

USA Softball of North Dakota Spring Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2024 – Jamestown, ND

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Dick Gulmon at 9:00am.

Commissioner

The USA Softball Annual Conventions was held in Oklahoma City, OK November 2023. Dick Gulmon, Nick Gulmon and Thor Nelson represented USA Softball of North Dakota. Dick Gulmon is the chair of the USA Softball Equipment Testing, Chair of Finance Committee, Chair of Audit Committee, Chair of Playing Rules Committee and the Northern Region Vice President of the Board of Directors for 2023 – 2024 seasons.

Nick Gulmon is a member of the USA Softball Player Representative Committee, Slow Pitch Tournament Program Committee and the Playing Rules Committee.

RC Courtright is a member of the USA Softball Communications Committee, Insurance Committee, and Registration Committee.

Thor Nelson is a member of the USA Softball JO Committee and Registration Committee.

Mike Wolf has been elected to enter the USA National Softball Hall of Fame. The Induction Ceremony will be held October 26, 2024 in Oklahoma City, OK.

The 2024 National Council Meeting will be held October 26 – 29 in Oklahoma City, OK.

USA Softball will return to the Summer Olympics 2028 in Los Angeles, CA.

The State Office sent email communication January 17, 2024 regarding Score Book Advertising the deadline to be included in the opportunity is March 1, 2024.

The USA Softball of North Dakota spring meeting with Hall of Fame Banquet is planned for April 6, 2024.

Bismarck will host the National Women's Slow Pitch E/Rec Tournament, August 24 & 25. Chris Hutton will be the USA Representative.

Fargo will host the 2024 JO 12U B & 18U B National Tournament. Thor Nelson will be the USA Representative.

Fargo was awarded the 2025 JO 16U B & 14U A National Tournament.

Thank you Gary Tharaldson for your continued support of USA Softball of North Dakota.

USA Softball of North Dakota – Committees & Appointments

Scott Brahos and Scott Collins have resigned.

Appoint RC Courtright Executive Board – Term expires January 2025

Appoint Tommy Shaw Executive Board – Term expires January 2025

USA Softball of North Dakota Winter 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes April 6, 2024

Re-Appoint Mike Wolf Executive Board – Term expires January 2027
Re-Appoint Jack Lukes Executive Board – Term expires January 2027
Re-Appoint Darin Krueger Executive Board – Term expires January 2027
RE-Appoint DaLee Wilkinson Executive Board – Term expires January 2027
President Jack Lukes appoints Nick Gulmon Vice President to replace Scott Brahos

USA Softball National Tournaments in Northern Region – 2024

- USA Girls 16UA Rapid City, SD July 31 – Aug 4
- Women's E/Rec (Chris Hutton Rep) Bismarck, ND Aug 23 – 35
- Men's C National Prairie Island, MN Aug 30 – Sept 2
- Northern National 12UB, 18UB, 10UB Fargo, ND July 31 – Aug 4

USA Softball Northern Territory Championships – 2024

- USA Girls 10UA E. Louisville, KY July 22 – 28
- USA Girls 18UA W. Cedar Rapids, IA July 24 – 30
- Northern 12UA Louisville, KY July 22 – 28
- Northern 14UA Decatur, IL July 26 – 30
- Northern 18UA Decatur, IL July 26 – 30
- Northern 10UB Louisville, KY July 22 – 28
- Northern 14UB Decatur, IL July 26 – 30
- Northern 16UB Springfield, MO July 26 – 30
- Men's Major FP Rockford, MI Aug 1 – 4
- Men's E Northern Topeka, KS Aug 31 – Sept 1
- Men's E Northern East Decatur, IL Sept 5 – 8
- Men's D Northern Cedar Rapids, IA Sept 5 – 8
- Men's D Northern East Rockford, MI Sept 5 – 8

National Tournament Bid Rotation Bids Due July 1, 2024

- a) 2024 Mandan
- b) 2025 Fargo
- c) Bismarck

a. Priority City can bid Adult or JO, next city listed could bid alternative bids

Northern Region

- a) Scott Gagnon Mpls Commissioner – Regional Director
- b) Steve Riswold, S.D. Regional UIC
- c) Northern Region VP/USA Softball Boards of Directors – Dick Gulmon
- d) Region JO Rep Tom Bye, MN
- e) Region At Large Player Rep TBD (Wisc)

USA Softball of North Dakota – STATE TOURNAMENTS – 2024

- a) **All State and National Tournaments Adult & JO will use Register Play Software Program.**

Reports

Player Classification – Mike Peterson reminded all teams to submit their single player appeals as soon as possible. The classification review committee is now also accepting whole team appeals.

