

**DAVIS YOUTH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
8U YEAR END TOURNAMENT RULES  
& POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

Please review and remind your players and their parents about the Code of Conduct that they all signed at the start of the season. We want the tournament to be a pleasant experience for all involved. We expect good sportsmanship from everyone and the Code of Conduct will be enforced.

1. Local league rules, NORCAL, and USA Softball rules will be in effect with the following modifications and clarifications.
2. The tournament will be pool play in design, followed by a double elimination format.
3. Seeding for the tournament will be determined by using the following criteria applied to the pool play results: 1) Pool Play Record, 2) Head to head record 3) Total run differential (maximum of  $\pm 7$  per game), 4) Fewest runs against, 5) Total runs scored, 6) Coin flip.
4. For all games, home/away will be determined by a coin flip. Home/Away designations on the schedule are for field prep purposes only.
5. No one will be allowed to stand behind the backstop during a game.
6. Pitching inning limits will apply as follows:
  - a. Pitchers will be limited to a total of 3 innings per game and 6 innings pitched per day. Local rules still apply allowing 2 consecutive innings max in first 4 innings.
  - b. If a tie occurs at the end of 6 innings in the second game of eligibility, the pitcher of record at the time of the tie may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit if occurring in the first game of eligibility.
  - c. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
  - d. The championship game will have OPEN pitching with no inning limits for the pitchers. Coaches should be mindful of the potential for arm injuries with tired pitchers and practice discretion and common sense with their pitchers.
  - e. Pitchers must pitch with LEGAL deliveries. (The biggest violation of this rule at this level has been pitchers not maintaining contact with the pitching rubber; i.e., pitchers stepping back off of the rubber during their backswing or stepping forward with their drag foot (right foot for right handed pitchers) prior to the ball being released. For questions regarding this rule, please see the ASA handbook or speak with a board member.)
7. A game will be 6 innings. No inning, however, may begin after **1 hour and 20 minutes** of play. Seeding/Pool play games CAN END IN TIES. **The Championship game will be 6 innings, no new inning after 1 hour 30 minutes of play.** If the game is tied at the end of 6 innings or at the time limit, the tie-breaker rule outlined below will apply.
  - a. A half inning will consist of 3 outs.
  - b. A maximum of 4 runs can be scored per half inning by an offensive team, including Championship game.
  - c. In the case of a tie at the end of 6 complete innings or after time has expired, a runner shall be placed on second base with no outs per the ASA tie breaker rule.
    - i. The runner (being the last player to complete her turn at bat in the preceding inning) shall start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
    - ii. Extra innings shall be played until 3 outs are recorded or 4 runs scored.
    - iii. The tie-breaker rule shall apply to all games including the championship game.
    - iv. **ALL TIE BREAK INNINGS WILL BE COACH PITCH ONLY**
8. Any team ahead by 12 or more runs at the end of 4 and half innings shall be declared the winner.
9. Games are scored based on last legal inning. **Teams shall not finish innings for runs for /against if the game is complete.**
  - a. Game is complete if time has expired and the home team cannot catch up. If the visitor puts game out of reach and time has expired,
  - b. If a game is called due to rain etc. and both teams do not get equal at bats, the score shall revert to the last completed inning.
10. A team must field at least 8 players, and the game is forfeited if there are less than 8 players,
11. The entire roster of players present must bat the entire game in continuous order whether they play defense or not. (NOTE – This does not mean that a coach may not change his or her batting order of players from game to game, only that once a batting roster is set for a game, all players present must bat in the order established at the start of the game for that particular game. This is to allow coaches to set their most competitive batting line-up prior to each game.)
12. There are free defensive substitutions provided that each girl listed in the scorebook play a minimum of 6 consecutive outs (1 complete inning) by the end of the game. The last half inning counts, played or not. In summary, all substitutions must be made, at the latest, by the top of the 3rd inning. In the event the game is played under the time limit, the 6 consecutive out criteria must be made by the top of the 3rd inning unless a player is injured. The umpire will make a judgment of the injury.
13. Ten players can be played defensively and 4 must be outfielders; outfielders must be 10 steps beyond the baselines between first, second, and third. If one team only has 9 players on their roster, both teams will only play 9 defensively.
14. Base running and defensive rules shall continue as per regular season rules.

15. Coaches are allowed to sit on a bucket inside of the fence in order to give pitching signals to their catcher. Coaches must be aware that they are in the field of play and must make every attempt to avoid contact with the ball. Any overthrown ball that makes contact with the bucket will result in an extra base being awarded to each base runner.