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Softball News

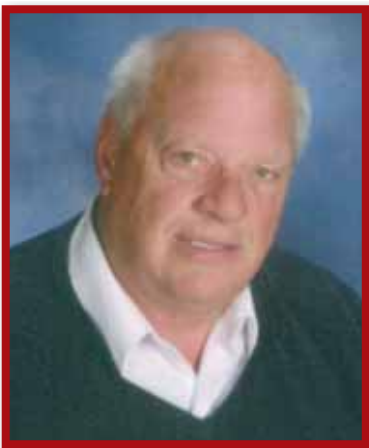
Volume 33, Number 3 | NORTH DAKOTA STATE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION | SPRING 2018



MARGE & CHUCK OBERG



CURT KRAHLER



GREG KAEDING



DENNIS BENSE



TOM HARTY

Hall of Fame adds six new members

The Hall of Fame selection committee, meeting during the Winter meeting of the North Dakota Softball Association has voted in six new members to be inducted at the Hall of Fame banquet which is held at the same time and place as the Spring meeting of the softball group. The banquet will be held

on Saturday evening, April 7 at the Gladstone Hotel in downtown Jamestown. This year's group has experience at virtually every aspect of the game. All have played, some have managed, some have sponsored teams, some have administrative experience as League Reps or Board Members and all have been

active in recruiting new players.

This year's inductees include Dennis Bense who played in both Minot and Bismarck; Tom Harty, recently retired as the Deputy Umpire in Chief in Jamestown; Greg Kaeding of Fargo who serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the state softball group; Curt Krahler of Fes-

senden who played, managed and sponsored; and Chuck and Marge Oberg of Wahpeton who are now deceased but who sponsored one of the best slowpitch softball teams to ever play in North Dakota, Chuck's Off Sale. The addition of this year's class will bring total membership in the state softball Hall of Fame to 276

members. This year's inductees will receive their Hall of Fame plaques and Certificates at the annual Hall of Fame banquet to be held in the Gladstone Hotel in Jamestown on Saturday evening, April 7, 2018. All previous members of the Hall of Fame in attendance will be recognized at that time.

CHUCK AND MARGE OBERG

One of the most successful and popular softball teams ever to play in North Dakota was the Chuck's Off Sale team sponsored by Chuck and Marge Oberg. Their Class AA team won four state titles and had a record of 935 wins and 212 losses over a 16 year span. They won two Regional titles and became the first team from North Dakota to win a Class AA Regional to advance to the National Tournament. The team was also named the Non-School Team of the year and captured four McQuade Tournament titles.

Chuck and Marge followed their team to every game and were much more than monetary sponsors. Softball became their summertime passion including invitational tournaments virtually every weekend. The team won over 100 games in a single season, a nearly impossible feat in North Dakota. It goes without saying that Chuck and Marge put a lot of time and money into their sponsorship of this highly successful team. They also helped the team with equipment expenses and donated

an electronic scoreboard to the softball complex.

CURT KRAHLER

Curt Krahler of Fessenden has played slow pitch softball for over 31 years and has played every position during his career. His career batting average is approximately .600. He has been a team manager for 28 of those years as well as a sponsor. He has played in over 31 state championship tournaments 2 Regionals and 7 Nationals. His teams have won four state titles, one Regional title and added three runner-up titles at National events.

Curt is credited with keeping softball alive in Fessenden and surrounding area. For 20 years, he has built and rebuilt teams almost annually in his home town. Every year many of his better players move on to college or to bigger cities to find employment. Curt often sponsored teams as well as playing and managing. His teams always entered state tournaments as well as invitationals including the McQuade and normally did very well against teams from bigger towns and cities.

GREG KAEDING

After being recruited by his neighbor Jack Arends to assist with the local softball organization, Greg Kaeding has become an almost indispensable person, not just with the Fargo Slow Pitch Softball Association but with the state organization, USA Softball North Dakota.

After a 29 year career playing slow pitch softball in the state, he holds several positions on the local level, including member of the Board of Directors, Fargo Slow Pitch, Treasurer for 30 years, member of the Fargo Park Board All City Softball Board and tournament manager for a number of state tournaments which hosted over 4,000 teams. On the state level, Kaeding has served on the Board of Directors, been Secretary/Treasurer, is on the Classification Committee, the Hall of Fame Selection Committee the Financial Committee and was awarded a Distinguished Service Award in 2015.

All of those administrative accomplishments have overshadowed his playing career which include over 500 pitching victories, playing in 25 state tournaments,

including two state championships and co-sponsoring a girl's softball team along with fellow Hall of Famer Stan Johnson.

DENNIS BENSE

Dennis Bense, now living in Bismarck, played a total of 23 years in North Dakota for teams in Minot and Bismarck. He retired from the game in 2015 with an approximate batting average near 600. He describes himself as a base hitter with some power. He played in 33 state championship tournaments with teams sponsored by Toads Ride and Shine of Minot, Hair Hospital and Stadium of Bismarck and Dustex of Mandan. His teams played in two National Class A Coed tournaments, a National 35 and over tournament and five additional National tournaments. He also served as the manager of Toads Ride and Shine and was the sponsor for Scheels. He is a member of the McQuade Tournament Hall of Fame and played on the Toads Team which set McQuade tournament records for the most runs scored in one inning when they plated 27 runs in the first inning of a game during the McQuade tournament.

TOM HARTY

After playing softball for ten years, Tom Harty of Jamestown decided he would try umpiring the game. He spent the next 33 years actively umpiring and served as Deputy Umpire in Chief for the Jamestown area for 20 of those years before his recent retirement.

Tom has an impressive resume as an umpire, having worked over 100 state tournaments as well as 10 Regional tournaments and 4 Nationals. He has also volunteered as a working umpire for 15 McQuade Tournaments.

Tom is respected for his knowledge of the rules and his ability to communicate clearly at any level of the game. He is regarded as an excellent clinician and an umpire who takes pride in sharing his knowledge and experience with new umpires. Players respect his judgement and his ability to handle difficult situations with a minimum of attention. He was always prepared for his assignments, properly dressed and equipped. He gained admission to the National Indicator Fraternity in 1994 and earned Elite status in 2005

Annual Spring Meeting April 7

Hall of Fame Banquet, same date and place

State Softball Commissioner Dick Gulmon has announced the date for the annual Spring Meeting and Hall of Fame Banquet and induction ceremonies. Both events will be held on Saturday, April 7 at the Gladstone Hotel in downtown

Jamestown.

The Spring meeting of the NDSA Softball Association will begin with coffee and rolls at 8:30 a.m. followed by a general meeting at 9:00 a.m. Separate meetings of the various divisions will follow before the group meets again to hear reports from the Men's Slow Pitch Division, the Women's Slow

Pitch Division, the JO Fast Pitch Division and the Umpires.

The Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony for six new members is also scheduled for that evening with the banquet beginning at 5:30 so attendees at the state meeting can stay for the Hall of Fame ceremony and still get home that evening. A cash bar will

open at 4:30 with a buffet dinner to follow. All current Hall of Fame members are invited and urged to attend. Each will be individually introduced prior to the induction ceremony for new members. Anyone interested in attending is also invited.

Tickets may be obtained by contacting Amy Anderson, Secretary

of the Hall of Fame Committee at 1226 4th Ave. E, West Fargo, ND 58078. Her telephone number is 701-799-0772 or fax 701-893-2638. Please get your tickets early so that a head count for the banquet may be obtained.

Tickets are \$25 per person; inductees for this year will get 2 free tickets.

President's Report

Wow, it is 19 below this morning as I write this letter. It does not feel like softball weather but is not that far away. I have already received my High School fast pitch schedule which starts early April. So it is time to time to start getting your teams together. This is a reminder that the 2018 move-ups are printed in this paper. If you are on that list and have any questions on it please contact me. Remember that this list comes from the top 10% of each State and National Tournament and a few of the top finishers at the McQuade each year. On the McQuade move-ups the teams from 2017 can play their original class until the start of the 2018 season, then the move-ups take place.

North Dakota will host 2 Na-

tional Tournaments in 2018. Fargo will host the Northern D on Aug. 31-Sept. 2nd. Mandan will be the home of the Mens Masters 35, 45 and the Women's 35 Masters on Aug. 24-26. The Mens E/Rec Northern National will be held in Liberty, MO this year on Aug. 24-26. The Mens C National this year will be held in Prairie Island, MN on Aug.31-Sept. 3rd.

Some other important dates to remember will be the Spring meeting and the Hall of Fame Banquet on April 7th. The Final Classification meeting will be July 6th. The deadline for League Registrations will be June 4th. Roster deadline - at the State Office is June 11th. After June 11th there is a \$25 late fee. The final roster change date is June 19th. Also a reminder that

Masters rosters must be submitted by July 1st. This is very important because of the National Masters tournament is again in North Dakota this year-Mandan. A make-up roster is allowed for both the State and National tournaments but we must have them in hand by July 1st.

USA Softball of North Dakota has a new Adult liability team insurance available for 2018. This is a very good insurance policy and it will be explained more in this paper. I would highly recommend that you look into this policy.

The Tournament Series is going very well. We will be again running it this year with the same sponsor as last year. - Monsta will again will be handling the prize package. If your team likes to compete in a lot of tournaments this is the

series for you. So please look into participating. The winning teams will receive some great prizes at the end of the year.

I would like to congratulate the 6 newest members to the USA Softball Hall of Fame. Curt Krahler from Fessenden, Tom Harty from Jamestown, Chuck and Marge Oberg from Wahpeton, Greg Kaeding from Fargo, and Dennis Bense from Bismarck. This is a great honor and I welcome these 6 people.

I hope to see you around the diamonds this Summer. And if you ever have any question please do not hesitate to call or email me...

Jack Lukes-



Jack Lukes

From the Sidelines

As I write this, the wind chill is minus 22 degrees this morning. It has been quite a stretch of bitterly cold weather so I thought maybe if I wrote something about softball it might warm me up. I had hip replacement surgery the end of November, 2017 and my recovery and rehab have gone very well. I'm hoping that by Spring I can play a little golf and even umpire a few softball games. Since I was stuck in the house during my recovery from surgery and now with the cold weather, I got our income taxes done and ready to mail. That kept me busy for a couple of days since

I do them in rough draft, put them aside for another day or two before I finalize them.

It should be a busy softball season in North Dakota this year with Mandan hosting the National Tournaments for Men's Masters 35 and 45 along with the Women's Masters 35. We're looking for good turnouts for each of these tournaments so teams, get organized to participate in a National tournament. Fargo will also be hosting a national event when they welcome the Men's Class D Northern national tournament at their new North Softball Complex. The dates and

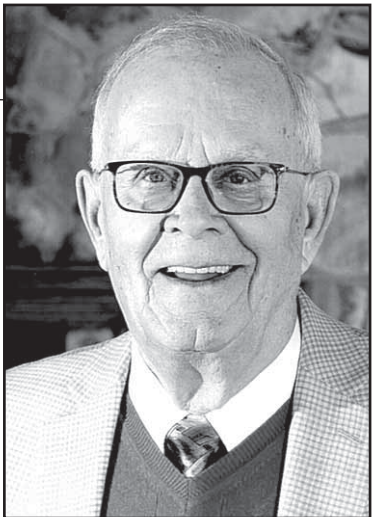
other tournament information will be published in the Summer issue of this paper.

Our JO Fast Pitch Girls program continues to grow. Their state tournament this coming season will be held in Fargo at the new North Softball Complex. There has been consistent growth in the program with more teams and cities involved in the youth fast pitch game. I keep hoping that the fast pitch game will come back for adults as well but so far, no luck.

The Spring meeting of the state association will be held this year on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the

Gladstone Hotel in downtown Jamestown starting at 9:00 a.m. The Hall of Fame banquet will be held that evening also at the Gladstone. That will start at 5:30 p.m. so attendees can still get home fairly early. Everyone is invited to attend and current members of the Hall of Fame will be individually introduced. Six new members will be inducted at the banquet.

I hope to see many of you at the Hall of Fame banquet and at the diamonds during the Season. Good luck to all teams and let's have another great season of softball.



Walt Stack

J.O. Fastpitch Update

High school Softball starts practice next month on March 19th. It looks like there will be 19 "Class A teams" and 29 "Division B" teams. As previously reported from last fall's column, Bishop Ryan will move down to the Class B ranks this spring. Other new programs starting this year are Solen/Cannon Ball, Harvey/Wells county and Campbell/Tintah Lidgerwood. Next Spring, Watford City will move to WDA, bring the total Class A teams back to 20. That is a total of 48 total teams competing this Spring. The state Class A tournament will be held in Fargo and the Class B in Jamestown. Those dates are May 31st thru June 2nd.

Last weekend, I was fortunate enough to attend the USA Softball JO commissioners meeting in Oklahoma City. There were approximately 70 JO commissioners and 23 State commissioners attending the meeting. Some of the new items coming up will be splitting some of the National tournaments up into East/West Tournament. The thinking here would be to eliminate travel for the coast teams and to

cut down on the number days the tournaments would last.

Some interesting items of attention that may face JO softball comes in from the College level. There is a proposal to limit recruiting to juniors in high school. That vote is coming in April. What the fallout may be is can younger kids be able to visit campus' or even attend a college camp clinics, if they are younger than a junior. It sounds like there was a lot of support for that to pass.

The 12U All American games were a huge hit with the National Office last summer. There are several U Tube video's on the event. I would highly recommend that those be watched. They tell a great story and what it means to be a part of those games. The North Dakota tryouts for the 12u All American games will be held on Sunday, April 29th, in Bismarck starting at 1:00 PM. North Dakota will get to send 5 players to Oklahoma City and play minimum of 4 games at Hall of Fame complex. Those are scheduled for June 29th to July 1st. Please get the word out for the

tryouts.

Due to the unfortunate incidents that happened in women's gymnastics, USA Softball has now added a "Safe Sport video" that will now be included for all coaches, and bench personal. This is an additional item, going forward, that will need to be done in order for a background check, and the ACE program, that needs to be completed by those who are willing to coach. As of now it looks like this will be needed to be done a 2 year cycle.

The 2018 state tournament will be held on Fargo Starting on Friday July 13th thru Sunday 15th. Those games will be held at Fargo's North field. WE are excited to have the state return to Fargo starting this year. In addition, it was voted that Minot will host the 2019 state tournament. It has been a while since Faargo has hosted the state tournament and the first time ever that Minot has hosted the state tournament. It has been one of our goals to rotate the JO state tournament between Bismarck, Grand Forks, Minot and Fargo on a permanent rotation between those cities. Last

year we 64 teams compete in the state tournament in Bismarck.

