

ND State & Inv. Tournament Instructions to all MSP/WSP/Coed Team Managers

Starting Lineup: Line up cards required listing names of all starters and substitutes. Teams may start with nine (9) players. The tenth position in the batting order will be an automatic out each time that position comes to bat. The tenth player may enter the game at any time that they show up.

Pickup Player Rule: Teams may pick-up a maximum of 3 players not to exceed 12 total players. Pick-ups must come from the same classification or below and from **ND tournament-eligible rosters only** (No pickups from League Only rosters), but cannot be picked up from teams entered into any tournament - including the same tournament - the same day. State Tournament Pickup Form is required for state tournaments, must be signed by league rep or state official approving each player, and submitted to Tournament Director prior to the team's first game. Pick-up players must wear their own uniform of highest classified team they are picked up from.

Scheduling: Game time is forfeit time. **Check the board and/or website for possible changes in game times and diamonds.** In state tournaments, byes & forfeits may count as one of a team's guaranteed minimum number of games. State tournaments will be run using the online platform Register Play. Visit [ND.RegisterPlay.com](https://www.ndregisterplay.com) to register and for updated brackets.

Team Forfeit: Teams that forfeit as a result of other than ineligible players or acts of suspension under **Article 305 (A)** of the USA Softball Code, shall be allowed to continue in the tournament unless the forfeit was their eliminating loss. All forfeits count as a team loss.

State Tournament Time Limit: **WSP** – 75 Minute time limit on all games; **MSP** – 75 Minute time limit on all Rec 3 & Rec 4 games. **No inning shall start after the 75 minute time limit has elapsed (exception – Championship Game).**

Run Ahead Rule: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, 10 after 5 innings. A/B - 20 after 4 innings & 15 after 5 innings.

Home Run Rule: Runners do not run the bases on home runs. Inside-the-park home runs and 4-base awards do not count towards the limit. Home runs over the limit will be outs.

MSP	MSP Masters	WSP	Coed
B = 7	Masters 35/40, Div 1 = 5	Rec 1-4 = 4	Division 1 = 4
C = 5	Masters 35/40, Div 2 = 2		Division 2 = 2
D = 3	Masters 35/40, Div 3 = 1		Division 3 = 1
Rec 1 & Rec 2 = 2	Masters 50/60 = 3		
Rec 3 & Rec 4 = 1			

Courtesy Runners: One courtesy runner per inning plus unlimited courtesy runners for the pitcher of record (**Masters 50/60** – Unlimited courtesy runners, though each courtesy runner may run only once in each inning; **Coed** – courtesy runners must the same gender as the player being run for.)

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Pitching: 1-1 Count, no courtesy foul. Pitching arc is 6' to 10' (exception – Masters 50/60 is 6' to 12'). In C & below, pitchers may position themselves up to 6 feet behind and within the 24" pitcher's plate (within the "pitcher's box") to start their pitch.

Uniform Rule: Follow USA Softball Rule book. Class B/C must wear complete uniform. D & below matching shirts with numbers. Shorts must be like in color for B/C. B/C- Caps and visors may be mixed in color as long as they are the color of the team uniform and **worn properly**.

Equipment/Apparel: **Bats** – USA Softball approved bats only. Mandatory compression testing at Men's Rec 1 and higher state tournaments. Random testing in all other divisions. Senior bats are not permitted in USA Softball of North Dakota-sanctioned play. **Metal Spikes** are prohibited. **Jewelry** – Follow USA Softball Jewelry Rule.

Protests: All protests must be settled immediately. No protests on judgment calls.

Rosters: All rosters must be accessible online at [ND.RegisterPlay.com](https://nd.registerplay.com) and players must be able to provide a proper ID card when prompted. Roster checks should be expected.

Artificial Noise Makers: Boom boxes, music boxes, etc. while game is in progress are not permitted. Penalty is ejection.

Alcohol/Smoking: Participants may not use alcoholic beverages inside or directly behind the dugout or on the playing field. Participants may not smoke inside the dugout or on the playing field. **Automatic Ejection.**

National Tournaments: Teams looking to participate in a national tournament must have participated in at least one state tournament that season. The top finishing team in some state tournaments may be eligible to have a national tournament entry fee paid for by USA Softball of North Dakota. Contact the State Office (see below) for more details and general information about national tournaments.

State Officials:

- Commissioner Dick Gulmon (701-490-0078)
- MSP Commissioner Jack Lukes (701-680-0408)
- WSP Commissioner DaLee Wilkinson (701-793-5081)
- Umpire-in-Chief Mike Wolf (701-400-2100)
- State Office (701-952-4448, StateOffice@USASoftballND.com)

Enforcement of all rules are the responsibility of the Tournament Director & UIC