



Presents



Fall Opener Tournament Rules 2026

1. All games will be played in accordance with the current **2026 USA Softball Participant Manual**, except where modified by these supplemental rules for the **10U, 12U, and 14U** divisions.
2. All Players & coaches must be registered with USA Softball for the 2027 season. Rosters will be checked. If a player or coach is not listed, they will be disqualified to play and team may forfeit.
3. All bats, batting helmets and catchers gear will be checked prior to start of each game. If found defective or not marked with USA softball or ASA approved stamp, it will be removed from the game and confiscated till team is done playing in the tournament. Have equipment outside the dugout prior to start of each game for umpire inspection.
4. All USA Softball team managers, coaches, and volunteers assisting with youth teams on the field or in the dugout must be currently registered with USA Softball and have a valid **2027 Background Check** and **SafeSport certification** before entering the field of play. Printed coach cards must be presented at check-in to receive a wristband. Wristbands must be worn each day and remain visible at all times. One wristband color will be used for the tournament.
5. Each team will play three (3) pool games on Saturday and Sunday is a single elimination bracket play with Gold & Silver brackets – *if nine or more teams within the division otherwise one bracket.* (4 game guarantee)
6. There is a 75 minute *finish the inning* time limit for all games or 7 innings whichever comes first. Time begins at the first warm up pitch.
7. On Saturday pool play, games can end in a tie.
8. USA Softball tiebreaker will be used on Sunday, after time has expired or after 7 innings, until there is a winner.
9. A modified run rule will be in effect for **all games, including championship games: 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings.**
10. All championship bracket games will consist of **7 innings or a 90-minute time limit, whichever occurs first.** The modified run rule will remain in effect.
11. Game time is forfeit time.
12. There is no infield practice.
13. Team listed first on schedule will occupy the 3rd base dugout. Teams playing back to back games shall remain in the same dugout if they are on the same field.

14. Home team will be determined by a coin toss during Saturday pool play. During elimination play on Sunday, the higher seed will be the home team.
15. **No protests. The umpire's decisions are final.**
16. **Home team will keep score using their own scorebook or App (Game Changer, etc).**
At the conclusion of each game, the home team is responsible for reporting the score to the umpire who has the score papers and who will make sure the tournament director receives it.
17. All lineup changes must go through the umpire. Continuous batting lineup may be used for Saturday pool play and bracket play. DP/Flex may also be used.
18. Courtesy runners for pitcher/catcher (only) may be either the last out in the lineup or a substitute off the bench.
19. Sunday seedings will be based on a point system. 10 points for a win, 5 points for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.
20. If point system results in a tie, seeding for single elimination will be based on the following order:
 - a. Win/Loss Record
 - b. Head to Head Record
 - c. Runs Allowed (RA)
 - d. Runs Scored (RS)
 - e. Coin Toss
21. **Note:** if you have a fourth pool game, our system will randomly remove one game when creating the bracket play seeding.
22. Game times and fields are subject to change by the tournament director.
23. Teams will be allowed to bring coolers for the dugout.
24. Dogs are permitted on leash as per park rules Please clean up after your pet.
25. The tournament director at any time has the authority to make the final decision in any dispute and the authority to make changes to benefit and better the tournament.
26. No artificial noisemakers of any kind will be allowed.
27. Walk-up music is permitted; however, the volume must be kept at a reasonable level and must not be disruptive or interfere with game play. If deemed an annoyance, umpire and/or tournament official may have it removed.
28. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are strictly prohibited at the facilities, parking lots, and adjacent areas. It is the responsibility of the coaches to ensure that the parents are aware of these rules. Failure to comply with this may result in immediate ejection of the team for the remainder of the tournament and the loss of eligibility for future tournaments.
29. **LASTLY AND MOST IMPORTANTLY**, sportsmanship is of the utmost importance. Any player, coach or spectator who exhibits behavior deemed unsportsmanlike by either the umpires or tournament officials may be asked to leave the premises. Failure to comply with these decisions may result in immediate ejection of the team for the remainder of the tournament and the loss of eligibility for future NorCal tournaments.

USA Softball of Northern California thanks you for attending our tournament and hope you have a great time!