suspended for the remainder of the tournament. These penalties are for "ordinary" ejections. The Tournament Director reserves the right to hand out more stringent penalties for "extraordinary" circumstances (i.e. fighting, contact with an umpire, etc.). *Judgment call by the Tournament Director.
- The Tournament Director will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, managers, coaches, and spectators. Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Tournament Director may enforce a suspension of up to the duration of the tournament. The Tournament Director decision will be disclosed to the appropriate parties prior to their next scheduled game. Tournament Director reserves the right to decide all tournament matters and has the final interpretation of the aforementioned rules and regulations. The Tournament Director and Northville Baseball Softball Association will not be responsible for any expense incurred by any team due to the cancellation in part or whole of the tournament.