



# 2023 TOURNAMENT RULES

## TEAM CHECK IN

A Team Representative **MUST** report to their site registration desk and check in with the on-site tournament coordinator **60 minutes** prior to start of your team's first game.

Team representative will present team donations as well as any payment for pre-ordered T-shirts at check in.

Each rostered player on your team who has participated in pre-tournament fundraising will receive a tournament gift bag.

### Saturday, September 9, 2023

<b><u>8U Division:</u></b>	<b>Hamilton Girls Softball Association Complex</b> 100 Christine Avenue, Mercerville, NJ 08619
<b><u>10U C Division:</u></b>	<b>Armstrong Park</b> 323 Ewingville Road, Ewing, NJ 08638
<b><u>10U Division:</u></b>	<b>Armstrong Park</b> 323 Ewingville Road, Ewing, NJ 08638
<b><u>12U C Division:</u></b>	<b>Mercer County Park</b> 1600 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550
<b><u>12U Division:</u></b>	<b>Mercer County Park</b> 1600 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550

### Sunday, September 10, 2023

<b><u>14U C Division:</u></b>	<b>Hamilton Girls Softball Association Complex</b> 100 Christine Avenue, Mercerville, NJ 08619
<b><u>14U Division:</u></b>	<b>Mercer County Park</b> 1600 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550
<b><u>16U Division:</u></b>	<b>Armstrong Park</b> 323 Ewingville Road, Ewing NJ 08628
	<b>Rider University</b> 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
<b><u>18U Division:</u></b>	<b>Armstrong Park</b> 323 Ewingville Road, Ewing NJ 08628
	<b>The College of New Jersey</b> Green Lane, Ewing, NJ 08628



## TEAM ROSTER

\*\*\*\*Teams will utilize a 2024 USSSA roster - NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.\*\*\*

# 2024 Season age chart



The new USSSA Fastpitch season (2024) starts August 16, 2023  
Teams must "age up" or drop older players to stay in their Spring Age group.

The league age of the player is determined by the player's age on December 31, 2023.  
Example: If a player turns 13 on or before December 31, 2023, that player is league age 14U (or 13U but plays by 14U rules).

Age Eligibility According to Birth Year for the 2024 Season (which begins August 16, 2023)			
AGE	BIRTH YEAR	PITCHING DISTANCE	BALL SIZE
8U	2015, 2016, 2017	35 ft (Coach Pitch)	11 inch
9U	2014	35 ft	11 inch
10U	2013	35 ft	11 inch
11U	2012	40 ft	12 inch
12U	2011	40 ft	12 inch
13U*	2010	43 ft	12 inch
14U*	2009	43 ft	12 inch
15U*	2008	43 ft	12 inch
16U*	2007	43 ft	12 inch
18U*	2005, 2006	43 ft	12 inch

\* Metal Cleats allowed

## **8U PINK TOURNAMENT RULES**

Official rules are the 2023 USSSA Fast Pitch **and** the PINK Tournament rules with the following 8U modifications:

1. **Game scores to be reported by the winning team 5 minutes after completion of play** at the tournament site table. Please be courteous and help us have a smooth and efficient event – submit game scores immediately after your game.
2. **Time limit is 70 minutes (drop dead at 70 minutes – score will NOT revert back).**  
**8U Games use a seeding bracket and can end in a tie.**
  - If no winner at completion of 70 minutes, the game ends in a tie.
3. In the 8U Championship game, time limit will be enforced. If the game is tied at the completion of the time limit inning or the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, International Tie Breaker rules will go into effect in the seventh inning.
4. Teams are asked to be at assigned field 30 minutes before game time.
5. Game time is forfeit time unless traveling to and from a previously played game at another field location. A maximum of 10 minute warm up time will be allowed at time of arrival at new field.
6. Umpires will speed up play with three warm up pitches or 1 minute between innings. Players must hustle on and off field.  
**No infield warm-ups after the first inning.**
7. Ejections – SHOULD A MANAGER, COACH, PLAYER OR FAN BE EJECTED FOR ANY REASON, THEY ARE ALSO AUTOMATICALLY MANDATED TO MISS THE NEXT GAME AS WELL. NO EXCEPTIONS!  
THEY MUST IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND VIEWING AREAS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE A FORFEIT OF THE GAME. SECOND EJECTION FROM SAME INDIVIDUAL OR ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THAT TEAM, DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT, WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC FORFEIT OF THAT GAME AND THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
8. There are no protests. All protests will be decided on the field by the umpire.
9. Coin toss to determine home team during all games **including** championship.
10. **8U Game Rules**
  - a. 8U will play a 6 inning game, using a 35' Mound and an 11" Game Ball
  - b. Games will be coach pitch.
  - c. 5 runs per inning except for last inning, which is unlimited runs
  - d. 6 pitches per batter. If the last pitch is fouled off, another pitch will be given.
  - e. Half way line will be used. If runner is NOT past half way when ball is returned to pitchers circle, runner will return to previous base
  - f. Dropped third strike is **NOT** in use.
  - g. Teams may field 10 fielders – team choice, but this cannot be changed once the game starts.
  - h. Stealing is **NOT** permitted.
  - i. No Bunting
  - j. Infield fly rule is not in effect
  - k. 10th fielder is permitted, but must remain in the outfield until the ball crosses the plate or is hit.
  - l. **Mercy Rule: 12 Runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings**
  - m. You may use a courtesy runner for your pitcher or catcher at any time. Must not be the same player for both in the same inning. You must first use any player that has not been in the game yet, if exhausted or not available then you may use your last completed at bat.

# **10U PINK TOURNAMENT RULES**

Official rules are the 2023 USSSA Fast Pitch **and** the PINK Tournament rules with the following 10U modifications:

1. **Game scores to be reported by the winning team 5 minutes after completion of play** at the tournament site table. Please be courteous and help us have a smooth and efficient event – submit game scores immediately after your game.
2. **Time limit is 80 minutes (drop dead at 80 minutes – score will NOT revert back).**  
**10U Games use a seeding bracket and can end in a tie.**
  - If no winner at completion of 80 minutes, the game ends in a tie.
3. In the 10U Championship game, an 80 minute finish the inning time limit will be enforced. If the game is tied at the completion of the time limit or the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, International Tie Breaker rules will go into effect.
4. Teams are asked to be at assigned field 30 minutes before game time.
5. Game time is forfeit time unless traveling to and from a previously played game at another field location. A maximum of 10 minute warm up time will be allowed at time of arrival at new field.
6. Umpires will speed up play with three warm up pitches or 1 minute between innings. Players must hustle on and off field. **No infield warm-ups after the first inning.**
7. Ejections – SHOULD A MANAGER, COACH, PLAYER OR FAN BE EJECTED FOR ANY REASON, THEY ARE ALSO AUTOMATICALLY MANDATED TO MISS THE NEXT GAME AS WELL. NO EXCEPTIONS!  
THEY MUST IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND VIEWING AREAS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE A FORFEIT OF THE GAME. SECOND EJECTION FROM SAME INDIVIDUAL OR ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THAT TEAM, DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT, WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC FORFEIT OF THAT GAME AND THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
8. There are no protests. All protests will be decided on the field by the umpire.
9. Coin toss to determine home team during all games **including** championship.
10. **10U Game Rules**
  - a. 10U will play a 6 inning game, using a 35' Mound and an 11" Game Ball
  - b. Dropped third strike is **NOT** in use.
  - c. Teams may field 10 fielders – team choice, but this cannot be changed once the game starts.
  - d. Stealing is permitted.
  - e. **Mercy Rule: 12 Runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings**
  - f. You may use a courtesy runner for your pitcher or catcher at any time. Must not be the same player for both in the same inning. You must first use any player that has not been in the game yet, if exhausted or not available then you may use your last completed at bat.
  - g. DP/Flex can be used. AP can be used. Team may also bat their entire line-up. However, if for any reason player does not take her turn at bat, it will be recorded as an out.

