



2026 Strawberry Jam Softball Tournament Rules

I. General Rules

1. Teams must check in 20 minutes before their first game. Also, if they have not already done so, they must show the following:
 - a. USA Insurance certificates.
 - b. Rosters, Limit 20 players. USA birthday cards on hand
 - c. **Contact number and name for during the tournament.**
2. **Managers are responsible for the behavior and conduct of their team, players, coaches, parents and fans.** Excessive inappropriate or unsportsmanlike behavior may result in an ejection from the game or removable for the duration of the tournament by the umpire in chief or the tournament director. Their word is final and needs NO warnings if appropriate. Additionally, any destruction or abuse at any outside property could be subject to team suspension from tournament.
3. Rolling Hills Middle School and Watsonville High School are public schools There is NO smoking. **ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES or CONSUMPTION is allowed including the parking lots.** If a player, parent or fan from your team is found with Alcohol, your team will be removed by the umpire in chief or the tournament director for duration of the tournament. There will be no refund.
4. **NO DOGS** allowed on any school grounds. Service Dogs are fine.
5. All teams are responsible for leaving the dugouts clean after each game.
6. The team listed first on the schedule is assigned the third-base dugout. Teams playing back-to-back games may keep the same dugout.
7. The home team will be determined by a coin toss for all games. **BOTH Saturday and Sunday**

The home team scorekeeper will keep the official scorebook. The winning manager must verify the final score with the plate umpire. The umpire will then report the score to the tournament director or assistant.
8. Game time is forfeit time. Teams must be prepared to play 10 minutes before the scheduled time.
 9. There will be no pre-game infield practice and no hitting into fences.
 10. The Current USA rulebook will be in effect except for special tournament rules herein. Protests will be resolved with the umpire at point of protest. The umpire's decision will be final. The double base will be used at first base.
 11. Pitching for 8U – 30 feet, 10U – 35 feet and 12U at 40 feet.
 12. **No BBQ's** on the campus or parking lot.

Special Tournament Rules

a. Games will be 7 innings or 75 minutes limit, except that NO new inning to start after 65 minutes. (A new inning begins when the third out is made in the previous inning).

Except 8U will have 70 Minutes but no new inning after 60. If any Championship games they will be 75 minutes, but the run rule is still in affect. Game Time starts at coin toss.

For Saturdays play only, At time limit (*Drop Dead @75 min*) if reached the score stands and the game will End. (Example: Football or Basketball Style, if new inning is started, it will now be a game of 'Time'... time runs out, game is over final scores stand). ***The Final Scores do not revert back to previous inning.*** However if the home team is at bat and ahead, then the game is over and final. Saturdays can end in a tie. (8U or 8U Rec has 70 minutes, no new game after 60). Also Drop Dead is in effect for 8U/8Rec.

- b. The mercy rule is in effect for all games.
- 10 run after 3 innings.
 - 8 runs after 5 innings.
 - Only for ALL 8U/8Rec 8 runs after 4 innings

In Group play (Saturday), games can end in a tie. For elimination or Championship Games, if the score is tied after 7 innings or time expired at 75 min, then the international tie breaker will take effect. After two tie breaker innings, the winner will be determined by a coin toss. ***SUNDAY has to have a WINNER.***

- c. The seeding for bracket play (elimination games) will be determined by the following point system:
- 10 points for a win.
 - 5 points for a tie
 - 0 points for a loss.
- d. If teams are tied with the same number of points at the conclusion of Group

Play, the following criteria will be used:

- Head-To- Head.
- Fewest runs allowed.
- Most runs scored (8 maximum per game).
- Coin toss.

- **8-Under**: Use continuous batting order (May bat all players) Saturday and Sunday with free substitutions with the exception of pitching.
- **FOR 8U/10U Only.....***NO DROP THIRD STRIKE *****
- **10U** may use continuous batting order (i.e. bat entire team) on **Saturday ONLY** with free substitutions. Plus 10 outfielders both days
- **10U** Due to time constraints free substitutions will be allowed. Exception: Pitcher. A pitcher may only pitch be removed/substituted for, then re-enter to pitch again only once. Once they are removed a second time, they may no longer pitcher the remainder of the game.
- Coach has option to use "Straight USA Softball Line-Up" using 'DP/Flex' and/or "EP". Example: 10U team using 10 players on Defense, batting 10, and may add "EP" and add an 11th batter aka 'Extra Player'per USA Softball Rules. This player however is treated like the 10 on Defense. You cannot remove the "EP" from your line up once they are used.

- Courtesy Runners for Pitcher/Catcher Only, are “Last Batted Out”, or ‘Sub’ if using “Straight USA Softball Line Up”

IMPORTANT: If the tie involves more than 2 teams, the above criteria will be used until at least one team is eliminated. Then the entire same process begins all over again until there are no longer any ties.

