**EXHIBITION GAME/CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET PLAY**:

* Teams will be asked to warm up in the designated areas marked and noted at each location/field.
* Teams listed first OR on the top of the bracket will occupy the 3rd base dugout. Teams listed second or on the bottom of the bracket will occupy the first base dugout. In the event of a back to back game – the new team will simply take the open dugout.
* Regulation Exhibition/Bracket Time Limits
	+ 14U/16U/18U - 90 minutes or 7 innings, 10U/12U – 80 minutes or 7 innings.
* All teams must be available to play prior to the first scheduled game of the event.
* CSE plays all their events by the NCAA rule set with VERY few exceptions. Please turn in to our on-line coaches meeting for specific clarification. The NCAA softball rule book can be found at NCAA.org.
* Teams may use their choice of line-up HOWEVER you have no courtesy runner unless you have an available sub.
* Teams WILL turn in a line-up card.
* Please keep in mind the difference between a “starter” and a substitute and their acceptable roles and eligibility in regards to the line-up.
* Again – we follow NCAA rules therefore - please check our 2021 Approved Bat List. This follows the current NCAA/USA Approved list. **THIS MEANS NO YELLOW EASTON GHOST BATS.**
* All teams will provide their own .47 core .375 compression softball. The core and compression must be stamped and visible on the ball. Game officials will have the final say deeming the ball suitable for play.
* 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 teams while on defense will be allowed 1 coach on a bucket in contact with the fence. All other coaches MUST be inside the dugout.
* ALL GAMES WILL UTILIZE A COIN FLIP TO DETERMINE HOME/VISITORS INCLUSIVE OF EXHIBITION GAMES. 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. NOTE: Electronic scorekeeping platform such as “Gamechanger” CANNOT be used as an official book due to unlimited edits to real-time scoring and the lack of a footprint to follow the changes.
* Exhibition games will finish the batter and can end in a tie. 5 runs per half inning. Run rules are in effect. CSE could use a 1-man umpire mechanic during these games as they do not count toward positions or placement into the event.
* 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 tiebreaker will go into effect, if applicable, the first full inning after time has expired.
* The 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 tiebreaker 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.
* 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 the more organized, the smoother the tournament runs.
* **NOTE:** If you are in the midst of a back-to-back game – please be prepared to send someone to perform the pre-game flip for the next game as we will continue on with the pre-games without exception. 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 other than allowed by officials - 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.

**PLAYERS**

* Pitchers will NOT be allowed to lick their fingers AT ALL.
* Neither defensive nor offensive players will be allowed to spit into their hands, gloves, or on the ground for any reason. This applies to coaching staff as well.
* Any violation will bring an infraction. – Pitching – Ball on the batter, Hitter – Strike on the batter, Defensive player – Ball of the batter, COACH – an offensive or defensive penalty will be enforced.
* Additionally, if pitching, a new ball will be required from the infracting team.
* NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS PLEASE!

PROTESTS

* 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: UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

* 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. CSE, Inc. 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 as well as on the homepage of our bracket scheduler [www.quickscores.com/cse](http://www.quickscores.com/cse). Please look to here 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 CSE site official(s) for updates.

**STAFFING AREAS**:

* Each facility will have a different location for the staff / umpires. CSE, Inc. asks the following protocol be observed:
	+ If a team needs to discuss an umpire issue, a uniformed CSE, Inc. staff member will be at all sites 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

  **SECTION 4 – GAME STOPPAGE WEATHER CANCELLATION**

**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.**

1. **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.

**FACILITY RULES**

* Please be aware that utilizing multiple facilities, the rules may vary with regards to their policies.
* PLEASE MAKE YOUR FAMILIES AWARE OF THE LOCAL COVID-19 FACILITY POLICIES PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE EVENT. THESE POLICIES CAN BE FOUND ON EACH CITY WEBSITE PERTINENT TO THE LOCATION OF THE FACILITY. CSE, INC. IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENT OF THIS INFORMATION OR TO THE AGE OF THE INFORMATION. YOU AND YOUR TEAM MUST TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE ADHERANCE TO THESE 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 could be a professional action photographer present at games at all facilities. **NO** parents or fans will be allowed to gain access to the fields for pictures during play.

**TOURNAMENT STAFF BY LOCATION**

Bay Area Park - MARCUS ROBINSON – 713-540-4008

Friendswood Sports Park - ROGER SMITH – 254-178-4816