# **10U C PINK TOURNAMENT RULES**

Official rules are the 2023 USSSA Fast Pitch **and** the PINK Tournament rules with the following 10U C modifications:

1. **Game scores to be reported by the winning team 5 minutes after completion of play** at the tournament site table. Please be courteous and help us have a smooth and efficient event – submit game scores immediately after your game.
2. **Time limit is 80 minutes (drop dead at 80 minutes – score will NOT revert back).**  
**10U C Games use a seeding bracket and can end in a tie.**
  - If no winner at completion of 80 minutes, the game ends in a tie.
3. In the 10U C Championship game, an 80 minute finish the inning time limit will be enforced. If the game is tied at the completion of the time limit or the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, International Tie Breaker rules will go into effect.
4. Teams are asked to be at assigned field 30 minutes before game time.
5. Game time is forfeit time unless traveling to and from a previously played game at another field location. A maximum of 10 minute warm up time will be allowed at time of arrival at new field.
6. Umpires will speed up play with three warm up pitches or 1 minute between innings. Players must hustle on and off field. **No infield warm-ups after the first inning.**
7. Ejections – SHOULD A MANAGER, COACH, PLAYER OR FAN BE EJECTED FOR ANY REASON, THEY ARE ALSO AUTOMATICALLY MANDATED TO MISS THE NEXT GAME AS WELL. NO EXCEPTIONS!  
THEY MUST IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND VIEWING AREAS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE A FORFEIT OF THE GAME. SECOND EJECTION FROM SAME INDIVIDUAL OR ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THAT TEAM, DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT, WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC FORFEIT OF THAT GAME AND THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
8. There are no protests. All protests will be decided on the field by the umpire.
9. Coin toss to determine home team during all games **including** championship.
10. **10U C Game Rules.**
  - a. 10U C will play a 6 inning game, using a 35' Mound and an 11" Game Ball
  - b. The infield fly rule does not apply. The ball remains alive with all runners in jeopardy of being put out.
  - c. The dropped third strike rule does not apply. Whether or not the 3rd strike is caught, the batter is out.
  - d. 10 & under base stealing is allowed under the following rules.
    - Runners starting at first base or second base are entitled to steal one base only per pitch with liability to be put out.
    - A Runner cannot steal home.
    - Runners are not entitled to advance more than one base per pitch unless there is a batted ball or the ball goes out of play resulting in awarded bases.
    - A runner attempting to advance beyond the one base they are entitled to steal may be put out while between bases or in contact with a base to which she is not entitled.
    - After all play ceases and the ball becomes dead, if a runner occupies a base beyond the one the runner was entitled to steal, the runner will be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out.
    - A batter runner, who has received a base on balls, cannot attempt to steal second base.
    - Awarded bases will apply to all runners. This includes an overthrow into dead ball territory
  - e. Runners can only score on:
    - A batted ball
    - A base on balls or hit batter with bases loaded
    - An awarded base when the ball goes out of play to include a pitch that goes out of play.
  - f. A 5 run limit per inning shall be imposed on any inning that begins less than 60-minutes from the start of the game. All subsequent innings shall have no run limit. The plate umpire will note when the 60-minute time mark is reached in the game
  - g. **Mercy Rule: 12 Runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings**
  - h. You may use a courtesy runner for your pitcher or catcher at any time. Must not be the same player for both in the same inning. You must first use any player that has not been in the game yet, if exhausted or not available then you may use your last completed at bat.
  - i. DP/Flex can be used. AP can be used. Team may also bat their entire line-up. However, if for any reason player does not take her turn at bat, it will be recorded as an out

# 12U & 12U C PINK TOURNAMENT RULES

Official rules are the 2023 USSSA Fast Pitch and the PINK Tournament rules with the following 12U modifications:

1. **Game scores to be reported by the winning team 5 minutes after completion of play** at the tournament site table. Please be courteous and help us have a smooth and efficient event – submit game scores immediately after your game.
2. **Time limit is 80 minutes (drop dead at 80 minutes – score will NOT revert back).**  
**12U & 12U C Games use a seeding bracket and can end in a tie.**
  - If no winner at completion of 80 minutes, the game ends in a tie.
3. In the 12U & 12U C Championship games, an 80 minute finish the inning time limit will be enforced. If the game is tied at the completion of the time limit or the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, International Tie Breaker rules will go into effect.
4. Teams are asked to be at assigned field 30 minutes before game time.
5. Game time is forfeit time unless traveling to and from a previously played game at another field location. A maximum of 10 minute warm up time will be allowed at time of arrival at new field.
6. Umpires will speed up play with three warm up pitches or 1 minute between innings. Players must hustle on and off field. **No infield warm-ups after the first inning.**
7. Ejections – SHOULD A MANAGER, COACH, PLAYER OR FAN BE EJECTED FOR ANY REASON, THEY ARE ALSO AUTOMATICALLY MANDATED TO MISS THE NEXT GAME AS WELL. NO EXCEPTIONS!  
THEY MUST IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND VIEWING AREAS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE A FORFEIT OF THE GAME. SECOND EJECTION FROM SAME INDIVIDUAL OR ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THAT TEAM, DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT, WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC FORFEIT OF THAT GAME AND THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
8. There are no protests. All protests will be decided on the field by the umpire.
9. Coin toss to determine home team during all games **including** championship.
10. **12U & 12U C Game Rules**
  - a. 12U & 12U C will play a 7 inning game using a 40' Mound and a 12" game ball.
  - b. Dropped third strike is in use.
  - c. **Mercy Rule: 12 Runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.**
  - d. You may use a courtesy runner for your pitcher or catcher at any time. Must not be the same player for both in the same inning. You must first use any player that has not been in the game yet, if exhausted or not available then you may use your last completed at bat.
  - e. DP/Flex can be used. AP can be used.

# **14U & 14U C PINK TOURNAMENT RULES**

Official rules are the 2023 USSSA Fast Pitch **and** the PINK Tournament rules with the following 14U modifications:

1. **Game scores to be reported by the winning team 5 minutes after completion of play** at the tournament site table. Please be courteous and help us have a smooth and efficient event – submit game scores immediately after your game.
2. **Time limit is 80 minutes (drop dead at 80 minutes – score will NOT revert back).**  
**14U & 14U C Games use a seeding bracket and can end in a tie.**
  - If no winner at completion of 80 minutes, the game ends in a tie.
3. In the 14U & 14U C Championship games, no time limit will be enforced. If the game is tied at the completion of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, International Tie Breaker rules will go into effect.
4. Teams are asked to be at assigned field 30 minutes before game time.
5. Game time is forfeit time unless traveling to and from a previously played game at another field location. A maximum of 10 minute warm up time will be allowed at time of arrival at new field.
6. Umpires will speed up play with three warm up pitches or 1 minute between innings. Players must hustle on and off field. **No infield warm-ups after the first inning.**
7. Ejections – SHOULD A MANAGER, COACH, PLAYER OR FAN BE EJECTED FOR ANY REASON, THEY ARE ALSO AUTOMATICALLY MANDATED TO MISS THE NEXT GAME AS WELL. NO EXCEPTIONS!  
THEY MUST IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND VIEWING AREAS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE A FORFEIT OF THE GAME. SECOND EJECTION FROM SAME INDIVIDUAL OR ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THAT TEAM, DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT, WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC FORFEIT OF THAT GAME AND THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
8. There are no protests. All protests will be decided on the field by the umpire.
9. Coin toss to determine home team during all games **including** championship.
10. **14U Game Rules**
  - a. 14U & 14U C will play a 7 inning game using a 43' Mound and a 12" game ball.
  - b. Dropped third strike is in use.
  - c. **Mercy Rule: 12 Runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.**
  - d. You may use a courtesy runner for your pitcher or catcher at any time. Must not be the same player for both in the same inning. You must first use any player that has not been in the game yet, if exhausted or not available then you may use your last completed at bat.
  - e. DP/Flex can be used. AP can be used.



