



MVP Weekend NIT
Memorial Park, Bentonville, Arkansas
September 11-13, 2020

1. This is a USSSA fastpitch tournament. All teams must show USSSA registration and proof of insurance prior to their first game.
2. Turf shoes or tennis shoes are recommended, but we do permit rubber molded cleats on the synthetic turf surface. Metal cleats are prohibited at all times. Please view the Synthetic Turf Usage sheet included for more rules and regulations of these fields.
3. **USSSA rules (*not your league rules*) except:**
 - A. All ages' game times in pool play are **70** minutes (drop dead time). This means the inning will conclude immediately upon the time expiring. There is no tie-breaker in pool play. Pool play games are not elimination games and we must stay on time during these games. Batter will finish at-bat if it could determine the outcome of the game.
 - B. All ages' game times in bracket play are **75** minutes. No new inning will begin after the time limit has expired unless the score is tied. Tiebreaker rule will be used at the start of the 8th inning or in any inning beginning after time has expired.
 - C. Six run limit per inning in 8U and 10U age groups.
 - D. Run rule is 12 after 3, 10 after 4, and 8 after 5.
 - E. Coaches inside the dugout, bucket can be at the entrance of the dugout and coach's feet can be on the outside. This is a USSSA rule (section 11 - Rule J - Pt. 2). We do uphold this rule.
 - F. Protest fee is \$75. Protests for ineligible players must be in writing.
 - G. Games delayed before becoming official because of weather or other circumstance will be resumed from the point of suspension. If required, farthest advanced in winner's bracket, head-to-head winner, fewest runs allowed per game, most runs scored per game, and then coin toss will be used to determine the tournament winner.
 - H. **All Ages – Teams can bat their line-up OR they can bat their roster. A DP/FLEX may also be used. If a team bats their roster, the first available player preceding the pitcher or catcher can be used as a courtesy runner for those 2 positions.**
 - I. **Courtesy runner** will be allowed for pitcher and catcher at any time. The courtesy runner will be designated by the following rules:
 - Rulebook batting line-up:** Per rulebook designation
 - Roster batting line-up:** The last batter not on base. If the last batter not on base is unavailable (i.e. she is the catcher or pitcher), the designated runner will roll back until such time as a possible sub can be found.
 - J. Teams may begin a game with 8 players. If the additional players arrive after the start of the game, they will be handled in the following manner:
 - Rulebook batting line-up:** Teams may add a 9th player to the line-up. Any additional players will be designated as substitutes.
 - Roster batting line-up:** Teams may add any and all players to the end of the line-up. These players must be listed on the line-up card submitted prior to the game. If the players are not present for their time at bat, their spot will be skipped until they arrive with no automatic out being charged (unless below 9 players).
4. **TOP** of bracket will occupy the **1st** base dugout and **BOTTOM** of bracket will occupy the **3rd** base dugout. If a team is already in a dugout from a previous game, they can stay there.
5. **Home vs Away:** In Pool-Play, a coin toss will determine the home team. In Bracket Play, the higher pool-play seed will be home.
 - A. **Championship Games:** winner's bracket team will be home. In the event of an IF game, a coin toss will determine home.
6. Full infield practice and hitting into fences with a softball is NOT allowed. Outfield practice and grounder practice from 1st to 2nd and 3rd to 2nd is OK **only if time is available**.
7. Coaches are responsible for ensuring their players are legally and properly equipped. Use of illegal equipment will result in ejection from the game. Coaches will deliver line-ups to the scorekeeper at least 5 minutes before game time and give the plate umpire the official line-up at the plate meeting.
8. There shall be no alcoholic beverages anywhere at Memorial Park.
9. Team personnel or spectators who act in an unsportsmanlike manner subject themselves to possible ejection and their teams to forfeit, disqualification, and suspension from subsequent tournaments. **COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR FANS.**
10. Tournament officials, USSSA, and the City of Bentonville will not be liable for injuries or losses suffered by participants or spectators. Team registration shall be acknowledgement of this advisement.
11. Coaches will supply their own balls throughout the tournament. We have some balls to sell you if you're in need of a couple balls to get you through the tournament. All balls used **must be blue seam USSSA fastpitch balls**.
12. ALL players must play in their respective age groups according to the USSSA age calculation date. The age a player is on December 31, 2020 is the age division each player MUST play in (unless they're playing up). This is USSSA rule, as we're now in the 2021 USSSA Calendar Season. September 1, 2020 marks the start of the new season for USSSA.