

**2016 Baja Arizona Girls Softball Association  
City Wide Tournament and All-Star Tournament  
Procedures and Rules**

***June 10, 2016***

Oro Valley Fastpitch, will be hosting this year's BAJA All-Star Tournament. Tournament play begins Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, and concludes with the Championship Games on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Teams**

Each league may enter an All Star team of their choosing at each age division into the All-Star Tournament. In the event a league has five or more teams in an age division during the regular season, they may submit two teams in said age division for All-Star Tournament play.

All Star teams cannot begin practice [to include clinics, meetings involving any athletic activity, etc.] until after the City Wide Tournament has concluded on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

All rosters will be verified with birth certificates to ensure all players are eligible for the age division in which they are rostered to participate.

**Administrative**

For the All-Star Tournament, team managers must present birth certificates for each player listed on their All-Star roster during check-in before their first game.

For the City Wide Tournament, team managers must have their regular season score books available for inspection during check-in before their first game.

For both tournaments, managers must be able to show Code of Conduct signatures for parents or guardians of all players, as well as all staff members. Staff members consist of a minimum of one female manager, one female assistant manager, and one coach. Any adult who will in the dugout, on the field, or instructing the players is considered a staff member for Code of Conduct purposes. Code of Conduct information can be found in the Baja 2016 Policies and Procedures and also on pages 10-12 of this document.

At the conclusion of each game, both managers and the umpire will sign a game recap certifying the score. The umpire will turn this in to the tournament director.



## Host League and Tournament Director

The President of the Host League or his/her designee shall serve as Tournament Director. The BAJA board shall oversee the tournament draw. The Host League's Board of Directors shall schedule the tournament games, staff a grounds crew to prepare the fields, run a snack bar, and manage the tournament finances, including buying game balls, scorebooks (All-Stars only), and medals; paying field rental/light charges and making payments to Umpires, and Designated UICs on Duty.

The Host League shall pay for the following items with its snack-bar revenue or other funds; scorebooks, field rental, game balls (City Tournament only), and light charges.

All leagues shall pay an "entry fee" calculated so as to cover the costs of the umpires (and Designated UICs on Duty), the tournament medals, game balls, and light fees. Per team entry fee = Total costs of umpires, medals, field and light fees and game balls divided by number of teams.

The City Wide Tournament fees are as follows: \$210 for 8U, \$240 for 10U, 12U, and 14U.

The All-Star Tournament fees are as follows: \$210 for 8U, \$240 for 10U, 12U, and 14U.

For the All-Star Tournament, make one check per league for number of teams entered payable to Oro Valley Fastpitch Softball (OVFPS). Mail fees to P.O. Box 68138, Tucson, AZ 85737. Tournament fees must be received by Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Format

Both tournaments will feature pool play followed by a single elimination bracket.

## Dugout Assignments and Home / Visitor Designation

In all tournament games the team listed on top of bracket takes 3rd-Base bench.

During the All Star Tournament, if a team plays back-to-back games, they must relocate to the assigned dugout for their next game (even if they are playing on the same field) to allow fans and incoming teams to set up at their assigned location in a timely manner.

To determine which team in each pool play game will play as the designated "**home**" team and which as "**visitors**," a coin flip will be held at the home-plate meeting held immediately before the game. During Championship Bracket play, the higher seeded team will automatically be declared the "**home**" team.

## Field Preparation

The host league will provide a grounds crew to prepare the field before each game. All officially required field markings (foul lines; running lane; coach's, batter's and catcher's boxes; pitcher's circle; and on-deck circles) should be chalked.

## Playing Rules

All regular season Baja rules shall apply, except as specifically noted below.

### All Tournament Games Normally Played to Regulation-Game Innings

To allow innings begun to be finished and avoid reverting back to previous innings completed in tournament play, time limits will be in **no new innings** after the times listed below:

8U 1 hour 20 min.	10U 1 hour 30 min.
12U 1 hour 30 min.	14U 1 hour 30 min.

