

# **2018 SOFTBALL--TOURNAMENT RULES**

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## **NO PETS ALLOWED**

PETS OF ANY KIND ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY IN ALL BALLPARK VENUES.

## **VIOLATION OF POLICES OR TOURNAMENT RULES**

ANY PARENT, COACH, TEAM MEMBER, OR FAN THAT VIOLATES POLICES OR RULES OF THE TOP GUN TOURNAMENT WILL BE REMOVED FROM ANY AND ALL VENUES FOR THE TOURNAMENT.

## **HEAD COACHES RESPONSIBILITY**

THE HEAD COACH OF A TEAM IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF HIS ASSISTANT COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS, AND FANS. HE SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT ALL RULES OF THE TOURNAMENT ARE EXPLAINED TO EACH MEMBER ABOVE.

ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE AN ONLINE ROSTER COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE 1ST SCHEDULED GAME OF THE EVENT. IF THERE IS ANY QUESTION REGARDING THE ONLINE ROSTER, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO TURN IN A HARD COPY TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVENT OR CALL THE TOP GUN OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE.

ALL COACHES SHOULD HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION A CERTIFIED COPY OF ALL BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR ALL ROSTERED PLAYERS. IF YOUR TEAM IS PROTESTED AND DO NOT HAVE A COPY WITH YOU THEN THAT PLAYER WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ILLEGAL PLAYER.

## **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR ALWAYS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REVISE OR CHANGE THE FORMAT DUE TO RAIN OR ANY OTHER REASON THAT HE FEELS IS NECESSARY, IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOURNAMENT.

## **TEAMS ARRIVING FOR GAMES**

TEAMS SHOULD BE PRESENT 45 MINUTES BEFORE SCHEDULE STARTING GAME TIME.

## **EARLY GAME STARTING TIMES**

GAMES MAY BE STARTED EARLY IF FIELDS ARE READY  
NO GAME WILL BE STARTED MORE THAN 45 MINUTES EARLY.

## **CLEAN DUGOUTS**

COACHES CLEAN YOUR DUGOUTS AFTER EACH GAME.

## **COIN FLIPPING / HIGHER SEEDS**

UMPIRES WILL FLIP AT HOME PLATE PRIOR TO START OF EACH POOL GAME TO DETERMINE HOME AND VISITOR. ALL BRACKET GAMES THE TEAM WITH THE HIGHER SEED WILL HAVE THE CHOICE OF HOME OR VISITOR. **EXCEPTION: CHAMPIONSHIP GAME--IF THERE IS AN UNDEFEATED TEAM IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME THAT TEAM WILL HAVE CHOICE OF HOME OR VISITOR REGARDLESS OF SEEDING.**

## **RUN RULE**

TOP GUN WILL USE THE 12, 10, AND 8 RUN RULE IN ALL TOURNAMENT PLAY. IF ONE TEAM IS 12, 10, OR 8 RUNS AHEAD AFTER 3, 4, OR 5 INNINGS, OR AFTER 2 ½, 3 ½, OR 4 ½ INNINGS IF THE HOME TEAM IS AHEAD BY 12, 10, OR 8 OR MORE RUNS RESPECTIVELY, THE TEAM WITH THE 12, 10, OR 8 RUN LEADS WILL BE THE WINNER.

**TIME LIMIT IS IN EFFECT**

**8u --SEE 8u RULES**

**10u-HS** ALL BRACKET GAMES ARE 1-1/4 HOUR TIME LIMIT. NO NEW INNINGS WILL BE STARTED AFTER 1 HOUR AND 15 MINUTES UNLESS BALL GAME IS TIED.

POOL GAMES MAY HAVE A DIFFERENT TIME LIMIT SUCH AS 1 HOUR FINISH NOT TO EXCEED 1 HOUR 15 MINUTES. THIS MEANS THE GAME WOULD DROP DEAD AT 1 HOUR 15 MINUTES IF IT IS NOT COMPLETE. PLEASE SEE SPECIFIC TOURNAMENT RULES AT EACH SPECIFIC TOURNAMENT FOR GAME TIME LIMITS.

