

FALL CLASSIC SOFTBALL-SLOWPITCH 2023

GUIDING BODIES

United States Police and Fire Championships (USPFC)
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United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA)
Osceola County, FL
website: www.ussa.com
For the latest news: ussatoday.com

EVENTS

MEN: (OPEN)

Division A
Division B
Division C

MEN: (35+)

WOMEN: (OPEN)

CO-ED: (18+): Five (5) males and five (5) females on field. Batting order must always rotate male/female/male/female, etc.

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, 6 males and 6 females; plus, two EPS (1 male, 1 female). Refer to USSSA Rulebook.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S COMPETITORS MAY ALSO ENTER THE CO-ED EVENT. MEN'S COMPETITORS CAN ALSO PLAY IN MENS 35+ EVENT

In all events, rosters are limited to a maximum of 20 players plus a non-playing coach/manager. The coach/manager may be sworn or non-sworn (within USPFCF guidelines) however, only sworn coaches/managers who submit an eligible entry and participate as a coach may receive a medal. See the GENERAL SPORT RULES for coaches/managers Release of Liability requirements.

OFFICIALS

Sport Coordinator: The Sport Coordinator must be onsite at all times or designate an Assistant Sport Coordinator to handle lead responsibilities when it is necessary for the Sport Coordinator to be away from the location.

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Assistant Sport Coordinator: This person can assist the Sport Coordinator during hectic times during the tournament and fill in when the Sport Coordinator is required to be away from the event. If more than one location is being used for this event, a lead Assistant Sport Coordinator should be designated for each complex.

An "Umpire-in-Chief" shall be appointed to handle the scheduling and monitoring of the umpires utilized in the tournament.

Two USSSA umpires per game. An umpire shall not officiate any game involving his/her own agency.

PERSONNEL

Field Ground Crew - This can be either Park & Recreation personnel or volunteers.

Scorekeepers - One (1) per game. Scorekeepers shall be knowledgeable in scoring Slow-pitch Softball. Scorekeepers shall be supplied by the Host.

MEDICAL

At least one (1) EMT per every four (4) fields and at least one (1) EMT per complex.

Basic medical supplies, such as a first aid kit, will be provided by the Host at each venue. Communications shall be available at each venue and preparations made in case it is necessary to summon emergency services.

FACILITY

Minimum requirement: eight (8) diamonds per every forty-eight (48) teams entered. All fields facing away from the others with all dirt or shale infields. All fields used must be of similar dimensions. All infields will be raked (dragged) at the beginning of each game. Infields will be lined at the beginning of the tournament and as required. Fields shall be lined to the fence or the end of the field. All field dimensions must meet USSSA requirements. Refer to USSSA Rulebook.

EQUIPMENT

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

Only USSSA approved bats provided by USPFC may be used.

Women: 18+ and Co-Ed batters shall use a 26 softball when batting.

Men: 18+, 35+ and Co-Ed batters shall use a 28 softball when batting.

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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.

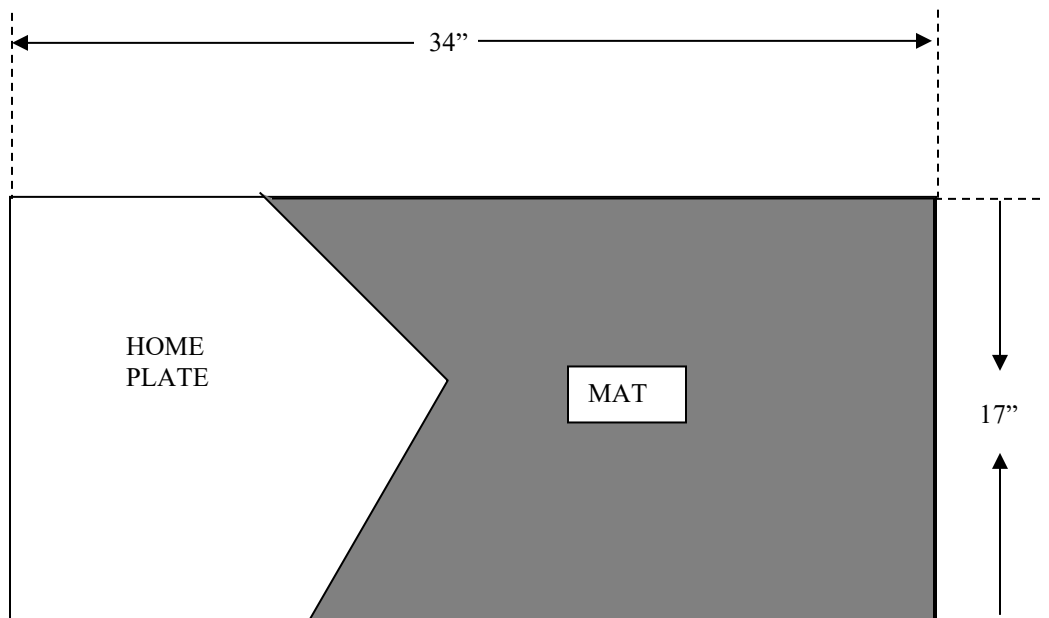
USSSA Rule Books must be available for the Coordinators, Umpires and Umpire-in-Chief.

