



## 2023 Liberty Classic Rules

### Open Division

The Liberty Classic will follow USA Softball and NAGAAA rules except for the rules listed below:

#### 1. Registration & Rosters:

- a. The Liberty Classic will use the 2023 NAGAAA ratings guidelines to verify individual ratings.
- b. All teams must submit team roster with ratings using the 2023 NAGAAA rating questions for their players. Only two players without an established NAGAAA rating will be permitted on each team's roster.
- c. Each player must register by signing their team's ratings roster prior to taking the field in any game and appearing on a team lineup card.
- d. Any player found playing a game without having signed the player roster is subject to suspension and the team will forfeit that game. Any previous games will also be forfeited.
- e. A Photo ID will be required at registration.
- f. There will be no player registration on Sunday. Players must register prior to the start of their first double elimination game.
- g. There will be no managers' meeting.
- h. Tournament fees become non refundable on 6/02/2023.

#### 2. Tournament Divisions:

- a. Teams or players that do not have established NAGAAA ratings must be rated and those ratings submitted on that team's roster.
- b. All ratings are subject to protest.
- c. No team may have more than two non-NAGAAA rated players on their team unless approved by the tournament director.
- d. The Liberty Classic tournament will use the team rating caps outlined in the 2023 NAGAAA rating guidelines. The ten (10) top rated players will be added together to give the team rating for all Open Division teams as follows:
  - i. B Division: All teams rated 180 or lower. The B division will allow two players with ratings above 20, however, this player would count towards their non rated player count. (ie. two 20+ OR non rated player per team)
  - ii. C Division: All teams rated 140 or lower. No players rated over 15 allowed on a C division team.
  - iii. D Division: All teams rated 110 or lower. No players rated over 12 allowed on a D division team.
  - iv. E Division: All teams rated 75 or lower. No players rated over 8 are allowed on an E division team. No player in the E division may have a yes for question 3.

#### 3. Tournament Format:

All divisions will play two (2) pool games that will seed them for double elimination play. This format guarantees every team four (4) games. Seeding for double elimination play will be based on the following:

- a. Placement will be determined by ranking within each group of pool play.
- b. Each group will consist of 3 or 4 teams. Placement will be determined by won/loss/tie record in the following order:
  - i. 2-0-0; 1-0-1; 1-1-0; 0-0-2; 0-1-1; 0-2-0
- c. If there is more than one team with same record in pool play, the higher seed will go to the team that scored the most runs in both pool games. If there is still a tie, it will be broken by a coin toss.

#### 4. Round Robin:

Round robin will be selected by distributing participating cities teams across all pools in the division.