Per Baja rules, regulation games for each age division consist of the following number of innings:

8U 4 innings	10U 5 innings
12U 6 innings	14U 7 innings

All tournament games shall normally be played until the regulation number of innings has been reached (however, see the section below on complete and suspended games for exceptions) or until the time limit is reached or mercy rule limit, whichever occurs first. If the "home" team is leading after the visitors have batted in their half of the final inning, the bottom half of the inning shall not be played.

All tournament games in bracket play must have a winning team. Extra innings will be played if necessary (see "Tie-breaker Procedures" below).

Teams and umpires should strive to begin and complete games as expeditiously as possible so as not to needlessly delay games scheduled later on that day's program.

The Baja rules specifying one-minute between innings or five warm-up pitches should be adhered to. Teams must have their catchers in gear ready to take the field immediately (unless the player has been on the bases, at bat, or in the on-deck circle). If the catcher is not ready to begin warm-ups immediately, a coach should take the warm-up pitches.

In anticipation of the possibility of extra-inning games, the host league should arrange that lights will remain on for at least until one hour after the scheduled completion time of the final game of each evening's program.



## Complete Games and Suspended Games

The only reasons a game may end with fewer than the regulation number of innings (as specified above) having been played, time limits exceeded, or mercy rule limits exceeded is in the event of inclement weather, light failure, or similar circumstances that make continuing play impossible or impracticable. The decision to halt a tournament game or games in progress shall be made by the Designated Umpire-in-Chief On Duty. If field conditions make it feasible, play shall be resumed after a delay. Otherwise the game may be called by the Designated UIC On Duty.

All tournament games must be played to the minimum number of innings to make the game an official one. Per Baja Official Rules 2011, the minimum number of innings for complete games is:

8U:	3 innings	(2 ½ if home team is leading)
10U:	3 innings	(2 ½ if home team is leading)
12U:	4 innings	(3 ½ if home team is leading)
14U:	4 innings	(3 ½ if home team is leading)

If a game is called after the minimum number of innings for a complete game have been played but before the number of innings required for a regulation game, the result shall stand with the score at the time play is halted as the final score if the “home” team is ahead on runs. If an inning is in progress and the visiting team is batting at the time play is halted, the final game score shall be the score at the end of the last completed inning.

If a game is called at the end of an inning when the score is tied, or if when an inning is in progress with the visitors batting and the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning, the game shall be suspended at the point that play was stopped. Suspended games shall be resumed and completed as soon as feasible.

### **“Extra” Innings and International Tie-Breaker**

International tie-breaker procedures shall be followed if a game is tied after the regulation number of innings has been played, or at the completion of a full inning after the no-new-inning time limit has expired. We will begin each additional half inning with a runner on second base. The runner is the girl listed in the batting order immediately before the first batter of the inning. There can be no substitution for the runner (except due to injury).

### **Forfeited Games**

Teams unable to field a minimum team (8) for the City Wide Tournament or a minimum team (9) for the All-Star Tournament by official game start time for any tournament game shall forfeit. Forfeit scores are: 8U, 4-0; 10U, 5-0; 12U, 6-0; 14U & 18U, 7-0. Forfeit time is the scheduled game time. No games will be rescheduled unless postponed due to inclement weather etc. by the Tournament Director prior to game time, or by the Designated UIC on Duty after play has begun. Per Baja rules, no automatic outs are called if a team must play with less than the normal number of fielders (8) because of an injury after the start of the game.

### **Entering Games Late**

For both the City Wide Tournament and All-Star Tournament, all players must be present at official game start time to be eligible to play. Players arriving late may not be added to the lineup, but are eligible to play in subsequent games.

