2026 Gasparilla Softball Classic
Softball Format and Rules

FORMAT

Tournament Management: The Tournament Director is listed on the home page of the Gasparilla Softball Classic Website. Field Directors oversee managing a field complex.

Player Registration: Players will receive a QR code once they have registered for the tournament online. All players must then check in with their QR code and a Government ID before taking the field. Players must register and check in 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 be at least 18 years of age to register and participate in the tournament. No player may be on the roster of more than one team. All team managers will sign the roster at the time of sign in.

Team Eligibility/Player Ratings: All players must have a rating in the iPride Database In order to participate. For Open divisions, current iPride ratings will be in effect as follows:

Division	Team Ratings Thresholds	Individual Ratings Thresholds
Open E	Up to 60	Up to 6
Open D	Up to 95	Up to 10
Open C	Up to 130	Up to 14

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

Non-LGBT Players: There is no limit to the number of non-LGBT players on a roster or line up cards.

Roster and Ratings Submission: No player may be on the roster of more than one team. Team rosters must have a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of twenty (20) players and a maximum of two (2) non-playing members. Managers must submit a roster filling in the full 26 question iPride rating for each player. Each player's rating must match the rating for that player in the iPride database. If you believe that the rating in the iPride database is incorrect, consult your league's Commissioner who can access it for the players in your league.

Protests Regarding Ratings/Eligibility: Each protest costs $50 a question and must be paid in exact cash amount at the time the protest is made. The umpire will then stop the game clock and call the Field Director, who will then receive the protest. The Field Director will validate the protest card and the team can fix any errors. Once the protest has been logged, the game clock will start back and the game will be completed.

Teams may protest unlimited number of questions per player, and must be specific as to which questions and which player rating they are protesting. Protests must be made prior to the final pitch. Protests will not be allowed in the trophy games (anything that determines, first, second, and third place). If a protest is deemed to be valid, the protest fee will be refunded. Only the team manager of the opposing team can protest a player.

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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 10 minutes prior to game time for a coin toss when called by the umpire. 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. Games may begin early if previously agreed to by both teams' managers and the umpire. A game will stop (and time paused) for any player bleeding. Up to five minutes will be permitted for the player to get properly bandaged. After five minutes have elapsed, a substitution must be made.

Home Team:

- The home team will be determined by coin toss for all pool play games. At the end of pool play, teams will be seeded by win-loss record. Teams with the same win-loss record will be drawn out of a hat for their seeds. The higher seeded team will be the home team in the double elimination games. The home team for the Championship Game will be the team emerging from the Winners Bracket. The "If Game" home team will be determined by coin toss.
    - **D Division** - If bracket has multiple teams with the same seed and those teams play each other, home team will be decided 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. Scorecards will be picked up by the Field Coordinators at the completion of each game.

Player Line-ups: Line-ups must include each player's Number, First Initial, and Last Name and match the names on the official team roster. Any player taking the field, including subs, must be on the line-up card prior to the start of the game. Teams must begin and finish with at least nine (9) players to avoid a forfeit. If a 10th player arrives, that is on the team's roster, the player must be immediately entered into the game. Teams may bat up to 12, using two (2) extra hitters. 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 are given one courtesy foul after two strikes. All pool play games are drop dead at 45 minutes and may end in a tie. For double elimination games, no new inning will begin after 50 minutes. A new inning begins when the third out is recorded from the previous inning. If a double elimination game ends up in a tie, the following will be applied:

- The last batter of the previous inning shall be placed on 2nd base.
- If teams are still tied after the first extra inning, the remaining extra innings are one pitch format.
- 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

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Pitch Height: A legal pitch is between 6 and 12 feet high.

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.

Home Run Limits:
For the Open E, Open D, and Legends D Divisions, any ball hit over the fence is an inning-ending out.
For all other divisions, anything over the stated limits will be an out:

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.

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 courtesy runner may be used per inning. Any eligible player on the lineup sheet, to include subs, may be used and will not be considered a substitution.

Player Inclusion Policy (PIP) Accommodations (FKA ADA): All players who wish to utilize the PIP Rule Modification must have already submitted the proper forms and be approved by the Gasparilla Softball Classic Director(s).

If a player is approved for the PIP Rule Modification, the runner must be the player that made the last out in that or the previous inning. In the event that player also received a PIP Rule Modification for running, the previous out will be used. If that PIP runner, while on base, is due to bat, the previous out can replace that PIP runner with no penalty. The PIP runner can only be used at the next dead ball, after that player reaches base. Once the next ball is pitched, the PIP runner will not be allowed to be used. In the event this occurs in the first inning, before an out is made, the last person in the lineup must be utilized as the PIP runner. If you have reached the end of the line up and no out has been made, and a replacement runner is needed, use the next available previous batter that is not on base, starting from 12 and going backwards, skipping the player(s) with the PIP Rule Modification.

PIP cards will be provided to the team manager in their manager bag at the time of registration. Please check your bag to make sure you have them if a PIP player on your roster was approved. PIP cards must be turned in at the beginning of each game to the home plate umpire in order to be granted the modification for that game. Failure to do so will result in the modification not being honored for that game.

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. 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. ANY PLAYER FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THE LEGAL BAT RULE WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE TOURNAMENT.

Uniforms: Teams are not required to have like-colored uniforms; however, up to two-digit numbers (0-99) of contrasting color, at least 6 inches high, must be worn and visible on the back of all jerseys. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers (0 and 00 or 3 and 03 are examples of identical numbers). In the event two players have the same number one must alter or change jerseys or be replaced with a substitute. Players without numbers will not be permitted to play. Hats may be worn in whatever manner.

Protective Equipment: The Gasparilla Softball Classic Tournament requires that all pitchers wear a mask. If a pitcher does not wear a mask, they may not pitch until they put on a mask. In addition to pitchers, it is recommended that all players consider wearing safety equipment to play their positions. This equipment includes face masks, mouth guards, chest protectors, shin guards, and athletic cups as appropriate. Use of net for pitchers is not allowed.

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 piercings, rings, necklaces, bracelets, wrist watches, earrings, pagers, cell phones, tobacco tins, and unsecured sunglasses. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to the body. Non-removable jewelry must be concealed with tape or bandage.

Tournament Integrity: The Tournament Directors reserve the right to adjust the tournament rules and format if deemed necessary for the best interest of the tournament. In the event of inclement weather, the tournament may revert to a one-pitch format at the discretion of the Tournament Director or their proxy.

Inappropriate Behaviors: Umpires have the power to have any offending fans ejected from the park. We are here to have fun and play ball. Artificial noisemakers will not be permitted. This includes money shakers, horns, cowbells, and other such devices. Offending fans (either with offensive comments or noisemakers) will be asked to stop, and teams may be subject to forfeit if fans are not kept under control. The Tournament Director may extend any ejection determine appropriate based upon the severity of the player behavior(s), risk to other individuals, and the reputation of the Tournament and the Suncoast Softball League. Additionally, the Tournament Directors reserve the right to remove a player or team for violating tournament rules.