



## **24<sup>th</sup> Annual BRING THE HEAT Softball Tournament Rules**

**USA rules will apply in all divisions except as modified by these tournament rules.**

1. All teams must be league or All-Star teams made up from league teams. No travel ball or club teams will be permitted.
2. All teams are limited a maximum of 13 league players on a roster, plus 3 USA Softball registered add-ons. 6U and 8U teams may field 10 players (including catcher). 10U-16U/HS may field a minimum of 8 and maximum of 9 players.
3. Team rosters, with Manager and coaches listed, must be turned in at the check in table no later than 60 minutes prior to a team's first scheduled game. Check-in will be available at all locations. Players may only be on a roster for one team. Team rosters become frozen at check-in time.
4. USA cards or Birth Certificates for all team members are required. Age is determined as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Leagues must be registered with USA Softball.
5. No more than 4 adults will be allowed in the dugout during the game.
6. **During pool play**, the team listed first on the schedule should occupy the third base dugout (unless occupied from previous game). A coin toss prior to start of the game will determine which team is the "home" team for that game.
7. **During all elimination games** the "home" team will be the higher seed. Home teams will occupy 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout except when it is more convenient to leave a team in its dugout when playing back-to-back games. **During all championship games**, coin toss for home team.
8. The home team must provide a scorekeeper and will be the official scorekeeper. Line-up sheets must be handed to the official scorekeeper no later than 10 minutes before game time. Pitchers and Catchers must be listed on the line-up sheet.
9. Both teams must sign official score card. If not signed the score card provided to the site director by the umpire will be used as the official score card.

10. Playing Field and Equipment:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Pitching Distance</u>	<u>Base Distance</u>	<u>Ball</u>
6U/8U	30 Feet	60 Feet	10" Soft Dot RIF1
10U	35 Feet	60 Feet	11" RIF10 / 11" Dream Seam
12U	40 Feet	60 Feet	12" Dream Seam
14U	43 Feet	60 Feet	12" Dream Seam
16U/HS	43 Feet	60 Feet	12" Dream Seam

11. **No infield practice will be allowed before ANY games.** Warm-up fields/locations will be designated at each respective field. Field 1 outfield can be used for F3 and F4 games. Field 2 outfield can be used for 6u warm-up only (DO NOT INTERFERE WITH LIVE GAME BALL). Behind Field 5 is space for warm-ups for F7 games. GHLL games will have a designated area determined at check-in.

12. Game forfeiture time is 5 minutes after the official start time.

13. Any Manager, Coach, or Player ejected from a game shall remain ejected for the remainder of the game and must sit out the next game. Upon ejection the individual must leave the vicinity of the field.

14. There will be NO PROTESTS allowed, umpire decisions are final.

15. USA re-entry rules apply with one exception. If any injury occurs and no one is left to re-enter, a player may re-enter to replace the injured player for defense only. Her turn in the batting order will be skipped without penalty unless below 9 players.

16. Maximum runs per half inning (**POOL PLAY**): All divisions will use the 4-up rule- a team may score up to their maximum division runs per inning -OR- as many as is needed to take the lead by 4 runs in that inning, **whichever is greater**.

- a. 6U = 4 runs per inning -or- 4 above a tie (whichever is greater)
- b. 8U = 4 runs per inning -or- 4 above a tie (whichever is greater)
- c. 10U = 4 runs per inning -or- 4 above at tie (whichever is greater)
- d. 12U = 5 runs per inning -or- 4 above a tie (whichever is greater)
- e. 14U = 5 runs per inning -or- 4 above a tie (whichever is greater)
- f. 16U/HS = 5 runs per inning -or- 4 above a tie (whichever is greater)

**During Elimination Games and the Championship Game, there is no run limit per inning.**

17. Teams MUST bat Round Robin for all Pool Play games (All Rostered Players Bat). Round Robin batting is mandatory for all 8U elimination, and Championship games. Round Robin batting is optional for 10U-16U/HS elimination and championship games. Designated player, Extra Player (EP) and DP/FLEX may be used for 10U-16U/HS

elimination and championship games. If a team elects not to bat all players, USA rules apply. The player re-entry rule is in effect. An otherwise ineligible player may re-enter the game, one time, if a player is injured on a team that has used all of its substitutes. If Round Robin batting is used then the Courtesy Runner for the Pitcher and Catcher will be the last recorded outs.

18. The USA mercy rule is in effect. 15 runs after three innings, 12 runs after four innings, 8 runs after five innings.
19. **Pool play games** – For all divisions, one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes **DROP DEAD**. Pool games may end in a tie.

**Drop Dead Rule:** If time expires before the inning completes the score will revert unless the home team has scored the same or more runs in the incomplete inning than the visitor team did in the incomplete inning.

