

Buckeye Softball Classic Tournament Rules

Nondiscrimination & Inclusion Policy

- The Buckeye Softball Classic is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all participants and attendees.
- The tournament does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender identity or expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its activities or operations.
- This policy applies to all aspects of the tournament, including but not limited to player participation, team selection, volunteers, vendors, and event operations.
- All players, coaches, managers, officials, and spectators are expected to uphold these standards. Any behavior that violates this policy may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the tournament.

Governing Rules

- Current USA Softball rules will govern tournament play except as modified below for the Buckeye Softball Classic.

Divisions

- Divisions will follow the iPride/ASANA Softball ratings guidelines. Each player must have a iPride/ASANA Softball rating prior to the start of the tournament.

Player Registration

- All players must be registered before participating in any game.
- Registration closes on Saturday at the first pitch of the final scheduled game.
- No player registrations will be accepted on Sunday.

Game Play

- Pool play games: 50 minutes
- Bracket play games: 60 minutes
- All games begin with a 1-1 count, with one courtesy foul after two strikes.
- In pool play, the inning will be completed at time expiration.
- Championship games (Trophy Games) will be played to completion (7 innings, no time limit).

Bracket Seeding

- Seeding is determined by:
 - Record
 - Runs Allowed
 - Point Differential
 - Runs Scored
 - Ties are permitted in pool play games.

- Ties during tournament games will be handled as follows:
 - The last batter in the previous inning will be placed on 2nd base
 - Each batter gets one-pitch
 - Foul Ball – caught or dropped is an out
 - Strike – swing or batter is out
 - Ball – player is awarded a walk
 - Batted Ball – outcome of the play in the field

Protests

- Judgment calls (balls, strikes, safe/out, etc.) are not subject to protest.
- A team wishing to protest must notify the plate umpire and submit a completed protest form.
- To be valid, a protest must be declared and submitted correctly before the end of the game. Game ends upon completion of the last out.
- Protests will be resolved on-site by the tournament representative, UIC, and both managers.
- Although all individual players ranking have been verified using the most up to date iPride Softball ratings, individual player ratings may be protested, and iPride Softball rules regarding upheld protests apply.

Player Eligibility & Ratings

- Teams must submit their roster and player ratings prior to tournament play.
- If a player’s rating cannot be verified in the iPride Softball database, the tournament director (or designee) will reach out to the player’s member city league’s leadership to verify the rating. The respective league must either send documentation showing the player’s rating within their league or have the Commissioner/Assistant Commissioner sign off on their rating in order for the Buckeye Softball Classic Tournament to accept the rating.
- If a player’s rating cannot be verified through the iPride Softball database or the player’s current member league, that player will be assigned the maximum individual rating allowed for the division in which they are registered.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring their team does not exceed the division rating cap at any time. Those caps are as follows:
- Ratings and Team Caps:
 - E Division: Teams rated up to 70, individual players up to 8
 - D Division: Teams rated up to 95, individual players up to 10
 - C Division: Teams rated up to 130, individual players up to 14
 - B Division: Teams rated up to 170, individual players up to 18
- Each team will ONLY be allowed to have THREE players on their respective rosters with a non-iPride Softball verified rating.

Home Team:

- The home team will be determined by a coin toss for all pool play games.
- The highest seeded team will be the home team for bracket games.
- The home team for the Championship game will be the undefeated team, and home team during the IF game will be determined by a double coin flip with both teams having a loss during double elimination. The Line-up shall contain first name, last name, and uniform number of each player.

Player Line-ups:

- Lineups must include each player's first name, last name, and uniform number.
- Lineups must be submitted to the umpire prior to the start of each game.
- Teams must begin and finish with at least nine (9) players to avoid a forfeit. An out will be recorded every time the vacant 10th batting position has a turn to bat. If a 10th player arrives before the start of the third inning, the player must be immediately entered into the game. Any other player arriving after this shall be entered as a substitute.
- Teams may bat up to 12, using two (2) extra hitters. Extra hitters must be indicated as EH on the line up sheet. If a team starting with 10 or more players on the line up loses a player during the game and has no one to substitute, then an out will be assessed whenever that player would have come up to bat. The Line-up shall contain first name, last name, and uniform number of each player.

