



## Majors Playing Rules

### General Rules

1. Length of game
  - a. Seeding: 6 innings or **2 hour DROP DEAD TIME LIMIT** – The game will end once the two (2) hour mark is reached.
    - i. A tie is an acceptable outcome during seeding games if the time limit is reached
  - b. Bracket: 6 innings 2 hours - no new inning shall start after the 2 hour mark, but once the inning has started it will be played to completion
    - i. If there is a tie after 6 innings or the 2 hour time limit, the game will go to extra innings using the international tie breaker
      1. At the start of all subsequent innings, that last batter out will be placed at second base.
  - c. The Championship game will be played to completion.
  - d. Games will be considered official after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is leading) in the event that the game needs to be suspended for weathers, darkness, etc.
2. Scoring
  - a. Scores and standings will be kept
    - i. Both teams are responsible for keeping score during the game
    - ii. **Each team will play 3 seeding games between Friday and Saturday followed by a single elimination bracket on Sunday**

- b. There will be a five (5) run limit per inning for the first 4 innings. The final play of the inning shall be completed (ball returned to control of the infield) despite additional runs scoring
  - c. Starting in the 5th inning three outs will be required to end the half inning and there will be no inning run limit from that point forward.
  - d. Mercy Rule - 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is leading)
  - e. Line ups consisting of players last name and number shall be provided to the opposing team prior to the start of the game
- 3. Field Dimension
  - a. Base length 60'
  - b. Pitching rubber 40' from the back of home plate
- 4. Equipment
  - a. Game Balls - ELV will supply 2 new game balls for each game. The ball for this level is an 12" ASA, USA or NFHS approved .47 optic yellow softball with red stitching
  - b. Bats must have one of the 3 ASA or USA Certification marks and not be on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks:  
<https://usa.asasoftball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp>
  - c. Helmets – all batters and base runners must wear a protective helmet with an attached facemask. Chin strap is encouraged but not required
  - d. Pitching facemask is required for all pitchers. Each team shall be supplied with a team face mask by their organization
  - e. Jewelry - post earrings are permitted, but no hoop earrings or dangling earrings will be allowed. A simple chain necklace is permitted, but no other jewelry will be allowed. No watches. Cell phones will not be permitted on the field.
  - f. First Aid Kit – each team must have a first aid kit at all practices and games
  - g. Use of a double first base is required
  - h. Metal cleats may not be worn
- 5. Rosters
  - a. Approximately 12 players with an even number from each contributing team
  - b. All players must be rostered 2023 ELV players and must play at the level in which they were rostered
  - c. No player will sit more than 2 consecutive innings defensively, and all players must play in the field at least half of the team's defensive innings
- 6. Game Changes
  - a. In the event of inclement weather, all efforts will be made to adhere to the original schedule as much as possible. Any games canceled during the seeding phase will be rescheduled and played prior to bracket play. Bracket play may be extended past Sunday if needed to complete the tournament appropriately.
- 7. Ranking/Seeding will be determined by the following process
  - a. Win/loss record
    - i. Ties will be considered a ½ game win
    - ii. Unplayed games will count as a loss for both teams
  - b. Head to head competition

- c. Runs allowed
- d. Run differential - a maximum of 10 runs per game will be used
- e. Coin flip

### **Batting**

1. A running batting order including all players shall be used
2. Any player arriving late will be added to the end of the batting order
3. If a player leaves the game due to injury or illness the team will not be charged an automatic out when her turn to bat comes up. The player may reenter at any time in her original position in the batting order.
4. The half inning will end when 3 outs have been recorded or 5 runs have been scored. The final play will be played until the ball is returned to possession of an infielder even if additional runs score on the play.
5. The strike zone will be from the shoulders to the knees and shall include the white and black portions of the plate.
6. Bunting is permitted. Fake bunt and swing is prohibited and the batter will be declared out and runners will be returned to their original positions.
7. If the batter is struck by a pitch, directly or indirectly (hits ground first), the batter will be awarded first base.
  - a. The batter must make every effort to get out of the way of the pitch. At the discretion of the umpire, if the batter does not make an effort to get out of the way, the pitch will be considered a ball and a base will not be awarded.
8. One (1) warning per game will be given to each team for throwing the bat. Additional offenses will result in the batter being declared out and runners will be returned to their original positions.

