

# Rules

## 8U RULES

USA Softball Rules (In Game Rules Apply)

Any major questions or issues pertaining to HOI rules this year should be directed to your HOI Commissioner & or Director.

1. A time limit of 1 hour or 5 innings with exception of inning 5 and beyond (unlimited inning). (no new inning shall start after 1hr) will be in effect for all games. Safety- All Players on defense in the Infield MUST Wear a Protective Mask
2. All Games must be played or have an outcome. If a game is postponed due to weather, or cancelled due to other issues, it must be made-up. If a cancelled game cannot be rescheduled both teams will take a 7-0 loss. Each team must have the exact same number of games played for proper tournament seedings. If a game is postponed or cancelled and one team cannot or unwilling to reschedule and the other team is, it will be under the league commissioner 's discretion of which team will take a forfeit if not both teams. (This is why we ask you to be flexible, especially when scheduling non-league games). Example: A team does not have enough players & they have to cancel; it is the responsibility of that team who cancelled to contact the team they cancelled with. Both teams need to work out a new date the best they can. If the game is not made-up: It will be your commissioner's discretion of who will take the 7-0 forfeit if not both teams. This will be a case-by-case decision as there are several scenarios that are possible. (So please be flexible & work with other coaches to avoid this mess).
3. All games must have a winner, no games ending in ties.
  - A. 1. International Tiebreaker
  - B. Coin-Flip (In case of no lights, weather, or both teams decide). If there is a coin flip deciding factor- Winning teams needs to contact their commissioner afterwards.
4. Scores should be verified both teams at the end of the game. (We had a few different scores in 2023 and no idea how that happens) team. If there is a discrepancy HOI Board will reach out to both teams.
  - A. Both Teams Must score the game in Team Manager (Note: Game Changer:
  - B. We must have the First Name, Last Initial, position played in the box score) If you have two or more players with the same first name and same last initial, we need you to distinguish who they are in more detail). Please have your lineups ready early, so both teams can get the lineups in their game changers in a timely matter. This will also make it that much easier for the ones doing your scorekeeping believe me! Teams must use patched umpires due to insurance policies for any HOI sanctioned games. If teams do not use insured patched umpires the HOI League will not/cannot be responsible for any liability insurance claims etc. This will fall back on the teams/organizations responsibility to handle any injury claims, not the HOI League. (8U, 10U & 12U teams may use 1 or 2 umpires (2 is recommended for 10U & 12U). 2 umpires are required for 14U. Teams

must split umpire fees. HOI World Series will have 1 patched USA Softball Umpires for all games.

5. Run Rule- 10 Runs after 3 innings, or by 8 runs after 4 innings (Running up the score: Please use some integrity in HOI sanctioned games. An example of this is a score of 20-0/ 26-2. Neither team are getting any value in run-up score games. However, if there is evidence of this happening a team will be given a warning by their commissioner & if it continues could result in a loss of all stats and a loss for that game. (We had zero incidents in 2023, so please do not be that coach/team who breaks this trend.)
6. Coach Pitch: Pitcher must remain inside the circle.
7. If two teams play each other in a non-league game (tournament) The league will use that game for record & stats, but BOTH teams must agree & notify their league Commissioner either before the game or the next day.
8. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
9. Regular Season Subs
  - A. Sub players can only sub for 1 HOI Team only. Once a player subs for that team (they are considered that teams rostered sub, therefore they cannot sub for another HOI team.
  - B. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster.
  - C. Before a team does roster a sub player, they must notify their league commissioner via email, text, or phone call.
  - D. Any team in violation of playing ineligible players will forfeit that game. (This includes the World Series).
10. 5 pitches per at bat. An at bat will not end on foul balls. (If a player swings & misses on a 2-strike count, that is considered an out).
11. 10 players in the field. 4 outfielders
12. The play is considered dead when the ball is controlled in the circle by the pitcher.
13. Overthrows: Runners may advance one base on the first overthrow made. ex. ball hit to 3B, ball is overthrown 1B– runner advances to 2B. If the ball is then overthrown back to pitcher the runner may NOT advance to 3B– the play is dead. However, if another attempt at an out is made, the runner may again advance.
14. Players are allowed to advance a base until the ball is in the infield
  - A. If a player has not made a possession of the ball yet before the player reaches first base, the runner may still be allowed to run at that time.
15. Runners may not advance on passed balls by the catcher.
16. 5 runs per inning with exception of inning 5 and beyond (unlimited inning).
17. No Leadoffs, runners must wait until the ball crosses the plate before they can run.
18. If two teams play each other in a non-league game (tournament) The league will use that game for record & stats, but BOTH teams must agree on this & they also need to inform their league Commissioner either before the game or the next day.

19. Teams must play each team for a total of 6 total games for record. Game 1 of double headers count for stats and standings. Game 2 to be used as instructional to progress the players skill and knowledge.
20. Masks should be worn at pitcher, 1st base, and 3rd base positions.
21. Two coaches may stand in the outfield for instructional purposes only on defense.
22. Teams will split umpire fees 50-50. Home team oversees the scheduling the umpires. All Games must be scored in Team Manager. Please make sure your scorekeeper closes out Team Manager once the games are complete. Otherwise, there will be a delay on stats.
23. Ejections: A. If a player, Coach & or Fan is ejected from a game by the umpire, they are not allowed to return to the game. An ejected participant must leave the grounds and have, no contact with the umpires or participants in the game and is suspended for one additional game. The ejected participant is restricted from having contact with the team and is not permitted to sit in the stands, dugout, or general locality of the next game. The ejected participant may appeal the one game suspension to the Championship Protest Committee (USA Softball). If the ejected participant is also involved with another age group/team these rules will also apply for the suspension.  
B. If ejected in the World Series, they must sit the following game also. (Same Rules Apply as Regular Season USA Softball Rules).  
C. Depending on the severity of any misconduct a coach/fan/player may be suspended by the HOI Board for numerous games or removed from the league with no refund. This includes the coaches/fans/players/teams. Any use of profanity towards players, fans & umpires will not be tolerated & violations of this policy will be subject to possible suspensions listed above.

D. Violations of behavior HOI policy: Will be reviewed & addressed by HOI Commissioners, & Directors.

2. Transactions: If a player is added after the original rosters are submitted, the HOI League needs to be informed with player name & number before they are allowed to play a league game, this includes subs too. (Example: If you have a player who joins a team late in the season either due to injury or players leaving a team). Inform your commissioner before they play in a HOI league record game). The commissioner/director also have the desecration if a player is eligible to be added to a roster based on the team's situation/circumstance. (This is after the roster deadline of April 1, 2024).

### **2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 1**

ONLY the 1st Game of Double Header Counts for Record & Stats. (Please inform your parents of this process). If teams play a Round Robin Style, then all those games count for record & stats). The HOI Website will only be updated once a week (not daily). The HOI Board- this includes, website, Facebook page & email responses will be closed in season Sat-Sundays (All

board members are either coaches, or umpires). Please inform your parents.

A. 2024 Stats for League Leaders- Hitting: Batting Avg. Hits, Runs, RBI.

B. With less games in 2024 there will be less stats, which could result in a few league leader ties. HOI Budgets at the beginning of the season for a certain number of awards, WS umpire fees, medals, balls, WS field prep, etc. so, we cannot order extra awards based on anticipation or assuming. We want to keep the cost as low as possible for all HOI teams. So, if there is a tie in a stat category, we have a tie-breaker process.

A. If a Player already won a LL in 1 category, then the player, she was tied with would win in this scenario.

B. If there are multiple ties in a category & none of the players won a League Leader: We will email each coach & have them pick a number based on a Number Generator and the closest player to that number will win the league leader. (No one likes ties & hopefully none of these scenarios will need to be used, but we need to plan for the possibility. There is no perfect way to determine ties period.

C. Padding Stats- We will be comparing both box scores. 2023 we saw a tremendous amount of difference in box scores. The largest red flags were either not scoring errors or scoring errors when they were really hits.

