



In-Season Tournament Guidelines (February 8, 2017)

In an effort to clarify the action taken by the Softball Rules Committee to allow the use of three experimental rules for conference games only during the 2017 season, please note the following as it relates to institutions hosting regular-season tournaments:

- As in the past, tournaments may implement “tournament rules” which are more restrictive than current rules (e.g., limiting the pitcher to three warm-up pitches instead of five, limiting the number of offensive and defensive conferences a team can take during the game, not allowing teams to throw the ball around after an out, etc.).
- If “tournament rules” are implemented, the rules book does not permit umpires to impose penalties on a team(s) not adhering to these rules, therefore, umpires should not be instructed to enforce these rules.
- **NOTE:** It is not permissible for a tournament to use rules that are less restrictive. For example, if a tournament decides to use a 90-second time limit between innings, the pitcher is still limited by Rule 6.6.6.1 to no more than five warm-up throws.