

St. Louis Park Oriole Opener
June 8-9, 2024
St. Louis Park Rules and Guidelines (HS)

General:

- Except where modified by these rules, USA Softball rules govern play.
- Teams must check in at least 30 minutes before starting their first game.
- Players can be rostered on only one team.
- In case of inclement weather, the schedule may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director; check the St Louis Park website at <https://www.slpfastpitch.org> for any updates on the weather.
- All HS games will be played at Aquila Park
- No soft toss against the fences.
- Metal Spikes are allowed.
- The use of tobacco and alcohol is prohibited at all tournament sites.
- Heckling, deliberately distracting, or otherwise interfering with the umpires or players is forbidden. The coach of the team whose fans are in violation will be warned once. Further heckling will result in the fan's expulsion. Failure to leave the grounds within two minutes will result in forfeiture to the opposing team.
- Protests will be decided on the playing field. The decision of the umpire is final.
- Four game guarantees (except in the case of inclement weather, where the Tournament Director may change the schedule as deemed necessary.) ASA/NAFA rules govern.
- Saturday Pool Play results will be used to seed to tiered brackets. Brackets will be posted on Saturday as soon as all scores from each pool are in. Check the tournament board for updates or check the St Louis Park Fastpitch website at Oriole Opener Website for your bracket information.
- The Tournament Site Director is Tom Plant (612) 845-1901 or tom.plant@slpfastpitch.org

Competition:

- A team not ready to play within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time of their game will forfeit that game unless the delay is caused by their participation in a game immediately preceding that game.
- Home team is determined by a coin toss for both pool play and bracket play.
- Line-up rules: Teams may use the book option (nine players with substitutes), DP/Flex, or EP (teams can use one or two extra players; they can be placed anywhere in the line-up, and they are free to open substitution), or bat the entire roster. In the event of an injury during the game, a player can be removed from the line-up without penalty if a team chooses to bat the entire roster. If a team does not have any available substitutes, a player may be reentered to replace the injured player. Once the line-up shrinks, and the player is removed from the game, the player is ineligible to return to that game.

Courtesy runners are allowed for the pitcher or catcher. A courtesy runner is optional for the pitcher and catcher. The runner is the player that made the last out.

- Games are 7 innings for HS or until time has expired, whichever occurs first. No new inning will start after 65 minutes of pool play. No new inning will start after 70 minutes in bracket play. Time limits may be shortened in the event of inclement weather to maximize the number of games played by all teams.
- All games are subject to the following run rules: 15 after 3, 10 after 4, and 8 after 5.
- Pool play games may end in a tie. In bracket play games, a tiebreaker will be used to determine a winner if the game is tied after time has expired. Tiebreakers will be played with a runner starting the inning on second (last batter due up to bat) and 1 out to start the inning.
- Unlimited run rules.
- Umpires handle all issues on the fields. Only tournament rules clarifications will be handled by tournament directors or UICs. Judgment calls come from the umpire on the field. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of players, other coaches, and spectators. Abuse of umpires will NOT be tolerated. An ejection for a coach, player, or spectator is for the day, not just the game.
- Approved Bat List: [Current USA Softball List](#)
- Teams will be seeded into brackets according to the criteria below. In the event multiple teams are tied, we will break the tie for the group to determine the top team, then criteria will begin again for the remaining teams.
 - Win/Loss record
 - Head-to-Head play
 - Runs Allowed,
 - Runs Scored
 - Coin toss