

# SIN CITY CLASSIC

## Softball Format and Rules

### FORMAT

**Days of Play:** For all divisions except Masters, the tournaments will be held Saturday and Sunday. The Masters tournaments will be held on Friday only. **For Masters, the tournament will be cancelled for divisions with less than 4 teams registered.**

**Tournament Management:** The Tournament Directors are listed on the Softball page of the Sin City Classic Website. References in this document to “Tournament Director” refer to both the Executive Director and the Open Softball Director for Open play and the Women’s Softball Director for Women’s play. Field Directors are in charge of managing a field complex. A Field Director and/or other individuals may be designated as tournament co-directors by the Tournament Director. A tournament co-director may step in to act as Tournament Director at the Tournament Director’s discretion.

**Player Registration:** All players must register with a Government ID before taking the field. Players must register before the end of pool play in their specific division of play to be eligible for the remainder of the tournament. Exceptions may only be made by the Tournament Director. Players must at least 18 years of age to register and participate in the tournament. Additionally, a player may register and play on both a Masters team and an Open or Women’s team. However, a player may not register for more than one Masters team nor more than one Open/Women’s team.

**Team Eligibility/Player Ratings:** For Open divisions, current NAGAAA ratings based on 2020 guidelines will be in effect. For Women’s divisions, ASANA ratings and guidelines will be in effect. For reference, those rules are as follows:

#### OPEN TEAMS

Team ratings will be calculated by adding the top 10 rated players.

Division	Team Ratings Thresholds	Individual Ratings Thresholds
Open E	Up to 75	Up to 8
Open D and Masters D	Up to 110	Up to 12
Open C and Masters C	Up to 140	Up to 15
Open B	Up to 180	Up to 20
Open A	No less than 170	Not applicable

Anyone 50 or older, or who turns 50 in the **2021** calendar year is eligible to play on a Masters team.

#### WOMEN'S TEAMS

Women's A	A team that has no more than two (2) Elite players, and any other combination of players of any classification
Women's B	A team that has no Elite players, no more than four (4) roster "A" division players, and any other combination of players of any lower classification, and whose highest 10 rated players sum rating does not exceed 824
Women's C	A team that has no Elite players, no "A" division players, no more than three (3) roster "B" division players rated 70-79, and any other combination of players of any lower classification, and whose highest 10 rated players sum rating does not exceed 674
Women's D	A team that has no Elite players, no "A" division players, no "B" division players, no more than three (3) roster "C" division players rated 51-65, and whose highest 10 rated players sum rating does not exceed 519
Women's E	A team that has no Elite players, no "A" division players, no "B" or "C" division players, and no more than three (3) roster "D" players rated 31-40
Women's Senior	A team that has no Elite players, all players are aged 50+ in that calendar year

**Non-LGBT Players:** For Open Teams, rosters are limited to a maximum of 3 non-LGBT players, except in the A and B Divisions where the limit is 5 non-LGBT players. The Women's divisions do not have this rule.

**Roster and Ratings Submission (Open Divisions):** No player may be on the roster of both a Women's Division team and an Open Division Team, and no player may be on the roster of more than one team except that players may be on one Masters team roster and one Open or Women's team roster. Managers must submit a roster filling in the full 28-question NAGAAA rating for each player. **Players must be submitted with the rating they have in the NAGAAA database. We recognize that the current NAGAAA database has only been in effect since 2019, so many players will not have a current rating. For players who do not have a rating in the current system, the manager must assign a rating. Managers who abuse or otherwise misuse this responsibility may be sanctioned and/or removed from the tournament and should be aware that players may be removed from the tournament if they are incorrectly rated (see Player Removal below).**

**Roster and Ratings Submission (Women's Divisions):** No player may be on the roster of both a Women's Division team and an Open Division Team, and no player may be on the roster of more than one team except that players may be on one Masters team roster and one Open or Women's team roster. Managers must submit a roster with player ratings from the ASANA Database if a player has a rating. If a player or team does not have an ASANA rating, the manager must submit a rating for each player on the team. The Tournament Director reserves the right to reject a rating if there are previous ratings for a player, or if the tournament feels that the manager is under rating a player or team.

- Teams that do not participate in a NAGAAA-affiliated league, and therefore do not have team or player ratings will be entertained on a case-by-case basis by the Tournament Director. History of participation in the tournament will be taken into consideration during roster reviews. In either case, teams should contact the Tournament Director about eligibility concerns prior to sending in their entry form.

**Protests Regarding Ratings/Eligibility:** Protests will only be ruled on during double elimination tournament play. If during pool play, a manager feels a player is improperly rated, they may fill out and turn in a protest card free of any fee. The card will be accepted and held for informational purposes only and no protest hearing will take place.

