

**2025 WEST COVINA GIRLS SOFTBALL**  
**32nd ANNUAL ALL STARS MEMORIAL WEEKEND TOURNAMENT**  
**TOURNAMENT RULES**  
**Revised 05/18/25**

This is a sanctioned USA Softball tournament. USA Softball Rules and Regulations shall be enforced at this event. **All tournament games and brackets will be posted on Tourney Machine App.** **Absolutely NO REFUNDS will be issued after a team is registered. Any refunds will be at the discretion of the tournament director.**

**A. Check-in**

1. Check-in at **BIG LEAGUE DREAMS (BLD)** in Chino Hills at least one hour prior to your first game.
2. Bring your proof of insurance, USA Softball ID cards (if available) or USA Softball certified roster, signed roster and BLD Team Waiver. **No Exceptions!!!**
3. Field Locations: **BIG LEAGUE DREAMS CHINO HILLS**  
**16333 Fairfield Ranch Rd.**  
**Chino Hills, CA 91709**
4. All game schedules and brackets will be updated and posted on Tourney Machine Mobile App. The team manager/coach is responsible for checking Tourney Machine App for any last minute changes in schedule.
5. **PLEASE, DON'T ASK FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES. More often than not, it only creates problems.**

**B. BLD Park Rules**

1. **Entry fee** is \$8 for **spectators 13 and older**. They will receive a token worth up to \$1 for the restaurant.
2. **All players in uniform and two team coaches will receive free entrance admission.**
3. BLD only allows water, fruit and sunflower seeds to be brought into the park. **NO ICE CHESTS!!!**
4. **All players and spectators are subject to a bag check at the entrance to BLD.**
5. **Alcohol can be consumed anywhere in the park (by guests 21 and older) EXCEPT in DUGOUTS and STADIUM SEATS.**
6. Alcohol is not allowed outside of BLD gates at any time.
7. There is no smoking in the dugouts, stadium seats, underneath the breezeways outside of the restaurants or near the players warming up.
8. All BLD Park rules and regulations shall be enforced.
9. **Teams will be immediately disqualified from tournament if their team parent, coach, player or spectator violates any BLD Park rules.**

**C. Game Time & Format**

1. In order to keep the integrity of the game schedule, please enter and exit the dugouts as quickly as possible between games. Each team is guaranteed four games. **All teams will play two pool games and advance to a seeded double elimination tournament. Additionally, there will only be one championship game per division regardless of losing teams first loss.**
2. **Lineup Cards:** The manager must turn in a lineup sheet to the umpire at the pre-game conference. All rostered players must be listed on the lineup sheet with injured or absent player noted as such.
3. **Pool Play:** Teams shall bat Round Robin with Free Defensive Substitution and Courtesy Runners for Pitchers and Catchers only. The courtesy runner must be the last recorded out. During **Pool Play** all rostered players must bat unless they are injured or absent, as noted in rule C2.
4. **Elimination/Bracket:** 10U/12U/14U/HS Division teams may choose to bat nine or ten (extra batter) with the (DP/Flex) or may choose to bat Round Robin. If you choose to bat Round Robin, you may not convert to nine/ten batters or utilize DP/Flex during the game. Once the lineup sheet is turned into the Umpire, that line up will stand.
5. **Pool Game Times:** 6U - (1) hour (10) minutes drop dead and 8U/10U/12U/14U/HS - (1) hour (20) minutes drop dead and can end in a tie. **Score of pool games that drop dead with an incomplete inning will revert to last inning completed. If the home team has tied or taken the lead during their last at bat (bottom of the inning), the score will stand!!!**

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6. **Elimination/Bracket Game Times:** Games will be completed. 6U - (1) hour (10) minutes, no new inning. 8U/10U/12U/14U/HS - (1) hour (20) minutes, no new inning. If you start a new inning you have to finish the inning. **(RECORD AND CONFIRM GAME START TIME WITH THE UMPIRE).**
7. **Championship Game Time:** (1) hour (40) minutes no new inning for 8U/10U/12U/14U/HS and (1) hour (25) minutes no new inning for 6U.
8. USA Softball mercy rule is in effect for all games. **(15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings in all games).**
9. The “**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.

**D. Ground rules for the tournament:**

1. No practice on infield dirt is permitted.
2. No Buckets will be allowed on the field.
3. Please utilize pop up screens for hitting. DO NOT hit into fences, walls or buildings.
4. **The team listed 1st 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.**
5. Each team will pick up trash and leave a clean dugout for the next team.
6. Home team is the official scorekeeper for the game.
7. **Home team in POOL PLAY will be determined by a COIN TOSS at the pre-game meeting with the umpires. Home team in bracket play will be higher seed including Championship game.**
8. Game balls for the tournament will be provided and will be the only balls used. 6U/8U will use 10-inch RIF 1 safety balls. 10U will use 11-inch RIF 10 hard balls. 12U/14U/HS will use 12-inch Dreamseam hard balls.
9. Pitching distance: 6U & 8U at 30 feet, 10U at 35 feet, 12U at 40 feet, 14U & HS at 43 feet.
10. Base distance is standard at 60 feet for all divisions.
11. **Ties in pool standings as well as overall division seeding will be determined by the following, in order:**
  - a) Win-Loss-Tie Record
  - b) Head to head record
  - c) Least runs allowed
  - d) Most runs scored
  - e) Overall run differential
  - f) Coin toss
12. **Should the top two teams from different pools make it to championship games, the same tie breaker rules above will be used for top seed!!!**

