TENTATIVE MOTOR CITY SHOWDOWN RULES FOR 2027

Thanks for coming to the 16th annual Motor City Showdown. The purpose is for all players to have fun, enjoy the game of softball, and make new friends. Your participation in this tournament, and the time you devote in helping the girls grow as young adults, makes it all possible.

AGAIN THIS YEAR!! ***THE USA VS CANADA INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE TROPHY***

JUST FOR FUN, WE WILL KEEP TRACK OF ALL POOL GAMES BETWEEN CANADIAN TEAMS AND USA TEAMS – SIMPLY WON OR LOST. WHICHEVER COUNTRY HAS THE MOST WINS WILL HAVE THEIR COUNTRY POSTED FOR THIS YEAR ON THE MOTOR CITY INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE TROPHY WHICH WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE RESTAURANT AT THE CANTON SPORTS CENTER.

1. CHECK - IN

The coach or a representative of each team is required to check-in at least one hour before their first game at the registration table at tournament headquarters and -

a. Verify phone number and pick up tournament packet
b. For insurance and rosters we have implemented digital check in
   - Please upload your Proof of Insurance and proof of USA Softball sanctioning to your profile at Teamsideline.com/fastpitchshowdowns. This MUST be done prior to your first game.
   - If you need to sanction, please download the USA Youth Team Registration Form from https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RVYLEpVAKNn4OdP2fBQRBUBg8Iv7qU8b/view?usp=sharing, complete it with $30 in cash or check and drop it off at Headquarters before your first game.
   - All players and coaches must be included on your roster which is only accepted via TeamSideline. For instructions on how to submit your roster, please go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cfb6jLIcdojdZ-Lofdm-HdCCrgno83MockKsdbBhPds/edit?usp=sharing.
   - Additionally, proof of age for all players must be available throughout the tournament and must be provided if challenged by the opposing coach. Any eligibility protest must be made before the game starts. In the event of a challenge, and the coach cannot provide proof of the player's age, all past and future games in which the questionable girl participated in the tournament by that team will be forfeited. If a challenge is made, the team making the challenge must submit a $100 challenge fee. If the player is found to be age ineligible, she will be removed. If the player is found to be age-eligible, the $100 challenge fee will be donated to charity. Any eligibility protest must be made before the game starts. In the event of a challenge, and the coach cannot provide proof of the player's age, that team will forfeit all previous games. The tournament director has the final decision on this.
   - No double rostering and/or additions are allowed throughout the tournament unless consented to by the tournament director.
   - Final decisions on all roster eligibility questions made by the tournament director.

2. YOUR PACKET INCLUDES –

a. A copy of the official rules.
b. Game result sheets -- within one hour after the game, each team coach is responsible to be sure these get turned in -- win or lose -- after each pool game (if the team has back-to-back games, score sheets can be turned in after the second game). If only one team turns in the game result sheet, it will be recorded as the correct score. If there is a discrepancy, the home team score will be recorded as correct. If neither team turns in a scoresheet within 24 hours it will be recorded as a 7-7 tie. Any dispute of game results must be done within 2 hours of posting. (Tournament director's discretion is final). These game result cards are essential as they determine your position in pool play.

Also on the game result cards, we ask you that you rate the umpires -- simply “A” thru “F” (“A” is an excellent rating). We have a hard-working crew of umpires and we are constantly looking for ways to make this a better tournament. This method gives the coaches a fair way to have input on the quality of our umpiring and also gives us data in order to make improvements for next year's tournament. We have used this method in the past and it has helped us improve the quality of our umpires.

******** FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT FIND IT EASIER, THE COACH OR SCOREKEEPER MAY JUST TEXT THE SCORE TO 419-777-4455 IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR GAME.**

(If you choose this option please be sure to include AT LEAST pool, age group, team names and final score)

c. Game MVP Ribbons – There will be MVP ribbons – one for each pool game. **THESE ARE TO BE GIVEN AT THE END OF EACH GAME TO THE PLAYER ON THE OPPOSING TEAM WHOM YOU FEEL DESERVES IT.** Please make every effort to make the time to award the ribbon – oftentimes this is the only award players will receive and it makes them feel special. (Other ribbons are available for your team -- see # 9)

d. A copy of the Coaches Code of Conduct

3. FORMAT

All teams will play 4 pool games. In age groups with more than 7 teams, each pool will then be divided into the top half and bottom half after pool play ends. The top half finishers of each pool will go into a platinum bracket and play each other in a single-elimination tournament. The bottom half finishers of each pool will go into the gold bracket and play each other in a separate single-elimination tournament. The brackets will not meet. We feel this seeding method gives every team a more equal competition in bracket play. The champion and finalist in each bracket will receive individual awards. (In age groups with less than 8 teams, all teams will enter into one bracket). The final format may change depending on the number of teams at each age group, weather delays, or other scheduling conflicts.

4. POOL PLAY TIEBREAKERS
   a. Won - loss record (point system of 2 points per win, ½ point for a tie)
   b. Head to Head (if one team did not beat all the teams with identical records, go to the next step). Once multiple team tie is broken, go back to step “a”. (We do it this way because we feel the true purpose of the game is to win, not to give up the fewest runs. So the quickest we can get back to winning as the tiebreaker, we will do so.)
   c. Least runs allowed per game
   d. Most runs scored per game (maximum of 7 runs per game so as not to encourage teams to run up the score)
   e. Rock, Paper, Scissors (One, Two, Three, Shoot!) – best 2 out of 3.
5. MISCELLANEOUS RULES
   a. Any rescheduled or replacement games, and any crossover pool games, will count as a regular game. Tournament directors’ discretion is final on all makeup games.
   b. The games are guaranteed to each team except for circumstances beyond the tournament director’s control.(e.g. rainouts, teams canceling, umpire mis-schedules, etc.)
   c. Games must be 3 complete innings (unless there is a mercy) to be counted as complete (2 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead). Incomplete games due to rain, injuries, etc are recorded as a rainout.
   d. It is the responsibility of each coach to understand their final rankings in pool play and where and when they will play Sunday. Pool play rankings are not complete until the “pool play board” at headquarters is marked “FINAL”. After that, the coach has 15 minutes to dispute the results. **IT IS THE COACH’S RESPONSIBILTY TO VERIFY YOUR TEAM’S REPORTED SCORES AND RECORD. DO NOT LEAVE THE PARK AFTER YOUR LAST POOL PLAY GAME UNTIL A REPRESENTATIVE FROM YOUR TEAM HAS DONE SO.**
6. POOL PLAY GAME LENGTH

a. The time limit on all pool play games is 90 minutes **FROM THE SCHEDULED START TIME!** This will help keep the tournament on time for the other teams, fans, and spectators, even if this results in a shorter game. The umpire's time is the official time. **IT IS THE COACHES' RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY THE OFFICIAL START TIME WITH THE UMPIRES BEFORE THE GAME AND TO KNOW WHEN THE TIME LIMIT WILL EXPIRE.**
b. In pool play, no inning shall start after 90 minutes **FROM THE SCHEDULED START TIME,** however, the current inning will be completed (unless the home team is ahead and at-bat). If a suspended inning lasts past the scheduled end time, the inning will not be continued and the final score will revert back to the last completed inning. An inning shall start upon the last out of the previous inning. Tie games are allowed and shall be recorded as such. In the event of a tie, and time has not expired, the international tiebreaker will be used.
c. If the umpires are ready **and both coaches agree** to start before the scheduled start time because the field is available, the game will have a 90-minute time limit from the **actual start** time with no new inning starting after 90 minutes from the **actual start** time. **Again it is the coaches' responsibility to verify the official start time with the umpires before the game.**
d. **All bracket play games will have a time limit of 80 minutes from ACTUAL START TIME.**
e. The championship games will have a 2-hour time limit if not followed by another game. If it is followed by another game, it will have a time limit of 80 minutes from actual start time.

7. USA Softball Rules will be followed with the following tournament exceptions in pool AND bracket play.
   a. Because the intent of this tournament is to give the players more playing time, the coach has the option of batting up to his/her entire lineup. This is strictly a coaching option. This means you can bat up to everyone on the roster, and any 9 on your roster can play defense. The official batting order is handed to the umpire at the start of the game, and normal batting order substitution rules apply. To help play as many girls as possible, if the coach has chosen to bat more than 9, an out is not declared if 1 player is injured and then her batting position comes up). Once an injured player is removed on offense, they may not re-enter.
   b. A courtesy runner may be used for the current Pitcher or Catcher at any time. A player can only courtesy run for 1 player per inning. If a team bats around, the same courtesy runner must be used. If she is on base or removed due to injury, the Pitcher or Catcher who she ran for earlier in that inning, must run for herself. The courtesy runner used is the coach's decision, either the last player who completed her turn at bat and is not currently on base or a player listed as a sub on the lineup card. If all subs have entered the game, it must be the last player who completed her turn at bat and is not currently on base. If the last player who completed her turn is also a current Pitcher or Catcher, then you may use the player in front of the Pitcher or Catcher.

      If an incorrect courtesy runner is used, the umpire will correct the situation with a warning but no penalty. If it happens a second time in the game, the player will be declared out.
   c. Metal cleats are allowed at the 14u,16u, & 18u age groups
   d. Players are permitted to use the on-deck circle behind the batter, regardless of which dugout it is in front of.

8. **In both Pool Play and Bracket Play,** Home Team will be determined by **Softball Roll.** The coaches will choose a player or team representative to stand in the batter's box closest to their dugout. The verbal instructions of "1, 2, 3, Roll" will be given by the umpire. Both participants will roll a softball toward the pitcher's plate while both feet are still in the batter's box. Note: It does not matter if the ball goes beyond the pitcher's plate. The closest ball to the pitcher's plate is the winner and that coach has the option to choose Home or Away. Each coach should bring their participant to the plate meeting. Dugout assignments on a first-come basis, and if a team has played the previous game on the same field they keep the same dugout.

9. A team not on the field ready to play within 15 minutes of game time will forfeit the game unless granted an extension by the site director for good cause. Forfeited games benefit neither team and the tournament director's decision is final on all matters regarding a forfeit. **Only the tournament director or the UIC may declare a forfeit.** Forfeited games will not be counted in determining runs allowed, or runs scored.

10. Mercy rules are 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings and 8 runs after 5 innings.

11. Awards – There are 3 types of awards in this tournament as we want as many girls as possible to get recognition.
    a. Game MVP ribbons – these are to be awarded after each pool game to a player on the opposing team whom your team thinks deserves it. PLEASE be diligent in awarding these ribbons to players as it will be the only award they get. **THESE ARE AWARDED IN POOL PLAY ONLY.**
    b. Individual Awards -- awards at registration for girls who accomplished specific things during the tournament (i.e. home runs, no-hitters, double plays, etc). These awards must be signed for by the head coach or official scorekeeper. **THESE RIBBONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR POOL PLAY ONLY** and must be picked up Friday or Saturday. **Because these awards are given out, WE DO NOT GIVE AWAY HOMERUN BALLS.**
    c. Championship Medals – These will be awarded to the finalists in each age group. (Maximum of 15 per team allowed).

12. Game Balls – Baden-certified USA Softball "Danielle Lawrie" signature leather softballs with .47 cor will be provided for each game.

13. Warm-ups are allowed between the home run fences and the permanent fences, or if the home run fences are not put in place, warm-ups are allowed within 20' parallel to the permanent fence.

14. First Aid – For all injuries, please contact local EMT services.

15. Protests – All field decisions by umpires are final. **There are no protests**. We feel we have a knowledgeable crew of umpires, and because of the size of the tournament among other things, this is necessary to keep the tournament on time for the other participants**. You must work out any conflicts with the umpires at the time of the disagreement.** However, the umpire's decision is final.

    All tournament decisions (rain delays, scheduling, etc) are made for the smoothest operation of the tournament for the majority of the teams involved -- not just your team or age group -- and are made by the tournament director. His/her decision is final.

16. Admission – **A flat admission fee is collected per team in advance to make the process of entering the park simple and easy for everyone. For more information, please go to the Motor City page of fastpitchshowdowns.com.**

17. Uniforms–All players must be in uniform. However, because call-up players are allowed, the uniforms do not have to be matching.

18. Weather Delays – Due to the many games that are scheduled, if games are canceled due to weather, etc., there will be no make-up games and no altered game times. Games may be adjusted, and/or shortened to complete the tournament or get back on schedule. Games interrupted might not be rescheduled. For current weather information affecting the tournament go to our website - www.fastpitchshowdowns.com. Your parents and fans may sign up for free tournament and weather updates at fastpitchshowdowns.ealert.com.

19. Weather Cancelation Policy – If no games are able to be played, a partial refund will be provided to each team. Full refunds are not possible due to the expenses of the tournament which must be paid prior to the first game played.
    - 3 or more games played – No refund
    - 2 games played - $100 refund
    - 0 or 1 game played - $175 refund

For refund purposes only, a game that has started and the umpires have received payment, will count as a game played.

20. Souvenirs, official tournament t-shirts, and other tournament services will be available throughout the tournament at Tournament Headquarters. Concessions will be available at the main concession stand.

21. Refund Policy – If a team decides to withdraw before the tournament is sold out (or May 1, whichever comes first), a full refund will be issued less the $100 non-refundable deposit. If a team drops out after May 1 or the tournament has sold out earlier and we have turned away teams, no refund will be issued.

22. Facility Rules –
    a. Gates to the fields may not open until 90 minutes before the scheduled first game. Park gates will open at least 2 hours before the first scheduled game.
    b. No warm-ups on the infield before the game.
    c. No smoking in dugouts, on the field, or in stands.
    d. Small coolers are allowed. (No large coolers allowed)
    e. Hitting softballs into fences is not allowed
    f. Hard softball pitching machines are prohibited.
    g. Pet policy is determined by each facility.
    h. No artificial noisemakers are allowed during the game.
    i. If no home run fences, deep outfield warm-ups are allowed.

23. Full details, schedules, teams participating, rules, hotel links, directions, etc are available at each tournament-specific page at www.fastpitchshowdowns.com.

24. Sportsmanship -- please remember that these softball games are being played to help the girls grow into confident young adults. They are not life-and-death situations. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in any Fastpitch Showdowns tournament and will be dealt with on an individual basis -- including the barring of any team/ individual from this or any future Fastpitch Showdown tournament. Managers/coaches are held responsible for the players' & fans' conduct also, so please take control of any possible situation. Coaches will be held accountable to the Coaches Code of Conduct including our Three Strike Policy. For more information, please go to www.fastpitchshowdowns.com.

25. Hotel policy -- This is a "stay to play" tournament. All teams from more than 75 miles away must go thru our approved hotel coordinator - Traveling Teams. We have a link on our website to Traveling Teams as we feel they offer the widest range of accommodations and prices.

The Canton Sports Complex is very proud of its facilities. We feel it is one of the nicest complexes in which we hold tournaments, and certainly one of the nicest in Michigan. Let's everyone do their part to keep it clean by having the players and fans clean up after themselves.

Remember, the purpose of this tournament is for the players to have fun, play competitive softball, and make new friends. That goes for the fans and coaches also. So take the time to shake hands with a stranger from another country and tell them about the beautiful country that you are privileged to live and play softball in.

Best of Luck!

FASTPITCH SHOWDOWNS TOURNAMENT STAFF