



## 2011-8U TOURNAMENT RULES

**Branham Hills Girls Softball welcomes you and thanks you for your participation in the eighth annual Zebra Classic.  
June 24-25, 2011**

This tournament is dedicated to Emily Coyne who played Branham Hills Girls Softball for several years and who in spite of battling cancer always played with spirit, determination and friendship. Zebras were Emily's favorite animals.

### **General Rules:**

1. All teams must be ASA insured. Please bring a copy of your proof of insurance when you check in for the tournament. (or you can email a copy to the tournament director)
2. Only 1 cooler allowed per team (drinks and fruit) on the school grounds. This is a fundraiser so please patronize our snack-shack. We plan to have BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs and tri-tip sandwiches as well as various drinks and snacks.
3. **VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE OF ANY KIND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Team managers are responsible for their players, staff, fans and families. The home plate umpire's call is final. If there is any harassment or abuse, the person will be asked to leave the school grounds for the entire tournament. If they refuse to leave, the team will forfeit the game and the police will be called to remove that person. There are no refunds for forfeited games.
4. No radios or "Boom Boxes" allowed on the school grounds
5. No Smoking on or near the school grounds
6. **Absolutely no alcohol allowed on the school grounds or parking areas. If alcohol is seen or found, your team will forfeit that game and the police will be called.**
7. Branham Hills Girls Softball, Tournament Staff and Officials, Alta Vista School, and Union School District are not responsible for any injuries or losses as a result of this tournament or the activities related to it.
8. Parking is somewhat limited. Please car pool if possible. Please be courteous to the neighbors near the field. (They have been know to call the police if you block their driveway) Please do not leave trash anywhere in the neighborhood.

9. All games are played at Alta Vista School, 200 Blossom Valley Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032

### **Tournament Format:**

1. Twelve team, pool play into single elimination format
2. The teams are placed into three pools of four teams.
3. Each team will play all of the teams in it's pool one time
4. Home team will be determined by coin flip prior to the start of each game
5. The team listed first, or on top of the bracket shall occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout unless it is already occupied by a team playing consecutive games on that field.
6. The top six teams as determined by pool play won-loss record will advance to the "GOLD" single elimination playoff.
7. The bottom six teams as determined by pool play won-loss record will advance to the "SILVER" single elimination playoff.
8. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards for both GOLD and SILVER brackets. Participation medals will be awarded for all other teams.
9. Pool play points earned: Win: 10 pts, Tie: 5 pts, Loss: 0 pts.  
Tie breaker is:
  - a. Head to Head
  - b. Least runs allowed (RA) Max. 10 runs per game counted
  - c. Most runs scored (RS) Max. 10 runs per game counted
  - d. Coin flip

**Playing Rules:** These rules are intended to make the tournament fun for all levels of 8u teams. At this age, there are vast differences in experience and softball proficiency. We looked at other 2011 tournaments including rules and also some of the scores of the games. I think you can all live with one tournament that you can't bunt in 8U. Swing away and have fun.

1. Stealing, Sliding and Bunting:
  - a. No Stealing Bases
  - b. Sliding is not required for 8U but use discretion.
  - c. No bunting, No fake bunting. (Dead Ball, Strike will be called)
2. All questions of calls should be directed to the **home plate umpire** by one (1) specified team representative or coach. That is...not a bunch of different coaches screaming at the base ump.
3. All shirts must be tucked in at all times (Yes, even on defense).
4. No leading off. (runner must stay on the base until the ball leaves the pitchers hand)
  - a. This means no "big league baseball lead-offs." Normal ASA base rules apply here. However, there will be no warning if a runner leaves early and the runner will be called out.
  - b. A catcher may attempt a pick-off play at any base without penalty for overthrow. Since there is no stealing, it is advised that base coaches get their players quickly back to the bag.

