



USA Softball of Northern California
2026 Junior Olympic “B” and “C” Association Championships

RULES & REGULATIONS (except 8U)

1. All games will be played under current USA Softball Rules, except where modified in these supplemental rules. This includes the 3 game (no pool play) elimination bracket style format.
2. **Managers are responsible for the conduct of their respective teams and fans.** Any players, coaches, parents, spectators or fans that use profanity, incite trouble, promote poor sportsmanship physical retaliation or bring into question the integrity of coaches, players, umpires or tournament staff will be removed from the complex and may be removed for the whole tournament if warranted. No warnings will be given. Additionally, destruction or abuse by guests of hotel/motel property could subject the team to suspension or other appropriate action.

PLEASE NOTE - Umpires (during games) and/or the Tournament Director (or his/her representative) shall have the responsibility of ejecting coaches, players, or spectators for abusive language or other acts that are contrary to the objectives and purposes of USA Softball. A warning for the first offense **MAY** be issued at the Umpire's/Official's discretion. The second offense by coaches or players **SHALL** result in ejection of the responsible individual(s). Second and subsequent offenses by a spectator shall result in ejection of the (1) Head Coach, (2) coaching staff and (3) players. Anyone who is ejected from a game must leave the facility for the remainder of the game. The severity of the ejection will dictate whether the person will be allowed to return for the remainder of the tournament.

3. Manager Responsibility - **If the tournament schedule is delayed, it is the responsibility of each manager to check the tournament web schedule for any possible game-time or field changes.**

Championship Roster limited to 20 players. All players' parents or legal guardians must sign the roster. (If player is 18 years or older, player can sign the roster). Verification of birth date for each player must be available. Players should always have their Photo ID Card with them. If not adhered to, players will be removed from the roster as per current USA Softball Code.

4. **All Nor Cal USA Softball Managers, Coaches and Adult volunteers** helping with any youth teams on the field and dugouts must be Registered USA Softball with current year Background Check, ACE, Concussion and Safe-sport Certification prior to stepping on the field. Coach cards must be printed and presented at check-in to receive a wristband which must be worn daily and always be visible. Approved coaches will receive “approved” wristband that must be worn and visible at all times while on field,
5. All decisions on players and coaches' eligibility will be made by the Tournament Committee with appeal rights to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's decision is final.
6. Current 2026 USA Softball Uniform Rules are in effect.

7. All Junior Olympic Fast Pitch batting helmets shall be equipped with a securely fastened NOCSAE approved face mask/guard. If a chin strap is used, it must be **serviceable and worn properly**. Service Tools and equipment parts will not be provided at the tournament site.
8. Dudley is the Official Softball of Nor Cal. 8U will use the 10" CFP, 10U will use the 11" CFP, 12U and 14U will use the 12" CFP.
9. Game time is forfeit time. No Grace Period. Special circumstances i.e. Teams traveling from one facility to another or when field Maintenance is required. Game Times and Fields are subject to change if deemed necessary by the tournament director.
10. Game line-up cards must be submitted by team managers to the Plate Umpire at the Pre-Game Meeting which will be held 10 minutes prior to game time. Line up cards must have: (a) the team's name; (b) starting players first and last name, number and position; and (c) substitutes who are present must be listed on the bottom with their name and number. If a substitute arrives late, she can be added to the line-up card as long as she is on the team roster. When a copy of the lineup is submitted to the Plate Umpire at the Pre-Game Meeting, it becomes official. Line-up cards are available in your manager's packet or at the tournament headquarters. Home team must be ready to take the field immediately after pre-game meeting.
11. Teams can warm-up behind the outfield field fences, entrance gates are located at the end of the outfield fence line on each side of the field. check-in with tournament headquarters for approved warm-up areas when necessary.
12. Infield practice will not be allowed before or between games. Teams are always requested to warm up in the outfield grass, specifically while the maintenance crew is working on infield areas
13. **Home team** will be determined prior to each game by a coin toss with the team managers or their appointed representatives and tournament representative in attendance. This includes for all games played.
14. **Team dugouts:** Teams listed on the top line of each game on the bracket will use the 3rd-base dugout, unless that dugout is already occupied by a team returning to play a consecutive game on the same field.
15. **Time Limit - Games will be 1 hour and 30 minutes and finish the inning. The umpire is the official timekeeper. Time limit begins when the pitcher throws the first warm up pitch. The start of a new inning begins immediately after the third out of the previous inning is made. EXCEPTIONS: Time limit is two (2) hours and no new inning after two hours in the Winners and Losers Bracket Final games in the 10U, 12U and 14U divisions, or seven (7) innings which after comes first.**
16. Run Ahead Rule – Fifteen (15) after three (3) innings, twelve (12) after four (4) innings or eight (8) after five (5) innings for **all games**.
17. Tie Breaker (TB) – If the score is tied after completion of seven (7) innings of play or after the time limit rule has been invoked, the TB will be played to determine a winning team. Starting with the top of the next inning and each inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning placed on second base. All games must have a winner.