Some teams video tape their games & in some cases we have checked these types of scenarios by video & in some cases we may go through the video, but this is also too time-consuming to go through numerous videos. All we ask is for the coaches & those scoring games to know how to properly score a game & to use their best judgement, but most of all integrity. (HOI Does Not require video of games).

Intentional or blatantly padding of stats could result in a discipline action against a coach. This would be determined by the entire HOI Board at your specific age group.) (Intentionally padding stats only weakens your players development overall.

## **2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 2**

1. Both Teams must score any HOI Record Game on Game Changer. (NOTE: Have your Lineup ready early to give the opposing plenty of time to enter the information.
2. Box Score- Must Have at least Player's First Name and Last Initial
3. Players with the Same First Name & Last Initial- (Ran into the mess with a few teams in 2023) If this applies to your team, we need you to somehow differentiate between the players). Example: You have two Grace H. (Have one Grace H & the other Grace H. (just let us know who prior to the season) is. Note: 8U through 12U we can only see the First & Last Initial (NOT their Full Last Name)

4. 8U- 6 Games required for 2024. (Any game not played in 7-0 forfeit).

### **All-Star Selection Rules**

1. The HOI Board will select All-Stars in 2024. No Coaches Voting required in 2024.
2. 2 players from each team will be selected.
3. Due to the T-Shirts needed to be made, the All-Star Rosters will be announced close to 2 weeks prior.

### **All-Star Game Rules**

1. The All-Star Game is designed as a fun only format. Each player must play the field and teams will bat their entire lineup. May 28 th Pekin, IL
2. National League vs American League Format (Hosting Team will be the home team)
3. Both teams will have 3-4 coaches, preferably not from the same league team. This can be a head coach or an assistant coach.
4. Each girl will wear their NL or AL Division Shirt.
5. The All-Star Game will be a 5-inning game., with 5 run per inning cap.

### **HOI World Series**

World Series Roster- No More than 15 on a roster.

1. World Series will be a 2 Game Guarantee. 1 Bracket, seeds based on regular season record. June 15 th Chillicothe, IL
2. Seedings will be based in the following order- Regular season record, (in case of ties) lastly fewest runs allowed during regular season, if still a tie Most Runs Scored.
3. Gold & Silver Brackets
4. There is no time limit for championship game (5 innings). Run Rule & 5 run inning cap still in effect.
5. The Higher seed will always be the home team.
6. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
7. There are no outside Subs allowed & teams cannot share players from any HOI team, this includes organizations with more than one team in that age level. Any

sub player must be listed on your deadline roster. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.

Pre-Season Rosters due 4-1-24. In case of in-season add-ons example: (girl moves or changes teams)

Your commissioner must be notified to add a player. You must notify your commissioner before any

new player/sub plays an HOI Game.

If you don't notify the Commissioner, then this will result in a 7-0 forfeit.

## 10U RULES

10U B 2024 Rules

USA Softball Rules (In Game Rules Apply)

Any major questions or issues pertaining to HOI rules this year should be directed to your HOI Commissioner & or Director.

1. A time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes or 7 innings (no new inning shall start after 1hr, 15 min) will be in effect for all games.
2. All Games must be played or have an outcome. If a game is postponed due to weather, or cancelled due to other issues, it must be made-up. If a cancelled game cannot be rescheduled both teams will take a 7-0 loss. Each team must have the exact same number of games played for proper tournament seedings. If a game is postponed or cancelled and one team cannot or unwilling to reschedule and the other team is, it will be under the league commissioner 's discretion of which team will take a forfeit if not both teams. (This is why we ask you to be flexible, especially when scheduling non-league games). Example: A team does not have enough players & they have to cancel; it is the responsibility of that team who cancelled to contact the team they cancelled with. Both teams need to work out a new date the best they can. If the game is not made-up: It will be your commissioner's discretion of who will take the 7-0 forfeit if not both teams. This will be a case-by-case decision as there are several scenarios that are possible. (So please be flexible & work with other coaches to avoid this mess).

3. All games must have a winner, no games ending in ties.
  - A. 1. International Tiebreaker
  - B. Coin-Flip (In case of no lights, weather, or both teams decide).  
If there is a coin flip deciding factor- Winning teams needs to contact their commissioner afterwards.
4. Scores should be verified both teams at the end of the game. (We had a few different scores in 2023 and no idea how that happens) team. If there is a discrepancy HOI Board will reach out to both teams.
  - A. Both Teams Must score the game in Team Manager (Note: Game Changer:
  - B. We must have the First Name, Last Initial, position played in the box score) If you have two or more players with the same first name and same last initial, we need you to distinguish who they are in more detail).
  - C. Both teams must list their pitchers & also the opposing pitchers in the box scores. Please have your lineups ready early, so both teams can get the lineups in their game changers in a timely matter. This will also make it that much easier for the ones doing your scorekeeping believe me!  
Teams must use patched umpires due to insurance policies for any HOI sanctioned games. If teams do not use insured patched umpires the HOI League

will not/cannot be responsible for any liability insurance claims etc. This will fall back on the teams/organizations responsibility to handle any injury claims, not the HOI League.

(10& 12U teams may use 1 or 2 umpires (2 is recommended). 2 umpires are required for 14U. Teams must split umpire fees. HOI World Series will have 2 patched USA Softball Umpires for all games.

5. Run Rule- 10 Runs after 3 innings, or by 8 runs after 4 innings  
(Running up the score: Please use some integrity in HOI sanctioned games. An example of this is a score of 20-0/ 26-2. Neither team are getting any value in run-up score games. The 10 & 12U divisions are broke down into B & C this season, so it should be much more competitive & less chances for blow-out scores. However, if there is evidence of this happening a team will be given a warning by their commissioner & if it continues could result in a loss of all stats and a loss for that game. (We had zero incidents in 2023, so please do not be that coach/team who breaks this trend.)

6. Pinch Runners-Only Pitchers & Catchers can be pinch ran for during a game unless an injury occurs to another position player. Must use last batter if batting the entire lineup (if batting the entire lineup). If not batting the entire lineup any bench player may run for the pitcher or catcher.
7. If two teams play each other in a non-league game (tournament) The league will use that game for record & stats, but BOTH teams must agree & notify their league Commissioner either before the game or the next day.
8. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
9. Regular Season Subs
  - A. Sub players can only sub for 1 HOI Team only. Once a player subs for that team (they are considered that teams rostered sub, therefore they cannot sub for another HOI team.
  - B. If a team is bringing in a sub as a pitcher & that team has a full-time rostered pitcher available for that game, the sub player cannot pitch any (HOI League Standing/Stat Game). This would result in a 7-0 forfeit & no stats will be recorded for that entire team that used a sub pitcher for that game.
  - C. The sub player is eligible to pitch Game 2 (Game 2 is not recorded for record or stats).
  - D. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster.
  - E. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.
  - F. A team can use a sub player who is eligible to play up. For example: any 8U player can move up to 10U and play with that 10U team.

G. Before a team does roster a sub player, they must notify their league commissioner via email, text, or phone call.

H. Any team in violation of playing ineligible players will forfeit that game. (This includes the World Series).

1. Ejections: A. If a player, Coach & or Fan is ejected from a game by the umpire, they are not allowed



to return to the game. An ejected participant must leave the grounds and have, no contact with the umpires or participants in the game and is suspended for one additional game. The ejected participant is restricted from having contact with the team and is not permitted to sit in the stands, dugout, or general locality of the next game. The ejected participant may appeal the one game suspension to the Championship Protest Committee (USA Softball). If the ejected participant is also involved with another age group/team these rules will also apply for the suspension.

B. If ejected in the World Series, they must sit the following game also. (Same Rules Apply as Regular Season USA Softball Rules).

C. Depending on the severity of any misconduct a coach/fan/player may be suspended by the HOI Board for numerous games or removed from the league with no refund. This includes the coaches/fans/players/teams. Any use of profanity towards players, fans & umpires will not be tolerated & violations of this policy will be subject to possible suspensions listed above.

