



# 2021 BIG WEST LEAGUE

Director's Meeting - January 18, 2021 - Medina Entertainment Center

# AGENDA

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Ground Rules
- ▶ New Membership Applicants
- ▶ Rules and Bylaws Discussion
- ▶ Coronavirus
- ▶ Dudley Softballs
- ▶ Tahoe Sportswear
- ▶ Team Registration
- ▶ Coach Schedule Meeting
- ▶ Schedule/Important Dates
- ▶ Nationals
- ▶ USA Softball HPP
- ▶ Umpires
- ▶ Technology
- ▶ Programs/Resources
- ▶ Friendly Reminders
- ▶ Questions



# INTRODUCTIONS

Brian Lindquist  
Big West League  
Director  
(612) 590-0940  
[brian@josoftball.com](mailto:brian@josoftball.com)

Dan Pfeiffer  
Big West League  
Tech Support  
(952) 250-3393  
[dan@josoftball.com](mailto:dan@josoftball.com)

Tom Bye  
Minnesota Softball  
Junior Olympic Commissioner  
(651) 270-0219  
[tbye@josoftball.com](mailto:tbye@josoftball.com)

## BIG WEST LEAGUE

877 Meander Court  
Medina, MN 55340

<https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/bigwest>



# GROUND RULES

- ▶ This is a director meeting only. If you are a random person and only identified as a phone number, we might not answer your question. Please identify yourself or we will remove you.
- ▶ We are going to put everyone on mute.
- ▶ Please use the chat to ask questions and we will get to them as they pop up.
- ▶ If you want to make a motion, you can unmute and make a motion.
- ▶ If someone would like to second a motion, unmute and make the second.
- ▶ For discussion, please unmute and identify yourself and what association you are with. When you are done speaking, please mute yourself again.



# NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS



- ▶ If you are an association that did not play in Big West in 2019 and are seeking membership to the league, please unmute and state your name and association.
- ▶ Per our bylaws in **Article III - Membership**
  - ▶ Associations can gain membership to the league by achieving a vote of sixty (60) percent in favor by the membership.
  - ▶ Associations must be made up of at least three (3) teams. The members may elect to waive the minimum team stipulation.
  - ▶ Association membership shall be revoked for failure to field a team in the league during a playing season.
  - ▶ If membership is revoked, an association may apply for membership the following season.
  - ▶ Current membership of the league is posted on the Big West website.



# RULES APPROVED LAST SEASON

- ▶ Three coaches/adults will be allowed on the bench. At least one coach must be ACE educated. All bench coaches/adults must have a background check and be SafeSport trained.
- ▶ **No Shows:** A team must contact their opponent by 4:00 PM on game day if they are not able to play. Failure to do so results in a "Forfeit due to no show." This will be recorded as a 7-0 win. Any team forfeiting three league night games will be ineligible to play in the league qualifier tournament.



# RULES AND BYLAWS DISCUSSION

- ▶ Are there any rules or bylaws that need to be discussed at this time?



# USA SOFTBALL RULES UPDATE



- ▶ The rules will stay the same for 2021.
- ▶ Only major change: Registrations for 2022 will begin on September 1, 2021.
- ▶ Pitching Delivery (new last year)
  - ▶ The pitcher shall take a position with their pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and their non-pivot foot in contact or behind the pitcher's plate.
  - ▶ A backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate at all times prior to the forward step.





# LEGAL BATS



- ▶ The only bats allowed for use in USA Softball, Minnesota Softball, Big West, and Tri County are ASA or USA Softball stamped bats.
- ▶ These bats are also approved by MSHSL and NCAA.
- ▶ The bats you are using must have one of the stamps below.
- ▶ Umpires are being instructed to check bats for these stamps.



# CORONAVIRUS



## ▶ Coronavirus Update

- ▶ Simply put if the infectious rate is less than 5%, we will have nothing to worry about.
- ▶ We will be playing without masks and starting at our regular schedule start date.
- ▶ MDH has a new reporting form to assist them tracing which we will post on the website soon.



