



## Special Rules for Fall Ball 2022 Tournament San Dieguito Youth Softball League

This is an Instructional League only. "All Star/Winter/Select" teams will not be allowed.  
The tournament will follow USA Softball rules unless otherwise specified below.

### All Divisions

1. Four runs max per inning; no open innings.
2. Home team/dugouts – In **pool play**, coin toss determines home team and the team listed first in the schedule occupies first base dugout. In **bracket play**, the higher seed is the home team and occupies first base dugout. Exception: Teams playing back to back on the same field do not need to switch dugouts.
3. Bring to games: Lineup cards and scorebook.
4. No limits on innings pitched.
5. Minimum playing time
  - a. Offense: All players bat, regardless of time on the bench on defense.
  - b. Defense: Rotation of Fielders shall ensure every player plays an infield position for at least 1 inning per 4 innings, and 2 for 6 innings.
  - c. Defense: No player will sit out more than one consecutive inning of defensive play. Before one player sits out a second defensive inning, all players must have sat out at least once.
6. Short Handed Rule: A team may play all or part of a game with a minimum of 8 players. A team may start with 8 players, but when the next player arrives, they must be inserted into the batting lineup in the 9<sup>th</sup> position. If another player arrives, they must be inserted in the 10<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting lineup and so on with each arriving player. A team playing short handed with 8 players MUST take an out EVERY time the 9<sup>th</sup> spot comes up as per USA Softball rules.
7. Game Time Limits:
  - a. Pool Play: 1 hour, 30 minutes "no new inning" and 1 hour, 45 minutes, drop dead (current batter will be allowed to finish the at bat if time expires after the batter has entered the batter's box and the umpire has signaled the pitcher to pitch). If the home team is at bat and is ahead or the score is tied at the end of drop dead time, the game is over and the score stands. If the visiting team is at bat or the home team is at bat but trailing, the score will revert back to the last completed inning.
  - b. Bracket play: 1 hour, 30 minutes "no new inning" unless the score is tied. If the score is tied at the "no new inning" time, the game will continue using the International Tie Breaker (description below) until a victor emerges.
    - i. When the trailing team is at bat and "no new inning" time is reached, if the run differential is greater than 4, the game is over.
  - c. Mercy rule is not in effect, teams will play the full allotted time regardless of score.
  - d. International Tie Breaker rules will be used to break ties only in bracket play. Pool play games may result in a tie.
  - e. Championship Final Game:
    - i. 1 hour, 30 minutes "no new inning".
      1. When the trailing team is at bat and "no new inning" time is reached, if the run differential is greater than 4, the game is over.
8. This is a pool play tournament. Teams will then be seeded into a single elimination bracket.



9. Team with the best record in pool play games becomes #1 seed in the bracket portion, 2<sup>nd</sup> best record is #2 seed, etc. Seven (7) is the max run differential used to calculate seeding for bracket games. In the event of ties, the following tie breakers will be in effect:
  - a. Tie Breaker #1: Head to head W-L (if more than 2 teams are tied, skip to tie breaker #2)
  - b. Tie Breaker #2: Pool play games total run differential
  - c. Tie Breaker #3: Pool play games runs scored
  - d. Tie Breaker #4: Coin toss
10. Protests: There will be no protests permitted. All calls made by the umpire will be final.

## 8U

1. Ball – 10-inch Worth RIF Level 1; Balls will be provided.
2. Rules re: Player Pitch/Coach Pitch/Walks:
  - a. Batters will go to “coach pitch” if the bases are loaded and the pitcher throws four balls to the batter: Head Coach or Assistant Coach will enter the game to pitch to the batter. The batter will “assume the strike count” which means she will only be pitched the remaining number of strikes before she is called out. If a batter fouls off a pitch from the coach with 2 strikes, then she will get additional pitches until she either hits the ball fair or strikes out.
  - b. Coaches are required to pitch from inside the pitching circle. When a coach is pitching, the defensive player assigned to the pitcher position must have at least 1 foot inside the pitching circle, but not in front of the pitcher until the pitch is released. If the pitcher does not want to stand in the circle (when the coach is pitching) she must leave the field of play until play is over.
3. Other rules:
  - a. Hit by Pitch: A batter hit by a pitch is required to take 1<sup>st</sup> base.
  - b. 10 players allowed on defense, 4 outfielders must start play and stay in outfield grass (or approximately 10 feet behind the baseline) until the ball is in play.
  - c. Defensive coaches may be in the outfield during play.
  - d. All players on the roster must bat on offense.
  - e. Bunting is allowed during Player Pitch, but not during Coach Pitch.
  - f. One stolen base per pitch during player pitch, may not advance on an overthrow on a stolen base attempt. A base runner may not steal home. No stealing during Coach Pitch.
  - g. Home plate is “cold” - a base runner is allowed home only when a ball is hit into play.
4. Background-checked coaches/adults from the defensive team are allowed on the outfield grass for instructional purposes.
5. If a tie results after playing one full inning of International Tie Breaker, the higher seeded team will be declared the winner.

## 10U

1. Ball – 11-inch Worth RIF Level 10 or Dream Seam, Balls will be provided.

## 12U

1. Ball – 12-inch Worth Dream Seam, Balls will be provided.
2. Since this is a “Best out of Three Games” format, all games played will be considered “Championship Final Games”.



### **International Tie Breaker**

When a softball game is tied with the game at the “no new inning cutoff”, the International Tie Breaker rule goes into effect. At the start of each inning, a runner is placed on second base with the intent of accelerating opportunities to score and bringing the game to a speedier conclusion. The runner is the last batter to make an out in the previous inning and the on-deck batter starts the inning at bat. At least one full inning must be played, allowing each team an at-bat and the same chance to score runs. If the home team scores to take the lead in the bottom half of the inning the game will end immediately. If the score remains tied, the same process is used in each following inning until a victor emerges (one team scores more runs than the other at the end of a completed inning).