5. **Home Team:** Home team for each game will be determined by coin toss, except for the Championship game when the winner of the winner's bracket will be home team. If the "if" game is necessary, a coin toss will determine home team.
6. **Line-up Cards:** 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, 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 (shorthand rule). If a player is ejected and there is not a substitute, the team will forfeit the game. Teams will exchange line-ups during the managers' meeting with the umpire at the beginning of each game. League line up cards must be submitted to the umpire at the pre-game managers' meeting. A completed LIBERTY CLASSIC TOURNAMENT line-up card is required before a team may play. The line-up card MUST include LAST NAME and INITIAL OF FIRST NAME and JERSEY NUMBER. Incomplete line-up cards will result in a forfeit. First names only, nicknames, no jersey numbers ("blue shirt," etc.), or any other incomplete line-up cards will not be accepted. Players are not allowed to switch jersey numbers between games without informing the tournament director first. Doing so may result in the ejection of the player from the tournament. The pre-game managers' meeting may be called by the umpire if both teams are present and waiting for the prior game to finish. Teams are encouraged to have their line-up cards completed 20 minutes before game time.
7. **Official Scorebook:** The official scorebook will be that of the home team. The home team scorekeeper is required to confirm the score each ½ inning with the plate umpire. The visiting team is highly encouraged to confirm the score with the home team every ½ inning.
8. **Run Rule:** A game will end, if any team is leading by:
  - a. 20 after 3 innings
  - b. 15 after 4 innings
  - c. 10 after 5 innings
  - d. This rule is in effect for all games.
9. **Tiebreaker:** Pool play games in all divisions can end in a tie. For all double elimination games, if the score is tied after the completion of 7 innings of play or when time has expired, then a modified international tiebreaker rule shall go into effect. When each team takes offense, the last batter from the previous inning is placed on 2nd base and play resumes as a ONE PITCH GAME until the tie is broken. Each batter receives one pitch; if a strike, batter is out; if a foul ball, batter is out (no courtesy foul); if a ball, batter takes first base; otherwise, ball is in play and the result of the play will count. If there is no winner after one (1) tiebreak inning, then the second inning is played.
10. **Forfeit:** Forfeit time is game time. If games are behind schedule, then game time will be as soon as the umpire starts the game clock. If a team is unable to field at least nine (9) eligible players at game time or game start time, they will forfeit the game.
11. **Short-Handed:** A team must have at least nine (9) players present to start or continue a game. If a team starts a game with less than ten (10) players, then the vacant position must be listed last in the batting order and an out will be assessed each time the vacant position comes to the plate in the batting order. If a team is playing shorthanded and an additional player arrives, that player can enter the game immediately and must be inserted into the vacant position. If a player is ejected and there is not a substitute, the team will forfeit the game.
12. **Double Bag Rule:** The Huntington Beach Sports Complex will have 70' base paths. The USA Softball double bag rule is in effect if being used at that field.
13. **Base Stealing:** Base stealing is not allowed.
14. **Game Rules:** There will be no new inning after 50 minutes all games. All batters start with a 1-1 count. Open Division players are allowed one courtesy foul. A legal pitch is between 6 and 12 feet high.

- 15. Courtesy Runner:** One (1) courtesy runner may be used per inning and USA Softball rules will be followed concerning the courtesy runner. Any eligible player on the lineup sheet may be used, not considered a substitution.
- 16. ADA Runner:** An ADA player, approved by the league with appropriate documentation, may use an ADA runner throughout a game each time they bat. The ADA runner is not counted as the team's courtesy runner. However, a runner may not run as an ADA runner and courtesy runner in the same inning. Managers will be required to complete the ADA Runner form prior to the tournament, which will allow them to receive approval for each ADA runner. They will be provided an ADA Runner card to present to the umpire at the manager's meeting prior to each game when line up cards are traded.
- 17. Extra Batters:** Teams can have up to twelve (12) players in their batting line-up. If a team starting with twelve (12) players loses a player during the game and has no one to substitute for that player, then an out will be assessed whenever that player would have come up to bat.
- 18. Specific Field Rules:** The umpire will address all rules for each field at the pre-game managers' meeting.
- 19. Home Run Limits:** Limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in all divisions. Excess home runs, after the limit, will be an inning-ending out, only on fenced fields. The following limitations are per team per game:
- Three (3) B Division** – after (3) an inning-ending will be assessed.
  - One (1) C Division** – after (1) an inning-ending out will be assessed.
  - Zero (0) D Division** – any home run over the fence will be an inning-ending out.
  - Zero (0) E Division** – any home run over the fence will be an inning ending out and the batter will be immediately removed from the tournament.
- 20. Approved Bats:** Only USA/ASA approved bats will be allowed for play in all divisions. Please have your team's bats available for inspection prior to the start of your game. Any bat which is found to be altered, damaged, or not USA/ASA approved shall be confiscated by the umpire and returned after the team has been eliminated from the tournament.
- 21. Uniforms:** Each player must wear a "team jersey" which must be similar in color and style and must have a player number (whole number) as described by USA Softball rules. No two players may wear the same number. A whole number (0-99) of contrasting color at least 6 inches high must be worn and visible on the back of all uniforms. Players are not allowed to switch jersey numbers between games without informing the tournament director or umpire in chief. Failure to do so may result in the player being ejected from the tournament. Visible jewelry (watches, bracelets, rings, necklaces, earrings, lip rings, nose rings, bands and similar wristbands, etc.), keys, clips, bandanas, and sunglasses on top of hats may NOT be worn during games.
- 22. Eligible Players:** A player is eligible to play in the Liberty Classic Open Division only if they have signed their team's roster before they play their first game. Registration will close prior to double elimination play. Player placement on a team's roster must comply with the division determination rules indicated below:
- No player is allowed to be on more than one team's roster that is playing in the Liberty Classic.
  - All players must be at least 18 years of age.
  - Any player on the current NAGAAA suspension list or suspended by a league is NOT eligible for play.
  - Any team using a suspended player will be disqualified from the tournament and all games played will be forfeited
  - No fees will be returned
- 23. Protests:** There are two kinds of protests that will be allowed:
- Player's Eligibility or Rating:
    - Only opposing teams can file a protest for a player's eligibility or rating.
    - Protest must be made prior to the end of that game (before last out).
    - The protest must be filed with the game umpire.
    - The protest must include the specific player(s) being protested.
    - The protest must include the specific question(s) being protested.
    - The cost to file a protest is:

1. \$125 per player protested and \$25 per each additional question on the same player during round robin games. Cash only.
2. \$150 per player protested and \$25 per each additional question on the same player during elimination games. Cash only. No protests will be accepted during trophy games.
- vii. If any aspect of the protest is up-held the total fees will be returned to the protesting team.
- viii. All protests will be heard by the established tournament protest committee and that committee's decision will be final. The protest committee shall consist of the umpire-in-chief and the tournament director or his designee in consultation with the game umpire(s).
- ix. If the protest is upheld and the team's rating exceeds the limit for the division, they are playing in or if a player's rating exceeds the limit for a player in that division the protested game will be forfeited.
- x. The team can continue to play in the tournament as long as:
  1. It wasn't their 2nd loss in elimination play.
  2. They drop the protested player(s) from their roster that exceed the player rating for their division
  3. They drop the protested player(s) or any other players so that they do not exceed the team-rating limit for their division.
- b. Rule interpretation:
  - i. Rule interpretation protests need to be filed with the umpire at the time the ruling comes into question.
  - ii. There is no cost for a rules interpretation protest.
  - iii. The umpire-in-chief will resolve all rule interpretation protests.
  - iv. The umpire-in-chief's decision is final.
  - v. Judgment calls cannot be protested.
  - vi. All protests will be ruled upon immediately and play resumed according to the outcome of the protest.

**24. Unsportsmanlike Conduct Rules:** The rules for unsportsmanlike conduct are as follows:

- a. Any player ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct is not allowed to play or be present at his/her team's next game. The offending player is only allowed to be in the parking lot.
- b. Excessive unsportsmanlike conduct could result in a player or team being eliminated from the tournament and possibly banned from future Liberty Classic tournaments at the discretion of the tournament director.
- c. All unsportsmanlike activity will be reported to a player's home league

**25. Ejected Players:** Any player ejected from a game is ineligible to play in their team's next game at the discretion of the umpire-in-chief and tournament director. The UIC will be notified as well as the tournament director to determine if further action is required based on the situation.

**26. Alcohol Consumption:** No alcohol is allowed at any of the tournament complexes except in the designated Beer Garden. Any player or spectator that is deemed to be intoxicated will be asked to leave the complex or ejected from the game or tournament. Any team violating this rule shall be removed from the tournament and forfeit all games.

**27. Tournament Officials:**

- a. The 2023 Liberty Classic Directors – Loren Zimmerman & Giao Hoang
- b. Liberty Classic Umpire-in-Chief – Dave Edwards

**28. Field Information:** There is a \$1.00 per day parking fee at Huntington Beach Sports Complex. Keep your receipt on your dashboard and you will not get a ticket. There are in and out privileges.

At Huntington Beach Sports Complex: On the HBSC fields, there are temporary home run fences. USA softball rules for the use of temporary fences will be followed. There will be designated fields that have fences with 285ft+ distance to be considered for HR's. Hits over the fence with fields with fences less than 285ft, will be considered a ground rule double.

**29. Special Situations:** The Tournament Directors will resolve and have the final say on any situation that may emerge during the tournament that is not covered by these or USA/ASA rules.

**PLAY SAFE, PLAY HARD, PLAY TOGETHER**