USA Softball of ND Tournaments – Roger Weigel lead discussion regarding a change in State Tournament Brackets to a double elimination, 3 game guarantee. Concern was expressed related to keeping teams overnight and too many consecutive games on Sunday. It will be recommend to the executive board for 2024 DE 3GG for all State Tournaments with 24 or less teams and revisit after this season.

Discussion was held on Rec 2 and lower for random state tournament brackets, currently same league avoided until 2nd or 3rd rounds.

Discussion was held in regards to seeding into a bracket on State Tournament based on tournament series points.

Discussion on odd # of teams at state tournaments at state tournaments. Currently if 1st round bye and team loses, 2nd they move back to consolation side. Executive team guidance if we continue or eliminate these "if" games.

Director of Operations & Website Review (see addendum)

Violations – Suspensions/Probations – an updated list was provided to league representatives during the meeting.

McQuade 2024 – planning and coordination is moving along accordingly.

JO

All adults on the field or in the dugouts must be Ace Certified and have completed a back ground check.

Registration for ASA is \$19 for an electronic ID cards (\$500 deductible insurance) there is no longer co-insurance of 90/10.

The roster deadline for North Dakota JO is June 25, 2024.

Oklahoma City, OK will be hosting an All American Games for 12U the cost is \$750 for 5 players and 1 coach from North Dakota to attend. Those committed will need to let Tom

Bye know by May 1, 2024. Tryouts for the ND All America Game Team is April 28, 2024 in Bismarck, ND.

The National JO Forum will be held October 31 – November 1, 2024 in Oklahoma City, OK prior to the Council Meeting.

Umpire's

Umpire registration fee is \$72 this includes the \$19 back ground check. This registration includes liability insurance coverage for high school games, liability and accident insurance with a \$500 deductible.

Youth umpire registration fee is \$42.

State Umpire Fees is \$40 per game in 2024.

UIC Clinic to be held in Oklahoma City, OK in 2025.

Tell the umpire about courtesy runners, the pitcher can get a courtesy runner at anytime. The last person throw a pitch is declared the pitcher.

Director of Operations will post a list of illegal bats on the USA Softball of ND website and also email your league representative.

USA Softball – National Governing Body of Softball

A congressional mandate was passed that requires all National Governing Body's which includes USA Softball of ND, as mandatory reporters of sexual misconduct. Mandatorily report young victims of sexual abuse within 24 hours to www.childwelfare.gov

All members of the Executive Board, UIC, DUIC, JO ACE Coaches, Adults in Dugouts, National Tournament Directors must complete Safe Sport training. Upon completion send your certificate to USA Softball of North Dakota Commissioner Dick Gulmon.

Sanction Fee Structure

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Full Season Team | 65.00 |
| COED | 20.00 |
| Fall League | 20.00 |
| 5x5x5 Teams | 25.00 |
| Fall State | 20.00 |
| Church League | 20.00 |
| One Time Tmt Roster | 25.00 |
| JO Ind Registration | 19.00 |

\$25.00 Sanction fee – One Tournament only. No State Tournament Eligibility – Additional Tournaments require normal \$65.00

League Registration

Each team registered with USA Softball of ND is provided \$2 million in liability insurance and \$5 million aggregate. Teams can provide Field Owners with Certificate of Additional Insured, in this situation risk moves from the Field Owners to Teams.

USA Softball liability covers umpires, JO, adult team, and additional insured certificates.

Cities, Registered Leagues and Field Owners **Should NOT Allow** Non-Sanctioned Teams or Umpires.

All USA Softball of North Dakota sanctioned tournaments must follow tournament guide.