**IF GAME RULES**

ALL IF GAMES WILL PLAY 1 FULL REGULAR INNING. WHEN THE INNING IS OVER IF EITHER TEAM IS AHEAD GAME IS OVER AND THE TEAM WITH THE MOST RUNS IS DECLARED THE WINNER. IF TEAMS ARE TIED AFTER THE FIRST INNING WE WILL CONTINUE TO THE NEXT INNING AND ANY INNING AFTER THAT USING THE INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER RULES UNTIL A WINNER IS DETERMINED. **THESE RULES WILL BE USED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL IF GAMES WILL HAVE A COIN FLIP TO DETERMINE HOME OR VISITOR**

**CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TIME LIMIT**

**8u--SEE 8u RULES**

**10u-HS** ALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES WILL HAVE A 1 HOUR & 30 MINUTE TIME LIMIT.

**ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE ELIGIBILITY OF A PLAYER AT THE TOURNAMENT MAY BE REFERRED TO THE NORTH CAROLINA SOFTBALL CHAIRMAN BY FILING A PROTEST DURING THE GAME IN WHICH THE INCIDENT HAS OCCURED.

IF A PLAYER IS NOT LISTED ON THE ROSTER AND IS FOUND TO BE INELIGIBLE --THE PLAYER AND HEAD COACH WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME. THE PLAYER MAY REMAIN IN THE DUGOUT BUT HER SPOT IN THE LINE-UP WILL BE AN OUT EACH TIME SHE COMES UP IN THE BATTING ORDER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE GAME (THERE WILL BE NO SUBSTITUTIONS FOR HER SPOT) SHE MAY BE ADDED TO THE ROSTER BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND IS ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN THE NEXT GAME BUT WILL BE CONSIDERED AS A PICK-UP PLAYER AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PITCH. THE HEAD COACH IS EJECTED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE GAME AND MUST LEAVE THE PARK IMMEDIATELY. HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED GAME FOR HIS TEAM.

IF A PLAYER IS FOUND TO BE TO OLD--THE TEAM WILL FORFEIT THE BALLGAME IN QUESTION AND WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIP POOL OR BRACKET PLAY.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION HIGH SCHOOL RULES**

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOL RULES WILL BE USED WITH THE TOP GUN EXCEPTIONS.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION HIGH SHOOOL RULES**

**PITCH REGULATIONS**

**RULE 6, ARTICLE 1**

PRIOR TO STARTING THE DELIVERY (PITCH), THE PITCHER SHALL TAKE A POSITION WITH THE PIVOT FOOT ON OR PARTIALLY ON THE TOP SURFACE OF THE PITCHER'S PLATE AND THE NON-PIVOT FOOT IN CONTACT WITH OR **BEHIND THE PITHCER PLATE**. BOTH FEET MUST BE ON THE GROUND WITHIN OR PARTIALLY WITHIN THE 24-INCH LENGTH OF THE PITCHE'S PLATE. THEY ARE EXAMLES OF THIS RULE IN THE NATIONAL FEDERATION RULE BOOK IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A NATIONAL FEDERATION RULE AS TOP GUN SOFTBALL DOES PLAY HIGH SCHOOL RULES.

**DON'T GET CONFUSED WITH THIS RULE AS SOME OTHER ASSOCATIONS PLAY COLLEGE RULES. PLEASE DON'T CONFUSE THIS RULE WITH A COLLEGE RULE AS TOP GUN SOFTBALL ELECTS NOT OF PLAY COLLEGE RULES.**

**TOP GUNS GOAL IS TO PREPARE OUR ATHLETES FOR HIGH SCHOOL.**

### **FORFEITS**

ALL FORFEITS ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR, AND MAY RESULT IN THE OFFENDING TEAM BEING DECLARED INELIGIBLE FOR ANY FUTURE TOURNAMENT PLAY.