Scorekeeping

- The home team is the official scorekeeper.
- Both teams are responsible for verifying the score at the end of each half inning.
- Once both teams leave the field, the umpire-signed scorecard is official. Alcohol: No alcoholic beverages will be permitted in the dugouts or on the field.

Bats

- Must meet current USA Softball guidelines.
- All teams are subject to bat inspection before the start of the game or at any point during game play.

Uniforms & Equipment

- Each player must wear a jersey with a unique number.
- No two players on the same team may wear the same number.
- Metal cleats are prohibited.

Turf Fields:

- The following items are prohibited on the turf fields: Sunflower Seeds, Food, Tobacco Products, Golf equipment, Gum, Soda/Pop, Glass, Flammable Liquids, Sports Drinks, Juice, and Pets.
- NO batting practice or pitching practice (warming up) is permitted on any part of the field turf (including sidelines)

Jewelry / Loose Accessories:

- No Jewelry is allowed.
- Medical alert ID bracelets or necklaces are allowed, but shall be worn in a way that does not present a hazard.
- Casts, or other items judged dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game.
- Players will be asked to remove jewelry, if they fail to do so, that player will be removed from the game.

Run Rule:

- 20 runs after 3 innings
- 15 runs after 4 innings
- 10 runs after 5 innings

Home Run Rule:

- B – 2 per game
- C – 1 per game
- D/E/Women's+ – 0 per game
- "Over the fence" home runs over the division limit are recorded as an inning ending out.
- The team that fouls off a ball or hits over the fence is responsible for retrieving the ball.

Pitching:

- 6ft – 12ft arc

Orange Safety Bag:

- The orange safety bag must be used by the runner on plays at first base.
- Runners must avoid contact or must slide on close plays at second, third, or home plate.
- If they do not, the umpire may call the runner out or eject them from the game. For additional information please see USA Softball rule book.

Courtesy Runner:

- One courtesy runner is permitted each inning. It may be any player that is listed on your roster at the beginning of the game.

Player Inclusion Policy:

- Disability Definition - iPride Softball/International Pride Softball defines disability as: the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.
- Runner Rule - The player with the accommodation must reach first base. The PIP runner can only be requested at the next dead ball, once the next ball is pitched that PIP runner is no longer allowed for that at bat. The PIP runner must also be requested before any Courtesy Runner or Substitutes. The PIP runner cannot be replaced by a substitute. The PIP runner shall be the last recorded out. If the PIP runner is injured and cannot complete the game, then they

may be replaced by the previous recorded out. In the event that the last recorded out also receives a PIP Modification for running the previous recorded out will be used. If that PIP runner while on base is due to bat, the previous recorded out can replace that PIP runner with no penalty.

Weather:

- All Managers' must check in with the tournament officials' before leaving the park during inclement weather.
- It is the manager's responsibility to inform his/her players of correct game times or possible delays.

Ejections, Conduct & Discipline

- Teams are responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators. Repeated or severe misconduct may result in team disqualification.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated under any circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Arguing or disputing umpire decisions in an aggressive or prolonged manner
 - Use of abusive, threatening, or profane language
 - Physical intimidation or contact
 - Discriminatory language, slurs, or harassment of any kind
- Any player, coach, or manager ejected from a game will be:
 - Removed for the remainder of that game
 - Suspended for the team's next full game
- A second ejection of the same individual during the tournament will result in:
 - Removal from the remainder of the tournament
- Fighting or physical altercations at any time will result in:
 - Immediate ejection
 - Removal from the remainder of the tournament
- Possible removal of additional involved participants at the discretion of the tournament committee
- Umpires are not required to issue warnings before enforcing ejections. Warnings, if given, are at the umpire's discretion.
- The tournament director and/or tournament committee have final authority on all conduct-related decisions and may impose additional discipline, including team disqualification, if deemed necessary.