

2011 PA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT RULES

Rain Phone – (717) 300-1300 | Tournament Website: <http://pa-softball.com>

- ❖ **Check In:** Insurance information, birth certificates, and your roster (we will hold onto a copy of roster only) shall be presented to the field director at the complex headquarters before your first game. Headquarters are usually near the concession area. You will also be asked to verify the name of the contact person, hotel information, and contact #.
- ❖ **Tournament Rules:** Governed by 2011 PONY Girls Softball rulebook (www.pa-softball.com/ponyrulebook.pdf)
- ❖ **Time limit – All games (80 minutes)** – The winners bracket championship final game will have no time limit
 - A new inning starts at the completion of the 3rd out by the home team of the previous inning
 - No drop dead rule, however, we will not finish an inning if the home team is winning & batting when time expires
 - Game time begins at the conclusion of pre-game meeting. The official clock shall be declared by the umpires
 - The official clock will only stop during lengthy delays (determined at umpire's discretion)
 - Stalling will not be tolerated and may result in another inning being played. Umpire judgment is FINAL.
- ❖ **Speed up rules will apply**
 - In an attempt to get in a full 7 innings of play, a pitcher will receive 5 warm ups the first inning, 3 every inning thereafter. A new pitcher will receive 5 warm ups.
 - Infield/Outfield balls will be permitted the 1st inning only. No team huddles between innings. 1 minute between innings.
- ❖ **“Run Ahead Rule”** as follows will be in place for ALL games:
 - 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings
- ❖ **International Tie Breaker (ITB)**
 - In *Pool Play* games, one inning of ITB will be played to break ties if the time limit has not expired
 - Ties will be recorded as such in pool play after 80 minutes has elapsed
 - In *Elimination Round* games, ITB will begin after 80 minutes has elapsed or 7 innings have been played (whichever comes first). We will play until a winner has been declared
 - The last batter due up on the offensive team will be placed on 2nd base to start each inning in ITB
 - **NOTE:** A substitute with eligibility may be used to pinch run in this situation as the runner
- ❖ **Championship Play seeding criteria**, and if necessary the tournament winner shall be based upon (in order):
 - Points Per Game (Win = 2 points, Tie = 1 point, Loss = 0 points, Forfeit = (-1) point)
 - Least Runs Allowed Per Game
 - Most Runs Scored Per Game
 - Flip of a coin
 - **NOTE:** A forfeit is a 7-0 win. Games will only count if complete. All 6-0 teams will be seeded ahead of all 3-0 teams and 0-3 teams will be seeded ahead of all 0-6 teams when teams have an unequal # of games.
- ❖ **Equipment**
 - **Batting helmets must be NOSCAE stamped with a chinstrap and facemask.**
 - Jewelry must be removed with the exception of a medical alert bracelet. Any violation of this rule will require removal and re-entry use of that player. If it cannot be removed, she cannot play.
 - All ages are permitted to wear metal cleats
- ❖ **Offensive Team**
 - A **courtesy runner** (CR) can be used for the pitcher and/or the catcher at any time. The same runner may not be used for both. Only players not yet in the game may be used. If no substitutes are available, there is no CR.
 - The batter shall keep one foot in the box between pitches
- ❖ **Conferences**
 - Defensive: 3 per game, then pitcher is removed (can all be used in 1 inning). 1 per inning in ITB.
 - Offensive: 1 per inning between the coach and any offensive player.

Pitching

- A pitcher may be removed as a pitcher, move to a different defensive position and return as a pitcher only once per inning provided the return as a pitcher does not violate substitution or charged conference rule.
- The pitcher may start with one or both feet on the pitching rubber. If a pitcher takes a step backwards, it must be done prior to the start of the pitch.
- Distances: 14, 16 & 18U – 43', 12&U – 40', 10&U – 35'

❖ Miscellaneous Tournament Information:

- **Adult tournaments** – Players do not need to wear chinstraps or facemasks, jewelry may be worn, metal cleats may be used, & teams may start a game with 8 players – play at your own risk.
- **Game time is forfeit time** – to be regulated at the tournament director's discretion. In rain situation's, please do not leave the fields as the schedule may be adjusted without prior notice.
- **Home Team** shall be determined by the flip of a coin for ALL games
- **Championship Game** will not have a time limit; however the run rule will remain in place for ALL games
- **Head coach** must sign the umpire's game slip with the final score and winning team indicated. By signing, the head coach verifies that the score and winning team are correct. Once signed, the score is final.
- **PONY now allows the use of an EP (see below)**
- **ALL players**, both starters and substitutes, may re-enter the game one time.
- **Protests** on a "rule interpretation" will be settled by the field director in a timely manner. A \$50 cash fee is required immediately or play continues. Protests cannot be made on an umpire's "judgment" call – only rule applications.
- **Practice and warm up areas** will be designated at check in. Please do not hang or climb on field fences.
- **Forfeits:** A team may forfeit no more than one game of bracket ball and advance in elimination round play
- **Shorthanded Play:** A team must have 9 players to start a game, however, after play has begun, a team may continue with 8 players but will record an automatic out where the 9th player would appear in the lineup.

❖ Additional Information:

- Announce all substitutions to the umpire -- avoid ejections.
- Coaches must remain in the dugout during the game. Non-playing members and coaches are to remain in dead-ball territory until time has been called by the umpire.
- Please do not impede the progress of the game – any signs of poor sportsmanship, actions that demean opposing players, fans, or the umpire are subject to be removed permanently from the game and premises. Any coach / player ejected from a ball game will be reviewed by the Tournament Committee and further action **may** be taken.
- Concessions are available at all fields. You may bring coolers. Please clean up after yourselves.
- **Alcohol is forbidden at ALL complexes.**
- Additionally please do not smoke near the players. Remove yourself to the parking lot or out of the way area.
- Pets must be kept on a leash and cleaned up after unless they are prohibited from the park premises.

❖ More On The EP (Rule 4, Section 6 – Replaces DP/Flex Player)

- Any team may use 1 or 2 extra players (EP) per game and it must be made known prior to the start of the game and properly indicated on the lineup. The use of an EP without indicating as such on the lineup is an illegal player.
- The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
- The EP may play defense at any time without her status being effected. She may go in and out of the defensive lineup as often as needed as long as her position in the official batting order is not altered.
- The EP may be substituted for at any time with the substitute becoming the new EP. The substitute must be a player that has not been in the game.
- Penalty for a player not remaining in the game: Short handed rule applies.

- ❖ **The Fine Print:** The Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust the rules, schedules, brackets, and field locations as needed to complete the tournament. Every attempt will be made to honor the game minimum – however, if a situation develops where a team forfeits or the weather does not cooperate the Tournament Director will make an attempt to reschedule games, shorten games, or cancel games in order to complete the tournament in a timely fashion. If the need arises to determine a champion prior to all games being completed, we'll refer to the PONY handbook to determine a champion.