



TOYS FOR TOTS 2025 TOURNAMENT RULES

Revised 11/18/25

Current USA Softball Regulations shall be enforced at this event including the following:

A. Check-in

1. Team check-in will be held at Big League Dreams (BLD) Chino Hills. All teams must be checked in two hours prior to first game. We will start check in at 6am on Saturday 12/6. To check in, you only need your player documentation and toys valued at \$10 or more. **Please, no gift cards!** Players DO NOT need to be present for check in. Check in is only required on Saturday 12/6.

2. **All pool game dates/times and elimination bracket play will be updated via "Tourney Machine" app. It's your responsibility to check your game dates/times. In case of any problems with app, the team manager will receive information via text or email.**

3. Each player will provide proof of current ASA/USA Softball ID card for 2025/26 season and government issued picture ID, school ID or Birth certificate. Fourteen (14) player maximum per team roster.

4. A signed roster, signed BLD Waiver and one (1) toy per registered player (\$10 minimum value) will also be collected during check in.

B. Clarifications and Park Rules

1. Tournament Rain Out or Cancellation beyond West Covina Girls Softball control.

a) An administrative fee of 10% will be deducted from registration fee before any refunds.

b) **Tournament fee is non-refundable when tournament schedule is published on Tourney Machine.**

c) **If necessary, the tournament will be rescheduled based on BLD availability dates/times. Please keep in mind there is a possibility of playing games late into the night and into the early morning hours. We will deal with any weather delays and postpone games as long as possible before cancelling tournament. West Covina Girls Softball will not refund BLD entrance fees!**

2. Managers must turn in a lineup sheet to the umpire at the pre-game conference. Only those players listed on the lineup sheet are eligible to participate in the game in any capacity. **It must include player's number, last name, first name or initial and starting position.**

3. If there is a delay in the schedule, **it is the responsibility of the team manager** to check the bracket boards on Tourney Machine app and contact the Tournament Director for possible game time and/or field changes.

4. Tobacco products of any type are prohibited on or near the field of play and where players are warming up.

5. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED IN ALL DUGOUTS AND SPECTATOR SEATS (STANDS) AT ALL TIMES DURING THE TOURNAMENT. Please inform your parents and fans.**

6. All Big League Dreams Park and Chino Hills City ordinances and regulations will be enforced.

7. Only pre-rostered players shall play for that team at any time during the tournament.

8. Bats and Helmets will be checked by an Umpire prior to every game throughout the tournament. This may be done during game time, please have them ready to be inspected during your warm up.

9. **If any of the tournament rules herein or BLD regulations are violated, teams will be immediately disqualified from the tournament and no refunds will be issued.**

C. Game Time & Format

1. **PLEASE HELP KEEP GAMES ON SCHEDULE BY MOVING IN AND OUT OF DUGOUTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. Game time will start as listed on the tournament schedule; any exceptions will be at the Umpire's discretion.**

2. Pool Play & Elimination:

a) Teams may choose to bat 9 batters with or without DP/Flex option and/or EB extra batter option.

b) Teams may choose to bat Round Robin with Free Defensive Substitution (USA Softball Pitcher substitution rule still applies when pitcher is removed from the field of play). Courtesy Runners for Pitcher and Catcher only, runner must be last recorded out. If you choose to bat round robin, all players listed in the lineup must bat.

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c) A team may not convert back to a nine (9) player lineup during any game once the lineup sheet is turned into the umpire.

3. Run ahead rule (aka “Mercy Rule”) shall apply to all pool and tournament games.

(15 runs after 3 inings, 12 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings, EXCEPTION 6U).

4. Pool games can end in a tie. 6U: one (1) hour, ten (10) minutes drop dead, 8U-12U: one (1) hour, twenty (20) minutes drop dead. During pool play, when the game time expires and the home team ties or takes the lead in the bottom of the inning, that score WILL STAND. All other scores will revert back to the last completed inning.

5. Elimination bracket games will be completed, with no new inning starting after: 6U: one (1) hour, ten (10) minutes, 8U-12U: one (1) hour twenty (20) minutes.

6. Championship tournament games will be one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes, with no new inning or 7 innings for 10U-12U (6 innings for 8U). **(6U Exception:** No new after one (1) hour, twenty (10) minutes or 5 innings).

7. The USA Softball **international tie-breaker rule** shall be in effect after 7 innings (**5 innings for 6U, 6 innings for 8U**), or once the time limit is reached in elimination bracket games.

8. Umpires will submit official score cards to tournament director, no exceptions! It’s both managers responsibility to make sure score cards are recorded correctly by the Umpires.

9. Game time is forfeit time, **forfeit fee is \$50** cash payable immediately or disqualification from remainder of tournament.

D. Ground rules for the tournament:

1. The team listed 1st and Top of Bracket shall occupy the 3rd base dugout, except in back-to-back games played on the same field, in which case the team playing the consecutive game does not change dugouts.

2. The home team is the official scorekeeper for the game. It is the Manager’s responsibility to ensure scores are properly recorded by the Umpire on score cards. Score cards will be used to update pool/brackets on Tourney Machine application. Failure to check the score card could affect your team’s run differential in pool and overall seed in bracket play.

