



NSW BLUE BLAZE TOURNAMENT

**October 1st - 3rd (Girls)
October 9th & 10th (Boys)**

2019

Tournament Regulations

For more information email office@softball.net.au

2019 NSW BLUE BLAZE TOURNAMENT

SOFTBALL NSW will be conducting the NSW Blue Blaze Tournament which will be focussing on development and competition opportunities for players, officials, and Umpires

The Tournament can include teams from Club, Association Regions, or overseas.

TOURNAMENT DATES

October 1st, 2nd and 3rd (Females) possibility of Sept 30th dependant on numbers

October 9th & 10th (Males)

DIVISIONS

U13 – Div 1 = Representative Teams Div 2 = Club Teams

U15

U18

ENTRY FEES

The entry fee for male and female teams will be \$300 (includes GST.)

DUE DATES:

Expression of Interest

August 9

Team Entry including Umpires & Payment

August 23

Failure to provide team lists, payment and/or umpires by the due dates will result in the team being withdrawn from the Tournament.

WITHDRAWAL FROM TOURNAMENT

Once payment has been received it is non refundable

FORMAT OF THE TOURNAMENT

The format of the tournament and number of days for each division will be dependant on the team entries.

NSW BLUE BLAZE TOURNAMENT

1. THE COMPETITION

- 1.1 The Softball NSW Blaze Tournament will be conducted under the auspices of, and governed by, Softball NSW.
- 1.2 The Blue Blaze consists of 6 divisions:
U13 - Male & Female (Must be U13 as at 31 December 2019)
U15 – Male & Female (Must be U15 as at 31 December 2019)
U18 Male & Female (Must be U18 as at 31 December 2019)
- 1.3 The draw will be made available to all participating teams 3 weeks prior to the start of the competition.

2. ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1 The Softball NSW will be responsible for the administration, development and promotion of the NSW Blue Blaze.
- 2.2 The Softball NSW Office will provide administrative support for the NSW Blue Blaze.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Every participant in the NSW Blue Blaze must be a current registered member of an Affiliated Association of Softball Australia or an affiliate of the International Softball Federation.
- 3.2 Interstate and/or International teams must have permission from their affiliated body. **Permits are required**
- 3.3 Any woman who is pregnant must seek professional medical advice regarding her participation in this competition. A copy of this advice is to be provided to the team Head Coach or Co-Ordinator.

4. TEAM ROSTERS

- 4.1 Team Rosters must include at least 10 players, 3 officials and 2 umpires (at least Level 1 Accreditation for 13s and 15s Level 2 for U18s). Umpires must be registered with the state that the team competing is registered in. Teams without umpires will not be accepted into the competition. All officials and umpires over the age of 18 must have a Working with Children's Check and provide number on Team Sheet.

5. MATCH BALLS

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of each team to provide Easton Optic 804 (U13 & U15) or 888 (U18) Yellow leather match balls (**cor 0.47**) for each game. These balls may be used as long as they are accepted by the Plate Umpire.

6. VENUES

- 6.1 Games will be played at the NSW Softball Centre as well as approved local affiliate venues, if required, located no more than 45 minutes from the NSW Softball Centre.

7. RESULT SHEETS – LINE UP PADS

- 7.1 One Line up pad for the tournament for each team will be supplied by Softball NSW. The line-up sheets containing a list of all players and officials must be completed by both teams at least ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game. One copy is to be given to the plate umpire and one copy to the opposing team. ***Please ensure that the team name and date is printed on top of the line-up sheet.***
- 7.2 The family and given name of every participant must be legibly printed on the line up sheet. No nicknames or initials are permitted.
- 7.3 At the conclusion of the game the final game score shall be entered on both of the line-up sheets and signed by the Plate Umpire. The two line up sheets from each team then needs to be stapled together. The Plate Umpire shall return the line-up sheets to the UIC.

8. UMPIRES

- 8.1 Teams must nominate 2 umpires who will be assigned to games during the Tournament.

The name of the nominated umpires must be submitted with the team entry information. Working with Children checks are required for any Umpire over the age of 18.

