

2026 Salem Invitational Tournament Rules



Key Tournament notes and Playing Rules:

- Coaches must check in with Tournament Director **1 hour and 15 minutes prior to their first game** on Saturday.
 - Required at Saturday Check-In (online viewing approved):
 - **Copy of Current Roster**
 - **Proof of Insurance**
- Alcohol is prohibited; no smoking or vaping at the complex. No seeds.

Tournament Rules

- USA Softball rules are in effect with exceptions noted below.
- **Time Limit:** No new inning after **1 hr. and 20 minutes for both** Saturday pool play and Championship Sunday. **Pool play:** If Home team is winning when time expires, batter will complete their turn at bat; all runs scored in that inning will count towards final pool play standings.
 - Time will be kept by the Umpires and starts on the **first warmup pitch**.
- Teams can **bat the roster** or any combination of DP/Flex straight 9, both Sat and Sunday. If batting the roster, **courtesy runners for Pitcher/Catcher will be the last available batter in the lineup.**

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- **First team listed on schedule** (or on top part of bracket) will have 1st Base dugout unless you're already on that field, then stay where you are.
- **Run Rules are in effect:** 15 after 3, 12 after 4, 8 after 5.
- **Runs per Inning: No run rule.**
- **Coin flip** at home plate to determine Home Team **during Pool Play**.
 - **Sunday Bracket Play:** Higher seed will be HOME TEAM
- **Checking Bats and Helmets** for this tournament will be the responsibility of the coaches.
- **Softballs are at a premium this year.** It is the responsibility of the offensive team to chase foul balls rather quickly....(please). Home Run balls are \$10 and will be donated to our **Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament to be held on October 3-4.** Join us! JAG Softball Umpire Association donated **\$22,888 over the last two years!**
 - Bring the HR ball (and \$10) to the Tournament Directors table and exchange it for a new ball.
- **Music: Offensive Team only;** Music must be appropriate and volume reasonable.
- **Line-up Cards: First Initial and Last Name of players; starting positions of pitchers/catchers and player numbers** must be listed on line-up cards. Subs should be listed on the bottom of the lineup, not off to the right of your starting lineup.
- **Tie Games are allowed in Pool Play**
 - **Sunday Bracket games only.** If teams are tied at the end of 1hr 20 Mins of play, the new inning will start with the last schedule batter **on 2nd base**.
- **Pool Tiebreakers:**
 1. Record (Winning pct, number Wins) (Ties count as .5 win, .5 loss)
 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)

Note: If the system cannot 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.

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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).

- **Sunday Brackets (Home team is the higher seed)**

****IMPORTANT****

Although there are three pools in the 16s and two in the 14s (and the number of teams in each pool is not “equal”), the teams with most points **OVERALL** will advance to Gold. See **POOL TIEBREAKERS** above for more info on “points”.

U14

- **Gold Division** – Top 6 Teams will be advanced to the Gold Division Championships
- **Silver Division** – Teams 7-10 will play in the Silver Division Championships

U16

- **Gold Division** – Top 8 Teams will be advanced to the Gold Division Championships
- **Silver Division** – Teams 9-14 will play in the Silver Division Championships

- All protests will be decided before the next pitch is thrown. All protests will be settled by the site UIC / Tournament Director and are final

Administration / Refunds

There are no refunds after the schedule is published. Prior to the release of the schedule, an \$80 administration fee will be charged on any refunds.

- Should the tournament be canceled or partially canceled due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, a \$100 refund will be issued per game not played.
- If 3 of the 4 games guaranteed are played, no refund will be issued.

Finally, thank you so much for attending the 2026 Salem Invitational! All the best and good luck!

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