



2023 Summer Smash Softball Rules

Rules include the following:

1. Home team will provide the official book keeper for that game. So be prepared at each game to have a book keeper. Visiting team coach will sign the home team scorebook after the game to verify runs, etc. Games are no new innings after 1 hour and 20 minutes. Home team gets last at bats.
2. Teams will flip a coin for home team in all pool games. During championship game play, higher seeded team will be home team. If teams have same record, coin flip.
3. Free substitution.
4. Teams are allowed an unlimited number of players in the batting lineup but must bat a minimum of 9 players.
5. Game ends if team is 15 runs ahead after 3rd, 10 runs after the 5th.
6. **Pitching Rules:** Babe Ruth Softball, Amateur Softball Association (ASA), Little League Girls Softball, and Girls high school pitching styles will all be acceptable. No limit on innings pitched for 10U, 12U and 14U in this tournament.
7. 35' pitching distance for 10U teams and 11-inch softball. 12-inch softball for 12u and 14U. 40' pitching distance for 12U teams, 43' for 14U teams.
8. Speed up runner/courtesy runners will be allowed for pitcher or catcher at any time. The courtesy runner will be someone not currently in the game or if the team has no players on the bench, the last out. A courtesy runner may only run one time per inning; substitute player can only run for the pitcher position or catcher position, not both.
9. In the 10U division there will be a maximum of 6 runs per team per inning allowed. After 6 runs, teams will change from offense to defense. If additional runs score after the 6th run, all additional runs will count until play for that batter is complete.
10. In the 10U division the batter may not advance to first base on a dropped third strike. Runners may not steal bases until the pitched ball crosses home plate.
11. USHAA rules will apply for all questions on softball not stated in this document.
12. Anyone warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask.

13. If any bat cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition, then the bat should be removed from the game. All bats should be marked "Official Softball".

14. Metal cleats are permitted in the 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U divisions. In the 10U division, only rubber cleats will be permitted.

15. Teams will play 4 pool play games. After pool play on Saturday the two top teams in the 10U, 12U and 14U division will play a championship game. Top teams will be determined by the seeding as listed below. Fridays and Saturdays games will be 6 innings for 10U and 12U and 7 innings for 14U. The Championship game in each age division will have a **time limit of no new innings after two hours**. Home team has last at bats. Four innings or one hour will constitute a complete game when delayed or called because of inclement weather. **Umpire will keep the time. Play in games can end in a tie.**

16. We will enforce an avoid contact or must slide rule at all bases. Malicious contact-runner will be ejected. It is the discretion of the umpire if the runner is trying to avoid contact or a collision. This is a judgement call by Umpire. Not open to discussion or protest.

17. A Must slide rule will be in effect when an infielder is attempting to turn a double-play at third and second base. If the runner is not close enough to merit a slide, she must peel away from the baseline. The runner will be called out only if by her not sliding or peeling away affects the defensive play. Runner may also be called out or ejected for a malicious slide into any base. This a judgement call by Umpire.

18. End of game - Remove garbage from dugout and clear dugout in a timely manner. Hold post game discussions outside of the field.

TIE BRAKER RULES FOR ADVANCEMENT AND SEEDINGS:

1. Best record (wins count as 2 points ties are 1 point and losses are 0 points). If there is a tie between teams for best record (total points scored), then the next tie breakers are used until a winner is determined.

2. Head-to-Head: (tied teams) Does not apply if all tied teams have not played each other or have at least one win and one loss against all other tied teams. Exception: one team has beaten or lost to all tied teams. Head-to-head will apply to that team only. The remaining tied teams will continue to the next tie breaker.

3. Plus/Minus Run differential to a maximum of plus or minus 7 runs per game.

4. Fewest runs allowed to a Common Opponent. A "Common Opponent" is defined as: a team or teams that all tied teams have played. If the tied teams have a common opponent the runs will be totaled of only the common opponents. Keep in mind, you cannot play yourself, so runs that other teams allowed to your team or that you allowed to their team are not considered.

5. Fewest runs allowed to all opponents.

6. Coin flip.

7. ** In the event we have 3 or more 4-0 teams in any age division after pool play, a mini-Playoff of 3 innings or 45 minutes may be played, or coin flip, at the discretion of Summer Smash Coordinator.

This will determine the 2nd and 3rd place teams in that division. The first-place team will be determined by the tie breaker rules listed above.

During the championship game, if the game ends in a tie, Teams will start each new inning with last player out (speed up runner) from previous inning on 2nd base. Game will continue until there is a winner.

Age Divisions:

10U - Must be 10 or younger on December 31, 2022.

12U - Must be 12 or younger on December 31, 2022.

14U - Must be 14 or younger on December 31, 2022.

****VERY IMPORTANT**:**

Birth Certificates or copies are required for all players. They will only be checked upon request by Summer Smash Softball Staff. If the player is not of age and COPY OF ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE cannot be produced, she will be unable to play the remainder of the tournament and the game that the error was discovered in will be forfeited. Summer Smash Officials may also remove that team from the tournament at their discretion.

****League and or Association Cards are not acceptable****

Refund/Cancellation Policies:

75% refund-If Cancellation 7 or more days prior to tournament.

No - Refund- cancellation less than 7 days prior to tournament.

Weather/rainout Policy:

80 % refund if no games are played.

60 % refund if 1 game is completed.

No refund if 2 or more games are completed.

If other rules come into question and are not listed here, we will follow 2023 USHAA Softball Rules.

We expect professionalism/sportsmanship from Coaches and players at all times on the field. Please have respect for coaches, Umpires, and Players.

HAVE FUN!!!!