### **Pitching**

1. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game, no more than 3 consecutively. There are no weekly pitching limits
2. A pitcher may re-enter to pitch once per game
3. One pitch in an inning shall be counted as an inning pitched
4. If the game goes to extra innings, a pitcher may pitch more than 4 innings
5. A pitcher shall be removed from the circle when she hits 3 batters in the game. Any pitched ball that hits the ground prior to striking the batter shall not be considered a hit batter for the purpose of removing the pitcher
6. A pitched ball that is thrown out of play from the circle while in the act of pitching to the batter will be considered a ball
7. USSSA pitching rules will be enforced
  - a. The pitcher will be removed after two visits by a coach to the circle in an inning – injury checks will not count toward this total
8. Drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule will not be enforced

### **Base Running**

1. Play concludes when the ball is in possession of the pitcher in the circle
2. Overthrows
  - a. Runners can advance on overthrows at their own risk

- b. If the ball goes out of play, the runners will be awarded the next base per USSSA rules
  - c. Advancements are permitted on throws from the catcher to the pitcher or from an infielder to the pitcher at the runner's own risk
  - d. Advancement past first base on a walk is permitted - the batter-runner cannot be frozen at first base on a walk by merely returning the ball to the pitcher in the circle. After reaching first base, the batter-runner may continue on, without stopping, in an attempt to reach 2nd base. The runner may stop in the baseline, at which time the umpire will start a 3 second count. If the runner begins movement again, either to advance or retreat, within that 3 second count and does not stop again, this is a legal action. If the runner stops a second time, without an attempt by the defense to make a play, she will be declared out.
- 3. There will be unlimited steals of all bases
  - a. Delayed steals are allowed
- 4. Base runners may leave the base when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand to take a lead. Runners must return to the base immediately when the ball is returned to the pitcher.
  - a. If the base runner leaves early, the umpire will issue a warning. On a 2nd offense, the baserunner will be called out.
- 5. Pick off attempts are allowed at all bases
- 6. Collision Rule
  - a. A collision is defined as a violent coming together of two bodies
    - i. Running into the catcher's arm while she is attempting to make a tag or brushing of the catcher by a runner is incidental contact, not a collision
  - b. A deliberate collision shall result in that player being ejected from the game
- 7. Obstruction Rule
  - a. A fielder may not block the base unless she is in possession of the ball. A runner must slide or give herself up if the fielder is blocking the base while in possession of the ball. If the fielder is blocking the base while not in possession of the ball and any contact, incidental or otherwise occurs, an obstruction shall be declared, and the runner shall be awarded the base
  - b. Plays at the plate – in the event of a play at the plate, the catcher must be positioned in front of the plate when not in possession of the ball and must allow the runner complete access to the plate. If the throw takes the catcher into the path of the base runner and a collision or incidental contact occurs, the runner will be awarded the plate.
    - i. This does not apply to a force play at the plate. In this instance the catcher may place one foot on the plate, but must allow the runner access to the plate
  - c. Plays at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> – the fielder may not stand with her foot on the base while awaiting a throw or making a tag. She must allow direct access to the base.
  - d. The fielder has the right on a batted ball, the runner on a thrown ball.
  - e. Sliding is strongly encouraged when the runner is in the act of attempting to achieve a base or when the fielder is in possession of the ball before she gets to the base

8. Double First Base
  - a. The defensive team may only retire the batter/runner using the white base when the throw is on or inside the baseline. If the throw is outside fair territory, the fielder may use the orange base
9. Courtesy Runners
  - a. Must be used for the catcher when there are 2 outs (may be used when there is 1 out)
  - b. May be used for the pitcher when there are 2 outs
  - c. The courtesy runner will be the last batted-out player

### **Defense/Fielding**

1. There will be 10 defensive players – pitcher, catcher, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B and 4 outfielders
2. The outfielders must be positioned at least 15' behind the baseline at the start of the play
3. Outfielders may not cover a base
4. Infielders must be in their assigned playing position no more than 5' in front of the baseline until the start of the pitch
5. Catcher's interference will be enforced
  - a. The umpire may move the catcher back for safety reasons
  - b. Catchers must attempt to accurately throw the ball back to the pitcher, rolling the ball is not allowed
6. Fielders are not permitted to stand in the baseline at the start of the pitch when there are runners on base advancing to the affected base
7. Infield fly rule does not apply

### **Game Conduct**

1. Cheering
  - a. Players from the offensive team will be allowed to cheer for the batter and the batter only
  - b. Cheering should be positive toward your team, not negative toward the opposing team
  - c. Cheering should cease when the pitcher is pitching and should not be used to distract the opposing pitcher
2. Coach and Player Conduct
  - a. Any coach or player ejected from a game is automatically suspended for the remainder of the tournament. The ejected person will not be allowed to participate, coach or attend the game
  - b. The offending team is responsible for reporting any ejections to the statistician within 24 hours
3. Parents/Spectators
  - a. Any parent or spectator who steps on the field of play for reasons other than injury will be ejected from the game
  - b. No one will be permitted behind the backstop. One warning will be issued by the umpire. On the second offense, the offending team will be charged an out.