5. No infield fly rule
6. Warm ups: There is limited space for warming up. Please take care not to be in a place where it will interfere with a game.
7. Players must have “generally” matching uniforms.
8. Game time is forfeit time. (8 player minimum to start) If only 8 players, the 9<sup>th</sup> batting position is an out. Late arriving players can be added to the end of the line up during a game.
9. 4 inning game
10. Ties OK on during pool play games.
11. Protests: None. The UIC or Tournament Director will handle all disputes immediately.
12. **Outfield must be on the grass during the pitch.**
13. 70 minute time limit (inning can start before 70 minutes—Ok to finish any inning started) Ties are allowed in pool play. At 85 minutes in pool play, the game will end and revert back to the last inning completed. If the home team is batting, and is leading at 85 minutes, that inning will count. (No drop-dead 85 minute rule in elimination play) Game time starts with the first pitch.
14. Two-runner International tie-breaker rule for “Single Elimination” play **(Start with runners on first and second.)** Runners are the last two batters from previous inning)
15. 2 inning max per game for pitchers, unless extra innings. If extra innings, pitcher can pitch 3 innings as long as it’s not three innings in a row.
16. Pitching distance = 32 ft.
17. 10 players on the field (4 outfielders) Outfielders must be on the grass outfield when the ball is pitched. (Can start with 8, see rule above)
18. Every player must play at least one inning of infield in each game.
19. Bat entire team
20. Hit batter: If a player is hit, she has the choice to take the base or to immediately bring in the “coach pitch.” If pitcher hits 3 batters in one inning, she must discontinue pitching for that inning. She may return and pitch the following inning as long as it is not her 3<sup>rd</sup> inning.
21. No walks
22. Batted ball that hits the coach-pitcher is a dead ball-no pitch
23. After pitcher pitches 4 called balls, coach will come in to pitch. Coach pitching: Coach pitches from mound, Strike count stays the same, balls go to zero. Umpire remains and calls strikes, 3 strikes is an out. Four pitches by the coach maximum unless last pitch is a foul ball. Batter can continue to foul off pitches until the last pitch is put into play, missed or taken.
24. 5 run limit for the first 3 innings, last inning unlimited runs.
25. Balls hit to the infield and thrown to first stops all play, even if there is an over-throw. Runners can advance only to the base they are running to. A ball hit to the infield and thrown to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or home does not stop play if there is an over-throw. Maximum one base

advancement on an overthrow to bases other than first. Ball thrown to pitcher, or pitchers circle stops play. Pitcher does not need to catch the ball.

26. Ball hit to outfield: Runners can advance until the ball is thrown into infield and comes under control of the defense. (umpire judgment) Runners only go to the base they are running to at that time the ball crosses into the infield. They can be tagged out. If the defensive infielders make a play after the ball crosses into the infield, it's a live ball and runners can advance at their own risk. Then rule 25 comes back into play for overthrows.
27. **WATCH OBSTRUCTION** It's common for 8u players to "watch" while the play is going on. Umpires will watch for base runner obstruction and apply the rules.
28. Bases 60' (Yes, 60')
29. Final Note about "illegal pitches" in 8U. Minor infractions, slight crow-hopping, etc. may be discussed but unless it's a very extreme advantage, relax and let the kid pitch.
30. Another note about sportsmanship. If your team is blowing out another team, please slow down the "extra base taking." We have seen some scores where teams are scoring 15-20 runs in a game. You also have the option of "letting your runners leave early to initiate an out" We capped the runs scored tie-breaker amounts to help you with this.
31. No jewelry, friendship bracelets, earrings of any kind allowed. (no taped-over earrings) Medical ID bracelets ok if taped with athletic tape.
32. All other rules are ASA rules
33. Have Fun !!!!!

*Note about the CA Kryptonite and the Zebra Classic*

*Branham Hills Girls Softball is affiliated with an A-Ball organization called the CA Kryptonite. As part of the Kryptonite's "giving back to the league," the players, coaches, and parents will be assisting with the tournament including working the snack-shack, field prep, base umpires etc. Please acknowledge these folks and treat them with the utmost respect for their volunteered time. If you are interested in what the CA Kryptonite is all about, visit their website: [www.CaKryptonite.com](http://www.CaKryptonite.com)*