

TOURNAMENT RULES

There will be no managers meeting prior to the tournament. All teams are expected to have knowledge of and comply with all USA Softball rules and modifications outlined in the tournament rules; by completing registration, all registered players and non-players are in agreement. Questions regarding the contents on this page can be directed towards the Tournament Committee. Questions regarding any rules during the tournament will be handled by the umpire officiating the game.

RULES

Sioux Empire Classic will follow USA Softball rules, except as modified below. All rules are subject to change or to be clarified by the Sioux Empire Classic Tournament Committee in partnership with the Tournament UIC.

1. **AGE:** Players must be at a minimum of 18 years of age by the first date of tournament play to register and play. Different age requirements may be enforced at sponsor and or partner establishments per their respective policy and or by law.
2. **RATINGS:** We will follow the 2023 iPride (formerly NAGAAA) player rating guidelines. Submit 2023 player ratings when completing the official team roster. Player ratings must be submitted on the official SEC roster form at a minimum of 2 weeks before the tournament for validation by the Tournament Committee.

iPride Softball

- **Open D Division:** All teams rated 110 or lower; no players rated above a 12.
- **Open E Division:** All teams rated 75 or lower; no players rated above an 8.

3. **ROSTER:** Teams may have up to 20 players on the roster and bat no more than 12 players. USA Softball substitution rules still apply.
4. **REGISTRATION:** All players, coaches, and managers must register by checking in with a valid form of identification and signing the tournament release form (i.e. registration book) prior to stepping on the field. No one is allowed on the field or in the dugouts (including scorekeepers, fans, etc.) without first signing the tournament release form.
 1. Playing an unregistered player in any game will result in forfeit of the game and the unregistered player will be disqualified from continuing to play in the remainder of the tournament.
 2. The registration book with the official team roster will be available at the Registration Party on Friday and at the fields on Saturday and Sunday approximately 1 hour prior to the first scheduled game.
5. **UNIFORMS:** All players should wear a jersey with a unique number. Temporary numbers and marked jerseys of a different color are discouraged but permitted. Jewelry must be removed or securely taped prior to playing. Tournament wristbands may be worn during play.
6. **PRACTICE:** No practice is permitted on the tournament fields.
7. **SUBSTANCES:** The use of alcohol or smoking is not permitted within a dugout or on a field of play.
 1. Must be 21 years of age to purchase or consume alcohol.
 2. In all other City parks, no person shall consume any alcoholic beverages, except that the restriction shall not apply to malt beverages or wine as defined by SDCL 35-1-1, or where alcoholic beverages are licensed to be sold.
 3. Outside alcoholic beverages cannot be brought into the complex.
8. **MINIMUM PLAYERS:** Teams must start the game with a minimum of 9 players.
 1. If a team plays with 9 players, the number 10 spot in the batting lineup is taken as an out.
 2. Once a game starts, if an additional registered team player arrives, they can be added to the number 10 spot at the bottom of the batting lineup.

3. Any additional late players can be added as a substitute player, but cannot be added to the batting lineup without substitution. The scheduled game start time is forfeit time.
 4. Teams playing back-to-back games will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to move fields for consecutive games.
 5. It is encouraged that teams are aware of potential game times before leaving the complex between pool play and tournament play, or other breaks between games.
9. **LINEUP CARDS:** The starting lineup and available substitutes must be filled out on lineup cards (provided) prior to the start of the game. A copy must be given to the umpire and opposing team manager during the pregame conference. Additional cards will be available at the fields at designated locations.
10. **HOME TEAM:** Home team will be determined by the following:
1. Coin toss for pool play games; the officiating umpire will determine who will call the coin toss.
 2. Higher seed for all winners' bracket games.
 3. Coin toss for all loser bracket games; the officiating umpire will determine who will call the coin toss.
 4. Undefeated team for the championship game, and by coin toss if an "if game" is required.
11. **PITCHING:** Pitch arc is 6-12 feet per iPride Softball rules.
12. **BATS:** USA Softball banned bats will not be permitted within a dugout or on a field of play. Permitted bats must be in "good" playing condition and will be evaluated at the discretion of the officiating umpire.
13. **BATTING:** Each batter will start with a 1-1 count.
14. **COURTESY FOUL:** No courtesy foul will be provided. A foul hit with a 2-strike count will be counted as the third strike and the batter will be called out.
15. **SAFETY BASE:** The double base shall be used at first base as outlined by USA Softball rules. Noting, when a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the contrasting color portion of the base.
16. **BASE RUNNING:** Base stealing and leading off is not allowed.

17. **HOMERUN:** iPride Softball homerun limit rules are in effect:
Open D: 0 home runs per game allowed
Open E: 0 home runs per game allowed
1. Any home run over the limit ends the half-inning for the batting team.
 2. *For any field, with less than a 300' fence line, any ball hit over the fence is a ground rule double regardless of the division.*
18. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** USA Softball substitution rules apply. This means that to replace a player on the lineup, you must enter a legal substitute. If the original player re-enters the game, they must do so in their original lineup position. Once a player has exited the game a second time, he/she cannot re-enter the game. This only applies to substitutions which change the batting order. Players in the batting order changing fielding positions or going between extra hitter and fielding positions are not considered substitutions.
19. **COURTESY RUNNER:** The USA Softball rule for courtesy runners will be used. Any eligible player on the official lineup including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A single courtesy runner may be used once per inning. If a player is a courtesy runner and remains on base when required to bat, the player is called out.
20. **GAME TIME:** The official game start is when the officiating umpire calls the start of the game. The official game ends after the final pitch within the limits defined herein or at the time of expiration.
1. No new inning shall start after 50 minutes in pool play, 55 minutes in tournament play, or 60 minutes in championship games and "if" games.
 2. Pool play games may end in a tie at the end of inning 7 or at the end of the current inning once time has expired.
 3. The international tie-breaker will be used in the event that tournament play games end in a tie.
21. **OFFICIAL SCORECARD:** The coach or manager from each team must sign or initial the official umpire's game scorecard at the end of each game to confirm the correct score and winner is marked. Signed official scorecards are final and cannot be later disputed. The official scorecard is used to determine seeding and brackets for tournament play.

22. **PROTESTS:** Protesting will not permitted. If there is an issue with the game during regulation or overtime play, the manager of each team and the umpire(s) officiating that game will meet to discuss any disputed play or ruling on the field. The umpire(s) will have the final decision on any disputed ruling or play call. Managers are required to fairly and accurately rate all of their players per the International Pride Softball governing manual. We respect that they have followed and adhered to that standard.