



Bloomington BASH Fastpitch Tournament 2026 8U Tournament Rules and Conditions

Check-in Requirements

- Teams must check in at least 30 minutes prior to their first game.
- **Teams must have an official josoftball.com roster and be approved by the state office. It will say “approved” on the roster. We will not be collecting paper rosters but will verify in advance online.**
- Any ASA certified bat is acceptable and may be checked at the umpire’s discretion at any time.
- All teams must provide 2 (two) new game balls.

Game Rules

We will use the same rules as the MN Softball 8U League with the following exceptions/clarifications:

- **Home Team:** Home team is selected via coin toss.
- **Minimum Number of Players:** For the BASH, there is no minimum number of players. The girls who are there should play. Playing with less than 8 players due to missing or injured players is allowed. In the event there is not a full roster in attendance and capable of playing, the batting team will not be penalized with an out.
- **Definition of “outfield”:** If the field has an arched white line 15’ beyond the bases this is where the “outfield” starts. Otherwise it starts at the grass line. Outfielders must start in the outfield, and must not cross into the infield until the bat contacts the ball.
- **Player Leaves Game Due to Injury:** If an injured player is due up to bat the coach may decide to either (a) accept an out for that batters turn in the order; or (b) skip the players spot in the lineup without recording an out AND permanently remove the player from the game. The coach must specify the decision to accept an out to the opposing coach and the official scorer prior to that player's spot in the order. If the coach does not notify the other coach and official scorer of a desire to accept an out the position in the lineup will be skipped per option (b) above and the player will not be permitted to re-enter the game.
- **On deck batter is behind the batter.** Right-handed: on deck batter located by 3rd base dugout. Left-handed batter: on deck batter is located by 1st base dugout.
- **Pitchers:** The player in the pitcher's position needs to remain behind the machine, on either side, in the circle until the ball is hit.
- **Coaches allowed on the field:** Teams may have two (2) offensive, two (2) defensive and one (1) pitching coaches on the field to help train and teach the game.
- **Duration of game:** Games will last either 5 innings or 65 minutes. No new inning will begin after the time limit has elapsed.
- Games must end by 10PM. If a game cannot be finished due to time OR due to a weather delay

the score will revert to the last completed inning.

- The Tournament Director reserves the right to delay, shorten, or cancel the games in the event of bad weather or other circumstances (such as fields excessively behind schedule). Every attempt to complete all games will be made. See BFA website for weather policy.

Umpires:

- **Home team must provide an umpire**
- Away team has the option of providing a 2nd umpire.
 - Home team umpire is the crew chief (final say) & stands behind home plate.
 - Away team optional umpire stands in the field/at the grass between 1st & 2nd or 2nd& 3rd (not obstructing the players) depending on the location of the lead runner.
 - Exception: if the Home team does not have an ump familiar with the rules and the coaches agree then the Away team may provide the crew chief umpire.
 - Home team is required to report the score of the game to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of game end.

Tournament Format

8U-A

- **1 Division:** The format is pool play with three (3) games with seeding to Consolation Brackets.
 - **Pool play:** Each team will play 3 games in pool play. Ties are permitted. Pool results will determine seeding in bracket play.
 - Brackets & seeding determined following pool play using the following criteria in order of priority:
 1. Win/Loss record;
 2. Head 2 Head (used if all tied teams have played)
 3. Average Per Game Points Allowed
 4. Average Per Game Points Differential
 5. Random (Computer Coin Flip)
 6. Once a tie-breaker is used, previous tie-breakers do not count
 - **Brackets:** Seeding to Consolation Bracket, 2 Game Guarantee.

8U-B

- **1 Division:** Teams will be formed into pools then advance to a final bracket game based on the result of pool play
 - **Pool play:** Each team will play 2 games in pool play. Ties are permitted. Pool results will determine seeding in bracket play.
 - Brackets & seeding determined following pool play using the following criteria in order of priority:
 1. Record (Winning pct, number Wins)
 2. Head-to-Head (Used only when all tied teams have played each other)
 3. Points Allowed (An average is used if teams have not played an equal number of games)

4. Points Scored (An average is used if teams have not played an equal number of games)
5. Computer Generated Coin Flip (A system random number generator breaks ties at this stage)

Note: If the system can not break ties at a particular tiebreaking stage, the system will move to the next tiebreaker and not return or revert back to a previous tiebreaker.

Note about the Head-to-Head tiebreaker: Head-to-Head is ignored if all tied teams do not play each other at least once. For example, if three teams are tied, and one team plays the other two, but the other two do not play, this tiebreaker is ignored (regardless of the outcome of the two games played by the first team).

- **Brackets:** Each team will play 1 final bracket game. Opponents will be based on record in pool play

* Tournament format listed is based on projected registration. Format subject to change.

Spectator/Player Rules

- Teams must remove all trash from the bench area after each game.
- **Heckling of the umpires will not be allowed.** The coach of the team whose fans violate this rule will be warned once. If the heckling continues, fans will be asked to leave the premises. Fans not complying within two minutes will cause the forfeiture of the game to the opposing team. **Coaches, please discuss this with your fans prior to the tournament to avoid confusion.**

Tournament Berths

Tournament berths will be awarded for MONSTA and NAFA for the teams finishing 1st and 2nd in each bracket. Details about bracket structure and berth allocation will be added as additional information becomes available.