

LOU AND SHORTY SHOWDOWN: RULES FOR 2018

Thanks for coming to the 6th Annual Lou and Shorty Showdown. It is our 6th year for this tournament and we appreciate your support and patience in putting it together. Hopefully it grows each year. The purpose is for all girls to have fun, enjoy the game of softball, and make new friends. It is also to honor 2 gentlemen who have given most of their adult life to advancing softball in the Dayton area. Your participation in this tournament, and the time you devote in helping the girls grow as young ladies, makes it all possible.

1. CHECK - IN

The coach or a representative of each team is required to check-in at least one hour before their first game at the registration table at tournament headquarters and -

- a. Sign in
- b. Leave best phone number to contact them throughout the tournament.
- c. Show a copy of team insurance and USA Softball registration (team registration is available on site).

Team or USA individual cards accepted. Since this is not part of USA championship play, coaches do not have to have ACE certification. Rosters are not required to be turned in as teams are allowed to pick up players that are age eligible for this tournament. However proof of age for all players must be available throughout the tournament, and must be provided if challenged by the opposing coach. Any eligibility protest must be made before the game starts. In the event of a challenge, and the coach cannot provide proof of the players age, all past and future games in which the questionable girl participated in the tournament by that team will be forfeited.

- d.. No double rostering and/or additions are allowed throughout the tournament unless consented to by the tournament director.
- e. Final decisions on all roster eligibility questions made by tournament director.

2. YOUR PACKET INCLUDES –

a. Official pool assignments and game times. Please be sure to check this as this is the official schedule, and with any tournament last minute changes may occur.

b. A copy of the official rules.

c. Game result sheets -- within one hour after the game, each team coach is responsible to be sure these get turned in -- win or lose -- after each pool game (if the team has back-to-back games, score sheets can be turned in after the second game). If only one team turns in the game result sheet, it will be recorded as the correct score. If there is a discrepancy, the home team score will be recorded as correct. If neither team turns in a scoresheet within 24 hours it will be recorded as a 7-7 tie. Any dispute of game results must be done within 2 hours of posting. (Tournament directors discretion is final). These game result cards are essential as they determine your position in pool play.

Also on the game result cards we ask you that your rate be umpires -- simply “A” thru “F” (“A” being an excellent rating). We have a hard-working crew of umpires and we are constantly looking for ways to make this a better tournament. This method gives the coaches a fair way to have input on the quality of our umpiring, and also gives us data in order to make improvements for next year's tournament. We have used this method in the past and it has helped us improve the quality of our umpires.

d. Game MVP Ribbons – There will be MVP ribbons – one for each pool game. **THESE ARE TO BE GIVEN AT THE END OF EACH GAME TO THE PLAYER ON THE OPPOSING TEAM WHOM YOU FEEL DESERVES IT.** Please make every effort to make the time to award the ribbon – often times this is the only award girls will receive and it makes them feel special.

e. Where there is an admission charge, your coaches packet will include a limit of 3 coaches passes. All coaches with passes and girls in their team uniform are admitted free. The admission charge is used to offset the cost of the fields.

3. FORMAT

This tournament is set up so that ALL teams will be guaranteed 5 games in 2 days. The way we can do this in 2 days is that each age group is divided into two pools. Each team will play 4 pool games, and then their fifth game (their final game) will be against the like finisher in their other age group pool. This should ensure each team a very competitive game in their fifth game, and will allow each team to know exactly in what place they finished in the

tournament. The only way you can finish first or second in the tournament is to win your pool. **SO YOU MUST STOP AT HEADQUARTERS AFTER YOUR 4TH GAME TO SEE WHERE AND WHEN YOU WILL PLAY YOUR 5TH GAME.**

As in all Fastpitch Showdown Tournaments, pool play games will be 90 minutes long. Also, the coach can bat up to all of his/her players if he/she chooses and there is free substitution in the field with anybody on your roster.

As with all our 2 day tournaments, the final format will be determined by the number of teams in each age group. But all teams will get a minimum of five games, and the winners and finalists in each age group will receive individual awards.