D. Violations of behavior HOI policy: Will be reviewed & addressed by HOI Commissioners, & Directors.

2. Transactions: If a player is added after the original rosters are submitted, the HOI League needs to be informed with player name & number before they are allowed to play a league game, this includes subs too. (Example: If you have a player who joins a team late in the season either due to injury or players leaving a team). Inform your commissioner before they play in a HOI league record game). The commissioner/director also have the desecration if a player is eligible to be added to a roster based on the team's situation/circumstance. (This is after the roster deadline of April 1 st , 2024).

## 2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 1

If teams play a Round Robin Style, then all those games count for record & stats).

The HOI Website will only be updated once a week (not daily).

The HOI Board- this includes, website, Facebook page & email responses will be closed in

season Sat-Sundays (All board members are either coaches, or umpires). Please inform your parents.

1. 2024 Stats for League Leaders- Hitting: Batting Avg. Hits, Runs, RBI, On-Base %. Pitching: Strikeouts, Complete Game Shutouts, Most Innings Pitched, E.R.A, & WHIP.

A. HOI recognizes a Complete Game Shutout as: 1 Pitcher (Not multiple Pitchers), at least 3.0 Full

Innings with Zero Runs Scored by the opposing Team. (2 Examples of not a CGS- 10-0 Final Score- Starting Pitcher goes 4 innings & second pitcher goes 2 innings). (SP goes 2.0 innings & 2nd Pitcher goes 1.0 inning).

B. On-Base Percentage formula for HOI (based on what is visible in the GC Box Score) =  $\frac{\text{Hits} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP}}{\text{AB} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP}} = \text{OBP}$ . (99.9 teams do not score a sacrifice fly or GC do not properly score it. Therefore, Sacrifice Flies will not be in the formula.

2. With less games in 2024 there will be less stats, which could result in a few league leader ties.

HOI Budgets at the beginning of the season for a certain number of awards, WS umpire fees,

medals, balls, WS field prep, etc. so, we cannot order extra awards based on anticipation or

assuming. We want to keep the cost as low as possible for all HOI teams. So, if there is a tie in a

stat category, we have a tie-breaker process.

A. If a Player already won a LL in 1 category, then the player, she was tied with would win in this scenario.

B. If there are multiple ties in a category & none of the players won a League Leader: We will

email each coach & have them pick a number based on a Number Generator and the closest

player to that number will win the league leader. (No one likes ties & hopefully none of these scenarios will need to be used, but we need to plan for the possibility. There is no perfect way to determine ties period.

3. Padding Stats- We will be comparing both box scores. 2023 we saw a tremendous amount of

difference in box scores. The largest red flags were in the pitching category of earned runs,

either not scoring errors or scoring errors when they were really hits.

Example: 5.0 innings pitched 3 hits, 2 earned runs allowed, 15 runs allowed. The opposing team

show a box score of 5.0 innings 7 hits 8 earned runs allowed, allowed 15 runs. This would be an

example of your Game Changer not properly scoring a game. Some teams video tape their games & in some cases we have checked these types of scenarios by video & in some cases we may go through the video, but this is also too time-consuming to go through numerous videos. All we ask is for the coaches & those scoring games to know how to properly score a game & to use their best judgement, but most of all integrity. (HOI Does Not require video of games). Intentional or blatantly padding of stats could result in a discipline action against a coach. This would be determined by the entire HOI Board at your specific age group.) (Intentionally padding stats only weakens your players development overall.

## 2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 2

1. Both Teams must score any HOI Record Game on Game Changer. (NOTE: Have your Lineup ready early to give the opposing plenty of time to enter the information.
2. Box Score- Must Have at least Player's First Name and Last Initial – Position Played (especially Catcher).
3. BOTH Teams must have the names of who pitched, both their team & also the opposing pitcher/pitchers.
4. Players with the Same First Name & Last Initial- (Ran into the mess with a few teams in 2023) If this applies to your team, we need you to somehow differentiate between the players). Example: You have two Grace H. (Have one Grace H & the other Grace H. (just let us know who prior to the season) is. Note: 8U through 12U we can only see the First & Last Initial (NOT their Full Last Name)
5. 10U B- 12 Games required for 2024. (Any game not played is a 7-0 forfeit). Teams must play each team twice for record.

## All-Star Selection Rules

1. The HOI Board will select All-Stars in 2024. No Coaches Voting required in 2024.
2. Coaches must send us a list of their player's primary position. No more than 3 positions for each player. These will be the positions that the player will be competing for an All-Star slot.

3. Three players from each team will be selected. We will select the first 7 positions. 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, & 3 OF spots. (HOI Board will pick the starters)
4. Each Roster will also have a fair, but limited number of Pitchers & Catchers.
5. Due to the T-Shirts needed to be made, the All-Star Rosters will be announced close to 2 weeks prior. 12 Team Rosters (Due to uneven amount of teams format will be 3 each from AL Teams & 4 each from NL Teams).

#### All-Star Game Rules

1. The All-Star Game is designed as a fun only format. Each player must play the field and teams will bat their entire lineup.
2. National League vs American League Format (Coin Flip for Home/Away)
3. Both teams will have 3-4 coaches, preferably not from the same league team. This can be a head coach or an assistant coach.
4. Pitching/Catchers: Each team will have enough pitchers & catchers on a roster. Pitchers & catchers need to be rotated each inning. Each elected pitcher & catcher must pitch or catch at least one inning.
5. Each girl will wear their NL or AL Division Shirt.
6. The All-Star Game will be a 7-inning game.
7. Skill Challenge Events- Are only for non-elected All-Stars & 1 per event.

#### HOI World Series

World Series Roster- No More than 15 on a roster.

1. World Series will be a 2 Game Guarantee. 1 Bracket, seeds based on regular season record. June 27 th - June 30 th Eastside Center East Peoria
2. Seedings will be based in the following order- Regular season record, (in case of ties) lastly fewest runs allowed during regular season, if still a tie Most Runs Scored.
3. 10U B will be a 7-team seeded double-elimination bracket.
4. 1st-HOI World Series Champion. HOI Second Place. HOI Third Place & HOI 4th Place.
5. There is no time limit for championship game (6 innings). Run Rule still in effect.
6. The Higher seed will always be the home team.
7. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play

& a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.

8. There are no outside Subs allowed & teams cannot share players from any HOI team, this includes organizations with more than one team in that age level. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.

Pre-Season Rosters due 4-1-24. In case of in-season add-ons example: (girl moves or changes teams)

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(10& 12U teams may use 1 or 2 umpires (2 is recommended). HOI World Series will have 2 patched USA Softball Umpires for all games.)

5. Run Rule- 10 Runs after 3 innings, or by 8 runs after 4 innings  
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6. Pinch Runners-Only Pitchers & Catchers can be pinch ran for during a game unless an injury occurs to another position player. Must use last batter if batting the entire lineup (if batting the entire lineup). If not batting the entire lineup any bench player may run for the pitcher or catcher.
7. If two teams play each other in a non-league game (tournament) The league will use that game for record & stats, but BOTH teams must agree & notify their league Commissioner either before the game or the next day.
8. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
9. Regular Season Subs
  - A. Sub players can only sub for 1 HOI Team only. Once a player subs for that team (they are considered that teams rostered sub, therefore they cannot sub for another HOI team.
  - B. If a team is bringing in a sub as a pitcher & that team has a full-time rostered pitcher available for that game, the sub player cannot pitch Game 1 (HOI League Standing/Stat Game).
  - C. The sub player is eligible to pitch Game 2 (Game 2 is not recorded for record or stats).
  - D. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster.
  - E. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.
  - F. A team can use a sub player who is eligible to play up. For example: any 8U player can move up to 10U and play with that 10U team.
  - G. Before a team does roster a sub player, they must notify their league commissioner via email, text, or phone call.

H. Any team in violation of playing ineligible players will forfeit that game. (This includes the World Series).

1. Ejections: A. If a player, Coach & or Fan is ejected from a game by the umpire, they are not allowed to return to the game. An ejected participant must leave the grounds and have, no contact with the umpires or participants in the game and is suspended for one additional game. The

ejected participant

is restricted from having contact with the team and is not permitted to sit in the stands, dugout, or

general locality of the next game. The ejected participant may appeal the one game suspension to the

Championship Protest Committee (USA Softball). If the ejected participant is also involved with

another age group/team these rules will also apply for the suspension.