### **FORFEITS**

THE TOP GUN TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE SHALL ADMINISTER THE RULE SO THAT ANY TEAM WHICH FORFEITS WILL NOT BENEFIT AND MAY NOT ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIP POOL OR BRACKET PLAY, UNLESS THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE DETERMINES THERE WERE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES CAUSING THE FORFEIT.

TEAMS NOT HAVING ENOUGH PLAYERS TO PARTICIPATE FROM EITHER STARTING OR ENDING A GAME, **WILL "NOT" BE CONSIDERED** EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

### **EJECTION'S**

MANAGER, COACH, OR PLAYERS

IN ALL AGE DIVISIONS, THE FIRST OCCURRENCE RESULTS IN THE SUSPENSION FOR THE GAME AND REMOVAL FROM THE GAME VENUE, AND ALSO THE NEXT SCHEDULED GAME. THE COACH IS NOT PERMITTED AT THE GAME VENUE FOR HIS SUSPENSION GAME.

### **SECOND EJECTION DURING THE TOURNAMENT**

THE SECOND OCCURRENCE DURING THE TOURNAMENT RESULTS IN SUSPENSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT AS WELL AS POSSIBLE IMPOSITIONS OF FURTHER SANCTIONS SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW OF THE TOP GUN TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.

### **THREE EJECTION'S --SUSPENSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON**

THE THIRD OCCURRENCE DURING THE SEASON RESULTS IN SUSPENSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE SEASON. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COACH ANY TEAM IN ANY TOP GUN SANCTIONED EVENT.

### **UMPIRES CONTROL**

TOP GUN UMPIRES CANNOT FORFEIT TOP GUN TOURNAMENT BALL GAMES. UMPIRES MAY EJECT COACHES, PLAYERS OR FANS BUT DO NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO FORFEIT BAL GAMES IN TOURNAMENT PLAY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. WHEN AN UMPIRE EJECTS A PERSON, THAT PERSON MUST LEAVE THE VENUE IMMEDIATELY AND THE GAME PLAYING TIME IS STOPPED UNTIL THE ISSUE IS RESOLVED. AT THIS TIME THE SITE DIRECTOR SHOULD BE NOTIFIED OF THE SITUATION. IF THE PERSON EJECTED DOES NOT LEAVE THE VENUE IMMEDIATELY, THE DIRECTOR SHOULD AND WILL CALL POLICE TO HAVE THE EJECTED PARTY REMOVED. BALL GAMES WILL CONTINUE FROM THE POINT OF INTERRUPTION

### **PROTESTS**

PROTEST MUST BE MADE VERBALLY WITH THE UMPIRE BY THE OFFENDED TEAM AT THE TIME OF THE PLAY AND BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH IS THROWN. A FEE OF \$100.00 CASH (REFUNDED IF UPHELD) MUST ACCOMPANY THE PROTEST. ALL DECISIONS OF THE PROTEST COMMITTEE SHALL BE FINAL. ONLY THE DECISION INVOLVING THE MISINTERPRETATION OR MISAPPLICATION OF A RULE MAY BE PROTESTED. NO PROTEST SHALL BE ALLOWED IN MATTERS INVOLVING SOLELY THE OFFICIALS JUDGMENT.

### **RAIN**

TEAMS SHOULD REPORT TO VENUES, IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT OF GAMES BEING PLAYED. THE RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE ON THE HEAD COACH TO FIND OUT IF GAMES ARE RAINED OUT OR BEING MOVED. COACHES MUST COME TO THE VENUES TO FIND OUT IF GAMES WILL BE PLAYED, OR IF A GAME HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, GAMES WILL BE PLAYED IN COMPLETE. GAMES THAT ARE STOPPED WILL BE CONTINUED FROM THE POINT OF STOPPING, IF NOT REACHED OFFICIAL GAME STATUS. RAIN DELAYS COULD LAST FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME. THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE FORMAT OF THE TOURNAMENT DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE TOURNAMENT FORMAT DUE TO RAIN FOR OTHER REASONS DEEMED NECESSARY.