All adult and JO GFP Invitational Tournaments must be sanctioned by the Tournament Coordinator – Roger Weigel. Tournaments using non-sanctioned umpires will receive a one year suspension from USA Softball of North Dakota.

State Office

Rosters are due to the State Office by 5/24/24. Those received after 5/24/24 will be assessed a \$25 late fee with an exception to late league starts.

Final roster changes or additions are due to the State Office by 6/19/24. Roster changes after deadline – extreme cases only must come through WSP & MSP Commissioner and approve by the Commissioner or State President.

League Registrations are due to the State Office by 6/14/24.

All classifications are due to the State Office by 6/24/24, the classification meeting will be held 7/12/24.

The Green Book is updated annually. A link is available on the USA Softball of North Dakota website, updates were handed out at the Annual Spring Meeting.

Barrel Compression Tester (BCT). State Tournaments - Men's Rec 1 State and Above- Required.

Register Play tournament software must be used for all State and National Tournaments. It is recommended to use Register Play for Invitational Tournaments. Director of Operations gave a demonstration of Register Play during the meeting.

USA Softball Insurance Program

1/1/23 Youth Team Insurance \$1,000.00 Deductible (Ind registrations) best value and coverage 2/ \$500 deductible.

1/1/24 Umpire Insurance \$500 deductible

USA Softball of North Dakota Winter 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes April 6, 2024

9/1/23 – 2024 JO Season Begins Ind Ins \$500 Deductible – No Co Insurance in 2024.
Used to be 90/10.

MSP

Recommended a double elimination 3 game every state tournament 24 or fewer teams.

Recommended the use of series seeding to seed top part of all tournaments.

WSP

Discussion was held in regards to a women's database with the intention to assist in recognizing dual rostered players.

Created a Women's Master Committee representatives being Kim, Chasity, Dennis, Tommy and Danielle. President: Sue, Vice President: Chastity and Secretary: DaLee.

Discussion was held in regards to Nationals being moved up a week and the need for updates. This will be discussed among the Master's Committee via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Director of Operations minutes
USA Softball of North Dakota Annual Meeting
April 6, 2024**

Scorebooks

Advertising is down this year, though we are still covering the majority of the cost of the scorebooks. This year, we added the scorebook advertisements to the online newsletter, "Softball News", at no additional cost. We would like to thank the Grand Forks Softball Association for once again purchasing the valuable front inside cover advertising space. They also joined the Bismarck Women's Slowpitch Softball Association, Bismarck Umpires Association, McQuades Charity Softball Tournament, & Rugby Chamber of Commerce in purchasing ads elsewhere in the scorebook as well. We strongly encourage everyone to browse through the scorebooks to find the useful information and to support those advertisers. We also welcome anyone providing assistance in adding more scorebook sponsors in the future.

Adult League Registrations

League representatives are encouraged to submit their league registrations by email using the form provided on the website in advance of the start of their league games. Leagues should have all the necessary information by the time they make their schedules. Early registrations are particularly important for those teams that play in tournaments at the beginning of the season since they must be registered within 30 days of those games in order for the team liability insurance to be in effect. Team fees – \$65/team for those playing a full season (including tournament only teams) – should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Gary Schmidt.

Adult Rosters

This has frequently been an issue – especially last season – as there is some confusion about the roster deadline. That deadline marks the date leagues are required to turn in rosters to the State Office. Our Rules/Code states that rosters need to be turned in to a team's local league by the "first night of scheduled play". That needs to be enforced locally. It is particularly important for teams playing in early season tournaments. Leagues are encouraged to assess late fees on teams turning in their rosters late. Late fees only need to be sent to the state for rosters turned in after the May deadline.

Umpire Registrations

Mike Wolf and out DUICs did an outstanding job last year under very challenging circumstances as we transitioned to online umpire registration, prompting each umpire to initiate their own registration & background check through RegisterUSAsoftball.com. Entering year two, we are off to an encouraging start as we anticipate more umpires getting familiar with the process.

League Representatives

We have two new representatives this year – Casey Renner (Beulah) & Jerry Zachemeier (Mandan). We would like to thank both of them for stepping up to help our organization on behalf of their local teams & players.