4. POOL PLAY TIEBREAKERS

- a. Won - loss record (point system of 2 points per win, ½ point for a tie)
- b. Head to Head (if one team did not beat all the teams with identical records, go to the next step). Once multiple team tie is broken, go back to step “a”. (We do it this way because we feel the true purpose of the game is to win, not to give up the fewest runs. So the quickest we can get back to winning as the tiebreaker, we will do so.)
- c. Least runs allowed per game
- d. Most runs scored per game (maximum of 7 runs per game so as not to encourage teams to run up the score)
- e. Coin flip
- f. Call to God

5. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

- a. Any rescheduled or replacement games, and any crossover pool games, will count as a regular game. Tournament directors discretion is final on all makeup games.
- b. The games are guaranteed to each team except for circumstances beyond the tournament directors control.(e.g. rainouts, teams canceling, umpire mis-schedules,etc.)
- c. Games must be 3 complete innings (unless there is a mercy) to be counted as complete (2 1/2 innings if home team is ahead). Incomplete games due to rain, injuries, etc. are recorded as a rain out.
- d. It is the responsibility of each coach to understand their final rankings in pool play and if they will play in the championship game.. Pool play rankings are not complete until the “pool play board” at headquarters is marked “FINAL”. After that the coach has 15 minutes to dispute the results.

4. POOL PLAY GAME LENGTH

- a. Time limit on all pool games is 90 minutes **FROM THE SCHEDULED START TIME!** This will help keep the tournament on time for the other teams, fans and spectators, even if this results in a shorter game. Umpire’s time is official time. No inning shall start after 90 minutes, however current inning will be completed (unless home team is ahead and at bat). If suspended inning lasts past the scheduled end time, the inning will not be continued and the final score will revert back to the last completed inning. An inning shall start upon the last out of the previous inning. Tie games are allowed and shall be recorded as such. In the event of a tie, and time has not expired, the international tiebreaker will be used..
- b. The 5th game will have a **80 minute time limit but will be from actual start time.**
- c. In order to keep the game lengths reasonable, at 10U only, there will be a 6 run limit per half inning. No last inning catch-up rule is allowed.

5. USA Rules will be followed with the following tournament exceptions in pool and bracket play. Because the intent of this tournament is to give the ladies more playing time, the coach has the option of betting up to his entire lineup. This is strictly a coaching option. This means you can bat up to everyone on the roster, and any 9 on your roster can play defense. Official batting order is handed to umpire at start of game, and cannot be changed during game (to help play as many girls as possible, and the coach has chosen to bat more than 9, an out is not declared if a player is injured and then her batting position comes up). Once an injured player is removed on offense, they may not re-enter.

Courtesy runner for pitcher or catcher (not same person in same inning) may be used at any time and may be the last recorded out or a player not currently in official batting order -- coaches option.

Chin straps are not required.

6. Coin Flip will determine home team in both pool and championship play. Home team book is official. The visiting team is responsible for resolving any scoring discrepancies between innings. Dugout assignments on a first come basis, and if a team has played the previous game on the same field they keep the same dugout.
7. A team not on field ready to play within 15 minutes of game time will forfeit the game unless granted an extension by site director for good cause. Forfeited games benefit neither team, and tournament directors decision is final on all matters regarding a forfeit. Forfeited games will not be counted in determining runs allowed, or runs scored.
8. Mercy rule is 15 runs after 3 inn, 12 runs after 4 inn, & 8 runs after 5 innings.

9. Awards – There are 2 types of awards in this tournament as we want as many girls as possible to get recognition. Game MVP ribbons – these are to be awarded after each pool game to a player on the opposing team whom your team thinks deserves it. PLEASE be diligent in awarding these ribbons as to some players it will be the only award they get. THESE ARE AWARDED IN POOL PLAY ONLY.

Championship Awards– These will be awarded to the finalists in each age group. (Maximum of 15 per team allowed).