During tournament play any ratings or eligibility protests must be brought to the attention of the umpire prior to the last out of the game. Play will continue without delay until the game is completed or time expires. A \$100 protest fee plus a \$25 protest fee per question protested must be presented along with a protest form (available from the Field Director) within five (5) minutes after notification to the umpire or the protest will be invalid (an exception to this is that if the protest notification happens with more than 5 minutes left in the game, the fee and form must be presented prior to the end of the game). The Field Director will accept CASH only; no credit cards nor on-line payments (such as Venmo and PayPal) will be accepted. The protest hearing may begin as soon as five (5) minutes after the end of the game. If the protestor is not available when the hearing is ready to begin, protest will be deemed invalid. The protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld or deemed invalid. If part of the protest is upheld, the per question protest fee for those questions upheld will be refunded. If more than 50% of the protested points are upheld, the \$100 protest fee will be returned. The Field Rep will convene a Protest Committee to resolve any such protest.

The protest committee will consist of the Field Director, a GLASA representative, and (if available) a representative from the division of play. An umpire may be used as part of the committee at the discretion of the Field Director. The committee may solicit input from other tournament attendees including umpires, managers, players and other tournament officials.

Penalties for Successful Protests:

- In the event of a point increase (due to a successful protest) which results in a team or player being over the division cap, the protested game will be forfeited. Unless the

forfeit is the team's second loss in double elimination, they may continue in the tournament in certain circumstances as described below.

- If a successful protest causes a player's rating to go over the division limit (the player is "protested out"), the player will be removed from the team's roster and ineligible to play. The team may continue with their team rating being adjusted to include only the remaining players. However, if two or more players are protested out, the Tournament Director has the discretion to remove the team from play, regardless of their team rating.
- If a team is successfully protested in a way that causes the team rating to go above the limit for the division, but no player goes over the player limit, one or more of the successfully protested players must be removed from the roster to get the team rating back within the team rating limit. Those removed players will be ineligible for the remainder of the tournament.
- If a team has more than five (5) points successfully protested during the tournament, the team will be eliminated from the tournament.

**Player Removal:** If it is determined that a player should clearly be rated for play in a division higher than the one in which they are registered, the player may be removed from the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any decision will be based on first-hand views, Field Director input, and information provided from umpires and other divisional representatives. **Due to the cancellation of the 2020 softball seasons for most leagues, it is especially important that team managers are aware of this rule, especially as it relates to players that did not have a rating prior to this tournament.**

**Pool Play:** A random draw of teams will place them into a pool. A coin flip will determine the home team for all pool games. After pool play, each team will have a seeding within their pool. Once you know your pool seed, you will be able to find your place in the double elimination bracket.

### **Open Divisions, 4-Team Pools**

First game winners will play each other for their second game. First game losers will play each other for their second game. In the event of a tie in any pool play game, a coin flip will determine the "winner" of that game. The 2-0 team gets the #1 seed from that pool, the 1-1 team that LOST the 2nd game gets the #2 seed, the 1-1 team that WON the 2nd game gets the #3 seed and the 0-2 team gets the #4 seed.

### **Open and Masters Divisions, All Other Pools**

Seeding will be based on the team's record. In the event that two or more teams are tied with the same record, the tie-breaker(s) will be: 1) head to head record, 2) runs allowed, 3) random draw.

### **Women's B Division**

Due to the uneven number of games for one team (they have 4 games instead of 3), one of their game's result will be dropped from their record. The dropped game will be random and drawn by the Tournament Director and Field Director. Seeding will be based on the team's record in the following order (wins-losses-ties): 3-0-0, 2-0-1, 1-0-2, 2-1-0, 1-1-1, 0-0-3, 1-2-0, 0-1-2, 0-2-1, 0-3-0. In the event that two or more teams are tied with the same record, the tie-breaker will be: 1) run differential, 2) random draw.

### **Women's C and D Divisions**

Seeding will be based on the team's record in the following order (wins-losses-ties): 2-0-0, 1-0-1, 1-1-0, 0-0-2, 0-1-1, 0-2-0. In the event that two or more teams are tied with the same record, the tie-breaker(s) will be: 1) head to head record, 2) run differential, 3) random draw.

## **RULES**

### **ALL USA SOFTBALL RULES SHALL APPLY EXCEPT AS MODIFIED HEREIN**

**Game Time:** Game time will be considered forfeit time. Forfeit time will be extended if either team's prior game finished after the scheduled game time. Both managers and their teams must be ready with a completed line-up sheet 20 minutes prior to game time for a coin toss when called by the umpire. At the discretion of the Field Director, if the field is running ahead of schedule, the game time may be moved up by 20 minutes prior to the originally scheduled game time. Teams must have at least nine (9) players at game start time. The umpire will record the game start time and will be the sole official in charge of the game start and finish time.

**Home Team:** The home team will be determined by a coin toss for all pool play and double elimination games except for the Championship game in each division. The home team for the Championship game will be the undefeated team, and the IF game will be determined by a coin toss.