B. If ejected in the World Series, they must sit the following game also. (Same Rules Apply as

Regular Season USA Softball Rules).

C. Depending on the severity of any misconduct a coach/fan/player may be suspended by the

HOI Board for numerous games or removed from the league with no refund. This includes the

coaches/fans/players/teams. Any use of profanity towards players, fans & umpires will not

be tolerated & violations of this policy will be subject to possible suspensions listed above.

D. Violations of behavior HOI policy: Will be reviewed & addressed by HOI Commissioners, &

Directors.

2. Transactions: If a player is added after the original rosters are submitted, the HOI League needs to be informed with player name & number before they are allowed to play a league game, this includes subs too. (Example: If you have a player who joins a team late in the season either due to injury or players leaving a team). Inform your commissioner before they play in a HOI league record game). The commissioner/director also have the discretion if a player is eligible to be added to a roster based on the team's situation/circumstance. (This is after the roster deadline of April 1 st , 2024).

## 2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 1

ONLY the 1st Game of Double Header Counts for Record & Stats. (Please inform your parents of this process).

If teams play a Round Robin Style, then all those games count for record & stats).

The HOI Website will only be updated once a week (not daily).

The HOI Board- this includes, website, Facebook page & email responses will be closed in



season Sat-Sundays (All board members are either coaches, or umpires). Please inform your parents.

1. 2024 Stats for League Leaders- Hitting: Batting Avg. Hits, Runs, RBI, On-Base %. Pitching: Strikeouts, Complete Game Shutouts, Most Innings Pitched, E.R.A, & WHIP.

A. HOI recognizes a Complete Game Shutout as: 1 Pitcher (Not multiple Pitchers), at least 3.0 Full

Innings with Zero Runs Scored by the opposing Team. (2 Examples of not a CGS- 10-0 Final Score- Starting Pitcher goes 4 innings & second pitcher goes 2 innings). (SP goes 2.0 innings & 2nd Pitcher goes 1.0 inning).

B. On-Base Percentage formula for HOI (based on what is visible in the GC Box Score) =  $\frac{\text{Hits} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP}}{\text{AB} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP}} = \text{OBP}$ . (99.9 teams do not score a sacrifice fly or GC do not properly score it. Therefore, Sacrifice Flies will not be in the formula.

2. With less games in 2024 there will be less stats, which could result in a few league leader ties.

HOI Budgets at the beginning of the season for a certain number of awards, WS umpire fees,

medals, balls, WS field prep, etc. so, we cannot order extra awards based on anticipation or

assuming. We want to keep the cost as low as possible for all HOI teams. So, if there is a tie in a

stat category, we have a tie-breaker process.

A. If a Player already won a LL in 1 category, then the player, she was tied with would win in this scenario.

B. If there are multiple ties in a category & none of the players won a League Leader: We will

email each coach & have them pick a number based on a Number Generator and the closest

player to that number will win the league leader. (No one likes ties & hopefully none of these scenarios will need to be used, but we need to plan for the possibility. There is no perfect way to determine ties period.

3. Padding Stats- We will be comparing both box scores. 2023 we saw a tremendous amount of

difference in box scores. The largest red flags were in the pitching category of earned runs,

either not scoring errors or scoring errors when they were really hits.

Example: 5.0 innings pitched 3 hits, 2 earned runs allowed, 15 runs allowed. The opposing team

show a box score of 5.0 innings 7 hits 8 earned runs allowed, allowed 15 runs. This would be an

example of your Game Changer not properly scoring a game. Some teams video tape their games & in some cases we have checked these types of scenarios by video & in some cases we may go through the video, but this is also too time-consuming to go through numerous videos. All we ask is for the coaches & those scoring games to know how to properly score a game & to use their best judgement, but most of all integrity. (HOI Does Not require video of games). Intentional or blatantly padding of stats could result in a discipline action against a coach. This would be determined by the entire HOI Board at your specific age group.) (Intentionally padding stats only weakens your players development overall.

## 2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 2

1. Both Teams must score any HOI Record Game on Game Changer. (NOTE: Have your Lineup ready early to give the opposing plenty of time to enter the information.
2. Box Score- Must Have at least Player's First Name and Last Initial – Position Played (especially Catcher).
3. BOTH Teams must have the names of who pitched, both their team & also the opposing pitcher/pitchers.
4. Players with the Same First Name & Last Initial- (Ran into the mess with a few teams in 2023) If this applies to your team, we need you to somehow differentiate between the players). Example: You have two Grace H. (Have one Grace H & the other Grace H. (just let us know who prior to the season) is. Note: 8U through 12U we can only see the First & Last Initial (NOT their Full Last Name)
5. 10U B- 7 Games required for 2024. (Any game not played is a 7-0 forfeit). Only assigned games will count for record.
6. Example: A. All AL North teams will Play AL North & AL South teams. B. AL East will play all AL East teams & AL West Teams. C. NL North teams will play all NL North & NL South teams. D. All NL East teams will play all NL East & NL West teams.

## All-Star Selection Rules

1. The HOI Board will select All-Stars in 2024. No Coaches Voting required in 2024.
2. Coaches must send us a list of their player's primary position. No more than 3 positions for

each player. These will be the positions that the player will be competing for an All-Star slot.

3. One player from each team will be selected. We will select the first 7 positions. 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, & 3 OF spots. (HOI Board will pick the starters)
4. Each Roster will also have a fair, but limited number of Pitchers & Catchers.
5. Due to the T-Shirts needed to be made, the All-Star Rosters will be announced close to 2 weeks prior.

#### All-Star Game Rules

1. The All-Star Game is designed as a fun only format. Each player must play the field and teams will bat their entire lineup.
2. National League vs American League Format (Coin Flip for Home/Away)
3. Both teams will have 3-4 coaches, preferably not from the same league team. This can be a head coach or an assistant coach.
4. Pitching/Catchers: Each team will have enough pitchers & catchers on a roster. Pitchers & catchers need to be rotated each inning. Each elected pitcher & catcher must pitch or catch at least one inning.
5. Each girl will wear their NL or AL Division Shirt.
6. The All-Star Game will be a 7-inning game. June 18 th Mackinaw, IL

#### HOI World Series

World Series Roster- No More than 15 on a roster.

1. World Series will be a 2 Game Guarantee. 1 Bracket, seeds based on regular season record.
2. Seedings will be based in the following order- Regular season record, (in case of ties) lastly fewest runs allowed during regular season, if still a tie Most Runs Scored.
3. 10U C will be a 32-team seeded double-elimination bracket.
4. 1st-HOI World Series Champion. HOI Second Place. HOI Third Place & HOI 4th Place.
5. There is no time limit for championship game (6 innings). Run Rule still in effect.
6. The Higher seed will always be the home team. June 27 th -June 30 th TBD Eastside Center East Peoria
7. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to

play

& a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.

8. There are no outside Subs allowed & teams cannot share players from any HOI team, this includes organizations with more than one team in that age level. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.

Pre-Season Rosters due 4-1-24. In case of in-season add-ons example: (girl moves or changes teams)

Your commissioner must be notified to add a player. You must notify your commissioner before any

new player/sub plays an HOI Game.

If you don't notify the Commissioner, then this will result in a 7-0 forfeit.

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## 12U RULES

12U B 2024 Rules

USA Softball Rules (In Game Rules Apply)

Any major questions or issues pertaining to HOI rules this year should be directed to your HOI Commissioner & or Director.

1. A time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes or 7 innings (no new inning shall start after 1hr, 15 min) will be in effect for all games.
2. All Games must be played or have an outcome. If a game is postponed due to weather, or cancelled due to other issues, it must be made-up. If a cancelled game cannot be rescheduled both teams will take a 7-0 loss. Each team must have the exact same number of games played for proper tournament seedings. If a game is postponed or cancelled and one team cannot or unwilling to reschedule and the other team is, it will be under the league commissioner 's discretion of which team will take a forfeit if not both teams. (This is why we ask you to be flexible, especially when scheduling non-league games). Example: A team does not have enough players & they have to cancel; it is the responsibility of that team who cancelled to contact the team they cancelled with. Both teams need to work out a new date the best they can. If the game is not made-up: It will be your

commissioner's discretion of who will take the 7-0 forfeit if not both teams. This will be a case-by-case decision as there are several scenarios that are possible. (So please be flexible & work with other coaches to avoid this mess).

