

COACHES:

Here are the official rules for the Women's Major Softball National Championship tournament.

While I distributed hard copies to many of the teams who participated in our Micki Stratton Round Robin last weekend, this copy contains some of the important revisions.

All umpires in the tournament will receive this prior to the event.

The one rule that has extra emphasis placed on it is the "Courtesy Runner" rule. I have witnessed too many violations of it this year. I believe it is a good rule, helping pitchers and catchers as well as speeding up the game.

However, if you only have 10 or 11 players on your club and they are all participating in the game (remember we allow up to 11 hitters in the order) you do not have an eligible player to use as a "courtesy runner." There have been too many instances where a position player has just scored and the next person up is a pitcher or catcher and they reach base and here comes the player who just scored being used as a courtesy runner.

Make sure you familiarize yourself and players with the rule so you do not make a mistake during the game. In addition the official scorekeeper in the press box has been told to inform the announcer, who will announce a stoppage of play if in fact it was an incorrect interpretation of the rule.

You are responsible for knowing our rules and making sure they are followed. I thank you in advance for your support. We want to avoid any embarrassing situations before they happen.

Thanks,
Bob Baird

Tournament Information

LOCATION: DeLuca Field & Short Beach Recreation Complex, Stratford, CT

DATES: Thursday, August 6-Sunday, August 9, 2020

STAFF:

Tournament Director:	Bob Baird
Brakettes Inc. Chairman of Board & GM	
Media Director/Brakettes Asst. GM	Rob Baird
Umpires-in-Chief:	Cliff LaRose

AWARDS:

Team Awards: First Place, Runner-up, & Third Place team plaques
Individual medals for first and second place teams
Individual Awards:
Micki Stratton Most Valuable Player Award
Joan Joyce Outstanding Pitcher Award
Allyson Rioux Defensive Player Award
Diane Schumacher Batting Champion
Pat Dufficy Home Run Champion
Danni Kemp- Sportsmanship Award
An All-America team will be announced and certificates mailed out.

****** This tournament is for teams who played a regular season schedule and with their regular season roster. There are NO pickup players allowed. Also, players may NOT participate on more than one team. Violation will result in automatic removal of that team from the tournament**

(ALL TEAMS SHOULD REVIEW THE DELUCA FIELD REOPENING PROTOCOLS SINCE THEY GOVERN WHATEVER WE DO ON THE PLAYING FIELD)

LINE-UP: Line-up cards may be picked up from the Umpire-in-Chief at each field along with game ball. **Copy of lineup should be turned into the scorekeeper in press box at least 20 minutes prior to game time.** Please complete the line-up card with first and last names, position, uniform number, and substitutes and coaches for pre-game introductions. **Game balls and lineup cards may be picked up at the ticket booth when you enter the field.**

GAME TIMES: Game time is forfeit time. Teams should be at the field at least 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time. Games may start earlier than the posted time. Pool play begins **Thursday morning at 8 a.m. Bracket play follows Friday.**

(THIS IS NEW SO PLEASE READ IT)

INFIELD PRACTICE:

No infield practice will be allowed. Ground balls may be hit behind the baselines once field has been groomed. Do not hit while the grounds crew is working. And provided time permits. Fly balls are not permitted on the playing field. Area behind outfield fence may be used for warmups only- throwing, or pitching, nothing else. No hitting fly balls or throwing fly balls. Hitting before the game is limited to pop-ups nets on grass area outside first base fences or the old batting cage in left. **Spectators are allowed behind the outfield home run fence this year, thus the reason for no hitting of any kind out there.**

DUGOUT LIMITS: Only roster players, coaches, manager, and scorekeeper are permitted in the dugout. No bat girls or bat boys allowed.

PROTESTS: All protests will be handled by the U-I-C at the point before play proceeds.

RUN RULE: The 12-run rule after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 shall be in effect. Complete inning must be played unless the home team scores the run while at bat. There is NO run rule in the championship game(s).

