

GUIDING BODIES

World Police and Fire Games Federation (WPFGE)
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<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/About/Contact-Us.aspx>

Note: Rule changes by ASA made prior to the Games will be followed and addressed at the Team Captains/Coaches meeting. Therefore, if ASA changes rules a few months prior to the Games, those rules will be utilized at the Games.

EVENTS

MEN: (18+): Limited to 12 teams
 Division A
 Division B

MEN: (35 & over): Limited to 8 teams

MEN: (45 & over): Limited to 6 teams

WOMEN: (18+): Limited to 8 teams
Pooling will be allowed in the women's softball only.

CO-ED: (18+): Limited to 8 teams
Six (6) males and four (4) females on field.

POSITIONING REQUIREMENTS: Two males and two females in both the infield and the outfield and one male and one female as pitcher and/or catcher.

OPTIONAL: Co-Ed with extra players (EP), twelve players, 7 males and 5 females; plus, two EPs (1 male, 1 female).

MEN'S 35+, 45+ AND WOMEN'S COMPETITORS MAY ENTER THE CO-ED EVENT. MEN'S 18+ COMPETITORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COMPETE IN OTHER EVENTS WITHIN THIS SPORT.

In all events, rosters are limited to a maximum of 20 players plus one (1) Non-Playing Coach (or manager). This coach may be sworn or non-sworn (within WPFGE guidelines). Sworn officers

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acting as Non-Playing Coaches have the option of paying the sport entry fees when submitting their entry form; thus becoming eligible to receive a medal should their team place. See the *WPFGB General Rules* for Non-Playing Coaches' requirements.

EQUIPMENT

Softballs - Two new ASA-approved balls per game will be supplied by the Host. **The type of ball selected must be approved by the WPFGB Director for Softball.**

Women: 18+ batters shall use an 11inch softball when batting. Balls to be used: Spalding 44 Core (leather cover) or Worth 44 Core

Men: 18+, 35+ and 45+ batters shall use a 12 inch softball when batting. Balls to be used: Spalding 40 Core (leather cover) or Worth 40 Core.

Co-Ed: Men batters shall use a 12 inch softball when batting and women use 11 inch softball. Balls to be used: Spalding 40 Core (leather cover) or Worth 40 Core

Bracket Chart - A large, complete chart of the game schedule including both the winner's bracket and the loser's bracket must be posted at each complex and kept up-to-date following the completion of each game. This is best accomplished by assigning personnel (volunteers) dedicated to doing this job throughout the tournament.

ASA Rule Books must be available for the Coordinators, Umpires and Umpire-in-Chief.

A copy of the WPFGB Slow Pitch Softball rules and the *WPFGB General Rules* must be on-site at all times during competition. (The Sport Coordinator, Assistant Sport Coordinator and Umpire-in-Chief must be familiar with the contents of both sets of Rules.)

Score Books - One (1) per field for the official scorekeeper, (provided by the Host).

Lineup cards - Two (2) per game, (provided by the Host).

Mat - One (1) per field. Home plate and the mat will form a "17 x 34 inch" rectangle (43.18cm x 86.36cm). See figure below. The mat shall be black or green, if possible (provided by the Host). See diagram below.

Field maintenance equipment - (i.e. hoses, shovels, rakes, drag screen, lime, two 100 foot measuring tapes, one 300 foot line, stakes, hammer, etc.) This equipment is normally maintained by the field ground crew.

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Water - Drinking water must be made available at each complex. Drinking fountains should be inspected to ensure they are in working order. Bottled water should be available for the competitors.

BRACKETING

Note: Round Robin, Pool Play (pools), & Group Play (groups) are three common terms to describe the SAME formats of play. In these rules, Group Play (groups) will be used.

Women, Co-Ed and Men (35+ and 45+) tournaments will be played in Group Play format, followed by a Double Elimination Play-Off. If 4 or fewer teams enter, the tournament will be a single Group Play with no additional playoffs.

Men's 18+:

Placement in Divisions A and B will be determined by the result of Group Play.

When placing teams into groups, top seeds from previous games will be placed in separate groups (6 teams per group).

After Group Play, the teams will be divided into 2 divisions. The top two teams from each group will be placed in Division A, and third and fourth place teams will be placed in Division B.

A Double Elimination playoff in each division will follow to determine medal winners.

MEN'S 18+ TEAMS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE TO CONTINUE IN THE COMPETITION ARE "GUARANTEED" A MINIMUM OF 5 OR 6 GAMES IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

The WPFGE Director for Softball may change the Bracketing if appropriate.

In determining standings within each group, the following criteria will be used:

1. Won-loss record
2. Head to head
3. Runs allowed
4. Tie breaker game
5. Blind Draw (Men's 18+ A, B, C only)

A forfeited game will be considered a 12 runs to 0 runs game, with the forfeiting team receiving a minus 12 score for the purpose of run differential.

SCHEDULING

Recommended scheduling for Softball is as follows:

Men's 18+: Days 1-6,
Co-Ed: Days 6-8
Women's 18+: Days 1-3
Men's 35+ and 45+: Days 1-5

All games, except those games which determine a medal winner, will be played with the following limits:

Time limits: All games 1 hour 10 minutes (no new inning will start after 1 hour 10 minutes). Exception: After 5 innings, if one team is 12 runs ahead the game will be called.

There will be no time limits for medal games and the game leading to the medal round.

Ties: All games will be played out to determine a winner. International Tie Breaker – the last official out of the inning will be placed on second base. Play will continue until a winner is determined. Refer to ASA Rulebook.

GENERAL SPORT RULES

Mat - The mat/home plate combination will be used to define strikes. If the ball lands on the mat or home plate the umpire will call a strike. The mat is not home plate. A scoring runner must touch home plate.

Batting: Batters will begin their turn at bat with a 0 strike and 0 ball count.

Foul Balls - A foul ball after two strikes is an out.

Courtesy runner [Men's 35+ and 45+ only] - If a batter is unable to run the bases due to injury or infirmity, a courtesy runner is permitted. The courtesy runner will be the player on the same team as the batter, who made the last out for that team. This substitute does not affect the playing status of the batter. Only one (1) courtesy runner is allowed per team per inning.

Uniforms - All players shall wear similar color and style shirts with an Arabic number of contrasting color at least 6 inches in height on the back. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers (Numbers 03 and 3 are examples of identical numbers.) Players without numbers will not be permitted to play.

Only rubber cleats are permitted. No metal cleats or spikes will be allowed.

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Home Run Rule (WPFPG Rules)

Men's 18+ A, B, C	5 home runs per game (any additional – automatic out)
Women's 18+	Unlimited home runs per game
Men's 35+ & 45+	3 home runs per game (any additional – automatic out)
Coed	Men 3 home runs per game (any additional – automatic out) Women unlimited home runs per game

Home runs hit in excess of the limits above are automatic outs.

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

Players, coaches, managers or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, officials or spectators; or, commit other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. This includes behavior on and off the field at the softball venue. The penalty for violations by a player is, at minimum, prompt ejection of the offender from the game/venue, and may include suspension from future WPFPG. If a player is ejected from the last game of the tournament, the player may be suspended from future WPFPG. The offender must leave the field.

A MANDATORY MEETING WILL BE HELD THE DAY PRIOR TO THE START OF THE TOURNAMENT. A coach or representative from each team must be present at this meeting. The Sport Coordinator, WPFPG Director for Softball, and the Umpire-in-Chief for the tournament will discuss the tournament rules and answer any questions. It is recommended that all Assistant Coordinators attend this meeting. Information about this meeting will be printed in both the Entry Book and Confirmation Letter.