# DUDLEY SOFTBALLS

- ▶ Softballs can be ordered here: <https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/>
- ▶ Dudley SB12 and SBC11 \$60 per dozen.
- ▶ Fill out the form and we will contact you with arrangements to deliver them to you or to one of the league meetings.
- ▶ Encourage your high school coaches to buy from us. We are cheaper than anyone else and it is the same softball and approved for use by MSHSL.
- ▶ Brian Lindquist will reach out to you to arrange pick-up.



# TAHO SPORTSWEAR

- ▶ <https://www.tahosportswear.com/>
- ▶ Team apparel.
- ▶ Awards and medals for your tournaments.
- ▶ Banners and signs.
- ▶ Sublimation
- ▶ Embroidery
- ▶ Tackle-Twill
- ▶ Sports Equipment



# TEAM REGISTRATIONS

- ▶ Team registrations and fees are due to Big West by April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ The team registration fee is \$570. This was an increase approved in 2019 to accommodate the umpire raise from \$40 to \$45 per game.
- ▶ The deadline will allow staff to separate teams into leagues prior to the coaches meeting which is on April 8<sup>th</sup>.



# BIG WEST COACH/SCHEDULE MEETING

- ▶ April 8<sup>th</sup> at Medina Entertainment Center in the ballroom.
- ▶ 10-Under and 12-Under from 6:00PM to 8:00PM.
- ▶ 14-Under and 16-Under from 8:00PM to 10:00PM.
- ▶ **REMEMBER YOUR COACHES MUST ATTEND THIS MEETING TO GET A LEAGUE SCHEDULE!**



# 8-UNDER METRO LEAGUE MEETING

- ▶ Date and site for the 8-Under Metro League meeting is to be determined.



# 2021 BIG WEST SEASON SCHEDULE



- Big West 12U League Games Start - May 3
- Big West 10U League Games Start - May 4
- Big West 14U League Games Start - May 17
- Big West 16U League Games Start - June 4
- 10U/12U Qualifiers - June 25-27
- 8U/12U State - July 10-11
- 14U/16U/18U Qualifiers - July 17-18
- 14U/16U/18U States - July 24-25
- USA Softball Nationals - July 29-August 1
- Monsta Championships - August 5-8





# 2022 IMPORTANT DATES

- First day of tryouts - August 2
  - Fall Ball Meeting - August 12
  - USA Softball Selects - August 13-15
  - Parade of Champions Event at Target Field - August 15
  - Fall Ball Week 1 - August 21-22
  - Fall Ball Week 2 - August 28-29
  - Fall Ball Week 3 - September 11-12
  - Fall Ball Week 4 - September 18-19
  - Fall State - September 25-26
- Minnesota Softball Directors Recap Meeting. Date and Time TBD.



# USA SOFTBALL NATIONALS

- ▶ 10-Under A Nationals - **North Mankato, Minnesota** (July 22-25)
- ▶ 12-Under A Nationals - **Richmond, Virginia** (July 22-25)
- ▶ 14-Under A Nationals - **Johnson City, Tennessee** (July 20-August 25)
- ▶ 16-Under A Nationals - **Sioux Falls, South Dakota** (July 20-25)
- ▶ 18-Under A Nationals - **Lancaster, California** (July 18-23)



# USA SOFTBALL NORTHERN

- ▶ 12-Under A Northern - Decatur, Illinois (July 28-August 1)
- ▶ 14-Under A Northern - **Rochester, Minnesota** (July 21-25)
- ▶ 16-Under A Northern - Normal, Illinois (July 21-25)
- ▶ 18-Under A Northern - **Nevada, Iowa** (July 20-25)
- ▶ 10-Under B Northern - Decatur, Illinois (July 27-August 1)
- ▶ 12-Under B Northern - Bloomington, Indiana (July 29-August 1)
- ▶ 14-Under B Northern - Peoria, Illinois (July 29-August 1)
- ▶ 16-Under B Northern - **Fargo, North Dakota** (July 29-August 1)
- ▶ 18-Under B Northern - Bloomington, Indiana (July 29-August 1)



# MONSTA CHAMPIONSHIPS

- ▶ **8-Under** – Bloomington – August 5-8
- ▶ **10-Under** – Bloomington – August 5-8
- ▶ **12-Under** – TBD – August 5-8
- ▶ **14-Under** – TBD – August 5-8
- ▶ **High School** - TBD – August 5-8





