

2026 Tournament Rules

2026 DALLAS EASTER CLASSIC RULES

References in this document to “Tournament Coordinator” refer to the currently elected PSSA Tournament Coordinator. Field Managers are in charge of managing a field complex. Field Managers will be designated as such by the Tournament Coordinator, and the Field Managers may utilize a team of volunteers to assist with their duties. Field Managers or members of their team of volunteers may step in as Tournament Coordinator at the Tournament Coordinator’s discretion.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Days of Play: For all divisions the tournament will be held on Saturday and Sunday (04/04/26-04/05/26).

Player Registration: All players must register with a Government ID before taking the field. Players must register before the end of pool play in their specific division of play to be eligible for the remainder of the tournament. Exceptions may only be made by the Tournament Coordinator. Players must be at least 18 years of age to register and participate in the tournament. Additionally, no player may be on the roster of more than one team.

Team Eligibility/Player Ratings: For Open divisions, current IPS ratings based on 2026 guidelines will be in effect. For reference, team rating limit guidelines are as follows:

OPEN TEAMS

Team ratings will be calculated by adding the top 10 rated players.

Division Team Ratings Thresholds and Individual Ratings Thresholds:

E Division: Up to 60 Up to 6

D Division: Up to 95 Up to 10

C Division: Up to 130 Up to 14

Non-LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual) Players: For Open Teams, rosters are limited to a maximum of 3 non-LGBTQIA+ players.

Roster and Ratings Submission: No player may be on the roster of more than one team. Team rosters shall have a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of twenty (20) players and a maximum of two (2) non-playing members. Managers must submit a roster with the full 26-

question IPS rating for each player. Each player's rating must match the rating for that player in the IPS database. Rosters may include a maximum of three (3) players that do not have a rating in the IPS database.

Protests Regarding Ratings/Eligibility: Any ratings or eligibility protests must be brought to the attention of the umpire prior to the last out of the game. During pool play, games will continue without delay until the game is completed or time expires. During bracket play, the game play will stop until the protest process is complete, and a decision has been given. An initial \$50 protest fee, plus a \$25 fee per protested question, must be presented along with a protest form (available from the Field Manager) to the umpire at the time of the filing, or the protest will be invalid. The Field Manager will accept CASH only; no credit cards nor on-line payments (such as Venmo and PayPal) will be accepted. The protest hearing may begin as soon as five (5) minutes after the end of the game. If the protester is not available when the hearing is ready to begin, the protest will be deemed invalid. The protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld or deemed invalid. If part of the protest is upheld, the per question protest fee for those questions upheld will be refunded. If more than 50% of the protested points are upheld, the \$50 protest fee will be returned as well.

· The Field Manager will convene a Protest Committee to resolve any such protest. The protest committee will consist of 3 people with solid ratings knowledge and may include the Field Manager, PSSA Ratings Coordinator (if available,) IPS representatives, or representatives from other IPS leagues. Every attempt will be made to comprise the committee of members not in the same division, but the Tournament Coordinator and Field Manager may use representatives from the division of play that don't possess a conflict of interest, as a last resort. The committee may solicit input from other tournament attendees including umpires, managers, players, and other tournament officials.

Penalties for Successful Protests:

In the event of a point increase (due to a successful protest) which results in a player being over the division cap, the protested game will be forfeited. Unless the forfeit is the team's second loss in double elimination, they may continue in the tournament in certain circumstances as described below.

If a successful protest causes a player's rating to go over the division limit (the player is "protested out"), the player will be removed from the team's roster and ineligible to play. The team may continue with their team rating being adjusted to include only the remaining players. However, if two or more players are protested out, the Tournament Coordinator has the discretion to remove the team from play, regardless of their team rating.

If a team has three (3) or more points successfully protested during the tournament or the team obtains enough points through protests to push the team over the division cap, the team will be eliminated from the tournament.

Player Removal: If it is determined that a player should clearly be rated for play in a division higher than the one in which they are registered, the player may be removed from the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Coordinator. Any decision will be based on first-hand views, Field Manager input, and information provided from umpires and other divisional representatives. It is especially important that team managers are aware of this rule, especially as it relates to players that did not have a rating prior to this tournament.

Pool Play: A random draw of teams will place them into a pool. A coin flip will determine the home team for all pool games.

Seeding & Tiebreakers: Seeding will be based on the team's record within the entire division. If two or more teams are tied with the same record, the tiebreaker(s) will be: 1) runs allowed, 2) random draw.

TOURNAMENT RULES

ALL USA SOFTBALL RULES SHALL APPLY EXCEPT AS MODIFIED HEREIN:

Game Time: Game time will be considered forfeit time. Forfeit time will be extended if either team's prior game finished after the scheduled game time. A forfeit will result in a 7-0 score. The umpire will record the game start time and will be the sole official in charge of the game start and finish time.

Home Team: The home team will be determined by a coin toss for all pool play. Seeding will determine the home team for double elimination games in each division. The home team for the Championship game will be the undefeated team, and home team during the IF game will be determined by a double coin flip with both teams having a loss during double elimination.

Pitch Count: All plate appearances begin with a 1-ball-and-1-strike count and ONE Courtesy Foul.