3. All games must have a winner, no games ending in ties.
  - A. 1. International Tiebreaker
  - B. Coin-Flip (In case of no lights, weather, or both teams decide).  
If there is a coin flip deciding factor- Winning teams needs to contact their commissioner afterwards.
4. Scores should be verified both teams at the end of the game. (We had a few different scores in 2023 and no idea how that happens) team. If there is a discrepancy HOI Board will reach out to both teams.
  - A. Both Teams Must score the game in Team Manager (Note: Game Changer:
  - B. We must have the First Name, Last Initial, position played in the box score) If you have two or more players with the same first name and same last initial, we need you to distinguish who they are in more detail).
  - C. Both teams must list their pitchers & also the opposing pitchers in the box scores. Please have your lineups ready early, so both teams can get the lineups in their game changers in a timely matter. This will also make it that much easier for the ones doing your scorekeeping believe me!  
Teams must use patched umpires due to insurance policies for any HOI sanctioned games. If teams do not use insured patched umpires the HOI League

will not/cannot be responsible for any liability insurance claims etc. This will fall back on the teams/organizations responsibility to handle any injury claims, not the HOI League.

(10& 12U teams may use 1 or 2 umpires (2 is highly recommended for 12U). 2 umpires are required for 14U. Teams must split umpire fees. HOI World Series will have 2 patched USA Softball Umpires for all games.

5. Run Rule- 10 Runs after 3 innings, or by 8 runs after 4 innings  
(Running up the score: Please use some integrity in HOI sanctioned games. An example of this is a score of 20-0/ 26-2. Neither team are getting any value in run-up score games. The 10 & 12U divisions are broke down into B & C this season, so it should be much more competitive & less chances for

blow-out scores. However, if there is evidence of this happening a team will be given a warning by

their commissioner & if it continues could result in a loss of all stats and a loss for that game. (We had

zero incidents in 2023, so please do not be that coach/team who breaks this trend.)

6. Pinch Runners-Only Pitchers & Catchers can be pinch ran for during a game unless an injury occurs to another position player. Must use last batter if batting the entire lineup (if batting the entire lineup). If not batting the entire lineup any bench player may run for the pitcher or catcher.
7. If two teams play each other in a non-league game (tournament) The league will use that game for record & stats, but BOTH teams must agree & notify their league Commissioner either before the game or the next day.
8. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
9. Regular Season Subs
  - A. Sub players can only sub for 1 HOI Team only. Once a player subs for that team (they are considered that teams rostered sub, therefore they cannot sub for another HOI team.
  - B. If a team is bringing in a sub as a pitcher & that team has a full-time rostered pitcher available for that game, the sub player cannot pitch any (HOI League Standing/Stat Game). This would result in a 7-0 forfeit & no stats will be recorded for that entire team that used a sub pitcher for that game.
  - C. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster.
  - D. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.
  - E. A team can use a sub player who is eligible to play up. For example: any 10U player can move up to 12U and play with that 12U team.
  - F. Before a team does roster a sub player, they must notify their league commissioner via email, text, or phone call.

G. Any team in violation of playing ineligible players will forfeit that game. (This includes the World Series).

1. Ejections: A. If a player, Coach & or Fan is ejected from a game by the umpire, they are not allowed to return to the game. An ejected participant must leave the grounds and have, no contact with the umpires or participants in the game and is suspended for one additional game. The ejected participant is restricted from having contact with the team and is not permitted to sit in the stands, dugout, or general locality of the next game. The ejected participant may appeal the one game suspension to the Championship Protest Committee (USA Softball). If the ejected participant is also involved with another age group/team these rules will also apply for the suspension.  
B. If ejected in the World Series, they must sit the following game also. (Same Rules Apply as Regular Season USA Softball Rules).  
C. Depending on the severity of any misconduct a coach/fan/player may be suspended by the HOI Board for numerous games or removed from the league with no refund. This includes the coaches/fans/players/teams. Any use of profanity towards players, fans & umpires will not be tolerated & violations of this policy will be subject to possible suspensions listed above.  
D. Violations of behavior HOI policy: Will be reviewed & addressed by HOI Commissioners, & Directors.
2. Transactions: If a player is added after the original rosters are submitted, the HOI League needs to be informed with player name & number before they are allowed to play a league game, this includes subs too. (Example: If you have a player who joins a team late in the season either due to injury or players leaving a team). Inform your commissioner before they play in a HOI league record game). The commissioner/director also have the desecration if a player is eligible to be added to a roster based on the team's situation/circumstance. (This is after the roster deadline of April 1 st , 2024).

## 2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 1

Depending on scheduling 1st Game of Double Header Counts for Record & Stats. (Please inform your parents of this process). Some teams have elected to have both game count. If teams play a Round Robin Style, then all those games count for record & stats).

The HOI Website will only be updated once a week (not daily).

The HOI Board- this includes, website, Facebook page & email responses will be closed in season Sat-Sundays (All board members are either coaches, or umpires). Please inform your parents.

1. 2024 Stats for League Leaders- Hitting: Batting Avg. Hits, Runs, RBI, On-Base %. Pitching: Strikeouts, Complete Game Shutouts, Most Innings Pitched, E.R.A, & WHIP.

A. HOI recognizes a Complete Game Shutout as: 1 Pitcher (Not multiple Pitchers), at least 3.0 Full

Innings with Zero Runs Scored by the opposing Team. (2 Examples of not a CGS- 10-0 Final Score- Starting Pitcher goes 4 innings & second pitcher goes 2 innings). (SP goes 2.0 innings & 2nd Pitcher goes 1.0 inning).

B. On-Base Percentage formula for HOI (based on what is visible in the GC Box Score) =  $\frac{\text{Hits} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP}}{\text{AB} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP}} = \text{OBP}$ . (99.9 teams do not score a sacrifice fly or GC do not properly score it. Therefore, Sacrifice Flies will not be in the formula.

2. With less games in 2024 there will be less stats, which could result in a few league leader ties.

HOI Budgets at the beginning of the season for a certain number of awards, WS umpire fees,

medals, balls, WS field prep, etc. so, we cannot order extra awards based on anticipation or

assuming. We want to keep the cost as low as possible for all HOI teams. So, if there is a tie in a stat category, we have a tie-breaker process.

A. If a Player already won a LL in 1 category, then the player, she was tied with would win in this scenario.

B. If there are multiple ties in a category & none of the players won a League Leader: We will

email each coach & have them pick a number based on a Number Generator and the closest

player to that number will win the league leader. (No one likes ties & hopefully none of these scenarios will need to be used, but we need to plan for the possibility. There is no perfect way to determine ties period.

3. Padding Stats- We will be comparing both box scores. 2023 we saw a tremendous amount of



difference in box scores. The largest red flags were in the pitching category of earned runs, either not scoring errors or scoring errors when they were really hits. Example: 5.0 innings pitched 3 hits, 2 earned runs allowed, 15 runs allowed. The opposing team show a box score of 5.0 innings 7 hits 8 earned runs allowed, allowed 15 runs. This would be an example of your Game Changer not properly scoring a game. Some teams video tape their games & in some cases we have checked these types of scenarios by video & in some cases we may go through the video, but this is also too time-consuming to go through numerous videos. All we ask is for the coaches & those scoring games to know how to properly score a game & to use their best judgement, but most of all integrity. (HOI Does Not require video of games). Intentional or blatantly padding of stats could result in a discipline action against a coach. This would be determined by the entire HOI Board at your specific age group.) (Intentionally padding stats only weakens your players development overall.

