

# **2019 Grand Forks Express Fastpitch Tournament Rules**

10U will use the 11" ball. All other age divisions will use the 12" ball.

Pitching distances: 10u—35 feet, 12u—40 feet, 14u—43 feet, 16u/18u—43 feet

## **10u Tournament Rules**

All USA Softball rules will apply with the following exceptions:

- Teams will provide on field umpires.
- There will be no walks. After three balls are pitched the batting team's coach will come in and pitch. The strike count will remain on the batter.
- 7 runs max per inning.
- Runners may not advance to home on anything other than a batted ball. Stealing of home is not allowed.
- Runners may steal 2<sup>nd</sup> base or 3<sup>rd</sup> base, but are not allowed to steal while the coach is pitching. Runners may not advance to home on an attempted throw out while stealing third.
- The catcher does not have to catch the third strike in order to complete the out.
- 4 outfielders may be used, but normal infield play is expected.
- Teams may roster bat, if they wish.

Coaches, please keep in mind that these rules are in place to improve the development and experience for all players and are not intended to be manipulated to your team's advantage.

## **12u Rules**

Games will follow USA Softball rules with the following exceptions:

- The 8-run (Mercy Rule) will apply after 4 innings (15 runs after 3 innings).
- 7 runs max per inning.
- Games are 5 innings and no new inning can start after 80 minutes. If an inning begins but the time limit is up, the inning must be played out. Umpires will announce game start time to both teams and scorekeepers.
- If score is tied after 5 innings or at time limit, play continues using International Tie Breaker Rules.

## **14u and 18u Rules**

Games will follow USA Softball rules with the following exceptions:

- 7 runs max per inning.
- 14u games will be 5 innings.
- 18u games will be 7 innings.
- No new inning can start after 80 minutes. If an inning begins but the time limit is up, the inning must be played out. Umpires will announce game start time to both teams and scorekeepers. If score is tied, extra innings shall follow International Tie Breaker Rules.

## **Other**

- Home team will be determined by having 1 player from each team standing at home plate and rolling a ball toward the pitching rubber at the same time. Whoever is closest is the HOME team.
- Decisions made by Tournament Manager concerning tournament play are final.
- Pregame infield practice will NOT be allowed. This will give our grounds crew ample time to ready the fields for the next game.
- Warm up area-- Teams may warm up on the green space located south of Diamond 3. If teams wish to do pregame batting, there is space available at Ben Franklin Elementary, located 6 blocks north of Apollo Complex. Diamond 4 may be available pending Babe Ruth baseball game schedules June 16 & 17.
- In the interest of time, pitchers will be allowed to throw as many pitches as needed to begin the game, with a max of 5 pitches between innings. Once the ball has been thrown to second base by your catcher, it should be returned immediately to the pitcher to begin the inning. Please encourage your players to hustle on and off of the field.

**Tournament Manager: Brenda Keitzman 701-739-1864**