

# Northern NAFA Nationals 2023

## 18U Division Coaches Packet

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## Welcome

We are excited to be hosting your team for the 2023 Northern NAFA Nationals. The 18U Northern Nationals event has become one of, if not the largest 18U events in the country with 62 and 72 teams, respectively, participating in 2021 and 2022. The tournament regularly draws teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, North and South Dakota, as well as Missouri, Nebraska, Michigan, Kentucky, and Manitoba (Canada) in recent years.

With the tournament's growth came the expansion to Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and the Miller Park seven-field complex. The venue hosts some of Minnesota's top high school playoff games. Fields 5-6-7-8 are permanently fenced at 200 feet with timed scoreboards. In the wheel is a full-service concession stand.

Some 10 minutes west of Eden Prairie, conveniently connected by four-lane freeway Highway 212, is Chaska's Community Park complex. Chaska was the original home of the 18U Tournament with its four 220-foot permanently fenced fields. Ample mature trees allow a break from the sun on a warm day. We know you'll love your experience!

- *Eric Kraushar, NAFA Minnesota State Director*

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## Tournament Details

### Tournament Sites:

Miller Park, 8208 Eden Prairie Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 ([7 fields](#))

**Amenities:** Full concessions, covered dugouts and scoreboards, running water bathrooms, hitting cages. Large parking lots and trails between fields.

Community Park, 1151 Hundertmark Rd, Chaska, MN 55318 ([4 fields](#))

**Amenities:** Full concessions, running water bathrooms, covered dugouts, and scoreboards.

**Game Dates:** Thursday, July 27 – Sunday, July 30, 2023

**Tournament Format:** 5-game minimum guarantee: Three round robin pool games, followed by a two-game guarantee elimination bracket. Pool play will determine flights of play (Gold, Silver, Bronze). All teams must be available to play their first game at 8 a.m. on Thursday morning. All teams will play twice on Thursday with a third pool game on Friday morning. All teams will play at least into Saturday.



**Tournament Entry Fee:** \$700 (72-team max for 2022)

**Gate Fee:** \$200. Payable to Eden Prairie Fastpitch Association. This covers all members of your team, all relatives and guests – this is used by the host associations to pay for field maintenance and facilities rental. This payment is made before your first game on-site.

**Tournament Awards:** First, second, third, and fourth-place team and individual awards at all three bracket levels.

**Mandatory Coaches Meeting:** Wednesday, July 27. 8 p.m. Virtual. Tournament rules will be discussed. There will be a brief Q & A session.

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**Opening Ceremonies:** There will not be an official parade at the 18U level in 2022. Teams are encouraged to participate in the home run derby festivities from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 28 at Miller Park. There will be a DJ on site to play your favorite music, while there will be full concessions. Proceeds will be donated to the Mandy Matula Scholarship Fund. The home run derby will be run on four fields, including one dedicated for coaches.

**Gift Exchange:** Gift exchange happens on the field after your first pool play game. Gift bags for opponents shouldn't cost over \$10-15 and if possible, include a theme from your community. **NOTE:** this is optional. A list of head coach contacts will be distributed where coaches can connect to gauge interest.

**Skills Competition:** The home run derby returns in 2022 with Miller Park fields 4-7 the host site this year. Head to the park and test your skills! Sign-up one player or them all! ([LINK](#)) Prizes will be awarded to the top finishing hitters and coaches!

**Weather:**

All announcements will be posted on the NAFA Website for the 18u division (<https://www.nafasoftball.com/18unorthernnafa>) as well as on Facebook at NAFA Softball (<https://www.facebook.com/NAFASoftball>).

**Tournament Roster:** All rosters are accepted. Those needing a new one can download the Official NAFA Roster ([Printable PDF NAFA Roster](#)). All rosters are due at the coaches check-in – virtual in 2022 (18 player limit).

## Northern NAFA Nationals

### General Guidelines

- 1) The Northern NAFA Nationals is a girls fastpitch softball tournament. Anyone participating in the tournament, including but not limited to, coaches, managers, players, umpires, officials, and spectators, are responsible for their behavior. Any conduct deemed inappropriate could cause the offending individual to be required to leave the park for the remainder of the tournament.
- 2) Warm-ups should start no more than 60 minutes prior to your scheduled first

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game. No warm-ups on the infield. Space is provided behind the fences, or in the green space, for pre-game warmups. Please do not warm up on the walkways to the fields where harm may come to spectators.

- 3) Forfeit time is five minutes after game time unless the team is involved in another tournament game. Please have your team ready to hustle on and off the field as well as away from the field to allow the next teams to take the field in a timely manner.



- 4) No smoking inside the complexes. This should be limited to parking areas. Alcohol is also prohibited while spectating at the fields.
- 5) All pool play games are single umpire. We attempt to use a two-man crew for all bracket games depending on umpire availability.
- 6) The decisions of the tournament directors, umpires and/or their designated officials are final. No protests will be heard for judgment calls. The directors may modify rules, including tournament format including but not limited to weather.
- 7) Each player may only be listed on one team roster, and may only participate with one team in the tournament. Violations are subject to forfeiture of current and future games within the tournament.
- 8) We expect that each coach will maintain a proof of age for each player on their team roster. Should there be a question, the coach should be prepared to provide proof in the form of a birth certificate, drivers license, or passport (copies are acceptable).

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Teams do not need to turn in or show certificates at check-in. The use of an illegal player may be grounds for immediate forfeiture.



9) NAFA rules will be followed throughout the tournament. This tournament is a five-game guarantee. Game rules and exceptions are included in the next section.

10) All teams must leave the game play area within 10 minutes of the conclusion of your game. Your team's post game meeting should occur away from the field to allow

both the players and fans for the next game to continue on schedule.

11) Each team is responsible for picking up their own refuse from the player's respective seating area (dugout) prior to the next team taking the field.

## Tournament Rules

1. All games are 80 minutes or seven innings for pool and bracket play. No new inning can start after time has elapsed. The umpires and coach must designate an official start time. 43-foot pitching distance. Pitchers may start back or step back with their delivery. Umpires will continue to enforce leaping. Please see the **UMPIRE JUDGMENT CALLS** rule below.

2. **Line-up rules:** Teams may use book option (nine players with substitutes), DP/Flex, 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

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removed from the game, the player is ineligible to return in that game. Courtesy runners are allowed for the pitcher or catcher.

3. Home team is determined by a flip of the coin for all pool and bracket games.

4. **Run rules:** Games are called due to the run rule if a team leads by 10 runs after four innings and eight runs after five innings. All bracket games tied at the end of the time limit will go to international tie-breaker with the last batter from the previous inning being placed on second base with no outs. Pool games can end in a tie.

5. 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. Head coach is responsible for the conduct of players, other coaches and its spectators. Abuse of umpires will NOT be tolerated. An ejection for a coach, player or spectator is for the day, not just the game.

6. Tournaments are pool play into three double-elimination bracket tournaments (gold, silver, bronze). Brackets are determined by pool finish. First place to Gold, second and third places to Silver, and fourth place to Bronze.

6. On-deck batters will be placed to the back of the batter for safety purposes.

7. Coaches and parents who use profanity or other unwanted behavior will be directed by tournament directors or umpires to leave the park. Again, this will NOT be tolerated.

8. Approved Bat List: [current NCAA list](#)