

PPWSL 2024 Tournament: *Rules*

Round-robin + Single elimination Format

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1. Purpose

- a. These Guidelines are to be used to provide Tournament-specific guidance. The 2024 PPWSL Rules, as supplemented by the 2024 USA Softball (former ASA) rules, are to be used, unless otherwise superseded by provisions contained herein. The “All players must play and minimum playing time,” “Courtesy runners,” “Pitching,” “Tournament eligibility,” “Uniforms,” and other League rules have been omitted for purposes of clarity only and will be in effect for the Tournament. However, the mercy rule will not be in effect for the tournament.

2. Structure

- a. Date: Saturday, 8/24/24 and Sunday, 8/25/24.
- b. Game start times: Determined by Tournament Brackets diagram (linked in e. Format).
- c. Game intervals: 105-minutes (1-hour 45-minutes) between game start times, unless otherwise noted. Teams should expect to start each game at the posted start time, regardless of the finish time of the previous game.
- d. Duration of game: Seven complete innings or 90-minutes (1-hour 30-minutes) after game start time, whichever comes first for all games except the championship game. No new inning to start after 90-minutes from the game start for all games except the championship game(s). **The teams must confirm and record the actual game start time with the umpire at the start of each game. If there is a lengthy, unforeseen stoppage of play (i.e. injury), umps may be asked by either team to start a stoppage time clock. When the game resumes, the stoppage time can be played beyond the 90-minute window. (i.e. If the game started at 1pm, end time should be 2:30p. But if stoppage time of 10mins needed, then game end should be extended to 2:40p)** See tie-breaking rules below for any additional details.
- i. The championship game is to be seven complete innings with no new inning to start after the game cut off time. The game cut off time for the championship game(s) to be 7:08pm (sunset is approximately 7:38 pm on 8/25/24). See tiebreaking rules below for any additional details.
- e. Format: The [planned tournament](#) is for a two-day tournament on four fields with a round-robin segment on Day One and a single elimination segment on Day Two.
 - i. Bad weather alternatives:

PLAN B: If known in advance that no play can happen on one of the two days, then the tournament will be a one-day, single elimination seeded tournament on up to three fields with seeding determined by the regular season standings.

PLAN C: Two Day tournament, with shortened play-4 fields on Saturday ([early finish](#) or [late start](#)), [shortened play- 3 fields on Saturday](#), Sunday [6-team](#) single elimination (early finish or late start), or Sunday [8-team](#) (slightly earlier finish)
- f. Forfeit time: Five minutes after game start time. It is important and necessary to start games on time to accommodate tiebreakers, if needed.

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- g. Warm-ups: Warm-ups will be held prior to each game only if time allows before designated game start time. If time is available, each team is to have approximately the same amount of time on the field. Visiting Team goes onto the field first, followed by the Home Team. The Home Team may stay on field for the start of game if it desires.
- i. Teams may also warm up on fields not in use for scheduled Tournament play or in the outfield spaces between the Fields as long as games in use for scheduled Tournament play are not obstructed.
- h. Field Measurements: **Umps must recheck base & pitcher's mound measurements before each game, and teams must confirm acceptance of them before the game's scheduled start time.** (The distances are: 40 feet from the back point of home plate to the front of the pitcher's rubber and 60 feet between the bases). Re-measuring of bases will not be allowed once the game has started.
- i. Benches & Equipment: The Home Team in each game chooses the bench it prefers, and is responsible for bringing field equipment to the field for the first game of the day, as well as returning all equipment to the bins after the last game of the day.
- j. **Home Teams/seeding – round-robin segment, Day One:** Teams are divided into three pools as determined by the rankings (seeds) based on overall season standings – see Tournament Brackets diagram. Seed 1 is in Pool A, Seed 2 is Pool C, and Seed 3 is Pool B. All other seed-pool placements are randomized. **On Saturday, the home team is decided by random coin toss in advance and is lower/bottom team in bracket for each game.** The final overall standings must be distributed by the end of the day on Thursday, 8/22/24, at the latest.
- i. Standings: The regular season standings are determined in the following order and are used as seeding (ranking) for the round-robin segment of the tournament:
 - 1. Total points, as follows: two-points for each victory, one-point for each tie, and zero-points for each loss.
 - a. Alternate if one or more teams are unable to play their full schedule of games due to the weather: winning percentage – defined as wins divided by the total number of games played (wins plus ties plus losses) with a tie counting as a half a win.
 - 2. If two or more teams were tied in points, the winner(s) is/are the team that won (best winning percentage) when the teams played each other (head-to-head).
 - a. If the teams played two or more games head-to-head and split them evenly (same winning percentage), the winner is the team with the greater run differential when the teams played each other (head-to-head run differential).
 - 3. If they tied in head-to-head play or if they tied in head-to-head run-differential, the winner is the team with the greater run differential for the season (season run-differential).
 - 4. If the season run-differential is the same, a coin toss will take place (coin toss).

