



There will be no meeting before 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 of these rules can be directed towards the Tournament Committee. Questions regarding any rules during the tournament will be handled by the umpire officiating the game.

## Tournament Rules

Sioux Empire Classic will abide by 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.

### PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

**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 2024 iPride player rating guidelines. Submit 2024 player ratings when completing the official team roster. Player ratings must be submitted on the official SEC roster form a minimum of 2 weeks before the tournament for validation by the Tournament Committee.

**3. ADA GUIDELINES:** Any players requesting an ADA accommodation must submit their request using the provided ASA Request link on the SEC page on the Sioux Empire Pride Sports Association website. All requests must have supporting documentation that demonstrates the

need for accommodation by a player. This tournament cannot support the request for a runner from home plate. All requests will be reviewed by the Sioux Empire Classic Leadership Team as well as the UIC for validation and approval. Approvals will be sent the week prior to the tournament.

## TEAM ELIGIBILITY

**1. TEAM AND PLAYER RATING CAPS BY DIVISION:** Team ratings will be calculated by adding the top 10 rated players. Anyone 50 or older, or who turns 50 in the 2025 calendar year is eligible to play on a Legends team.

### A. Open Division Structure

Division	Player Rating Max	Team Rating Max
Open C	15	140
Open D	12	110
Open E	8	75

**2. ROSTER:** Teams may have up to 20 players on the roster and a maximum of two (2) non-playing members. Teams may bat no more than 12 players. USA Softball substitution rules still apply.

A. Rosters may include a maximum of three (3) players that do not have a rating in the iPride database. Teams must provide the Yes/No ratings questions answers for players NOT in the iPride database. Exceptions can be granted at the discretion of the Tournament Director(s). Send an e-mail to [setournament@siouxempirepsa.org](mailto:setournament@siouxempirepsa.org) to explain the situation and we will review your request.

B. Player ratings must be submitted on the official SEC roster form at a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the tournament for validation by the Tournament Committee.

**3. 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 score keepers, fans, etc.) without first signing the tournament release form.

A. 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.

B. The registration book with the official team roster will be available at the Registration Party on Friday, and at fields located near the concession stand on Saturday and Sunday approximately 1 hour prior to the first scheduled game.

**4. 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.

**5. PRACTICE:** No practice is permitted on the tournament fields

**6. SUBSTANCES:** The use of alcohol or smoking is not permitted within a dugout or on a field of play.

A. Must be 21 years of age to purchase or consume alcohol.

B. 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.

C. Outside malt beverages may be brought into the complex. NO GLASS.

D. For safety reasons, players who are or appear to be impaired due to the overuse of alcohol or drugs will be removed from the tournament at the discretion of the Umpire, Tournament Director, and/or Public Safety Officer if called upon to do so.

**7. MINIMUM PLAYERS:** Teams must start the game with a minimum of 9 players.

A. If a team plays with 9 players, the number 10 spot in the batting lineup is taken as an out.

B. 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.

C. Any additional late player 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.

D. Teams playing back-to-back games will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to move fields for consecutive games.

E. 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.

**8. LINEUP CARDS:** 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 concession stands and designated locations.

**9. HOME TEAM:** The home team will be determined by the following:

A. Coin toss for pool play games; the officiating umpire will determine who will call the coin toss.

B. Higher seed for all winners' bracket games.

C. Coin toss for all loser bracket games; the officiating umpire will determine who will call the coin toss.

D. Undefeated team for the championship game, and by coin toss if an "if game" is required.

**10. PITCHING:** The pitch arc is 6-12 feet per iPride Softball rules.

**11. 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.

**12. BATTING:** Each batter will start with a 1-1 count.

**13. 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.

**14. 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.

**15. BASE RUNNING:** Base stealing and leading off is not allowed.

**16. HOMERUN:** iPride Softball homerun limit rules are in effect:

Open C / Legends C: 1 home per run per game allowed

Open D / Legends D: 0 home runs per game allowed

Open E: 0 home runs per game allowed

A. Any homerun over the limit ends the half-inning for the batting team.

**17. 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, they cannot re-enter the game. This only applies to substitutions that change the batting order. Players in the batting order changing fielding positions or going between extra hitter and fielding positions are not considered substitutions.

**18. ADA GUIDELINES:** Approved ADA players must have an asterisk next to their name on the lineup. The manager must also verbally confirm the ADA player with the umpire at home plate prior to the start of each game.

A. When a player has an ADA accommodation at the beginning of a game, they have the option of utilizing the designated runner for each at bat.

B. The player with an ADA accommodation must identify the use of the designated runner at the end of that at-bat.

C. The designated runner must be the last recorded out.

D. If it is the first inning, and no outs have been recorded, the designated runner will be the last batter in the submitted lineup.

**19. COURTESY RUNNER:** Teams are allowed one courtesy runner per inning. Any eligible player on the official lineup including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner.

A. For eligible players under ADA, the designated runner must be the LAST out and will not count as the courtesy runner for the inning. If the last out is on base or coming to bat, the previous out can be used without penalty.

**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 time expiration.

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. The international tie-breaker will be used if 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 the 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. PLAYER REMOVAL:** If it is determined that a player should clearly be rated for play in a division higher than the one in which they are registered, the player may be removed from the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any decision will be based on first-hand views, Field Director input, and information provided by umpires and other divisional representatives.

A. Any player removed for alcohol or drug-related reasons may have additional consequences in their home league and/or within IPS membership.

B. Any player removed for unsportsmanlike conduct may have additional consequences in their home league and/or within IPS membership.

**23. PROTESTS:** Protesting is permitted using the following guidelines.

A. The protesting team's manager must notify the officiating umpire (or if multiple umpires are officiating, the umpire behind home plate) prior to the official game end (refer to game time above) of their intention to protest by handing the umpire a completed protest card (available at information table) and the protest fee.

B. The protest fee is \$100 for the first question and \$50 per question for all subsequent questions. We will accept cash or checks - no credit cards.

C. All protests will be given to the Protest Committee which will consist of a SEC Tournament Director and two other members selected by the Tournament Director.

D. Protests filed without written explanation and the proper fee will be rejected by the officiating umpire or Protest Committee and play will continue.

E. After the Protest Committee has met with both team managers, they will make a decision before either team is allowed to continue further pool play or tournament play games.

F. In the event the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded to the protesting team; otherwise the fee is forfeited and retained by the SEC.

G. Protest Committee decisions are final. It is the sole discretion of the Tournament Director to determine whether the conditions for a protest are accepted.

H. Protests based solely on a decision involving accuracy or judgment on the part of an umpire will not be considered.