

Minnesota USSSA State Softball Tournament Rules and Regulations

1. Eligibility

All teams and players must comply with the eligibility rules as listed in the current USSSA Rule Book and our State Office. Teams Found in noncompliance with these rules will be immediately disqualified from the tournament competition.

USSSA Post Season Random Team/Player Eligibility Check

During the course of all USSSA post-season tournaments, there will be at least three games (involving six teams) where the team's eligibility will be checked.

- All players must have proper identification
- Teams found with roster violations will immediately be disqualified from the remainder of the tournament.
- Any player(s) and the team manager along with the entire team may be suspended up to a year for roster violations.

2. Rosters

- A.) The tournament roster limit is 20, which includes any player-managers. No "pickup" players allowed.
- B.) Rosters must be completed in the manner described in the tournament roster instructions. Teams with improperly completed rosters will not be allowed to participate.
- C.) Teams are also required to bring a copy of their regular-season roster or their qualifying tournament roster to the tournament check-in. Teams that do not have their appropriate registration materials in order will have to post a \$250 deposit check until their credentials can be checked out.
- D.) A player may not play on more than one team in the same division. However, he/she may play in a tournament in each of the following divisions:
 - 1.) Open
 - 2.) Corporate
 - 3.) Church
 - 4.) Mixed
 - 5.) 35 and Over
 - 6.) 40 and Over
 - 7.) 45 and Over

3. Tournament Structure

All tournaments will be double elimination

4. Tournament Rules

- A.) Rule protests will be decided on the field. Decisions of the tournament's Rules Interpreter are final.
- B.) Eligibility protest may be made before or during but not after a game has been officially completed. The MRPA, however, may investigate eligibility matters at any time.
- C.) If a Minnesota USSSA director, tournament director, tournament umpire-in chief, or tournament umpire notices a player(s) or team that, in their estimation, might have an eligibility problem they will notify the tournament director, and at that time the tournament director will check the credentials of the player(s) or team in question and a decision will be made as soon as possible. In a case where eligibility cannot be resolved at the tournament site, the protested team will be given the opportunity to either:
 - 1.) Voluntarily withdraw from the tournament with no further sanction being considered, or
 - 2.) They may post a \$250 deposit and continue to play with the understanding that they will be checked and if found in violation, will lose the \$250 deposit and their team will be suspended for one year.

D.) A game suspended by tournament officials for any reason will be resumed from the exact point of suspension.

E.) State Tournament Rain Guidelines (also suggested for use in weekend invitational tournaments):

1.) Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until noon:

- a. Teams will be told to come back in 2 hours at which time the weather and field conditions will be reassessed. If the conditions are still unplayable, this procedure will continue until play can resume or it becomes 4p.m. (6p.m. for lit fields).
- b. Anytime a 2-hour delay(s) occurs, games will utilize any or all of the following depending on the length of the delay: A 3-ball, 2-strike, no courtesy foul rule; 5 inning games; 45 minute time-limit; and the 10-run rule after 4 innings. These rules will stay in effect until the tournament is back on schedule.

2.) Sunday after 12 noon:

- a. The losers bracket will be eliminated
- b. The following procedures will be taken for undefeated teams:
 - i. If there are 8 or more state tournament teams, they will play single elimination the following Saturday.
 - ii. If there are 8 or more regional teams, they will play the next day (Monday) only as far as needed to fill the qualifying berths for the following weekend's state tournament. Seeding for state will be by lottery.
 - iii. If there are 4 teams, they will play single elimination the next day (Monday)
 - iv. If there are 2 teams, they will be given 2 days to agree upon a suitable day to play. If they cannot agree upon a date the game will be played the following Saturday at 1p.m. at a location selected by the state director.
 - v. In all cases, teams who cannot play at these assigned times/dates will forfeit out of the tournament.
 - vi. A coin toss will determine the home team.

F.) The run rule will be as follows: Women's and youth programs – 15 after four innings and 10 after five innings; ALL OTHER PROGRAMS: 25 after three innings, 20 after four and 15 after five innings.

G.) **Substitution rules:**

- 1.) In adult tournaments that advance teams to national competition, a minimum of nine (9) players can start and finish a game. However, an out shall be declared when the 10th position in the lineup is scheduled to bat. A tenth player may be added in the tenth position any time before the end of the game. Any team that starts with 10, 11 or 12 players may drop to the minimum of nine (9) ten (10) or eleven (11) players to finish the game. All vacant spot(s) in the lineup will be declared an out every time that lineup position is due to bat. If a player is ejected from the game for any reason, the ejected player's team must have a substitute available to replace the ejected player or that team will forfeit the game. If the team starts with nine (9) or ten (10) players, they are not allowed to add the eleventh or twelfth at a later time.

Note: it is the responsibility of the team manager to notify the umpire each time an out must be recorded against his/her team. This must be done before a pitch is made to the next official batter. Effect: Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the game.