Just to compare with our neighboring state, South Dakota has approximately 135 teams, Minnesota had over 635 teams, and Montana had 91 teams competing in their state tournaments for 2017. Those are all 3 day tournaments.

Here are USA tournaments you can attend for the upcoming 2018 season.

Class A Tournament sites Class B tournament Sites New Region 8 Class C

18U Novi , MI	7/26-7/29
18U Springfield , MO	7/15-7/29
18U	NONE
16U Bloomington, IN	7/25-7/29
16U North Mankato, MN	8/2-8/5
16U	NONE
14 U Rochester, MN	8/2-8/5
14U Decatur, IL	7/23-7/29
14 U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29
12U Wausau, WI	7/25 -7/29
12U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29
12U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29
10U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29
10U Wausau, WI	7/25-7/29
10U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29



Brian Neuhardt

Ump Chat

Who's ready for some softball? Once again, the upcoming season comes with minimal new rule changes which are great for both umpires and players. Elsewhere in this issue is a complete listing of the rule changes for 2018. We will go over the entire list of rule changes at all of the umpire rules clinics and all of the manager's rules clinics throughout the state. If you have any questions concerning any of the rule changes, be sure and let me know.

We will be holding several classroom rules clinics for managers and umpires. We will also be holding several field clinics for umpires throughout the state that everyone is invited to attend. At past field clinics we have stretched a string ten feet high and another string six feet high between the pitcher's mound and home plate to use as a training tool for umpires to see where the ten foot limit is and where the six foot minimum is. This is a great training tool for both umpires and players.

I highly recommend that pitchers, players, and managers take the time to attend the portion of the field clinic at the beginning where we cover the pitching height to get a true feel of where the ten foot arc limit really is. Last year we had a lot of players attend our field clinics and a lot of eyes were opened at our field clinics by players and umpires alike when we stretch the string and start throwing pitches. So, please consider attending a field clinic and take a look at the pitching arc. There is a complete listing of classroom clinics and field clinics listed elsewhere in this issue.

We have several opportunities for players and umpires to be a part of national tournaments in North Dakota this summer. Mandan will be hosting the Men's Masters 35 & Over, 45 & Over Men's and 35 & Over Women's National Tournament August 24-26, 2018. There will be a competitive division and a recreational division in the men's tournaments which should

really increase participation in these tournaments. These national tournaments are a great opportunity for our Men's and Women's Masters teams so start thinking about getting your team put together. This is also going to be an excellent opportunity for umpires as this is an Elite qualifier tournament, one of only a few in ASA that allows umpires to achieve Elite status.

Fargo is also hosting a national tournament this summer. Fargo will host the Men's D National Tournament August 31 -September 2. This too, is a great opportunity for North Dakota teams to participate in a national tournament. Mandan and Fargo both do a great job hosting their tournaments and you won't be disappointed by participating in any of the tournaments. You might want to start thinking about entering your team or putting a team together to participate in this great event.

We will also have a lot of great opportunities for umpires from

ND to work national tournaments this summer. Besides the North Dakota Nationals, we have already secured some great opportunities this summer for some of our umpires to work a national tournament outside the state. Elliott Gerhardt has been chosen to work the Girls 16U Gold Fastpitch Tournament in Plano, TX. Ben Birkemeyer from Bismarck has been assigned to umpire the Girl's 18U Gold Fastpitch Tournament also in Plano, TX. Tom Hamkens from Bismarck has been assigned to work the Men's A National Tournament in Ridgeland, Mississippi and Naomi Erdahl from Bismarck has been assigned to umpire the ASA/USA JO Cup Fastpitch Tournament. These are some excellent tournament assignments for some of our ND umpires.

We will also be receiving umpire assignments for the Women's JO National Tournament in Watertown, SD and some of the Girls JO Fastpitch nationals on our region. I am also working on a couple of



Mike Wolf • Umpire in Chief

other umpire exchanges for national tournaments outside our region. All of these opportunities to work outside our state are great opportunities for our umpires to showcase their skills.

I would like to recognize and congratulate Wade Blumhagen from Bismarck and Chris Coleman from Fargo who have been

Ump Chat

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Commissioner's Column

Welcome again to another softball season in North Dakota. When it is time to write this column regarding the upcoming softball season, we know that we are at the tail end of winter and softball is around the corner.

In 2017 to become more aligned with the USA Olympic Committee and other National Governing Body's, we became USA Softball of North Dakota. The USA Softball name and branding change is important for our future, and our alignment with the US Olympic Committee is significant.

We had a good year in 2017 for USA Softball of North Dakota. Our Adult registrations were down slightly, but our JO program continues to grow. 2017 was a very successful year with the USA Softball/Monsta Tournament Series in MSP. The Monsta Series provides a prize package of \$15,000 worth of equipment. Overall participation in Invitational Tournaments and State Tournaments was also

strong. We had 630 teams playing in State Tournaments this past year including a 64 Team JO State Tournament. We are grateful that Gary Tharaldson continues to sponsor and cover the cost of all of our trophies, medals and awards package for State Tournaments. Tharaldson's contribution to our program is significant, and allows us to keep our entry fees affordable for all teams and assists in maximizing participation. Please thank Gary whenever you have an opportunity.

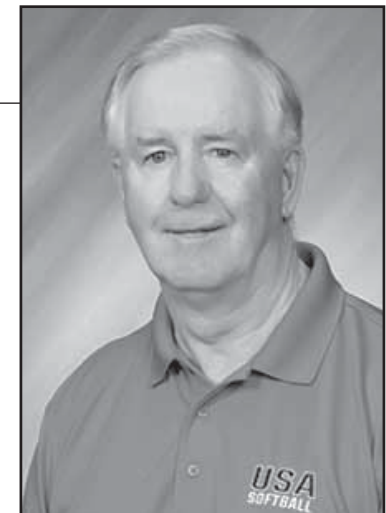
I attended the USA Softball National Council meeting last fall in Greensboro North Carolina as did Jack Jones, RC Courtright, Nick Gulmon and Mike Wolf. Mandan was successful in landing the 2019 MSP Masters (35), (45), and WSP (35). Mandan also added the WSP Masters 35 in 2018 as well. Also at the Council meeting Mandan and Fargo received the prestigious James Ferrell Award for hosting the highest rated National Champion-

ships in the country. An award like this does not just happen, it takes hard work by the local tournament committee and a tremendous volunteer base. Both events had great umpire staffs and provided a quality event for the teams, players and fans. My congratulations to Mandan and Fargo and thanks for the great work.

Also this past year, USA Softball partnering with the Bismarck Parks and Rec to host the Special Olympics North America Softball Championship. The event was sponsored by Moose International. We extend our thanks to Andy Dooley, Chairman of the USA Softball Special Programs committee, Bismarck Parks & Rec, Moose Lodges in North and South Dakota, Special Olympics of North Dakota, Bismarck/Mandan CVB, the Umpire staff, and the hundreds of volunteers from the Bismarck, Mandan area for all each of you did to make this such a great event for the athletes, teams and fans.

MSP and WSP Task Force met this past fall to discuss the 2017 and plans for the 2018 season. We also had our winter meeting in January of the Advisory/Executive Board and League Reps from around to the State. We discussed rule changes, code changes and approved State Tournament sites and dates. We also discussed the possibility of a Fall State Tournament in MSP which would also include an inaugural 5x5x5 State Tournament. We appointed a committee to come back to the Spring Meeting with recommendations for both. We appointed Mike Wolf to Assistant Commissioner/UIC and appointed Darin Krueger to the Executive Board. We extend our thanks to Sue Lachenmeier for her years of service to USA Softball North Dakota and wish her the best in retirement.

There are some great opportunities to participate in USA Softball National Championships in the Northern Region in 2018. GFP



Dick Gulmon

8U, 10UA, 12UB, 10UC, 12UC, 14UC in Yankton S.D. July 23-28. GFP 12UA, 10UB in Wausau, Wisc July 25-29. GFP 14UA, and 16UB in Rochester, Mn. August 2-5. MSP D Northern Championship in Fargo 8/31-9/2. MSP Masters 35, 45 and WSP 35 in Mandan, N.D. 8/24-26. USA MSP Championship B in Prairie Island, Mn 8/24-26, and

Commissioner

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Women's Softball Commissioner

WOMEN'S MASTERS 35 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT COMING TO MANDAN – August 24-26, 2018. This is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to put together a team(s) to represent North Dakota. The tournament is run a little differently than our state masters tourney here in North Dakota. Our state masters has an over 30 format, but nationals is over 35. There is only one division of play at nationals. There will be a tournament website coming soon with official rules and registration information. Until then, please contact Jack Jones, the tournament director if you have any questions. (jackjones.softball@gmail.com).

NORTH DAKOTA STATE WOMEN'S MASTERS 30 and over moved to August 18-19 in Bismarck. We have decided to move the masters state tourney to AFTER the other state tourneys to try to get

more teams to participate. Players are worried that they will get hurt in the Masters State and then they would be unable to play in the state tournament with their regular team.

WOMEN'S CLASSIFICATION AND DATABASE UPDATE: Last year, we had a women's database available to us at the classification meeting for the first time ever. All women were entered in the database and the classification committee could reference all players on more than one roster. Because of this, the classification committee had to make MANY last minute changes to rosters that were classified incorrectly because some dual-rostered players had not communicated that they were on more than one roster. A dual-rostered player can affect the classification of a team depending on the classification of their other team.

The responsibility of turning in

an accurate roster falls upon: #1) THE PLAYER. Make sure your name, address and birth month and year are correct. Sign your OWN NAME. List ALL other women's softball teams that you play for on the back of your roster. #2) YOUR TEAM MANAGER. Team managers need to know all players who are on other rosters, who the team is, what that team's classification is, and all of this information is to be included on the back of your rosters. Have your players sign their own names. #3) LEAGUE REPS. Get to know your players. ALL players need to be on a roster to play in your leagues. No random added players for league tournaments, etc.

TASK FORCE – I want to say thank you to the women's task force for doing research and providing ideas to start making some changes in ND women's softball. Not all of our ideas got approved by the executive council, but we're on

the right track to get some more changes implemented. Again, I need everyone's help and ideas. If you think we could be doing something better, let us know. Provide us with an idea or two to help us move forward with changes, so together, we can make women's softball in North Dakota the best that it can be. Hasnamer7@outlook.com.



Amy Anderson

Softball News

Official Publication of the North Dakota

Amateur Softball Association

Editor—Walt Stack

Advertising Director—Softball News

Box 309, Garrison, ND 58540

Subscription and similar material should be addressed to Softball News, Box 309, Garrison, N.D. 58540.

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Pictured left to right: Board of Park Commissioner President Wayne Munson, BPRD Operations Director Dave Mayer, Commissioner Julie Jeske, BPRD Community Relations Manager Paula Redmann, BPRD Executive Director Randy Bina, Commissioner Jason Starck, Commissioner Brian Beattie, BPRD Recreation Manager RaNae Jochim and BPRD Facilities and Program Director Kevin Klipfel.

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District Wins Gold Medal Award

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) has been honored with the highest and most prestigious award attainable by a park and recreation agency; the 2017 Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

BPRD was named one of the four finalists for the award earlier this year. The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AARPA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and Musco Lighting, are sponsors of this award. The announcement was made during the Opening Session of the NRPA Annual Congress and Exhibition on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 in New Orleans, LA.

The Gold Medal Awards program honors communities throughout the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and

agency recognition.

"Bismarck is already known as an amazing and supportive community. This prestigious honor recognizes the investments we are making in our programs, parks and facilities. We are very honored to be a two-time recipient of this Gold Medal Award. This places BPRD in a very rare category of park agencies, and we accept this award on behalf of the citizens of Bismarck," said BPRD Executive Director Randy Bina.

BPRD is a past recipient of the award, receiving the NRPA Gold Medal Award in 1993, and being a finalist in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1999, 2016 and 2017.

Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population, one class for armed forces recreation and one class for state park systems in odd numbered years. BPRD is the winner in the Class IV (population 30,001-75,000) category and competed for the honor with three other

agencies: Alpharetta Recreation and Parks Department, Alpharetta, GA; Lombard Park District, Lombard, IL and City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department, Wheat Ridge, CO.

BPRD Board of Park Commissioners President Wayne Munson said, "To be selected as one of the top park and recreation agencies in the country is a proud and historic moment. This award recognizes our past as well as the important work we do every day with eyes on a promising future. We're both thrilled and humbled to be recognized for these efforts."

After submitting a lengthy application, BPRD was selected as a Finalist. A panel of five park and recreation professionals reviews and judges the application materials as well as a BPRD video and the BPRD website. Judges are chosen for their considerable experience and knowledge in parks and recreation on both the local and national levels.

Ump Chat

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approved for "Elite Umpire" status from the USA Softball national office. Elite umpire status is the highest recognition an umpire can achieve in USA Softball. If you see any of these umpires around the fields this summer, be sure and congratulate him for all their hard work and dedication in reaching Elite status! North Dakota's umpire program is fortunate to have several umpires who have achieved Elite status. It is a great testament to our umpire program. Blumhagen and Coleman join the following ND Elite umpires: Mark Sondag, Mike Nider, Elliott Gerhardt, Allan Ziemann, Walt Stack, Naomi Erdahl, Terry O'Clair, and Michael Wolf all from Bismarck, Tom Harty and Marchel Krieger from Jamestown, Lyle Rader and Paul Beech from Wahpeton, Koby Pennick from Fargo, and Gerald Payne, Grand Forks. Tom Hamkens from Bismarck achieved Umpire Fraternity Status for having worked in three national tournaments.

Some exciting news for our umpiring program in North Dakota and that is North Dakota has been selected by the USA Softball National Office to host a national umpire school next spring. I will coordinate this effort and we will

set up a committee to do all of the planning. The national school will be held in Bismarck probably in late April or early May of 2019.

It is also time for my annual plea to recruit more umpires. Leagues around the state are growing, and while some umpires retire, some just don't come back, so we are always in need of new umpires. Every city in North Dakota will need more umpires. Players make good umpires because they have a keen knowledge of the rules and a feel for the game. Plus, where else can you find a part-time job—outdoors, where you can make around about twenty five dollars an hour?

If you have any interest at all to umpire, please contact me and I can put you in touch with someone from your area of the state. Or, check out the listing of the field and classroom clinics in this issue and you can just show up and register. If you have any questions or concerns about umpiring, please contact me and I'd be happy to visit with you. Umpiring just one night a week can make a huge difference in helping out your local league.

