

2026 July 4th Del Holson Firecracker Benicia Tournament

12U Rules

If rule is not stated here, rules will be governed by the current USA Softball Code and Rule Book.

Final scores

Home team is responsible for reporting final score of game to Tournament Director. Can be done by texting 925-212-1348 with final score. Alternatively, you can report score at Tournament Booth.

Please use this format: "**12U - Game Start Time: Visitor Team Name – score, Home Team Name – score**".

Softballs:

Approved USA Softball of Northern California 12" softball will be used for this age group.

First Base:

Double bases will be used at first base.

Base Distance:

60 feet between bases will be used. The distance from home to second base is 84 feet 10 ¼ inches. Note the pitching distance is measured from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

Home team

Home team will be determined by a coin flip by the umpires.

Dugouts

- 1) Team listed 1st is in the 1st base dugout.
- 2) Team listed 2nd is in the 3rd base dugout unless the team is playing back-to-back on same field.

Inning run limit

- 1) Pool Play and Bracket games (Saturday/Sunday Games) – No Limit

Run ahead rule

- 12 after 3 innings
- 10 after 4 innings
- 8 after 5 innings

Alcohol/Tobacco

Alcohol and tobacco products are **PROHIBITED** at all Benicia Softball Fields. Any team or participant in violation of this rule will be subject to immediate penalty.

Time limit

- 1) **Pool Play on Saturday:** No new innings after 70 Mins with 85 min Drop Dead or the completion of 7 innings, whichever comes first. Pool play games may end in tie. If after 85 minutes drop dead and inning

has not been completed and home team is behind in runs, score reverts to previous completed inning score to determine winner.

2) **Bracket Play on Sunday:**

- a) No new inning after 90 minutes unless tied, if the top of inning starts, the full inning must be played regardless of time remaining.
- b) In the event of a tie game after 90 mins and full inning has been completed, international tie breaker rule is in effect. The last out of previous offensive inning will be placed on 2nd base to start.

Pitching

- 1) Pitching distance: 40 feet
- 2) Dropped 3rd Strike Rule is in effect
- 3) It is not necessary for pitchers to “look back” base runners when the pitcher has possession of the ball within an 8 ft radius of the pitching rubber.

Defense

- 1) Maximum of 9 players on defense
- 2) Minimum of 7 players on defense. If playing with less than 9 players, only outfield positions can be vacant.
- 3) No player may start closer to home plate than the distance of the pitcher’s plate but may move closer to home plate after the ball is released by the pitcher.
- 4) Outfielders need to be in the grass before each pitch.
- 5) Unlimited defensive substitution is permitted during pool play only.
- 6) The Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
- 7) Intentional walks are allowed, Coaches must notify umpire

Offense/Batting:

- 1) Bat-around “Round Robin” SHALL be used
- 2) The infield fly rule is in effect.
- 3) Bunting/Slapping is allowed.
- 4) Option to bat entire lineup up to 14 players. Spots 1 - 9 on the lineup card are the starting lineup. Any additional players listed on the lineup card are extra hitters and designated as substitutes for defense except for a Flex player and must be indicated by Flex prior to start of game. If a player is not listed on the line-up card, they cannot enter the game.
- 5) Option to use a DP and Flex Players.
 - DP is the offensive specialist who bats in one of the 1–9 spots and should be indicated by writing DP next to their name on lineup card.
 - The flex player is the 10th spot on the lineup card or one of the extra hitters listed on lineup card if batting more than 10 players. Must write Flex next to their name on the lineup card.

- 6) Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher, catcher or in case of injury while on offense, the last batted out must be used. May not use courtesy runners for players that are not pitching, catching or an injured/ill player.
- 7) Injury Rule: If any player is removed from the game for injury or ejection (except extra hitters), a substitute player is required to bat in the injured players spot in the lineup, or it becomes an automatic out each at bat for the remaining game. The substituted player no longer bats in their original lineup spot if batting more than 9.
- 8) If Home Run Cones are placed in outfield:
 - Balls caught in front of the cones will be ruled OUTS
 - Balls that roll past the cones will be played Live
 - Balls hit over the cones will be home runs, determined by **UMPIRES ONLY. Protests will not be considered over an umpire determining a home run.**

Stealing & Running Rule

Stealing is permitted!

- 1) Stealing home is permitted.
- 2) A batter who is awarded 1st base on a walk/base-on-balls may steal second on the ball four pitch.
- 3) Base runners may take a lead off only after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand

Coaches

- 1) Only USA Softball registered coaches may be on the field or dugout. If a coach is ejected from a game, they automatically sit out the next game.

Protests:

- 1) Playing rule protests must be made prior to the next pitch and a decision rendered by the Tournament UIC. The game will be stopped, and the manager must be prepared to discuss the rule interpretation involved.
- 2) Eligibility protests shall be ruled upon according to USA Softball Code.