

**ALL USA RULES SHALL APPLY
EXCEPT AS MODIFIED HEREIN**

**Player Registration:** All players must register with a Government ID with photo before taking the field. Players must register before the start of their division’s first elimination game to be eligible for the remainder of the tournament. A team manager/designated representative may request for a late player registration only to the Tournament Director before the start of games Saturday morning.

**Game Time:** Game Time will be considered as Forfeit Time. Both managers must be ready with a completed line-up sheet **ten (10) minutes** prior to game time for a coin toss when called by the umpire. Teams must have a minimum of nine (9) players at game start time.

**Home Team:** The home team will be determined by a coin toss during pool play games. The higher-seeded team will be the home team in bracket play games. The home team for the championship and IF games will be the team emerging from the winner's bracket. Managers must keep track of their seeding as once the game has started, errors will not be reversed.

**Scorekeeper:** The home team is the official scorekeeper. Scores should be confirmed at each half inning with the plate umpire. It is each manager’s responsibility to initial and confirm the umpire’s scorecard and that the correct winning team is indicated at the conclusion of every game. Upon leaving the field, the Umpire's scorecard becomes official.

**All Pool** **Play, Double Elimination, and Semi-Final Games:** Start with 1-1 count. No new inning after 50 minutes. No courtesy foul. USA run rule is in effect.

**All Championship and IF Games:** Start with 1-1 count. No new inning will start after 55 minutes. No courtesy foul. USA run rule will still apply.

**Double Elimination Bracket Play:** A random draw of teams with the same record will determine each team’s seeding based on the following priority: 2-0-0, 1-0-1, 1-1-0, 0-1-1, 0-0-2 and 0-2-0. (Wins-Losses-Ties).

**Single Elimination Bracket Play:** A random draw of teams with the same record will determine each team’s seeding based on the following priority: 3-0-0, 2-0-1, 2-1-0, 1-0-2, 1-1-1, 1-2-0, 0-0-3, 0-1-2 and 0-2-1, 0-3-0. (Wins-Losses-Ties)

**Tie Games:** Pool play games may end in a tie after time expires or the completion of seven (7) innings. For bracket play the international tie-breaker rule shall be applied.

**Player Line-ups:** Teams must begin and finish with nine (9) players to avoid a forfeit. An out will be recorded every time the vacant tenth (10th) batting position has a turn to bat. If a tenth (10th) player arrives, the player must be immediately entered into the game. Any other player arriving after this shall be entered as substitute. Teams may bat up to twelve (12) using two (2) extra hitters (EH).

**Bases:** If there are two (2) bags at first base, the USA double bag rule is in effect.

**USA Run Rule:**

* 20 runs ahead after 3 innings or 2 ½ if the home team is ahead.
* 15 runs ahead after 4 innings or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead.
* 10 runs ahead after 5 innings or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead.

**Home Runs:** Over the fence per game:

* Open Division “B” Two (2) over the fence home runs; HR above two (2) will be an out.
* Open Division “C” One (1) over the fence home per game; HR above one (1) will be an out.
* Open Division “D” No over the fence home runs; any HR is an inning-ending out.
* Open Division “E” No over the fence home runs; any HR is an inning-ending out.
* Master’s “D” Division No over the fence home runs; any HR is an inning-ending out.

***NOTE: When a home run is hit, the batter and all runners must touch at least one base and immediately return to the dugout to speed up play.***

**Courtesy Runners: Limited to 1 per inning, and may be any player listed on the roster. For Master’s D Division, two courtesy runners will be allowed per inning.**

**Illegal bats:** Only USA-approved bats will be allowed for use. Umpires will be using the current USA non-approved bat list for bat review. Any illegal bat discovered during game will be confiscated and returned at the end of the game and recorded on the line-up sheet. If the same team is found to be using the bat in subsequent games, the team shall forfeit that game. All play occurred while in use of illegal bat will follow USA Rules. Any bat accused of being altered shall immediately be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director who shall confer with the UIC for further action if any is to be taken.

**Uniforms:** Each player must wear a team jersey which must be similar in color, style, and must have a player/roster number as described by USA rules. Each team may have one player out of uniform but still with a unique number. No bandanas, non-uniform decorations, or tied cloth is allowed on a player's head, neck, or body.

**All Exposed Jewelry and Loose Accessories Must Be Removed:** This includes, but is not limited to, all exposed body and facial piercing, rings, necklaces (of any kind / style), bracelets, wrist watches, earrings, pagers, cell phones, tobacco tins, unsecured sunglasses atop of ball caps. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to body. Non-removable jewelry must be concealed with athletic tape or Band-Aid type of material. This is for player safety reasons in order to avoid being snagged, ripped out and other safety related reasons.

