

TOUCHING BASE

NSF ♦ MSF Softball

An Official Newsletter of the Minnesota Sports Federation

WINTER-SPRING 2024

NSF ♦ MSF SOFTBALL MOST AFFORDABLE PROGRAM IN THE STATE

The Minnesota NSF ♦ MSF Softball program continued its broad appeal in 2023. NSF ♦ MSF Softball continually strives to improve the game for players and fans alike.

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Once you know the number of teams that will be playing in your 2024 leagues, email perry@msf1.org and your team membership materials will be shipped to you. This includes a membership bag tag, softball program guidebook, rulebook/scorebook and blank roster forms for each of your teams. These materials are all superior, or in addition to the ones other organizations provide, all at the lowest possible fee. Please note the applicable shipping charge this year on the back of the team membership form you must include when you send in your team membership forms and fees.

MINNESOTA SOFTBALL HOF BANQUET

The 2024 Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame Banquet is set for Saturday, October 26th at Jackpot Junction Casino in Morton, MN. Social hour begins at 4:00PM. Nomination deadline is June 15th and criteria/forms are available at www.msf1.org.



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ACTIVE REWARDS AND LOYALTY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED FOR SOFTBALL

In an effort to promote more participation in postseason play an "Active Rewards and Loyalty Program" (ARLP) was established in 2016. This program rewards participation and loyalty in the MSF program, providing financial rebates for various forms of participation allowing softball communities to earn as much as \$300-400 per year in participation rebates to be used for reducing state tournament entry fees.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS/FEES

MSF continues to be the only softball organization in the state that provides each member team a softball program guidebook, member bag tag, and quality scorebook. **All for the ultra low team membership fee of just \$15. Compare cost, benefits and save. The NSF ♦ MSF registered invitational tournament and umpire membership fee is also far lower than others offered.**

52/300 SOFTBALL ADOPTED FOR MEN'S, WOMEN'S & CO-REC 12" SLOWPITCH LEAGUE & TOURNAMENT PLAY

Out of a concern for safety and cutting down on excess homeruns the new 52/300 softball will continue being used for men's, women's and co-rec slowpitch 12" league and tournament play. While it may make more sense to reduce the liveliness of the bats rather than making the ball deader, that is not the current direction probably for the same reason golf clubs keep getting better and livelier, so technology allows the players to hit the ball farther, and more money can be charged for the product.

LEGAL BATS

For a complete listing of legal bats for NSF ♦ MSF play, see:
www.usasoftball.com/certified-equipment/

BOARD MEETING

The next Sports Federation Board of Directors meeting is on Thursday, February 15th at Jimmy's Pour House in Sauk Rapids. The meeting starts at 6:30PM and your attendance and input is always welcome.

SOFTBALL SCORECARDS AVAILABLE

Official Federation softball scorecards are now available. These cards are a must for a smooth running league or tournament. Includes area for umpire to record line-ups, substitutes and home run totals. Eliminates disputes and controversy and is printed on durable card stock. The cost is just \$5.50 per package of 50. To order, use the enclosed order form.

SOFTBALLS AVAILABLE AT REDUCED PRICES

Starr softballs are available at competitive pricing again in 2024. Both 11 and 12 inch balls are available. Your support of this program and other auxiliary programs offered by the MSF will permit the continuance of low membership fees. To purchase 2024 softballs from the Federation, please use the **enclosed** order form. To avoid shipping charges you may pick up your softballs at the MSF offices, provided sufficient notice is given. The synthetic covered ball is just as good or better than leather for slowpitch and fastpitch and more affordable.

PLAYING RULE CHANGES FOR 2024

No suggestions were submitted to consider, so there are no playing rule changes for 2024.

BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT

Board of Directors openings exist for adult softball, basketball, and volleyball. League directors from District I, II, III-IV, V, VI, and VII, or a female softball player rep. Board members meet two or three times per year in metro area. Service is voluntary and term of service is three years. If you are interested in serving, please contact **perry@msf1.org** or call our offices at (651) 451-3140. If there is more than one applicant for a district an election will be held.

UMPIRE MEMBERSHIP

A reminder that all umpires working in your member softball leagues must be registered with NSF ♦ MSF Softball. Umpire registration information will be sent directly to 2023 member umpires the later part of February. If you have any new umpires please have them contact Federation offices so we can place them on the mailing list. The required umpire clinic will be held on-line once again. Passing a 75 question on-line test will also be required again this year. How to access both items will be explained in the umpire membership information, which all league directors will also receive a copy of. The umpire membership fee remains at just \$55.00 and includes the clinic, testing procedure, membership bag tag, liability and excess medical insurance, a rulebook and quick access to low-cost, excellent quality, umpire uniforms. The open book test requires umpires to crack open their rulebooks, something all need to do. If your softball community/association would like to host a state umpire school and can guarantee local attendance and a complimentary refreshments/facility to host, please contact the MSF offices to schedule.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP/TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

The team membership fee for Adult and Youth Softball is still just \$15.00 per team, plus a small shipping charge as listed on the back of membership form. The NSF ♦ MSF team membership fee is much lower than what other organizations charge and over the last twenty years our low fees have saved Minnesota softball participants over \$1,000,000. Despite rising award costs, officials fees and ball costs, the tournament entry fee is \$225.00 for adult slowpitch and is kept very low to promote participation. Coupled with the MSF "Active Rewards and Loyalty Program" this makes MSF entry fees considerably lower than others charge.

ROSTER REQUIREMENT

A reminder that **all** leagues are required to submit regular season rosters for all member teams (yellow copy). This step has been necessitated by irregularities occurring at district/state tournament play. The NSF ♦ MSF "universal" three-part roster form is designed to serve as a league, regular season and postseason tournament roster. Blank rosters will be distributed at district meetings, as leagues are registered or in advance if requested. The adult and JO rosters may now also be completed on-line. **Exception:** Park and Recreation and Community Education Departments may send a copy of their own regular season roster in place of the NSF ♦ MSF universal roster provided it provides legible names and addresses of all players. However, all teams advancing to NSF ♦ MSF postseason play must complete and utilize the universal MSF roster.

SOFTBALL CLASSIFICATION PETITIONS

Adult teams/leagues may not move down without the written permission of the NSF ♦ MSF. Petitions to move down shall be forwarded to NSF ♦ MSF offices prior to February 15 of the current year and include team name, sports community, manager's name, address, and league director's name and address. The petition must also have the league director's signature indicating their position on the petition. It is located in last year's guidebook.

MINNESOTA HOSTED NATIONALS

Minnesota will once again host the "Tournament of Champions"/National Softball Federation North American Slowpitch Championships in 2024 at Sandquist Family Park in Cambridge. **This year the event will also serve as the state tournaments for men's and women's slowpitch.** The event will be held August 16-18 to avoid Labor Day Weekend, traditional family vacation time before school resumes.

SPORTS FEDERATION IS SERVICE MINDED

As a non-profit organization the MSF exists to provide services to its members. If you have a suggestion on how we can do that better, please do not hesitate to call or write.

FASTPITCH COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED

The Men's Fastpitch Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 29th at 6:30PM at the Park Tavern in St. Louis Park.

MEMBERS NEEDED TO HELP PROMOTE

Federation members are asked to help promote the Sports Federation. If you know of a league in your area which is not a Federation-NSF member, please refer them to the state office. The continual growth of the Federation will strengthen your organization and help maintain the lowest possible fees.

Visit the
Minnesota Sports Federation
on-line at

WWW.MSF1.ORG

for tournament results,
upcoming special events and
much, much more!

MSF1.ORG, join us as the
MSF continues to
“Serve Minnesota Through Sports”



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