



2020 NJ Heat “Eye of the Storm” Tournament Rules of Play



****Please note, due to State of NJ restrictions on gathering sizes, we can only allow 2 spectators per player at this event.****

Please review and pass the link below of our COVID-19 Complex Guidelines along to your team and parents – <https://www.njheatfastpitch.com/covid19>

Please note:

- Only 1 coach at pre-game meetings on opposite side of batter's boxes
 - No hand shaking or touching
- Players must socially distance themselves using markers in extended dugouts
- All spectators must watch game through outfield fence (foul pole to foul pole)
- Coaches are responsible for their parents and will risk forfeit of games if they do not abide by the rules ← We do not want any team to have to forfeit.
- Please maintain social distancing at all times. If you can't please wear a face covering (i.e. mound meetings)
- Only 5 people max in actual dugout at any time. Can be combination of players and coaches.

TEAM CHECK IN

Part of the requirements the State of NJ has put in place requires the asking of health questionnaire and verifying temperatures of all players, coaches, umpires, volunteers and staff. In addition, we are going to require the signing of a **waiver form**.

Please have your team arrive 90 minutes prior to game time as it will take some time to go through the check-in process.

- Coaches will need to complete the **Team Roster Form** prior to arrival and bring with them to the complex. We will need Team Name, Head Coach Name and Email Address along with the names of coaches and players that are participating.
- Once your whole team has arrived please bring everyone to check-in. We will have 3-4 stations for your team available to help expedite the process.
- The Head Coach will need to provide the completed form, a copy of their insurance and their waiver to the person checking-in your team.
- The person checking-in your team will ask a series of health questions and take temperature with an infrared thermometer for all coaches and players.
- Forehead infrared temperature readings of 99.5 or below will be cleared to participate. If a temperature registers over 99.5, we will notify the Head Coach and retake temperature with a second infrared thermometer. If the results are the same, we will take temperature with an ear thermometer. Temperatures higher than 100.4 using an ear thermometer will not be allowed to play and will be asked to leave the complex immediately. **We recommend that parents check player's temperatures prior to leaving home. Temperature checks will be noted as a pass/fail and not the actual temperature. **Please note that all information will be kept confidential****
- At completion of check-in, all participants will be given a bracelet that will need to be worn the remainder of the day at the complex.
- Events that include a 2nd day will have a modified process, but will still include the entire team to check-in.



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- Each team will be provided hand sanitizer and a towel for their team and to sanitize the ball throughout the game as needed.

Please note that parents and spectators will not need to go through this process.

USA Softball RULES APPLY

****The use of face coverings during the game is not required. It is strongly encouraged during in-game team meetings****

Safety Rules as required by USA Softball.

- ALL BATTING HELMETS MUST HAVE APPROVED NOCSAE FACEMASKS.
- Helmets must be worn at all times by runners while on the field including running back to the dugout.

Courtesy Runners may be used for the catcher and pitcher at any time.

- Courtesy Runner should be used for Catchers with 2 outs to speed up play.
- Courtesy Runner must come from the bench (any player not in game) or last batted out (in that order).
- Courtesy Runner(s) must be different for pitcher and catcher within the same inning.

Player Line Ups:

- EP (extra player) may be used with a maximum of 11 players in the batting order with “free” defensive substitution amongst the 11 “batting” players fielding only 9 players.
- DP/FLEX rule may also be used in addition to the EP above and will follow USA Softball rules regarding such.

Game Length & Time:

- Home team decided by coin flip. The team that traveled furthest distance will call.
- Seven (7) Inning games
- Saturday Pool Play: **No new inning may begin after 1 hr 40**
- Saturday Pool Play games can end in a tie. If time permits use International Tie Breaker.
- International Tie Breaker will be used on all Sunday Games beginning in last inning after regulation.
- Sunday Elimination, Quarter Finals and Semi-final games: no new inning may begin after 1 hour and 20 minutes. No drop dead time, finish the inning, must have a winner.
- Sunday Final Games: no time limit; play out full seven (7) innings (6 for 10U). Unless Run Ahead Rule comes into effect.
- No “stalling” tactics are allowed in the final 10 minutes. If an umpire determines a team to be stalling, time will be added to the game clock. If the umpire determines a team continues to stall, that team will forfeit the game. Show sportsmanship and let the game be decided by the girls on the field.

Run Ahead Rule for 14U:

12 runs after 3 innings; 10 runs after 4 innings; 8 runs after 5 innings