**Open Team Eligibility:**

**B Division Teams** will not have a team cap, but will be limited to 2 A-rated players per roster.

**C Division Teams** will be capped at 140 Max of their top-ten rated players with no player rated above a 15.

**D Division Teams** will be capped at 110 Max of their top-ten rated players with no player rated above a 12.

**E Division Teams** will be capped at 75 Max of their top-ten rated players with no player rated above an 8.

**Master D Teams** will be capped at 112 Max of their top-ten rated players and are allowed up to two (2) players rated 13 on their roster.

All player ratings will be based on the 2021 NAGAAA ratings database.

Only two (2) players per team are allowed to not have existing NAGAAA ratings and they must be approved by the Tournament Director. Such players must have a preliminary rating assigned to them that aligns with the full 28-question NAGAAA ratings guidelines. These preliminary ratings must be validated and approved by the commissioners of the team’s respective association prior to review by the Tournament Director for approval. **There will be no exceptions**.

All players must be over 18 years of age, and not currently on suspension by NAGAAA or by AFCSL, GLASA, PSGSL, or Surf and Sun Softball.

**Protests – Ratings/Eligibility:** Any rating or eligibility protests must be brought to the attention of the umpire prior to the last out of the game. Only opposing teams may file a protest, and they must specify the player(s) and question(s) being protested. A $100 protest fee shall be presented along with a protest form available from the field reps prior to the last out. The $100 base fee covers up to 3 questions/team protested. Additional questions may be protested for $25 each. Protest fees may be made in cash, or by PayPal or Venmo, and protest fees will be refunded if any question is upheld. Protests are allowed in pool play, winner’s AND loser’s bracket games until the game in each bracket before the Championship. The Tournament Director, field representative, and site UIC will make up the protest committee. If one of these members is not immediately available, another member may be appointed by the Tournament Director. All protest decisions will be final.

If a player’s rating after a protest is higher than the limit for the tournament’s divisional guidelines, the player is considered ineligible, and the game is forfeited. If this occurs in pool play, the team will be seeded with a record based on this decision. If the forfeit occurs in the tournament, and is the team’s first loss, they may continue in the Loser’s Bracket. If it is the team’s second loss, they are out of the Tournament.

If the protest(s) results in the team going over the Division Team Cap in pool play, they may continue play if they can drop (1) player and be within the team cap. If a protest in tournament play results in a team being over the team cap, they are eliminated from the tournament, regardless of the number of prior losses. Team scorebooks and notes are helpful in the decision, and the Committee may seek additional information from others as they see fit, including the NAGAAA competition director. In addition, the Tournament Director and designated representatives may observe players during any pool or bracket game to gather information, including on players who did not have an existing NAGAAA rating. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

**Ejections – USA accordance:** A player or coach may be ejected from the game by the umpire, usually for an unsportsmanlike act or conduct, or for a violation of any COVID-related health rules. A flagrant act will require the player or coach to leave the grounds for the remainder of the game. A team may NOT continue to play shorthanded. If no substitutes are available, the game is a forfeit. If the umpire and/or designated tournament official(s) deems the unsportsmanlike act or conduct as malicious, the ENTIRE team will not be allowed to participate in the remainder of the tournament. All previous games played shall be legal; all games afterwards shall be forfeits. Let's have fun and be good sports!

**Player Ejection Penalty:** The player shall be removed from the current game only. Tournament officials reserve the right to suspend and/or disqualify any ejected player for futures games of the tournament if the action is deemed to be threatening in nature to another player, umpire, spectator, tournament or park staff, park patron, animals, or morally offensive.

**Special Situations:** The Tournament Directors and/or UIC will resolve and have the final say on any situation that may emerge during the tournament that is not covered by these or USA rules.

**Tournament Integrity:** The competitive integrity of all tournament play is paramount. All participants must adhere to the spirit and letter of the rules. The Autumn Classic reserves the right to remove participants for any action that is deemed illegal, harassment, threatening, unethical, and/or detrimental to the success of the event, or constitutes cheating at the discretion of Tournament Officials. Participants are reminded we are here for friends, fun, and softball. The Tournament Director shall have the final say on all eligibility issues regardless of a protest being filed or not, and may take rating action without a team initiating a protest.

USA Rule 4 Section 2 Americans with Disability Act rule applies (explained as needed by the UIC) and must be identified on a team’s final roster submission. A medical provider’s note may be requested by Tournament Director.