**E. Protests**

1. Protests are not allowed during Pool Play.
2. During elimination play, protests must be made prior to the next pitch and will be ruled on by a protest committee (TD & UIC) whose decision will be final. The game will be stopped. The manager must be prepared to site the rule he/she feels is being violated.
3. Eligibility protests shall be governed according to “House Rules” then USA Softball rules.
4. **Protest fee is \$100 cash payable at the time of the protest and is only refundable if the protest is upheld.**
5. **UIC and Tournament Director will have final say on all protests.**

**F. Sportsmanship**

1. **No negative cheering or distractions to the opposing pitcher or team at any time.**
2. Team managers are responsible and must have control of their players, coaches and team followers at all times!!!
3. USA Softball Code of Conduct shall be enforced throughout the tournament.
4. **Artificial noisemakers of any type will not be allowed (i.e. horns or cans filled with rocks)!!!**

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5. Umpires and/or Tournament Representatives shall have the responsibility and authority to eject any team personnel or spectators from the tournament or facility for abusive language, charging, bumping, shoving, striking, or threatening players, coaching staff, spectators, or team. Umpires shall have the authority and responsibility to eject (out of sight and sound) per USA Softball Rules and Code.
6. All player jerseys shall be tucked inside uniform pants. Please make sure your players follow this rule to minimize unnecessary game delays.
7. **Jewelry is allowable but will be Umpires discretion based on player safety. Jewelry must be removed if ordered by the Umpire. If the jewelry can not be removed in a reasonable time, an out will be recorded.**

**8U DIVISION MODIFICATIONS**

**A. Game Information:**

1. If rule exception is not stated herein, all rules previously stated and USA Softball rules are in effect.

**B. General Rules**

1. Illegal pitches will be called.
2. Pitcher can pitch unlimited innings.
3. A runner may not steal home on a pitch at any time. Clarification: runners will be awarded home by the umpire in situations per USA Softball rulebook (i.e., thrown ball into dead ball territory, the batter walks, hit by a pitch, etc).
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. No dropped-third strike. The batter is out on a third strike at all times, whether ball is caught or dropped.
7. No "Infield Fly Rule" will be used. Meaning, with less than two outs and runners on 1st & 2nd or with bases loaded, a pop fly that could be easily caught by an infielder does not result in an automatic out on the batter if the ball is not caught.

**C. Line Up Cards and Substitutions:**

1. In all games, teams must bat Round Robin (all roster players must bat) with Free Defensive Substitution and Courtesy Runners for Pitcher and Catcher only. (Must be last recorded out).

**D. When a team is on Offense:**

1. The batter is out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike either caught or dropped by the catcher. However, the ball remains live and runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base may advance at their own risk. Runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> may not advance home on a dropped third strike.
2. When the ball is live and in play:
  - a) A runner in sole possession of an illegally stolen base shall be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out when all other play has stopped. A runner standing on an illegal base cannot be tagged out. A runner not standing on a base can be tagged out.
  - b) A runner cannot steal home, even on a play to another base (that remains in live ball territory) or an overthrow to the pitcher. Once the runner has touched home plate and after all other play has stopped, the umpire will call time and return the runner back to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Note: the runner may be tagged out while off the base while the ball is in play.

**E. When a Team is on Defense:**

1. No more than 10 players will be allowed to play defense at one time.
2. No more than 6 players including the pitcher can be positioned in front of the base line.

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3. Outfielders and the 10<sup>th</sup> player must remain behind the base line until the ball is hit, or a play is made on a runner as a result of a batted ball.
4. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> baseline and the 1<sup>st</sup> baseline.

**6U DIVISION MODIFICATIONS**

- A. Pitching distance shall be set at thirty 30 feet.
- B. The adult pitcher shall pitch from the pitching plate, within the pitching circle.
- C. The player shall stand anywhere behind the pitching plate with both feet in the pitching circle while the adult pitcher is pitching.
- D. **Five (5) run ahead rule, (8) run max possible per inning in pool play, elimination and championship games. (Meaning if you are up (4) runs, bases are loaded and the next batter hits a homerun, all runs scored will count for a total of (8) runs).**
- E. 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).
- F. If by the fifth pitch the ball is not hit into play, the player will return to the dug-out and results in a recorded out. (The batter may receive more than five pitches only if she continues to foul off last pitch). **A TEE WILL NOT BE UTILIZED FOR THIS TOURNAMENT!!!**
- G. The play is called dead once the ball is thrown and crosses through the pitcher's circle. The ball does not have to be in the pitcher's hand.

**MANAGERS, COACHES AND TEAM MOMS:**

**We thank you for competing in our 32nd annual All Stars Memorial Day Weekend Tournament. Best of luck to all teams!!! Please enjoy your weekend RESPONSIBLY. Lets make sure our girls have positive life time memories from all tournaments!!!**

**REMINDER: Please be RESPECTFUL of umpires, you might see them again in districts, states and nationals. Game schedule is subject to change, including dates, times and venue!!! We can not control weather conditions or technical difficulties at BLD. Cancellation of the tournament is a last resort!!! We will play into the early morning hours if needed!!! This is tournament competition!!!**