

# PHBA 2018 Field of Dreams Tournament

## Rules and Regulations - Fast Pitch Softball

Revised: July 12, 2018

### General Tournament Rules

- A. Rules of Play: USA 2018 Official Rules of Softball apply to this B/C tournament, except where modified by these rules.
- B. Home Team vs Away Team:
  - I. Pool Play: Home Team will be determined by coin toss, with the team traveling furthest calling the flip. Dugouts first come first serve.
  - II. Bracket Play: Highest seed will be home team. Home team will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side, unless a team is already occupying a dugout from the previous game. Teams will not be asked to switch dugouts for back-to-back games at the same field.
- C. Pre-game: Umpires and managers (or their representative) will meet at home plate 10 minutes before game time, or as called by the plate umpire. Managers will exchange line-ups at this time. If line-ups are not provided by game time, the game will be forfeit with no grace period.
- D. Post-game: Each team is responsible for cleaning up its dugout and its spectator area.
- E. Score keeping: The home team shall be responsible for filling out an official score sheet (available at the PO Field snack shack) after each game, and have it signed by both managers and both umpires. It must then be submitted to the plate umpire.
- F. Protests: Valid protests will be resolved immediately by the umpires after consulting printed rules.
  - I. If necessary, the protesting team can ask for a final decision to be made by the Tournament Director with a \$100.00 deposit. If protesting team loses the protest, they also forfeit the \$100.00 and the decision is final.
- G. Facility: Due to the use of City and School district facilities, the following are not allowed:
  - I. Alcohol. The use of alcohol at any of our facilities or in any of the facility parking areas may result in personal or team expulsion from the tournament.
  - II. Barbeques.
  - III. Overnight Parking or oversized vehicles in any of our facility parking lots.

**Updates: our scores and bracket updates will be posted on our site:**

<http://phpanthers.leag1.com/Page.asp?n=95967&org=phpanthers>

## Game Play

### H. Player Counts:

- I. 8U: 10 Players are permitted defensively on the field at one time, including 4 outfielders. 9 players are required to start of the game. As few as 7 may continue play if players leave due to injury and there are no bench players to replace them. All active players bat in rotation regardless of use defensively.
- II. 10U / 12U / 14U / 16U: One EP is allowed and must remain in the same spot in the batting order throughout the game. DP/Flex is ok. During Pool play (Friday and Saturday), a team may bat additional batters up to and including their entire roster.

### I. Courtesy runners:

- I. A courtesy runner may be used for the current pitcher and/or catcher at any time. Per USA Softball Rule 7, Section 2F, any player may be used as a courtesy runner for a pitcher/catcher.
- II. Any player may be used as a courtesy runner for an injured player.
- III. If a player is on base when their spot in the line-up comes up, the player will be removed from the base to take their ordered turn at bat. The person for whom they were runner will be called out.

### J. Re-entry:

- I. 8U: Free defensive substitutions allowed.
- II. 10U / 12U / 14U / 16U: A player, who has previously played, may re-enter the game for an injured player provided there are no other substitutes available.

### K. Mercy / Run-Ahead Rule: All games including Pool, Elimination and Championship will be called if one team is ahead:

- I. 15 runs after 3 innings.
- II. 12 runs after 4 innings.
- III. 8 runs after 5 innings.

### L. Field Dimensions:

- I. 8U: Mound-to-plate: 30 feet Base-to-base: 55 feet
- II. 10U: Mound-to-plate: 35 feet Base-to-base: 60 feet
- III. 12U: Mound-to-plate: 40 feet Base-to-base: 60 feet
- IV. 14U / 16U: Mound-to-plate: 43 feet Base-to-base: 60 feet

### M. Cleats:

- I. 8U / 10U / 12U: Molded cleats may be worn on all fields.
- II. 14U / 16U: Metal or molded cleats may be worn on all fields.

## Time Limits

### Pool Games (Friday and Saturday)

During pool play on Friday and Saturday, games will be:

- I. A maximum of 6 innings.
- II. No new inning will begin after 75 minutes.
- III. The Mercy / Run-Ahead Rule (General Play rule M) will be in effect.
- IV. The game will be called "Drop Dead" by the umpire at 85 minutes.
  - a) If a game is called "Drop Dead" after the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the top half of an inning, and the Home Team is leading, the game will end and the current score will become the official game score.
  - b) If a game is called "Drop Dead" under any other circumstance, the game will end and the score will revert back to the score at the end of the previous complete inning.

### Bracket Games (Sunday)

During Bracket play and the Championship game on Sunday, games will be:

- I. A maximum of 6 innings.
- II. No new inning will begin after 75 minutes.
- III. The Mercy / Run-Ahead Rule (General Play rule M) will be in effect.
- IV. There will be no "Drop Dead" play on Sunday.
- V. After 85 minutes, any new inning will commence using international rules. A runner will be placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base to start the inning and play will continue.
  - a) The runner will be the last recorded out from the previous inning, or an available substitute from the bench.
  - b) A Manager/Coach substitute from his bench into the last out spot per USA Substitution Rules.

