



Event & Organiser

Tournament: ISPS Winter World Championships – Slow-Pitch Softball

Date: January 24, 2026

Location: Fort Lauderdale, FL (USA) - Mills Pond Softball Complex

Sanctioning organization: International Slow Pitch Softball (ISPS)

Official rules reference: ISPS General Rules document.

Director: Manuel “Manny” Ferrero - 305-986-1928 or 786-245-3243

Key Rules Summary

Equipment & Bats

- Any bat stamped ISPS, USSSA, or USA/ASA is allowed for ISPS play.
- Both 220 and 240 bats are permitted.
- Senior-stamped bats allowed ONLY for Athletes 40+ years of age on day of tournament..
- Official slow-pitch wood bats are allowed.
- Bats may be compression tested. **Failed bats are held for the remainder of the tournament**; refusal to surrender a failed bat results in **ejection**. Altered equipment procedures/suspensions apply.

Pitching & Delivery

- Pitch arc must be between 6 ft and 10 ft
- Pitcher may be up to 3 ft behind the rubber
- **Pitch pump fake is allowed.** Pitchers must release the pitch **within 5 seconds** of presenting the ball to home plate.

- 1-1 COUNT. NO EXTRA AFTER 2.
- **PITCHER MUST WEAR HELMET TO BE FIRST TO FIELD BALL. NO NET!**

Game Format & Divisions

- Men's LOWER: Any E/D Player. **No C or Above Players Allowed**
- Women's: OPEN
- 3 Game Guaranteed Bracket

Home Runs & "Out" Rules

- Men's lower division: **2 HR and 1 Up then inning ends.**
+ 1 HR BAND. IF WALKED ROLLS OVER TO THE NEXT BATTER.
- **Women's: UNLIMITED**

Roster, Line-Up & Universal Runner

- Uniform rules in effect - **UNIFORM TOPS MANDATORY** (Except in Finals, where undefeated team automatically wins HOME)
- **Universal Runner:** 1 per team (1 per gender where applicable). The runner does **not** have to be in the lineup and may run unlimited times. **If the universal runner is on base when he/she is due to bat, it is an automatic out at the plate.**
- Batting line-ups and substitution rules default to ISPS standard.

Run-Ahead (Mercy) Rule & Regulation Game

- **Game length: 7 innings or 60 minutes (whichever comes first). No new inning after 55 minutes (except extra innings). If tied after regulation, extra innings use international tiebreaker (last recorded out starts on 2nd).**
- **Run rule:** 15 after 3, 12 after 4, 10 after 5.

Conduct, Umpires & Compliance

- Umpires certified by ISPS are used; they enforce equipment legality, pitching arc compliance, and conduct.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, rule violations or illegal equipment may result in penalty, ejection or forfeiture per ISPS rules.

- Any matter not explicitly covered in the tournament rules will default to the ISPS General Rules.

Additional Tournament Notes

- Each team is typically guaranteed a minimum number of games (e.g., 3 gg)
 - The specific ball type (e.g., 44/375 compression) ONLY ISPS STAMPED BALLS & BALLS APPROVED ALLOWED.
 - The event's "house rules" must be followed
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 - Bracket is published at playisps.com/WINTERWORLDS2026
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Action Items for Teams

1. Review the full ISPS rulebook at playisps.com/generalrules (General Rules).
2. Confirm your division's specific HR, pitching arc, and roster/line-up rules with tournament directors.
3. Ensure all bats, helmets, equipment are compliant (ISPS/USSSA/USA-ASA stamped).
4. Prepare roster forms, waivers as required.
5. Understand when the run-ahead rule may apply and schedule implications.
6. Confirm your game schedule, location, minimum games, and format for JAN 24 at playisps.com/WINTERWORLDS2026
7. Provide your team with copies of these rules and ensure players know the key points before arrival.