# USA SOFTBALL™

## HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

- ▶ The USA Softball High Performance Program (HPP) will identify a pool of athletes to train, compete and represent USA Softball through domestic and international competition. The program will focus on providing an equal opportunity for players to develop their skills and show their talent while growing the game of softball in the United States. Serving as a pipeline to the National Team, the program is inclusive to all that wish to participate and develop their skills. The program will also identify a pool of coaches who can lead athletes and support their goals to advance their skills and achieve success.
- ▶ Through the HPP, athletes around the country will have the chance to make a USA Softball National Team at multiple age groups. Working first at the local level, the best talent in the game will work through camps, clinics, identifiers and tryouts to make local teams, region teams and potentially be selected to a National Team to participate with USA Softball at a World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) international event.
- ▶ Coaches in the program can learn from top coaches and invest in athletes' futures. They can grow the game of softball, both in participation as well as skill level. Giving back to the game and helping with this program will lead to satisfaction and watching their athletes achieve success.



# USA SOFTBALL™

## HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

- ▶ Website: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/high-performance-program>
- ▶ USA Softball will be conducting identifying events throughout the country for the purpose of creating national teams for international competition.
- ▶ Minnesota will conduct at least two (2) of these events and will name fifteen (15) players to a state team for each age group that will advance to the Regional Identifier.
- ▶ This identifier will be skills oriented.
- ▶ Dates and Times TBD





# USA SOFTBALL™

## HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

- ▶ The Regional Identifier most likely will be held in the Metro Area and will be completed by TBD.
- ▶ Our Region (Region 8) consists of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- ▶ The Regional Team will consist of the best fifteen (15) players from the Region.
- ▶ The Regional Team will advance to the National Team Tryout Camp at a date and site to be determined.
- ▶ The Regional Identifier will have a mix of skills and games.
- ▶ The National Team Tryout Camp will be like what an athlete would expect to see at the Team USA Olympic Team tryout.





# USA SOFTBALL™

## HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

- ▶ The age groups that will participate in the program are: (birth year in parenthesis)
  - ▶ U13 (2009) - State Pool and Regional Pool
  - ▶ U14 (2008) - State Pool and Regional Pool, National Team (WBSC Qualifier)
  - ▶ U15 (2007) - State Pool and Regional Pool, National Team (WBSC World Cup)
  - ▶ U16 (2006) - State Pool and Regional Pool
  - ▶ U17 (2005) - State Pool and Regional Pool, National Team (WBSC Qualifier)
  - ▶ U18 (2004) - State Pool and Regional Pool, National Team (WBSC World Cup)







# USA SOFTBALL™

## HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

- ▶ There will be an online registration form posted on various state and national USA Softball websites.
- ▶ The cost is \$80 per individual.
- ▶ For the state identifier, we have a solid selection committee that has been meeting for a month that consists of Division 2 and 3 college coaches and High School Coaches.
- ▶ For the regional identifier we will need to build a pool of qualified coaches as there will be games at that event.
- ▶ For more information go to: <https://hpp.usasoftball.com>



# UMPIRES

- ▶ We are always woefully short on umpires. We are working on a new social media campaign to try to get new officials.
- ▶ What we are figuring out is that there are people that are willing to umpire they just do not know where to go to sign up and get training. The pandemic has a funny way of helping in that way.
- ▶ We are looking for hosts for umpire training for not only experienced umpires but the new ones and the cadet umpires. Please contact me at [dan@josoftball.com](mailto:dan@josoftball.com) if you are willing to assist or have umpires that would like to start working games.



# TECHNOLOGY



- ▶ This is what we used to do to you:
  - ▶ Register your teams or a team on SportsEngine (fastpitch.mnsoftball.com) to join a league.
  - ▶ Create a team and roster on josoftball.com.
  - ▶ Enter your scores on SportsEngine.
  - ▶ Brackets for qualifiers and state on josoftball.com.
- ▶ We think we have this whittled down to one website, one solution.
- ▶ <https://www.lpsmn.com>



# TECHNOLOGY



- ▶ <https://www.lpsmn.com>
- ▶ I need your patience for a week or two as we are working out a couple of major upgrades on the website.
- ▶ Soon you will be able to put your invitational tournament on the website and take team registrations.
- ▶ We used this during Fall State Tournaments last year for bracketing.
- ▶ Key Features
  - ▶ It does rosters.
  - ▶ It does brackets.
  - ▶ It does leagues.
  - ▶ It does rankings both by state and by the country.
  - ▶ Single sign on.
  - ▶ All In One system.