I would like to recognize our Deputy UIC's are throughout the state and I would also like thank all

of my Deputy UIC's for the great job they do for USA Softball of ND. They all bring a vast amount of knowledge and experience and are a valuable asset to our umpire program in ND. Our DUIC's are: Lyle Rader—Wahpeton, Tom Lawson—Minot, Elliott Gerhardt—Bismarck, Pat "Rock" Healey—Grand Forks, Mike Nider—Bismarck, Randy Olson—West Fargo, Al Ziemann—Bismarck, Marchel Krieger—Jamestown, Terry O'Clair—Bismarck, and Koby Pennick and Chris Coleman in Fargo.

I enjoy visiting with a lot of you throughout the state during the year on various issues. I appreciate each and every question or concern I receive. As always, I am here to help in any way that I can to make softball more enjoyable for players, umpires, and fans. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please let me know. Drop me an email, text, or give me a call and please know that I will be happy to assist you in any way that I can! You can reach me at wolfdan8993@yahoo.com and my cell 701-400-2100.

Have an enjoyable, fun, and safe summer!

The Last Call

Stanley T. Johnson

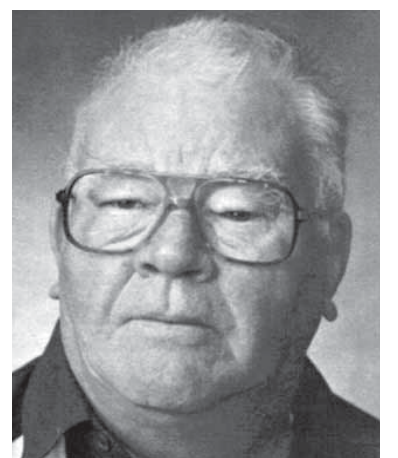
Stanley T. Johnson, 83, Moorhead, MN passed away Saturday, January 13, 2018 at Eventide Nursing Home, Fargo.

Stan "The Man" was born July 16, 1934 in Oklee, Minnesota to Arvid and Anna (Gunstenson) Johnson. He attended school at the Moorhead Campus School, graduating in 1952. He worked various construction jobs before enlisting in the U.S. Army, serving in 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper. He made 42 jumps in his military career, being honorably discharged in 1957.

He moved to Minneapolis, MN where he worked at NAPA Autoparts and met Ruthie Thompson. They were married on April 26, 1958 in Minneapolis, MN. They made their home in the Minneapolis/St. Louis Park area before moving to Moorhead, MN in 1972. He worked for Harts parts in Moorhead before working for the Fargo Park District and the Fargo Recreation department and was the coordinator for the softball umpires in Fargo for over 20 years.

He was involved with softball throughout his life, working as an umpire where he was estimated to have called over 1 million balls and strikes in his career. He was inducted into the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in 1999. He was extremely proud of the honor he received when inducted. He was always a happy person and was a great example not only for ballplayers but people in general and will be remembered as a "bright spot in the room."

He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and was proud of all of their ac-



complishments. He was loved and respected and will be dearly missed.

Stan Johnson began his involvement with softball while serving as a paratrooper at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the 1950's. He was a catcher and went from there to umpiring beginning in 1954. After leaving the service, Stan ended up in Minneapolis where he played and umpired softball from 1957 until 1972 when he moved to Moorhead.

He became active in the Fargo Slow Pitch league and umpired over 20 years beginning in 1973. In addition to his active umpiring, Stan also served as a mentor for beginning umpires, an umpire scheduler and coordinator and member of the Fargo Slow Pitch Board, a position he held for 15 years. He retired as an active umpire in 1993 but continued to assist the Fargo board as a tournament manager and of course a mentor for umpires and occasionally grabbed his ball/strike indicator and umpired a game or two when the regularly scheduled umpire didn't show or was late.

DICKINSON Parks & Recreation 2018

Softball Tournaments

Get your registration in early to guarantee your spot

Miller Lite
Softball Tournament
Sat. & Sun., July 14 & 15, 2018
Divisions: Men & Women
Fee: Men \$160 / Women \$140
(3 game guarantee)
Deadline: July 3, 2018

Last Chance
Softball Tournament
Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018
Divisions: Men & Women
Fee: \$140 (3 game guarantee)
Deadline: August 28, 2018



For times check tournament brackets listed on web: dickinsonparks.org
*All tournaments will be held at Gress Softball Complex (455 8th Ave SW)

All teams must be sanctioned through USA Softball of North Dakota
Entry fees must accompany the entry registration forms.

Entry forms are available on the DPR website: dickinsonparks.org

(701) 456-2074

2004 Fairway Street, Dickinson, ND 58601
Dickinson Softball League Contact: Ryan Nelson

Mandan to Host Nationals

Men’s Masters 35 & 45 • Women’s Masters 35

Dates: August 24-26

Entry fee: \$450; \$400 if paid by August 3

Entry deadline: Thursday, August 16

Tournament draw: Monday, August 20

Format:
9 teams or less - Pool play (2 games), teams seeded from pool play into double elimination championship bracket.
10 teams or more - double elimination with 3 games guarantee.

Women’s Masters 35 - one division only

Men’s Masters 45 - one division only; 4 home runs.

Men’s Masters 35 - Three divisions - USA Softball

Open Division - Open roster, no classification restrictions; 6 home runs.

Competitive Division - rosters limited to not more than 2 Class A or B players; 4 home runs.

Recreational Division - rosters limited to not more than 2 class D play/ no players above Class D; 2 home runs.

Teams will be allowed to form new rosters for this tournament. Rosters are due by August 16. Players will be allowed to play in both the Masters 35 & 45, if age qualified. Players cannot play in more than one division of Masters 35. All teams MUST be registered with USA Softball.

USA Softball of North Dakota

2018 State Tournament Schedule & Entry Fee

MEN’S SLOW PITCH	DATES	LOCATION
Class C	August 4-5, 2018	Bismarck
Class D	August 4-5, 2018	Bismarck
Rec 1	August, 11-12, 2018	Mandan
Rec 2 East	August, 4-5, 2018	Wahpeton
Rec 2 West	August 4-5, 2018	Minot
Rec 3 East	August 11-12, 2018	Fargo
Rec 3 West	August 11-12, 2018	Bismarck
Rec 4 East	August 18-19, 2018	Grand Forks
Rec 4 West	August 18-19, 2018	Dickinson
Masters 35	July 28-29, 2018	Mandan
Masters 40	August 18-19, 2018	Jamestown
Masters 50	July 21-22, 2018	Mandan
Masters 50 Wood Bat	July 21-22, 2018	Mandan
Masters 60	July 21-22, 2018	Mandan
Fall State (new in 2018)	TBD	Fargo

WOMEN’S SLOW PITCH	DATES	LOCATION
Class C	July 28-29, 2018	Grand Forks
Class D	July 28-29, 2018	Grand Forks
Rec 1	August 11-12, 2018	West Fargo
Rec 2	July 28-29, 2018	Grand Forks
Rec 3 East	August 11-12, 2018	Jamestown
Rec 3 West	August 4-5, 2018	Bismarck
Masters	August 18-19, 2018	Bismarck

CO-ED SLOW PITCH	DATES	LOCATION
All Divisions	September 8-9, 2018	Fargo

J.O. FAST PITCH	DATES	LOCATION
10 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo
12 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo
14 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo
16 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo
18 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo

2018 State Tournament Entry Fees

(No charges from 2018)

CLASSIFICATION	FEE
Junior Olympics Fast Pitch	\$200
MSP - Open, B, C & D	\$225
MSP & WSP - Masters/Rec	\$175
WSP Class C & D	\$200
Co-ed	\$150
MSP Fall	TBD

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2018

Spring Meeting and Hall of Fame Banquet:Saturday, April 7

Adult Roster Deadline:**June 11 • After June 11, \$25.00 fee**

Final Roster Deadline: June 19

Classification Meeting: **July 6**

National Tournaments:MSP Masters 35 and 45; WSP Masters 35
..... Mandan, August 24 to August 26

Northern National Tournament Men’s Class D: **Fargo; 8/31-9/2**

2018 National Council Meeting: Oklahoma City; Oct. 27 - Nov. 1

JO GIRLS FAST PITCH DATES AND LOCATIONS:

Tryouts for 12U All American Games:.....Bismarck April 29, 1 pm.

All American games 12U: June 30-July 2, Oklahoma City

JO Girls Fast pitch state tournament:**July 13-15 Fargo**

United States named No. 1 in WBSC Women’s World Softball Ranking

OKLAHOMACITY – There’s a new No. 1 ranked team in the world as the United States has landed atop the world as the United States has landed atop the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Women’s and Junior Women’s divisions, Team USA holds the position for the first time since the rankings were introduced in 2015. Team USA takes the No. 1 spot from Japan, who have finished runner-up to the U.S. since the 2015 WBSC Junion Women’s World Championship.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled to have the United States ranked No. 1 in the WBSC Women’s Softball Rankings,” said USA Softball Executive Director, Craig Cress. “A big congratulations goes out to the athletes, coaches and staff of our Women’s and Junior Women’s National Team Programs who have put in countless hours to help keep the U.S. atop the podium. The team will have the opportunity to defend the No. 1 spot this August in Chiba, where we will look to defend our Gold Medal finish from 2016.”

At the Junior Women’s Championship level, the United States claimed the Gold at the 2015 and 2017 WBSC Junior Women’s World Championships where the team shattered several WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship records: Individual Most Home Runs (Bubba Nickles: 6), Individual Most Run Batted in

(Bubba Nickles:30), Individual Highest Batting Average (Bubba Nickles: .690) and Team Home Runs (15).

For Women’s World Championship play, the Red, White and Blue reclaimed the Gold at the 2016 WBSC Women’s World Championship to earn the program’s 10th overall World Championship title. After going a perfect 9-0, Amanda Chidester (Allen Park, Mich.) also entered into the record books herself in WBSC Women’s World Championship history in two categories: Most Runs Batted In (19) and Most Home Runs (7).

The Web-based version and methodology of the WBSC Softball World Rankings can be found at www.wbsc.org/rankings.

About USA Softball

USA Softball is a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla., and is designated as the National Governing Body (NGB) of Softball in the United States and a member of the United States Olympic Committee. One of the nation’s largest sports organizations, USA Softball sanctions competition is every state through a network of 70 local associations and has grown from a few hundred teams in the early days to over 150,000 teams today, representing a membership of more than 2 million. USA Softball is dedicated to providing people of

all ages the opportunity to play the game they love at a variety of levels by offering recreational, league, tournaments and competitive play for fast pitch, slow pitch and modified pitch. USA Softball annually conducts thousands of tournaments throughout the country including over 100 National Championships. The USA Softball umpire program is among the nation’s largest and are widely known as the best trained umpires in the game.

About the World Baseball Softball Confederation

Headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland – the Olympic Capital – the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) is the world governing body for baseball and softball. WBSC has 202 Naitonal Federation and Association Members in 143 countries and territories across Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe and Oceania, which represent a united baseball/softball sports movement that encompasses over 65 million athletes and attracts approximately 150 million fans to stadiums worldwide annually.

The WBSC governs all international competitions involving official National Teams. The WBSC oversees the Softball World Championships (Men, Women, U-19 Men, and U-19 Women), Premier12, World Baseball Classic, and Baseball Wold Cups (U-12, U-15, U-18, U-23 and Women’s).

How to become a WBSC Umpire

Editor’s Note: The information below was provided by Kevin Ryan, USA Softball Director of Umpires. The organization he is describing is the governing body of international softball, formerly known as the International Softball Federation. The initial WBSC signify the new organization which covers both baseball and softball for international events, including the Olympics.

North Dakota has one umpire who has gone through the process listed below and is a Certified WBSC Umpire. She is Naomi Erdahl, currently living in Bismarck and working as a Recreation Specialist for the Mandan Parks and Recreation Department. In the Fall issue of Softball News, we spotlighted Naomi and her well deserved achievement. At that time, I only knew that she had scored one of the highest scores possible at the WBSC Certification School and did not know how she had arrived at this milestone in her umpiring career. When I read the information below, I began to appreciate how much work and effort she had to put in to achieve her goal. The entire umpire fraternity is proud of you and the effort you put into reaching your goal. Walt Stack

Games or even the Olympics. The following will provide information on obtaining certification as a WBSC umpire.

First, you must be a registered Umpire with USA softball. To register as an umpire within USA Softball, contact your local association. USA Softball has all types of umpire training available. There are rules clinics, mechanics schools and advanced fast pitch camps at the local, national or regional levels. Umpires who take the time to advance their knowledge and increase their skill level will have the ability to be assigned to Local, Regional and National Championships. Umpires can increase both rules and mechanics skills by attending clinics held both on the Local regional and National level. Once an umpire has been registered as a USA Softball umpire for at least seven years, worked at least four USA Softball National Championships, two of which are in the same category of play and from an upper level national championship, they can apply for the USA Softball Elite Umpire program. Once they have gained this status they can apply for a WBSC Umpire Certification School.

When applying for a WBSC Umpire Certification Seminar, Umpires must have completed the application and have it approved and signed by the umpire’s UIC and USA Softball (to verify qualifications) and approved by the WBSC. Once this is completed the umpire is eligible to be invited to attend

a Certification Seminar of their choice.

What to expect at a WBSC Certified Umpire School

Prior to attending, a candidate must complete and achieve 90% mark on a 100 question pre-qualification rules exam. The exam must be taken online at the WBSC Ump School (30% of total mark). At the certification seminar, major rule and mechanics differences are reviewed during a two day classroom and on field drills session. The umpire is evaluated in a plate mechanic drill (10%) using either live pitching or a pitching machine. Case plays (5%) and mechanics plays 5%) are offered to each candidate to describe the rule interpretations and 4 umpire rotations. Candidates are evaluated in games, one game in each position (50%). Overall the umpire must achieve a 90% or higher score to be certified.

Once certified, the umpire is eligible to be assigned to a WBSC World Championship. Each participating country can select from their eligible list of certified umpires, and the host country usually has 3 or 4 selections. Some countries participating in the championship may not have certified umpires, therefore if more umpires are needed, based on the number of teams participating, the WBSC can add as many at-large umpires as required.

For further information, contact USA Director of Umpires Kevin Ryan at krvan@usasoftball.com



Winter Meeting

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 2018

Mr. Gulmon called the meeting to order.

MSC - Re-appoint Scott Collins and Wayne Beyer to Executive Board. Appoint Darin Krueger to Executive Board. Appoint Mike Wolf Assistant Commissioner and member finance committee. Motion by Jack Lukes, second Greg Kaeding, motion passed.

MSC - Approved state tournament sites and dates. Motion Mike Wolf, second Wayne Beyer, motion passed.

