

BILL DITCHEY UMPIRES CLASSIC 2026 RULES

Tournament Rules: USA Softball and following exceptions and clarifications.

1. **Time Limit:** 75 minutes, finish the inning. Time begins immediately after the coin flip. All Sunday championship games are a full 7 innings EXCEPT Play-back Championship.
PLEASE NOTE! The play clock will only be stopped when emergency personnel is summoned or at the discretion of the umpires and/or tournament staff for weather or other unpredicted situations.
2. **Home and Visitors:** Coin toss Saturday (pool play). For divisions utilizing overall rank (18U), higher seed choice Sunday (bracket play). For divisions using pool seeding (16U, 14U, 12U), higher seed choice Sunday unless same rank, then coin toss applies.
3. **Run Ahead Rule:** 12 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings, 8 after 5 innings.
4. **Check In:** Every team must check in with the site director prior to their first game and show roster and proof of insurance, unless this has been uploaded to PASoftball.com (RegisterPlay).
5. **Game Time:** Teams MUST be ready to play 20 minutes prior to their scheduled game (exception would be teams playing back-to-back and switching fields; time will be allowed for starting pitcher warm-up.)
6. **Speed Up Rules:** The 60-seconds between innings per USA rules will be enforced.
7. **Tie Breaker Rule:** Saturday – after 7 innings, only if there is time remaining. Game can end in a tie. Sunday – start tie breaker when time has expired (or 7 complete innings) and new inning begins.
8. **Protests:** The UIC will be called to the field. Protests on rule interpretations only. No protest of judgement calls.
9. **Lineups:** USA rules for JO fastpitch apply, including the **JO pool play** rules for Saturday. *See attached lineup options document for full details.*
10. **Courtesy Runners:** USA rules apply. *See attached lineup options document.*
11. **Dugout Areas:** Coaches and players are to remain in the dugout area during the game. Dugouts DO NOT extend toward the plate/backstop area.
12. **Sportsmanship:** Thank you in advance for demonstrating good sportsmanship. Signs of poor sportsmanship and actions meant to demean opposing players, fans, and umpires are grounds for removal permanently from the game and premises. Any coach or player ejected from a game will have their situation reviewed by the Site Director with input from the Tournament Director prior to participating in their next game.
13. **Reporting Scores:** All scores need to be reported back to the Site Director by a coach or team scorekeeper following game completion.

Finally, the Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust schedules, brackets, and field locations as needed to complete the tournament due to inclement weather or darkness. Every attempt will be made to honor the game minimum; however, if a situation develops when a team forfeits or the weather does not cooperate, the Directors will reschedule or shorten games in an attempt to determine Champions in each division.

Best of luck and a huge thank you for visiting our beautiful valley and playing in the Bill Ditchey Umpires Classic!

*Sincerely,
Kaitlyn Thursby, Tournament Director
Susquehanna Valley Fast Pitch Umpires Association*