Should a team's nominated umpires not be available to umpire any game allocated it will then be the responsibility of the team to fulfil that obligation or a forfeit will occur in the next game they participate in

9. PLAYING RULES – General

- 9.1 All games shall be played in accordance with the current Softball Australia Rules.
- 9.2 All games shall commence at the time specified in the draw unless delayed by the previous game. A minimum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed between double-header games.
- 9.3 If any team is not ready to play at the appointed time, this will result in forfeit to the non-offending team.
- 9.4 Any team that does not have the required number of players to begin or continue a game will forfeit to the non-offending team.
- 9.5 Uniforms are the responsibility of the team Co-Ordinator. ***Please Note: The players will not be allowed to take the field unless in correct uniform. Uniforms must have numbers between 1 & 99 excluding 69. All Officials must wear closed in shoes. No jeans or Lycra Active wear permitted.***
- 9.6 The first named team in the draw shall occupy first base bench and shall call the toss.
- 9.7 A DR may be used in any game for any baserunner provided it is made known prior to the commencement of the game **and** the name of the DR is entered in the DR position on the line up pad.
- 9.8 The DR may enter the game **once** in **each inning** to run for any baserunner.
EXCEPTION: the DR may run two times in an inning if one time is for the catcher.
- 9.9 The DR may not enter the game on defence **or** as a batter.
- 9.10 The DR maybe substituted for at any time by a substitute who has not yet been in the game, in accordance with the official rules of softball.
- 9.11 The DR substituted by a pinch runner as in Rule 9.10 may not return to the game.
- 9.12 The original DR may re-enter the game, once, in accordance with the official rules of Softball.
- 9.13 The penalty for an illegal DR is the ejection of both the Head Coach and the player in violation.
- 9.14 Should the catcher be on base after the defensive team makes the second out, he/she **must** be replaced by any eligible player who is not in the next four positions, i.e. bench player, DR etc.
- 9.15 U13 Specific – 5 runs across the plate in any one innings

10. PLAYING RULES

- 10.1 All games EXCEPT THE GRAND FINAL GAME shall be regulation or seventy five (75) minute games, whichever occurs first. At "Time" the innings in progress will be played out.

Note i) a new innings will not commence in the last five (5) minutes.

Note ii) with five minutes or less to go, if the team second at bat has scored the 'go ahead run' the game will stop.

- 10.2 If, at the conclusion of a regulation game, the score is equal and the game time has not exceeded 75 minutes, the tie-breaker will commence at the beginning of the eighth (8th) inning. If a result has not been decided by the bottom of the ninth (9th) inning or at the conclusion of 75 minutes, (whichever occurs first) the game will be declared a draw.

- 10.3 At least Fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time the toss shall be taken by the team Co-Ordinators/representatives.

The Home Plate Meeting shall occur two (2) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.

- 10.4 **METAL CLEATS ARE PERMITTED for the U18s COMPETITION ONLY**

11. EJECTION OF PLAYERS/OFFICIALS

- 11.1 Should any player/official be ejected from a game for any form of misconduct the umpire concerned shall submit a written report to the UIC immediately at the conclusion of the game in question.

- 11.2 Every player/official ejected from a game for any form of misconduct shall appear before a tribunal.

- 11.3 The UIC shall advise the Co-ordinator of the need to call a Tribunal Hearing.

- 11.4 The Co-ordinator shall advise the player/official **and** the umpire who ejected the participant of the time and place of the Tribunal Hearing which shall be conducted as close as possible to the end of the game in question.

- 11.5 The player/official who was ejected shall not be eligible to participate further in any Blue Blaze game until they have appeared before a tribunal.

- 11.6 The Tournament Tribunal shall hear the umpire's account of the incident responsible for the participant's ejection and then the response from the player/official who was ejected or their nominated Advocate. Should the player/official or the umpire be under eighteen (18) years of age he/she must be accompanied by an adult.

- 11.7 The Tribunal shall have the authority to impose one of the following:
- a) no further penalty, **OR**
 - b) reprimand the player/official, **OR**
 - c) suspend the player/official for any or all of the remaining games in the Tournament.

12. TOURNAMENT POINTS

- 12.1 Points for round games will be allocated as follows:

3	Win
2	Draw
1	Loss
0	Forfeit

13. AWARDS

Game Points will allocated 3 2 1 to players for each game by the opposing team. For each division with 4 teams or less there will only be medallions presented to the winning team.

14. DETERMINING TIED - FINAL PLACINGS

- 14.1 If two or more teams are tied on points, the team with the least runs against for the entire round robin shall take the higher ladder position.
- 14.2 If two teams are tied on points, the higher ladder position will be determined by the following:
- 1. runs against
 - 2. the team that won the first head to head game in the round robin
 - 3. should the head to head game be tied the teams shall play off to determine who takes the higher position.
- 14.3 If three teams are tied on points and runs against, the head-to-head results played between those three teams shall be considered. If one team has won more matches against the other two teams it is tied with, this team shall take the higher ladder position. The next two ladder positions would be decided as per 14.2
- 14.4 In the case that three of more teams are tied on points and runs against and the teams can't be separated by the head-to-head results in the round robin, the positions will be determined by the number of runs against in the head-to-head games between all teams which finished equal on points.

