



**2021 USA Girls' Class A 16-Under National Championship
Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

Important Information

A. Pre-tournament Check In

Sunday, July 25th from 10:30 am - 6 pm at Ramkota Hotel, **3200 W. Maple St.**, Sioux Falls, SD 57107. *This check-in is for coaches & players.* Bat testing will be completed at registration. **Teams are strongly encouraged to have all bats to be used during the tournament tested at this time.** A schedule will be sent out for teams register in order to keep some social distancing in place.

a. Forms/Items Needed:

- i. National Official entry form, signed by commissioner or designee
- ii. Official Roster (if not yet turned in), signed by commissioner or designee
- iii. Player pick up forms (if applicable)
- iv. ACE card and background check (one coach in the dugout **MUST** be ACE certified, all bench personal must be background checked)
- v. Safe Sports verification (coaches)
- vi. Proof of insurance
- vii. Payment of \$600 for Registration
- viii. Payment of \$400 for Gate Fee
- ix. USA Softball Covid Waiver & Release Form

b. Player Identification

Each member of a Junior Olympic team competing at all USA Softball Championships must provide proper identification to the tournament director before the start of competition. This will be done onsite prior to the first game. Proper identification includes a current photo, players' signature, and proof of age. Acceptable age verification includes: birth certificate, driver's license, photo ID card issued by a local USA Softball Commissioner and/or their designee, or a valid passport. See USA Softball Code 2019, Article 301 for any further explanation.

- i. Each player must sign the tournament sign-in sheet at the time of check-in (this is when IDs will be checked).

c. **Bat Testing**

Bat testing is mandatory for all bats used at the tournament, and takes place at team registration on Sunday, July 25th from 10:30 am - 6:00 pm at the Ramkota Hotel during team check in. All bats must have a certification sticker from this tournament to enter a game. Bats may also be checked at Tournament Headquarters throughout the week.

d. **Gift Exchange:**

It is customary to have a gift exchange between teams. This is TBD based on guidelines coming from the national office.

B. Manager's Meeting

Wednesday, July 21st at 8:00 pm over a Zoom Meeting after the draw for Pool Play. Tournament rules will be discussed at this mandatory meeting for coaches. Go to zoom.com or open the Zoom app on your phone/tablet. A link will be sent out the day of the meeting.

C. Opening Ceremonies

Due to Covid-19 this will be TBD.

D. Opening Play

The tournament begins with Pool Play Monday, July 26th at 8 am.

E. Pre-Tournament Practice

There are fields open around the city that you are able to use for any practice times you would like. Here are some fields that are located close to Sherman Park:

- a. Dunham Park: 1301 S. Marion Rd. Sioux Falls, SD 57106
- b. McCart Fields: 2001 W. Madison Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57104

F. Practice Games

Practice games will be available upon request. Practice games will take place on Saturday (7/24) and Sunday (7/25). If you would like umpires present, the cost will be \$40 per team. Please contact Rudi (rudiv8486@gmail.com) if this is something you would like.

General Tournament Information

1. **Format**

Three pool play games and double elimination is the standard format specified for the USA Softball National Championship in 2021. Pool play begins Monday, July 26th. Double elimination immediately follows pool play and is estimated to start Wednesday.

2. **Playing Fields**

The tournament will take place at Sherman Park in Sioux Falls, SD. 501 S. Kiwanis Ave. It is located south of the zoo at the corner of 12th Street and Kiwanis Ave. If you put Sherman Park in your GPS, it might take you to the recreational park, which is south of the complex, instead of the playing fields.

3. **Draw Procedure for Pool**

Article 311 of the USA Softball Code governs the draw. The pool play draw will be done in advance of teams arriving. Results of the draw will be posted at siouxfallsfastpitch.com following the draw on Wednesday July 21st. The draw will be live on Zoom starting at 7:00 pm. Tournament USA will be used for this tournament. The national USA Softball office strongly suggests pool draws be done in advance to give teams advanced notice. Double elimination brackets are determined immediately after your pool is complete. The order of finish in pool play does dictate seeding on the double elimination bracket.

4. **Line-Ups**

Tournament officials will provide line-up cards for each team. Exchange with other team and give to the umpire. Subject to change based on Covid-19.

5. **Game Times**

Please follow the times listed on the tournament bracket. Teams should be prepared to start a game once the preceding game is complete. In pool and bracket play, there is a 1 hour and 20 minute time limit per USA Code.

6. **Warming-Up**

Teams must warm up in designated areas. At Sherman Park, this is the fenced areas between A & D, and B & C, the open area behind the south concession stand, the skating rink near the zoo entrance, and the area west of E and the like.

There will be no warm-up on the diamond when the grounds crew is working. This includes pitchers and catchers warming up.

7. **Dugout Area**

Any adult in the dugout must be background checked to be in the dugout.

8. **Protests**

The tournament committee will decide all protests. As manager, please be familiar with rules of the game including proper protest procedures. See USA Softball playing rule 9.

9. **Run Rule**

Run rule is 15 runs after three innings; 12 runs after four innings; or 8 runs after five innings.

10. **Game Delay**

In the event of inclement weather or any cause which interrupts a game, the game must be resumed at the exact point where it was stopped, per USA code. It is the coach's responsibility to be checking the official tournament brackets located at Tournament Headquarters for updated information. We'll also be sharing information via the Remind app. **Text the number: 81010, in the message write: @16uau**



11. **Team Seating**

The team at the top of the bracket will use the first base dugout. The team listed on the bottom of the bracket will use the third base dugout. Flip of the coin will determine the home team.

12. **Game Rules**

All playing rules and regulations for the tournament will be governed by the 2020 USA Softball Official Guide and Rulebook.

13. **Balls**

The official tournament ball will be the Baden USA 12 Fast Pitch 2020 New Mark, stock number: 2A312FLY-3.

14. **Uniforms**

All players competing at the USA Softball Nationals shall properly wear uniforms that are alike in color, trim, and style. Short or long pants may be mixed. Coaches must be neatly attired or dressed in team uniform in accordance with the color code of the team, and must wear closed-toe shoes (no flipflops). Please see the USA Softball official playing rules, Rule 3, Section 6 for complete information.

15. **Conduct**

Managers and coaches are asked to have complete control of their players, parents, and supporting spectators both on and off the field. We have a zero tolerance for unsportsman like conduct. This is your warning. The tournament committee will deal with any report of damage by hotel management.

16. **Admission**

Admission will be collected prior to the tournament starting from each team. This needs to be sent in prior to the tournament beginning.

17. **Tournament Shirts**

Tournament shirts will be available throughout the weekend at Sherman Park and online prior to the tournament.

18. Alcoholic Beverages/Smoking

Alcoholic beverages and smoking are prohibited at this youth tournament. This includes the parking lot. Please pass this on to your fans.

19. Facebook

Pictures and information will be posted on our Facebook page throughout the tournament. You can follow us at Sioux Falls People for Youth.

20. Accommodations

This tournament is NOT a Stay and Play event. However, we have negotiated tournament rates with select hotels. Teams registered at these hotels will receive a 7% rebate for their stay based on the nightly rate. For more information, please reach out via email.

***These guidelines are current as of 5/5/21 and may be subject to change as we get closer to the tournament. ***

For additional information about the USA Girls' Class A 16-Under National Championship, contact:

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