



Coalinga Area Chamber of Commerce  
88th Annual Horned Toad Derby Festival

## BIG FRED'S MEMORIAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

### SLOW PITCH RULES

Revised: May 9<sup>th</sup> 2023

#### **PLAY REGULATIONS:**

Rules not specifically mentioned will be governed by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules.

1. Alcoholic Beverages – Our insurance does not permit any alcohol to be consumed on premises outside of marked zones which include the "CSA Beer Garden" and within the "RV Camping Area". **Consumption of alcohol anywhere else on the premises will result in removal from the park.**
2. Game time is forfeit time! NO Exception
3. The length of game is seven (7) innings or fifty-five (55) minutes. No new innings after 50 minutes. NO TIEBREAKERS.
4. Game must start at the scheduled game time; therefore, the line-up must be given to the umpire on the scorecard before game time with the first and last names of players appearing on the scorecard. Each team must have 8 players to constitute an official game, 10 players standard.
5. Metal spike shoes are not allowed in this tournament.
6. A base runner cannot leave the base until the batter has swung or contacted the ball and he/she is not out. **\*\*Step off Rule:** For safety purposes, if you choose to step off first or third you must request permission from the umpire.
7. All bats will be provided by the Tournament Director. No outside bats may be used. NO Exceptions. Bats will be in barrel behind home plate.
8. All batters will start with a (1) ball (1) strike count with none to waste.
9. MSP / WSP Run Rule (Mercy Rule) - 15-run lead after five (5) innings.
10. All players must remain in the dugout or behind the playing line excluding the on-deck batter.
11. All players must bat in rotation, regardless of if they are not playing in the field. Player rotation must be determined at the beginning of the game and the official must be notified.
12. Any player not able to take his / her turn at bat when it comes up will be ruled automatically out. The loss of a player due to injury will only result in an out every time that player comes up to bat. Loss of a player due to ejection will result in an out each and every time that player position is reached in the batting order.

13. No bunting, chopping or half swinging at the ball. Batter will be ruled out at the umpire's discretion.
14. A foul tip that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's hand(s) or glove is an out.
15. A team may use (1) courtesy runner per gender per inning. Any player that is listed on the line up may run at any bag.
16. A defensive player may not block a base in attempting to prevent a runner from getting to that base. Effect: The runner will be declared safe. Defensive player may be ejected at the discretion of the umpire.
17. Pitching: A.S.A. style only. No U.S.S.A. pitching techniques will be allowed.
18. A strike: a pitched ball between 6' ft & 10' ft. that hits the plate or mat.
19. Home Run Rules:  
1 home run limit per team per inning. Each team can also purchase 1 Home Run Bracelet per team for the price of \$20. The bracelet must be worn at all times by the teams designated "home run hitter" and must also announce himself/herself to the Umpire prior to entering the batter's box. Bracelet cannot be shared between teammates. If a designated home run bracelet wearer is ejected or otherwise unable to continue in the tournament, the team cannot assign the bracelet to another player.
20. ASA / NSA Banned Bat list will be enforced.  
Article 510 N. 06 of the 2006 ASA Code, any player discovered using an altered bat, including a doctored bat or a bat with additional weight shall be called out and disqualified from further play. Coalinga Area Chamber of Commerce will provide bats for this tournament and only those bats are permitted to be used. No Exceptions.
21. Rough play, cursing, and/or verbal abuse toward any player or official will be handled in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Umpire May Eject a Player at his/her discretion. The Tournament Director is ONLY there to ensure tournament runs smoothly and to support game decisions made by the Umpire. The decision of the Umpire is final and cannot be appealed.
22. Safety bags at first base will be provided.
23. Any players arriving after the start of the game may be substituted for one equal (male for male / female for female) player in the original line-up if it does not violate the ratio of men.
24. Athletic footwear is required of all participants. Rubber cleats or turf cleats are allowed.
25. NO METAL SPIKES, NO TRACK OR FOOTBALL CLEATS ALLOWED.
26. A tournament game ending in a tie will be recorded as tie. A point system will be used to determine standings as follows:
  1. Overall record based on points (win= 2 pts / tie= 1 pt. / loss= 0 pts.)
  2. Head to Head

3. Victory margin over head to head opponent
4. Fewest runs allowed over tournament
5. Coin flip
  
27. A runner may not run over a defensive player in order to avoid a tag.  
Effect: The runner will be declared out.  
Note: Runner may be ejected, at the discretion of the umpire.
  
