

2009 PA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT RULES

Rain Phone – (717) 300-1300 | Tournament Website: <http://pa-softball.com>

- ❖ **Check In:** Insurance information, birth certificates, and your roster (we will hold onto a copy of roster only) shall be presented to the field director at the complex headquarters before your first game. Headquarters are usually near the concession area. You will also be asked to verify the name of the contact person, hotel information, and contact #.
- ❖ **Tournament Rules:** All tournaments will be governed by 2009 PONY Girls Softball rulebook (online rulebook - www.pony.org).
- ❖ **Time limit – All games (80 minutes)** – The championship game will have no time limit
 - A new inning starts at the completion of the 3rd out by the home team of the previous inning
 - No drop dead rule, however, we will not finish an inning if the home team is winning & batting when time expires
 - Game time begins at the conclusion of pre-game meeting. The official clock shall be declared by the umpires
 - The official clock will only stop during lengthy delays (determined at umpire's discretion)
 - Stalling will not be tolerated and may result in another inning being played. Umpire judgment is FINAL.
- ❖ **Speed up rules will apply**
 - In an attempt to get in a full 7 innings of play, a pitcher will receive 5 warm ups the first inning, 3 every inning thereafter. A new pitcher will receive 5 warm ups.
 - Infield/Outfield balls will be permitted the 1st inning only. No team huddles between innings. 1 minute between innings.
- ❖ **“Run Ahead Rule”** as follows will be in place for ALL games:
 - 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings
- ❖ **International Tie Breaker (ITB)**
 - In **Pool Play** games, one inning of ITB will be played to break ties if the time limit has not expired
 - Ties will be recorded as such in pool play after 80 minutes has elapsed
 - In **Elimination Round** games, ITB will begin after 80 minutes has elapsed or 7 innings have been played (whichever comes first). We will play until a winner has been declared
 - The last batter due up on the offensive team will be placed on 2nd base to start each inning in ITB
 - **NOTE:** A substitute with eligibility may be used to pinch run in this situation as the runner
- ❖ **Championship Play seeding criteria**, and if necessary the tournament winner shall be based upon (in order):
 - Points Per Game (Win = 2 points, Tie = 1 point, Loss = 0 points, Forfeit = (-1) point)
 - Least Runs Allowed Per Game
 - Most Runs Scored Per Game
 - Flip of a coin
 - **NOTE:** A forfeit is a 7-0 win. Games will only count if complete. All 6-0 teams will be seeded ahead of all 3-0 teams and 0-3 teams will be seeded ahead of all 0-6 teams when teams have an unequal # of games.
- ❖ **Equipment**
 - **Batting helmets must be NOSCAE stamped with a chinstrap and facemask.**
 - Jewelry must be removed with the exception of a medical alert bracelet. Any violation of this rule will require removal and re-entry use of that player. If it cannot be removed, she cannot play
- ❖ **Offensive Team**
 - A **courtesy runner** (CR) can be used for the pitcher and/or the catcher at any time. The same runner may not be used for both. Only players not yet in the game may be used. If no substitutes are available, there is no CR.
 - The batter shall keep one foot in the box between pitches
- ❖ **Conferences**
 - Defensive: 3 per game, then pitcher is removed (can all be used in 1 inning). 1 per inning in ITB.
 - Offensive: 1 per inning between the coach and any offensive player.

❖ **Pitching**

- A pitcher may be removed as a pitcher, move to a different defensive position and return as a pitcher only once per inning provided the return as a pitcher does not violate substitution or charged conference rule.
- The pitcher may start with one or both feet on the pitching rubber. If a pitcher takes a step backwards, it must be done prior to the start of the pitch.

❖ **Miscellaneous Tournament Information:**

- **Adult tournaments** – Players do not need to wear chinstraps or facemasks, jewelry may be worn, metal cleats may be used, & teams may start a game with 8 players.
- **Game time is forfeit time** – to be regulated at the tournament director's discretion. In rain situation's, please do not leave the fields as the schedule may be adjusted without prior notice.
- **Home Team** shall be determined by the flip of a coin for ALL games
- **Championship Game** will not have a time limit; however the run rule will remain in place for ALL games
- **Head coach** must sign the umpire's game slip with the final score and winning team indicated. By signing, the head coach verifies that the score and winning team are correct. Once signed, the score is final.
- **PONY allows use of a Designated Player (DP)/Flex Player.** Clearly mark the Flex player on the lineup card. PONY **does not** use an Extra Player (EP)
- **ALL players**, both starters and substitutes, may re-enter the game one time.
- **Protests** on a "rule interpretation" will be settled by the field director in a timely manner. A \$50 cash fee is required immediately or play continues. Protests cannot be made on an umpire's "judgment" call – only rule applications.
- **Practice and warm up areas** will be designated at check in. Please do not hang or climb on field fences.
- **Forfeits:** A team may forfeit no more than one game of bracket ball and advance in elimination round play
- **Shorthanded Play:** A team must have 9 players to start a game, however, after play has begun, a team may continue with 8 players but will record an automatic out where the 9th player would appear in the lineup.

❖ **Additional Information:**

- Announce all substitutions to the umpire -- avoid ejections.
- Coaches must remain in the dugout during the game. Non-playing members and coaches are to remain in dead-ball territory until time has been called by the umpire.
- Please do not impede the progress of the game – any signs of poor sportsmanship, actions that demean opposing players, fans, or the umpire are subject to be removed permanently from the game and premises. Any coach / player ejected from a ball game will be reviewed by the Tournament Committee and further action **may** be taken.
- Concessions are available at all fields. You may bring coolers. Please clean up after yourselves.
- **Alcohol is forbidden for ALL complexes.**
- Additionally please do not smoke near the players. Remove yourself to the parking lot or off park premises.
- Pets must be kept on a leash and cleaned up after unless they are prohibited from the park premises.

❖ **More On The Designated Player (DP)/Flex Player (Flex)**

- The Flex Player is listed in the 10th position in the line-up (Defensive Player Only)
- The Designated Player (Offensive Player) bats for the Flex Player (Defensive Player)
- Only the first 9 players in the batting line-up bat
- The Flex Player must always play defense. Any 8 of the other 9 players play defense and the player not playing defense sits on the bench and only bats
- Both the DP and the Flex Player **may** play **defense** at the same time
- Both the DP and the Flex Player **cannot** play **offense** at the same time (A player can never bat in a different spot)
- If the Flex Player bats, it must be in the position of the DP, the DP is out of the game, and the line-up is reduced to 9. The DP can re-enter or a substitute DP may re-enter and bring the line-up back to 10
- If the DP plays defense for the Flex Player, the Flex Player is out of the game and the line-up is reduced to 9. The Flex Player can re-enter or a substitute Flex Player may enter and bring the line-up back to 10.

- ❖ **The Fine Print:** The Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust the rules, schedules, brackets, and field locations as needed to complete the tournament. Every attempt will be made to honor the game minimum – however, if a situation develops where a team forfeits or the weather does not cooperate the Tournament Director will make an attempt to reschedule games, shorten games, or cancel games in order to complete the tournament in a timely fashion. The tournament may be considered complete if 40% of games are played. Trophies may be awarded by pool play standings.