## 2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 2

1. Both Teams must score any HOI Record Game on Game Changer. (NOTE: Have your Lineup ready early to give the opposing plenty of time to enter the information.
2. Box Score- Must Have at least Player's First Name and Last Initial – Position Played (especially Catcher).
3. BOTH Teams must have the names of who pitched, both their team & also the opposing pitcher/pitchers.
4. Players with the Same First Name & Last Initial- (Ran into the mess with a few teams in 2023) If this applies to your team, we need you to somehow differentiate between the players). Example: You have two Grace H. (Have one Grace H & the other Grace H. (just let us know who prior to the season) is. Note: 8U through 12U we can only see the First & Last Initial (NOT their Full Last Name)
5. 12U B- 12 Games required for 2024. (Any game not played is a 7-0 forfeit). Teams must play each team twice for record.

## All-Star Selection Rules

1. The HOI Board will select All-Stars in 2024. No Coaches Voting required in 2024.
2. Coaches must send us a list of their player's primary position. No more than 3 positions for each player. These will be the positions that the player will be competing for an All-Star slot.
3. Three players from each team will be selected. We will select the first 7 positions. 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, & 3 OF spots. (HOI Board will pick the starters)
4. Each Roster will also have a fair, but limited number of Pitchers & Catchers.
5. Due to the T-Shirts needed to be made, the All-Star Rosters will be announced close to 2 weeks prior. 12 Team Rosters (Due to uneven amount of teams format will be 2 each from AL Teams & 2 each from NL Teams). NL will have 12 on a roster AL will have 14 on a roster.

#### All-Star Game Rules

1. The All-Star Game is designed as a fun only format. Each player must play the field and teams will bat their entire lineup. June 20 th Manito, IL
2. National League vs American League Format (Coin Flip for Home/Away)
3. Both teams will have 3-4 coaches, preferably not from the same league team. This can be a head coach or an assistant coach.
4. Pitching/Catchers: Each team will have enough pitchers & catchers on a roster. Pitchers & catchers need to be rotated each inning. Each elected pitcher & catcher must pitch or catch at least one inning.
5. Each girl will wear their NL or AL Division Shirt.
6. The All-Star Game will be a 7-inning game.
7. Skill Challenge Events- Are only for non-elected All-Stars & 1 per event.

#### HOI World Series

World Series Roster- No More than 15 on a roster.

1. World Series will be a 2 Game Guarantee. 1 Bracket, seeds based on regular season record. June 27 th -June 30 th Eastside Center East Peoria
2. Seedings will be based in the following order- Regular season record, (in case of ties) lastly fewest runs allowed during regular season, if still a tie Most Runs Scored.
3. 12U B will be a 13-team seeded double-elimination bracket.
4. 1st-HOI World Series Champion. HOI Second Place. HOI Third Place & HOI 4th Place.

5. There is no time limit for championship game (6 innings). Run Rule still in effect.
6. The Higher seed will always be the home team.
7. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
8. There are no outside Subs allowed & teams cannot share players from any HOI team, this includes organizations with more than one team in that age level. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.

Pre-Season Rosters due 4-1-24. In case of in-season add-ons example: (girl moves or changes teams)

Your commissioner must be notified to add a player. You must notify your commissioner before any

new player/sub plays an HOI Game.

If you don't notify the Commissioner, then this will result in a 7-0 forfeit.

End of Regular Season is June 16 th (All games must be played by June 16 th or it will be a 7-forfeit.

#### 12U C 2024 Rules

USA Softball Rules (In Game Rules Apply)

Any major questions or issues pertaining to HOI rules this year should be directed to your HOI Commissioner & or Director.

1. A time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes or 7 innings (no new inning shall start after 1hr, 15 min) will be in effect for all games.
2. All Games must be played or have an outcome. If a game is postponed due to weather, or cancelled due to other issues, it must be made-up. If a cancelled game cannot be rescheduled both teams will take a 7-0 loss. Each team must have the exact same number of games played for proper tournament seedings. If a game is postponed or cancelled and one team cannot or unwilling to reschedule and the other team is, it will be under the league commissioner 's discretion of which team will take a forfeit if not both teams. (This is why we ask you to be flexible, especially when scheduling non-league games). Example: A team does not have enough players & they have to cancel; it is the

responsibility of that team who cancelled to contact the team they cancelled with. Both teams need to work out a new date the best they can. If the game is not made-up: It will be your commissioner's discretion of who will take the 7-0 forfeit if not both teams. This will be a case-by-case decision as there are several scenarios that are possible. (So please be flexible & work with other coaches to avoid this mess).

3. All games must have a winner, no games ending in ties.
  - A. 1. International Tiebreaker
  - B. Coin-Flip (In case of no lights, weather, or both teams decide).  
If there is a coin flip deciding factor- Winning teams needs to contact their commissioner afterwards.
4. Scores should be verified both teams at the end of the game. (We had a few different scores in 2023 and no idea how that happens)  
team. If there is a discrepancy HOI Board will reach out to both teams.
  - A. Both Teams Must score the game in Team Manager (Note: Game Changer:
  - B. We must have the First Name, Last Initial, position played in the box score) If you have two or more players with the same first name and same last initial, we need you to distinguish who they are in more detail).
  - C. Both teams must list their pitchers & also the opposing pitchers in the box scores. Please have your lineups ready early, so both teams can get the lineups in their game changers in a timely matter. This will also make it that much easier for the ones doing your scorekeeping believe me!  
Teams must use patched umpires due to insurance policies for any HOI sanctioned games. If teams do not use insured patched umpires the HOI League

will not/cannot be responsible for any liability insurance claims etc. This will fall back on the teams/organizations responsibility to handle any injury claims, not the HOI League.

(10& 12U teams may use 1 or 2 umpires (2 is recommended). 2 umpires are required for 14U. Teams must split umpire fees. HOI World Series will have 2 patched USA Softball Umpires for all games.

5. Run Rule- 10 Runs after 3 innings, or by 8 runs after 4 innings  
(Running up the score: Please use some integrity in HOI sanctioned games. An example of this is a score of 20-0/ 26-2. Neither team are getting any value in run-up score games. The 10 &

12U divisions

are broke down into B & C this season, so it should be much more competitive & less chances for

blow-out scores. However, if there is evidence of this happening a team will be given a warning by

their commissioner & if it continues could result in a loss of all stats and a loss for that game. (We had

zero incidents in 2023, so please do not be that coach/team who breaks this trend.)

6. Pinch Runners-Only Pitchers & Catchers can be pinch ran for during a game unless an injury occurs to another position player. Must use last batter if batting the entire lineup (if batting the entire lineup). If not batting the entire lineup any bench player may run for the pitcher or catcher.
7. If two teams play each other in a non-league game (tournament) The league will use that game for record & stats, but BOTH teams must agree & notify their league Commissioner either before the game or the next day.
8. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
9. Regular Season Subs
  - A. Sub players can only sub for 1 HOI Team only. Once a player subs for that team (they are considered that teams rostered sub, therefore they cannot sub for another HOI team.
  - B. If a team is bringing in a sub as a pitcher & that team has a full-time rostered pitcher available for that game, the sub player cannot pitch Game 1 (HOI League Standing/Stat Game).
  - C. The sub player is eligible to pitch Game 2 (Game 2 is not recorded for record or stats).
  - D. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster.
  - E. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.
  - F. A team can use a sub player who is eligible to play up. For example: any 10U player can move up to 12U and play with that 12U team.
  - G. Before a team does roster a sub player, they must notify their league commissioner via email, text, or phone call.