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ii. 2024 regular season standings are as follows:

1: Crescendo	5: Thunder	9: Beavers	13: Jaguars
2: Fuertes	6: Rebels	10: Bodega Cats	14: Flamingos
3: Titans	7: Ducks	11: Backlash	
4: Diamonds	8: Bombers	12: Phoenix	

k. **Home Teams/seeding – single elimination segment, Day Two:** Home teams are determined by the rankings (seeds) based on the standings from the round-robin segment on Day One. **The team with the highest ranking as determined in the round-robin segment on Day One will play as the Home Team in each game**, up to and including the final. The final overall standings and updated bracket will be distributed after play ends on Saturday.

i. Standings: The round-robin segment standings are determined in the following order and are used as seeding (ranking) for the single elimination segment of tournament:

1. Total points, as follows: two-points for each victory, one-point for each tie, and zero-points for each loss.
2. If two or more teams are tied in points, the winner(s) is the team that placed highest in the 2024 regular season.

3. **Tie-Breakers**

a. **Tie-breakers – SATURDAY – ROUND ROBIN SEGMENT ONLY**

If, **after the completion of seven innings** of play **and before the game cut-off time**, the score is tied, teams are to continue play as follows:

1. Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and in each half inning thereafter (as needed), the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number seven batter is the leadoff batter for that inning, the number six batter in the batting order will be placed on second base). If the player who is scheduled to bat last in the respective tie-breaking inning(s) is playing with a courtesy runner, the last recorded out from the previous inning would start at 2B.
2. Play will continue with each complete inning with no new inning beginning after the game cut-off time or until the tie is broken, whichever comes first. If the game is still a tie at the cutoff time, the game immediately ends even if the inning is not complete, and teams are to vacate the field and benches to allow the next game (if any) to proceed. A tie will be recorded.

If, **after the completion of seven innings** of play and **after the game cut-off time**, the score is tied, teams are to vacate the field and benches to allow the next game (if any) to proceed. A tie will be recorded.

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If, **before the completion of seven innings of play, the game is tied at the game cut-off time,** teams are to continue to play a single, additional inning as follows:

1. Starting with the top of the additional inning, and in the bottom half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number seven batter is the leadoff batter for that inning, the number six batter in the batting order will be placed on second base). If the player who is scheduled to bat last in the respective tie-breaking inning(s) is playing with a courtesy runner, the last recorded out from the previous inning would start at 2B.
2. If the game is still a tie after that single inning, teams are to vacate the field and benches to allow the next game (if any) to proceed. A tie will be recorded.

b. **Tie-breakers – SUNDAY – SINGLE ELIMINATION DAY ONLY**

Tie breakers are the same as Saturday, except in the event the game is still tied after the tie breaking rules are executed- the winner is the team that was higher in the overall regular season standings.

