



# 2020 Minnesota Softball Adult Slow Pitch

Minnesota Softball State Office  
877 Meander Court  
Medina, MN 55340



Minnesota

# Introductions

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## Minnesota Softball

877 Meander Court  
Medina, MN 55340  
<https://www.mnsoftball.com>



# Agenda

- ▶ Ground Rules
- ▶ Join Minnesota Softball and USA Softball
- ▶ Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan
- ▶ Rules Changes
- ▶ Umpires
- ▶ Field Layout
- ▶ Rosters
- ▶ Golden Rule for Viruses
- ▶ State Tournaments
- ▶ National Tournaments
- ▶ COVID-19 Resources Page
- ▶ Other Resources
- ▶ Questions?



# Ground Rules

- ▶ I am going to put everyone on mute.
- ▶ If you have a question, please ask those in the chat room and I will take them as I get them.
- ▶ If you are a random person and only identified as a phone number, I might not answer your question. Please identify yourself.
- ▶ This shouldn't take more than 30 minutes. I will stay online if questions keep rolling in.
- ▶ And you'll see my eyes darting around between monitors. I am running the meeting on my own today.



# Join Minnesota Softball and USA Softball

- ▶ We are the best value in adult softball in state.
- ▶ We have the best technology available to league and tournament directors to use.
- ▶ Your teams get rule books and score books every year.
- ▶ Over 200 teams participated in our adult state tournaments last year.
- ▶ Over 1,300 teams participated in our youth state tournaments last year.
- ▶ We have around 100 adult tournaments for your teams to play in annually.



# Join Minnesota Softball and USA Softball

- ▶ We created our own online roster system. Coaches create rosters, we approve them. And you get a typed roster that you can read.
- ▶ Players are rated which means we have a handicapping system for a team sport.
- ▶ We rate the players and protect the truly recreational players in our sport.
- ▶ We have many four levels of play in men's slow pitch at state.
- ▶ We bundle in field owner's insurance policies into our fees.
- ▶ The fee per team is \$25.



# Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan

- ▶ <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp>
- ▶ Phase II which began on June 1 which allowed practices.
- ▶ On June 10 (today) we are in Phase III states - games are now allowed.
- ▶ Guidance for Social Distancing in Adult Sports document can be found at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/adultsports.pdf>



# Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STAY SAFE MN

## Guidance for Social Distancing in **Adult Sports**



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Minnesota



# Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan

## General Guidance

- Strongly encourage that games and practices occur outdoors as much as possible.
- Use face coverings; especially among program staff and coaches, and among participants when feasible.
- Within the program, create consistent pods of the same staff, volunteers, and participants with a maximum number of 10 people for indoor activities, and up to 25 people per pod for outdoor activities.



# Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan

## Risk Factors

Risk Level	Examples
<p><b>HIGH RISK:</b> sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants.</p>	<p>Rugby, boxing, judo, karate, taekwondo, wrestling, pair figure skating, ice dancing, football, lacrosse, hockey, group dance, group cheer.</p>
<p><b>MEDIUM RISK:</b> Sports that involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants OR intermittent close contact OR group sports OR sports that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants.</p>	<p>Bobsled, doubles luge, multi-person rowing, multi-person kayaking, multi-person canoeing, water polo, gymnastics, sport climbing, trampoline, table tennis, doubles tennis, swimming relays, synchronized diving, artistic swimming, fencing, cycling in a group, running in a close group, modern pentathlon, group sailing, volleyball, soccer, basketball, <b>baseball/softball</b>, short track, speed skating, speed skating in a group, bowling, curling.</p>



# Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan

- Focus on skill development.
- Keep any “play” or interaction between players contactless.
- Do not have intermixing between groups.
- Do not participate in games or tournaments, even if these events are out of state where sports games/tournaments are supported.
- Games and competitions are not recommended at this time for these sports.



# Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan

- ▶ How can we make the determination that games are allowed if they say not recommended?
- ▶ We are in Phase III as of June 10.
- ▶ In the Youth Sports Plan it clearly states:
- ▶ “Games and competitions are not allowed at this time for these sports under medium risk, where baseball/softball fall.”
- ▶ The differentiation is between the words “not recommended” and not allowed.”
- ▶ <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>



# Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan

- ▶ We highly recommend communicating with the owner of your park/complex/facility to determine if they are comfortable with opening it.
- ▶ We have made the determination that adult slow pitch sports may begin today, June 10, 2020.



# Rules Changes

- ▶ The rules must change to be able to allow for “social distancing”.
- ▶ The best resource for these rule changes are in our Softball Restart document on our COVID-19 Guidelines page.
- ▶ The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) would like players to avoid carpooling to games.
- ▶ Players and coaches should maintain six-foot distancing.
- ▶ Fans are allowed but in areas from first and third base extended and around the outfield fence.
- ▶ Fans are NOT allowed in areas around the backstop and dugouts. These spaces are reserved for players and administrators.