H. Any team in violation of playing ineligible players will forfeit that game. (This includes the World Series).

1. Ejections: A. If a player, Coach & or Fan is ejected from a game by the umpire, they are not allowed to return to the game. An ejected participant must leave the grounds and have, no contact with the umpires or participants in the game and is suspended for one additional game. The ejected participant is restricted from having contact with the team and is not permitted to sit in the stands, dugout, or general locality of the next game. The ejected participant may appeal the one game suspension to the Championship Protest Committee (USA Softball). If the ejected participant is also involved with another age group/team these rules will also apply for the suspension.  
B. If ejected in the World Series, they must sit the following game also. (Same Rules Apply as Regular Season USA Softball Rules).  
C. Depending on the severity of any misconduct a coach/fan/player may be suspended by the HOI Board for numerous games or removed from the league with no refund. This includes the coaches/fans/players/teams. Any use of profanity towards players, fans & umpires will not be tolerated & violations of this policy will be subject to possible suspensions listed above.  
D. Violations of behavior HOI policy: Will be reviewed & addressed by HOI Commissioners, & Directors.
2. Transactions: If a player is added after the original rosters are submitted, the HOI League needs to be informed with player name & number before they are allowed to play a league game, this includes subs too. (Example: If you have a player who joins a team late in the season either due to injury or players leaving a team). Inform your commissioner before they play in a HOI league record game). The commissioner/director also have the desecration if a player is eligible to be added to a roster based on the team's situation/circumstance. (This is after the roster deadline of April 1 st , 2024).

## 2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 1

ONLY the 1st Game of Double Header Counts for Record & Stats. (Please inform your parents of this process).

If teams play a Round Robin Style, then all those games count for record & stats).

The HOI Website will only be updated once a week (not daily).

The HOI Board- this includes, website, Facebook page & email responses will be closed in season Sat-Sundays (All board members are either coaches, or umpires). Please inform your parents.

1. 2024 Stats for League Leaders- Hitting: Batting Avg. Hits, Runs, RBI, On-Base %. Pitching: Strikeouts, Complete Game Shutouts, Most Innings Pitched, E.R.A, & WHIP.

A. HOI recognizes a Complete Game Shutout as: 1 Pitcher (Not multiple Pitchers), at least 3.0 Full

Innings with Zero Runs Scored by the opposing Team. (2 Examples of not a CGS- 10-0 Final Score- Starting Pitcher goes 4 innings & second pitcher goes 2 innings). (SP goes 2.0 innings & 2nd Pitcher goes 1.0 inning).

B. On-Base Percentage formula for HOI (based on what is visible in the GC Box Score) =  $\text{Hits} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP} / \text{AB} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP} = \text{OBP}$ . (99.9 teams do not score a sacrifice fly or GC do not properly score it. Therefore, Sacrifice Flies will not be in the formula.

2. With less games in 2024 there will be less stats, which could result in a few league leader ties.

HOI Budgets at the beginning of the season for a certain number of awards, WS umpire fees,

medals, balls, WS field prep, etc. so, we cannot order extra awards based on anticipation or

assuming. We want to keep the cost as low as possible for all HOI teams. So, if there is a tie in a stat category, we have a tie-breaker process.

A. If a Player already won a LL in 1 category, then the player, she was tied with would win in this scenario.

B. If there are multiple ties in a category & none of the players won a League Leader: We will

email each coach & have them pick a number based on a Number Generator and the closest

player to that number will win the league leader. (No one likes ties & hopefully none of these scenarios will need to be used, but we need to plan for the possibility. There is no perfect way to determine ties period.

3. Padding Stats- We will be comparing both box scores. 2023 we saw a tremendous amount of

difference in box scores. The largest red flags were in the pitching category of earned runs, either not scoring errors or scoring errors when they were really hits. Example: 5.0 innings pitched 3 hits, 2 earned runs allowed, 15 runs allowed. The opposing team show a box score of 5.0 innings 7 hits 8 earned runs allowed, allowed 15 runs. This would be an example of your Game Changer not properly scoring a game. Some teams video tape their games & in some cases we have checked these types of scenarios by video & in some cases we may go through the video, but this is also too time-consuming to go through numerous videos. All we ask is for the coaches & those scoring games to know how to properly score a game & to use their best judgement, but most of all integrity. (HOI Does Not require video of games). Intentional or blatantly padding of stats could result in a discipline action against a coach. This would be determined by the entire HOI Board at your specific age group.) (Intentionally padding stats only weakens your players development overall.

## 2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 2

1. Both Teams must score any HOI Record Game on Game Changer. (NOTE: Have your Lineup ready early to give the opposing plenty of time to enter the information.
2. Box Score- Must Have at least Player's First Name and Last Initial – Position Played (especially Catcher).
3. BOTH Teams must have the names of who pitched, both their team & also the opposing pitcher/pitchers.
4. Players with the Same First Name & Last Initial- (Ran into the mess with a few teams in 2023) If this applies to your team, we need you to somehow differentiate between the players). Example: You have two Grace H. (Have one Grace H & the other Grace H. (just let us know who prior to the season) is. Note: 8U through 12U we can only see the First & Last Initial (NOT their Full Last Name)
5. 12U C- 8 Games required for 2024. (Any game not played is a 7-0 forfeit). Only assigned games will count for record.
6. Example: All AL Teams only play AL Teams. NL Teams only play NL Teams.

## All-Star Selection Rules



1. The HOI Board will select All-Stars in 2024. No Coaches Voting required in 2024.
2. Coaches must send us a list of their player's primary position. No more than 3 positions for each player. These will be the positions that the player will be competing for an All-Star slot.
3. One player from each team will be selected. We will select the first 7 positions. 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, & 3 OF spots. (HOI Board will pick the starters)
4. Each Roster will also have a fair, but limited number of Pitchers & Catchers.
5. Due to the T-Shirts needed to be made, the All-Star Rosters will be announced close to 2 weeks prior.

#### All-Star Game Rules

1. The All-Star Game is designed as a fun only format. Each player must play the field and teams will bat their entire lineup. The Top AL & Top NL at the time of the voting deadline will each have 1 extra player voted to the All-Star team. (This is due to make each roster 10-man rosters). All-Star Voting cut-off is at the end of the day Sunday June 9 th .
2. National League vs American League Format (Coin Flip for Home/Away)
3. Both teams will have 3-4 coaches, preferably not from the same league team. This can be a head coach or an assistant coach.
4. Pitching/Catchers: Each team will have enough pitchers & catchers on a roster. Pitchers & catchers need to be rotated each inning. Each elected pitcher & catcher must pitch or catch at least one inning.
5. Each girl will wear their NL or AL Division Shirt.
6. The All-Star Game will be a 7-inning game. June 20 th Manito,IL  
HOI World Series

#### World Series Roster- No More than 15 on a roster.

1. World Series will be a 2 Game Guarantee. 1 Bracket, seeds based on regular season record. June 27 th -June 30 th Times TBD Eastside Center, East Peoria
2. Seedings will be based in the following order- Regular season record, (in case of ties) lastly fewest runs allowed during regular season, if still a tie Most Runs Scored.
3. 12U C will be a 18-team seeded double-elimination bracket.
4. 1st-HOI World Series Champion. HOI Second Place. HOI Third Place & HOI 4th Place.
5. There is no time limit for championship game (6 innings). Run Rule still in effect.
6. The Higher seed will always be the home team.

7. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
8. There are no outside Subs allowed & teams cannot share players from any HOI team, this includes organizations with more than one team in that age level. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.

Pre-Season Rosters due 4-1-24. In case of in-season add-ons example: (girl moves or changes teams)

Your commissioner must be notified to add a player. You must notify your commissioner before any

new player/sub plays an HOI Game.

If you don't notify the Commissioner, then this will result in a 7-0 forfeit.

End of Regular Season is June 16 th .

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## 14U RULES

14U 2024 Rules

USA Softball Rules (In Game Rules Apply)

Any major questions or issues pertaining to HOI rules this year should be directed to your HOI Commissioner & or Director.

1. A time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes or 7 innings (no new inning shall start after 1hr, 15 min) will be in effect for all games.
2. All Games must be played or have an outcome. If a game is postponed due to weather, or cancelled due to other issues, it must be made-up. If a cancelled game cannot be rescheduled both teams will take a 7-0 loss. Each team must have the exact same number of games played for proper tournament seedings. If a game is postponed or cancelled and one team cannot or unwilling to reschedule and the other team is, it will be under the league commissioner 's discretion of which team will take a forfeit if not both teams. (This is why we ask you to be flexible, especially when scheduling non-league games). Example: A team does not have enough players & they have to

cancel; it is the responsibility of that team who cancelled to contact the team they cancelled with. Both teams need to work out a new date the best they can. If the game is not made-up: It will be your commissioner's discretion of who will take the 7-0 forfeit if not both teams. This will be a case-by-case decision as there are several scenarios that are possible. (So please be flexible & work with other coaches to avoid this mess).

