

2023 SOFTBALL--TOURNAMENT RULES

REVISED January 17, 2023

ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK. BEWARE OF INHERENT RISKS AT BALL PARKS ([CLICK TO SEE COMPLETE DISCLAIMER](#))

**PLAY TOP GUN SPORTS SOCIAL MEDIA DISCLAIMER
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SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

COACHES, PARENTS, STAFF, AND FRIEND, IN FACT ANYONE INTERESTED IN TOP GUN-USA SPORTS. ABUSIVE OR PERSONAL ATTACKS, UNPROFESSIONAL, COMMENTS THAT WE TOP GUN-USA SPORTS DEEM UNSPORTING, MATERIAL THAT IS UNLAWFUL OBSCENE, DEFAMATORY, THREATENING, HARASSING, ABUSIVE, SLANDEROUS, HATEFUL OR EMBARRASSING TO ANY OTHER ENTITY. ANY THIRD-PARTY ADVERTISING, THIRD PARTY SOCIAL MEDIA SITES, CHAIN LETTERS OR SPAM. WE BEING TOP GUN-USA SPORTS, RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE INVOLVEMENT BY USERS WHO POST SUCH CONTENT FROM THE TOP GUN-USA SPORTS PROGRAM. ANY ROSTER MEMBER OF TOP GUN -USA SPORTS, BEING COACHES, AND ATHLETES MAY BE SUSPENDED FROM THE SPORTS PROGRAM. THIS ALSO INCLUDED PARENTS, GUEST, SPECTATORS, ETC. TOP GUN-USA SPORTS THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED ON ANY THIRD-PARTY SOCIAL MEDIA SITES TOP GUN-USA SPORTS CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCURACY OR RELIABILITY OF INFORMATION POSTED BY EXTERNAL PARTIES.

TOP GUN-USA SPORTS

TOP GUN SOFTBALL SHALL INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE VIOLATION OF TOP GUN SOFTBALL RULES, BY TOP GUN ATHLETES, COACHES, VOLUNTEERS, SPECTATORS, OR TEAMS. IF TOP GUN SOFTBALL DETERMINES THAT A VIOLATION HAS OCCURRED, HE MAY IMPOSE PENALTIES AS PROVIDED IN THE GENERAL RULES. PENALTIES IMPOSED BY TOP GUN-USA SPORTS SOFTBALL MAY BE APPEALED TO THE PLAY TOP GUN SPORTS BOARD OF REVIEW IN WRITING, APPOINTED BY CEO/PRESIDENT OF TOP GUN SPORTS. TOP GUN SOFTBALL MAY DELEGATE THESE DUTIES TO AN INFRACTION COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY HIM CEO /PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER CODE/RULES VIOLATIONS, OR THEY MAY REFER CASES DIRECTLY TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW.

ZERO TOLARANCE

TOP GUN-USA SPORTS WILL HAVE A ZERO TOLERANCE FOR TOP GUN-USA SPORTS SOFTBALL AND WILL FOLLOW A “ZERO TOLERANCE” POLICY REGARDING INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR. THIS POLICY WILL ENCOMPASS ALL INTERACTIONS DURING THE COURSE OF THE SOFTBALL SPORTS PROGRAM. THIS SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING: PRACTICES, GAMES, OPENING DAY CEREMONIES TOURNAMENTS AND ANY OTHER TOP GUN-USA SPORTS SOFTBALL SPONSORED EVENT(S). BY ENTERING A TOP GUN-USA SANCTIONED SOFTBALL EVENT YOU ARE AGREEING TO ABIDE BY THIS POLICY.

OUR SONS, DAUGHTERS, NIECES, NEPHEWS, AND GRANDCHILDREN FAR TOO OFTEN WATCH MANY OF US FORGET THE REAL REASON FOR BEING INVOLVED

IN YOUTH SPORTS. THIS IS REASON FOR A “ZERO TOLERANCE” POLICY. WE MUST PROMOTE FAIR PLAY, GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND TEACH OUR CHILDREN HOW TO PLAY THE GAME. WE FEEL IT IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY TO TEACH THE PLAYERS THAT THERE IS MORE TO THE GAME THAN WINNING OR LOSING AND THE FINAL SCORE. TOP GUN-USA SPORTS TAKES THIS RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY. WITH THAT SAID THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WILL REPRESENT OUR POSITION AND MORE IMPORTANTLY CONSTITUTE OUR “ZERO TOLERANCE” POLICY FROM THIS POINT FORWARD.

CONDUCT

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

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS:

AFTER THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME OF ANY EVENT, TOP GUN USA SPORTS WILL HAVE AN AWARDS PRESENTATION. THE LOCATION MAY BE ON THE FIELD, OR AT AN AWARDS PRESENTATION LOCATION SELECTED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.

AFTER THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME IS OVER, TEAMS SHOULD LINE-UP ON THE FOUL LINES FOR THE AWARDS PRESENTATION OR PROCEED TO THE AWARDS PRESENTATION LOCATION AS SELECTED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.

FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AWARDS CEREMONIES WILL BE DEEMED “UNSPORTING” AND SUCH ACTION WILL SUBJECT THE TEAM TO PENALTIES FOR UNSPORTING ACTIONS AS SET FORTH IN THESE GENERAL RULES.

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 AND SPECTATORS ASSOCIATED WITH MY TEAM.

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.

UNSPORTING CONDUCT DURING A TOP GUN SANCTIONED EVENT

ANY PLAYER, COACH, MANAGER, SPONSOR OR SPECTATOR LEAVING THEIR POSITION OR BASE, IN THE FIELD, ON THE BENCH, IN THE DUGOUT AREA OR GRANDSTANDS TO PARTICIPATE IN A FIGHT, BRAWL OR ALTERCATION SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY EJECTED FROM THE GAME AND MAY BE DISBARRED / SUSPENDED. THIS DOES INCLUDE PRIOR TO GAME STARTING, DURING A GAME, OR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A TOP GUN SANCTIONED EVENT.

NATIONAL FEDERATION HIGH SCHOOL RULES

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOL RULES WILL BE USED WITH TOP GUN SOFTBALL EXCEPTIONS; NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL FEDERATION RULES WILL BE USED. [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE TOP GUN EXCEPTION RULES.

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 PITCHER PLATE**. BOTH FEET MUST BE ON THE GROUND WITHIN OR PARTIALLY WITHIN THE 24-INCH LENGTH OF THE PITCHER'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 ASSOCIATIONS 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.

VIOLATION OF POLICES OR TOURNAMENT RULES

VIOLATION OF POLICES OR TOURNAMENT RULES.

ANY PARENT, COACH, TEAM MEMBER, OR FAN THAT VIOLATES THE POLICES OR RULES OF THE TOP GUN SOFTBALL EVENT MAY BE REMOVED FROM ANY AND ALL VENUES AND FUTURE SANCTIONS MAY BE PLACED ON THAT PERSON OR PERSONS.

HEAD COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

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

THE HEAD COACH IS RESPONSIBLE TO MAKE SURE ALL COACHES ON THE FIELD OR IN THE DUGOUT ARE ON HIS TEAM ROSTER.

COACHES PASSES WILL ONLY BE ALLOCATED TO COACHES LISTED ON THE TEAM ROSTER.

TOP GUN-USA IS RECOMMENDING THAT ALL BASE COACHES WEAR THE SKULL PROTECTIVE HELMET WHILE COACHING ON THE BASES.

NO PETS ALLOWED

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

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. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR ALSO HAS THE RIGHT AT ANYTIME TO MAKE A DECISION ON RULINGS NOT COVERED IN THE RULES AND WILL DO SO WITHIN THE TOURNAMENTS BEST INTEREST.

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

THE GAME BEGINS AT THE COMPLETION OF THE HOME PLATE MEETING.
POOL GAMES: ALL POOL GAMES WILL HAVE A 1 HOUR FINISH THE INNING TIME LIMIT. POOL GAMES CAN END IN A TIE. ANYTIME THE HOME TEAM GOES AHEAD AFTER THE 1 HOUR TIME LIMIT HAS EXPIRED BALL GAME IS OVER.

EXCEPTION FOR RAIN: IF RAIN INTERFERES WITH THE TOURNAMENT DURING POOL PLAY AND THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR FINDS IT NECESSARY TO GO TO DROP DEAD POOL GAMES THEN THE SCORE WILL STAND AT THE DROP DEAD TIME LIMIT. THERE WILL BE NO REVERT BACK.

BRACKET GAMES: 8U TIME LIMIT WILL BE 1 HOUR FINISH THE INNING AND MUST HAVE A WINNER. NO TIES. ONCE TIME LIMIT EXPIRES AND INNING IS COMPLETED IF TEAMS ARE TIED THEN YOU WOULD USE THE INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER UNTIL A WINNER IS DETERMINED.

BRACKET GAMES: 10U THROUGH HS TIME LIMIT WILL BE 1 HOUR 15 MINUTES FINISH THE INNING AND MUST HAVE A WINNER. NO TIES. ONCE TIME LIMIT EXPIRES AND INNING IS COMPLETED IF TEAMS ARE TIED THEN YOU WOULD USE THE INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER UNTIL A WINNER IS DETERMINED.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES: 8U TIME LIMIT IS 1 HOUR 15 MINUTES. 10U THROUGH HS IS 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES.

