

2025 FREEDOM TOURNAMENT RULES

1. 2025 USA Softball rules will be in effect unless otherwise outlined below.
2. All games, except 8u, will be a maximum of 6 innings, except that no new inning may start after 1 hour and 15 minutes. No drop dead, **no scores will revert**. (see rule 13) Championship games have a 90 minute time limit. 8U Games, including championship games, will be a maximum of 5 innings. (See 8U rules below).
3. For pool play, home team will be determined by a coin toss by the umpire prior to game time and in the presence of representatives from both teams. The team listed first in pool play will occupy the 1st base dugout. For bracket play, the higher seeded team is the home team and occupies the 3rd base dugout. If both teams are equally seeded, coin toss for home team & team listed on top of bracket takes 1st base dugout. (Exception: teams playing in back to back games on the same field will stay in the same dugout.) Squatter's rights do not apply. All championship games will have coin toss to determine home team.
4. Home team is responsible for supplying the official scorekeeper. Electronic scorekeeping (GameChanger) is preferred. The umpire will have the official game summary sheet. The umpire and manager from each team will sign the summary sheet. This will be the official score of the game.
5. Ties will stand in pool play. In single elimination bracket play the international tie breaker will be used after the 1 hour and 15 minute time limit, or 6 innings (5 Innings 8U) whichever comes first. Exception: Championship games only-the international tie breaker will go into effect if tied after 90 minutes or 6 innings. (8U after 5 innings).
6. Pitching Distance:
8U - 30ft
10U - 35ft
12U - 40ft
14U - 43ft
7. All game balls will be supplied by EGSL and must be used. 8U – 10" yellow Worth RIF 1 Soft-Dot, 10U -11" RIF 10 Soft-Dot, 12U & 14U – 12" yellow Worth Dream Seam or equivalent.
8. No infield warm up allowed. Outfield grass and foul territory may be used for warm up. Areas between the homerun fence and the exterior fence are reserved for teams to warm up. Spectators are not allowed in this area if teams are warming up there.
9. No protests. All calls made by the umpire are final.
10. During both pool and bracket play, teams have the option of batting the entire roster with free substitution. 8U **MUST** bat entire roster. If batting entire roster, courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher may be used in accordance with USA Softball rules for pool play bat around. If batting the entire roster and a batter is not available to bat, an out will be charged for the first time that batter is due up

only. If batting 9 or 10 with EP, USA rules apply, including use of the EP, DP, and Flex positions. If batting everyone and a runner is injured, a courtesy runner (last out) may be used, but the injured player must leave the game and an out will be charged the next time that player is due up.

11. No penalty will be imposed for batting 8, if they are short players. The team may not make substitutions during the game, except to add players arriving after the game has started.
12. **Run Limits:** During pool play for 10U, 12U & 14U, there is a 6 run limit per inning with no open inning. During bracket play 10U will continue to have a 6 run limit per inning, but 12U & 14U will have unlimited runs allowed per inning in bracket play. For 8U - see 8U special rules below.
13. **Mercy rule:** 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings. Once a team is ahead by enough runs, that it can't be caught, the game will end immediately. (Example: visiting team goes ahead by 7 runs in the top of the 4th inning and no new inning can be started because the game is already at 1 hour and 15 minutes). Final score WILL stand. **Score will not revert to previous inning even if home team does not have a chance to bat that inning. Teams should consider this when choosing to be home or visitor in pool play.** For 8u see special rules below.
14. Forfeited games in pool play will count as a 6-0 win for the non-forfeiting team, 5-0 for 8u.
15. Pool play will be 3 games after which all teams will be seeded into a single elimination bracket play tournament.
16. Seeding for each pool will be determined by:
 - A. Won/loss record
 - B. Head to head results (If 2 teams are tied with the same record)
 - C. Average runs allowed per game in actual games played (forfeited victories will not count in this calculation)
 - D. Average runs scored per game in actual games played. (forfeited victories will not count in this calculation)
 - E. Coin toss

Note : B above will only be used if 2 teams are tied, if more than 2 teams are tied with the same record C, D and E will then be used to break the tie.
17. **CHECK-IN:** All coaches must register their team at least 1 hour prior to their first scheduled game. **All** registration will be done at the main complex (near fields 3, 4 & 5). If not provided electronically in advance, coaches **MUST** provide the following at check-in: an approved USA Softball championship roster, proof of current USA Softball registration for all coaches and assistant coaches. If a team does not have an USA Softball championship roster, they must submit a roster with proof of league insurance. No players may be added after registration. No more than 15 players per roster. All teams must be registered with USA Softball.
18. **Any member of the coaching staff, parents or spectators ejected from a game, for any reason, will not be allowed at that team's next game.** The individual ejected must leave the field at once, or that team will forfeit the game. Any ejected coach that is caught coaching the following game, may result in the

immediate dismissal of his/her team from the tournament, without refund, and is at the sole discretion of tournament officials.

19. No artificial noise makers of any kind are allowed at any games. Tasteful walk up music is allowed, but must be silenced when the batter steps into the batter's box. The team coming up to bat is allowed to play music between innings.

Head coach is responsible for checking the bracket schedule after all pool play is complete. Coaches will **NOT** be contacted as to when their team's first bracket game is scheduled. Game results will be posted on Tourney Machine.

8 & Under Special Rules

1. Games are 5 innings max.
2. During pool play and bracket play: 4 run limit per inning with no open inning. If a team is behind by more than 4 runs and the time limit is reached, the game will end immediately, **the score will not revert**. (Example: time limit is reached and the score is 5-0, the game ends immediately.) If the losing team cannot come back due to run limitations, but the time limit has not been reached, the game will continue until either the losing team has batted 4 times or the time limit is reached. **the score will not revert**. (Example the score is 5-0 with the home team ahead in the bottom of the fourth, the game ends immediately even though the time limit has not been reached.)
3. No dropped 3rd strike. No infield fly rule. One stolen base per pitch. No stealing home.
4. Teams may play 10 defensive players. 4 players must start in outfield position when pitch is delivered. (Must be on the grass, or in the umpire's judgment where the grass would normally be, when pitch is delivered). No infielders can be closer to the batter than the pitcher.
5. Must bat entire roster. No DP/Flex.

Kit Carson Park Rules

No overnight Camping! Motor homes/RV's will be allowed to park only in the designated area at the Center (Boys Baseball) Complex parking area – Absolutely no motor homes/RV's are allowed in the girls' or adult complexes.

No campfires allowed. No BBQ's allowed @ the softball complexes. There are other park areas for BBQ's.

No alcoholic beverages allowed in the park. The use or consumption of or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs in the vicinity of the playing fields, including spectator areas and parking lots, is strictly prohibited. The failure by any team, including players, coaches, parents and/or spectators to abide by this may result in the immediate dismissal from the tournament, without a refund, and is at the sole discretion of the tournament officials.

No smoking or vaping allowed in Kit Carson Park

Dogs are only allowed in designated areas of the Park.

No skateboards, bicycles, scooters, hover boards, pogo-sticks or rollerblades allowed in field complexes. There are trails for these activities, and a skate park in the Park.

Vehicles must be parked in designated parking spaces. Do not park on grass areas or on the main road. Citations may be issued to vehicles parked illegally. **Be Aware:** Park Rangers have been known to issue citations for cars parked outside the lines of the marked parking spaces.