GENERAL **Tournament RULEs** & **Info**
("**The Battle in the Valley**" Tournament)

1.The ***Official Senior Softball-USA Rulebook 2021-22*** shall be used for any rules not mentioned below.

2. SCHEDULED GAME TIME is **FORFEIT TIME:** All teams must be ready to play fifteen **(15)** minutes **prior** to their scheduled game time, **or** immediately **following** the previous game**.**

3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT:

_ DAY # 1 (Sat.) ... **"Pool Play"**
Each team will play **3** Round Robin "Pool Play" ('**Seeding**' games) on Sat. ... EACH gm. will be **60 min.** in length. A coin toss will determine the **HOM**E team, & the **VISITORs** will be allotted **+1/2 run** (to eliminate ties). The **+1/2 run** will **NOT** be used in either 'bracketed' Championship tourneys. After fifty-five **(55)** minutes of play, the next inning will automatically become the "**OPEN (scoring) INNING**". The **4th** "Pool Play" will be played on Sun. morning @ a time yet T.B.D.'d

_ DAY # 2 (Sun.) ... **Championship Tourney ...** 'seeded' & 'bracketed"
        The Championship game will be a full **7 innings**, &, in the event of a **tie**, we will use the '**International Tie-Breaker**' protocol to determine a winner ... in the 8th inning, the last batter   from the previous inning will start @ 2nd base with one (**1**) out), & we will play on until a winner is determined

4. # of "**GUARANTEED**" gms.: **5**

5. To ensure the *protection & safety* of the pitchers, **ALL** teams **MUST** play w/a mask

6 . **Age** & **Rosters**
_ This will be an eight (**8**) team tournament, w/the allowable '**age range**' of the participating players being from **55 – 70** yrs. of age, ALL rostered players must be at least 55 yrs. of age.
_ The roster size will have a limit of 16. Player ratings must be designated when the roster is submitted, & the roster can consist of 55 & 60 **Major**, **AAA**, **AA**, and/or **A** rated players.
_ Roster changes will be accepted only at '**check-in**' on **DAY # 1** only
_ The tournament director(s) reserve the right to award teams **5 – 7** runs, based on team ratings, to promote competitiveness.

7. BATTING INFO: ALL batters will start with a **1 ball-1 strike count**. Foul balls are strikes, w/**NO** '*courtesy foul to waste*' after the second strike. **ONLY** bats w/a **1.20 or less** rating can be used. ALL other bats will be deemed **illegal**, & the player using one will be *ejected & disqualified* from the tournament immediately. ONLY 1.21 bats or lower, or, approved ASA bats will be allowed.

8. PITCHING POSITION: The pitcher will be allowed an **8 ft. x 2** ft. 'pitching

lane' behind the rubber from which to deliver the ball. A **6' - 12'** arc must be maintained.

9. LINEUP INFORMATION: A nine (**9**) player minimum will be required to start/finish a game. However, you may bat your entire roster. Any player playing in the field must also bat. The Umpire (s) will keep the 'official score', & will declare the score after each half inning.

10. Player **ELIGIBILITY:** A player will **NOT** be allowed to play in Sun.'s **Championship** round unless he has batted in @ least once in two (**2**) of the three (**3**) "Pool Play" gms. on Sat. It will be the responsibility of **EACH** MGR. to make sure that **ALL** 'rostered' players fulfill Rule # 9, & bat @ least one (1) time per gm. Field moderators will **record** every player AB for the entirety of each gm. to ensure compliance to this rule.

11. In order to ensure participation, & compliance w/Rule # 8, this tournament will use the "**Modified Subsitituion Re-Entry**" format. All starters can be substituted for once & can   re-enter **once**. That player must re-enter in his same position in the batting order. Players used as courtesy runners can run multiple times in a gm., but NOT more than once per inning. Players who *take* a courtesy runner, may **not** be a courtesy runner for someone else in the same inning.

12. MERCY RULE: Teams can only score a maximum of four (**4**) runs per inning, w/the final inning being the '**open**' or unlimited inning. Any team ahead by twelve (**12**) runs after 5 innings shall be declared the winner. The '**Flip-Flop**' rule will be used in the open inning for home team trailing by (**10**) or more runs.

13. HOME RUN RULE: EACH team will be allowed **ONLY** three (**3**) HR's per game. There will be **NO** "*1 Up*" HR rule in effect. ALL subsequent HR's hit by a team that already has hit 3 HR's will be "*OUTs*".

14. PLAYER SAFETY: All pitchers will be required to wear a facemask. Any player initiating undue contact with another player shall be called out in the umpire's discretion & may be subject to ejection.

15. PROTESTs: There will be absolutely **NO** protests allowed. All umpire decisions are FINAL

16. "**SEEDING**" ... Bracket Placement ... **Criteria (**in the **order** presented)

     1) Won/Loss record,
     2) head-to-head competition,
     3) least runs allowed,
     4) most runs scored
     and/or
     5) coin flip

17. "**Zero Tolerance**" Rule: The **City of Peoria**, & the **Peoria Parks & Recreation Department** reserve the right to determine discipline, including ejection, whenever a player's violates the tournaments accepted code of conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct & actions such as fighting, abuse of the officials or recreation staff, and/or any other example of

misbehavior will not be tolerated, & dealt w/accordingly. Any player or coach ejected will be subject to a **MINIMUM** one (**1**) game suspension

18. WEATHER: Tournament officials & staff reserve the right to make changes to the tournament rules & formats in the case of inclement weather conditions.

19. Entry Fee REFUNDS: A definitive ruling on refunding the Entry Fees for participating teams, in the event of inclement weather after the tourney starts, will be made by, & at the discretion of the tourney host **... "Launchers" Softball**.