



# Grant Grand Slam All-Star Softball Tournament

## 8U Rules

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#### General

- Teams are required to submit a roster of all players prior to the tournament including the name and date of birth of each player.
- Player's age is determined by the player's age on January 1 of the tournament year.
- Tournament director may adjust any rules as needed. For example, reducing the time limit in case of weather.

#### Overview

- 11" softball will be used
- Bases: 60'
- Pitching rubber: 35' from back of home plate.
- This level is all coach pitch. In an effort to get all positions engaged and the game exciting, we will be having coach pitch only. For pool play, home team will be determined by coin flip.
- Standard game is 6 innings or 1:30 time limit. 2 innings is considered an official game. Inning starts as soon as the last out of the previous inning is made. Pool play games and non-bracketed playoff games can end in a tie. Championship games will be played with a 1:45 limit.
- Mercy rule—Game is over if a team is leading by 15 runs after 3 innings (2½ if home team is leading) or 12 runs after 4 or more innings (3½ if home team leading).
- If home team is leading and up to bat when time expires, game is over—the inning is not completed. Any runs scored before time expired will count.
- After each game, line the teams up on the foul lines for presentation of MVP medals for the game. Managers should confer prior to presentation as the intent would be that the same player would not receive multiple MVP medals during the tournament.
- Pool play tie breakers are as follows. See tiebreaking document for further details.
  - Head-to-head play
  - Record vs. common opponents
  - Highest average run differential – maximum run differential is 8 runs in a game
  - Lowest runs against average
  - Highest average runs scored – maximum is 10 runs per game.
- Teams are required to report the score of ALL games upon the completion of the game.

#### Playing Rules

- IHSA Rules will apply with the exception of the rules in this document.
- All eligible players must be placed in the lineup and will bat in a continuous order.
- A team may start the game with as few as 8 players without penalty.
- Late arriving players will be added to the end of the batting lineup.
- If, for any reason, a player needs to be removed from the game, the batter will be skipped without penalty. Players who is removed may not re-enter the game.
- 5 runs maximum per inning.
- Dropped 3rd strike is NOT in effect.
- Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.



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### Pitching

- All games will be coach pitch only.
- Coach gets a maximum of 3 pitches, unless final pitch is a foul ball.

### Baserunning

- Stealing of bases and leadoffs are not allowed. A player may leave the base after the batter makes contact with the ball or is walked.
- On an infield hit, all runners (including the batter) are limited to advancing one base. This is regardless of what else happens on the play—overthrows, etc.
- On an outfield hit, all runners, including the batter, may advance up to 2 bases.
- An outfield hit is defined as a ball that makes it to the outfield without being touched by an infielder.
- If a runner attempts to advance further than allowed, there is no penalty other than being sent back to the appropriate base after the play comes to its natural conclusion. The runner is in play until the play is over so if a runner is attempting to advance further than allowed and is tagged out, the runner is out.
- Baserunning scenario examples:
  - Batter hits a ball to the right fielder. The right fielder tries to throw the runner out at first and throws the ball wildly toward first base and is not in the control of a fielder. The run then goes to second base. Ruling: Allowed, batter is allowed to try for 2 bases and regular softball rules apply up to that point
  - Runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Batter hits an outfield hit to center field. Centerfielder throws the ball into 2<sup>nd</sup> base so batters stops at first. Runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> scores. Ruling: Allowed as long as the runner from 2<sup>nd</sup> passed 3<sup>rd</sup> before the ball was secured in the infield.
  - Runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Batter hits an outfield hit. Outfielder throws the ball home to prevent the runner from trying to score so runner stops at 3<sup>rd</sup>. Batter then advances to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Ruling: Allowed as long as the batter passed first before ball was secured in the infield.
- An over the fence home run is a home run and is not subject any limitation.
- The play is deemed over when the ball is in control in the infield and runners are stopped. If a runner is running at this time they may continue to try to advance to the next base. They cannot advance further than the base they are running to.
- A runner who causes contact with a fielder thereby interfering with the play when going into a base standing up will be called out. A sliding baserunner will not be called out for contact unless the contact is ruled intentional or unnecessary.
- No Look Back Rule.
- When the ball is thrown out of bounds, no extra bases will be awarded.
- Courtesy runner allowed for catcher or pitcher with 2 outs, runner shall be the last out made.



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### Defense

- Teams may play with 4 outfielders.
  - All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield. On an appropriately sized field, this can be the outfield grass. On a larger field, it should be at least 20 feet beyond the baselines.
  - Each player is expected to play at least 2 defensive innings per game.
  - No coaches will be on the field, except for the coach pitching.
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### Playoffs

All rules from pool play are still in effect with the following exceptions.

- Home team is decided by better seed. If the seeds are equal (for instance, #1 Seed from Pool A vs. #1 Seed from Pool B), home team will be decided by a coin flip.
- In case of tie game after a complete game or tie expires, each subsequent inning will start as follows:
  - Last batter from previous inning on 2nd base.
  - 1 out
- Championship games will be played with a minimum of a 1:45 time limit. For the levels with multiple playoff brackets, this applies to the top bracket only.

### Championship Game

- After the game is over, both teams should line up on the foul lines for trophy presentations.