



2024 (16u 18u) Tournament Rules

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The Champions Cup will use the 2024 National Federation of High School Softball rules and be comprised of 16u 18u teams (age eligible and registered to play in the Champions Cup). Additionally, at the sole discretion of the Tournament Directors, a 14u team may be accepted as a registered team.

A. High School Softball (2024 NFHS) rules apply, except:

- i. Double first base will not be installed at all locations;
- ii. Facemasks are required
- iii. **Pool Play Only ... Unlimited re-entry, must maintain batting order integrity.**
Any option listed below may be used:
Option 1: Straight nine- Those nine can play any position on defense without reporting to the umpire.
Option 2: DP/Flex- 10 players are listed on the line-up, but only 9 bat. The DP can bat for any player that you designate prior to the start of the game. That player is designated as the Flex and should be listed in the 10th spot on the line-up card. Any of the 10 players can play on defense.
Option 3: EP- This gives you the option to bat 10 players and any 9 can play defense. This player can be placed anywhere in the line-up.
Option 4: DP/Flex and the EP- This allows you to have 11 players listed on the lineup, only 10 will bat any 9 of these players can play defensively. The Flex is listed at the bottom of the lineup.
- iv. Pool Play Only - Courtesy runners- anyone on the roster can run for any player-
- v. Pool Play Only - Free defensive substitution
- vi. Unsigned players will wear Champions Cup silicon wrist bands identifying year of graduation: 2024 orange, 2025 green, 2026 pink, 2027 yellow and all younger. Pitchers cannot wear wrist band on their pitching arm. Black silicon wrist bands are worn by players who have verbally or committed.
- vii. Any fields but especially fields using temporary fencing: "When a fair batted ball: 1. Bounced over, rolls under or through a fence etc...." Player closest to ball should raise arms as a signal of an unplayable ball.

B. No infield practice. Team listed first or top of bracket will occupy third base dugout; unless already occupied from previous game.

C. Modified run ahead rule applies – 15 runs after 3 innings, or 2-1/2 innings if home team is ahead – 12 runs after 4 innings, or 3-1/2 innings if home team is ahead – and 8 runs after 5 innings, or 4-1/2 innings if home team is ahead.



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- D. No new inning will start after 1 hour 30 minutes (pool and bracket). Tiebreaker at time limit or at the beginning of the 8th inning, whichever is first (bracket play only). *No tiebreaker in POOL PLAY.*
- During pool play, upon expiration of the time rule (no new inning after 1 hour 30 minutes) with less than seven (7) innings played, the inning will be played to full completion. If the 7th inning has started, VISITORS will finish their at Bat. If HOME TEAM is ahead, game will be ended as complete. If behind or tied, game will be ended with the scoring of the ahead run. Pool games can end in a tie.*
- E. INCLEMENT WEATHER OR ANY OTHER ACTS OF GOD (I.E. RAIN, LIGHTNING, EXCESSIVE HEAT, UNPLAYABLE FIELDS OR CONDITIONS). – *In the event of Inclement Weather during pool play, games will resume as scheduled when weather and field conditions permit. Pool games unable to be played WILL NOT BE rescheduled or played. FOR SCORING seeding PURPOSES: each team will be given a 0-0 tie. In the event of Inclement Weather during bracket play, at the Tournament Director’s discretion, the tournament can be cancelled, alternatives Include shortened game times, or revised schedules. Every effort will be made to continue play for teams willing to wait, as fields become available.*
- F. Home team will supply official scorekeeper. *Both teams are responsible to scan QR code provided to score each game played. Any team failing to turn in **SUBMITTAL** within a 30 minute window will have their games posted as a **7-0 forfeit***
- G. Home team to be decided by a coin flip before the beginning of the game
- H. Protests – All protests will be decided before the next pitch and include a \$50 cash protest fee. The UIC present at the site where the protest has been lodged will decide all protests. The UIC may consult any individual or other source of information, at the UIC’s sole discretion. All decisions made by the UIC are final. If protesting team is successful, money will be returned.
- I. Equipment, helmets & bats – All equipment, helmets and bats must comply with current High School Softball certification standards. Equipment that is judged not in compliance shall be removed from competition and held until the end of tournament. All items not retrieved by the end of the tournament will be disposed. Base coaches not required to wear a helmet, but it is recommended.
- J. Any ejection of a coach, player, parent or spectator, shall result in a (1) game suspension, unless appealed to site director, and unanimously agreed upon by site director and site UIC.



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- K. Tiebreaker for pool standings (In a 3 way tie, the softball program will determine one winner. Then the program will determine the 2nd finish based on only the two (2) remaining teams. Seeding of team uses the following criteria:
1. Total record (W=1, L=0, T=.5 points)
 2. Head-to-head
 3. Least runs allowed
 4. Most runs scored
 5. Coin flip
- L. The pool play order of finish as posted on website www.championscup.org will be the official and only method used for seeding of bracket elimination play. Any discrepancies must be reported immediately to site directors prior to official seeding. It will be the teams' (managers/coaches) responsibility to verify game times and locations on the pool and bracket boards, as changes may occur prior to first bracket game being played.
- M. At the direction of the Tournament Directors, media, and photographers may be allowed on the playing field without a specific area being designated.
- N. Jewelry is permitted unless deemed dangerous by the umpires.