

Battle at the Borders Tournament Information and Rules

June 27-28, 2026

Policies and Procedures

- ❖ Entry fee and Gate Fee per team is \$600.00 (this includes all admissions and parking at all locations).
- ❖ Tournament roster containing no more than 15 players and a copy of team insurance must be turned in no later than 1 hour before the first game. No changes can be made after the roster is turned in. A player's age group is determined by their age as of August 31, 2025. Teams shall have player birth certificates readily available upon request of the Tournament Director. Questions of age eligibility shall be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director. Such matters will be investigated and resolved as quickly as possible. The forfeit score shall be 7-0 for tiebreaker purposes if any concerns are determined.
- ❖ Registered umpires have been assigned to each game. Coaches and players must treat them with respect. With regard to on-field calls, the decision of the umpires shall be final. There will be 2 umpires for all games and all age divisions.
- ❖ Teams shall be at their playing field 30 minutes before scheduled game time. If the prior game finishes early, the next scheduled teams may be asked to begin play earlier than scheduled. If a team fails to field 8 uniformed players at game time, the Tournament Director must issue a forfeit victory. The team that wins the game by forfeit will be credited with a 7-0 victory for tiebreaker purposes.
- ❖ The home team for pool games shall be determined by a coin flip. Both teams must report scores to the tournament official via text 30 minutes after the game. The higher seed will be the home team during bracket play. If seeding is the same during bracket play, home team will be determined by a coin flip with the umpire assigning heads and tails. First and Third base sides will be determined on a first come first serve basis. If a team has back to back games, they will stay on the same side.
- ❖ If a tiebreaker is needed to determine playoff teams, the following tiebreakers shall be used:
 - Overall win-loss record
 - Head-to-head
 - Least number of runs allowed during tournament
 - Coin flip (computer generated through exposure app)
- ❖ There will be no infield practice. Teams are allowed to play catch in the outfield area if time allows.
- ❖ Game Balls will be provided.
- ❖ Minimum of 4 games will be played.

Playing Rules

- ❖ MHSAA rules will be followed with exceptions (i.e. double first base). Infield fly rule will ONLY apply to 12U, 14U, and 16U age divisions. Infield fly will NOT apply to the 10U age division. 10U is playing drop 3rd strike.

- ❖ Every player is allowed to bat, but you only have to bat 9. If you only bat nine then you do not have free substitution in the field, otherwise if you bat the entire line-up you have free substitution in the field.
- ❖ There is free substitution among the players listed on the batting order. There is no designated hitter. DP/Flex can be utilized. If you do, you will have to supply line up to umpire and report changes to umpire and other team. MHSAA rules for the DP/Flex will be followed.
- ❖ Time limit per game will be 1 hour 15 minutes. Start time shall begin at the conclusion of the coach's plate meeting. The home umpire shall monitor the official time. All pool play games and bracket play games will have this time limit. Once an inning starts, it must be completed. The official time is ended when the third out of the bottom of the inning is recorded. If the home team is ahead when the time limit is reached, the game is over and the bottom half of the last inning shall not be played. If a game is tied after the time limit expires or when the regulation innings have been completed in pool play, the game will be recorded as a tie. In bracket play, we will use the international tie breaker rule if the game is tied after the time limit expires or when regulation innings are completed. Which is: each team will start the inning with a player on second base and 0 outs. The base runner will be the last batted out from the previous inning. Each batter will start with a 0-0 count.
- ❖ Mercy Rules
 - 12 runs after 3 innings
 - 10 runs after 4 innings
 - 8 runs after 5 innings
- ❖ Full games with no run limitations in any innings. Length of game - 10U and 12U will play 6 innings, 14U and 16U will play 7 innings. Mercy rule still applies as well as time limits.

Pitching Distances and Info

- ❖ 10U 35 feet
- ❖ 12U 40 feet
- ❖ 14U 43 feet
- ❖ 16U 43 feet
- ❖ Pitching from the start back or step back will be allowed. The "Leap" will also be allowed due to the change in USSSA and USA softball for 2022. Crow-Hopping or replanting pivot foot to gain an advantage as a second starting point will continue to be prohibited and will be called.
- ❖ Warm up pitches: 3 for the first inning, 1 pitch every other inning. New pitcher gets 5 pitches.

Intentional Walks

- ❖ There will be no pitches thrown to intentionally walk a batter. Notify the umpire and the batter will be awarded first base.

Courtesy Runners

- ❖ Courtesy runners are optional at any time for the pitcher and catcher. The courtesy runner shall be a player not currently in the lineup OR the last completed at bat not on base OR the furthest away in the line-up if in the first inning. The pitcher or catcher for this rule is the pitcher or catcher of the previous inning.

Ejections

- ❖ If a player is ejected during a game, the name of the player will remain in the batting order and count as an out when the batting order reaches that player. If a player or coach is ejected from a game, he or she will serve a one game suspension. The suspension must be for the next game the team plays.

Protest

- ❖ If protesting a roster, you must do it before the game starts. If your protest is not substantiated, a \$100 fee will be charged to your team. If a team is in violation of age rules, the entire team shall be disqualified from the tournament and forfeit any previous tournament games played, and in addition, any tournament fees paid.

Injuries and Early Departures

- ❖ If a player becomes injured (as ruled by the umpire) and is unable to continue playing, her spot in the batting order shall be skipped with no penalty. Once the injured player leaves the batting order, she is done for the remainder of that game.

Game Schedules

- ❖ Game Schedules will be sent out no later than Tuesday June 23rd by midnight. They will be available on the Exposure Softball app.

Weather

- ❖ Due to the fact that no one can control the weather, the tournament committee may change the format of the tournament at any time in order to attempt to get all of the games in.
- ❖ Phone number for tournament director, Amanda Bucklin, in case inclement weather is 517-745-8222. Updates will also be posted on our Facebook page.
- ❖ Refund policy: 0 games played, full refund minus \$75, partial refunds will be determined by number of games played.

Tournament Director reserves the right to change schedules (number of games, length of games, or modifying the time limit) due to cancellations, weather or other unforeseen situations.