

2009 USSSA FASTPITCH

18 and Over

WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENT

Congratulations on an outstanding season and welcome to the 2009 USSSA Fast Pitch 18 & Over World Series Tournament. The World Series Tournament will be held in Rockford, Illinois. Games will be played at the newly renovated diamonds (due to flooding in 2008) at Veteran's Memorial Sports Complex on July 24 – July 26, 2009...Dependent on the number of entries, games will be started as late as possible on Friday, July 24.

New for 2009 season – Teams are not required to participate in their home State Tournament prior to participation in the 18 & Over World Series although we encourage teams to play in USSSA tournaments for those valuable USSSA National Ranking Points which seed pool play.

2 Classes of Competition – (experimental program for 2009) - 18 & Over Major and 18 & Over "A". If there is enough interest and the number of entries warrants another division, we may have 2 divisions of competition. Even though teams may not be classified as either Major or "A" you would have your choice of division. The Major Division would be for those DI & D2 schools which have current collegiate players on their rosters and want to play more competitive in pool and bracket play. Any team can enter the Major division or "A" division.

The USSSA Fast Pitch program will use a 4-game guarantee format in its World Series Tournament. Teams will be seeded into pools based on current USSSA ranking points and play a round robin. All teams will be seeded into a double elimination Championship bracket following pool play. Seeding will be based on pool finish. The exact format of the tournament, e.g., number of games, number of teams in each pool, etc., will be set by the Tournament Director following USSSA Fast Pitch guidelines as approved by the USSSA Fast Pitch National Committee.

YOUR STATE DIRECTOR MUST RECEIVE your team's World Series Tournament entry form and cashier's check or money order for the entry fee **BY JULY 11, 2009** to guarantee your spot in the tournament. Your entry fee, in the amount of \$450.00 should be made payable to: USSSA Fast Pitch. For a listing of state directors, their addresses, e-mail, phone numbers go to www.ussa.com and click on State Directors. Teams must go through their state director and may not directly enter a World Series Tournament.

All players participating in the USSSA Fast Pitch tournament play shall have proof of age in their possession at all times. Proof of age must be verified by a government issued document that identifies the player by name, gender and birth date. (Driver's License). Failure to produce a copy of such document upon demand by and deemed non-fraudulent by a tournament official will result in the offending team losing the game, being eliminated from the tournament, being placed last in the standings and forfeiting the entry fee and all awards that would have been awarded at the tournament.

YOUR STATE DIRECTOR MUST SIGN THE ROSTER WE RECEIVE; ALL TEAM ROSTERS MUST BE ON THE USSSA WEB PAGE. Instructions to add roster on ISTS is located on usssa.com web site. THIS ROSTER MUST BE THE ONE THAT WAS SUBMITTED TO YOUR STATE AND/OR AREA DIRECTOR WHEN YOU'RE TEAM, QUALIFIED FOR THIS TOURNAMENT. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN YOUR TEAMS SUSPENSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN THIS TOURNAMENT!

NOTE:

Any player 18, or who reaches their 18th birthday, or who graduates from High School in the calendar year of the current World Series, shall be eligible to participate in the 18 & over World Series Tournament.

1. Bases will be 60 feet and the pitching distance will be 43 feet.
2. The 12-inch optic yellow ball will be used.
3. All players must wear identical uniforms. This includes jerseys, long pants or shorts and leggings. Whether long pants or shorts are worn all team members must be uniformed alike. Caps are optional, however when worn, they must all be alike and worn with the bill forward. Non-duplicating numbers will be required and must be a minimum of three inches in size and clearly visible. Protests on uniforms will not be allowed. It shall be the World Series Tournament Directors responsibility regarding uniform legality. Violation of the uniform rules will result in the violator being allowed to conform or be removed from the game.
4. **New for 2009.** Jewelry will be allowed in the 18 & Over program. However, if Tournament Officials and/or Umpires consider the item injurious to any player it must be removed
5. NOCSAE approved batting helmets with extended earflaps which cover both ears, and temples are mandatory for batters, on deck batters, base runners, non-adult bat and ball shaggers and offensive player in live territory, even if the ball is dead.
6. The catcher shall wear a NOCSAE approved head protector, an approved mask with throat protector, body chest protector and shin guards. All protective equipment must conform to industry standards.
7. Any non-adult warming up a pitcher within the confines of the playing field shall wear an approved protective mask with throat protector.
8. HELMETS – When an umpire observes anyone required to wear a batting helmet deliberately removing the batting helmet while the ball is alive, and that person is in live ball territory, the umpire shall issue a warning to the coach of the involved person's team. All subsequent violations of the rule shall result in an out.
9. Roster protest fees will be set at \$100 per protest.
10. The official USSSA Fast Pitch softball rulebook and national by-laws shall govern all playing rules or policies not specifically covered above.

Tournament Headquarters: Teams may check bats at the Veteran's Memorial Sportscore by the footbridge upon entering the 8 diamond complex. Be prepared to do this at least 1 hour prior to scheduled game time if you did not attend the Manager's Meeting. Please check in upon arrival so that we know you are here, where you are staying, and to make sure all papers are in order. For more information, E-mail Brenda Paulson at llusssa@t6b.com or in an emergency calls 815-964-3537. Bracket schedules WILL NOT be mailed out in advance.

