

Hope's Turn At Bat

2026 Tournament Rules and Policies

SECTION A: REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION

1. Teams must check in at the concession stand of the assigned field of their first game of the tournament at least 45 minutes prior to their first game time.
2. **Teams should email a roster, which includes the full name, date of birth and jersey number of each player, along with proof of insurance to the tournament director at hopes.turn.at.bat@gmail.com. Proof of insurance should have Hope's Turn at Bat listed as additionally insured.** If you have not completed this prior to the start of the tournament, you will be required to provide this information upon check in.
3. The head coach/manager must have birth certificates for every player on the roster available to present at the request of any tournament official, umpire, or opposing coach.
4. **If a team has less than 8 players at game time it will be called a forfeit.**
5. Rosters may not be modified after initial check in. **No player may be listed on the roster of more than one team in the tournament.**
6. For preliminary games only, if additional players arrive after the game begins, they may be added to the line-up at the end of the batting order, and may take the field immediately if a team is playing with 8 players; after notification has been given to the opposing coach and the umpire.
7. Each team is responsible for bringing a team roster and line-up to each game.
8. Each **home** team **MUST** report final game scores to the tournament director by texting to 216-315-0271. Please include the following information: Age Division, game time, home team + score, Away team + score. This information is imperative to keep Tourney Machine current.

SECTION B: SPORTSMANSHIP AND SPECTATOR COMPORTMENT

1. No arguing of umpire calls will be permitted. No protests, the decision of the Home Plate-Umpire is final with regard to the actions of the game.
2. Only the head coach/manager should discuss issues with an umpire.
3. Inappropriate/Unsportsmanlike behavior by a manager, coach, player, or spectator, as determined by the Umpire, Tournament Director, Tournament Competition Director, or other official tournament representative, will result in that individual being removed from the game, playing area, or spectator area for the current and subsequent game.
4. There will be zero tolerance for foul or abusive language, physical actions, gestures, or chants and cheers that disparage or disrespect a manager/coach, an opponent, umpire, or tournament representatives. In the spirit of our event, each team is expected to demonstrate respect and cheer for themselves, not against each other.
5. Team managers/coaches will be responsible for controlling their fans. No warnings will be given. A second offense will result in removal from the tournament and park.

premises.

6. Canopies, umbrellas, and sunshade devices may be used to shade the team or spectators provided access to and from the dugout and spectator seating areas are not obstructed.

7. Spectators must remain in designated areas; only players, coaches and team scorekeepers designated by the team are permitted in the dugout/bench and the playing field.

8. All local park rules, regulations and policies are applicable at all venues and will be strictly enforced by community service and law enforcement personnel.

SECTION C: GAME PLAY AND TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES (ALL DIVISIONS)

1. Once the game ends, hurry off the field (change gear and coaches/team meetings must be done off the playing field.) Each team is required to remove all refuse from their area prior to leaving the premises.

2. Please limit warm-up to designated areas. No warm-up on infield surface; may use foul territory for ground ball work prior to game. Please vacate the infield area when service crews are dressing the field.

3. FORFEIT GAMES: forfeited games will be recorded as a 10-0 victory for the awarded team and a 0-10 loss for the forfeiting team.

4. SOFT TOSS: Absolutely no soft toss against field fences.

5. RUN RULE: Applies to all games.

a. 15 runs after 3 innings

b. 12 runs after 4 innings

c. 10 runs after 5 innings

6. **SEEDING: Results of the three preliminary games will determine placement in elimination brackets. Criteria is as follows:**

a. **Winning percentage in preliminary games (ties count as .5 win and .5 loss)**

b. **Head to Head**

c. **Runs allowed (for all preliminary games)**

d. **Run differential (for all preliminary games, max 10 per game)**

e. **Coin flip**

7. **HOME TEAM will be determined by a coin flip for preliminary games.** For elimination games, the HOME TEAM will be the higher seed.

a. The official game scorebook will be kept by the designated HOME TEAM. Scorebook keepers for each team are to confer at the completion of each half-inning to reconcile the score. If there is an issue, it is to be brought to the attention of the umpire and the difference reconciled before the game resumes. If the opinion of the home plate umpire, the home team fails to keep an adequate scorebook, the visitors scorebook will be taken as official. The decision of the home plate umpire is final.