STRAWBERRY JAM does use the hard Pink 11” and 12” softball for this tournament for all ages 10u thru 18U....10” soft softball used for 8URec coach pitch & 8U

Website: www.pajarovalleygirlssoftball.com and email pvgsoftbl@pacbell.net

You will receive standings on Saturday night as soon as we can thru an email or text with Sundays game times (**important to have that cell number from each team**). Thank you for attending and joining us to a fun filled Strawberry Jam tournament with two enjoyable days of softball. Good luck to all!!!

The Strawberry Jam System

This year we will be playing at One Location please read everything carefully....

We do not play the traditional format of three games on Saturday and single elimination brackets Sunday, which has half of the teams one and done. At Strawberry Jam, all teams play two games Saturday and two games Sunday. The fields and game times available for each division are the same on both days, but which teams are seeded into which games on Sunday depends on the teams' records from Saturday play. All players on all teams receive some kind of an award.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ YOUR DIVISIONS LAY OUT FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY. All divisions play can be different depending on number of teams.

Tie-breakers are explained in the tournament rules above. Forfeited games are scored 7 to 0 by USA rule. Drop dead score at time limit on Saturdays only.

2026- 8 & Under Rec (Coach Pitch) (Watsonville High School)

There are Ten (10) teams in this tournament and they will be divided into Three Groups.

Group A

P G Riptides
W V Slammers
Salinas Bobby Sox

Group B

S J Twisters
Morgan Hill Mayhem
Carmel CGS

Group C

Sunnyvale Shockwave
Santa Clara PAL
Dublin Banshees
Roseville Thunder

1. In Group A and Group B, each team will play two of the other two teams in its pool. In Group C, each team will play two of the other three teams in its pool. There will be one team you will not play.
2. All games on Saturday can end in a tie.
3. At the conclusion of the Group play on Saturday, the point system from the special tournament rules will be used to seed for Sunday's bracket play of elimination games. Group A and Group B, will each have a First, second, third place team. While Group C will have a first, second, third and fourth place team.
4. The three first place teams will comprise the gold division and they will play a round robin. At the conclusion of these three games the point system from the special tournament rules will be used to determine first, second, and third place. Only Sundays games will be used. Games can end in a tie.
5. The three second place teams will comprise the silver division. they will play a round robin. At the conclusion of these three games the point system from the special tournament rules will be used to determine first, second, and third place. Only Sundays games will be used. Games can end in a tie
6. The three third place teams and the fourth place team will comprise the bronze division. Pool A3rd will play Pool C3rd and B3rd will play C4th in the two semi-final games. The two winning teams will play for first and second place and two losing teams will play for the third and fourth place . These games can not end in a tie.

2026 – 10 “C” Under (Watsonville High School)

There are eight (8) teams in this tournament and they will be divided into two Groups.

Group A and B will play at Watsonville High School on Saturday.

Group A
LGCS Magic (Llantero)
Hollister Heat
Branham Hill Thunder
Phantom

Group B
LGCS Magic (Mullen)
P V Tremblers
Santa Clara PAL
PHBA Panthers

1. Group play is on Saturday and all teams will play two games on that day.
2. In Group A and B, your team will play two of the other three teams in your group. There will be one team in your group you will not play.
3. All Games on Saturday can end in a tie.
4. At the conclusion of Group play on Saturdays, the point system from the Special Tournament rules will be used to seed for Sundays bracket play of elimination games. Group A and Group B will have a First, second, third, fourth place for seeding for Sundays bracket play.
5. The first and second place teams from pool A and the first and second place teams from pool B will comprise the gold division. Pool A 1st will play pool B 2nd in one semifinal game while Pool B 1st will play Pool A 2nd in the other semifinal game. Then the two winning teams will play for first and second place and the two losing teams will play for third and fourth place. No games on Sunday can end in a tie. The point system from the special tournament rules will not be used.
6. The third and fourth place from pool A and the third and fourth place teams from pool B will comprise the silver division. Pool A 3rd will play pool B 4th in one semifinal game while Pool B 3rd will play Pool A 4th in the other semifinal game. Then the two winning teams will play for first and second place and the two losing teams will play for third and fourth place. No games on Sunday can end in a tie. The point system from the special tournament rules will not be used.

2026- 10 B & Under (Watsonville High School)

There are five (5) teams in this tournament and they will be pooled together as one group.

Almaden Lightning
LGCS Magic (Piatt)
Santa Clara PAL - Gold
Foothill Gold
Diamond Queens

1. Each team will play two games on Saturday and two games on Sunday against the other four teams from the group. All games on Saturday and Sunday can end in tie.
2. At the conclusion of play on Sunday all five teams will be ranked from first thru fifth using the points system from the special tournament rules. This will be used to determine, First place, second place, third place, fourth place and fifth place for the tournament.