TIME LIMIT: There is no time limit is in effect.

SUSPENDED GAMES All suspended games will be resumed from the point of suspension.

INTERNATIONAL

TIE-BREAKER: The international tie-breaker will NOT be used, unless needed if inclement weather adversely affects the tournament.

RUNNERS/EH: **Courtesy runners are allowed in the tournament for pitcher and catcher. The ASA courtesy runner rule is explained in depth on the back page. What you must know if “any player currently in the game or have participated in the game in any playing capacity are NOT eligible to serve as a courtesy runner.”**
Teams **MAY** hit up to 11 players, which in addition to a DP/Flex Player, includes 2 EH (extra hitters). However, if the number of hitters falls below what you started with, every time that place in the order comes up it will be an OUT.

PLAYERS: Teams may start and finish with 8 players. When the spot in the batting order for the 9th player arrives it shall be counted as an OUT.

COIN FLIP: A coin flip will determine the Home and Visitor and will take place at the top of the 5th inning of the previous game or 30 minutes prior to starting time for the first game of the session. It will take place where the U-I-C is located.

TEAM BENCHES: Also known as the “John Stratton Rule”, the team listed on the top of the bracket sits in the third base dugout, unless it involves the Brakettes who are permanent residents of third base so John can reach the men’s room in time!

GAME BALL: Game balls will be the Dudley Fast Pitch softball.

TOURNAMENT

HEADQUARTERS: Quality Suites (located 1 mile from DeLuca Field)
1500 South Avenue
Stratford, CT 06615
(203) 375-9528
Contact Harry, Sales Manager

TICKETS: Tickets will be \$5 per session for general admission (first and third base bleachers), \$6 for reserved/with back rests behind home plate, and \$8 for box seats for each session. Tournament Passes are \$35 for box seats, \$30 for reserved, and \$25 for general admission. There are seven sessions. No admission will be charged for games at Short Beach unless weather conditions necessitate moving all games there. **Due to social**

distancing restrictions the number of box and reserved seats have been drastically reduced. Players from participating teams **MAY NOT** sit in the permanent bleachers or behind home plate area. They may sit in the 3 sections of bleachers down the right field line or in the outfield grass, but they must maintain social distancing and observe the mask requirements.

PRACTICE FIELDS There are several fields available. The closest ones to Quality Suites are at the Birdseye Rec Complex, located two blocks from the hotel. There are three fields at the site.

FOOD/ALCOHOLIC

BEVERAGES & Pets: Teams are responsible for providing their own water bottles and sanitizing supplies. Alcoholic beverages are NOT permitted in the field. Smoking and pets are also not permitted.

Official ASA rules will be utilized in those areas that are not covered by the specifically listed tournament rules. Also, the tournament committee reserves the right to make revisions to the schedule in the event of inclement weather in order to bring the tournament to a successful conclusion.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COURTESY RUNNER RULE AND EH:

- Team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher providing the pitcher or catcher bats for themselves and reaches base safely.
- The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and the catcher at any time during the game.
- Players who are currently in the game or have participated in the game in any playing capacity are not eligible to serve as a courtesy runner.
- If the DP bats for the pitcher or catcher and reaches base safely, a courtesy runner is not permitted to run for the Designated Player, or their substitute, including the pitcher or catcher.
- Many tournaments have used the slow pitch “last out” as a courtesy runner. It is not permitted in the WMS.
- The extra hitter (EH) offers teams the opportunity to hit 11 players. The EH may enter the game defensively at any time, but the spot in the batting order remains the same. If you are using the DP/Flex, you are not permitted an EH if you only have 10 players.

NOTE: The tournament will begin at 8 a.m. at both DeLuca and Short Beach on Thursday, August 6. That is the reason why we are paying for 3 rooms for teams at least 3 hours away on Wednesday night. All teams must participate in the Opening Ceremonies, following the Team Social, on Thursday, August 6. Parade of teams will begin at approximately 6 p.m.