28. Once a player is on a team roster, he/she may not switch and play for another team. If the player quits, he/she is ineligible to play on another team for duration of tournament. Absolutely NO adding or picking up of players on Sunday will be permitted.
  
29. Four (4) complete innings constitute a game when called because of rain, darkness or inclement weather. Games stopped by the time limit shall be considered complete regardless of the number of innings played.
  
30. The Tournament Director shall provide a new ASA / NSA stamped .52core / 300 lbs. compression ball to the umpires prior to scheduled game time.

### **PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS**

Team players are those persons who sign the original team contract.

1. All players must sign the original team roster/waiver. A manager or other person shall not sign a team contract for another person. The penalty for signing another person's name on a contract removal from tournament. The person who signs another person's name on a contract is held liable in case of injury to the person whose name was signed.
2. An Add/Drop Form must be presented to the tournament director 1 hour prior to start of game for any additions or deletions of player(s) to the original team roster/waiver.
3. A player may not play on more than one team per tournament.
4. A player must be 18 years of age or over to be eligible to participate in tournament.  
NO EXCEPTIONS

### **PROTESTS**

The Tournament Director shall not be bound by any verbal agreement made between managers or players.

1. The protest must be recorded on the scorecard at the time of the protest and signed by the protesting manager, the opposing team manager and the game official(s) before play resumes. If opposing team manager chooses not to sign, the official(s) should note that on the scorecard. **SIGNING THE SCORECARD IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT.**
2. ALL ILLEGAL PLAYER PROTESTS must be made verbally to the official(s) during the game.
  - a. The protest must be recorded on the scorecard at the time of the protest and signed by the protesting manager, the opposing team manager and the game official(s) before the game resumes. If opposing team manager chooses not to sign, the official(s)

should so note that on the scorecard. **SIGNING THE SCORECARD IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT.**

Note: Dead time during a protest is an official time-out. That time will be added at the end of the game.

**ALL PROTEST DECISIONS WILL BE HANDED DOWN BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND ARE TO BE CONSIDERED FINAL**

### **RAINY OR BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE**

On the day of play and prior to the scheduled start time, in the event of inclement weather, the umpire and tournament director will confer and come to a decision whether a game shall continue as scheduled. Reasons for non-play could be but are not limited to the following:

1. Fields not playable.
2. Adverse weather conditions.
3. If games can be rescheduled without adversely affecting tournament play.
4. Additional information needed to maintain the best play for all concerned.

If it is deemed necessary to cancel a game for any reason listed above or cause not listed but decided upon by the umpire and tournament director, the game in question shall be deemed a draw and both teams will receive points accordingly.

### **EJECTION – NO SUBSTITUTE ALLOWED**

Umpire's discretion – either ball game will be forfeited, or "out" recorded in vacant spot.

Same Player: 1<sup>st</sup> ejection will be for 1 game. 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection will from the entire tournament.

**Absolutely NO throwing or breaking of bats – No Warning! Player will be ejected from tournament.**

It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that every member of his/her team has read and understands the rules as outlined above. By signing below, the Team Manager agrees that he/she will ensure that all team members will adhere to the rules listed above and accept all calls and decisions made by the Umpire and Tournament Director.

Remind your players that this tournament is called the "Big Fred Memorial Softball Tournament" for a reason. Every person on that field is there to pay respect and to honor the memory of a community Legend on this field. Let's all have a great tournament and make Big Fred and his family proud.

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_