3. All games must have a winner, no games ending in ties.
  - A. 1. International Tiebreaker
  - B. Coin-Flip (In case of no lights, weather, or both teams decide).  
If there is a coin flip deciding factor- Winning teams needs to contact their commissioner afterwards.
4. Scores should be verified both teams at the end of the game. (We had a few different scores in 2023 and no idea how that happens)  
team. If there is a discrepancy HOI Board will reach out to both teams.
  - A. Both Teams Must score the game in Team Manager (Note: Game Changer:
  - B. We must have the First Name, Last Initial, position played in the box score) If you have two or more players with the same first name and same last initial, we need you to distinguish who they are in more detail).
  - C. Both teams must list their pitchers & also the opposing pitchers in the box scores. Please have your lineups ready early, so both teams can get the lineups in their game changers in a timely matter. This will also make it that much easier for the ones doing your scorekeeping believe me!

Teams must use patched umpires due to insurance policies for any HOI sanctioned games. If teams do not use insured patched umpires the HOI League

will not/cannot be responsible for any liability insurance claims etc. This will fall back on the teams/organizations responsibility to handle any injury claims, not the HOI League.

(10& 12U teams may use 1 or 2 umpires (2 is recommended). 2 umpires are required for 14U. Teams must split umpire fees. HOI World Series will have 2 patched USA Softball Umpires for all games.

5. Run Rule- 10 Runs after 3 innings, or by 8 runs after 4 innings  
(Running up the score: Please use some integrity in HOI sanctioned games. An example of this is a

score of 20-0/ 26-2. Neither team are getting any value in run-up score games. The 10 & 12U divisions

are broke down into B & C this season, so it should be much more competitive & less chances for

blow-out scores. However, if there is evidence of this happening a team will be given a warning by

their commissioner & if it continues could result in a loss of all stats and a loss for that game. (We had

zero incidents in 2023, so please do not be that coach/team who breaks this trend.)

6. Pinch Runners-Only Pitchers & Catchers can be pinch ran for during a game unless an injury occurs to another position player. Must use last batter if batting the entire lineup (if batting the entire lineup). If not batting the entire lineup any bench player may run for the pitcher or catcher.
7. If two teams play each other in a non-league game (tournament) The league will use that game for record & stats, but BOTH teams must agree & notify their league Commissioner either before the game or the next day.
8. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
9. Regular Season Subs
  - A. Sub players can only sub for 1 HOI Team only. Once a player subs for that team (they are considered that teams rostered sub, therefore they cannot sub for another HOI team.
  - B. If a team is bringing in a sub as a pitcher & that team has a full-time rostered pitcher available for that game, the sub player cannot pitch Game 1 (HOI League Standing/Stat Game).
  - C. The sub player is eligible to pitch Game 2 (Game 2 is not recorded for record or stats).
  - D. Any sub player must be listed on your deadline roster.
  - E. They must be from a B/C level program. No A level players are allowed to sub in the HOI as we are a B/C League.
  - F. A team can use a sub player who is eligible to play up. For example: any 12U player can move up to 14U and play with that 14U team.
  - G. Before a team does roster a sub player, they must notify their league commissioner via email, text, or phone call.

H. Any team in violation of playing ineligible players will forfeit that game. (This includes the World Series).

1. Ejections: A. If a player, Coach & or Fan is ejected from a game by the umpire, they are not allowed to return to the game. An ejected participant must leave the grounds and have, no contact with the umpires or participants in the game and is suspended for one additional game. The ejected participant is restricted from having contact with the team and is not permitted to sit in the stands, dugout, or general locality of the next game. The ejected participant may appeal the one game suspension to the Championship Protest Committee (USA Softball). If the ejected participant is also involved with another age group/team these rules will also apply for the suspension.  
B. If ejected in the World Series, they must sit the following game also. (Same Rules Apply as Regular Season USA Softball Rules).  
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D. Violations of behavior HOI policy: Will be reviewed & addressed by HOI Commissioners, & Directors.
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Innings with Zero Runs Scored by the opposing Team. (2 Examples of not a CGS- 10-0 Final Score- Starting Pitcher goes 4 innings & second pitcher goes 2 innings). (SP goes 2.0 innings & 2nd Pitcher goes 1.0 inning).

B. On-Base Percentage formula for HOI (based on what is visible in the GC Box Score) =  $\text{Hits} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP} / \text{AB} + \text{BB} + \text{HBP} = \text{OBP}$ . (99.9 teams do not score a sacrifice fly or GC do not properly score it. Therefore, Sacrifice Flies will not be in the formula.

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email each coach & have them pick a number based on a Number Generator and the closest

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## 2024 HOI Stat Rules Part 2

1. Both Teams must score any HOI Record Game on Game Changer. (NOTE: Have your Lineup ready early to give the opposing plenty of time to enter the information.
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3. BOTH Teams must have the names of who pitched, both their team & also the opposing pitcher/pitchers.
4. Players with the Same First Name & Last Initial- (Ran into the mess with a few teams in 2023) If this applies to your team, we need you to somehow differentiate between the players). Example: You have two Grace H. (Have one Grace H & the other Grace H. (just let us know who prior to the season) is.
5. 14U- 6 Games required for 2024. (Any game not played in 7-0 forfeit).

## All-Star Selection Rules

1. The HOI Board will select All-Stars in 2024. No Coaches Voting required in 2024.
2. Coaches must send us a list of their player's primary position. No more than 3 positions for

each player. These will be the positions that the player will be competing for an All-Star slot.

3. One player from each team will be selected. We will select the first 7 positions. 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, & 3 OF spots. (HOI Board will pick the starters)
4. Each Roster will also have a fair, but limited number of Pitchers & Catchers.
5. Due to the T-Shirts needed to be made, the All-Star Rosters will be announced close to 2 weeks prior. Due to uneven amount of teams NL will have 13 players (1 per team) AL will have 12 players (1 per team). Skill Challenge is for non-elected All-Stars and 1 per event.

#### All-Star Game Rules

1. The All-Star Game is designed as a fun only format. Each player must play the field and teams will bat their entire lineup.
2. National League vs American League Format (Hosting Team will be the home team)
3. Both teams will have 3-4 coaches, preferably not from the same league team. This can be a head coach or an assistant coach.
4. Pitching/Catchers: Each team will have enough pitchers & catchers on a roster. Pitchers & catchers need to be rotated each inning. Each elected pitcher & catcher must pitch or catch at least one inning.
5. Each girl will wear their NL or AL Division Shirt.
6. The All-Star Game will be a 7-inning game. June 24 th Washington IL 7:00 PM

#### HOI World Series

World Series Roster- No More than 15 on a roster.

1. World Series will be a 2 Game Guarantee. Bracket, seeds based on regular season record.
2. Seedings will be based in the following order- Regular season record, (in case of ties) lastly fewest runs allowed during regular season, if still a tie Most Runs Scored.
3. 14U will have an A & B bracket (like 2023 format). A Bracket-14 Teams. (1 st -2nd byes) B Bracket-13 Teams (byes 14-16th). June 27 th -June 30 th . Eastside Center East Peoria
4. A Bracket-HOI World Series Champion. HOI Second Place. B Bracket-Consolation Bracket.
5. There is no time limit for championship game (6 innings). Run Rule still in effect.
6. The Higher seed will always be the home team.



7. Teams must start a game with 9 players (USA Softball Rules) If a team cannot start a game with 9 players, that will be a 7-0 forfeit. If a player gets injured and cannot continue to play & a team only has 8 players, that team must take an out when that injured player's spot comes up in the lineup.
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Pre-Season Rosters due 4-1-24. In case of in-season add-ons example: (girl moves or changes teams)

Your commissioner must be notified to add a player. You must notify your commissioner before any

new player/sub plays an HOI Game.

If you don't notify the Commissioner, then this will result in a 7-0 forfeit.