### **RAIN - SPECTATORS PAYING AT THE GATE**

TOP GUN CANNOT CONTROL THE WEATHER AND OCCASIONALLY MAY HAVE TO CANCEL A GAME OR TOURNAMENT DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER OR UNSAFE PLAYING CONDITIONS. PLEASE READ GATE ADMISSION SIGNS AS YOU ENTER THE BALLPARK. WE DO NOT REFUND GATE FEES DUE TO RAIN OR GAMES BEING CANCELLED. YOU ENTER THE PARKS AT YOUR OWN RISK. WE SUGGEST

THAT IF IT IS RAINING OR YOU EXPECT IT TO RAIN THAT YOU WAIT OUTSIDE THE GATES OR IN YOUR CAR UNTIL THE BALL GAMES GET UNDERWAY IN ORDER TO KEEP FROM LOSING YOUR GATE FEES.

#### **OFFICIAL GAME STATUS**

IF RAIN OCCURS AFTER OFFICIAL GAME STATUS HAS BEEN REACHED, AND THE GAMES CAN NOT BE CONTINUED DUE TO RAIN AND FIELD CONDITIONS, THAT GAME WILL BE CALLED, AND BECOME A COMPLETE OFFICIAL GAME. THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS WILL MAKE THAT DECISION ONLY.

OFFICIAL GAME STATUS IS 5 COMPLETE INNINGS OF A 7 INNING BALLGAME AND 4 COMPLETE INNINGS OF A 6 INNING BALLGAME.

#### **NORTH CAROLINA SOFTBALL CHAIRMAN**

THE NORTH CAROLINA TOP GUN SOFTBALL CHAIRMAN SHALL INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE VIOLATION OF ASSOCIATION RULES, NATIONAL COMMITTEE RULES, ATHLETICS, COACHES, VOLUNTEERS OR CLUBS.

IF THE CHAIRMAN DETERMINES THAT A VIOLATION HAS OCCURRED HE MAY IMPOSE PENALTIES AS PROVIDED BY NFHS AND THE TOP GUN RULES.

PENALTIES IMPOSED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA SOFTBALL CHAIRMAN MAY BE APPEALED TO TOP GUN BOARD OF REVIEW AND SUBSEQUENT APPEAL BODIES AS PROVIDED BY THE TOP GUN CODE.

THE CHAIRMAN MAY DELEGATE THESE DUTIES TO AN INFRACTION COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY HIM TO CONSIDER CODE/RULES VIOLATIONS, OR HE MAY REFER CASES DIRECTLY TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW.

#### **TOP GUN RULES NOT LISTED**

REFER TO NFHS RULE BOOK AND TOP GUN EXCEPTION RULES

#### **CONDUCT**

TEAMS, COACHES, PLAYERS, AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE SOFTBALL CHAIRMAN FOR MISCONDUCT. SANCTIONS MAY BE APPEALED TO TOP GUN REVIEW COMMITTEE AND MAY INCLUDE FINES, SUSPENSION, FORFEITURE, PROBATION, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION. MISCONDUCT INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, INTOXICATION, POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, WEAPONS, OR COMMISSION OF CRIME DURING ANY TOP GUN COMPETITION. SANCTIONS MAY BE IMPOSED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS PUBLICATION OF THE TOP GUN SOFTBALL RULES. COACHES ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLY WITH THE RULES REGARDLESS.

#### **THE COACHES/ VOLUNTEER CODE OF HONOR**

I PROMISE UPON MY WORD OF HONOR TO HELP TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH PRIMARY EMPHASIS IS PLACED UPON THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL BEING OF ALL ATHLETICS, RATHER THAN WINNING. I WILL LEAD, BY EXAMPLE, AND WILL DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF FAIR PLAY AND SPORTSMANSHIP TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.

#### **TOURNAMENT AWARDS**

FIRST AND SECOND PLACE TEAMS WILL RECEIVE TEAM TROPHIES.