3. Home team is determined by a Coin Toss at the pre-game meeting with the umpires and coaches for all pool games. **During tournament play, higher seed is home team.**

4. Ties in pool standings as well as overall division seeding will be determined by the following order: **Win-Loss-Tie Record, Head to Head Record, Least Runs Allowed, Most Runs Scored, a Coin Toss. This will include bracket play if two first place teams face off. For the purpose of tie breakers during bracket play, only pool games will be used to determine seeding. All seeding done by Tourney Machine will be final and used to update tournament championship bracket.**

5. Only tournament supplied game balls will be used for all games.

a) 12U division will use 12 inch Rawlings Dream Seam pro leather ball or its equivalent.

b) 10U division will use 11 inch Rawlings RIF 10 poly-x core ball or its equivalent.

c) 6U and 8U divisions will use 10 inch Rawlings RIF 1 Sof-Dot poly-x core ball or its equivalent.

E. Protest

1. Playing rule protests must be made prior to the next pitch and will be ruled on by a protest committee (UIC & on Duty Tournament Director) whose decision will be final. The game will be stopped only if decided on by the protest committee. The manager must be prepared to site the rule he/she feels is being violated. Time of Protest must be documented in the official scorebook.

2. Protests eligibility shall be ruled upon according to USA Softball rules.

3. Protest fee is \$100 cash payable at the time of the protest and is only refundable if the protest is upheld.

F. Sportsmanship

1. Team managers are responsible and must have control of their players, coaches, parents and team followers. Please remind your people we’re here to make positive memories and provide a better Christmas for those in need.

2. USA Softball Code of Conduct shall be enforced throughout the tournament.

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- 3. Artificial noisemakers of any type will not be allowed (i.e. horns or cans filled with rocks).**
4. Umpires and/or Tournament Director shall have the authority to eject any team personnel or spectators for abusive language, charging, bumping, shoving, striking, and threatening actions to players, coaching staff, spectator, or team from the tournament or facility.
- 5. WCGS is committed to providing a safe and friendly environment for girl's softball. Your help providing the same environment is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU FOR REGISTERING INTO WCGS TOYS FOR TOTS TOURNAMENT AND GOOD LUCK!!!**

G. 6U DIVISION MODIFICATIONS

1. Must bat Round Robin (all players listed on the lineup must bat).
2. The adult pitcher shall pitch with one foot from the 30' pitching plate within the circle. The defensive player shall stand anywhere behind the pitching plate with both feet in the pitching circle while the adult pitcher is pitching.
3. The outfield shall be considered any area 10 feet beyond and behind the base paths between 1st and 2nd base and 2nd and 3rd base.
- 4. The catcher must remain in the defensive position until after the ball has been hit.**
5. No base stealing is allowed. All base runners must remain on the bases until the ball is hit. If a runner is off the base when the ball is hit, the ball is dead, the runner returns to base and batter bats again (Do-Over).
- 6. Batter will get five (5) pitches and NO TEE. If the pitch is fouled off on 5th pitch, the batter gets additional pitches until she either hits the ball in play or misses on a swing resulting in a strike out.**
7. The team taking the field will place a maximum of 10 players in defensive positions: **only six (6)** in the infield including the pitcher and catcher, and all remaining players in the outfield.
- 8. Coaches are NOT allowed on the field! (With the exception of the coach who is pitching).**
9. For 6U only, three (3) coaches are allowed to stand and coach from in front of the dugout fence.
10. Overthrow (out of play) resulting in extra base will be at the Umpires discretion.
11. An inning is over after **three outs or 5 runs ahead, possible 8 runs max rule, whichever comes first.**
12. The play is called dead once the ball is thrown and enters the pitcher's circle. The Pitcher does not have to have control of the ball in the circle.

H. 8U DIVISION MODIFICATIONS

1. A runner may not steal home on a pitch at any time. Exceptions: runners will be awarded home at Umpire's discretion in situations (i.e., thrown ball into dead ball territory, the batter walks, etc).
2. A play at any base during a steal, an attempted pick-off, or an overthrow to the pitcher does not release the runner from third base. Exception: a thrown ball that goes into dead ball territory. Ruling: all runners are awarded one (1) base from the last base held at the time of the throw.
3. Runners on first and second base may advance only one (1) base per pitch. A batter that is walked may not advance past 1st base.
4. **No "Infield Fly Rule"** will be used.
5. Must bat Round Robin (all players listed on the line up must bat) with Free Defensive Substitution and Courtesy Runners for Pitcher and Catcher only. (Must be last recorded out.)
- 6. No drop third strike. The batter is out on a third strike at all times, whether it is caught or dropped by the catcher.**
7. After a strike out, the ball remains live and runners on 1st and 2nd base may advance at their own risk. The runner on 3rd may not advance home on a dropped third strike.
8. No more than 10 players will be allowed to play defense at one time. No more than 6 players including the pitcher can be positioned in front of the base line.
9. Outfielders and the 10th player must remain behind the base line until the ball is hit, or a play is made on runner.
10. The outfield shall be considered any area 10 feet beyond and behind the base paths between 1st and 2nd base and 2nd and 3rd base.
11. No player except the catcher shall start in a defensive position closer than 25 feet to home plate, measured from the front side of the plate anywhere between the 3rd baseline and the 1st baseline.