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

OFFICIAL SCORING OF GAMES

THE HOME TEAM WILL BE THE OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER FOR ALL GAMES. SCOREKEEPERS MUST USE A SCOREBOOK. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICE OR APP WILL BE ACCEPTED AS THE OFFICIAL SCORE BOOK. AFTER THE GAME IS OVER THE FINAL SCORE MUST BE APPROVED BY EACH TEAMS HEAD COACH AND OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER AND THE UMPIRES. BOTH SIGNATURES OF THE TEAMS HEAD COACHES IS REQUIRED ON THE FINAL SCORECARD HELD BY THE UMPIRE. THIS IS TO VERIFY THE OFFICIAL SCORE, PITCHING, HOME RUNS AND PITCHING ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE GAME IN QUESTION. ONCE THE SCORECARD IS SIGNED BY BOTH THE HEAD COACHES THE SCORE IS NOW OFFICIAL. FAILURE TO SIGN THE SCORE CARD BY EITHER TEAM IS CONSENTING THAT THE SCORE CARD IS CORRECT AND THAT NO REVISIONS WILL BE MADE.

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 **2.5 COMPLETE INNINGS** OF A BALLGAME.

OPEN ROSTERS

ALL ROSTERS ARE NOW OPEN. THERE IS NO LONGER A PLAYER PICK-UP RULE. TEAM MAY PICK-UP PLAYERS TO FILL THEIR ROSTER AT ANY TIME, PROVIDED THAT THE PLAYER THEY PICK UP IS NOT ON A ROSTER OF A TEAM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO PLAY IN A TOP GUN EVENT THE SAME WEEKEND. ALL ROSTERS ARE NOW OPEN. THERE IS NO PLAYER PICK-UP RULE. ALL PLAYERS MUST BE LISTED ON THE ONLINE ROSTER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE WITH A TEAM. PLAYERS MAY ONLY PLAY ON ONE TEAM PER WEEKEND.

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. 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. IF PROTESTED A COACH MUST PRODUCE ON THE SPOT A LEGIBLE COPY OF A CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE, A FEDERAL ISSUED PASSPORT OR A STATE ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD WITH A LEGIBLE DATE OF BIRTH.

ELIGIBILITY OF COACHES

COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE TO SEE THAT THEIR TEAM MEETS ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. ALL ADULTS IN THE DUGOUTS MUST BE COACHES OR

SCOREKEEPERS THAT ARE LISTED ON THE ON-LINE ROSTER. COACHES PASSES WILL BE ALLOTTED AT THE GATE BASED BY THE ON-LINE ROSTER. NOT BEING ON A ROSTER DOES NOT ALLOW YOU TO BE ON THE FIELD OR IN THE DUGOUT. NO ONE OTHER THAN LISTED ADULTS ARE TO BE IN ANY DUGOUT OR ON THE FIELD AT ANY TIME. TOP GUN-USA ALLOWS FOR A MAXIMUM OF FOUR (4) ADULTS ON THE TEAM ROSTER. THIS CAN BE THREE (3) COACHES AND A SCOREKEEPER OR FOUR (4) COACHES.

ANY QUESTION PERTAINING TO THE ELIGIBILITY OF A COACH/SCOREKEEPER AT THE TOURNAMENT MUST BE PROTESTED DURING A GAME. AFTER THE GAME IS TOO LATE TO FILE A PROTEST ON ANY ISSUE.

COACHES/SCOREKEEPERS THAT ARE NOT ON THE ROSTER ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COACH OR BE IN THE DUGOUT.

PENALTY WHEN DISCOVER IS THAT COACH/SCOREKEEPER IS REMOVED FROM THE GAME AND CANNOT RETURN UNTIL ALL QUALIFICATIONS ARE MET.

TEAM RE-CLASSIFICATION FOR WORLD SERIES AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

TEAMS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE RECLASSIFIED INTO A LOWER DIVISION (I.E. DROPPING FROM A DIVISION TO B DIVISION) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A WORLD SERIES OR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT.

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.

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 BALL 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.

TOURNAMENTS MOVING FROM 2 DAY EVENT TO 1 DAY EVENT DUE TO WEATHER ISSUES

IF A TOURNAMENT HAS TO BE MOVED FROM A 2 DAY TOURNAMENT TO A 1 DAY TOURNAMENT DUE TO WEATHER ISSUES OR FIELD CONDITIONS AND THE 2 DAY TOURNAMENT OFFERED SPECIAL PRIZES, THOSE PRIZES WILL NOT BE GIVEN AWAY. HOWEVER IF WE ARE ABLE TO CROWN A CHAMPION AND RUNNER-UP WE WILL GIVE OUT TROPHIES AND HONOR ANY FREE PAID BERTHS THAT THE EVENT HAD OFFERED ON THE 2 DAY EVENT.

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

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 ANYONE 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.