

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Palarong Pambansa 2017
SECONDARY AND ELEMENTARY SOFTBALL
Tournament Guidelines

1. **NAME OF COMPETITION**- The Biggest sporting event in the country shall be known as PALARONG PAMBANSA 2017 . It will be organized by the Department of Education. It will serve as the culminating activity for the P.E. Program and aims to discover potential athletes.
2. **DATE AND VENUE**- the tournament will be held from April 23-29, 2017.
3. **ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS AND COACHES** - The sole judge of a participant's eligibility totally lays within the judgment of screening committee regarding eligibility of student-athletes and coaches must be address to the screening committee.
4. **RULES THAT WILL GOVERN THE TOURNAMENT**- The rules and regulation that will govern the tournament will be the 2014-2017 International Softball Federation (ISF) Rule Book. With some modification stated in this ground rules.
5. **The game of softball for both elementary and secondary should be played for:**
 - a. Seven (7) innings for the elimination round up to the championship games with the application of the ISF 2014-2017 Runs Ahead Rule.
- (Mercy Rule). A run ahead "Mercy Rule" shall be used in the tournament: 15 Runs after the 3 innings,10 after the 4 innings and 7 after 5 innings.
 - b. The tie breaker rule will be applied after the seventh (7) innings games.
6. **RULE OF IMMEDIATE SUCCESSION SHALL BE OBSERVED.** Only the first game in the morning and afternoon shall be given fixed time. Games that follows shall start shortly after the end of the preceding game.
7. **DEFAULT**- all teams shall be given fifteen (15) minutes grace period before being declared in-default.
8. **COMPOSITION OF TEAM**- Each participating team shall consist of 12 players, 1 head coach, 2 assistant coach. All of which shall be allowed to direct and coach the players during the progress of the game but only the head coach will be given the sole authority to represent the teams during appeals or discussion. They must also submit necessary documents required by the screening committee
 - a. 1st Offense- Warning
 - b. 2nd Offense- Ejection of the Pitcher from the Pitching Position.
 - c. 3rd offense- forfeiture of the game in favor of the opponent.**Note:** Only the official coach and assistant coaches may act as base coaches. Player will not be allowed to act as base coaches due to safety reason. Coaches should be wearing the same uniform as the players or same uniform as the other coaches.
9. **MANDATORY PLAY RULE** shall be applied in this tournament. All players must be given the opportunity to play every game scheduled for the team. Minimum of one (1) AT BAT on a Regular or shorten game due to mercy rule or due to darkness and cause of nature. Failure of the team to comply with rule shall be penalized with forfeiture of the game in favor of the opposing team if proven. The score sheet shall be the official basis of this rule.
10. **BORROWING/ EXCHANGING OF UNIFORM** shall NOT be allowed. Anybody caught using another's number during the progress of the game shall be put out and be ejected from the game. (team must be wearing the same shade and design of uniform. Coaches should also wear the same uniform as a coaching staff.
11. **CONFERENCES**
 - a. **DEFENSIVE CHARGE CONFERENCE**- three (3) calls to confer in the whole duration of the game which the coach may opted to use in an inning.
Penalty: Removal of the pitcher from the pitching position.
 - b. **OFFENSIVE CHARGE CONFERENCE**- only one (1) call to confer in every inning shall be allowed.
Penalty: Ejection of the coach or the players who insisted the conference.
12. 2014-2017 pitching rules will be enforced. Jump Pitch is legal.

13. **INTENTIONAL WALK**- If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally it is sufficient to notify the plate umpire of the intent so as not to go through the motion of pitching. In this case, the ball is dead and runners cannot advance unless forced.
14. **WARM-UP PITCHES**- in the first inning or when the pitcher relieves another, to deliver not more than 5 warm up pitches. In each subsequent innings, pitchers will be given 3 warm up pitches.
15. **BATS**- only the ISF certified bats shall be allowed. Playing venues will be provided with ISF certified Bats that can be used by the participating teams.
16. **Helmets** are mandatory on offense for batters, on deck batters, batter runners and , runners. It is advised that teams used the Face Mask with a built in face guard. **DELIBERATE REMOVAL OF THE BATTING HELMET** of any runner during a live ball play shall cause the violator to be declared out immediately. The ball remains alive.
17. Warm up catchers must wear proper gear or at least the Catcher's mask. No coach shall be allowed to warm up the pitcher during the game without proper gear.
18. **THE SAFETY BASE** or the **DOUBLE BAG SYSTEM AT FIRST**- The safety base or the double bag system shall be used in the tournament as part of the ISF initiative to prevent possible injuries due to collision at first base. The coaches shall be briefed regarding this during the Solidarity Meeting.
19. **RESOLUTION OF TIES**-
 - a. Two way ties- win over the other- same group.
 - b. Tree way tie- refer to the rule book (Article 8.02 a, b, c and d)
20. **DISPUTED CALL**- when a coach or a player of either team questioned the judgment of the umpire:
 - a. A warning shall be given for the first offense.
 - b. Shall be ejected from the game on the second offense with an additional one game suspension on the next scheduled game as penalty.
21. **APPEAL**- the proper way of making appeal shall be observed. Shouting at the umpire shall NOT be allowed.
 - a. Warning shall be given for the first shouting offense.
 - b. Ejection from the game for the second shouting offense.
22. " **PROTEST**- All protest must be settled on the on the playing field. No protest will be considered after the completion of the game or on the judgment call.
23. **TEAM PRACTICE**- teams scheduled to play will be given five minutes practice on the diamond before the game.
24. **BATTING LINE UP**- must be submitted at least 30 minutes before the scheduled time.

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