- 2.) In tournaments that do not advance teams to national competition: Teams will be allowed to start a batting lineup of 9,10, 11, or all (round robin). Teams may start and finish with nine (9) players. If a player is unable to take his/her turn at bat, the teams can just skip over that player in the order with no penalties. In mixed play, you may have more female participants than male playing at the same time.
 - a. Tournaments that offer no advance to national competition include:
 - i. All Recreational Tournaments

- H.) Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended (prohibited) from participating in the remainder of the game and a minimum of one (the following) game. An individual's second ejection will eliminate the individual from any further contests in the tournament. After the first ejection, the tournament director will determine whether the penalty should be greater than the one or two game suspension.
- I.) There shall be no smoking or consumption of alcoholic beverages in, near, or adjacent to the designated teams areas.
- J.) Only players who are listed on the official tournament roster and their coach (es) may occupy a position on the team bench.
- K.) A ten-minute grace period will be allowed at the time of a team's first scheduled game before a forfeit is declared. Game time is forfeit time for succeeding games.
- L.) HIV Statement: Aggressive treatment of open wounds or skin lesions should be followed. In particular, whenever an athletics participant suffers a laceration or wound where oozing or bleeding occurs, the contest must be stopped at the earliest possible time, and the athlete must leave the field of play and may not re-enter until:**
- The bleeding has stopped and;
 - The injury is covered. It is highly recommended that all teams have a first aid kit at their disposal.
- M.) If a team is a no-show for their first scheduled game of the tournament and they have not given the tournament director any prior notification that they will be there for their second game, the team will be disqualified from the tournament.
- N.) Following the completion for the first round of tournament play, the bracket board posted at the tournament headquarters becomes the official tournament schedule. All other rules are the same as those listed in *The Official USSSA Rule Book*.
- O.) All scores are official before each ½ inning begins.

5. Game Equipment

- A.) All game equipment must be approved for use, by the game officials as per USSSA rules.
- B.) All game balls will be supplied by the USSSA/MRPA. All games will utilize one new and one used ball. The Dudley Classic M and Classic W are the official USSSA/MRPA tournament ball.
- C.) All teams must wear jerseys which are similar in color. They do not need to be numbered.
- Penalty: Players in violation of this rule will not be allowed to participate until the problem is rectified.**
- D.) The use of metal spikes is prohibited. Players in violation of this rule will be removed from the game.
- E.) The use of a weighted bat ring for warm up purposes is prohibited.

Penalty: Tournament disqualification of violating player.

Bat Standards: The performance standard for all bats will be a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.20 or less. The American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) Softball Bat Performance Study developed the BPF. When a bat does not meet the specifications as defined, has flat spots, or pronounced dents, or if in the Umpire's judgment, the bat has been altered, the Umpire shall prohibit the use of the doubtful bat. The penalty for using an altered or non-approved bat will result in the batter being called out, ejected from the game/ tournament, and immediately reported to the State Director for consideration of disbarment proceeding.

Note: For an updated list of approved bats go to www.ussa.com and scroll down to legal bats and click on the previously mentioned tab.

6. Reclassifications

In addition to the teams reclassified by the USSSA National Constitution:

- 1.) In the Men's Class "C", "D", and "E" programs:
Approximately six – ten teams will be reclassified up one class based on the following criteria:
 - A.) USSSA point system
 - B.) Average points per tournament played
 - C.) Weekend tournament results
 - D.) Post season tournament results (State, National, and World)
- 2.) In the Men's, Women's, Mixed and all specialty programs: The state reclassification committee has the authority to adjust the total number of reclassified teams.

7. Officials

All umpires will be assigned by the MRPA. All tournaments will utilize one umpire until there are six teams left, at which time two umpires will be used.

8. Awards:

- A.) Regional and State: Team trophies and individual plaques will be awarded to the champion and runner-up. A team trophy will be awarded to the third and fourth-place teams.
- B.) A Most Valuable Player trophy will be awarded in all tournaments.
- C.) 15 All – Tournament plaques will be awarded at each tournament.

9. Men's Home Runs Permitted Rule

A.) Men's Classifications

- 1.) Men's teams are classified by the league director according to the home run limitations per team, per game by program.

Divisions	Home Runs Hit Per Team, Per Game
Major	16 home runs per team
Open A	8 home runs per team
Open B	4 home runs per team
Open C	2 home runs per team
Open D	0
Open E	0 (any home runs results in offensive ejection and inning ending out.)
Corporate	1 home runs per team
Church Competitive	3 home runs per team
Church Recreational	1 home runs per team
35 & Over	3 home runs per team
40 & Over	3 home runs per team
45 & Over	3 home runs per team
Mixed 11/12" A/B (Male/Female)	4/4
Mixed 11/12' C (Male/Female)	2/2
Mixed 11/12' D & E	0

- 2. In the Men's "E" program, any home runs, result in that position in the batting order, being an out each time that position comes to bat and the inning is over. He may play in the field, but an out will be recorded each time that position comes to bat.
- 3. Under no circumstances will we deviate from the home run limitations listed above no matter what the fence distance is. After a team reaches its allotment of home runs, all other home runs hit over the fence shall be outs. (Except where noted)

Mixed 11/12" Classifications:

Mixed "C" – for teams made up of male players that play no higher than Men's "C" and female players that play no higher than Women's "B".
Mixed "D" – For teams made up of male players that play no higher than Men's "D" and female players that play no higher than Women's "C"
Mixed "E" – For teams made up of male players that play no higher than Men's "E" and female players that play no higher than Women's "D"
Mixed World Tournaments – Teams will be allowed to add up to three players of higher classification. The State Director must approve all additions for World Tournaments.



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