**Scorekeeper:** The home team is the official scorekeeper. Scores should be confirmed at each half inning with the plate umpire. It is each manager's responsibility to initial and confirm the umpire's scorecard and that the correct winning team is indicated at the conclusion of every game. Upon leaving the field, the Umpire's scorecard becomes official.

**Player Line-ups:** Teams must begin and finish with at least nine (9) players to avoid a forfeit. An out will be recorded every time the vacant 10th batting position has a turn to bat. If a 10th player arrives, the player must be immediately entered into the game. Any other player arriving after this shall be entered as a substitute. Teams may bat up to 12, using two (2) extra hitters. Extra hitters must be indicated as EH on the line up sheet. If a team starting with 10 or more players on the line up loses a player during the game and has no one to substitute, then an out will be assessed whenever that player would have come up to bat.

**Game Rules:** Batters start with 1-1 count, and there is **no courtesy foul**. No new inning will start after 50 minutes. Championship game (including "If" game) will have no new inning start after 60 minutes. **USA Softball** run rule is in effect.

**USA Softball Run Rule:**

- 20 runs ahead after 3 innings or 2 ½ if the home team is ahead.
- 15 runs ahead after 4 innings or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead.
- 10 runs ahead after 5 innings or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead.

**Bases:** If there are two bags at first base, the **USA Softball** double bag rule is in effect.

**Home Run Limits:**

Anything over the limit will be an out. For the Open E, Open D and Masters D Divisions, any ball hit over the fence is an inning-ending out.

Open A – Four (4) over the fence home runs per game, per team.

Open B – Two (2) over the fence home runs per game, per team.

Open C – One (1) over the fence home run per game, per team.

Open D – Zero (0) over the fence home runs.

Open E – Zero (0) over the fence home runs.

Masters C – One (1) over the fence home run per game, per team.

Masters D – Zero (0) any over the fence home runs.

Women's D – One (1) over the fence home run per game, per team.

NOTE: When a ball is hit over the fence, the batter and all base runners may go directly to the dugout. In this case, appeals for runners missing a base are not allowed.

**Courtesy Runners:** One (1)\* courtesy runner may be used per inning and **USA Softball** rules will be followed with regards to the courtesy runner. Any player on the lineup sheet may be used and will not be considered a substitution.

*\* For Masters C and Masters D ONLY, two (2) courtesy runners may be used per inning.*

**Tie Games:** Pool play games may end in a tie. For all other games, a ONE PITCH rule shall be applied:

- The last batter of the previous inning shall be placed on 2nd base. Each batter gets ONE PITCH.
- Foul ball, caught or dropped = OUT
- Strike, swinging or called = OUT
- Ball = Batter is awarded a walk
- Batted Ball = Outcome of play

**Player Ejection Penalty:** The player shall be removed from the current game only. Tournament officials reserve the right to suspend and/or disqualify any ejected player for futures games of the tournament if the ejection is deemed to be morally offensive or threatening in nature to another player, umpire, spectator, tournament staff member or park patron. If there is no substitute available to replace the ejected player, an out will be recorded each time the ejected player was due to come up to bat. If more than one player is ejected from the same team for the same game, the result is a forfeit for that team. If the ejection results in a team falling below 9 eligible players on the line-up sheet, the result will be a forfeit.

**Illegal Bats:** Only **USA Softball** approved bats will be allowed for use. Umpires will be using the current **USA Softball** non-approved bat list for bat review. Any illegal bat or suspected altered bat discovered during a game will be removed from play and returned at the end of the tournament. The Umpire will report and give the bat to the Field Director for holding until the team has completed tournament play. The Field Director will notify the UIC of the infraction. If the same team is found to be using another illegal bat in subsequent games, the Tournament Director has the discretion to remove the team from play. The results of any play occurring while an illegal bat is in use will follow **USA Softball** rules.

**Uniforms:** Each player must wear a “team jersey” which must be similar in color and style, and must have a player/roster number as described by **USA Softball** rules. Non-uniform decorations or tied cloth is NOT allowed on a player's head, neck, or body. For 2021, this rule may be changed to allow face coverings if necessary.

**Jewelry and Loose Accessories:** Exposed jewelry or accessories that are judged by the umpire to be dangerous to others must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Examples of items that may be required to be removed are body and facial piercing, rings, necklaces, bracelets, wrist watches, earrings, pagers, cell phones, tobacco tins, and unsecured sunglasses. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to body. Non-removable jewelry must be concealed with tape or bandage.

**Tournament Integrity:** The Tournament Directors reserve the right to make adjustments to the tournament rules and format as needed if deemed necessary for the best interest of the tournament. Additionally, the Tournament Directors reserve the right to remove a player or team for violating tournament rules.

*Rev: 8/7/2020*