

USA SOFTBALL™ of Michigan

2019 Slow Pitch Changes

1) Class D Move-up Rule:

Current reads: in our highest classification in a division of play, and a team finishing 1st or 2nd for two (2) consecutive years in state tournament play MUST play in the next higher classification their next tournament playing season.

New: add to the above statement: the slow pitch classification subcommittee will monitor these teams and could make adjustments.

Comment: there could be instances where a team could not compete at the next higher classification and this addition would help keep teams playing USA Softball of Michigan softball.

2) National Tournament Berth Requirement:

Currently Reads: in our highest classification in a division of play, and a team finishing 1st or 2nd for two (2) consecutive years in state tournament play MUST play in the next higher classification their next tournament playing season.

New: add to the above statement: the slow pitch classification subcommittee will monitor these teams and could make adjustments.

Comment: there could be instances where a team could not compete at the next higher classification and this addition would help keep teams playing USA Softball of Michigan softball.

3) Heat Index Policy

Current Procedure: one

New: when the heat index reaches 101 degrees, the tournament will be suspended until the heat index is below 101 degrees using www.accuweather.com.

Comment: To create a uniform and consistent policy for the safety of players, umpires, coaches, staff, and families. See attached sheet.

4) 35-Over Slow Pitch Format

Currently Read's: the current rule allows a team to pick the number of home runs that they would like to hit in a game, either two (2) or four (4) home runs. Player classifications do not affect this option.

New: offer two divisions:

Division 3: number of home runs = 2; Go to the one-up rule.

Division 4: number of home runs = 0; any in excess would be an out.

Comment: the current rule favors the higher ability players as they could play down and destroy the lower ability teams. This change would help balance the playing field. Please see the attachment.



of Michigan

USA Softball of Michigan

Heat Index Policy

USA Softball of Michigan uses the following heat index policy for all outdoor athletic games that are held during extreme heat. This policy is designed to provide program participants with a standard for safe play. The heat index is a measure of how hot it feels by calculating air temperature and relative humidity. Heat index will be determined by using the website, accuweather.com.

The heat index shall be monitored throughout games with the following actions shall be instituted based on the index chart below. It should be understood that the heat index will rise and fall depending on the time of day, amount of wind, cloud cover, etc. For example, a 1pm start time may fall under a different action plan compared to a 4pm game.

It is important for parents/guardians and coaches/managers to monitor players during athletic activities during extreme heat. Parents/guardians are responsible for informing their children of the dangers of heat and the need for protection, including sunscreen and proper hydration. Parents/guardians ultimately make the final decision in their child to play during instances when heat may play a factor.

Heat Index	Recommendations/Action
80 degrees or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat index at or below this level provides very little danger from heat and no special measures will be taken by tournament host.
81-94 Degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaches encouraged to substitute frequently and remind players to hydrate frequently. Players should have cold water available and accessible during games. Watch/Monitor players carefully.
95-100 Degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaches and umpires will monitor players and substitute players frequently. Players should have cold water available and accessible during games. Mandatory water breaks following each half inning. Coaches shall enforce. Ice water provided by tournament host at field and available to players. Alter uniform by removing items if possible. Allow time for changes to dry t-shirts and uniform. Helmets and other possible equipment removed while not involved in game play. Additional shade will be made available to players if possible. Alter time between games to provide at least 45 minutes of cool down in an air conditioned or shaded area.
101+ Degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Softball of Michigan will suspend or cancel all games until the heat index falls below 101 degrees. Notifications provided by tournament host.

NOAA's National Weather Service

Heat Index
Temperature (°F)

	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

 Caution
 Extreme Caution
 Danger
 Extreme Danger

One-Up Home Run Rule

Once both teams reached their respective home run limits, either team may hit an additional home run; however, no team may ever go more than one home run up on the other team. **Any additional home runs above the one-up rule will be scored as an out.**

Example: both Men's Masters Division 3 teams have hit their respective two home runs by the 3rd inning. In the 4th inning the visiting team is now allowed to hit another home run, and did. In the bottom of the 4th the home team can now hit two home runs, which is allowed, because they are no more than one home run up on the other team.

If one team does not hit its allotted home run limit, then the one-up home run rule will not be used. **The home team, in the bottom of the 7th or later innings, may hit one home run to pull even in the number of home runs as the opposing team, but may not hit a home run to go one up.**