### Championship Games

The Championship games will be:

- I. A maximum of 7 innings.
- II. The Mercy / Run-Ahead Rule (General Play rule M) will be in effect.
- III. There will be no "Drop Dead" play on Sunday.
- IV. After 90 minutes, any new inning will commence using international rules. A runner will be placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base to start the inning and play will continue.
  - a) The runner will be the last recorded out from the previous inning
  - b) A Manager/Coach substitute from his bench into the last out spot per USA Substitution Rules.

## Pool Play Standings

Bracket seeding will be based on the results of the Pool Play. Pool play results will be calculated using the following metrics in the following order:

- I. Total Win/Loss record for pool play (1 point per win, ½ point per tie.)
- II. Head to Head Competition
- III. Total Runs Allowed<sup>1</sup> for all pool games
- IV. Total Runs Scored for all pool games
- V. Coin Flip by the Tournament Director at the conclusion of Pool Play.

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<sup>1</sup> Forfeits are given the final score of 7-0, with the winning team scoring 7 runs, and the losing team scoring 0 runs.

## 8U Game Play

The following section applies to 8U-specific game play for Pitching, Base Running, Fielding, and Batting.

### 8U Pitching

- I. Players will pitch to opposing team.
- II. Pitching Limits: There is a two inning limit for pitchers per game, with a single additional inning per pitcher if the game goes into a 5<sup>th</sup> inning or beyond.
  - a. A single pitch thrown during an inning constitutes as having pitched that inning and counts as a complete inning in terms of the above inning limit.
- III. Coach-pitching: A coach-pitcher will enter the circle after the 4<sup>th</sup> ball have been called by the umpire during an at bat.
  - a. The Coach-pitcher must pitch “legal” pitches from pitching rubber.
  - b. The coach/pitcher will assume the remaining strike count from the player/pitcher strike count and will throw no more than three (3) pitches with the umpire calling balls/ strikes.
  - c. If the final pitch is not either put into play or fouled, the batter is out. If the ball is fouled, the batter is given an additional coach-pitch, which becomes the new final pitch.
  - d. If a batted ball hits the coach/pitcher the ball is dead and the batter is out. At no time shall the coach/pitcher obstruct play.
  - e. The Player/Pitcher must have one foot in the circle at the time the coach/pitcher releases the pitch.
  - f. Coach/Pitcher must stay in the circle during play and **MAY NOT** provide Coaching assistance.
- IV. Hit-By-Pitch: Batters will be awarded first base if hit by a pitch thrown by a player-pitcher. Players will NOT be awarded first base if hit by a pitch thrown by a coach-pitcher.

### 8U Base Running

- I. Base paths are 55 feet. The pitching distance is 30' from front of the rubber to the back of home plate.
- II. Scoring: Teams may score up to 5 runs per inning for the first two innings. Thereafter, the team in the lead may increase its lead by 5 runs per inning. Otherwise, a team may score enough runs to conclude their half of the inning leading by 5 runs.
- III. Stealing:
  - a. Players may steal 2<sup>nd</sup> base or 3<sup>rd</sup> base for player pitch only. There is no stealing home.
  - b. A secondary lead is permitted at the runner's risk once the ball leaves the pitchers (or coaches) hand.
  - c. Runners may be picked off during player pitch only.
  - d. No Runners may not advance in case of an overthrow on a pick-off attempt or on a throw in the attempt to prevent a steal at either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
  - e. Look back rule is applicable.
- IV. Errant throws to First Base after a batted ball:
  - a. The batter may NOT advance as a result of the errant throw.
  - b. Other base runners may advance one base past the one to which they were headed at the time of the errant throw. If the ball stays live, the runners advance at their own liability.
- V. Errant throws to Other Bases and other Positions after a batted ball:
  - a. All runners, including the batter, may advance one base past the one to which they were headed at the time of the errant throw. If the ball stays live, the runners advance at their own liability.
- VI. Courtesy runner: A courtesy runner for the current pitcher and/or catcher is allowed at any time. Courtesy runner shall be first:
  - a. An available bench player or
  - b. If no bench player available, the last recorded out, or
  - c. If there have been no recorded outs in that game, the last batter scheduled to bat in that inning.

### 8U Fielding

- I. 10 players may be allowed on defense in the field at any one time, four of which are outfielders.
- II. Outfielders must position themselves with both feet in the grass at the pitch.
- III. Free defensive substitutions are allowed
- IV. No Infield Fly Rule.
- V. Coaches are not permitted on the field during defensive play, unless time is called for quick adjustment. Coaches are permitted on the field between innings to assist in placement and positioning of defensive players. Umpires will not permit play to resume until all defensive coaches have left the field.

### 8U Batting

- I. All Players bat.
- II. There is no Dropped-Third-Strike rule in the 8U division.
- III. Bunting is only allowed off player-pitchers. No bunting is allowed off of coach-pitchers.
  - a. Standard bunting rules apply, including a bunt going foul on a pitch with 2 strikes results in the batter being out.