

2023 Firecracker Rules and Information



1. All USA Softball rules will be followed unless otherwise noted.
2. Check in with Tournament Director when arriving at the field for your first game. Rosters will be checked online at the tournament site through the USA Rep. All team managers must have proof of age at all times and submit those if requested by tournament personnel. Age determined on September 1, 2022. All Coaches must wear their USA badges or wristbands while on the field.
3. The Tournament Director must have a cell phone number to reach the team manager during the tournament. Please write this information on your roster.
4. Home team will be determined by a coin toss on the field with the umpire at home plate. Because coin toss is immediately prior to game, please take first available dugout. Completed lineup cards must be submitted 10 minutes before game time to the press box. In the championship game, the undefeated team will be the home team. If the 'IF' game is used, they will reverse home teams.
5. All teams may bat their entire roster during the entire tournament if desired. If while batting the entire roster, a player cannot fill in their turn at bat it will be an auto out. Free defensive substitution is allowed. Courtesy runners are allowed for pitchers and catchers only.
6. Tournament Balls will be provided. Used balls in good condition will be used throughout the tournament. The Umpire will bring the game balls to the field.
7. Game time is forfeit time, unless delayed by a late running game. It is your responsibility to check schedules, times, and any changes prior to leaving the fields. Bracket play will be updated throughout the tournament onsite and available through [quickscores.com/sportsoffice](https://www.quickscores.com/sportsoffice).
8. Game time will be kept by the umpire on the field and will start when the first warm up pitch is thrown. If you are home team, have your team ready on the field to start warm-ups as soon as meeting with the umpires is over. At the beginning of each half inning, or when one pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver the warmup pitches. No more than five warm up pitches may be thrown.
9. All Pool Play games will be played by the following guidelines:
 1. 8 run rule after 4 innings, 10 runs after 3 innings, or 1 hour.
 2. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 5 minutes (65 min).
 3. Pool games may end in a tie. If teams in a 4-team pool are tied at the end of their first game, a coin toss in the press box will determine which second game they play but a "tie" will be recorded for both teams.

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10. Each team will play two pool games. All teams from each pool will advance to the double elimination bracket play. Team seeding from each pool will be determined by the following:
 - A. Three Team Pools
 1. Seeding by record If teams are tied use the following:
 - a. Runs allowed between teams that are tied
 - b. Runs allowed versus 3rd pool team
 - c. Run differential
 - d. Coin toss
 - B. Four Team Pools
 1. 1st Place – Winner of the “Winner Pool Game”
 2. 2nd Place – Loser of the “Winner Pool Game”
 3. 3rd Place – Winner of the “Loser Pool Game”
 4. 4th Place – Loser of the “Loser Pool Game”
11. All Double Elimination Bracket play, except for the Championship game, will be played with the following guidelines:
 1. 8 run rule after 5 innings or 1 hour, 10 run rule after 4 innings, and 12 run rule after 3 innings.
 2. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes unless the game is tied.
 3. The International Tiebreaker rule will go into effect at the top of the 8th inning or any new inning after the time limit has expired.
 4. Championship games – No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes (18U & 16U will have 1 hour 45 minutes).
“If” games – No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes (18U & 16U will have 1 hour 30 minutes).
12. Any team that forfeits a game may be disqualified from the tournament.
13. The tournament committee will rule upon protests before play continues. All committee decisions are final.
14. The tournament committee reserves the right to make rulings not specifically covered herein, which is deemed to be in the best interest of the tournament. All decisions rendered by the tournament committee become final.
15. No infield practice will be allowed on fields inside the base path. No hitting practice will be allowed anywhere into the fences or across walkways.
16. The one-minute between innings and conference rule will be enforced.
17. Please wait for the teams to leave the dugout before your team enters. All dugouts must be cleaned up after each game by the team occupying the dugout. To keep the tournament running in a timely manner, **please have players hang bat bags on the outside of dugouts.**

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18. Teams will not be admitted inside the ballpark gates until 30 minutes before the first scheduled game of the day.
19. If bad weather creates serious scheduling problems or for any reason, the tournament committee has the right to alter formats of tournament play necessary to complete the tournament.
20. All those in attendance will be expected to comply with the Patron Code of Conduct. You may request a complete copy from the site director at your field.