FIRST PLACE TEAMS WILL BE AWARDED INDIVIDUAL AWARDS AND THE SECOND PLACE TEAMS WILL BE AWARDED INDIVIDUAL AWARDS IN ALL BRACKETS.

#### **COACHES DRESS**

ALL COACHES SHALL BE DRESSED SIMILARLY. MEANING COACHES SHOULD HAVE ON SAME COLOR SHIRTS ETC. NO FLIP FLOPS AND NO TANK TOPS ALLOWED.

#### **DAILY ADMISSION**

##### **TWO DAY TOURNAMENTS**

ADULTS-\$8.00--PER DAY ADMISSION, 13 AND UP "ONLY GOOD FOR ALL SOFTBALL VENUES"

STUDENTS-\$6.00--PER DAY ADMISSION, 7-12 AND SENIORS

"ONLY GOOD FOR ALL SOFTBALL VENUES"

SIX-AND UNDER "FREE".

UP TO 4 COACHES WILL BE ALLOWED WITHOUT CHARGE

## ONE DAY TOURNAMENTS

ADULTS-\$8.00--ONE DAY ADMISSION, 13 AND UP "ONLY GOOD FOR ALL SOFTBALL VENUES"  
STUDENTS-\$6.00--ONE DAY ADMISSION, 7-12 AND SENIORS "ONLY GOOD FOR ALL SOFTBALL  
VENUES"

SIX-AND UNDER "FREE".

UP TO 4 COACHES WILL BE ALLOWED WITHOUT CHARGE

## TOP GUN DOES NOT ORGANIZE TEAMS

Play Top Gun Sports events provides rules for play and a tournament structure that leads to end of season tournament opportunities for teams that register to participate in Top Gun events that are overseen by Top Gun directors. We encourage parents (and guardians) who determine the team for a youth team participant, the adult team participants (such as team coaches or team sponsors) of a team, the community organizations who are involved in the organization, creation or management of such teams to thoroughly investigate and screen the background and character of the individuals who coach, manage, volunteer or otherwise come into contact with such teams and their minor participants and to vigilantly supervise any and all activities of any youth team with which they are associated.

Background checks are available, among other places, on-line for a small fee and Top Gun encourages those actually responsible for team activities and the parents (guardians) of youth athletic team members to utilize such tools to limit the exposure of youth athletes to those who might pose a danger.

Because Top Gun is not an organizer, manager or creator of teams, it does not in any way take responsibility for the organization, creation, management or any other activity of the teams (customers) that register to play in Top Gun tournaments, except to provide the opportunity to play Top Gun events under Top Gun rules, and overseen by a Top Gun director. Teams that participate in Top Gun events are customers of Top Gun and no more.

When a team chooses to participate in a Top Gun activity, the team, its players, coaches, volunteers, organizers, and its parents and fans must abide by rules found in the Top Gun Rule Book posted on our web site. Since Top Gun has nothing to do with the practice sessions of a team, choosing of team coaches, the picking of which team to play for, the activities with respect to any other body, or any other activities of a team (but simply provides registered participation in Top Gun directed activities).

Top Gun takes no responsibility for any such other non-Top Gun event activities of any team. While Top Gun is not responsible for checking the background of each of its customers (including the coaches of the baseball teams that play in Top Gun events), those convicted or charged with a violent felony or a sex offense with a minor are automatically suspended from all Top Gun activities (until found innocent or the charges are dropped). Thus, if you are aware of someone who has been charged with or convicted of a violent felony or a sex crime with a minor and that someone may be in any way involved in a Top Gun activity, you should immediately inform the Top Gun Director and upon being provided with proof of such charges or conviction, that individual will be automatically suspended from all Top Gun activities.

For example, if you do a background check on a coach before joining a team and find evidence that he has been charged with having sex with a minor, you should report this to your Top Gun Director, or Top Gun Sports Office, even though you have decided to play for another team. Even more important if you are aware of any one who has committed a violent felony or has had sex with a minor that has not been charged, you are obligated to report those crimes to the proper authorities and you should do so immediately.

