

# **NORTH AMERICAN FASTPITCH ASSOCIATION**

## **2023 NAFA “MASTERS” WORLD SERIES OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES**

*This Tournament will be governed by the current edition of the NAFA Official Playing Rules and this supplement*

1. Players must check-in and show proof of age at least 45 minutes prior to their first scheduled game. The remaining players may turn the legal age at any time during this calendar year to be eligible and may pitch. Exception: Teams may play at one time 3 players 3 years younger that can't pitch.
2. Bat Compression Testing. Each Bat must be examined and compression tested and then NAFA Staff will **affix a current “NAFA approved Bat Stamp” on the bat handle/taper.** If it is discovered that a batter has completed his turn at bat with a bat that has not been **tested (and stickered) and certified by the NAFA Tournament Staff,** the batter will be called out, runners return to the base occupied at the time of pitch, and all outs made will stand. Helmets must be worn by the Batter, the on-deck Batter and all base runners.
3. The Home team for all games shall be determined by a coin toss prior to each game by the tournament director at the bracket board. The Tournament Director will provide the Official Line-up cards and game balls for all games. Line-up cards submitted to the Home Plate Umpire must contain the starting player's last name, first name, uniform number and fielding position, and as a courtesy all available substitutes. The team traveling the farthest shall take the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout unless staying for back-to-back games they may stay.
4. A double first base safety bag shall be used to minimize collisions between the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman and the batter/baserunner) and treated as one big bag for both offense and defense to use except on the first play at 1<sup>st</sup> base on the batter/baserunner when the ball is fielded from the fair part of the infield, then the runner shall use the orange and the defense shall use the white. If the offense uses the white and doesn't interfere then it is a live ball appeal play by the defense and has to be made before the batter/baserunner returns to either bag. If the batter/baserunner uses the white bag and interferes then it is a dead ball and he is out and runners return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
5. Courtesy Runners / DR – 2 courtesy runners may be used for anyone per inning. **The Courtesy Runner must be the person farthest away in the lineup which is most often “the last out”.** A DR, who must be listed as a starter on line up, can run one time an inning for anyone.
6. Any team leading by 10 runs after 4 innings, or 7 runs after 5 innings (or 6 innings) shall be declared the winner, including the Championship game (no time limit). No inn will start after 90 minutes in pool play and 1 hour 45 minutes in bracket play; **however, Masters teams may utilize the Tie-breaker rule, to start the 8<sup>th</sup> inning, but must be decided at the plate meeting.**
7. In 60-Over, 65-Over and 70-over only, as an option a 4<sup>th</sup> outfielder may be used (it can be the EH or the DS) but not a 5<sup>th</sup> infielder so that outfielder must be at least 20 feet off the dirt on a normally cut infield at the umpire's discretion based on where the other 3 outfielders start on the play so it looks consistent.
8. Teams are required to have nine players (but may use a DS (10) and/or an Extra Hitter (11); however, a team may start/end a game with eight players (**Short-1 handed Rule**). If a team starts/ends a game with eight players, an out shall be recorded each time the ninth batting position is due to bat. **Note: A team may not play “Short-handed as a result of an ejection. The game will end in forfeit.** Participants ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> inning of the game are only ejected for the remainder of that current game. Participants ejected in, or after, the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, will be ineligible to participate in their team's next scheduled game. Re-Entry- Only the Starting players, to include the DP, DS, and EH may leave the game and re-enter (one time). **Substitute players may not leave the game and then re-enter.**
9. Teams may utilize the Designated Batter (DB)/Defensive Specialist (DS) and Extra Hitter (EH). **These players must be listed on the official line-up card as submitted to the Home Plate Umpire.** If utilized, the DB will be listed as one of the nine batting positions and identified as the DB; if utilized, the DS will be listed as the 11th player in the OUTLINED BOX and identified as the DS; if utilized, the EH may be listed in any spot within the 10-batter line-up and identified as the EH.
10. The Pitcher must start with one foot on the pitching plate. The penalty for any pitching infraction is a delayed dead ball (illegal pitch), the offense can choose the result of the play or **a ball awarded to the batter, and there is no advancement of runners, unless it is “Ball Four”.**
11. Unannounced/Unreported Substitutes- If a substitute player fails to report, the substitute shall be deemed to be in the game when: he enters his batter's box, or takes a fielding position, or replaces a player on base. **There is no penalty for a coach honestly “failing to report” a player.**
12. Protests- All protests must be made in accordance with NAFA rules prior to the next pitch, and will be adjudicated under the direction of the Tournament Director. The TD reserves the right to shorten, move or reschedule games as the need may arise.

***The tournament director reserves the right to change field numbers and game times and to restrict a player from pitching.***