8. **CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS:** Awards will be given to all division champions and runners-up.

9. SURVIVOR AWARD: Each team will receive an award to be presented to a person affiliated with the team that is a cancer warrior or survivor. The team may present this award at any time the team feels appropriate to do so.

SECTION C(A): GAME PLAY AND TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES (10U TO 18 AND OVER DIVISIONS)

1. In all games, preliminary and elimination, game play will be regulated by ASA rules with an addition of up to two additional batters (AH) in the line-up for all games at the manager's discretion, allowing up to 11 batters for all games, DP/Flex may also be used in addition. A team may also bat their entire roster; the manager must alert the opposing team manager prior to the start of the game. If, when roster batting, a player is injured or takes ill and must be removed from the game, her spot in the order is skipped without penalty, and that player may return. If when roster batting, a player is ejected from the game by the game official, then that player's spot in the line-up shall be recorded as an out whenever she comes up in the batting order.

2. Dropped third strike applies.

3. A courtesy runner may be used for the current pitcher or catcher at any point in the inning. This player may be a bench player not currently in the batting line-up, or the last batted out, or if the pitcher or catcher is the leadoff batter of an inning, then the player preceding her in the batting order may serve as courtesy runner.

4. **Time Limit:** Pool play games are 75 minutes. No new inning may begin after 70 minutes. The game becomes "drop dead" at 75 minutes. If time expires during an inning, the score reverts to the last completed inning unless the home team has tied or taken the lead during its half of the inning. Pool play games may end in a tie. Bracket play games are 75 minutes with no new inning after 70 minutes; games tied after time expires will continue using the international tiebreaker until a winner is determined. **Semi-Final games will run 90 minutes, completing the inning or a maximum of seven innings, whichever comes first. Championship games will run for seven complete innings unless a run rule occurs.**

5. INTERNATIONAL TIE-BREAKER RULES are in effect for all elimination games. Last batted out goes to second base, no outs or count on the batter. The game should be played until a winner is determined.

6. **All teams should be ready to begin their game up to 15 minutes prior to their scheduled game time.**

SECTION D: EQUIPMENT

1. Jewelry will be permitted at the umpires discretion— including ear, eyebrow, lip, nose and tongue piercings.

2. Metal cleats are permitted

3. Bats, protective gear, and support/medical treatment measures (i.e. braces or splints) must be acceptable by ASA standards for fast-pitch softball for the appropriate age bracket.

4. Any warm-up equipment, such as tees or nets must be set up in areas out of play where practice or warm-up activities will not interfere with active games.

SECTION E: INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY AND PROCEDURE

1. Evacuation: if lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters.

2. Thirty-minute rule – all games shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming any game. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall restart the clock, and another count shall begin. If games can be resumed prior to a 45-minute delay, games will resume from the point of suspension.

3. During the course of all tournament games, in the event games are suspended due to inclement weather, and cannot be resumed after a 45 minute delay, at the discretion of the tournament management, the following procedure will be adhered to:

a. A game will become official if 3 or more completed innings are concluded and the game in progress has been suspended for 45 minutes or more. The score of the game will be recorded as it stands if the game is in the bottom half of an inning and the batting team has the lead. Otherwise, the score will revert to the end of the last completed inning.

b. If fewer than 3 innings have been completed, a preliminary game may be resumed, if, at the discretion of the Tournament Director or Competition Director, time is available in the game schedule. All elimination games will be resumed at the earliest opportunity.

c. If weather conditions are such that the Tournament Director decides an elimination game cannot be resumed, the winner will be declared by the team leading after the last completed inning. If a tie exists, the winner will be determined as the team with the most bases earned during the game. If a tie still exists, then the winner will be decided by the total base hits in the game and lastly by a coin flip.

Our tournament leadership respectfully requests that all participants keep in mind that this is a non-sanctioned charity event for the fight against cancer. We want this to be an enjoyable experience for all who participate, especially the girls and young women that are members of each respective team. Good sportsmanship, respect for all and tolerance are strongly encouraged. Thank you and have a wonderful weekend at Hope's Turn at Bat!