

MOTOR CITY SHOWDOWN RULES FOR 2018

Thanks for coming to the 10th annual Motor City Showdown. The purpose is for all girls to have fun, enjoy the game of softball, and make new friends. Your participation in this tournament, and the time you devote in helping the girls grow as young ladies, makes it all possible.

AGAIN THIS YEAR!! THE USA VS CANADA INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE TROPHY JUST FOR FUN WE WILL KEEP TRACK OF ALL POOL GAMES BETWEEN CANADIAN TEAMS AND USA TEAMS – SIMPLY WON OR LOST. WHICHEVER COUNTRY HAS THE MOST WINS WILL HAVE THEIR COUNTRY ENGRAVED FOR THIS YEAR ON THE SHOWDOWN TROPHY, AND THAT WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE RESTAURANT AT THE FIELDS THRU NEXT YEAR'S CHALLENGE !

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 registration (team registration is available on site for \$25). 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 games in which the questionable girl participated in the tournament by that team will be forfeited. If she has played in bracket play, the team will be removed from the tournament.
- 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. (Other ribbons are available for your team -- see # 9)

e. Where there is an admission charge, AND THERE IS AT THE MOTOR CITY SHOWDOWN, 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

All teams will play 4 pool games. In age groups with more than 7 teams, each pool will then be divided into the top half and bottom half after pool play ends. The top half finishers of each pool will go into a platinum bracket and play each other in a single elimination tournament. The bottom half finishers of each pool will go into the gold bracket and play each other in a separate single elimination tournament. The brackets will not meet. We feel this seeding method gives every team a more equal competition in bracket play. The champion and finalist in each bracket will receive individual awards. (In age groups with less than 8 teams, all teams will enter into one bracket). Final format may change depending on the number of teams at each age group, weather delays, or other scheduling conflicts.

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).Rain out games must be 3 complete innings (2 ½ 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 where and when they will play Sunday. 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. If BOTH COACHES AND THE UMPIRES agree to start the game early because the field is available, the game will be 90 minutes from the ACTUAL start time. If the umpires or either coach does not want to start early for any reason, the 90 minutes will start from the scheduled start 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 in pool play and shall be recorded as such. In the event of a tie, and time has not expired, the international tiebreaker will be used.
- b. **All bracket games will be 80 minutes from actual start time.**
- c. The championship games will have a 2 hour time limit if not followed by another game. If so it will be a standard 80 minute bracket game.

5. ASA Rules will be followed with the following tournament exceptions in pool AND bracket play.
 - a. 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 1 player is injured and then her batting position comes up). Once an injured player is removed on offense, they may not re-enter.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Metal cleats allowed at the 14u,16u, &18u age groups

6. Coin Flip will determine home team in both pool and bracket 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. Only the tournament director or the UIC may declare a forfeit. Forfeited games will not be counted in determining runs allowed, or runs scored.

8. Mercy rules are 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings and 8 runs after 5 innings.

9. Awards – There are 3 types of awards in this tournament as we want as many girls as possible to get recognition.
 - a. 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.**
 - b. Individual Awards -- awards at registration for girls who accomplished specific things during the tournament (i.e. home runs, no hitters, double plays, etc). These awards must be signed for by the head coach or official scorekeeper. **THESE RIBBONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR POOL PLAY ONLY** and must be picked up Friday or Sat.
 - c. Championship Medals – 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. Warm ups are allowed between the home run fences and the permanent fences, or if the home run fences are not put in place, warm ups are allowed within 20’ parallel to the permanent fence.

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

13. 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 umpire's 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 WILL BE AN ADMISSION CHARGE TO THE TOURNAMENT. IT WILL BE \$6 PER DAY OR \$12 FOR A TOURNAMENT PASS. **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 419.297.4573. 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. (No large coolers 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.
- i. If no home run fences, deep outfield warm-ups are allowed.

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 -- This is a “stay to play” tournament. All teams from more than 75 miles away must go thru our approved hotel Co-ordinator - Traveling Teams. We have a link on our website to Traveling Teams as we feel they offer the widest range of accommodations and prices. Please support the hotels that support us.

The Canton Sports Complex is very proud of their facilities. We feel it is one of the nicest complexes in which we hold tournaments, and certainly one of the nicest in Michigan. 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 from another country and tell them about the beautiful country that you are privileged to live and play softball in.

Best of Luck!

FASTPITCH SHOWDOWNS TOURNAMENT STAFF