**2025 Music City Classic Rules**

**Time Limits:**

* Round Robin Games – 50 minutes
* Round Robin games are “**drop dead**”- games will end once time expires, incomplete innings will not be completed and the scores will not revert back to the last full inning completed.
* Tournament Games – 55 minutes, you will finish the inning with no new inning after 55 mins
* Championship Games – No Time Limit **(7 innings)**
* Championship Games are defined as games that determine First and Second Place teams within each division of play.

**Run Rule & Batting**

* Twenty (20) runs after three (3) innings.
* Fifteen (15) runs after four (4) innings.
* Ten (10) runs after five (5) innings.
* Each batter goes to the batter’s box with a count of one ball and one strike. If a batter fouls on the second strike, he/she is awarded one additional foul (Courtesy Foul Rule).
* You will be allowed to bat up to 12 players during Round Robin and Tournament Games
* Approved ASA/USA only bats are allowed and will be checked by umpires prior to the start of every game.
* Arc of the pitch is six (6) to twelve (12) feet.
* AD Starr 300 compression 52 core softballs will be the official tournament ball.

**Home Run Rule:**

* C Division – one (1) allowed over the fence per game; any over one (1) is an inning ending out.
* D Division – no over the fence home runs are allowed. Any over the fence home runs will be an inning ending out. Note: Per NAGAAA rule no player with a yes to question 5 is eligible to play in the D Division.
* E Division – no over the fence home runs are allowed. Any over the fence home runs will be an inning ending out. Note: Per NAGAAA rule no player with Yes to question 3 is eligible to play in the E Division.
* One (1) courtesy runner per inning is allowed. The courtesy runner may be any properly registered player on your line-up card (substitutes included). If the courtesy runner is still on base when it is their time to bat, the runner will come to bat and the base will remain empty and an out recorded.

**Seeding**

* In case of a tie during pool play, no additional innings or time will be allotted. The game will be recorded as a tie.
* Seeding after Pool Play is determined using wins, ties, & losses, then runs allowed, runs scored. If, after all things considered, two (2) teams have identical records, we will flip a coin for the higher seed.

**Protest:**

* Protests must be properly filed in writing prior to the end of the game in question. Blank protest slips will be provided in each coach packet. Extra protest slips may be obtained from the Tournament Desk.
* It is the protesting team’s responsibility (1) to call time out with the plate umpire prior to the final out of the game or time expiring, whichever is first, (2) present a properly completed protest slip and (3) pay a filing fee of $50 per protested player/per question. Cash is the preferred method of payment, but Venmo cash transfer will be accepted. No more than five (5) minutes will be allotted to complete the filing process.
* The protesting team must present the name and jersey number (of each player being protested) and the specific corresponding iPride Player Ratings Guidelines question(s) they are protesting. The protesting team must have some sort of back up for each protest (scorebook, etc.). Once a player has been challenged for any question, he/she may not be protested for that same question again during the tournament.
* After the protest hearing is complete, the fee will be returned if the protested question is upheld. The protest fee will not be returned if the protest is denied.
* In the event a point is added to a player’s rating as the result of a protest, that player will be allowed to continue to play only if his or her new rating does not exceed the highest rating allowed for his or her original division of play. If the player does not have to move divisions but puts the team above the cap for the division in which they entered, that team is no longer eligible to compete.
* In the event that a team has three successful protests upheld against them, the team is no longer eligible to compete for the remainder of the tournament.
* In the event the players rating does exceed the highest allowed for his team’s division, the protested player’s team will be awarded a loss for that game. The team may continue to play if they only have one loss.
* There will be NO protests allowed for any championship game (First and Second place)

**Protest Committee:**

* Committee will be comprised of at least 3 coaches, select players, or MNSA Board Members. The Tournament Director or Field Director will conduct the protest hearing and shall have no vote in the outcome.

