

# MINNESOTA SOFTBALL

Dear League Director,

We hope our spring update finds you doing well. Inside this packet you will find information about the USA Softball and Minnesota Softball Adult Slow Pitch softball program for 2019.

We thank you for registering teams, tournaments, and umpires with USA Softball. Many of you are friends of mine that have a common interest, the love of softball. I cannot thank you enough for all that you do to create fun for our teams and players. Keep up the good work. I hope we can all register one more team, umpire and tournament and keep growing!

The below information and forms can be found on our League Directors page at <http://slowpitch.mnsoftball.com/leaguedirector>.

## **NATIONAL RULES CHANGES**

Rule 3, Section 6A EFFECT 2: (Female Fast Pitch and all Slow Pitch) Ball caps and visors are optional for players. If worn, they may be mixed and must be worn properly, colors to include: black, white, gray, beige or team colors. The colors may be mixed and are not required to be the same for all team members. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headwear and cannot be worn around the head or neck. Plastic visors are not allowed.

Comment: Allows colors to be mixed when wearing caps or visors in Female Fast Pitch and all Slow Pitch Classifications of play.

Rule 3, Section 6D: An Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting color, or outlined in contrasting color, at least three inches high, must be clearly visible on all uniform shirts.

Comment: Revises the requirement for the size and location of the number placed on the uniform jersey.

## **NATIONAL AND STATE FEE CHANGES**

This was a fee change implemented last year by USA Softball. Team registration fees have been raised to \$25 per team. The reason for this is USA Softball and RPS Bollinger have eliminated Field Owners Insurance and Tournament Directors insurance and have bundled it into the team registration fee.

- If you are running a USA Softball tournament and your teams playing are registered with USA Softball, your commissioner will be able to generate insurance certificates for your city administrators.
- If you run a USA Softball league and your teams playing are registered with USA Softball, your commissioner will be able to generate insurance certificates for your city administrators.



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This may or may not be a big deal if you are under an umbrella policy through the state or your city, however, your tournament directors do have coverage, and all of this is bundled into the \$25 team registration fee.

We have increased the State Tournament Entry Fee from \$210 to \$250. The reason for this is \$50 of the \$250 entry fee will now be given to the state tournament site host to dispose of as they see fit. We were running into an issue where hosts were running these events at a loss. We hope that this offsets the operating expenses that our state tournament hosts incur and encourages other communities to take on the task of conducting state tournaments.

## EQUIPMENT

USA Softball goes to great lengths to certify softball bats and balls for play in our league and tournament games. The certify equipment by doing certified studies involving the equipment and the science on the collision of the bat and ball. The certification on our equipment is based on science and math, not opinion.

Certified USA Softball Equipment Page - <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment>

If your league is interested in allowing bats that do not have the USA Softball stamp you may do this. It would be prudent to do the following things:

- Use the 52/300 softball during your league games.
- Test the bats to see if they pass the USA Softball barrel compression test.

At our State and National tournaments, only USA Softball stamped bats and balls will be allowed. For more information on barrel compression testing, please refer to the link above.



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## A.D. STARR TATTOO SOFTBALLS

We will be selling A.D. Starr Tattoo softballs again this season. Apparently Tattoo Softball these are a little more popular than I anticipated.

Description	Size	COR	Comp	Cover	1-24 Dozen	25-48 Dozen	49+ Dozen
Tattoo AT1252PC	12"	.52	300 lbs.	Composite	\$56	\$55	\$53
Tattoo AT1152PC	11"	.52	300 lbs.	Composite	\$56	\$55	\$53
Tattoo AT1252PS	12"	.52	300 lbs.	Synthetic	\$45	\$44	\$42
Tattoo AT1252PS	11"	.52	300 lbs.	Synthetic	\$45	\$44	\$42

## LEAGUE REGISTRATION

If your league is registering with USA Softball Minnesota please let us know right away and how many teams you intend to have and where to send the team materials to. The League Membership Form is on the League Director Webpage at <http://slowpitch.mnsoftball.com/leaguedirector>. We would like to have all league materials shipped out by April 1, 2018.

## TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

If you conduct a softball tournament, we have created a page where our tournaments are listed. Last year we registered over 100 tournaments. We have invitational tournaments in every corner of the state for your teams to play in whether they want to play locally or make a weekend out of it.

USA Softball Minnesota Adult Tournament Page - <http://slowpitch.mnsoftball.com/tourneys>

## STATE TOURNAMENTS

Last year USA Softball Minnesota attracted 205 teams to our adult slow pitch tournaments which is double the teams of our competitors combined. Once your teams participate in our state tournaments they should speak to the tournament director about advancing to a national tournament.

<u>State Tournament (HR Limit)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Men's Open Slow Pitch (6)	August 3-4, 2019	Hanover
Men's C Slow Pitch (4)	August 9-11, 2019	Prairie Island
Men's D North Slow Pitch (2)	August 9-11, 2019	Moorhead
Men's D South Slow Pitch (2)	August 3-4, 2019	Rochester
Men's E South Slow Pitch (1)	August 10-11, 2019	Willmar



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Men's E Northwest Slow Pitch (1)	August 11-12, 2019	Moorhead
Men's E Northeast Slow Pitch (1)	August 17-18, 2019	Buffalo House
Co-Ed Slow Pitch (2)	August 24-25, 2019	Brainerd
Women's B/C Slow Pitch (4)	August 17-18, 2019	Pine City
Women's C/D Slow Pitch (2)	August 17-18, 2019	Pine City
Men's Fall Slow Pitch (2)	October 4-6, 2019	Bloomington
CO-Ed Slow Pitch (2)	October 4-6, 2019	Bloomington

## NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Minnesota sends more teams to nationals than any other state. Our teams have always enjoyed going out of state to national tournaments for the travel, competition, comradery, and to finish off a fun season of slow pitch softball. If your teams are interested in playing in our national tournaments, please contact us.

This year Prairie Island will be conducting two national tournaments again this year. They have been a fantastic partner in softball and provide an excellent destination-based softball venue for our teams! We hope you can support Prairie Island and send us teams.

If your players are interested in playing for one of the Team USA National Teams, participation in nationals is mandatory. For the Men's National Team they must play in the Super Slow Pitch National and for Women's National Team they must play in the Women's Open Slow Pitch Nationals. This is new this year.

<b>National Tournament (HR Limit)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Men's Super Slow Pitch (16)	August 15-16, 2019	Nashville, TN
Men's A Slow Pitch (10)	August 17-18, 2019	Nashville, TN
Men's B Slow Pitch (6)	August 23-25, 2019	Prairie Island, MN
Men's C Slow Pitch (4)	August 30-2, 2019	Prairie Island, MN
Men's D North Slow Pitch (2)	August 30-2, 2019	Grand Rapids, MI
Men's D North Slow Pitch (2)	August 31-1, 2019	Cape Girardeau, MO
Men's E North Slow Pitch (0)	August 30-2, 2019	Topeka, KS
Men's Over 35 Slow Pitch (4)	August 23-25, 2019	Mandan, ND
Men's Over 40 Slow Pitch (4)	September 7-8, 2019	Brick, NJ
Men's Over 45 Slow Pitch (4)	August 23-25, 2019	Mandan, ND
Co-Ed C Slow Pitch (4)	August 23-25, 2019	Columbia, MO
Co-Ed D Slow Pitch (2)	August 23-25, 2019	Columbia, MO
Co-Ed E Slow Pitch (0)	August 24-25, 2019	Brick, NJ
Women's Open Slow Pitch (10)	August 23-25, 2019	Waxahachie, TX
Women's C Slow Pitch (4)	August 30-2, 2019	Lakewood, NJ
Women's D Slow Pitch (2)	August 30-2, 2019	Lakewood, NJ
Women's Over 35 Slow Pitch (4)	August 23-25, 2019	Mandan, ND



## UMPIRE REGISTRATION

Every year we register upwards of 600 umpires. They attend one of twenty or more district umpire training clinics held throughout the state. The clinicians will demonstrate the latest rules changes and other aspects designed to make them better officials with a Power Point Presentation with animations. The animations cover angles and distances and how to get to the proper position on the field to make the best call possible.