10. Game Balls – Baden certified USA “Danielle Lawrie” signature leather softballs with .47 cor will be provided for each game.

11. In pool play all 8U and 10U games sometimes may have only 1 umpire.

11. First Aid – For all injuries, please contact local EMT services.

12. Protests – All field decisions by umpires are final. **There are no protests.** We feel we have a knowledgeable crew of umpires, and because of the size of the tournament among other things, this is necessary to keep the tournament on time for the other participants. **You must work out any conflicts with the umpires at the time of the disagreement.** However umpires decision is final.

All tournament decisions (rain delays, scheduling, etc) are made for the smoothest operation of the tournament for the majority of the teams involved -- not just your team or age group -- and are made by the tournament director. His/her decision is final.

14. Admission –There may be an admission charge to the tournament. It is administered and collected by the city of Dayton at the Kettering Park complex and is used to offset the cost of the fields. All money raised is used to better facilities. They have not set the charge this year but last year it was very reasonable -- \$3 per day. **PLEASE LET YOUR PARENTS AND FANS KNOW THIS SO NO ONE IS SURPRISED.**

15. Uniforms–All players must be in uniform. However, because call-up players are allowed, the uniforms do not have to be matching.

16. Rain Delays – Due to the many games that are scheduled, if games are cancelled due to weather, etc., there will be no make-up games and no altered game times. Games may be adjusted, and/or shortened to complete the tournament or get back on schedule. Games interrupted might not be rescheduled. The phone number for rain information is 419.777.4377. Your parents and fans can sign up for free tournament and weather updates at fastpitchshowdowns.ealert.com.

17. Rain Out Policy – If no games are able to be played, a partial refund will be provided to each team. Full refunds are not possible due to the expenses of the tournament which must be paid prior to the first game played.

3 or more games played – No refund

2 games played - \$100 refund

0 or 1 game played - \$175 refund

For refund purposes only, a game that has started and the umpires have received pay, this will count as a game played.

18. Souvenirs, official tournament t-shirts, and other tournament services will be available throughout the tournament at Tournament Headquarters. Concessions will be available at the main concession stand.
19. Refund Policy – Balance of entry fee (after \$100 non-refundable fee) refunded if team drops more than 30 days prior to the tournament. No refund if team drops within 30 days of the tournament or if schedule has been mailed out.
20. Facility Rules –
 - a. Gates do not open until 1 hour before scheduled first game.
 - b. No warm-ups on infield before game
 - c. No smoking in dugouts, on the field, or in stands.
 - d. Small coolers are allowed.
 - e. Hitting softballs into fences is not allowed
 - f. Hard softball pitching machines are prohibited.
 - g. Pet policy is determined by each facility.
 - h. No artificial noisemakers are allowed during the game.
21. Full details, schedules, teams participating, rules, motel list, directions are available at each tournament listing under www.fastpitchshowdowns.com.
22. Sportsmanship -- please remember that these are softball games are being played to help the girls grow into confident young women. They are not life-and-death situations. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in any Fastpitch Showdowns tournament and will be dealt with on an individual basis -- including the barring of any team/individual from this or any future Fastpitch Showdown tournament. Managers/coaches are held responsible for the players & fans conduct also, so please take control of any possible situation.
23. Hotel policy -- you are welcome to stay at whatever hotel best fits your needs and finances. We have a link on our website to Hotel Planners as we feel they offer the widest range of accommodations and prices in, but again it is strictly up to you. You do not have to stay anywhere in particular in order to attend the tournament.

The city of Dayton is very proud of their Kettering Park complex. They give their time and effort to make sure the fields are the best they can be for the girls. Give them a pat on the back if you see them and let's everyone do their part to keep it clean by having the players and fans clean up after themselves.

Remember, the purpose of this tournament is for the girls to have fun, play competitive softball, and make new friends. That goes for the fans and coaches also. So take the time to shake hands with a stranger and tell them about the beautiful country that we are privileged to live and play softball in.

Best of Luck!

FASTPITCH SHOWDOWNS TOURNAMENT STAFF