**Double Elimination Bracket Play & General Information:**

* If not specifically stated in this document we will default to current ASA/USA rules.
* The higher seed will always be home team, with the exception of the championship game where the winner’s bracket champion will be designated home team. The IF game will be a coin toss.
* All bracket play games will be officiated by two umpires.
* The International Tie Breaker Rule will be used in the event of a tie at the end of a tournament game.
* Players can register until the point that all round robin games have been completed in their division of play.
* If a player is not registered and plays in any game that player is considered an ineligible player and that game will be considered a forfeit if brought to the attention of the Tournament or Field Director during that game.
* Current iPride player ratings and classification guidelines will be used for Open division teams. Team Caps for each division will be used:
	+ C (130 Max),
	+ D (95 Max)
	+ E (60 Max)
* Music City Classic follows the NAGAA iPride rule regarding non-LGBT players. No more than 3 non-LGBT players per roster will be allowed. It is the team coach’s responsibility to ensure adherence to this rule.
* All players must have a verifiable iPride rating. Player ratings will be verified in the iPride database. If a player does not have a NAGAAA rating in the database, the league Commissioner of that team’s iPride member city **MUST e-mail** approval of the assigned rating to Board@mnsasoftball.com. This rule will be strictly enforced. Please contact the Tournament Director about eligibility issues prior to sending in your entry form. Team rosters are due **June 15, 2025, by 11:59 PM.** The team roster cannot be modified after June 15th without the approval of the MNSA Commissioner or Music City Classic Tournament Director. Modifications past the stated deadline will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
* Any request for a Player Inclusion Policy must be presented to the MCC Tournament Director at tournament@mnsasoftball.com **prior to the roster deadline of June 15th, 2024, by 11:59 PM.** The request must be accompanied with support from medical providers who’ve treated the player within the last year. The Tournament Director/Committee will rule based on the support provided and other conditions and circumstances related to the request. **Forms, support, and approvals from other leagues will not be accepted.** This accommodation will not count towards your 1 courtesy runner per inning.
	+ If requesting an accommodation for a runner from home:
		- The runner from home plate must be the last recorded out. If there is no out recorded out it is the last batter in the line-up.
		- The runner from home plate may only advance to first base.
		- The runner may advance past first base only in the case of dead ball advance from the umpire.
		- All other occupied base runners may advance as normal.
	+ If requesting an accommodation for a runner from first base:
		- The batter must reach first base safety.
		- The batter may not advance beyond first base.
		- The batter may advance past first base only in the case of dead ball advance from the umpire.
		- All other occupied base runners may advance as normal.
* No jewelry is allowed that is judged by the umpire to be hazardous or potentially dangerous such as neck chains, watches, bracelets, or earrings that extend below the earlobe.
* Each player must wear a “team jersey” which must be similar in color, style, and must have a player/roster number as described by USA rules.
* Report all substitutes to the umpire. It is common courtesy to notify opposing coaches of substitutions.
* Official line-up cards ten (10) minutes prior to the game time to the opposing team scorekeepers and to the umpire.
* At the discretion of the field umpires, any team or fans using obscene language or gestures will be asked to cease and may be removed from the field/park.
* Ejections – A player or coach removed from the game by the umpire, usually for an unsportsmanlike act or conduct. A flagrant act will require the player or coach to leave the grounds for the remainder of the game and is not eligible to play in the next full game. A team may NOT continue to play shorthanded. If no substitutes are available, the game is a forfeit. If the umpire and/or designated tournament official(s) deems the unsportsmanlike act or conduct as malicious, the ENTIRE team will not be allowed to participate in the remainder of the tournament. All previous games played shall be legal; all games afterwards shall be forfeits.
* The Music City Classic has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy with regards to racial, gender, or sexual orientation slurs. Any player being found to have used any form of hate speech will immediately be asked to leave the tournament and may not participate any other tournament events.
* In the event of inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances, the Music City Classic Director reserves the right to alter the format of the tournament in order to attempt completion of the event. In the event of inclement weather, games will be played on rapid time. As a last resort, the one pitch rule will be implemented.
* In the event of a rainout during play, 4 innings is considered a complete game. If the home team is ahead after the top of the 4th is over this will be considered a complete game and the score will stand as is.
* There will not be any provided scorekeepers for Music City Classic. All teams will need to provide their own scorekeeper for ALL GAMES.
* The home team will be responsible for keeping the official book. However, scores should be verified with each team’s scorekeeper and the plate umpire at the end of every half inning.