20. **Elimination and Simi-Final games** – one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes time limit after which no new inning may start. Games cannot end in a tie. In elimination and semi-final games, International Tie Breakers (ITB) rules go into effect in the top of the first inning after time expires. **Championship games 10U-16U/HS** will be one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes time limit after which no new inning may start. If at the conclusion of 7 innings the game is tied, then the ITB will go into effect. **Championship 8U** will be one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes time limit after which no new inning may start. If at the conclusion of 6 innings the game is tied, then the ITB will go into effect.
21. **8U Modified Rules** – **1) No Infield Fly Rule 2) Round-Robin batting mandatory.** In the case of an injury, last out may be used for the injured player at umpire’s discretion **3) 10 players on defense 4) COLD home plate 5) maximum one base stolen per pitch,** runners may not advance on an overthrow, even if the ball goes out of play.
22. Trophies or Rings will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams in all divisions.
23. Each team is given “Sportsmanship” awards for their first 2 games. Choose one player on the opposing team that displays good sportsmanship as defined below and give her the award (by name if possible) after the game. What to look for: Hustle, supporting teammates, responding positively to adversity.
24. Tie breaker criteria for entry into elimination rounds:

**2 team tie breaker**

1. Winning Percentage
2. Head to Head results
3. Fewest Total Runs Against
4. Total Runs For
5. Total Runs Differential

**3 team tie breaker**

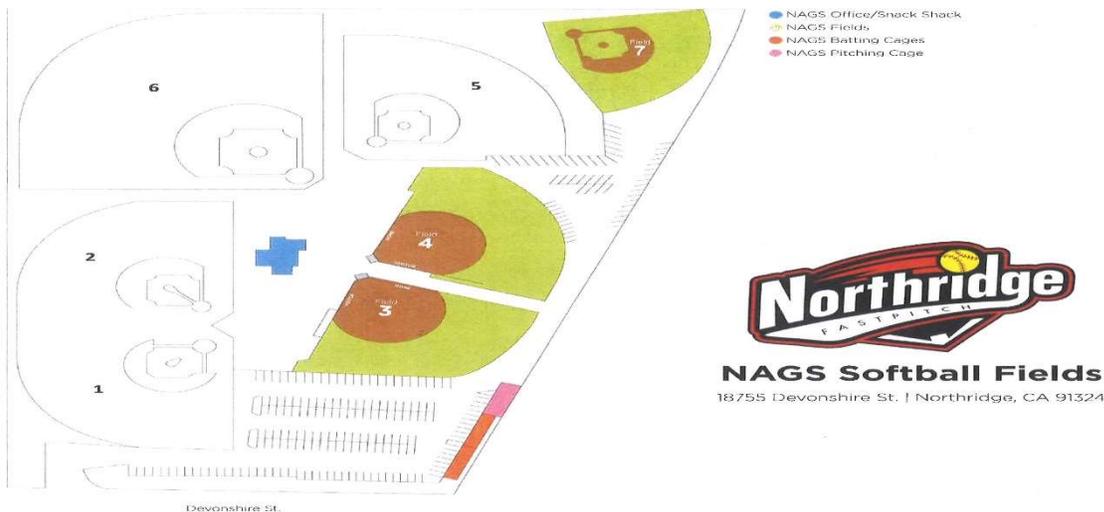
1. Winning Percentage
2. Fewest Total Runs Against
3. Total Runs For
4. Total Runs Differential
5. Coin Toss

6. Coin Toss

25. Umpires and/or Tournament Site Director(s) shall have the responsibility of ejecting coaches, players, or spectators for abusive language or other acts that are contrary to the objective and purpose of USA Softball.

26. The tournament committee will resolve any situation not covered by the above rules or in the USA rulebook. All tournament committee decisions will be final.

27. Tournament Locations: NAGS WARM UP Fields: 1 or 2 (outfield only)  
LOCATION 1 (NAGS): **NO DOGS ALLOWED, NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS PLEASE**  
18755 Devonshire Street  
Northridge, CA 91324



LOCATION 2 (Granada Hills Little League):  
16035 Rinaldi Street  
Granada Hills, CA 91344  
Fourth Field (dirt infield) to the LEFT

28. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS ENCOURAGED!!!! Umpires will stop play and can charge a strike on the batter if teams time/escalate their chant at the pitcher's release (ie: ah, ah, ah, ah CHOOOOO!!!). This will be at the umpire's discretion only and NOT grounds for protest.

29. Hidden Commodity Rule: Every pitcher must be played during pool play. Any pitcher that did not pitch during pool play is ineligible during elimination play. Unless that pitcher was absent.

All visitors to NAGS / Granada Hills Little League fields are expected to adhere to the following rules:

1. No dogs or other pets allowed.
2. At NAGS locations, there is no dirt fan stands so **please no shelled snacks** without a cup to discard the shells in. Please DO NOT discard shells or trash on the floor or dugouts.
3. Enter at your own risk.
4. Park at your own risk.
5. No alcoholic beverages.
  - a. Violation: suspension of the individual(s) and affiliated team(s)/group(s) from our tournament.
  - b. **PLEASE ADVISE ALL your families that alcohol is prohibited and will result in a TEAM FORFEIT!!!! No sneaking in cooler chests, no sneaking in fast-food cups, no sneaking in Solo cups, no drinking in the port-a-potty, etc.**
6. Smoking is only allowed in the parking lots.
7. Please use trash cans.
8. 10mph speed limit at all times.