MSC - Approve new fee structure.
Adult teams - \$75.00
Coed - \$20.00
Fall league teams - \$20.00
Church league - \$20.00
One-time tournament roster - \$25.00
Motion Scott Collins, second Chris Hutton, motion passed.

MSC - Approve 2017 financial statement and 2018 budget. Motion Darin Krueger, second Scott Brahoss, motion passed.

Approved charity home run rule request, McQuade, Center, United Tribes, Bismarck May, Grand Forks July Classic, Grand Forks Buffalo Wild Wings, Fargo Michelob Lite and Herds and Horns Fargo. Motion Chris Hutton, second Darin Krueger, motion passed.

USA softball National Team renew \$1500 contribution. Motion Scott Brahoss, second Wayne Beyer, motion passed.

GFP All American Games 2018 cost \$600. Motion Scott Collins, second Mike Wolf, motion passed.

Pay \$5000 USA Softball continuity fee. Motion Jack Lukes, second Scott Brahoss. Motion passed.

State tournament JO GFP umpire pay two-person system \$50 per game. Single umpire \$70 per game. Motion Jack Lukes, second Mike Wolf, motion passed.

Women’s State Rec 3
West - Bismarck 8/4 & 5
East - Jamestown 8/11 & 12
Motion Chris Hutton, second Amy Anderson, motion passed.

Mr. Gulmon and Amy Anderson to update official Women’s league rep list.

All Board of Directors, Commissioner, UIC, National Tournament Directors and ACE Program coaches of USA Softball of North Dakota must complete Safe Sport training course regarding sexual misconduct. To be complete by Spring meeting.

Established a 5 on 5 - Fall league state committee. Mike Peterson, Chair, Nick Gulmon, Sam Martin, Darin Krueger, R.C. Courtright and Scott Brahoss.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Kaeding
Secretary/Treasurer

Winter Meeting

USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA ADVISORY MEETING

January 2018

Meeting was called to order by Dick Gulmon, Commissioner

General Meeting

Spring meeting and HOF banquet - April 7.

Classification meeting - July 6.

2018 Council meeting - Oklahoma City, October 27 - November 1.

Roster deadline 6/11/2018, after 6/11, \$25 late fee.

Roster final change deadline 6/19/2018.

All Adult and JO GFP Invitational Tournaments must be sanctioned by Tournament Co-ordinator Roger Weigel.

All USA Softball of North Dakota tournaments must follow invitational and State Trounament guidelines.

Mandan and Fargo received James Ferrell Awards for National Trounaments in 2017.

Reports

Dick Gulmon, Mike Wolf and R.C. Courtright gave report on national council meeting.

Mike Wolf reported on playing rule changes.

Dick Gulmon reported on code changes.

Mike Peterson reported on player classiffication.

R.C. Courtright reported on state office and website.

Roger Weigel reported on tournaments.

Brian Neuhardt reported on JO GFP.

Jack Jones, Chris Hutton gave report on Wounded Warrior softball.

Dick Gulmon recapped 2017 softball season.

Norhter Region 2018 National Tournaments

1. GFP8U, 10UA, 12UB, 10UC, 12UC, 14UC - Yankton, SD 7/23 - 7/28.
2. GFP 12UA, 10UB, - Wausau, WI 7/25 - 7/29
3. GFP 14 UA, 16UB, - Rochester, MN 8/2 - 8/5
4. MSP Northern D - Fargo, ND 8/31 - 9/2
5. MSP Master 35, 45, and WSP 35 - Mandan, ND 8/24 - 8/26.

National Tournament Bid Rotation

1. Fargo 2018
2. Bismarck 2019
3. Mandan 2020

Northern Region

1. Scott Gagnon - Regional Director
2. Steve Riswold - Regional UIC
3. Norhtern Region VP/USA BOD - Dick Gulmon

Insurance

USA Softball of North Dakota registered team, will have a 2MM liability insurance policy starting in 2018. Adult USA Softball teams and leagues will now be insured for liability as part of their registration. You can name field owners and tournament direc-tors as additional insurers for liability at no extra cost. More information to follow.

Men’s Slow Pitch
Reported by Roger Weigel

Recommendations from MSP group to the Executive Committee.

No motions for the Executive Committee to consider.

Tournament series - Participation been going will. Continue offering. Monsta will sponsor tournaments, prize package; approximately \$10,000.

Promote open state tournaments - brainstorming methods to attract additonal teams. Cur-rently have two teams not eligible to participate in “C” State.

Classification of Masters teams - rely on Masters committee to consider fairness when setting up state tournaments.

Last years “C” State Champ (3XGear/The Box/Sportsend) reclassified to “C+”.

Discussion to start fall state tournament. Tentative date of October 6th in Fargo. Two divi-sions with max of 12 teams per division.

5 on 5 state tournaments, new concept used nationally and tried in Williston last year. Williston very successful nad tweaked rules as season progressed to sanction teams.

Mike Peterson tasked to establish structure/guidelines and bring to Spring meeting.

McQuade Tournament - tentative plans to have a “B” Division and separate “C” Division.

State pick-up player forms.
League reps need to be more diligent.
Continuing education for league reps and team managers.
Revisit pick-up player forms to include more complete/better guidance.

Women’s Slow Pitch
Reported by Amy Anderson

Recommendations from WSP group to the Executive Committee

Discussed league reps and duties - we realize that some of our more qualified women who are helping out our state appointed league reps are not listed on the contact form online. This is affecting communication. We will bring up to the Executive committee to add certain individuals to contact forms.

Found that new state tournament dates and sites may not work due to Rec 2 & Rec 3 teams playing state the same weekend. We will lose teams with dual rostered players. We discussed going back to Rec 3, E&W.

Rec 3 E - Jamestown 8/11 & 8/12
Rec 3 W - Bismarck 8/5 & 8/6
(due to other huge tournaments in Bismarck 8/11 & 8/12, worried about having enough umps.)

Discussed the problems with incomplete and illegal rosters definitely falling on the re-sponsibility of the team manager who signs the rosters.

JO Girls Fastpitch Meeting

USA SOFTBALL OF ND JO MEETING

Gladstone Inn, Jamestown, ND • October 15, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Agenda

A. In attendance:
Brian Neuhardt, JO Commissioner
Billy Schmidt, Bismarck
Pat Johnson, West Fargo
Jason Lindgren, Valley City
Tara Roaldson, Jamestown
Doug Richter, Williston

RC Courtright, USA of ND Office
Zac Hay, Bismarck
Thor Nelson, Minot
Misty Lindgren, Valley City
Kevin Gall, Jamestown

Discussed the state of Fastpitch for JO in North Dakota. There was someone in Langdon that was interested in having a tournament. They were looking at putting on a tournament in June. Pat Johnson was going to check on the Moorhead program to see if they would register in North Dakota for next season!!!

We went thru the procedures for registering tournaments. That fee or amount may change at the winter meeting. The executive committee will take a look at the fee structure next winter. Per RC...

We went thru the process of registering teams and individuals thru the USA softball system. We agreed to keep it as is and send in the EXCEL spreadsheets to Brian and keep downloading them as in the past.

It was suggested that we update the master file that contains the contacts for all the pro-grams. Need to e-mail the updated file out to everyone ASAP.

We discussed issues that happened last year with kids registering on 2 different rosters for state. In the past it has never really been an issue, but for some reason we had issues this year. After discussion we will follow the National office rules, which state that a player can be released from one roster and moved to another roster without the first team approval.

We agreed that all Rosters must be in by JULY 1st. Which also is the deadline for the state tournament entry fees. Failure to do so may result in at that team not participating in the State Tournament. All players must also be registered in North Dakota to play for a North Dakota team.

Discussed summer tournaments and current schedule. It was suggested by Commissioner Neuhardt that we move some dates around because we have 3 tournaments on Fathers Day weekend. Minot, Grand Forks and West Fargo. Minot and West Fargo informed us that those were the only dates they could hold a tournament. Commissioner Neuhardt will check with Grand Forks to see what their situation is and to see if they could switch to another weekend.

We need to contact Mike at the Ballyard to see what his plans will be for a tournament for the weekend before state. Pat informed us that Fargo Parks and Rec may want to host that tournament on the weekend before state on the North Diamonds.

It was suggested that the tournaments dates be set and published ASAP...

Discussed Fargo hosting the State Tournament for the 2018 at the North Fields. That was approved by all. Discussed Minot hosting the tournament for 2019. No objections were heard. All agreed to send state to Minot for 2019. Contingent upon approval from Executive Board.

There was discussion on the way teams are classified at state. Should we combine the 16U and 18U B tournaments as one, along with the 12U and 14U B also. No representatives

JO Girls Fastpitch

continued on page 7

Mandan and Fargo to host National Tournaments

In you are looking to add a National Tournament appearance to your softball resume, North Dakota would be a good place to look this season. Mandan will host the Men’s Slow Pitch Masters 35 and 45 as well as the Women’s Masters 35 August 24 through 26, 2018. Fargo will also host the Men’s Class D Northern National from August 31 through September 2 at the new North Fargo Softball Complex.

In addition, Mandan was also awarded the Men’s Masters 35 and 45 and the Women’s Masters 35 for the 2019 season. The Women’s 35 was added to Mandan’s Men’s 35 and 45 tournament for the 2018 season and also for the 2019 season.

North Dakota has been the home for several National tournaments the past several years with Mandan actively bidding on a number of slow pitch events with great success. In addition Fargo has been active in the bidding process at the National Council Meetings. Bismarck, Minot and Grand Forks have also been the homes of National events.

North Dakota teams have supported efforts to attract National tournaments which have enjoyed local support for each event. Further details on the 2018 tournaments will be published in the Summer issue of North Dakota Softball News.

Commissioner’s Column

continued from page 3

USA MSP Championship C also in Prairie Island 8/31-9-3. We will also participate in the All American Games again in 2018 for the 12U age division in GFP. Tryouts will be April 29th in Bismarck to participate with 360 Athletes at the Hall of Stadium in Oklahoma City June 29-July 1. We will send 5 players and one coach again this year. For more information contact our JO Commissioner Brian Neuhardt of Bismarck.

The USA Softball of North Dakota Hall of Fame Committee met in January and reviewed 25 candidates for the HOF. It is my pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to Curt Krahler of Fessenden, the family of the late Sponsors Chuck and Marge Oberg of Wahpeton, Tom Harty of Jamestown, Dennis Bense of Bismarck, and Greg Kaeding of Fargo. These Hall of Famers will be inducted at the Hall of Fame banquet to be held in Jamestown April 7, 2018. Also at the banquet we will award several Umpire Elite awards, National Indicator Award, USA Softball Distinguished Service Award and

newly named, Walt Stack Umpire Award of Excellence. Walt Stack has meant so much to this organization for the past 50 years that it is appropriate that we honor him with his namesake on this prestigious umpire award.

I would like to thank the Executive Board, State Committee’s, League Reps, Umpires, Tournament Directors, Park & Rec Partners, sponsors, and all the volunteers who make it possible to run our program in North Dakota. We could not have the quality program we do without the hard work and dedication of so many. My thanks to each of you.

Lastly, I would like to thank our friends at the USA Softball National Office. This staff led by Craig Cress do a tremendous job throughout the year and we appreciate all the assistance we receive from them for our program.

Wishing you all a great season in 2018 and hope to see you around the diamond.

USA Softball Commissioner of North Dakota

Dick Gulmon

JO GIRLS FASTPITCH

continued from page 6

were present and an email will be sent out to those programs that that rule would affect. Also agreed that Pat and Brian will continue to classify teams for state tournament play. Reiterated that we need 4 teams in each age bracket and division to hold that tournament or they will all play in the A division.

B. Norhtern Region Naitonal Tournament

1. Class A tournament Sites	Class B tournament
18U Novi, MI	Springfield, MO
16U Bloominton, IN	North Mankato, MN
14U Rochester, MN	DeCatur, IL
12U Wausau, WI	Yankton, SD
10U Yankton, SD	Wausau, WI
12U All American Games.	

The games have been moved to the weekend of June 30th thru July 2nd. In Oklahoma City.

Tryouts will be held in Bismarck on Sunday, April 29th, 1:00 p.m. JO Commissioner Brian Neuhardt will oversee the tryouts.

Also discussed with Kyle Christansen (coach from 2017) that the tryout process he should look at position players. Most of the teams that were there had strong teams that were picked at the beginning of the year by coaches and had played in tournaments all year long.

After the meeting Misty Lindgren had asked to help out with registration of players for next season.

The first regional Class C games for Region 8, 10U, 12U and 14U will be held in Yankton, SD on July 27th-29th. Will need to inform the state teams of those games...

DO BUCKLE
DON'T BOOZE

Tharaldson sponsors State Softball Trophies for twenty straight years

Number of trophies and banners has increased significantly over that time frame

Super sponsor and softball booster Gary Tharaldson and his wife Connie continue providing all the trophies and the championship banners for all state softball tournaments sponsored by the North Dakota Amateur Softball Association.

Tharaldson assumed his sponsorship in 1999 and has provided all state awards and banners each year since.

Included are all the awards for the Junior Olympic program as well as adult awards in both slow pitch and fast pitch. The number of trophies and banners depends on the number of teams entering each of the state tournaments.

The Tharaldsons have dedicated much of their lives to supporting ASA softball as sponsors for not just one or two divisions but across the whole spectrum of ASA softball. Tharaldsons sponsored Men’s A, B and C Slow pitch Divisions

and supported five different levels of senior ball many years.

He and his wife also sponsored women’s teams for 15 years as well as both Boys and Girls Junior Olympic teams. His sponsored teams have participated in over 30 National Tournaments.

In addition to his sponsorships, Gary was also a player during his time as a sponsor winning two National Championships and over 1,000 games as a pitcher. His best year was a season in which he won 58 games, losing only 2 and he carried a .600 batting average over his long career.

He is a member of the North Dakota Amateur Softball Hall of Fame and in 2011 was elected to the National Hall of Fame during induction ceremonies at the annual ASA Council Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

NDASA is able to provide the



Gary Tharaldson

trophies and banners only through the cooperation and generosity of Gary Tharaldson and his various enterprises. NDASA gratefully acknowledges his many, many contributions to North Dakota softball.

