

NORTH AMERICAN ALL SANCTIONED WORLD SERIES RULES FOR 2019

Thanks for coming to the 11th annual North American All Sanctioned World Series! 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. It is the last tournament in 2019 for many teams, so take the time to enjoy it, and if there is anything we can do to make your time in Columbus more enjoyable, please let us know!

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 and pick up tournament packet.
- b. Leave best phone number to contact them throughout the tournament.
- c. Show a copy of team insurance and your registration with any sanctioning body. Since this is a World Series, rosters will be handed in and checked off against the players proof of age. The girls need not be present during registration but you will need their proof of age. There is no official roster – you are welcome to use the roster you used during the season. **THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS WILL KEEP A COPY OF THE ROSTER THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT.** In addition proof of age for all players must be available throughout the tournament, and must be provided if challenged by the opposing coach. If a challenge is made, the team making the challenge must submit a \$100 challenge fee. If the player is found to be age ineligible, she will be removed. If the player is found to be age eligible, the \$100 challenge fee will be donated to charity. 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, that team will forfeit all previous games. Tournament director has the final decision on this.
- 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. ***IN BRACKET PLAY WINNERS ONLY MUST VERBALLY TURN IN SCORES. This can be done by representative.***

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.

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT FIND IT EASIER, THE COACH OR SCOREKEEPER MAY JUST TEXT THE SCORE TO 419-777-4377 IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR GAME. (If you choose

either option please be sure to include Pool Assignment, Both Teams Names, Age Group, Field #, Game Time and Final Score). NO IMAGES/PICTURES

d. Game MVP Ribbons – There will be 4 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, your coaches packet will include a limit of 3 coaches passes. Where there is no admission, but instead a parking charge as in Columbus, this is collected and administered by the city and there will be no coaches passes as we are not allowed to exempt any cars from the parking charge.

3. FORMAT

All teams will play 4 pool games. After completing pool play, all teams will have their pools divided into the top half of the pool (platinum division) and bottom half of their pool (gold division) and each half will play in a separate bracket. All age groups will then play a single elimination tournament – win or go home – just like high school tournament play. The champions and finalists at each age group/bracket will receive team and individual awards. 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, 1/2 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 “b”. (We do it this way because we feel the true purpose of the game is to win, not which team gave 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. Any game (including rain out games) must be at least 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 where and when they will play their bracket play. Pool play rankings are not complete until the “pool play board” at headquarters is marked “FINAL”.**

6. 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. **All bracket play games will be 80 minutes from ACTUAL START TIME.**

c. The championship games will have a 2 hour time limit (unless followed by another game - then 80 min.)

d. In order to keep the game lengths reasonable, at 8U & 10U only, there will be a 6 run limit per half inning. No last inning catch-up rule is allowed.

7. USA Softball Rules apply 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 batting up to his/her entire lineup. This is strictly a coaching option. This means you can bat up to everyone on the roster, and any 9 on the team 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 9 or more, an out is not declared if 1 player is injured and then her batting position comes up and there is no one to take her spot). Once an injured player is removed on offense, she 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 14u, 16u , &18u, even on the turf fields. Pitchers are NOT allowed to wear metal cleats when pitching on turf fields**

d. There is free defensive substitution in the field. The player only has to be on the line up card submitted -- not in the batting order.

e. 8u Specific rules are on our website – www.fastpitchshowdowns.com

8. 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.

9. 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. Only a tournament director or UIC can declare a forfeit. 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.

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

11. 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** – IN POOL PLAY ONLY - 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. THESE ARE AWARDED IN POOL PLAY ONLY.

c. **Championship Awards** – These will be awarded to the champion and finalist in each age group and bracket.(Maximum of 15 per team allowed).

12. Game Balls will be provided for each game.

13. In pool play 8U and 10U games may have only 1 umpire.

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

15. Protests – All field decisions by umpires are final. There are no protests. College coaches really don't care who wins the argument and it just delays the game. 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.

16. Admission –there will be no admission charge for this tournament, HOWEVER the city of Columbus will be charging a \$5 per day parking fee. Tournament officials have no control of the administration or collection of this charge, and it is used to help offset the cost of maintaining the fields. Unfortunately all coaches and players must also pay this parking charge as there are no coaches or players passes. **PLEASE LET YOUR PARENTS AND FANS KNOW THIS SO NO ONE IS SURPRISED.**

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

18. Rain Delays – Due to the many games that are scheduled, if games are canceled 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. For current weather information affecting the tournament go to our website - www.fastpitchshowdowns.com. Your parents and fans may sign up for free tournament and weather updates at fastpitchshowdowns.ealert.com.

19. 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.

a. 3 or more games played - No refund

b. 2 games played - \$100 refund

c. 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.

20. Souvenirs, official tournament t-shirts, and other tournament services will be available throughout the tournament at Tournament Headquarters. Concessions will be available throughout the park.

21. Refund Policy – Balance of entry fee (after \$100 non-refundable fee) refunded if team drops more than 30 days prior to the tournament and the schedule has not been sent out. No refund will be given if a team drops within 30 days of the tournament or if the schedule has been sent out.

22. Facility Rules –

- a. Gates do not open until 90 minutes before scheduled first game.
- b. No warm-ups on infield before game
- c. No smoking in dugouts, on the field, or in stands.
- d. Coolers are allowed
- e. Hitting softballs into fences is not allowed
- f. Hard softball pitching machines are prohibited.
- g. Pets on a leash are allowed at Berliner Park.
- h. No artificial noisemakers are allowed during the game.

23. Full details, schedules, teams participating, rules, hotel links, directions, etc are available at each tournament specific page at www.fastpitchshowdowns.com.

24. 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.

25. Hotel policy – All teams traveling more than 70 miles are required to comply with the Columbus “Heads and Beds” program and go thru HelmsBriscoe to book their hotel rooms.

The City of Columbus is proud of having the biggest softball complex in the United States. But with any complex of this size, **please have all your parents players and fans use common sense and keep valuables out of sight in their cars and lock their cars when they are not there.** Also 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