### **RAINOUT POLICY:**

No games played- 100% refund

1 game played- 50% refund

2 games played- No refund

### **Modified Rules: 6U Division Only**

The 6U division shall play by USA Softball Playing Rules and Codes as outlined in the 2023 Official Guide with the following exceptions:

#### **Game Length:**

1. Pool play games are 1:20 **drop dead** or at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. A batter in the box when time expires will be allowed to finish her at bat. **Ties will stand.**
  - a. **DROP DEAD RULE:** if time expires before the inning completes the score will revert unless the home team has scored the same or more runs in the incomplete inning than the visitor team did in the incomplete inning.
2. Elimination play will not start a new inning after 1 hour and 10 minutes. The championship game will be 5 innings or no new after 1:10. If a tie still stands after either 5 innings or time has expired the ITB rules will be used thereafter until a winner is determined.

#### **General Rules:**

1. Pool Play, Elimination, and Championship games: Four (4)-up Rule. A team may score up to 4 runs per inning -or- as many runs as is needed to take the lead by 4 runs in that inning, whichever is greater.
2. No mercy rule.
3. No infield fly rule.
4. The home team will be responsible for the score.

5. Coach pitching distance is 30 feet from home plate. A chalk circle will be drawn around the center of the pitching area and will be called the “pitcher’s circle”.
6. The player pitcher may stand anywhere behind the pitching rubber with both feet in the pitching circle when the adult coach pitcher is pitching.
7. After a ball is put in play, the coach pitcher **MUST** get out of the way of the defensive team players who are attempting to field the ball. **If the pitching coach is hit by the batter’s ball, that batter is out and any base runners are returned to their last base.**
8. The coach pitcher **cannot** coach base runners from the pitcher circle, nor can he/she coach the batter after the ball is hit.
9. Violation of rule 7 and/or 8 will result in a **dead ball out** on the batter and all runners will be returned to the last base they occupied at the start of the play.
10. Music can be played at a reasonable sound level during a batter’s walk-up to the batter’s box and between innings. **NO MUSIC DURING** live play wherein the pitcher and batter are ready. **NO NOISE MAKERS (whistles, rattles, cranks, etc)** during live play wherein the pitcher and batter are ready.

#### **Offensive Rules:**

1. Round Robin batting order must be used in the 6U division. Every player must bat.
2. Each batter receives 5 pitches from a coach. If the last pitch results in a foul ball, the batter will get additional pitches until the batter either misses the ball completely or fails to swing. **No tee ball in this tournament.**
3. There will be a 10-foot arc in front of home plate extending from the first base line to third base line. A hit ball that does not pass this line is considered a foul ball.
4. Base runners cannot leave their base until after the ball is hit and can only advance to home on a ball put in play. **If a runner is off the base when the ball is hit, the ball is dead, the runner returns to the base and batter bats again.**
5. For any ball hit in play, play will be stopped and dead ball called when the ball is caught in or passes through the pitcher’s circle. If the base runner(s) have already passed the halfway line at the time the ball enters the pitcher’s circle, they will advance to that base(s), otherwise they will return to their last base reached safely. Once a ball is declared “dead”, it cannot be made “alive” again.
6. The Umpire will determine if an overthrown ball has gone out of play at which point if a runner has already passed the halfway line to the next base, then they can advance to that base.

#### **Defensive Rules:**

1. No more than 10 players will be allowed on the field at one time.
2. With 10 players on the field there will be 4 outfielders.
3. **All outfielders must be standing in the outfield or at least 10 feet behind the base line at the beginning of each play.**
4. Two (2) coaches are allowed in the outfield when their team takes the field.

#### **Umpires:**

1. All decisions made by the umpire are final.
2. Violations that cause ejection or team forfeiture, will NOT cause any amount of refund.

**Brackets:** This year we were fortunate enough to double bracket most divisions. In an effort to preserve the integrity of the standings, the following will apply:

1. No “Gold” Team will be permitted to fall into the Silver/Bronze Bracket. **This will be determined by the league’s Tournament Director.**
2. Any Gold Team that places low enough in the standings, may be manually moved to the appropriate seed in the Silver Bracket.

Good Luck to EVERY TEAM!!!! Thank you for ending your 2024 Summer with NAGS.

Tournament Director: Adrian Flansburg 818-800-9237 via text or call. Please call to ask about any rule(s), warm up location, code of conduct, address, etc. Managers will be responsible for knowing the rules prior to game time.

Live Streaming Code is available on our homepage ([www.nags.rocks](http://www.nags.rocks))

[ags.godogsports.com](http://ags.godogsports.com)

Login Code: 2024AGS1