# TECHNOLOGY - TOURNAMENTS

- ▶ It supports any format of tournament.
- ▶ It takes payment of most any kind. Credit Card payments will automatically be diverted to the association bank account. There isn't a holding period or increased fees to use.
- ▶ It prevents you from double booking fields and teams.
- ▶ Ranking systems for the state and nationwide (Strength of Schedule, Power Rankings, Points Systems.)
- ▶ You can contact the coaches in your event, division, via email, or text. You can even contact the parents (Rain or Field Changes.)
- ▶ You can contact all coaches in a certain division or class.
- ▶ Anyone with a verified user can enter scores of games at any event in the system.



# TECHNOLOGY - FUTURE



- ▶ If your association chooses to use this system, it will allow you to manage your program from Registration through Nationals.
  - ▶ Registration (Start)
  - ▶ Tryouts/Skills Assessment
  - ▶ Team Formation
  - ▶ Roster Submission
  - ▶ League Entry and Play
  - ▶ Tournament Entry and Play
  - ▶ State Tournament
  - ▶ Nationals Tournament (Finish)

## Is this you every year?

Taking registrations, exporting registrations to excel for tryouts, entering tryout data in excel, running macros, dividing up teams, posting tryout results and teams on a website?



# PROGRAMS

<https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/programs>

- ACE - Coaching Education
- 12U All-American Games
- Background Checks
- Cadet Umpires
- Coaches Corner
- College Commits
- Concussion
- Coronavirus
- Guidelines/Resources Page
- Discounted Field Equipment
- Fence Program
- Team Insurance
- NFCA Coaches Clinics
- Minnesota Softball Parade of Champions
- Play Ball Minnesota
- Roster Help
- SafeSport
- Scholarships
- USA Softball Selects
- USA Softball Resource Center
- Youth 1st



# USA SOFTBALL RESOURCE CENTER

<https://www.mlb.com/usa-softball>

- ▶ Virtual Breakthrough Series
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Strength & Conditioning
- ▶ Prohibited Substances
- ▶ General Safety
- ▶ SafeSport
- ▶ Fundamental Skill Videos
- ▶ Coaching Your Child
- ▶ Divisional Focuses
- ▶ Team USA Coaches
- ▶ Printable Resources
- ▶ NEW MATERIALS ARE ADDED DAILY!





# COACHES CLINIC



- ▶ **National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA)**
  - ▶ December 9-11 held virtually.
  - ▶ Clinicians include coaches from the top D1 Colleges in the country and softball Olympians.
  - ▶ Non-Member Registration - \$299
  - ▶ <https://www.nfca.org>
  
- ▶ **Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches Association (MFCA)**
  - ▶ Date TBD - normally held at Target Field and will be virtual.
  - ▶ Registration - \$30 (2019 price)
  - ▶ <https://www.mshsca.org/fastpitchsoftball>



# REMINDERS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ▶ Be aware of the “no recruit” policy and its enforcement. This includes but not limited to associations taking out of district players to “fill” roster spots. Please be mindful of your draw areas.
- ▶ Each team needs at least one coach with ACE certification.
- ▶ All coaches and bench personnel need to have the USA background check completed.
- ▶ All coaches and bench personnel must be SafeSport trained. This course is free online.
- ▶ Heads Up Coaches (concussion awareness): All coaches must take this free online course.
- ▶ All teams must have proof of team or individual player insurance approved by USA. You may purchase other insurance, but it must still meet minimum insurance requirements.

# QUESTIONS

- ▶ Are there any questions?
- ▶ Does your board have any advice on how to clarify use of pitchers and their use? We have a community (NOT BIG WEST) that just started a new program last year that never fielded more than two teams in the past. Last season they jumped up to five teams. The board members coach the teams and the coaches only throw their own kids. Do you have rules or bylaws to share for a situation like this?

