

**Thousand Oaks Girls Softball Association
2025 Season of Thanks Tournament
Playing Rules**

USA Softball rules apply except where amended.

1. Rosters must be submitted at check-in, 1 hour prior to first game, with birth certificates (copies are okay) or USA ID cards. No roster changes are allowed after check-in.
2. Only four adults allowed in the dugout during the game.
3. During Pool play the 2nd team listed on game schedule will occupy the 3rd base dugout unless occupied from previous game. Home team is determined by a coin toss at the pre-game meeting with umpires and managers. During single elimination the home team will be the higher seeded team. Ties will be broken by rule 15 below. Home team will provide official scorekeeper.
4. In all pool games for the 8U, 10U and 12U games will have a time limit of one hour and twenty-five minutes drop dead or seven innings whichever comes first. If the game is not a complete 7 inning game and is called at the drop-dead time the score will revert to the last completed inning. For pool games: if after the completion of seven innings or at the drop-dead time limit, the score is tied, then the game ends in a tie. Single elimination games, however, cannot end in a tie and will continue until a winner is decided. 8U, 10U, 12U single elimination games, semi-final games and championship games will have a 1 hour and 30-minute time limit (no new inning).

Per USA Softball Rule 5, Section 9, the Mercy Rule will be 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 after 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings. Once a team is mathematically eliminated in the 7th inning the game will end. Example, top of 7th inning, visitor team goes up by 7 runs the game will end as home team can only score a maximum of 6 runs in the bottom of the 7th inning.

5. Also, the 6 Run Rule will be in effect: after the 6th run is scored, the ½ inning will be over.

6. Pitching and base distances:

	<u>Pitching</u>	<u>Base</u>
8 & under	30 feet	60 feet
10 & under	35 feet	60 feet
12 & under	40 feet	60 feet

7. The Southern California USA Softball Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced.

8. A copy of the league insurance must be presented at the time of check-in if team does not have USA ID cards.
9. During POOL PLAY all divisions will bat round robin. Prior to the start of the game a lineup card must list all players present at the time the lineup is presented to the umpire, no substitutions can be listed. Players arriving late may not be added to the lineup. 8U will use 10 defensive players. While batting round robin the courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher will be the last recorded out in the current inning. If no outs have been recorded, the last out from the previous inning shall be used.
10. During CHAMPIONSHIP play (single elimination) teams will use 9 players. The DP/FLEX may be used per USA Softball Rule 4 section 3. EP may be used per USA Softball Rule 4, Section 1C (1). 8U will continue use 10 defensive players and will continue to bat round robin. In the 10U and 12U division teams can choose to bat-around on Sunday for elimination games. Whatever each team decides to play they must continue through the entire game.
11. Teams may play with 8 players. All girls present must be included in the lineup given to the umpire. Let the umpire know at the start of the game how you will be hitting.
12. During championship play the ASA re-entry rules apply with the following exception: If an injury occurs and there is no player left to re-enter, a player may re-enter to replace the injured player for defense only. The injured player's turn at bat will be skipped without penalty.
13. All protests shall be settled immediately at the time of protest. Play shall be stopped and the Umpire-in-Chief or the Tournament Director will rule on the protest. The decision is final in all cases.
14. Copies of lineups must be given to the umpire, the opposing team, and the scorekeeper. Lineups will list the starting players in the order in which they bat and all available substitutes (single elimination bracket).
15. Ties will be broken as follows:
 1. head-to-head play
 2. fewest total runs allowed
 3. most shutouts
 4. fewest runs allowed in next best defensive game
 5. coin toss

16. Both winning team and losing team must sign official score sheet. If not signed the score sheet provided to tournament director by the umpire will be used as official score sheet as tiebreaker for single-elimination placement.
17. 8U refer to additional modified rules
18. In the 8U, 10U, 12U each team will have 2 pool games. All teams will move into the single elimination bracket. The results of the pool games will determine seeding for the single elimination bracket.
19. Rings will be awarded to the first and second place teams in each division.
20. The 12 & under will use the Worth Dream Seam. The 10U division will use the 11" Worth RIF Level 10. The 8U division will use the 10" Worth RIF Level 1.

Modified Rules: 8 & Under Division Only

The 8 & Under division shall play by ASA Playing Rules and Codes as outlined in the 2024 Official Guide with the following exceptions:

1. There shall be no infield fly rule.
2. There shall be no dropped 3rd strike rule.
3. Only one stolen base per baserunner shall be permitted per pitched ball.
 - a. A runner attempting to advance illegally under this rule is liable to be put out, i.e., the ball is live and in play.
 - b. A baserunner in sole possession of an illegally stolen base shall be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out when the ball becomes dead, i.e., a baserunner may not be tagged out while standing on base alone.
 - c. Players shall not steal home-**COLD PLATE**.
 - d. After a baserunner touches home plate on an illegally attempted steal she shall be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out.
 - e. If a fair/live ball goes out of play during a legal steal or illegal attempted steal, the umpire shall award bases under A.S.A. Rule 8, Section 5.

4. 4 run rule will be in effect, after the 4th run is scored the ½ inning will be over.
5. A 10" safety ball shall be used (Worth RIF Level 1).
6. 10 players will be in the field for defense, the 10th player will be an outfielder, round robin bat around will be used on offense.
7. Free substitution of all players for all positions while on defense.
8. Championship game will have a 1 1/2-hour time limit.