



2024 SOFTBALL BEACH CUP RULES

- **FORMAT:** Beach Cup consists of two pool play games (randomly assigned) followed by single elimination games (seeded based on pool play results).
- **POOL PLAY SEEDING:** Teams will be seeded after the pool play games based on the categories below. A forfeit will be treated as a 7-0 win/loss. A double forfeit (meaning against both teams) will be treated as a loss for each team for purposes of pool play seeding.
 - o 1. Overall record
 - o 2. Head-to-head record (if only two teams – otherwise skip to #3)
 - o 3. Fewest runs allowed
 - o 4. Run differential (RS – RA = RD); max 7 per game
 - o 5. Coin flip
- **ELIMINATION ROUND:**
 - o Higher seed is the home team (so in a matchup of #1 v. #4, team #1 would be the higher seed and the home team)
 - o There is no “drop dead” in elimination play. There must be a winner in each game; therefore, International Tiebreaker is in effect, meaning the team’s last out from the prior inning begins the tiebreaker inning on second base.
- **TIME LIMITS:**
 - o Time limits for all games (except Championship Game) are as follows:
 - 6U:
 - Pool play: 1:00 no new, 1:20 drop
 - Elimination: 1:00 no new (no drop)
 - 7U
 - Pool Play: 1:15 no new, 1:35 drop
 - Elimination: 1:15 no new (no drop)
 - 8U/10U/12U/14U:
 - Pool Play: 1:30 no new, 1:50 drop
 - Elimination: 1:30 no new (no drop)
 - o Championship games do not have time limits:
 - 6U/7U/8U: 5 innings
 - 10U: 6 innings
 - 12U/14U: 7 innings
 - o Effect of Reaching Drop Dead Time Limit During Pool Play. The score will revert to the last completed inning if the drop dead ends the game during an incomplete inning, *unless* the

home team is ahead after the top half of the inning (in which case the home team wins, without the chance to add on more runs), or unless a losing home team has tied the game during the incomplete final bottom inning (in which case the game is recorded as a tie).

- RULES:

- Standing Rules. Each division's standing rules shall apply, unless otherwise noted here.
- Home/Away. Coin toss determines home/away during pool play (winner's choice). Higher seed is home team in elimination play (#1 being highest seed).
- Dugouts. During pool play, away team as listed in GameChanger will occupy the third base dugout. During elimination play, marked home and away dugouts will be used.
- Pitching limits. As a competitive tournament, the following pitching limits will be in effect during the Beach Cup:
 - 7U: 2 innings
 - 8U: 3 innings
 - 10U: 4 innings
 - 12U/14U: None
 - Extra Innings, all divisions: No inning cap applies during extra innings which go beyond on the official game length (for example, a 10U pitcher could re-enter the game starting in the 8th inning, even if they already pitched 4 innings).
- Player Rotation. No player may sit more than one inning in a row during the Beach Cup. However, there is no requirement that a player play on the infield during Beach Cup.
- Minimum Player Rules. A team with only 8 players may field that team for an official game. The 9th batting spot will be omitted and an automatic out will be called the first time through the lineup only. A team with fewer than 8 players at any time must forfeit the game (treated as a 7-0 final score for pool play seeding). Should a player leave the game early for any reason, the team's lineup shall "close ranks" for the duration of the game and shall not be penalized with an automatic out, *unless* that player's absence causes her team to fall below 9 players, in which case the team will be penalized with an out the first time the absent player's turn comes up in the lineup. A player arriving late to the game will be added in the end of the batting order and will only bat when that spot in the order comes up. If the player arriving late represents the 9th batter and she arrives before their first turn at bat, there is no automatic out.
- Borrowed players. As a competitive tournament, no borrowed players are allowed during Beach Cup under any circumstances.
- Forfeits. A forfeit will be declared by the umpire when one team has 7 or fewer players at the time the defense first takes the field. In pool play, a double forfeit will count as a loss for each team. In the case of a double forfeit during elimination play, the forfeiting team with more players will advance, or a coin flip will determine the "winner" if both teams have the same number of players.
- Hit by Pitch. A batter hit by a pitch will be awarded first base; the batter does not have the option of hitting.
- Coach Pitch. Coach pitch is only allowed in 6U and 7U during Beach Cup.

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE!