

QUEEN CITY SHOWDOWN RULES FOR 2020

Thanks for coming to the 11th annual Queen City Showdown. The purpose is for all players to have fun, enjoy the game of softball, and make new friends. The safety of our teams, spectators and staff are our number 1 priority. Our event procedures have changed slightly to accommodate Responsible RestartOhio Softball guidelines and minimize contact and congregation throughout the event. We know this is a challenging time but we encourage you to take this seriously so you can play throughout the summer. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding during this unprecedented time. Your participation in this tournament, and the time you devote in helping the players grow as young adults, makes it all possible. Because of the high demand for both River City West Park and Mid America Ballyard, we have to play around their league schedule, but despite this we think we still will have a very competitive and enjoyable tournament.

1. CHECK - IN

- a. We have switched to digital check in. Please upload your Proof of Insurance and USA Softball Registration to your profile at [Teamsideline.com/fastpitchshowdowns](https://teamsideline.com/fastpitchshowdowns). This MUST be done prior to your first game.
- b. If you need to sanction USA Softball, please download the USA Youth Team Registration Form from <http://www.usasoftballohio.org/>, complete it with \$35 in cash or check and drop it off at Headquarters before your first game.
- c. Per Responsible RestartOhio guidelines, all players and coaches must submit the Player and Coach Data form at <https://forms.gle/sfEBQAhhbmo5q8v9>. Anyone who does not submit their information via this form will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
- d. 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 players age, all past and future games in which the questionable girl participated in the tournament by that team will be forfeited.
- e. No double rostering and/or additions are allowed throughout the tournament unless consented to by the tournament director.
- f. Final decisions on all roster eligibility questions made by the tournament director.

2. DIGITAL PACKETS

- a. Rules, pools and schedules can be found online at fastpitchshowdowns.com. Individual packets will not be distributed as in years past.
- b. Scores MUST be texted in to 419-777-4377. Please be sure to include the pool, team names, age group, field #, scheduled start time, and final score.
- c. We will distribute a small envelope to you prior to your first game that includes
 - Game MVP Ribbons – There will be MVP ribbons – one for each pool game. **DUE TO THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT THESE WILL NOT BE EXCHANGED WITH THE OTHER TEAM AS WE HAVE IN YEARS PAST. INSTEAD THE OPPOSING COACH WILL VERBALLY TELL YOU WHO THEY SELECT AS YOUR MVP AND YOU WILL DISTRIBUTE YOUR RIBBON TO THAT PLAYER. YOU WILL TELL THE OPPOSING COACH WHO YOU SELECT AS THEIR MVP AND THEY WILL DISTRIBUTE THEIR OWN RIBBON TO THAT PLAYER.** Please make every effort to make the time to communicate with the other coach so they can award the ribbon – often times this is the only award players will receive and it makes them feel special.
 - Where there is an admission charge, **AND THERE IS AT THE QUEEN CITY SHOWDOWN**, your envelope will include a limit of 3 coaches passes. All coaches with

passes and girls in their team uniform are admitted free. This admission charge is collected and administered by the field people at the Parks and is used to offset the cost of the fields.

- d. Per Responsible RestartOhio Guidelines, each team will be given both new and used balls at the beginning of the event that are labeled with their pool assignment. Those balls are the ones you will exclusively use on defense. It is the responsibility of the team to keep track of their defensive balls as they will only be replaced if they are worn out, not if they are lost. For more information on the ball protocol, please see the SANITATION section below.

3. SANITATION/SOCIAL DISTANCING RESPONSIBILITIES - Per Responsible RestartOhio Guidelines, the following procedures will apply

- a. Coaches are responsible to make sure daily symptom assessments are done by all coaches and players - either self-assessment or by a parent/guardian. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must stay home.
- b. Dugouts - It is the responsibility of each team to clean and sanitize the dugout prior to entrance and to sanitize the dugout after their game. **You must provide your own wipes or spray to do this as none will be provided.** Please sanitize and leave your dugout immediately following your game. Post-game team meetings in the dugouts or on the field are prohibited.
- c. Game Balls - each team will be given new and used balls at the beginning of the event that are labeled with their pool assignment. It is the responsibility of the team to keep track of these balls throughout the event. The umpires will not be touching the balls. So if one is fouled off, it is the responsibility of the defensive team to give a sanitized replacement ball to the pitcher and retrieve the foul ball. **Please bring necessary supplies to sanitize the ball as none will be provided.** Your balls will only be used when you are on defense.
- d. Bat Retrieval - a designated adult should be assigned by the offensive team, to be responsible for picking up the bat after it is used. This person should wear disposable gloves and wipe down the bats after each use. Umpires and opposing catchers are not permitted to retrieve the bat.
- e. When possible, players should not share equipment or personal items. If sharing occurs, items should be sanitized between use.
- f. No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans. A “tip the cap” or some other creative acknowledgement can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line.
- g. The parks may remove bleachers to follow social distancing guidelines. Please tell your parents and fans so they may bring their own chairs. Social distancing guidelines must be followed.
- h. All players, coaches and spectators must follow posted park policies.
- i. **It is the responsibility of each head coach to ensure that their players, coaches and fans follow and comply with the Responsible RestartOhio Mandatory Guidelines, Park Regulations and Fastpitch Showdown safety protocols.**

4. ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES - In the interest of the safety of everyone we have adopted these items. The umpire crew has been asked to see that these safety considerations are followed as much as humanly possible. Let's all work together to insure that we can continue to have games throughout the summer!
- a. Player Huddles – 6-ft. distance must be observed
 - b. Defensive huddle in infield – players other than pitcher stay outside pitching circle
 - c. Defensive Charged Conference _ USA SOFTBALL Rule 5, Section 7:
 - Coach must stay on home plate side of pitching circle and players must be on the opposite side maintaining 6-ft. distance. No more than 2 players with pitcher allowed.
 - d. Offensive Charged Conference – Rule 4, Section C:
 - Base coach must stay 6-ft. from runner or batter during or after suspension of play.
 - e. Dugout Conduct – USA SOFTBALL Rule 5, Section 12A:
 - Allow for players to be outside the dugout confines along & behind the out-of-play fence.
 - Dugout capacity dependent on maintaining 6-ft. distance.
 - Players not allowed to leave dugout area to congratulate players when scoring or after home runs.
 - f. Pitching Conduct - USA SOFTBALL Rule 6A, Section 6: No licking of fingers and wiping them off. This will not result in an illegal pitch. When this is observed the umpire will declare a dead ball, advise the pitcher not to go to her mouth and instruct the defense to put a new ball into play.
5. FORMAT
- a. **14U, 16U, 18U ONLY** - 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).
 - b. **10U and 12U ONLY** - Games will only be played on Saturday and Sunday. All teams will have 5 games guaranteed. Age groups with 7 or more teams will be divided into two pools. Teams will play 4 pool games and then they will be ranked in their pool based on how they did in pool play. For the 5th game, each team will play the corresponding finisher in the other pool from their age group. You must go to headquarters to find out when and where your fifth game is being played. **THERE IS NO BRACKET PLAY AT 10U OR 12U.**
6. 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. Coin flip

f. Call to God

7. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

- a. Any rescheduled or replacement games, and any crossover pool games, will count as a regular game. Tournament director's 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 home team is ahead). Incomplete games due to rain, injuries, etc. are recorded as a rain out.
- 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.

8. POOL PLAY GAME LENGTH

- a. Time limit on all pool play games is 75 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. Umpire's time is official time. **IT IS THE COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY 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 75 minutes **FROM THE SCHEDULED START TIME**, however the current inning will be completed (unless 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. **All bracket play games will be 75 minutes from actual start time.**
- d. The championship games will have a 75 minute time limit from actual start time and the international tie breaker will be used.

9. USA Softball Rules will be followed with the following tournament exceptions in pool play and bracket play.

- a. Because the intent of this tournament is to give the athletes 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. Official batting order is handed to umpire at start of game, and cannot be changed during game (to help play as many girls as possible, and the coach has chosen to bat more than 9, an out is not declared if a 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 coaches 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 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 allowed at the 14u, 16u, & 18u age groups
10. Coin Flip will determine home team in both pool and bracket play. **Only one coach from each team may go out for the pre-game meeting and flip.** Home team book is official. **Lineups for teams will be exchanged via text.** The visiting team is responsible for resolving any scoring discrepancies between innings via text. 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.
11. 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 tournament director's decision is final on all matters regarding a forfeit. Forfeited games will not be counted in determining runs allowed, or runs scored.
12. Mercy rules are 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings and 8 runs after 5 innings.
13. 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 chosen by the coach of the opposing team whom they think thinks deserves it. PLEASE be diligent in awarding these ribbons as for some players it will be the only award they get. **THESE ARE AWARDED IN POOL PLAY ONLY.**
 - b. Individual Awards -- awards at HQ 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 at HQ. In an attempt to minimize contact and congregating, please request and pick up all ribbons at once after your last game of each pool play day.
 - c. Championship Medals – These will be awarded to the champions and finalists in each age group. (Maximum of 15 per team allowed).
14. Game Balls – Baden certified USA Softball “Danielle Lawrie” signature leather softballs with .47 cor will be provided to each team at the beginning of the event per Responsible Restart Ohio Guidelines. Each team will be given both new and used balls at the beginning of the event that are labeled with their pool assignment. Those balls are the ones you will exclusively use on defense throughout the event. It is the responsibility of the team to keep track of their defensive balls as they will only be replaced if they are worn out, not if they are lost. For more information on the ball protocol, please see the SANITATION section of the rules above.
15. In pool play, all 10U games may have only 1 umpire.
16. First Aid – For all injuries, please contact local EMT services.
17. 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 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.

18. Admission –THERE WILL BE AN ADMISSION CHARGE TO THE TOURNAMENT. IT WILL BE \$6 PER DAY OR \$12 FOR A TOURNAMENT PASS. **PLEASE LET YOUR PARENTS AND FANS KNOW THIS SO NO ONE IS SURPRISED.**

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

20. Rain 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.

21. Rain Out 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 paid prior to the first game.

- 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 pay, this will count as a game played.

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

23. 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.

24. Facility Rules –

- a. Gates do not open until 1 hour before scheduled first game.
- b. No warm-ups on infield before game
- c. No smoking in dugouts, on the field, or in stands.
- d. No outside food or drink (other than water) is allowed in either Park, as the concessions are used to help offset the cost of the fields. Shared coolers are not allowed per Responsible RestartOhio Guidelines. Players may bring in individual water bottles or personal coolers with water only.
- 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.

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

26. Sportsmanship -- Please remember that these are softball games are being played to help the players grow into confident young adults. They are not life-and-death situations. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in any Fastpitch Showdown 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.

27. Hotel policy - You are welcome to stay at whatever hotel best fits your needs and finances. We have a link on our website to Traveling Teams as we feel they offer the widest range of accommodations and prices, but again it is strictly up to you. You may stay anywhere in order to attend the tournament.

The Parks are both proud of their facilities. We feel they are some of the most knowledgeable people about field maintenance that we know. 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 find a new way to engage with a stranger 6 feet apart and tell them about the beautiful country that we are privileged to live and play softball in.

Best of Luck!

FASTPITCH SHOWDOWNS TOURNAMENT STAFF