# **16U PINK TOURNAMENT RULES**

Official rules are the 2023 USSSA Fast Pitch and the PINK Tournament rules with the following 16U modifications:

**Rider University and The College of New Jersey have strict field usage guidelines that MUST be followed. Teams found violating these guidelines are at risk of a forfeit of their game and being removed from the tournament.**

1. **Game scores to be reported by the winning team 5 minutes after completion of play** at the tournament site table. Please be courteous and help us have a smooth and efficient event – submit game scores immediately after your game.
2. **Time limit is 80 minutes (drop dead at 80 minutes – score will NOT revert back). 16U Games use a seeding bracket and can end in a tie.**
  - If no winner at completion of 80 minutes, the game ends in a tie.
3. In the 16 Championship game, no time limit will be enforced. If the game is tied at the completion of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, International Tie Breaker rules will go into effect.
4. Teams are asked to be at assigned field 30 minutes before game time.
5. Game time is forfeit time unless traveling to and from a previously played game at another field location. A maximum of 10 minute warm up time will be allowed at time of arrival at new field.
6. Umpires will speed up play with three warm up pitches or 1 minute between innings. Players must hustle on and off field. **No infield warm-ups after the first inning.**
7. Ejections – SHOULD A MANAGER, COACH, PLAYER OR FAN BE EJECTED FOR ANY REASON, THEY ARE ALSO AUTOMATICALLY MANDATED TO MISS THE NEXT GAME AS WELL. NO EXCEPTIONS! THEY MUST IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND VIEWING AREAS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE A FORFEIT OF THE GAME. SECOND EJECTION FROM SAME INDIVIDUAL OR ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THAT TEAM, DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT, WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC FORFEIT OF THAT GAME AND THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
8. There are no protests. All protests will be decided on the field by the umpire.
9. Coin toss to determine home team during all games **including** championship.
10. **16U Game Rules**
  - a. 16U will play a 7 inning game using a 43' Mound and a 12" game ball.
  - b. Dropped third strike is in use.
  - c. **Mercy Rule: 12 Runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.**
  - d. You may use a courtesy runner for your pitcher or catcher at any time. Must not be the same player for both in the same inning. You must first use any player that has not been in the game yet, if exhausted or not available then you may use your last completed at bat.
  - e. DP/Flex can be used. AP can be used.

# **18U TOURNAMENT RULES**

Official rules are the 2023 USSSA Fast Pitch **and** the PINK Tournament rules with the following 18U modifications:

**Rider University and The College of New Jersey have strict field usage guidelines that MUST be followed. Teams found violating these guidelines are at risk of a forfeit of their game and being removed from the tournament.**

1. **Game scores to be reported by the winning team 5 minutes after completion of play** at the tournament site table. Please be courteous and help us have a smooth and efficient event – submit game scores immediately after your game.
2. **Time limit is 80 minutes (drop dead at 80 minutes – score will not revert back).**  
**18U Games use a seeding bracket and can end in a tie.**
  - If no winner at completion of 80 minutes, the game ends in a tie.
3. In the 18U Championship game, no time limit will be enforced. If the game is tied at the completion of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, International Tie Breaker rules will go into effect.
4. Teams are asked to be at assigned field 30 minutes before game time.
5. Game time is forfeit time unless traveling to and from a previously played game at another field location. A maximum of 10 minute warm up time will be allowed at time of arrival at new field.
6. Umpires will speed up play with three warm up pitches or 1 minute between innings. Players must hustle on and off field.  
**No infield warm-ups after the first inning.**
7. Ejections – SHOULD A MANAGER, COACH, PLAYER OR FAN BE EJECTED FOR ANY REASON, THEY ARE ALSO AUTOMATICALLY MANDATED TO MISS THE NEXT GAME AS WELL. NO EXCEPTIONS!  
THEY MUST IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND VIEWING AREAS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE A FORFEIT OF THE GAME. SECOND EJECTION FROM SAME INDIVIDUAL OR ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THAT TEAM, DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT, WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC FORFEIT OF THAT GAME AND THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
8. There are no protests. All protests will be decided on the field by the umpire.
9. Coin toss to determine home team during all games **including** championship.
10. **18U Game Rules**
  - a. 18U will play a 7 inning game using a 43' Mound and a 12" game ball.
  - b. **Mercy Rule: 12 Runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.**
  - c. 18U Teams may use unlimited defensive substitution and bat unlimited players during the tournament.
  - d. 18U Teams may utilize the courtesy runner for any player in the game as long as you do not delay play. A courtesy runner can be any player.