Then they are eligible to work league and tournament games and are under the USA Softball Medical Insurance Policy. A couple of years ago USA Softball extended this policy to cover umpires working non-USA Softball events. Contact us if you want confirmation if your events fall underneath our policy.

The umpires also take an online quiz prior to working. It is 57 questions and is an open book test. It is geared to make the umpires think hard about difficult situations. Umpires need not pass the test to umpire games. We are collecting information to help improve future training sessions by presenting difficult to answer scenarios.

[Link to the USA Softball Umpire Examination](#)

Not only did we have over 200 teams participate in our slow pitch state tournaments, but we had 1,277 teams participate in our girls' fastpitch state tournament. We are always scraping to get enough umpires to cover games for leagues and states. If you are interested in working some games and making a nice wage, please contact us.

## ROSTERS

Rosters are created by team managers at <http://www.gosoftball.com>. Instructions on how to use gosoftball.com are provided at <http://slowpitch.mnsoftball.com/rosterhelp>.

Any team manager may create their own roster. Once they submit a roster our state staff reviews each player and approves them for play on that team. In the event that the roster is not eligible to play they class they choose, state staff can reject the roster in the form of an email with a note about why they cannot play at that level.

Many of our league directors have taken advantage of this roster system as it allows them to more effectively place teams in their league based on the player's playing history. The system also exports approved rosters on the USA Softball Official Championship Roster and Liability Waiver PDF format. The deadline to create rosters is prior to your team's first game played whether it be league or tournament. Rosters may be edited by team managers at any time. However, after any edit state staff must once again go in and approve any changes.

The deadline to edit rosters is 48 hours prior to their state tournament start.



## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

High School Alumni - Last year we conducted our first ever High School Alumni softball tournament. To participate teams were required to be from the same high school. We will be working with this tournament director to have each alumni team work to convince current high school students create a team and participate in the event in a free tournament. The High School teams would play against other teams at no cost.

USA Patriots – The USA Patriots Softball Team (formerly the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team) is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to inspire and educate others while enhancing the health and welfare of veterans injured in the line of duty. USA Patriots represent some of our nation’s bravest and most determined heroes, soldiers and veterans. These men have sustained severe injuries resulting in amputation, and through extensive rehabilitation, they have become competitive athletes again, playing against able-bodied teams in exhibition games across the country.

Last season USA Softball Minnesota helped bring USA Patriots to Brainerd and Prairie Island. USA Patriots are committed to coming back to both sites again this season.

Special Olympics – Every year USA Softball Umpires work at the Special Olympics State Tournament for little to no pay. It is important that our special athletes get trained umpires for this event and we are committed to providing them.

## **LEAGUE MANAGEMENT WEBSITE**

Our state website is a Sports Engine website which allows us to host league information. We have a few leagues that take advantage of the rich league management features that are stock in the website. There is no cost to using our website to manage your leagues. Some of the features include, league standings, league and team schedules, weather info and contact, and score updating from cell phones.

## **REGISTRATION FORM LINKS**

Our registration forms are provided on our website. The forms on the website are provided in writable PDF and online registration forms. If you need to print out a registration form, the PDF form works well for that.

Umpires - <http://slowpitch.mnsoftball.com/umpires>

League Directors - <http://slowpitch.mnsoftball.com/leaguedirector>

Tournament Directors - <http://slowpitch.mnsoftball.com/tourneys>



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## CONTACT USA SOFTBALL MINNESOTA

If you ever need help with a softball question or have a concern about our sport, please email or call me at the contact information below.



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