4. **Protests**

- a. Follows PPWSL Rules with the below changes
- b. Process: A member of the PPWSL Exec Committee/Tournament Committee must be notified immediately. They will then immediately, prior to each team's next game, inform the Chairperson of the Disputes Committee, Sam Vito (Diamonds) 917-680-1114. In 2024, the Committee consists of representatives from Backlash, Bombers, Diamonds, Ducks, Fuertes, Phoenix, and Titans.

5. **Format Changes Due to Poor Field Conditions**

- a. Delays or format changes: Poor weather before or during the tournament may result in format changes involving fields, number of games, format or, in the most extreme circumstances, number of teams or Tournament cancellation
- b. Decision: Decisions regarding format changes as noted above are to be made by the League Executive Committee consisting of any combination of the League Officers – President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary but no less than two, as well as the Tournament Committee.
 - i. If weather and field conditions warrant, the League Officers and Tournament Committee will communicate as early as possible each day of the Tournament before the first game time slot and make a group decision as to the condition of each of the field, as needed.
 - ii. Alternate brackets for a variety of different conditions such as change to fields or format are provided in advance to assist the League Officers in making and implementing any changes.
- c. Notification: For both days of the tournament tournament-related messages will be emailed to the League Leaders Teamlinkt by 7:30am. Coaches/managers or team representatives should check their TeamLinkt if the weather or ground conditions are questionable and is then responsible to notify their

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own team. Do not have individual players call, text, or email the Tournament Committee and Executive Committee members individually.

- d. If there are not enough fields that are safe & playable to play the agreed upon games, by the start of the first game on Saturday, then none of the games on Saturday will count. Games may be played for fun, if teams agree, but the official tournament will resume on Sunday with a single elimination format, and seeds determined by regular season standings.
- e. If not all the games are played on Saturday (cut short due to weather), then none of the games on Saturday will count. The official tournament will resume on Sunday with a single elimination format, and seeds determined by regular season standings.
- f. **Tournament winner:** If the Tournament is played in part and canceled at some point due to weather or field conditions.
 - 1. If all games are played on Round Robin Day one (2 or 3 games per team) and then it is decided that no play can happen on Day Two, the highest and second highest seeded teams (based on round robin results on Day One) will be the Tournament Champion and the Runner-up. Tie breakers in results go to higher ranked team from regular season standings.
 - 2. If play on Day two is cut off before completion, the highest and second highest seeded teams (based on seeding from the round-robin segment on Day One) remaining when play stops will be the Tournament Champion and the Runner-up. Tie breakers in results go to higher ranked team from regular season standings.

6. Tournament Administration and game day organizing

- a. The Tournament Administration Station (TAS)
 - i. The TAS will be located at a table near Field 1, or as determined based on the condition of fields.
 - ii. League merchandise for sale will also be adjacent to this table and whoever is running the TAS table is responsible for them.
 - iii. Equipment or materials
 - 1. Official Tournament Record; on a clipboard with pen(s) for updating.
 - 2. Tournament Bracket Board(s) with markers for updating.
 - 3. Tournament Guidelines and 2024 League Rules.
 - 4. Tournament Bracket diagram fliers.
 - 5. First aid kit and ice packs.
 - 6. Trash bags: teams should also bring one with you in case there is an overflow of garbage at your field.
 - 7. Game balls: balls will be pre-divided into one bag for each field for that field's games. The first home team at each field will deliver to the field.