15.0 FORFEITS & PENALTIES

- 15.0 The participation of an unregistered/ineligible player/official will result in the forfeit of the game in which the unregistered/ineligible player/official participated.
- 15.1 If an ejected player/official takes part in any game prior to appearing before a Tribunal, this will automatically result in the forfeiture of all games in which the ejected player/official has participated.
- 15.2 Should a player/official who has been suspended by a Tribunal take part in any game this will automatically result in the forfeiture of all games in which the suspended player/official has participated.

16. DANGEROUS CONDITIONS

- 16.1 The Plate Umpire shall suspend a game if the conditions are dangerous or unplayable. It is the responsibility of the Plate Umpire and does not require the UIC's consent.
- 16.2 The UIC may direct the Plate Umpire to suspend a game.
- 16.3 Once the Plate Umpire has suspended a game, the UIC may:
- resume that game if the conditions warrant or
 - abandon that game if the conditions remain dangerous or unplayable.
- 16.4 When any game in progress is called off it shall be considered a regulation game provided 50% of allotted time has elapsed OR a minimum of three (3) innings has been played. Any game called off before such time shall be declared a draw.
- 16.5 Any game called off, that does not satisfy Rule 16.4, or any game that did not commence due to inclement weather, will be declared a draw.

17.0 FINAL SERIES – The format of the final series will be determined by the number of teams entered into that division

- 17.1 The first team into the GRAND FINAL will have the choice of 'home or away'. If a team takes the option of 'batting first' they will be in the 1st base dugout.
- 17.2 All final series games, EXCLUDING THE GRAND FINAL GAME, shall be regulation or seventy five (75) minute games, whichever occurs first. At "Time" the innings in progress shall be completed to a result.
- 21.5 During a final series game if the final game score is a draw, this game will continue until a result is obtained with the Tie Breaker commencing at the beginning of the next inning.

18. GENERAL

- 18.1 All correspondence pertaining to the 2017 NSW Blue Blaze should be forwarded to:

Softball NSW Inc.

Attention: Blue Blaze Tournament
PO Box 210
ROOTY HILL NSW 2766

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

Phone: 02) 9677 4000

Fax: 02) 9677 4040

Email: genmanager@softball.net.au

- 18.2 All cheques pertaining to the Blue Blaze should be made payable to Softball NSW Inc.

- 18.3 All accounts must be settled through the SNSW Office. \$300 entry fee per team.

19. DISCLAIMER

Notwithstanding the above rules and regulations, Softball NSW retains the right to rule on any matter not specifically covered by these rules and to take action on decisions pertaining to the Tournament.

20. MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

The Softball NSW is committed to ensuring that the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children are maintained at all times during their participation in activities run by the Softball NSW and its member bodies.

The Softball NSW aims to promote a safe environment for all children and to assist its staff and volunteers to recognise child abuse and neglect and follow the appropriate notification procedures when reporting abuse.

The development of child protection and intervention policy and guidelines for the NSW will assist in establishing coordinated strategies for dealing with the problem of child abuse and neglect in a responsible, effective and consistent manner. A main focus of the policy and guidelines is the prevention of child abuse in the sporting environment.

The policy and guidelines promote the care and protection of children participating in Softball and provide information and direction for employees, volunteers and members of the organisation.

The objectives of the Softball NSW Child Protection and Intervention Policy and Guidelines are to:

- Provide information and comprehensive guidelines relating to risk minimisation and reporting/notification procedures to assist staff and volunteers in dealing with all forms of child abuse.

- Provide direction to all staff and volunteers in relation to responsibilities arising from recent child protection legislation.
- Promote the principles of child protection and intervention adopted by the SNSW amongst staff, volunteers, coaches and parents of children participating in programs/competitions organised by SNSW.

The Softball NSW Child Protection Intervention Policy and Guidelines are applicable to all management and staff (paid, voluntary, permanent or casual) of the SNSW and its affiliated regional/local clubs.

Roles and responsibilities of sports administrators, coaches, volunteers and officials involved with Softball:

Administrators, coaches and officials often have a high level of contact with children in the sporting environment and play a major part in the successful operation of sporting activities.

They have a responsibility to:

- Be aware of the indicators of child abuse and how to recognise an abusive situation.
- Report any suspected cases of child abuse using the appropriate procedures.
- Know and understand the requirements placed on them by recent legislation, in relation to reporting child abuse and disclosing any child related convictions they may have.
- Be aware of the contents of the SNSW's Policy and Guidelines for Child Protection and intervention and how to effectively implement the strategies it contains.
- Recognise that they are in a position of power and influence over young children in their care and behave in an appropriate manner to ensure that their safety and wellbeing is maintained.