A copy of the USPFCF Slow-pitch Softball rules and the General Sports Rules must be onsite 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 86.36 cm). See figure below. The mat shall be black or green, if possible.



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.

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.

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BRACKETING

Women, Co-Ed, Men; 35+ tournaments will be played in Round Robin format followed by a Double Elimination playoff.

If 7 or fewer teams enter, the tournament will be a single Round Robin with no additional playoffs.

The USPFC Director for Softball may change the bracketing if appropriate.

Men's Open:

Placement in Division A, B and C will be determined by the result of Round Robin group play.

When placing teams into groups, medal winners from the previous year should be separated, when possible, with the first-place team receiving lower seeded teams in its group when possible. Other placements should be based on the level of the returning seeds.

After Round Robin play, the teams will be divided into three groups depending on their standing. The top third will be placed in Division A, the middle third will be placed in Division B and the remaining third will be placed in Division C.

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

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

1. Win-loss record
2. Head-to-head
3. Run differential: to determine run differential, the scores of all games within the pool shall be used.
4. Runs allowed
5. Runs scored
6. Tiebreaker game

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

If two games are forfeited during round robin play, that team will be eliminated from the tournament.

SCHEDULING

Co-Ed: Round Robin on Wednesday with playoffs on Thursday. This will be an evening tournament beginning at 4 PM.

Men's Open: Round Robin on Friday with playoffs starting Friday and concluding on Saturday.

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Women's & Men's 35+: Round Robin on Saturday with playoffs on Sunday.

Time Limits: All games are scheduled on the hour and are 50-minute clocks no new innings

Exceptions: Medal round games will be 75-minute clocks.

Ties: All games will be played out to determine a winner using the International tiebreaker rule. The last official out of the inning will be placed on second base. Refer to USSSA rulebook.

GENERAL SPORTS RULES for Slow Pitch Softball

Mat - The mat/home plate combination will be used to define strikes. If the ball lands on the mat or home plate and reached a pitch height of 6 feet to 10 feet from the ground, the umpire will call a strike. The mat is **NOT** home plate. A scoring runner must touch home plate.

Pitch Count - All Divisions: When a batter comes to home plate to bat, prior to the first pitch, his/her count will be one ball and one strike. Two foul balls after the second strike are an out.

Courtesy runner [All Divisions]: If a batter is unable to run the bases due to injury, a courtesy runner is permitted. The courtesy runner will be a 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. The courtesy runner must be the same gender as the runner they replace. Only one (1) courtesy runner is allowed per team per inning.

Lead Offs – No lead offs, EXCEPT female players can lead off once the pitch is released from the pitcher.

Home Plate & Commit Line – For Mens Open, Coed, and Women's Divisions, all scoring plays will be at home plate. For Men's 35+, there will be a commit line and home plate line on the fields. Once a runner passes the commit line, they must continue to the home plate line. The catcher must have possession of the ball while touching home plate before the runner crosses the home plate line to get the out call. If the runner touches home plate, they are called out. If the catcher touches the runner, the runner is called safe.

Walks – In Coed, if a male player is walked, no matter the count, he is awarded second base. He does not need to touch first base on the way to second. The female player up next must bat.

Box Rule – There will be no box rule for all divisions. Pitchers must be standing on the rubber (pitchers' plate) when pitch is released.

Run Rule – There is no per-inning run rule for the Open or Men's 35+ divisions. In Coed and Women's, teams can only score 9 runs per inning. If a team is trailing, they can keep scoring runs until the game is tied.

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Mercy Rule - If after 5 innings, one team is 12 runs ahead, the game will be called (this includes games leading to the medal round and medal round games).

Uniforms - All players shall wear similar color and style shirts with an Arabic number of contrasting colors at least six (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.

On fenced fields, five (5) over-the-fence home runs are allowed.

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 venue site. The penalty for violations by a player is, at minimum, prompt ejection of the offender from the game. The offender must leave the facility. Penalties may also include suspension from future Games. If a player is ejected from the last game of the tournament, the player may be suspended from future Games in the following year.

A MANDATORY MEETING WILL BE HELD PRIOR TO THE START OF THE TOURNAMENT. A coach or representative from each team must be present at this meeting. The Sport Coordinator 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. Captains will submit their signed team rosters at this time. No additional players may be added after this meeting.

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AWARDS

A maximum of 147 sets of medals (1st through 3rd place) will be required. USPFC will advise you of the number of sets needed based on total entries, plus a reasonable margin.

ATTENTION COORDINATORS

**THE GENERAL SPORTS RULES APPLY TO ALL SPORTS.
YOU MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH ITS CONTENTS.**

**PRECISE RESULTS MUST BE FORWARDED
TO THE HOST COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
CONCLUSION OF THIS SPORT**

The USPFC Director assigned to your sport is knowledgeable and experienced in providing assistance during the preparation and running of the sport. Questions, a detailed accounting of your preparations, and any area requiring approval of the USPFC shall be submitted in a timely manner to this USPFC Director.

The USPFC Directors want to work with you to make your sport a success.

PLEASE USE THE USPFC DIRECTORS AS A RESOURCE.