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8. Bases and pitching rubbers: when not in use (up to four-sets)
 9. Umpire fees: to be held by the Treasurer and distributed to Tony.
 10. Perpetual trophies: the Jaguars (2023 Regular Season winners) and the Diamonds (2023 Tournament winners) are to bring the trophies to the TAS at the start of Day Two of the Tournament for viewing and later distribution in a brief ceremony to the 2024 Regular Season and End of Season Tournament champions directly after the Tournament ends.
- b. Tournament Organizers are to include:
- i. League Executive Committee: President (Monica Hill, 914-760-1187), Vice President (Jen McGinity, 646-539-8025) Treasurer (Aimee Creed, 646-425-4897), and Secretary (Jax Gill, 909-938-6723).
 - ii. Tournament Committee: Irene Bunnell, Nat Edwards, J De Leon, Sabrica Barnett
 - iii. Umpire Liaison: Monica Hill
 - iv. Tournament Organizing Volunteers: Each team is to designate at least one individual each day to sit at the tournament & merch table. On Saturday, teams must send someone to work the table when they are not playing. On Sunday, due to the uncertainty about the schedule and playing times of each team, it may be necessary for the Tournament Coordinator to assign teams to volunteer time slots. Teams are required to have a volunteer present for any assigned volunteer time slot. Failure to do so without good reason will result in forfeiture of the teams next game at the discretion of the tournament committee.
- c. Official Tournament Record
- i. This document is to contain the reported results of all games and will be certified by the signatures of the League President and Vice President at the conclusion of the Tournament as the Official Tournament Record. The final Tournament results will be derived from this Record.
 - ii. The Official Tournament Record is to be publicly maintained at the TAS.
 - iii. Immediately after each game, each team is to send a single representative to the TAS to report game results. The team representative is to print their name in the Official Tournament Record when reporting results.
- d. Tournament Bracket Board
- i. This board is to publicly display the agreed upon Tournament brackets, as well as game time and location information. It will be updated as the Tournament progresses by the Tournament Organizers from results recorded in the Official Tournament Record.
 - ii. The Tournament Bracket Board is to be publicly maintained at the TAS.
- e. Game balls
- 34 games are scheduled over a two-day period, and 68 new Clincher game balls (two per game) will be required as follows – Day One: 42 game balls for 21 games; Day Two: 26 game balls for 13 games.

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f. Umpire fees

Umpire fees will be paid directly by the League Treasurer, or an Executive Committee designee, to the designated Head Umpire each day prior to commencement of play. The Head umpire on each day will be responsible for distributing the fees directly to the umpires.

g. Portable toilets

The Tournament Organizers will contact the Park to ensure their portapotties are clean on that Friday, and to *try* to secure additional portapotties paid by the league.

h. Bases and pitching rubbers

Bases and pitching rubbers are the responsibility of the Home Team for games at the start and end of each day. They are to be set-up prior to game start time and returned when no longer in use for that day.

i. Four complete sets of bases and pitching rubbers will be required for the Tournament.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Umpires: The League's Umpire Liaison, Monica Hill, is to inform the head of the umpire association of the tournament dates and field locations, and of how many and which umpires the league wants. They are also responsible for informing the head of the umpire association immediately as to any rainouts, delays, or other tournament schedule changes.

b. Two umpires will be hired for each game.

i. Umpire selection will be determined by the designated Head Umpire. The League's Umpire Liaison will ask the head of the umpire association to instruct the umpires to rotate fields between games, to avoid the possibility of pairing more than once a team and umpire who may have developed a poor relationship.

c. Player exemptions, in 2024, the following players were exempted from the minimum-games rule:

Backlash:	Karena Brown	Flamingos:	None
Beavers:	Ashley Evans Ciara Baysah (Zinna) Deb Longo Iris Menas Kristal Mosley Silvia Davis	Fuertes:	Caro Bratnober
Bodega Cats:	Karina Santana Pilar Rau	Jaguars:	None
Bombers:	Jay Oliveras	Phoenix:	Elaine Chin

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	Jenna Zabala Mandy Harris Shira Becher		
Crescendo:	Nichol Hare Nicki Bourbakis	Rebels:	Eileen Canarte Rachel Pincus
Diamonds:	Emily Clark	Thunder:	None
Ducks:	Jax Schumacher	Titans:	Perri Fagin

- d. Litter: Teams should check to be sure they have left nothing behind on their bench – including garbage – as they leave after a game. Players on the sidelines should make an effort to discard garbage, trash, bottles, and cans in the trash cans and trash bags provided.