Gulmon formally inducted to Hall of Honor

State softball commissioner Dick Gulmon of Valley City was formally inducted into the National Softball Hall of Honor at the annual ASA Council meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina. His election follows a 30 year playing career and administrative offices in the North Dakota softball association which eventually led to his appointment as State Commissioner in 2013. A banker in his home town of Valley City, he has been active in community affairs as well as in softball. He is the President of the city Park Board, a past President of the Rotary Club, Treasurer of the Rural Fire Department, serves on the Valley City State College Foundation Board of Directors and he has also been active in his parish on the Finance Committee of St. Catherine’s Catholic Church. His elevation to the National Hall of Honor makes a total of four North Dakotans who have been so honored: Duane “Tiny” Schafer, long time State Commissioner; L.R. “Tarz” Timm, legendary umpire and former Vice President of the state softball association; and Gary Tharaldson, a long time sponsor of some of the best teams to play in the state and his continuing sponsorship of the trophies and banners for all the

state tournaments held in the state.

Gulmon was especially honored for his work on the Equipment Standards Committee where he spearheads the efforts in the development of state of the art bat and ball testing protocol which help level the playing field. He is and has been a leader for change throughout the sport of softball.

Summary on Gulmon’s Hall of Fame Plaque

At a time when the sport of softball was at a crossroads with new equipment technology, Dick Gulmon played an integral role in the Certified Equipment standards of USA Softball. Having been involved in the game at a variety of levels, Gulmon personifies leadership through his contributions to the sport. In addition to his playing and management of teams during his career, Gulmon has also served in a variety of leadership capacities. Serving on the North Dakota Board of Directors and Classification Committee since 1989, Gulmon was appointed President of USA Softball of North Dakota in 1996 and became Commissioner in 2013. At the National level, Gulmon has served on the USA Softball Board of Directors and has served on the



Council for over 20 years. Gulmon has also served on various USA Softball Committees. His most noteworthy position is his role as Chairman of the Equipment Testing & Certification Committee, a role he has held since 2005. In this role, Gulmon spearheads the efforts in the development of state-of-the-art bat and ball testing protocol which help level the playing field. A great ambassador the USA Softball, Gulmon is and has been a leader of change throughout the sport of softball.

2018 Wahpeton, North Dakota Slowpitch Softball Tournaments

MEN’S

Check

Date	Tourney	Teams/Class	Format	Fee
Sun., May 6	Spring Classic	5 Rec I, II 5 Rec III, IV	RR	\$125
Sat. June 2	Blue Goose Days	8 Rec III & IV	DE	\$125
Fri., July 13	Summer Classic	8 Rec III-IV	3 GG	\$125

Team Name: _____ Classification: _____

Coach’s Name: _____ Email: _____

Coach’s Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Payment guarantees your team a place in the tournament

Make Checks Payable to Wahpeton Parks

Send to: Wahp-Breck Softball
304 5th St. South
Wahpeton, ND 58075
Phone: (701) 642-2811
Fax: (701) 642-5053
E-mail: laree_woppark@702com.net



Wounded Warriors pose with Major League Hall of Fame member Al Kaline

Wounded Warriors help at kids camp at the training site of Detroit Tigers



Beef Briseno awaits the throw at 1B



Greg Reynolds scores for WWAST



Zach (Beef) Briseno with Lakeland area WWII vet.



Dan (DeLo) Lopez in Tiger Town hitting cage with Kids Camper



WWAST player Brent Nadjadi working at Kids Camp



WWAST & Publix Softball Team



Warriors on 3!



WWAST with Miken Pro players

Sam McQuade Sr. Budweiser

43rd Annual Charity Softball Tournament

June 22, 23 & 24 - 2018

ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE!

WWW.MCQUADES.COM

Entry Deadline: Monday, May 7, 2018
Or when the division is filled.

**WOUNDED WARRIOR
AMPUTEE SOFTBALL TEAM**

Back by
Popular Demand!

*Not affiliated with the
Wounded Warrior Project

Sam McQuade Sr./Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament 2018 Entry Form

City - _____ Team Name - _____

Men's Team - _____ Classification - _____ Women's Team - _____ Classification - _____

(Men's A/B/Open, C, Rec 3 & 4 & Women's C & D teams: must be able to play on Friday night unless special arrangements made.)
Also, Men's Rec 4 overflow will be moved up to Rec 3.

Manager's Name: _____

Manager's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Manager's Telephone (H): _____ (W): _____ (Mobile): _____

E-mail Address (Print clearly!): _____ Wireless Provider: _____

If online registration is not an option, fill out & mail to: The Sam McQuade Sr./Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament; P.O. Box 1196; Bismarck, ND 58502-1196. Look up your entry fee on our website <www.mcquades.com> and mail it in with this form.
Verify your entry by ensuring your check was cashed or by checking our website <mcquades.com>.

For more information go to www.mcquades.com or call us at 1-800-735-6589!

USA SOFTBALL

2018 USA Softball Code Changes with Comments as of October 27, 2017

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2018 unless otherwise noted.

Article Number Change Article 206 A

A. Membership

01. An umpire may become a member by placing his/her membership with the local association where they reside or work either as an umpire or in their regular occupation.

02. Umpires become members of USA Softball on a voluntary basis and agree to be governed by the Code, rules and regulations of the USA Softball. The placement of umpire membership with USA Softball does not establish an employer/employee relationship and no umpire is considered an employee of USA Softball or the local association, but is instead acting as an independent contractor.

03. Membership is on an annual basis and shall expire December 31 of each year

04. A member of the armed forces may become a 'military' member umpire only while stationed overseas, by placing his/her membership through their military base athletic office.

05. Umpire membership may be declined or revoked for unethical, immoral or unprofessional conduct. Before declining or revoking membership, the umpire must be given the same hearing procedure afforded a team or team member as set forth in Article 305, Suspension of this Code.

B. Championship Play

01. Only USA Softball-member umpires may be used in championship play.

Comments: Clarifies an umpire's membership with the USA Softball Local Association.

Article 301 C 02 c 02 c. Fast Pitch

02. In all adult Fast Pitch, no USA Men's National Team member may participate below the Major level.

Comments: Clarifies where USA Men's National Team members can participate in National Champion-

ship play.

Article 301 D 01 c 01.

Player Participation

c. Major Plus teams can get their players anywhere in the East Section for the East National or the West Section for the West National.

Comments: Increases the area where Men's Senior Slow Pitch Major Plus teams can select for their roster.

Article 306 A 06 DIVISIONS

05. Men's 21-Under Slow Pitch

06. Men's 19-Under Slow Pitch

Comments: Adds Men's 19-Under as a new classification of Men's Slow Pitch. 2018 USA Softball Code Changes with Comments as of October 27th, 2017

Article 306 A 12

DIVISIONS

12. Co-ed Slow Pitch

CLASSIFICATIONS

Open

C

D

E

Comments: Adds Class E as a new classification of Co-ed Slow Pitch and also adds a National Championship.

Article 307 G 02

Duties. The duty of the board is to uphold the national team and player classification strategy.

The board, in concert with the National Office staff, will oversee a National Player Classification Registry. The Board, in concert with the National Office staff, will communicate with tournament directors of National Championships to ensure all teams participating in USA Softball Slow Pitch events are within the procedures. The board will also seek out further information by contacting local commissioners, player representatives, district commissioners, league directors, and tournament

directors to acquire the best and most recent information on teams and players. The board will also review rosters from other associations on an annual basis and adjust player ratings or add the players to the database.

Comments: Allows the Men's Slow Pitch National Classification Board to review available rosters from other softball associations and make adjustments to individual player ratings.

Article 307 H 02 02.

Mandatory Team Reclassification

EXCEPTION: Coed Class C and Class D teams must finish in the top ten percent (10%) of National Championships in two (2) consecutive years before they will be required to play in the next higher classification in USA Softball Championship Play.

Comments: Removes Men's Class B Slow Pitch from the exception, making it a requirement that the top ten (10%) of National Championships move to the next higher classification for the next season.

Article 308 F

Delete USA Softball Men's Championship Series

Comments: Removes the Men's Slow Pitch National Championship Series as a USA Softball event.

Article 309 C 01 e, f, g, k.

e. Men's 35-Over Masters Slow Pitch. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.

f. Men's 40-Over Slow Pitch. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.

g. Men's 45-Over Slow Pitch. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.

k. Women's 35-Over Slow

Pitch. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.

Comments: Gives the Executive Director the flexibility to approve dates for Men's SP 35+, 40+, 45+ and Women's SP 35+.

Article 309 C 01 a

Men's Class A and Women's Open Slow Pitch. These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled as per approval of the Executive Director.

Comments: Gives the Executive Director ability to approve when the tournaments can be held.

Article 309 C 01 b

Men's Class B Slow Pitch. This National Championship Finals shall be scheduled as per approval of the Executive Director.

Comments: Gives the Executive Director ability to approve when the tournaments can be held.

Article 310

General Regulations of Championship Play. All championship play must be conducted in accordance with this Code and the playing rules as adopted by USA Softball. In case of a conflict between the playing rules, USA Softball Code and Procedural Manual, the USA Procedural Manual shall take precedence.

Comments: Establishes that the USA Softball Procedural Manual shall take precedence over the USA Softball Code.

Article 310 R

Umpires. Three (3) umpires per game shall be used for all games at National Championship Finals in Adult Fast Pitch, Men's Class A Slow Pitch, Men's Class B Slow Pitch, Men's Class C Slow Pitch, Men's 16" Slow Pitch, Men's Modified Pitch and Girls' USA Softball 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under, 18-Under and 16-Under

Gold and 18-Under Gold Fast Pitch. All other National Championship Finals will utilize a minimum of two (2) umpires per game. In all divisions where there are pool play games, a minimum of two (2) umpires per game will be utilized.

Comments: Adds Men's Class C Slow Pitch to require three (3) umpires per game.

Article 310 R

Exception: In Men's Open Fast Pitch, Master's 50-Over Fast Pitch and Men's Senior 60-Over Fast Pitch a minimum of two (2) umpires per game will be used.

Comments: Adds Men's Open Fast Pitch as an exception – requiring a minimum of two (2) umpires per game.

Article 311 A 04 b

Delete

a. Men's Major Fast Pitch

b. Men's Open Fast Pitch

c. Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch

Comments: Removes Men's Open Fast Pitch from the required 3 Game Guarantee Bracket.

Article 311 A 05 a

(New) 05. 2 Tiered Bracket. Men's Open Fast Pitch – all teams are placed into a double elimination (Gold) bracket. After a team is 0-2 or 1-2, that team is placed in to a new double elimination (Silver) bracket. Both bracket winners will be awarded as National Champions

Comments: Establishes that the Men's Open Fast Pitch uses the 2-Tiered Bracket

Article 311 B 05

(NEW) 05. 2 Tiered Bracket for Men's Open Fast Pitch. a. Bracket Protection. The USA Softball Official Double Elimination Bracket for both GOLD and SILVER shall be used. Teams qualifying from the same region shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in the first two rounds of the winner's

bracket. When the number of teams entered in the tournament from a region is greater than the number of sections on the bracket, the final alignment shall be determined by the USA Softball Representative.

01. Teams will represent the Region where they are registered

b. Territorial Tournaments. The association with the most teams will draw first, the association with the second most teams shall draw second, etc. In case of ties between associations, the tie will be determined alphabetically. When more than one team within an association must draw, positions to draw shall be determined based on alphabetical order according to the team name listed on the roster.

c. Seeding (Adults) Previous Year's Finish and Host Teams...

01. Seeded Teams. Only teams that shall be seeded are the previous year's defending champions, second place teams in both the GOLD and SILVER brackets and the current year's host teams.

02. Multiple Seeds and Hosts(s) Teams. In all classes, the defending champion, second place and host teams shall draw for opposite brackets and shall play the first day and the first round of the tournament with times being assigned by the tournament committee for the best gate.

Comments: Establishes the bracket draw procedures for the 2- Tiered Bracket for Men's Open Fast Pitch

Article 316 A 06 c 03

Delete

c. Slow Pitch

01. Men's Class A Slow Pitch

02. Men's Industrial Slow Pitch

03. Men's Church Slow Pitch

04. Men's Major 16-Inch

Comments: Removes Men's Church Slow Pitch as a National Championship Final.

2018 USA Softball Procedural Manual Changes with Comments as of November 2, 2017

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2018 unless otherwise noted.

Article Number Article 101 D 06 b

Comments: Clarifies the duties of both officers if a Region decides to elect both a Regional Director and Vice President.

Article 104 A 04

Council Members

04. Local association Junior Olympic commissioners for each association with a minimum of 100 registered Junior Olympic teams in the preceding year.

Comments: Lowers minimum number of registered teams from 200 to 100, to allow the Local JO Commissioner on the Council.

Article 201 A 04

NOTE: A proxy request for either a commissioner emeritus, council member emeritus, Junior Olympic Commissioner or a Past President shall not be granted

Comments: Allows a proxy request for Junior Olympic Commissioners.

Article 303 B 03

Effective 2019

Housing, local transportation for UIC and a minimum of \$125 per diem/per day for the tournament umpire-in-chief. The UIC shall arrive one day prior to the scheduled opening day of the Championship.

Comments: Establishes the minimum per day per diem for the UIC.

Article 303 B 04

Effective 2019

Housing, local transportation and a minimum of \$100 per diem/per day for the assistant tournament umpire-in-chief when one is assigned

Comments: Establishes the minimum per day per diem for the assistant UIC.

Article 303 C 11

Effective 2019

USA Softball Tournament Representative, who shall arrive one day prior to the scheduled opening day of the tournament, shall receive

housing, local transportation and a minimum of \$125.00 per diem/per day

Comments: Establishes the minimum per day per diem for the USA Softball Tournament Rep.

Article 303 C 11

When assigned, a USA Softball Tournament Representative, who shall arrive one day prior to the scheduled opening day of the tournament, shall receive housing, local transporta-

tion and \$100.00 per diem/per day

Comments: Changes the appointment for a USA Softball Tournament Rep from mandatory to optional.

Article 306 B 02 b

Category II (17-48 Teams) Junior Olympic Individual Medallion on Ribbons – First, Second and Third Place

Comments: Changes to medallion on ribbons for individual awards.

USA SOFTBALL

2018 USA Softball Rule Changes with Comments as of November 9, 2017

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2018 unless otherwise noted.

Rule 3, Section 7C:

(JO Only) All equipment that shall be inspected by the umpire is to be placed outside the dugout/bench area prior to the start of the game for pregame inspection.

Comment: Requires teams to put all equipment to be inspected by the umpires outside the dugout/bench area before the game begins.

Rule 5, Section 10:

Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Classifications of Play, for Pool Play and

Elimination Play with a time limit, the time limit will be 1-Hour and 20 minutes and finish the inning and then play one more complete inning, or half inning if the home team is ahead.

Comment: Changes the

time limit for all Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Classification of Play, Pool Play and Elimination Play, that uses a time limit. It changes it from 1 hour 40 minutes finish the inning to 1 hour 20 minutes finish the inning and play another inning or 1/2 inning if the home team is ahead.