### **Competition Committee and Designated Umpire-in-Chief on Duty**

On-the-field play in the tournament shall be conducted under the supervision of a “Competition Committee” consisting of the seven Baja Leagues’ Umpires-in-Chief:

El Rio:	Joe Scaramella
Las Niñas:	Carlos Alvarez
Northwest:	Brad Peterson
Oro Valley:	Dan Maness/Chris LaPlante
Sahuaro:	Brad Peterson
Tanque Verde:	Rick McDonald

The Competition Committee shall decide any major playing rule matters arising between the days of tournament play; most issues arising during individual games will be settled “on the spot” by the assigned Baja umpires, or, if protested by one of the teams, by the Designated Umpire-In-Chief on duty at the ballpark(s). Baja Coordinator of Umpires shall serve as Chair of the Competition Committee and should make a good faith effort to solicit opinions from all members on any matters arising, although it should be understood that given the compressed time frame in which the tournament is played, this may not always be possible. Designated UICs on duty shall be paid at the same rate as on-the-field umpires (\$35 for each game time-slot covered, though they may be overseeing multiple games during any given time-slot).



## **Scheduling and Duties of Umpires, Designated UICs, and Official Scorers**

The host league shall designate an Umpire-in-Chief (Chris LaPlante for the All Star Tournament) who shall be responsible for assigning umpires, and the Designated UICs on duty.

Umpire Nominations. Each League's UIC or President may, nominate no more than two highly qualified, experienced umpires to work at each tournament's games. Each league must deliver its nominations to the host league's UIC or President for forwarding onto the Baja Coordinator of Umpires. Nominated umpires will be assumed to be available to work any or all games unless the host league's UIC is notified otherwise. Phone numbers, mailing addresses, and (if possible) email addresses must be supplied for all nominated umpires by their league.

Umpire Assignments. Each game will be assigned a two-person crew with the exception of 8U games, which will have one during pool play. To the extent possible, no umpire should be assigned to work a game involving a team from the league nominating him or her. The home plate and bases umpires may, however, be persons nominated by the same league. Each nominated umpire shall normally be assigned a minimum of two tournament games. The host league's UIC may use additional umpires from that league's overall roster to fill in all needed slots or for replacement assignments. Every effort will be made to make sure that umpires used during the Championship games are not from the leagues playing for the first place position.

Designated UIC on Duty. UICs from all the leagues may be assigned to work as on-the-field umpires. The host league's UIC shall assign a member of the Competition Committee (i.e., one of the league UICs) who has not been assigned to work any game on a particular tournament day as that day's Designated UIC on Duty. This UIC should report in uniform. He or she shall represent the Competition Committee and make on-the-spot rulings as needed regarding rule protests, game procedures, and (after play has begun) the calling or suspension of games due to inclement weather, light failure, etc. In the event of a "no show" by an assigned umpire, the Designated UIC shall serve as a backup umpire.

Official Scorers. The "home" team shall keep the official scorebook; they should appoint an experienced official scorer who shall sit behind the backstop close to home plate as directed by the umpire. The official scorer should remain unbiased at all times and not root for the home team. If necessary, the home plate umpire or Designated UIC On Duty may replace the home-team designated official scorer with another capable person.

### **Pitching Eligibility**

Pitching eligibility for City Wide and All Stars will be same as the regular season. One pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.



## Uniforms and Safety

**Uniforms:** Players must wear their complete uniform comprised of: team jersey, matching colored shorts or pants<sup>1</sup>, matching socks, and team visors<sup>2</sup>. Failure of the player to wear the complete uniform shall result in the player being ineligible to play. All players on the field are required to be in complete uniform.

**Safety - Jewelry:** Although jewelry is not allowed to be worn, those players who are not able to remove jewelry or other items for religious and/or other reasons (for example, bracelets that they cannot remove without cutting them off) must cover that jewelry so as not to endanger any other players AND, prior to playing in a game, their parent(s) must have signed a document absolving Baja and the leagues of any liability as it could relate to the jewelry and/or other items in question.

**Safety - Coaching staff:** Any member of the coaching staff who is on the field (i.e., base coaches, coach pitcher for 8U, and coach behind the umpire for 8U) must wear closed-toe footwear, preferably athletic shoes. Those who do not do so cannot take the field. All coaches and managers must wear team shirts.