18. Protests - When a protest is made, (Rule Interpretation only) play and time will be halted. The two opposing team managers, the game umpires, the Umpire-in-Chief and/or the Deputy UIC (which may be joined by an Assistant Tournament Director and/or members of the Protest Committee) will meet to discuss the protest and rule on it. The specific rule interpretation and umpire decision being protested can be appealed to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's ruling is final.
 - a. Rule interpretation protests shall only be considered prior to the next pitch, legal or illegal.
 - b. Illegal re-entry and illegal substitution protests shall only be considered during the game.
19. The double base will be used at first base.
20. DP/Flex will be in effect.
21. "EP" extra player may be added to line up for batting. Being all bracket play, must adhere to straight nine and EP is used line up. No Batting around. Substitutes may be used per USA Softball rules.
22. Courtesy runners for pitcher / catcher may be used but only from bench and must not be in the lineup.
23. No Metal cleats allowed at any of fields except the 14 & under divisions.
24. All catchers during warmups and games must wear a mask with throat protector, approved helmet with ear flaps, shin guards which offer protection to the kneecaps, and a body protector. An extended wire protector may be worn in lieu of a throat protector attached to the mask.
25. All **Bats, batting helmets and catchers gear** will be inspected for safety and proper USA Softball specifications/listings and will be confiscated if considered defective or not properly listed. **The item will be kept at the Tournament Headquarters until after conclusion of that team playing in the tournament.** Coaches must have all equipment in front of dugout for inspection prior to every game. In addition, bat testing will be done randomly during the tournament. **All bats must be Certified/Approved USA Softball.** Any player using an illegal bat or tampering with a sticker that has been placed on a bat will be eliminated from the tournament and subject to further disciplinary action.
26. **Official Scorer** – Home Team will be the official scorekeeper; the scorecard will be handed to the home team manager or coach once designated by coin flip. Fill in all information requested on scorecard. Upon completion of game, obtain signatures from both managers for score verification and return scoresheet to umpire or tournament headquarters for posting of scores. Phone numbers are requested in case a discrepancy arises, and managers need to be contacted for clarification, etc.
27. **Batter walk-up music**, played at a reasonable volume, is permitted. Music during in-between-inning warm-ups is not allowed.

FACILITY AND TOURNAMENT GENERAL RULES

For All Participants and Spectators

All participants and spectators are expected to follow these rules to ensure the safety, cleanliness, and enjoyment of everyone on the premises. Violations may result in removal from the venue or other actions deemed appropriate by tournament organizers or park staff.

- **Alcohol Prohibition** — Consumption of any beverage containing alcohol is strictly prohibited at all times on the premises, in the surrounding areas, and all parking lots.
- **No Smoking or Vaping** — Smoking and vaping are prohibited on the premises and in all parking areas.
- **No Animals Allowed** — Animals are not permitted on the premises.
- **No Sunflower Seeds or Peanuts** — Shelled sunflower seeds and peanuts are not allowed anywhere on the premises.
- **No Wheeled Devices** — Skateboards, scooters, and bicycles may not be ridden on the premises.
- **Medical Devices Exception** — Medical mobility devices (e.g., wheelchairs, medical scooters) are permitted.
- **No Noisemakers** — Artificial noisemakers are not allowed.
- **Warm-Up Restrictions** — Playing catch or warming up with softballs, baseballs, footballs, soccer balls, volleyballs, or similar equipment is not allowed on walkways or paths.
- **Parking Restrictions** — Parking in unauthorized areas (red, yellow, or blue zones) is prohibited. Violators are subject to ticketing and towing.
- **No BBQ or Open Flames** — BBQ grills and open-flame cooking are not allowed on the premises or in parking lots.
- **Streaming Device Restrictions** — Streaming devices are not permitted in areas taped off for safety or reserved for tournament staff.