Manager check in will held at the Manager's breakfast. This breakfast will be held at 9:00am on Friday, July 25 at the Sportscore Soccer Center located off Elmwood Rd by the Sportscore Diamonds at 4751 Hiawatha Dr, Rockford, IL 61103. 815-636-8339. Only two representatives from each team will be permitted to attend this event. All teams will be required to have a representative in attendance. The official playing schedule for all teams will be distributed at that time.

Pool Play will begin on Friday, July 24, 2009. Depending on the number of entries, games may begin at Noon or later. All teams should be prepared to play 2 pool games on Friday. Double elimination tournament play will begin on Saturday am.

Awards to be presented in each division:

- A. Team trophies, to the top four teams.**
- B. Individual awards, to the top two teams.**
- C. Team Sportsmanship award**
- D. Outstanding Pitcher Award**
- E. Outstanding Offensive Player award**
- F. Outstanding Defensive Player award**
- G. MVP award**
- H. Manager of the Year award**
- I. All World Player awards (minimum 15)**

HOTEL/MOTELS: For hotel/motel information and room blocks, contact Brenda Paulson at ilusssa.com if you need help with hotels/motels. Each team is responsible for their reservation. Rooms have been blocked at Cliffbreakers @ \$69.99 + tax and the Sleep Inn under USSSA.

ADMISSION - will be \$8.00 per person per day or \$20.00 for a tournament pass. For children (6-12) the charge will be \$4.00 or \$10.00 for a tournament pass. This charge includes everyone except players and team coaches. A maximum of 3 coach passes and 20 player passes will be issued, player passes will only be issued to players on submitted roster.

Souvenirs such as World Series patches, date bars and t-shirts, etc. will be sold at the souvenir booth.

******Tentative Itinerary:** All times are subject to change, please verify itinerary when checking in. Once the tournament begins, managers must check Main bracket board for any CHANGES in game times, field assignments or other items related to tournament play or functions

- Friday - July 24 – 9am – Manager Breakfast and check in.**
- Friday - July 24 12:00 pm. – World Series Pool Play begins**
- Friday – July 24 6pm – Opening ceremonies all teams must participate.**
- Saturday - July 25 - 8:00 a.m. – World Series Tournament play begins.**
- Sunday - July 26 – 8:00 a.m. - World Series play continues**
- Sunday - July 26 – 2:00 p.m. – Championship game (tentative)**



**2009 18 and Over
FAST PITCH WORLD SERIES
ENTRY APPLICATION
Rockford, Illinois**

Classification: _____ **Major** _____ **Class "A" (Please indicate preference)**

Team Name: _____

From (City and State): _____

Manager's Name: _____

Manager's Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Manager Telephone Number (Including Area Code): _____

Manager Cell phone: _____

Manager Email: _____

Hotel booked: _____ **# Doubles** _____ **#Singles:** _____ **Suites:** _____

Team Arrival date: _____ **by car:** _____ **bus:** _____ **airplane:** _____

Team Sponsor: _____

Enclosed is a check or money order in the amount of \$ _____ to cover team entry fee.

CODE OF UNDERSTANDING

1. This entry form, along with the entry fee, must be submitted to your State Director. Teams will not be allowed to forward entry forms directly to the World Series Director. In the event a State does not have a State Director, then this form must be submitted to the Vice President-Fast Pitch .
2. The World Series Director is under no obligation to accept any entry that arrives after the bracket is drawn.
3. Any team that submits a bad check for payment of entry fee or motel bills will be subject to disbarment.
4. Any team destroying property or involved in theft of motel property will be subject to disbarment.
5. My team stands ready to play on opening night if so scheduled.

I agree with the above code of understanding.

Signed _____
Team Manager



RULES OF CONDUCT

It is the purpose of the United States Specialty Sports Association to conduct the best possible Tournaments from all aspects. To achieve this objective the USSSA must have the cooperation of each player, manager, coach and sponsor. We are guests in the city that the tournament is conducting and nothing should occur that would reflect adversely on your team, players, our host city, or the United States Specialty Sports Association. Therefore, it is required that all teams in the tournament comply with the following rules:

- 1. Team managers must have full control of their respective players at all times. This means “on” and “off” the field, course, or court.**
- 2. In case of disputed play or decision, team managers or captains may consult with the game officials. The other players and coaches or sponsors are to be kept out of the discussion.**
- 3. Managers, coaches and players are not to fraternize with spectators while participating in an event. At no time will any participants be allowed to smoke while participating in any USSSA event.**
- 4. At no time will participants be allowed to drink or have in their possession any alcoholic beverage while participating in any USSSA event.**
- 5. Managers are to report any un-sportsmanlike or derogatory acts by players or spectators to the tournament director. The purpose here is to prevent any serious situation developing that would be harmful to the tournament.**
- 6. Managers, coaches, players, sponsors and teams are liable for suspension by not adhering to the tournament rules in effect. This could mean suspension for a game, games, tournament or a longer duration depending on the act of violation.**
- 7. A player, coach, manager or sponsor may be suspended for fighting, abusive tactics or unbecoming acts that are detrimental and not in the best interest of the United States Specialty Sports Association and tournament play.**
- 8. Be careful of your conduct. Be sure that no action occurs that could reflect adversely on your sponsor, team or division. Remember that the wrong actions of even one player can reflect upon your entire team and the various sporting programs.**
- 9. Any report by the hotel or motel management, where any team competing in USSSA championship play is staying, of destruction of property or abuse of hotel or motel property will be dealt with very sternly. Team managers and sponsors will not be warned other than through the notice. Failure to pay hotel or motel bills can result in team disbarment from future USSSA play.**

Any team submitting bad checks to the USSSA will be subject to disbarment.