

# Northern NAFA Nationals 2024

10u Division Coaches Packet

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## Welcome

We are excited to be hosting your team for the 2024 Northern NAFA Nationals. We are coming off one of the largest 10U tournaments in NAFA history with 84 teams representing Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa.



Cottage Grove will be celebrating its sixth year as 10U Northern Nationals host. Three field complexes, with a total of 12 fields, are all within one mile of each other. At each site, there is tremendous space for warm-ups and team camps. Make a plan to attend the parade and have your team compete in the skills competitions for prizes. Who will win the best dressed award in 2024?

We ask you, as the coach, to please familiarize yourself with the information that follows, share the necessary information with your families, and please do your best to ensure your players and families adhere to the guidelines outlined below.

We look forward to the 2024 season and the memories that are made each July at NAFA Northern Nationals!

- *Eric Kraushar, NAFA Minnesota State Director*

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## Tournament Details

### **Tournament Sites:**

Lamar Park, 7025 Lamar Ave S, Cottage Grove, MN 55016 ([4 fields](#))

**Amenities:** Playground, shelter, running water restrooms, full concessions

Grey Cloud Elementary, 9525 Indian Blvd S, Cottage Grove, MN 55016 ([5 fields](#))

**Amenities:** Playground, shelter, porta-potties, full concessions

Cottage Grove Middle School, 9775 Indian Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN 55016 ([2 fields](#))

**Amenities:** Light concessions (drinks & snacks), porta-potties

Collins Field, 7500 Langley Ave., Cottage Grove, MN 55016 ([1 field](#))

**Amenities:** Small playground, porta-potties – half of a mile south of Lamar Park

**Game Dates:** Thursday, July 18 – Sunday, July 21, 2024

**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 should be available to play their first game at 8 a.m. on Thursday morning. Those in the Twin Cities with longer drives will play at 9:30 a.m. or later. Most 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:** \$650 (88-team max for 2024)

**Gate Fee:** \$200. Payable to CGAA Softball. This covers admission for all members of your team, all relatives and guests – this is used by Cottage Grove to pay for field maintenance and facilities rental. This payment is turned at check-in before your first game.

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

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**Mandatory Coaches Meeting:** Wednesday, July 17. Virtual. Tournament rules will be discussed. There will be a brief Q & A session. All gate fees and rosters must be submitted to Cottage Grove Fastpitch Association by Thursday before your first game.

**Opening Ceremonies:** Thursday, July 18 at Park High School (6 p.m.). All teams are invited to participate in the parade of teams. There is a competition for the top costumes. Please line up by 5:45 p.m. Teams will be introduced from A to Z.



**Gift Exchange and Pin**

**Trading:** 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.

Pin trading happens throughout the tournament. Make sure to bring those pins on the first day!



**Skills Competition:** Furthest Hit Contest, Around the Horn and Fastest Player/Team Contest. They are open to all teams to participate from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, July 19, at Cottage Grove Middle School. The cost is \$1 per attempt, per event.

**Weather:**

All announcements will be posted on Tourney Machine in the 10U tournament page.

**Tournament Roster:** NAFA accepts all roster types. If needed, the Official NAFA Roster ([Printable PDF NAFA Roster](#)). All rosters are due at the coaches check-in (18 player limit).

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# 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 game.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) No smoking inside the complexes. This should be limited to parking areas. Alcohol is also prohibited while spectating at the fields.
- 6) All games are single umpire until the final rounds on Sunday. We use a two-man crew for all trophy games.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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). 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.
- 10) 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.

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- 11) 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.
  - 12) 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 70 minutes or six innings for pool play; 75 minutes or six innings for bracket play. No new inning can start after time has elapsed. 35-foot pitching distance.
2. Teams are allowed to score a maximum of five runs per inning.
3. Line-up rules: at 10U, NAFA requires all teams to bat the active roster the entire tournament. In the event of an injury during the game, a player can be removed from the line-up without penalty. Once the line-up shrinks, and the player is removed from the batting order, the player is ineligible to return in that game. Courtesy runners are allowed for the pitcher or catcher.
4. Home team is determined by a flip of the coin for all pool and bracket games.
5. Run rules: At 10U, games are called due to the run rule if a team leads by 15 runs after three innings, 10 runs after four innings, and six 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.
6. 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. Only the head coach may approach the plate umpire.
7. Tournaments are pool bracket 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.
8. On-deck batters will be placed to the back of the batter for safety purposes

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# Coach's Checklist

## Pre-Tournament

- Did your team submit the \$650 tournament entry fee? All paid teams have a checkmark next to their team name on the [NAFA 10s website](#).
- Did your team register with NAFA and complete the \$30 sanctioning fee? All registered and paid teams are listed by age group on the [NAFA Teams Page](#). For ease, the \$30 team registration fee can be sent electronically through Paypal to @NafaSoftball (owner: Victoria Parker).
- Did you coordinate with your first-game opponent to plan for the gift bag exchange? Always ask how many players your team has so there are bags for each player. Coaches will receive a document with team name, coach name and contact information with the opening email on or around July 8. The gift bag exchange happens just once for each team, after the conclusion of your first game. It is a fun opportunity to make a memory between two teams with simple gift bags for all players.

## Tournament Check-In

There will be a check-in table at the Lamar Park and Grey Cloud sites where coaches must turn in a printed roster, show their team insurance certificate, and handle any missing gate or entry fee balance. The check-in process must occur before your first game.

- Printed team roster with current athletes (parent signatures not required)
- Proof of team Certificate of Insurance (Unsure? Ask your organization)
- Birth Certificates do not need to be shown, but should remain with the team throughout the tournament in case of a challenge
- Did you turn in your \$200 gate fee?

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## Tournament Central

- How do I report scores? Teams should text our tournament director team (Riley Krenz/952-220-7706, Paige Webster/815-520-9406 or Stephanie Anderson/815-978-3838) with the final score for both teams.
- All weather-related announcements will be posted on the NAFA 10s Northern National Tourney Machine front page. This app is available to download on your mobile device. It is also where all tournament schedules and results will be posted.
- Is your team participating in the [team parade](#) at 6 p.m. on Thursday? If so, please follow these instructions.

### **PARADE RULES:**

\* No silly string

\* No candy

\* No feather boas

Nothing that leaves a mess, please. This is a rented facility with track and turf surfaces. Please be kind to our host facilities!

- Is your team participating in [individual and team skills competitions](#)? These games -- home run derby, fastest around the horn (four players) and fastest around the bases (four players) -- happen between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Cottage Grove Middle School.