Rule 7, Section 2F:

Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Pool Play: Nine defensive players will bat or teams have the following options:

1. Bat nine players without the DP/Flex.
2. Bat nine Players and use the DP/Flex.
3. Bat up to and including all roster players without a DP/Flex.
4. Bat up to and including all roster players with the DP/Flex.

Rules referenced below are affected by this change for JO Pool Play Only.

Rule 1, Extra Player (EP) Definition;
Rule 4 Section 1C, Added New [C];
Rule 4 Section 1D [2A] Exception;
Rule 4 Section, 3B;
Rule 4 Section 4, Added G;
Rule 4 Section 6D, Adds an exception for JO Pool Play only;
Rule 8 Section 10C, Adds an exception for JO Pool Play only;

Effects of this rule are as follows:

- Players not listed in a defensive position will be listed as an EP;
- EPs will be listed beginning in the 10th spot of the batting order;

- When not using the DP/FLEX any 9 can play defense;

- When using the DP/FLEX any 8 and the FLEX can play defense;

- The Batting order will always remain fixed;

- Any Player may be used as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher;

- Any Player can be used as a pinch runner for an injured player;

- If a player is on base when it is their time to bat;

- They will be removed from the base and take their turn at bat.

- The person who they are running for will be called out.

- When only batting nine defensive players or using the DP/FLEX;

- If an injured player is not able to bat an out will be recorded for their turn

at bat unless the team has a substitute not already in the batting order that can take their place.

- When batting more than nine defensive players and have no available substitutes;

- If an injured player is not able to bat in their place in the batting order, the batting order will be compressed to the number of batters in the batting order less the injured player with no out recorded for the injured player unable to bat.

Comment: This requirement now allows you to either bat 9 players or bat up to every roster player present. Any player can be a pinch runner or a courtesy runner. Any player on base, running for someone else is removed to take their turn at bat, an out recorded for who they are running. If an injured

player is unable to take their turn to at bat the batting order will be compressed with no out recorded for the injured player unable to bat.

Rule 8, Section 7F-I Effect, [3] (Dead Ball Appeal):

Once the ball has been returned to the infield and time is called, any COACH or infielder, with or without possession of the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving too soon on a caught fly ball. No runner may leave a base during this period as the ball remains dead until the next pitch.

Comment: Adds a coach to those who can make a dead ball appeal.

REV 2 dated 11-09-17

Online Registration and Payment Now Open For McQuade Tournament Entry!

Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team To Appear

By MICHAEL WOLF

The 43rd Annual Sam McQuade Sr. Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament is rapidly approaching and will be held June 22, 23, and 24 in Bismarck and Mandan. The online registration option we've made available has worked out very well and teams can once again register online and also pay their registration fee online! This is a great addition to the registration process and will give team's immediate confirmation that their entry has been received. Teams will still be able to register via mail as well if they prefer that method but it is highly recommended to register online. As divisions fill, a team may get a verification that their registration was received online, but it is not a guarantee that you are in the tournament. If for some reason your division is full when you register, you will be notified that you will be placed on a waiting list.

To register online, go to the McQuade website www.mcquades.com and click on the softball link. You can also print off a paper registration and you should do so to read all of the important information on that form that managers need to know about concerning pick-up players, wristbands, rosters, etc...

We are excited to announce that the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team will be attending our tournament once again this summer. The Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team is scheduled to play exhibition games during the week-

end. They will also be playing in the tournament as well.

We are planning to have "Military Appreciation" and "First Responders" appreciation games Friday Night. The Wounded Warriors are planning to take on softball players who have been inducted into the USA Softball of ND Hall of Fame. Jack Jones will be heading a committee that will determine which players will be selected to participate in Wounded Warriors exhibition game. Our second exhibition game on Friday will feature current and retired ND military personnel taking on First Responders form the Bismarck/Mandan area. Mike Offerdahl will be heading a committee that will determine which players will be selected to participate in the Military Appreciation game. We are also looking to have umpires who have military ties to umpire the games as well.

We will once again be holding our Cancer Awareness Appreciation Day on Saturday. Last year was the first time we held a cancer awareness day and it was a huge success! As a result of different fundraising activities before and during the tournament, we were able to distribute over \$4,000 directly back to cancer patients in the form of Visa gift cards. If you would like to make a tax-deductible monetary donation towards our cancer awareness appreciation day please contact me (see contact information below).

We are anticipating another record setting year and entries are

coming in fast and some divisions are getting close to full. That is a hint to the Men's D, and Men's Rec I to get your registrations in since these are only 32 team divisions. Men's Rec 3 and 4 divisions also fill very fast as well. Since there are some Men's B teams in the region, we will have a combined Men's Open/A/B division this year. In the Men's Masters 35 division, the state Men's Master's Committee will once again assist us in seeding the teams properly. If you are thinking of putting together a "family" team or a "reunion" team, please contact me as well.

We continue to get several requests from companies to come in and set up vendor booths. We have found that players and fans enjoy the opportunity to see all of the products available to them. It looks as though we will have some additional softball vendors at the tournament this year and we may also have vendors in Mandan for those teams that play there.

Once again this year on the McQuade website you will be able to click on a link to see all of the teams that have registered for the tournament. Our plans are to update this every Friday afternoon. It is a good way to make sure that your entry was received and it will save Jack and Dee and I a lot of phone calls. It will also serve as a cross reference to make sure everyone is entered in the correct division.

At this year's tournament, we will once again offer each team an opportunity to purchase an extra

home run. This has been a popular feature at past tournaments. Last year, we raised over \$5,000 for local charities from those teams that purchased an extra home run so it is a great fundraiser for the tournament. More information will be included on the website and in the tournament program about purchasing extra home runs.

We are excited to let you know that we had a record setting year last year as we were able to distribute over \$105,000 to charitable organizations throughout the state and with your help and generosity we hope to be able to donate much more with this year's tournament. Without your help and support, this would not be possible! Also, I can't go without mentioning all of the great volunteer groups who help out during the tournament as well as the great people at McQuade Distributing who help with the tournament—Dee, Kathy, Renae, and Rhea. Also, it is all of our volunteers and volunteer groups that help us out in so many ways that help make this tournament so successful. Thank You!

The silent auction we have during the tournament is also an area that raises a considerable amount of money for the charities. If you really want to contribute to the tournament in another way, I would like to challenge anyone to provide an item for the silent auction or contact a local business in your area to donate an item and explain the benefits of the silent auction and the advertising exposure to them.

We estimate that close to 20,000 people will look through the silent auction items over the course of the weekend! If you have any items that you would like to donate to the silent auction, please contact me. Any item that is new, gift certificates, or sports memorabilia make great items for the silent auction. All donations are tax deductible!

In addition to our other duties on the Board of Directors, Jack Jones and I will once again serve as Co-Tournament Directors. I would also like to thank the other Board of Director members who contribute their time and talents effectively in so many ways—Eldie Ulmer, Mike Offerdahl, Cheryl Jones, Brooke (Wolf) Larson, Jim Janusz, Sam McQuade Jr., and Shannon McQuade-Ely.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call, text, or email Jack or myself. My cell phone is 701-400-2100, and Jack's phone number is 701-426-8700. I can be reached via email at wolfdn8993@yahoo.com and Jack can be reached at jack@btinet.net. Since most everyone contacts Jack or I directly via email, text, or phone, we are no longer utilizing the McQuade yahoo email.

PLEASE, don't procrastinate as the tournament fills very quickly. Don't miss out on all of the fun and excitement of the premiere softball event of the summer—the 43rd Annual Sam McQuade Sr. Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament—So, register now!

Designate a driver and live.

2018 Umpire and Managers Rules Clinic

March 24	Deputy UIC Clinic	Gladstone Inn—Jamestown	10:00	Wolf
March 25	Jamestown Umpires	The Buff Lounge	2:00	Krieger
March 26	Grand Forks Umpires	Public Library Conf. Room #1	7:00	Healey
March 28	Wahpeton Umpires	Community Center	6:30	Rader
March 28	FYI—Bismarck FP HS Clinic	BSC Career Academy	6:00	Gerhardt
March 29	West Fargo Umpires	VFW Club	6:30	Olson
March 29	Fargo Umpires	Bowler	7:00	Cole/Pennick
April 2	Wahpeton Men’s Managers	Community Center	6:30	Rader
April 2	Bismarck Men’s Managers	Amvet’s Club	6:30	Wolf
April 3	Wahpeton Women’s/Coed Managers	Community Center	6:30	Rader
April 3	Bismarck Umpires	St. Mary’s Grade School	6:00	Wolf
April 3	Grafton Managers/Umpires	JR’s (Oakwood)	7:00	Payne
April 4	Valley City Umpires/Managers	Gaulker Wellness Center	6:30	Krieger
April 4	Fargo Umpires	Bowler	7:00	Cole/Pennick
April 4	Mandan Managers	City Hal	7:00	Wolf
April 5	Bismarck Women’s Managers	Amvet’s Club	6:00	Wolf
April 5	May/Port Managers & Umpires	Floyd’s—Portland	7:00	Payne
April 9	LaMoure Umpires/Managers	Center Field Supper Club	6:00	Krieger
April 9	Bismarck Umpires	St. Mary’s Grade School	6:00	Wolf
April 9	Grand Forks Umpires	Public Library Conf. Room #1	7:00	Payne
April 9	Fargo Umpires	Bowler	7:00	Cole/Pennick
April 11	Devils Lake Umpires/Managers	Burdick Arena	6:30	Krieger
April 11	Dickinson Umpires	Recreation Center	6:00MT	Gerhardt/Wolf
April 12	Bismarck Umpires	St. Mary’s Grade School	6:00	Wolf
April 14	Fargo Field Clinic	Anderson Complex	8:00am	Cole/Pennick
April 16	Bismarck Umpires	St. Mary’s Grade School	6:00	Wolf
April 18	Beulah Umpires/Managers	Alibi’s Bar	6:00	Gerhardt/Wolf
April 18	Fargo Umpires	Park District Offices	6:00	Cole/Pennick
April 19	Mandan Umpires	Softball Complex Building	6:00	Wolf
April 21	Fargo Field Clinic	Anderson Complex	8:00am	Cole/Pennick
April 23	Bismarck Umpires Make-up	Amvet’s Club	6:30	Wolf
April 23	Grand Forks Field Clinic	Ulland Park	6:30	Payne
April 24	Bismarck Umpires Field Clinic	16th Street Diamonds	6:00	Wolf
April 25	Mandan Umpires Field Clinic	Diamond 8	6:00	Wolf
April 25	Grand Forks Field Clinic	Ulland Park	6:30	Payne
April 25	Minot Umpires	Minot Auditorium-Rec Area	6:00	Lawson
April 25	West Fargo Umpires	VFW Club—Test Night	6:30	Olson
April 25	Wahpeton Ump Field Clinic & Test	Diamond 2	6:30	Rader
April 26	Fargo Umpires Clinic/Pre-Test	Old Chicago	6:00	Cole/Pennick
April 26	Bismarck Women’s Managers Sticker	Bats All Season’s Arena	4:00	Wolf
April 26	West Fargo Managers	VFW Club	6:30	Olson
April 29	West Fargo Umpires Field Clinic	North Elmwood	6:30	Olson
April 29	Jamestown Field Clinic	Hillcrest Softball Complex	1:00	Krieger
April 30	Bismarck Umpires Field Clinic	16th Street Diamonds	6:00	Wolf
May 1	Bismarck Umpires Field Clinic	16th Street Diamonds	6:00	Wolf
May 2	Bismarck Umpires Field Clinic	16th Street Diamonds	6:00	Wolf
May 3	Fargo Umpires Test Night	Bowler	7:00	Cole/Pennick
May 3	Bismarck Umpires Field Clinic	16th Street Diamonds	6:00	Wolf
May 3	Grand Forks Umpires	Public Library Conf. Room #1	7:00	Payne
May 14	Bismarck Umpires Test Night/Pizza	St. Mary’s Grade School	8:30	Wolf
*****	Williston—Contact Darin Krueger To Register	701-774-9773 Ext. 238	TBA	Krueger
TBA	Grand Forks Managers	TBA	TBA	Payne
TBA	Casselton Summer Fastpitch Umpires	TBA	TBA	Rader
TBA	West Fargo Summer Fastpitch Umpires	TBA	TBA	Rader
TBA	Bismarck Summer Fastpitch Umpires	TBA	TBA	Gerhardt
TBA	Grand Forks Summer Fastpitch Umpires	TBA	TBA	Rader

*****Please note that before or after all of the manager’s clinics and before or after most of the field clinics, teams will be able to get stickers put on their bats and have their bats checked to make sure they are legal. If you want to get bats stickered, please bring them before or after the clinics end so as not to interrupt the field or rules clinics. If you have questions concerning stickers or rules clinics in general, please contact UIC Mike Wolf at 400-2100 or contact your regional DUIC. For phone numbers for all regional DUIC’s log on to www.usasoftballnd.org and click on the “Umpires” link.

USA Softball of North Dakota 2018 Suspension/ Probation List

Player	Violation/Penalty
Dominic Pardino Jr. Fargo	Unsportsmanlike Conduct Suspended Indefinitely/ two years probatiion follows reinstatement
Mike Albrecht Jamestown	Unsportsmanlike Conduct Suspended indefinitely. Can request reinstatement Jan. 1, 2017; must be approved by the Jamestown Softball Association.
Daryl Burckhard Minot	Illegal Participation Suspended until July 1, 2017; Probation in 2017 & 2018

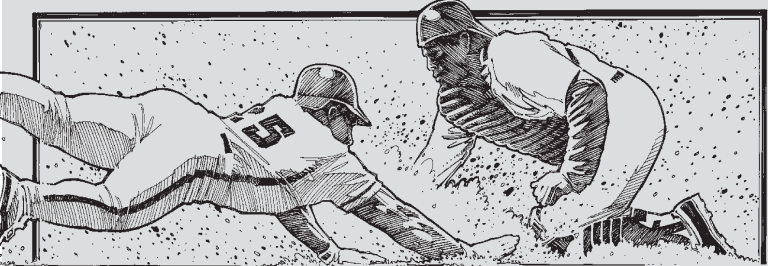
State Tournament No-Show without Notification Entire team probation through 2018
Hill Lounge/ Herds & Horns, Fargo - Men’s Slow Pitch Rec 3 East Wonder Bar, Jamestown - Men’s Slow Pitch Rec 3 East Lunseth Plumbing & Heating/ Ground Round, Grand Forks - Men’s Slow Pitch Rec 3 East Wolding Trucking, Beulah - Men’s Slow Pitch Rec 4 West Town Hall Bar, West Fargo - Women’s Slow Pitch Rec 3 East Frontier Printing, Bismarck - Women’s Slow Pitch Rec 3 East
PROBATION: Player with no-show probation starts the 2018 season with 1 violation. The first ejection from a game would be a two (2) game suspension. The second ejection from a game would be season ending suspension.

2018 USA Softball of North Dakota Slow Pitch teams to be moved up

Men's Teams

To Men’s B <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3X Gear/ The Box/ The Bal-lyard/ Sports Cards 4 U, Fargo (Class C, 1st Place)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Davis Sinclair, Dunseith (Rec 3 West, 4th place)• Anderson Cabinets, Mandan (Rec 3 West, Cons, Champs)• Petro Hunt/ Snortums Land-scape & Design, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Cons, Runner-up)• Terhorst, Minot (Rec 3 West, Roughrider Champion)• Healthways, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Pioneer Champion)• Dietz Properties/ Loft Bar & Grill, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East, 1st place)• Ruby Tuesday, Fargo (Rec 3 East. 2nd place)• Hunter Insurance/ Verwest Construction (Rec 3 East, 3rd place)• Byte Speed LLC, Fargo (Rec 3 East, 4th place)• Roto-Rooter, West Fargo (Rec 3 East, Roughrider Champion)• Duane’s Gun Repair, Fargo (Rec 3 East, Pioneer Champion)• Paradiso, Minot (McQuades, 2nd place)• Trotter Construction/ Farmers Union Insurance/ Ryan Schnell, Mandan (McQuades, 2nd place)• Reloaded Softball, Wahpeton (Rec 3 challenge, 3 wins)• Law Dawgs, Minot (Rec 3 West challenge, 4 wins)
To Men’s C <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ground Round/ Trojan/ Hugo’s, Grand Forks (Class D, 1st Place)• Livewire Electric/ Burnn Boil-er/ 9 Dragons/ Slapshot Pizza, Fargo (Class D, 2nd place)	
To Men’s D <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dickson Law/ Knife River/ VU, Bismarck (Rec 1 & E Nat’l, 1st place)• Center Merchants (Rec 1, 2nd place)• Kelly Chiropractic/ Central Power/ Bruno’s Pizza, Minot (Rec 1, 3rd place)• Wahus Construction, Bismarck (Rec 1, 4th place)• Northern Energy Services, Williston (McQuades, 1st place; E Nat’l, 3rd place)• Ranger Lounge, Sydney, MT (E Nat’l, 4th place)	
To Men’s Rec 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Driftwood Lounge, Wahpeton (Rec 2 East, 1st place)• Sun Pro, Grand Forks (Rec 2 East, 2nd place)• Kensal Merchants (Rec 2 East, 3rd place)• JR’s Bar, Grafton (Rec 2 East, Consolation Champion)• Rubicon Mortgage Advisors, Bismarck (Rec 2 West, 1st place)• Pub 21 (Geer), Bismarck (Rec 2 West, 3rd place)• Heilman/ Solitude/ Future Builders, Minot (Rec 2 West, 3rd place)• Blarney Stone, Fargo (Mc-Quades, 2nd place)• Mobile Ads/ Rio Lawn & Landscape, Mandan (McQuades, 2nd place)• Lisbon Lasers (Rec 1 challenge, 2 wins)• JB Brothers LLC/ Weatherford, Williston (Rec 1 challenge, 4 wins)	
To Men’s Rec 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Premier Physical Therapy, Mi-not (Rec 3 West, 1st place)• Hometown Moving/ Jeremy Dockter Construction, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 2nd place)• Alibi’s Lounge/ Union Bank/ Hazen Bottle Shop, Beulah (Rec 3 West, 3rd place)	
To Women’s C <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bases and Banks, Minot (Class D, 1st place)	To Women’s D <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corral Bar/ Ramada, Bismarck (Rec 1, 1st place)• Rookies, West Fargo (Rec 1, 1st place)
To Women’s Rec 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Silver Dollar MFI, West Fargo (Rec 2, 1st place)• Mulligans, Williston (Rec 2, 2nd place)• KCs Krushers, Jamestown (Rec 2, 3rd place)• O’Brians (McNamara), Bis-marck (classification meeting)	To Women’s Rec 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayport Insurance/ Hub, Grand Traill (Rec 3 East, 1st place)• Plains Women, Mandan (Rec 3 West, 1st place)• Buster’s Bar/ Rockpile, Wil-liston (Rec 3 West, 2nd place)• Katie Kulzer, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 3rd place)• Solitude, Minot (Rec 3 West, Roughrider Champion)• Broken Drum, Grand Forks (Classification meeting)• Hideaway, Bismarck (classifi-cation meeting)• Our Place Tavern, Bismarck (classification meeting)• Railway Credit Union, Bis-marck (classification meeting)• Stadium Lodge, Bismarck (classification meeting)• Fried’s State Farm, Bismarck (classification meeting)• Triix Customs, Grand Forks (classification meeting)

Women's Teams



Mens 2018 Invitational Tournaments

Sat, Apr 14 - Sat, Apr 14
 Fargo, Sam's Early
 6 Open; 8 R1 - R2, 8 R3 - R4,
 3GG \$135
 Sam Martin
 5235 50th Ave. S.
 Fargo, ND 58104
 701-367-4932
 samuelmartin383@hotmail.com

Sat, Apr 21 - Sat, Apr 21
 Fargo, Johns Early Bird
 6 Open, 8 R1 - R2, 8 R3 - R4,
 3GG \$135
 John Dehaan
 5504 47th Ave. S.
 Fargo, ND 58104
 701-741-5101
 dehaanjohn@hotmail.com

Sat, Apr 21 - Sun, Apr 22
 Jamestown, Spring Fling
 8 R1 - R2, 8 R3- R4,
 3GG, \$125
 Gary Schmidt
 1710 2nd Pl. NE
 Jamestown, ND 58401
 701-659-1744
 garysffleague@yahoo.com

Sun, Apr 29 - Sun, Apr 29
 West Fargo
 16 R2-R4, 3GG, \$100
 Rod Olson
 PO Box 42
 Mapleton, ND 58059
 701-799-0588
 rodgolson@msn.com

Sat, May 05 - Sat, May 05
 Mandan, Early Bird
 5 B - C, 8 D, 8 R1 - R2,
 8 R3 - R4, 3GG \$150
 J D Hanson
 Box 1836
 Center, ND 58530
 701-794-8891
 jerimiah_hanson@hotmail.com

Sat, May 05 - Sat, May 05
 Williston, 1st Annual 5X5X5
 8 C - R1, 8 R2 - R3,
 5GG \$100
 Darin Krueger
 PO Box 1153
 Williston, ND 58802
 701-774-9773
 darin@wprd.us

Sun, May 06 - Sun, May 06
 Wahpeton, Spring Classic
 5 R1 - R2, 5 R3 - R4,
 RR \$125
 Laree Bumgarner
 304 5th St S
 Wahpeton, ND 58075
 701-642-2811
 laree_woppark@702com.net

Sat, May 12 - Sat, May 12
 Minot, 27th Early Bird
 30 C - R4, 3GG \$125
 Tom Landsiedel
 420 3rd Ave. SW
 Minot, ND 58701
 701-857-4730
 tom.landsiedel@minotnd.org

Sat, May 12 - Sun, May 13
 Fargo
 8 C-D, 6 R1 , 6 R2, 6 R3, 6 R4,
 5GG \$240
 Nick Gulmon
 933 Ashley Drive W
 West Fargo, ND 58078
 701-866-0460

Sat, May 19 - Sun, May 20
 Bismarck, Whirly Bird
 12 C-D, 12 R1 - R2, 12 R3 - R4,
 4GG \$210
 Scott Kinnischtzke
 4250 Calahan Place
 Bismarck, ND 58504
 701-527-5538
 kinnischtzke@hotmail.com

Sat, May 19 - Sun, May 20
 Jamestown, One Pitch Wonder
 12 Open, 3GG \$125
 Gary Schmidt
 1710 2nd Pl. NE
 Jamestown, ND 58401
 701-659-1744
 garysffleague@yahoo.com

Fri, Jun 01 - Sun, Jun 03
 Mandan Rugrat
 8 C - D, 8 R1, 8 R2, 16 R3,
 16 R4, 3GG \$150
 Cody Clark
 8010 Northwood Drive
 Bismarck, ND 58503
 701-390-0024
 coclark@hotmail.com

Sat, Jun 02 - Sun, Jun 03
 Grand Forks, BWW Early Bird
 8 C - D, 8 R1, 8 R2, 8 R3,
 8 R4, 3 GG \$175
 Chris Hutton
 Grand Forks Softball Assn.
 9549 DeMers Avenue
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 701-330-5798
 chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Jun 02 - Sat, Jun 02
 Wahpeton, Blue Goose
 8 R3-R4, DE \$125
 Laree Bumgarner
 304 5th St S
 Wahpeton, ND 58075
 701-642-2811
 laree_woppark@702com.net

Sat, Jun 09 - Sun, Jun 10
 Fargo Michelob Lite
 Money Tournament
 16 B -C, 24 D, 32 R1 - R2,
 16 R3, 16 R4, 3GG, 3GG,
 3GG, 4GG, 4GG
 \$240, \$240, \$215, \$185, \$185
 Corey Richart
 1310 6th St. NW
 West Fargo, ND 58078
 701-371-2914

Sat, Jun 09 - Sun, Jun 10
 Center, Old Settlers
 5 R1 - R2 , 16 R3 - R4,
 4 GG \$150
 J D Hanson
 Box 1836
 Center, ND 58530
 701-794-8891
 jerimiah_hanson@hotmail.com

Sat, Jun 16 - Sun, Jun 17
 Williston, Play Ball
 6 C - D, 6 R1, 6 R2 - R3,
 5GG \$150
 Darin Krueger
 PO Box 1153
 Williston, ND 58802
 701-774-9773
 darin@wprd.us

Sat, Jun 16 - Sat, Jun 16
 Mandan
 12 R1 - R2, 12 R3 - R4,
 3GG \$150
 J D Hanson
 Box 1836
 Center, ND 58530
 701-794-8891
 jerimiah_hanson@hotmail.com

Sat, Jun 16 - Sat, Jun 16
 Devils Lake
 32nd Annual Budweiser
 16 R2 - R4, 3GG \$100
 Terry Wallace
 PO Box 446
 Devils Lake, ND 58301
 701-662-8243
 twallacedlpb@gondtc.com

Sat, Jun 16 - Sat, Jun 16
 Bismarck
 12 B - D, 3GG, RR \$175
 Scott Kinnischtzke
 4250 Calahan Place
 Bismarck ND 58504
 701-527-5538
 kinnischtzke@hotmail.com

Fri, Jun 22 - Sun, Jun 24
 Bismarck-Mandan
 McQuade Charity Softball
 6 A-B, 24 C; 32 D, 32 R1; 48
 R2; 128 R3, 48 R4; 24 M35;
 8 M50, 4 M60; DE, DE, CC,
 CC, CC, CC, CC; \$260, \$260,

\$195, \$195, \$195, \$195, \$195
 Mike Wolf
 1926 Billings Dr
 Bismarck ND 58504
 400-2100
 Register online at www.
 mcquades.com

Sat, Jul 07 - Sun, Jul 08
 Grand Forks, July Classic
 8 C - D, 8 R1, 8 R2, 8 R3,
 8 R4, 3 GG \$175
 Chris Hutton
 Grand Forks Softball Assn.
 9549 DeMers Avenue
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 701-330-5798
 chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Jul 07 - Sun, Jul 08
 Rugby Geographical Center
 12 R2 - R4, 5GG \$130
 Mark Hamilton
 1116 Main Ave S
 Rugby ND 58368
 701-208-1373
 hamfam@gondtc.com

Sun, Jul 08 - Sun, Jul 08
 Bismarck
 8 C - D, 8 R1 - R2, 8 R3 - R4
 3GG \$175
 Scott Kinnischtzke
 4250 Calahan Place
 Bismarck ND 58504
 701-527-5538
 kinnischtzke@hotmail.com

Fri, Jul 13 - Fri, Jul 13
 Wahpeton, Summer Classic
 8 R3 - R4, 3GG \$125
 Laree Bumgarner
 304 5th St S
 Wahpeton ND 58075
 701-642-2811
 laree_woppark@702com.net

Sat, Jul 14 - Sun, Jul 15
 Dickinson, Miller Lite
 5 D, 6 R1, 6 R2, 16 R3, 12 R4
 3GG \$160
 Ryan Nelson
 2004 Fairway St
 Dickinson ND 58601
 701-495-0025
 rnelson@dickinsonparks.org

Sat, Jul 14 - Sun, Jul 15
 Oakes, Lite Bat
 16 R2 - R4, 3GG \$120
 Bob Ubben
 210 S. 7th St.
 Oakes ND 58474
 701-742-2087 | 701-388-3083
 bobubben@yahoo.com

Sat, Jul 14 - Sat, Jul 14
 Devils Lake,

37th Annual Miller Lite
 16 R2 - R4, 3 GG \$100
 Terry Wallace
 PO Box 446
 Devils Lake ND 58301
 701-662-8243
 twallacedlpb@gondtc.com

Sat, Jul 21 - Sun, Jul 22
 Minot, 48th State Fair
 60 C-R4, 3GG \$125
 Tom Landsiedel
 420 3rd Ave. SW
 Minot, ND 58701
 701-857-4730
 tom.landsiedel@minotnd.org

Sat, Jul 21 - Sat, Jul 21
 Lisbon; 8 R1 - R2, 8 R3- R4,
 3GG, DE \$120
 Brad Dahl
 204 Bluff Street
 Ft. Ransom, ND 58033
 braddahl.21@gmail.com

Sat, Aug 25 - Sun, Aug 26
 Fargo, Can-Am
 16 R3, 16 R4, RR \$175
 Greg Laffen
 3813 17th St. S.
 Fargo, ND 58103
 701-306-3813
 greg@laffen.org

Sat, Aug 25 - Sun, Aug 26
 Center, Sheldon Rud Memorial
 8 D - R1, 8 R2 - R3, 5 R4,
 4 GG \$150
 J D Hanson
 Box 1836
 Center ND 58530
 701-794-8891
 jerimiah_hanson@hotmail.com

Fri, Sep 07 - Sun, Sep 09
 United Tribes Legends
 24 R1 & above, 24 R2 & below,
 3GG \$275
 Steve Shepherd
 United Tribes Tech. College
 3315 Univerity Dr.
 Bismarck, ND 58504
 701-226-3987
 sshepherd@uttc.edu

Sun, Sep 09 - Sun, Sep 09
 Dickinson, Last Chance
 5 R1 - R2, 16 R3 - R4,
 3GG \$140
 Ryan Nelson
 2004 Fairway St
 Dickinson ND 58601
 701-495-0025
 rnelson@dickinsonparks.org

Tourney Series Total
 # of Teams Total
 Weekend Only Total

Coed 2018 Invitational Tournaments

Sat, Jun 02 - Sun, Jun 03
 Grand Forks, BWW EarlyBird
 8 Open, 3GG \$100
 Chris Hutton
 Grand Forks Softball Assn.
 9549 DeMers Avenue
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 701-330-5798
 chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Jul 07 - Sun, Jul 08
 Grand Forks July, Classic
 8 Open, 3GG \$100
 Chris Hutton
 Grand Forks Softball Assn.
 9549 DeMers Avenue
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 701-330-5798
 chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Aug 25 - Sun, Aug 26
 Grand Forks, All-Nighter
 16 Open, 3GG \$175
 Chris Hutton
 Grand Forks Softball Assn.

