



## Gear Up Tournament Rules



USA Softball rules will be followed in accordance with the 2023 [rulebook](#). There are a few exceptions to these rules that we will be using for the purpose of this tournament. Pool games will have a coin flip. Bracket games will use higher seed.

### Home Runs

Team home runs will be limited to 1 per game.

### Unlimited Home Run Bands

Each team member can purchase an unlimited home run band from the concession stand for \$10. Any player wearing their home run band can hit unlimited home runs that will not count towards the team's allotted one per game.

- If a player is seen taking their band off to give to another player that did not purchase one, the band will be removed from the game without a refund.
- All proceeds from the home run bands will be donated to BackStoppers, Inc.

### Bats

We are allowing the use of USSSA-approved bats in addition to USA-approved bats. Bats will be checked prior to the games to ensure they are not altered or damaged. Altered or damaged bats will be removed from the dugout and cannot be used.

- Damaged bats are those that rattle or wobble when shaken and/or have cracks in the bat itself.

### Time Limits

Pool play limits are 55 minutes which can result in a tie.

Bracket play limits are 55 minutes and must have a winner.

The championship game limit is 1 hour and 10 minutes and must have a winner.

- The umpire will start the clock 1 minute after the conclusion of the plate meeting. They will also announce when they start the clock.

### Tie Breakers for Seeding

Any teams with the same record throughout pool play will follow these guidelines:

1. Head-to-head game – if you faced each other in pool play, whoever won that game would seed higher
2. Total runs scored.
3. Total runs against.

**Keep in mind that this tournament is for charity. No fighting, cussing, or middle wars.**



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The following are general rules reminders.

### Run Rules

Run rules will apply to ALL games.

20 runs after 3 innings

15 runs after 4 innings

10 runs after 5 innings

### Bunting/Chopping

Bunting and chopping the ball are not permitted in USA softball. A chopped ball is when the batter strikes downward with a chopping motion of the bat. The penalty is an out.

### Touching the bases

On a home run, we are following the “hit and sit” motto. You do not need to touch first base, and runners already on the bases do not need to touch the next base. Enjoy not having to run!

### Courtesy Runners

A courtesy runner may only be used once per inning. Courtesy runners can be ANYONE in the lineup or substitutes. Keep in mind that if you place a courtesy runner on a base and they're due up to bat, you MAY NOT replace them with another courtesy runner or sub. You will take an out for the runner, and they must come up to take their turn at bat. For Coed, one male and one female courtesy runner may be used per inning.

### Pitching

Pitching in USA is a continuous motion once you start the pitch. You may not start and then stop your pitch like in USSSA.

### Illegal Pitches

The umpire will verbalize “Illegal” and stick their left arm out. If the batter swings or contacts any illegal pitch, it is nullified, and all play stands. If the batter does not swing, then it will be a ball on the batter.

### Batting

Every batter starts with a 1-1 count. If the batter has two strikes and fouls off a pitch, they are out. Mats will be used for the strike zone. If the ball falls and hits the mat, barring any height violations/illegal pitches, it is a strike on the batter.

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