**Conduct:** Players, Coaching Staff and Spectators, and others – all people involved in the tournament are to:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship
- Show respect for all involved in the game including opponents, opposing fans, and umpires
- Provide positive support

Coaching staff (managers and coaches) are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their players and their supporters and spectators. Therefore, the coaching staff is to ensure that all involved do not heckle, insult, belittle, harass, or argue with umpires, managers, coaches, players, league officials, or any others involved. The UIC and Tournament Director shall determine the severity of transgressions and violations of this conduct can lead to verbal warnings, removal of violator(s) from the fields and/or park, and forfeiture of games.

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<sup>1</sup> For City Tournament, a mix-match is allowed. In All-Stars, the team must be uniform – all pants or all shorts.

<sup>2</sup> Players may decide individually to wear a visor, a hat, or no headwear. Hat or visor must be matching in style and color for all players opting for headwear.

### **Cheers: positive cheers only**

Because of concerns about negative cheers, ANY cheer taking place during the tournament must meet the following requirements:

1. Cheers must be positive.
2. All cheers must be about the cheering team's team. That is, a cheer cannot make ANY reference to the opposing team as a whole, an individual member of the opposing team, the league or anyone associated with the opposing team.
3. Cheers cannot be timed to affect any activity on the field (i.e., the batting team cannot start to yell out a cheer at a time that would disrupt a pitcher, catchers disrupting batters, etc.).

Consequence: Any violation of this rule puts a team at risk of forfeiture as determined by the UIC and tournament director. This also applies to each team's supporters (people in the stands, etc.).

### **Protest Procedures**

Any protests must be made by the designated "field manager" at the time of the play in question and only after attempting to resolve the issue with the on-the-field umpires. Teams should be good sports and not argue calls or file protests unless they feel strongly that a rule has been misinterpreted. Remember that judgment calls may not be appealed. A team wishing to lodge a formal protest must inform the home plate umpire before the next pitch is thrown.

If a protest is filed, the umpire will immediately inform the scorekeeper who will stop the game and, if necessary, find and bring to the field the Designated UIC on Duty.<sup>3</sup> The Designated UIC will talk separately with the field managers of both teams and with the umpires before rendering a decision. The UIC's decision will be final and play will be resumed immediately after any remedies specified by the UIC have been made in terms of the positioning of base-runners, the awarding of outs, and so forth.

### **Medals**

16 medals shall be awarded to all players, coaches, managers and asst. managers participating in the tournament at the conclusion of that team's participation. If another game is scheduled to follow, the award ceremony of a non-championship round game will be held off the field once both dugouts have been cleared. If the game is the final one of the evening, and at the conclusion of all championship games, the awards ceremony will be held at home plate. The winning team should stay as a cheering section during the award ceremony to congratulate and honor the team that has been eliminated. Those players, who finish in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>, will receive medals for finishing in those positions and will not receive participation medals.

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<sup>3</sup> If the Designated UIC on Duty has been pressed into service as a replacement umpire on one of the fields, he or she can be temporarily substituted for in the game where he or she is serving by one of the umpires in the temporarily suspended game; if the UIC is serving on the field in the game in which the protest is filed, he or she will designate any other umpire who is at the park not involved in the game in question to serve as substitute Designated UIC, temporarily replacing that umpire if necessary from one of the other games in progress. Interruption of other games in progress should be kept to the minimum possible level.



# Baja 2016 Tournament Official Score Sheet

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Age Division \_\_\_\_\_

Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_ [visitor] vs. \_\_\_\_\_ [home]  
(home/visitor designation determined by coin flip)

Final Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Team innings on defense: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Team innings on offense: \_\_\_\_\_

Visiting Team innings on defense: \_\_\_\_\_

Visiting Team innings on offense: \_\_\_\_\_

We certify that the final score listed is correct to the best of our knowledge.

Home Plate Umpire \_\_\_\_\_

Home Team Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Visiting Team Manager \_\_\_\_\_



## Staff Code of Conduct

### **Baja Arizona Girls Softball Association Code of Conduct for Coaching Staff**

I know, as a member of the coaching staff, that I'm held to a higher standard at all times on and off the field. I pledge to provide an environment for players, managers, coaches, and other staff and volunteers that is conducive to good sportsmanship, respect, positive support, and the development of friendships in the spirit of competition. I understand that any infraction of the rules or the Code of Conduct will place me in direct violation of this Code of Conduct and subject me to the consequences listed on page 2.