9549 DeMers Avenue
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 701-330-5798
 chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Aug 25 - Sun, Aug 26
 Jamestown, Scott Schafer
 Memorial
 16 Open, DE \$125
 Gary Schmidt
 1710 2nd PL. NE
 Jamestown, ND 58401
 701-659-1744
 garysffleague@yahoo.com

Sun, Sep 16 - Sun, Sep 16
 Grand Forks, Renae Thompson
 16 Open, 3GG \$150
 Chris Hutton
 Grand Forks Softball Assn.
 9549 DeMers Avenue
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 701-330-5798
 chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Junior Olympics 2018 Invitational Tournaments

Sat, Jun 09 - Sun, Jun 10
 Bismarck, Blast
 Open, RR/C&C \$275
 Bill Schmidt
 3600 Downing Street
 Bismarck, ND 58504
 701-226-8487
 bdsconcrete@icloud.com

Fri, Jun 15 - Sat, Jun 16
 Jamestown
 4 - 12U, RR \$85
 Tina Mikkelsen
 1622 15th St. SW
 Jamestown, ND 58401
 tina.mikkelsen@gmail.com
 701-320-1218

Sat, Jun 16 - Sun, Jun 17
 West Fargo, United
 10U, 12U, 14U, 18U, RR/3GG,
 TBA
 Pat Johnson
 5152 8th Ave. S.
 Fargo, ND 58103
 701-412-5209
 pjohnson@west-fargo.k12.nd.us

Sat, Jun 16 - Sun, Jun 17
 Grand Forks, Express - All Ages
 3GG \$150
 Terry Bohan
 3240 Royal Drive
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 701-215-2599
 tbohan0502mygfschools.org

Sat, Jun 16 - Sun, Jun 17
 Minot, Storm
 10U, 12U, 14U, 18U, 4GG \$275
 Thor Nelson
 821 1st Avenue SE
 Minot, ND 58701
 701-240-8467
 minotstormfastpitch@gmail.com

Fri, Jun 22 - Fri, Jun 22
 Jamestown
 4 - 14U, RR \$85
 Tina Mikkelsen
 1622 15th St. SW
 Jamestown, ND 58401
 tina.mikkelsen@gmail.com
 701-320-1218

Fri, Jul 06 - Sun, Jul 08
 Fargo Moorhead, Red River Rage
 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U,
 TBA \$300
 Mike Skogan
 4942 10th Avenue South
 Fargo, ND 58103
 701-866-2959
 mike@fmballyard.com

Fri, Jul 06 - Fri, Jul 06
 Jamestown
 4 - 10U, RR \$85
 Tina Mikkelsen
 1622 15th St. SW
 Jamestown, ND 58401
 tina.mikkelsen@gmail.com
 701-320-1218

Fri, Aug 10 - Sun, Aug 12
 Jamestown, Can-am
 6 - 14U, 6 - 16U, 3GG \$200
 Tina Mikkelsen
 1622 15th St. SW
 Jamestown, ND 58401
 tina.mikkelsen@gmail.com
 701-320-1218

Womens 2018 Invitational Tournaments

Sat, Apr 28 - Sat, Apr 28
West Fargo
5 C - R1, 5 R2 - R3, RR \$130
Rod Olson
PO Box 42
Mapleton, ND 58059
701-799-0588
701-235-4441
rolson@fargoglass.com

Sat, May 05 - Sat, May 05
Williston, 1st Annual 5X5X5
8 D - R1, 8 R2 - R3 5GG \$100
Darin Krueger
PO Box 1153
Williston, ND 58802
701-774-9773
darin@wprd.us

Sat, May 12 - Sun, May 13
Fargo
6C, 6 D, 6 R1, 6 R2, 6 R3, 6 R4
3GG \$135
Dori Amundson
4423 Newport Lane
West Fargo, ND 58078
701-789-1043
pharm2girl@hotmail.com

Sat, May 19 - Sat, May 19
Bismarck, Early Bird

6 D - R1, 6 R2 - R3, RR \$100
Cody Remboldt
32 Eckelson Road
Lincoln, ND 58504
701-391-6585
wildcat6585@gmail.com

Fri, Jun 01 - Sun, Jun 03
Mandan, Rugrat
6 D - R1, 12 R2 - R3, 3GG \$150
Cody Clark
8010 Northwood Drive
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-390-0024
coclark@hotmail.com

Sat, Jun 02 - Sun, Jun 03
Grand Forks, BWW Earlybird
8 C - R1, 8 R2-R3, 3GG \$175
Chris Hutton
Grand Forks Softball Assn.
9549 DeMers Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-330-5798
chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Jun 09 - Sun, Jun 10
Fargo, Michelob Golden
6 D - R1, 6 R2 - R3, 4GG \$175
Corey Richart
1310 6th St. NW

West Fargo, ND 58078
701-371-2914
coreynines@gmail.com

Sat, Jun 16 - Sun, Jun 17
Williston, Play Ball
6 D -R1, 6 R2 -R4, 5GG \$150
Darin Krueger
PO Box 1153
Williston, ND 58802
701-774-9773
darin@wprd.us

Sat, Jun 16 - Sat, Jun 16
Devils Lake
32nd Annual Budweiser
8 R1 - R3, 3GG \$100
Terry Wallace
PO Box 446
Devils Lake ND 58301
701-662-8243
twallacedlpb@gondtc.com

Fri, Jun 22 - Sun, Jun 24
Bismarck-Mandan
McQuade Charity Softball
16 C, 16 D, 24 R1, 32 R2, 40
R3, DE, DE, CC, CC, CC
\$260, \$260, \$195, \$195, \$195
Mike Wolf
1926 Billings Dr

Bismarck ND 58504
400-2100
Register online www.mcquades.com

Sat, Jul 07 - Sun, Jul 08
Grand Forks, July Classic
8 C - R1, 8 R2-R3, 3GG \$175
Chris Hutton
Grand Forks Softball Assn.
9549 DeMers Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-330-5798
chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Jul 14 - Sun, Jul 15
Dickinson, Miller Lite
6 R1 - R2, 6 R3, 3GG \$140
Ryan Nelson
2004 Fairway St.
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-495-0025
rnelson@dickinsonparks.org

Sat, Jul 14 - Sat, Jul 14
Devils Lake
37th Annual Miller Lite
8 R1 - R3, 3GG \$100
Terry Wallace
PO Box 446
Devils Lake ND 58301
701-662-8243

twallacedlpb@gondtc.com
Sat, Jul 21 - Sun, Jul 22
Minot, 48th State Fair
30 C - R3, 3GG \$125
Tom Landsiedel
420 3rd Ave. SW
Minot, ND 58701
701-857-4730
tom.landsiedel@minotnd.org

Fri, Sep 07 - Sun, Sep 09
United Tribes Legends
12 R1 and above, 12 R2 and
below, 3GG \$275
Steve Shepherd
United Tribes Tech College
3315 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-226-3987
sshepherd@uttc.edu

Sun, Sep 09 - Sun, Sep 09
Dickinson, Last Chance
6 R2 - R3, 3GG \$140
Ryan Nelson
2004 Fairway St
Dickinson ND 58601
701-495-0025
rnelson@dickinsonparks.org

February 2017 Plays and Clarifications

2017 Biennial UIC Clinic

The 2017 Biennial UIC Clinic was a resounding success. We had 480 attendees from all over USA Softball. The feedback via phone calls, emails, and text messages have been all positive. Each involvement of the attendees in their sessions. Their ability to get the point across, teach the attendees something, and involve them in the session was outstanding. Both Jim Craig and I attended the sessions and agreed they all were very well planned and delivered.

The Clinic started with an address to the attendees by the President of USA Softball, Warren Jones. To have our Executive Director, Craig Cress, address the group from Belgrade, Serbia via Skype only added to the excitement already in the house. The session with NCAA, NFHS and USA Softball was a resounding success. The feedback on the presentation by the participants was "Great Job". Donna Vavrinc from the NCAA and Sandy Searcy from the NFHS did an excellent job passing along not only their ideas on umpire training but also on the differences between NCAA, NFHS and USA Softball. The questions asked from the crowd were engaging, interesting and all about the betterment of softball. Thank you to all of those who asked questions. There were several questions that time did not allow us to get to. Those will be sent to all panel members for their response and their answers will be posted on our Plays and Clarifications. We hope to have this accom-

plished in the next several weeks.

We would not have had such a successful event without the hard work and dedication of the Chairman of the UIC Clinic Committee Jim Craig and his committee Deputy Director, Christina Drumm, Region 5 Umpire-in-Chief Jim Ballengee. Their hard work on the format and subject matter made the clinic a success. The ability to "think outside the box" on what should be taught, how it should be taught and who should teach it added greatly to the clinic being one of the best we have ever had.

We must also thank our sponsor Bollinger Insurance. Without the support of our insurance partner we would not be able to hold such an event. We also send a shout out to USA Softball Properties for their gracious donation in support of the clinic which was greatly appreciated. However, without the attendance of the Umpire-in-Chiefs and their staffs from the Local Associations and you the umpires, this event cannot happen and would not be a success.

We would be remiss if we did not thank the National Office Staff. Special thanks to all of them for putting forth the effort to help make the clinic a success. They spent countless hours working to help us welcome all attendees, market the product we presented and reward those who deserved it on Saturday night. Thank you to all of you.

We now need all of those who attended the clinic to send in your comments on the survey so that we can make 2019 even better. I realize it seems a long time off but

those plans have already started with Committee Chair Jim Craig and whoever he chooses as his committee members. All comments and suggestions are welcome which will only make clinics of the future better.

From the USA Softball Umpire Program, we say thank you and let's make 2019 even better and stronger.

Registration and Background Checks

It is time for all umpires to begin the process of becoming a registered USA Softball Umpire. Remember all umpires assigned to Junior Olympic Championship Play and or assigned as an umpire to any event to be held at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium must be background checked through the USA Softball background check system. Please address this with your Local Association and make sure this is accomplished in order for your umpires to participate in these events.

Plays and Clarifications

PLAY: Unreported substitute Davis singles and is standing on 1B when the ball is returned to the infield. The defense requests time and the defensive manager, who was waiting for Davis to complete their turn at bat, begins to come out of the dugout to protest the unreported and should be called out.

RULING: This is a game management situation at its best. By rule as soon as the offensive coach tells the plate umpire that their substitute is in the game that person is legally in the game. The fact that the coach

told them after they completed their time at bat does not matter. We say this is a game management situation at its best because of the plate umpire recognized that the defensive team called time first and approached the plate umpire with their protest. We should not allow the offensive to now take over the conversation. In this play it appears that the defensive coach has begun to come out of the dugout but has not requested time to protest so the substitution of the player by the offense would now put Davis legally in the game. **Rule 4, Section 6B and Rule 4, Section 6C [3]**

PLAY: (FP Only) With one out and R1 on 3B and R2 on 1B, B4 hits a fly ball to deep center field, which is caught for the second out. R1 on 3B tags up and scores. R2 did not tag, but advanced to 2B. After F1 has the ball back in their possession with both feet within the pitcher's circle, the first base coach tells R2 to come back to 1B, because they did not tag up. R2 retreats to 1B while F1 has the ball in the circle. The umpire calls R2 out for violation of the Look Back Rule.

RULING: R1 had scored before R2 is called out for the third out, therefore the run counts. Rule 5, Section 5B [2]

PLAY: F1 is an unreported substitute with B1 at bat with 1-2 count. B1 hits the ball to F6, who throws to F3 to retire B1. The offensive coach wants to protest F1 for being unreported.

RULING: In this case the unreported substitute, F1 did not make a play. Since F1 did not make the play and it is brought to the atten-

tion of the umpire F1 is now in the game with no penalty. The pitch is considered in the case of an appeal meaning that was the appeal before or after a pitch. This is not an appeal it is a protest. The act of F1 making a pitch is not making a play. **Rule 4, Section 6C8**

PLAY: (FP Only) Team A in bracket play (not in pool play) presents a lineup to the home plate umpire with nine batters with defensive positions and a tenth batter listed as an EP. The plate umpire either doesn't notice it or accepts it telling them that they can't use an EP in bracket play. There is no DP/Flex listed; only nine batters and a tenth batter as EP. If the offending team appeals, is the tenth batter an illegal player or just unreported/batting out of order?

RULING: This should never happen as the plate umpire should check the lineup thoroughly and not start play until they receive a legal lineup, even if the coach insists. However if the EP bats and is listed in the tenth spot we would say they are a substitute for the person in the 1st batting position and would be called an unreported substitute. If the person now in the 1st position bats in the second position they would have to be considered an illegal reentry since they were out when the supposed EP batted in the 1st spot and now are batting in the second position making this an illegal reentry. This all depends on if the offended team brings the issue to the attention of the umpire before a pitch to a legal player. **Rule 4, Section 5 and Rule 4, Section 6A-C, Rule 6, Section 6F.**

Contact Information

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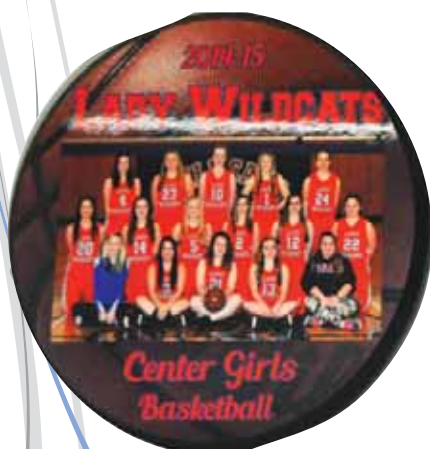
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