



IOWA GAMES SOFTBALL COMPETITION GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION

USA Softball rules shall apply unless noted. ALL ADULT TEAMS MUST BE USA Softball registered. For more information contact Tom Topping at 641-236-5766. The Softball Competition Committee reserves the right to make changes as necessary to address unusual or emergency situations.

1. **Time Limit** – (All games, including Championship games) Girl's Fastpitch will have no new inning begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes. **Adult Slowpitch will have no new inning begin after 1 hour of play.**
2. **Awards** – Gold, Silver, & Bronze medals will be given to those players who finish champion, runner-up, third place in their division.
3. **Pairings** – These tournaments are double elimination and randomly drawn. Teams will not play a team from their own area in first round competition, unless necessary. If rain causes problems, the Softball Competition Committee reserves the right to make changes, alterations or reduce the size of the tournament as necessary. Girl's fastpitch pool play leading into an elimination bracket. Bracket seeded based on pool play results.
4. **Bat Person** – Because of the danger involved, a bat person WILL NOT BE ALLOWED on the field. A bat person must stay within the vicinity of the team's dugout.
5. **Home Team/Dugout** – A coin flip will determine home team. For pool play, 1st team listed will be in the 3rd base dugout, and the 2nd team listed will call the coin toss. For bracket play, top team in bracket has 3rd base side dugout. Bottom team in the bracket will call the coin toss. Girl's fastpitch 1st team listed is home. Bracket play, higher seed is home.
6. **Score sheets** – Official score sheets will be provided for each game. The home team will be responsible for keeping the official score. Coaches are asked to list the player's full name. Visiting team is encouraged to check score at the bottom of every inning.
7. **Protest** and player eligibility must be lodged at the time of the incident and must be accompanied by a \$25.00 deposit. JUDGMENT CALLS CAN NOT BE PROTESTED.
8. **Forfeit Time** – Game time is forfeit time. A team must have at least the required number of players to start, continue and finish a game or it will be ruled a forfeit.
9. **Infield Practice** – No warm up or practice on the game fields. Practice and warm up will be allowed in the outfield, time permitting.
10. **Pre-tournament Practice** – Due to facility preparation, NO pre-tournament practice or warm up will be allowed on game diamonds.
11. **Line-up/Line-up Cards** – Line-up cards will be required prior to each **girl's fastpitch game**. When completed, submit the line-up card to the game umpires. ~~Line-up cards will be provided.~~ Teams may roster bat with unlimited substitution during pool play. Only 9 players are permitted on defense. In bracket play, only 9 batters are permitted. Teams may use a DP/Flex. USA Softball substitution rules will be enforced.
12. **Player Eligibility** – Players must meet all USA Softball requirements and must be registered Iowa Games athletes.
13. **Birth Certificates (girl's fastpitch only)/Player ID** – Coaches are asked to bring copies of each player's birth certificate. Upon request of tournament directors, the coach must be able to present the questioned player's birth certificate and a photo or photo ID. Men's and coed slowpitch must be able to provide a photo ID upon request of tournament directors.
14. **Ground Rules** – Umpires will review specific field rules prior to each game.
15. **Rain/Darkness Policy** – Play may be suspended, due to unplayable conditions, by the game umpires or the tournament director. If an official suspends play, do not leave the site until a decision on the situation has been made. All games will be resumed at the exact point of suspension (including line-ups or with proper substitutions),

except in cases whereby a declared game can be called by rule. Any new schedules will be posted at the correct venue site and at the tournament headquarters. **TEAM COACHES WILL NOT BE CONTACTED – IT IS THE TEAM'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW WHEN TO PLAY.**

16. **Uniform Policy** – Uniform requirement will not be enforced. Similar colored shirts with numbers will assist the umpires and scorekeepers.
17. **Run Rule** – Girl's fastpitch will be 12 runs after 3 innings and 8 runs after 5 innings. Adult slowpitch will be 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings.
18. **Tie-Breaker Rule (girl's fastpitch bracket play only)** – In case of a tie after the time limit has expired or after 7 innings of play, whichever comes first, the international tie breaker rule will be implemented. The rule is: the person who was the last official player at bat in the previous inning will be placed on second base. The team will then bat normally. Each team will do this until the tie is broken. **For girl's fastpitch pool play, games may end in a tie.**
19. **Game Balls** – All game balls will be provided. Players must provide all other equipment.
20. **Alcohol Policy** – No alcohol will be allowed at the River Valley Softball Complex while the youth girl's fastpitch is being played.
21. **No Smoking Policy** – Smoking is not allowed on premises.
22. **Warm ups** –
 - A. (Slowpitch only) There will be no infield ball after the first inning.
 - B. Throwing the ball "around the horn" after an out or at the end of warm up pitches will be permitted if it does not slow play.
 - C. (Slowpitch only) The pitcher is allowed 5 warm up pitches for the first inning and 2 warm up pitches thereafter. Relief pitchers will receive 5 pitches.
 - D. (Girl's fastpitch) Pitchers will receive 5 warm up pitches for all innings with relief pitchers receiving 5 warm ups.
23. **Equipment** –
 - A. Illegal Bats: All bats **MUST** meet current A.S.A. bat standards and **NOT** be on the A.S.A. non - approved list.
 - B. Metal Cleats: **NO METAL CLEATS** allowed for U8, U10 or U12 or Adult Slowpitch. They are allowed for U14 & older.
 - C. Bat Grips: Check all of the team's bats and replace as needed. Prior to each game, umpires will be checking bats for proper grips.
 - D. Batting Helmets/Face Guards (girl's fastpitch only): Please note the new A.S.A. helmet/face guard rule will be strictly enforced. Any helmet which is broken or determined to be unsafe by the umpires will be removed from play.
24. **Home Run Limit** – (Adult softball only) 3 home run (out of the park) limit. Each additional will be declared an out.
25. **Questions** – Questions should be directed to the field umpires or tournament directors.
26. **Umpires** – Every effort will be made to have at least two umpires to work each game. But due to many unforeseen circumstances, this may not be possible.
27. **Maintenance Breaks** – Due to the extremely tight game schedule, field maintenance breaks are not scheduled. Field maintenance will be done on a field by field basis.
28. **Sportsmanship** - Please treat all umpires and committee members and thank them for their time. Sportsmanship from players, coaches, and fans is expected at all times.
29. **Unsportsmanlike conduct** – Abusive language, actions or conduct from players, coaches and fans will not be tolerated. Any resulting ejection of said individual will cause said person to be removed from the playing field (and/or area) and in extreme situations tournament suspension. It will be the Softball Committee's final decision on the severity of penalty. No medal will be awarded to a player removed from the tournament.
30. **THE IOWA GAMES SOFTBALL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST RULES, SCHEDULES, ETC. AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY.**

SPECIFIC RULES FOR 8U

1. Teams may play up to 10 defensive players in the field (minimum of 8) with no more than 6 players in the infield.
2. Play is dead once the ball is touched by the pitcher in the pitching circle.
3. Once play is dead, players are placed at the nearest base. Lines halfway between the bases are used to judge where a runner must be placed.
4. Coach pitches to their own team. The coach must have one foot in contact with the 35 foot rubber to begin the pitch.
5. Runners may not leave the base until the pitch has crossed the plate.
6. No stealing.
7. The runner may advance one base on an overthrow with the ability to be put out.
8. Each batter gets at most 5 pitches or 3 swinging strikes. There are no walks. Additional pitches are only allowed if the last pitch is fouled off.
9. The coach in the field is considered part of the field. Balls that hit the coach are live, but the coach may not interfere with the ball in play.