New Committee & New Faces

At the end of 2023, we introduced a new committee – the Coed Slow Pitch Task Force. As we recognized that some changes were overdue for the coed state tournaments, we elected to establish a group of 3 men & 3 women to determine & present recommendations for those changes. Among those on the committee are two women new to USASND committees: Angela Gehring (Minot) & Brandi Zimprich (Jamestown).

We have also added a number of other new faces across our organization including the aforementioned Jerry Zachemeier, Daulton Bartholomay (Ransom County), Jon Gums (Mandan), & Rob Johnson (Devils Lake) on our Men's Slow Pitch Task Force. Jon Gums also joins Stacy Keller (Bismarck) as the newest members of our Hall of Fame Selection Committee. We are always grateful when new people step up to contribute to our association.

**Director of Operations minutes
USA Softball of North Dakota Annual Meeting
April 6, 2024**

Register Play

While our experience with Tourney Machine was better than most last season, it was not well received at all across USA Softball. Therefore, we are transitioning to Register Play in 2024. Our experiment with allowing teams to register & pay for their state tournament entries in Junior Olympics, Women's Masters, & Coed resulted in about 80% of teams utilizing that process. Therefore, we will allow online registration & entry fee payment across all state tournaments this season. We also anticipate more easily running live brackets in all tournaments, even those that Tourney Machine had been unable to accommodate due to the larger number of teams. Support should also be more thorough and timely than Register Play as they are providing direct access using WhatsApp group specifically for ND tournament directors. An Android app is currently available for download. An Apple app is stuck in a pending status due to features that Apple is requiring that Register Play insists negatively impacts their service. A mobile-friendly website is still available for Apple users until this gets resolved.

Website & "Softball News"

Our website features the following changes this season:

- Invitational tournament listings will be displayed via the Register Play listings.
- A Coed page has been added under the Adult header that addresses rules & rule changes specific to the coed division.
- Reclassified Teams will have their own page under the Adult header which includes a sortable table.
- Suspensions & Probation also gets its own page under the Home header.
- A Register Play link has been added under the J.O. header so parents can register their children (in anticipation of the broader use of the registration system at a later date).

2025 USA Patriots Amputee Softball Team Kids Camp

Next summer, the USA Patriots will be hosting their annual Kids Camp in Bismarck immediately following McQuades. The organization relies heavily on donations as it costs approximately \$5000 each to send a player and his or her family to this event. WE encourage everyone not only to contribute in any way they can, but to visit the camp and watch this inspirational group of children (and their inspirational mentors on the Patriots).

RC Courtright
Director of Operations

USA Softball of North Dakota Executive Council Meeting

April 6, 2024 – Jamestown, ND

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Dick Gulmon **at** 1:00pm

Present at the meeting: Dick Gulmon, Jack Lukes, Nick Gulmon, Tommy Shaw, Darin Krueger, Mike Wolf, Roger Weigel, Chastity Schafer, Dalee Wilkinson, Chris Hutton, RC Courtright, Mike Peterson and Gary Schmidt

Charities HR/DHHR

Director of Operations presented a list of tournaments requesting approval to donate to various charities. A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Chastity, to approve all request, the motion passed.

WSP

No business was presented for discussion.

MSP

A motions was made by Mike, seconded by Nick to expand the current state tournament guidelines related to format; include the use of double elimination 3 game guarantee in Rec 2 – 4 for brackets of 24 teams or less. The motion passed.

A motion was made to use series seeding to seed top part of all tournaments made by Tommy, seconded by Nick. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Chris, seconded by RC for teams eligible for tournament series prize packages to be seeded for a state tournament in such a way that they are separated in the bracket as much as possible in order to minimize early round matchups amongst the group. All other teams shall be randomly drawn into the bracket. The motion passed.

Review 2023 Financial

Treasurer Gary provided an updated 2023 financial report. The organization ended 2023 with a net gain. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Chris and seconded by Tommy. The motion passed.

Green Book Changes

Director of Operations, RC let the committee know the Green Books have been completed.

Safesport/Background Checks

A reminder was given that all members (Executive Board, UIC, DUIC, JO, ACE Coaches, Adults in Dugouts, National Tournament Directors-Mandan&Fargo) must complete Safe Sport. Send your completion certificates to Dick Gulmon ASAP.