

### CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET PLAY:

- Regulation Bracket Time Limits:
  - 8U Bracket Games = 60 minutes or 7 innings
  - 10U/12U Bracket Games = 75 minutes or 7 innings
  - 14U/High School Bracket Games = 90 minutes or 7 innings
  - There are NO special requests for start times
- All teams must be available to play June 8, 2018.
- 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.
- ALL GAMES WILL UTILIZE A COIN FLIP TO DETERMINE HOME/VISITORS. The only exception to this will be the championship game in the Elite Division in which the undefeated team will be home.
- 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.
- Bracket games **MAY NOT** end in a tie; the game **MUST** have a winner.
  - Bracket 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:

- Run rules are as follows for ALL age groups (Except 8U):
  - 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.
- There will be NO infield after the 1<sup>st</sup> completed inning.
- 3 warm-up pitches per half inning. If an injury occurs – the new pitcher will be given ample time to warm up.
- 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.

## **ENFORCEMENT OF GOOD CONDUCT AND GAME ETIQUETTE:**

Parties in attendance will be expected to act in a manner that is respectful, courteous to all. Remedies for unsportsmanlike conduct by any person could but is not limited to the following:

- Ejection of a parent, coach and possibly their respective players when **PARENTS** demonstrate bad behavior (meaning parents could cause coaches and players to be ejected)
- Game forfeiture of that particular game if the coach cannot help the parent(s) to demonstrate good behavior.
- Removing coaches or parents for the entire event for confrontation in-game or post-game.

## **PRE-GAME WARM UP WITH AND WITHOUT 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.
- - If you are on a field with no temporary fencing then utilize the **MARKED** warm-up areas. Pitchers warming up during the game are inside the fence preferably in that same area behind the temporary fence and inside the chain link back fence. 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.

## **LINE-UP CARDS:**

You must provide your own line up cards. These cards contain four carbonless copies, which should be issued to the following at game time:

- Umpire
- Opposing Team
- Team should retain the hard copy

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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.

#### **NO INFIELD / OUTFIELD WARM-UPS**

- After the first complete inning, there will be **NO** infield / outfield warm-ups. This policy will help speed up the games. Only the pitcher will be allowed her warm-up pitches.

#### **SOFTBALLS:**

- The tournament has furnished you will .47 core .375 compression softballs. You are not required to use them. 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.

### **TOURNAMENT STAFF BY LOCATION**

Lloyd Engle – Veteran's Park – 210-393-1059

Kennedy Cowart – Central Park – 832-428-6639

Roger Smith – Central Park – 254-718-4816

Marcos Robinson – Bryan Regional Athletic Complex (BRAC) – 713-540-4008

Angela Belcher – Bee Creek Park – 512-516-9613

Brandon North - Bryan High School – 469-383-9027

Greg Chagulaf – Rudder High School – 979-571-2604