

# Tournament Rules

All USA Softball rules (<https://www.usasoftball.com/official-rulebook>) apply with the exception of some host rules listed below. Also listed are some sportsmanship expectations of all participants.

- All teams must have Background Checks and Safe Sport certificates uploaded to your team profile. It is a mandatory requirement for all teams. Coaches who have not completed this are ineligible. Any issues or questions contact the NJ JO Commissioner at nightmarefp@gmail.com.
- There will **not be** formal check in (No check in tent). Teams with administrators listed as the point of contact must supply the tournament director the name and cell # of the manager by the Friday before the event if you have never played in a WJW FP Event before. Teams are required to text the site director upon arrival to 609-634-4193. When you check in, state your team name and age bracket, and your full name. Keep copies of team insurance and roster with you at all times unless it is already uploaded to your USA registration. Failure to have proper insurance and/or a legal roster will result in removal/disqualification.
- Only managers are to communicate with umpires. Assistant coaches are not to address the umpires at any point regarding judgment calls. No outside interference from fans will be tolerated. All participants are expected to treat the tournament host, opponents, and umpires with respect. Failure to do so will result in forfeit and possible removal from the event.
- There are no protests. Head Coaches/Managers if you have a rules interpretation question (not a judgement call) call the Tournament Director at 609-634-4193 immediately during your game. The game time will stop only if directed by the Tournament Director. All umpires calls are final.
- Pool Play Games - All games will be 80 minutes, finish the inning, 95 minutes drop dead. Score reverts back if 1) the visitor took the lead or tied the game after the 80 minute mark and the home team did not complete their at bat. 2) The visitor is winning and scored after the 80 minute mark and the home team did not complete their at bat. 3) If the visitor is losing after the 80 minute mark and scores and is still losing, there is no revert back. For example, the home team is winning 9-1 at the 80 minute mark and the visitor scores 5 runs and at the 95 minute mark time expires, the final score would be 9-6. Coin flip decides home/away for all pool play games.
- Bracket games - All 14C and 12C games will be 80 minutes finish the inning. 14B games will be 90 minutes finish the inning. The higher seed is automatically the home team for all bracket games.
- Guest Player Guidelines:
  - A player is ineligible to Guest Play if their rostered team is scheduled to play the same day
  - Any player NOT on a USA Softball roster must be rostered in order to guest play
  - No players can play down in class - For example: "A" class players must play in "A" or "Open" events that are age appropriate, "B" class players cannot guest for C class events.
  - Players are ineligible to play down in age even if it is the same class. For example, a 14B rostered player cannot play down at 12B (even if age eligible).

- All teams must be ready to play as early as **25 minutes** before their scheduled start time for all games except the first slot of games each day. Warm up near your upcoming playing field and check in regularly with umpires. Be ready to play! This includes having all pitchers warmed and ready to go. We will not wait for pitchers to warm up. Ground rules will begin at 7:55 am for the first set of games Saturday and Sunday.
- **No team warm ups/ground balls on the infields. No pitcher warm ups in fair territory. Pitchers should be in foul territory away from the base paths. If you want to hit ground balls please do so in front of your dugout in foul territory.**
- The tournament director reserves the right to alter the schedule in any way due to poor weather or conditions out of our control.
  - \* Weather cancellations - once play begins (break ground rules) it is an official game for umpire purposes. If 3 innings are completed or 60 minutes played, it will be ruled an official game. Any game less than 3 complete innings and 60 minutes played is considered “No Contest” and will not count towards pool play seeding. Canceled pool play games will not be replayed.
  - \* There are no refunds of umpire fees once the game begins.
- Exit the dugout immediately following your game. Post game team huddles following games are only permitted if your team is playing back to back games.
- All games (with the exception of championship games) are Pay at the Plate \$70 cash/exact change. 10C games are \$45 Pay at the Plate.
- Mercy Rules - 12 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings, 8 after 5 innings
- Roster batting or unlimited AP's are permitted for any game (pool play or bracket play). If a player is injured and cannot continue an out will be recorded for that player in the batting lineup if there are no substitutes available.
- Through May 25, 2026 14U teams are permitted to merge to create a “Spring team”. For example, a team may be created with non-high school players. The manager must provide an Excel roster of the players with date of birth and official rostered team for the 2026 season. All other Guest Player rules apply to this situation as well. Players cannot play down in age or class.

**All scores must be texted immediately following each game to:  
609-634-4193**

An example of a proper score submission should include the **age group and class**, your **team name** and **runs scored**, your **opponents name** and **runs scored**:

Example submission if your team won - 14B Witches 2, Wildcats 0

Example submission if your team lost – 14B Witches 1, Wildcats 5

**Failure to report scores could result in automatic placement as the lowest seed, or recorded as a 7-0 loss, or disqualification from bracket play. BOTH TEAMS report scores on Saturday, winners on Sunday.**

Tournament Director – Gary Olaff (609) 634-4193