I understand that it is my responsibility to attempt to address any incidents at the time of its occurrence or ask for assistance from the umpire or league official. I also understand that any and all incidents must be reported to league board officials immediately and at any point in time, the umpire and league officials have every right to ask any parent, coach, manager or spectator to leave the park if they act in an unsportsmanlike manner.

#### **In order to be a successful coach or manager I pledge to:**

- Treat each player as an individual, remembering the emotional and physical development of each participant. I understand that players have different abilities and the true measure is not how they compare to others but how they are doing in comparison to their best selves.
- Do my best to provide a safe playing situation for all players. I will not only abstain from drugs, tobacco and alcohol at all games and other BAJA activities, I will ensure that the parents and their guests know that having drugs, tobacco and alcohol at any BAJA event is in direct violation of the Code of Conduct.
- Place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- Do my best to organize practices that are both fun and challenging for all players with the focus of teaching softball fundamentals and improving skills.
- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for and interactions with all players, coaches and umpires at every game or practice. I will "Honor the Game" and encourage respect from not only the players but from the parents and their guests. I understand that physical assault, vulgar, demeaning and/or obscene language or gestures to any staff, BAJA officials, umpires, players or parents is in direct violation of the Code of Conduct.
- Be knowledgeable of the rules of BAJA softball and should I have any questions about any particular rule, I will address those questions with a BAJA league representative and/or the umpire prior to the start of a game. If I question the interpretation of a rule made by the umpire during a game, I will address those concerns in a professional and respectful manner.
- Remember that I am a youth sports coach/manager and that the game is for the children, not the adults.

**Consequences—any coaching staff in direct violation of this code of conduct will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Baja 2015 Policies and Procedures.**



**BAJA ARIZONA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
2016 CITY TOURNAMENT  
TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE**

**STAFF, PARENTS, AND PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO READ, SIGN, AND RETURN THIS DOCUMENT  
TO THE UMPIRE OR A BOARD MEMBER BEFORE THE START OF THEIR FIRST TOURNAMENT GAME  
(Please note – “Parent” refers also to a guardian)**

I know as a parent/guardian that I am a role model to my child. I pledge to provide an environment for players, manager, coaches, and other staff and volunteers that is conducive to good sportsmanship, respect, positive support, and the development of friendships in the spirit of competition. I understand that any infraction of the BAJA rules or the Code of Conduct will place me (and any of my guests) in direct violation and subject me to disciplinary action that could include the consequences listed in Baja 2015 Policies & Procedures document.

**I (and my guests) pledge to:**

- Remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for our youth, not for the adults.
- Inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- Be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy for everyone involved in the league (players, coaches, officials, spectators) at all times during practices and games.
- Not engage in any kind of inappropriate conduct, nor allow my child to engage in such conduct as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, use profane language or inappropriate gestures and very importantly, to not engage in any physical altercations with anyone while attending any BAJA function.
- Learn and respect the rules of the game and policies of the league. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. I will ensure that my child treats other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- Teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning so that my child never feels defeated by the outcome of a game or their performance. I will praise my child for trying their best and for competing fairly. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Respect the officials and their authority during games. I will never question, discuss, or confront coaches/umpires on the game field. Instead, I will take time to speak with coaches/umpires at an agreed upon time and place.
- Provide a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will abstain from their use at all BAJA events.
- Refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the officials or coaches of the team.

SIGNATURE PAGE IS ATTACHED

**BAJA ARIZONA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
2016 CITY TOURNAMENT  
TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE**

**WE AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE AS DESCRIBED ON THE PROCEEDING PAGE:**

<b>LEAGUE, TEAM NAME, AND AGE DIVISION</b>			
	<b>PLEASE PRINT</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	
<b>MANAGER NAME</b>			
<b>COACH NAME</b>			
<b>COACH NAME</b>			
<b>PLAYER'S NAME/NUMBER</b>	<b>PLAYER SIGNATURE</b>	<b>PARENT SIGNATURE</b>	
1.			
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