

## **SEED ROUND PLAY:**

- 90 minutes or 7 innings
- There are NO special requests for start times
- Teams will have choice of line-up during the seed rounds – HOWEVER line-up cards WILL BE REQUIRED at the pre-game conference before the game.

No new innings will be started with less than 5 minutes on the game clock. Seed Round Games CAN end in a tie. **Teams will flip to determine home team.**

**Inside the 10-minute mark** – ANY “time out” called will officially stop the game clock.

Do keep in mind our batting line-ups do not collapse in the event of injury.

Tiebreakers for seeding into game playoff or single elimination are as follows:

1. Win-Loss Record
  2. Head to Head (If Applicable)
  3. Average Runs Allowed
  4. Average Runs Scored
  5. Average Run Differential
  6. Coin Flip
- Any forfeited game will be scored as a 7-0 loss and the team is subject to expulsion from the tournament at the discretion of the tournament director.
  - Home teams will be responsible for the official scorekeeping of the game and the Visitor will be responsible for the scoreboard, if applicable, with adult (18+) only on the scoreboards.

## **PLAYOFF/BRACKET GAMES – IF APPLICABLE**

- PLAYOFF games **MAY NOT** end in a tie; the game **MUST** have a winner. Bracket games will be played by IFA/VTD Championship Rules.
  - Playoff play will be 7 innings or time limit; whichever comes first, finish the game. The ITB tiebreaker will go into effect, if applicable, the first full inning after time has expired.
- The ITB tiebreaker will be played as follows: the last completed at bat from the previous completed inning will be placed on first base. The two names above the last completed at bat sequentially listed in the batting order will return to second and third base respectively to load the bases and the ITB will begin with 1 out.

## **TOURNAMENT GROUND RULES – SEED ROUND OR BRACKET:**

- Run rules are as follows:
  - 12 after 3
  - 10 after 4
  - 8 after 5
- We will have 1 minute between each half inning. **This will be strictly enforced.** At the end of the 1 minute period the team not ready to begin will have balls or strikes called against them one every minute thereafter until competition begins.
- 3 warm-up pitches per half inning. If an injury occurs – the new pitcher will be given ample time to warm up.
- There will be no defensive huddles between outs. Any such meetings will be considered “official” defensive visits.
- Bracket play only: when there is 5 minutes or less left in regulation play, any “time out” called will also stop the game clock.
- All teams are required to be at their respective fields ready to play 20 minutes **PRIOR** to their scheduled game time. (Whether the field is on time or not) Both head coaches will meet their umpire crews or the tournament director for the upcoming game in front of home plate outside the field of play to complete the pre-game process. This will allow to manage game times a bit better with the ultimate goal of running on time. Everyone can appreciate in an event of this size the more organized, the smoother the tournament runs. Since the pre-games will be completed **BEFORE** the end of the previous game, we ask teams when entering the field for your game, please refrain from additional team warm-up drills - be prepared to begin competition immediately. We will start games early if we are able to do so. Always remember – Game time is forfeit time.
- Protest Fee’s – If a team wishes to protest there will be a \$150.00 fee. If the team who puts up the protest wins – your money will be refunded. Note – judgment calls **CANNOT BE PROTESTED.**
- In the event of inclement weather or other tournament interruption, we will make every attempt to notify you via our website e-mail and text system. We will also post any updates on the homepage of our website.

**PRE-GAME WARM UP WITH TEMPORARY FENCING:**

- Please warm up **INSIDE** the game field on the other side of the temporary fencing of the field you are set to play on. If temporary fencing is being utilized at a facility, the next teams scheduled may warm-up behind left and right field temporary fencing, however; teams **MAY NOT** warm-up in center field. It is the warm-up team’s responsibility to ensure that all practice balls stay outside of the playing field. Each team will receive one warning and will be required to stop warm-ups immediately upon the second violation.

Catchers **MUST** have a helmet on when catching a pitcher.

### **WEATHER RELATED STOPPAGES OF PLAY:**

- The tournament will make all decisions on play stoppage. IFA/VTD will monitor all weather situations and make the best decisions for our players, fans and coaches with regards to stoppage and resuming of games.
  - The weather statements will be available at [www.fastpitchsoftball.net](http://www.fastpitchsoftball.net) as well as on the homepage of our bracket scheduler [www.quickscores.com/ifavtd](http://www.quickscores.com/ifavtd). Please look to either of these for any weather updates, stoppages and how to resume play at a facility. Please realize with multiple facilities operating this may take some time to adjust and make changes. Check with the local IFA/VTD site official(s) for updates.

### **STAFFING AREAS:**

- Each facility will have a different location for the staff / umpires. IFA/VTD asks the following protocol be observed:
  - If a team needs to discuss an umpire issue, a uniformed IFA/VTD staff member will be at all sites, along with a site UIC to help you with your concern. **IN NO CASE** will a team representative / parent be allowed in the umpire area/staff room to directly discuss this issue without going through the proper channels.

### **X-TRA PLAYER**

- ***Rule 6.4: Xtra Player (XP) Rule has been expanded to include the 14/16/18 age divisions at the discretion of the tournament director (including championship play) in 2015.***

***Note: Please review this rule as it pertains to teams choosing to use 10 batters (XP) in the starting line-up being held to the same standards as a 9 player batting order with regards to an automatic out being taken when a team does not have an eligible player to fill a slot in the batting order. Some organizations simply collapse the line-up, "without penalty", while IFA/VTD holds them to the same standards as a regular 9 player line-up. Just a reminder that the XP may bat in any position in the batting order.***

### **RULEBOOK CLARIFICATION FOR 2015**

- **SECTION 4 – GAME** \_\_\_\_\_ Page  
28 (currently online only)

d) If a team is ahead by twelve or more runs after three innings, ten runs after four innings, eight or more runs after five innings.

e) Tournament games using time limits must complete a minimum of 50% of the scheduled time to constitute an official completed game.

i) For cancelled games that meet the 50% criteria, the last completed inning will be used to determine winners & tie breakers. Half innings will not be used, even if the home team is ahead, so as to allow fairness in the tiebreaker process...i.e. runs allowed/scored.

#### **RELIEF PITCHER WARM-UPS**

- When warming up a pitcher during the game, she must warm-up inside the playing field, throwing towards the outfield fence with a protector (may be a coach) with glove facing the batter, unless the facility has a specified area for relief pitcher warm ups. Again - catcher's **MUST** wear a helmet while catching a pitcher.

#### **SOFTBALLS:**

- Any optic yellow .47 core .375 compression softball. However, the umpire still has final say in the legality of the game balls.

#### **FACILITY RULES**

- Please be aware that utilizing multiple facilities, the rules may vary with regards to their policies.
- Please be mindful of the changes in policy as you attend different facilities and be willing to follow their rules in place.
- Have a responsible team member locate the policy for injured players to obtain a bag of ice, in case of on emergency. Please do not wait until an injury occurs to realize you do not know where to go for help. Most facilities have a location with their concession stand. Please check.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHER:**

- There will be a professional action photographer present at games at all facilities. This photographer will be allowed access to the fields during games. **NO** parents or fans will be allowed to gain access to the fields for pictures during play.