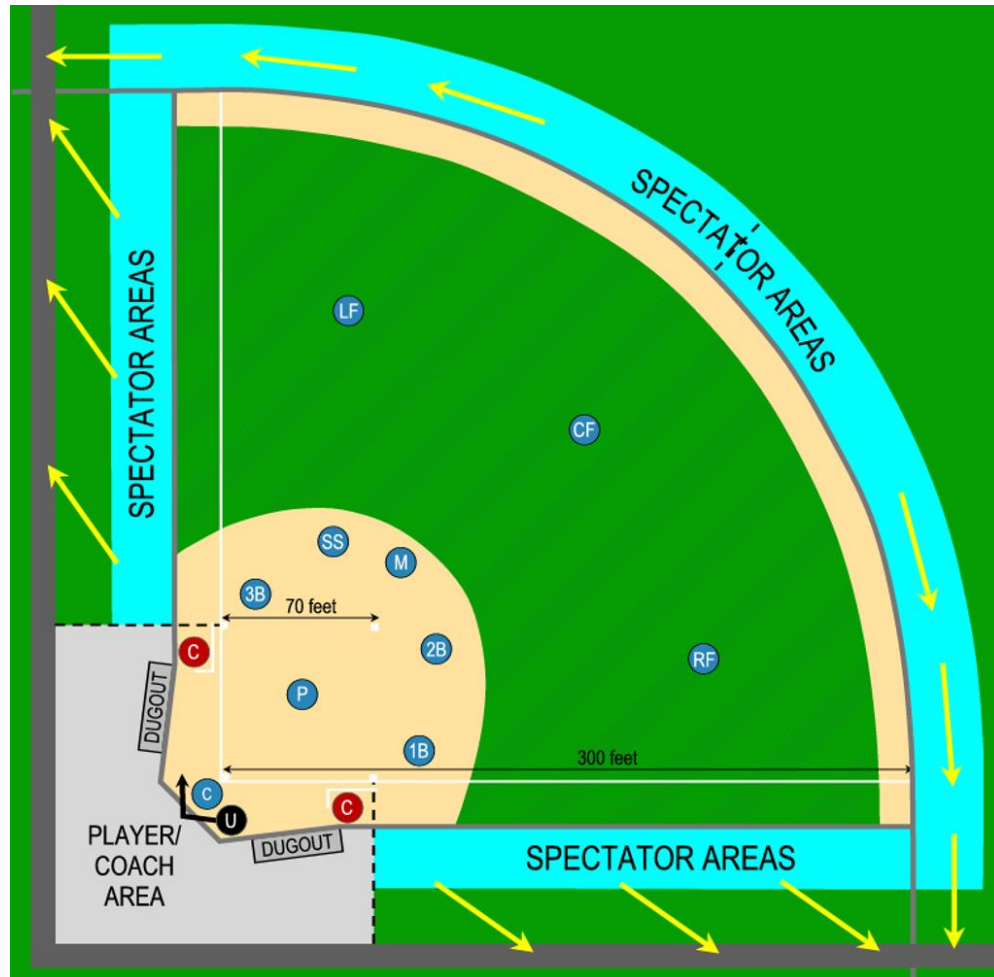


# Umpires

- ▶ A "strike zone mat" will be placed behind the plate.
- ▶ The strike zone mat will be 26 inches by 18 inches in size. The size of the strike zone mat is up to the digression of the league director.
- ▶ The umpire will take a position not any closer than six (6) feet to the catcher or batter in foul territory in a place to best determine the arc of the pitch and whether it hits the strike zone mat.
- ▶ The catcher will position him/herself no closer than six (6) feet of the batter.



# Field Layout





# Rules Changes (Rosters)

- ▶ Our roster has been edited to include the legal liability statement provided by USA Softball concerning COVID-19.
- ▶ There is a space for the team manager to put your league name in the liability statement.
- ▶ There is space for every player/guardian to sign on the roster.
- ▶ And they should NOT be playing until they all READ AND SIGN!



# Golden Rule for Viruses

- ▶ Wash your hands before you play to protect them.
- ▶ Wash your hands before you leave to protect you.
- ▶ Do not touch your face while you are at the park.
- ▶ And everyone will be just fine!



# 2020 Adult Slow Pitch State Schedule

(<https://www.gosoftball.com/tournaments>)

- ▶ Co-Ed Slow Pitch State - Brainerd - August 22
- ▶ Men's Open Slow Pitch State - Hanover - July 31-August 2
- ▶ Men's C Slow Pitch State - Prairie Island - August 8-9
- ▶ Men's D North Slow Pitch State - Bemidji - July 31-August 2
- ▶ Men's D South Slow Pitch State - Rochester - August 8-9
- ▶ Men's E North Slow Pitch State - Moorhead - August 15-16
- ▶ Men's E South Slow Pitch State - North Mankato - August 8-9
- ▶ Men's Over 35 Slow Pitch State - Brainerd - August 23
- ▶ Women's Slow Pitch State - Brainerd - August 23



# 2020 USA Softball Slow Pitch Nationals



- ▶ National tournaments are typically in late August through the weekend after Labor Day. Check out the links below for those event dates and sites.
- ▶ To play in USA Softball Nationals your team must participate in a Minnesota Softball State Tournament.
- ▶ <https://www.gosoftball.com/tournaments>
- ▶ <https://asp.tournamentusasoftball.com/>



# Minnesota Softball COVID-19

- ▶ Minnesota Softball COVID-19 Resource Page
  - ▶ We are adding more information as we get it.
  - ▶ <https://slowpitch.mnsoftball.com/covid19>
- ▶ The Adult Softball Restart Guidelines are posted there. That will go into great depth as to what is Mandatory and Recommended Best Practices.
  - ▶ <https://tinyurl.com/ya8nykke>
- ▶ If you need more information on what we are hearing or doing, get your updates from this page and our social media pages.
  - ▶ Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/usasoftballmn/>



# Other Resources

- ▶ Strike Zone Mats
- ▶ <https://www.adstarr.com/Strike-Zone-Mat/productinfo/HBEW/>
- ▶ \$18.99 from A.D. Starr.
- ▶ The dimensions are 18" x 26" if you want to have your own made. You can make them any size you want.
- ▶ Many league directors are experimenting with the size of the mat.
- ▶ And many league directors are buying better material at hardware stores and making their own.



# Questions

- ▶ Any questions?
- ▶ If you need rulebooks and scorebooks, email me at the email address below and I will do my best to ship them right away.
- ▶ I will be emailing out the Power Point and Adult Slow Pitch Guidelines after we are done here.

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