Pitch Height: Pitch height is between 6 & 12 feet.

Batters: A team may bat up to 12 players for the entire tournament.

Courtesy Runner: Only one courtesy runner is allowed each inning and can be any player from your roster during that game. If the courtesy runner is on base when they are scheduled to come up to bat, the batter will be called out and the runner will stay on base.

Runners used for players as part of an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) allowance, do not count as a courtesy runner. That courtesy runner will be the most recent out for their team. If an out hasn't happened, it will be the person who is furthest away from hitting in the batting order who is not currently on base. If the runner is still on base when their time in the order comes up, they will be replaced on base with the most recent out at the time that occurs. The spot-on-base will not become an out. The player with an ADA also may not progress beyond first base during their at bat. If they do, they will be called out. This includes ADA courtesy runners from home plate. ADA accommodations must be announced to both umpire and opposing team in pre-game huddle and be listed on the lineup for each game they're rostered.

Scorekeeper: The home team is the official scorekeeper. Scores should be confirmed at each half inning with the plate umpire. It is each manager's responsibility to initial and confirm the umpire's scorecard, including that the correct winning team is indicated at the conclusion of every game. Upon leaving the field, the Umpire's scorecard becomes official.

Player Line-ups: Teams must begin and finish with at least nine (9) players to avoid a forfeit. An out will be recorded every time the vacant 10th batting position has a turn to bat. If a 10th player arrives before the start of the third inning, the player must be immediately entered into the game. Any other player arriving after this shall be entered as a substitute. Teams may bat up to 12, using two (2) extra hitters. Extra hitters must be indicated as EH on the line up sheet. If a team starting with 10 or more players on the line up loses a player during the game and has no one to substitute, then an out will be assessed whenever that player would have come up to bat.

Game Rules: Pool play games will be 45 minutes long (this has been altered due to impending weather to 30 minutes, 1 pitch with no courtesy foul, finish the inning) and Double-Elimination Bracket Games will be 50 minutes long. No new inning will start after time has expired in both Pool Play and Double Elimination Bracket games. USA Softball run rule is in effect.

USA Softball Run Rule:

- 20 runs ahead after 3 innings
- 15 runs ahead after 4 innings
- 10 runs ahead after 5 innings

Home Run Limits:

C Division – One (1) over the fence home run per game, per team. Any beyond that will end the inning.

D Division – Zero (0) over the fence home runs. Any unassisted over the fence home run will end the inning.

E Division – Zero (0) over the fence home runs. Any unassisted over the fence home run will end the inning.

NOTE: When a ball is hit over the fence, the batter and all base runners may go directly to the dugout. In this case, appeals for runners missing a base are not allowed.

Tie Games: Pool play games may end in a tie. For all other games, the international tie breaker will be in effect. The last batter of the previous inning shall be placed on 2nd base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner following regular substitution rules.

Player Ejection Penalty: The player shall be removed from the current game only. Tournament officials reserve the right to suspend and/or disqualify any ejected player for future games of the tournament if the ejection is deemed to be morally offensive or threatening in nature to another player, umpire, spectator, tournament staff member, or park patron. If there is no substitute available to replace the ejected player, an out will be recorded each time the ejected player was due to come up to bat. If more than one player is ejected from the same team for the same game, the result is a forfeit for that team. If the ejection results in a team falling below 9 eligible players on the line-up sheet, the result will be a forfeit. **Unsportsmanlike conduct will NOT be tolerated. Umpires will not be required to give any warnings.**

Pick a Stick: Dallas Easter Classic follows Pick-A-Stick rules meaning that all bats are provided by the tournament for use in every game during the tournament. Personal bats are not allowed to be used nor are any personal bats allowed in the dugout. Provided bats may not be taken into the dugout and must remain in the field of play. Any violation of these rules will result in ejection from the game for the player involved. If the player cannot be identified, the coach of the team will be ejected. If an illegal bat is used, the player will be ejected from the tournament and the game will be a forfeit.

Uniforms: Each player must wear a “team jersey” which must be similar in color and style and must have a player/roster number as described by USA Softball rules. Non-uniform decorations or tied cloth is NOT allowed on a player's head, neck, or body. Jewelry and Loose Accessories: Exposed jewelry or accessories that are judged by the umpire to be dangerous to others must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Examples of items that may be required to be removed are body and facial piercing, rings, necklaces, bracelets, wrist watches, earrings, pagers, cell phones, tobacco tins, and unsecured sunglasses. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to the body. Non-removable jewelry must be concealed with tape or bandage.

Tournament Integrity: The Tournament Coordinator reserves the right to adjust the tournament rules and format as needed if deemed necessary for the best interest of the tournament. Additionally, the Tournament Coordinators reserves the right to remove a player or team for violating tournament rules. In the absence of anything mentioned specifically in these rules, the USA Softball rulebook will apply. Inclement weather is not just cause for refund of the entry fee. We will do everything humanly possible to ensure all games will be played as scheduled. Should rain occur the tourney app will be updated, along with our Facebook pages. Tournament related information will be done exclusively through both Dallas Easter Classic Facebook and Tourney Machine app.

