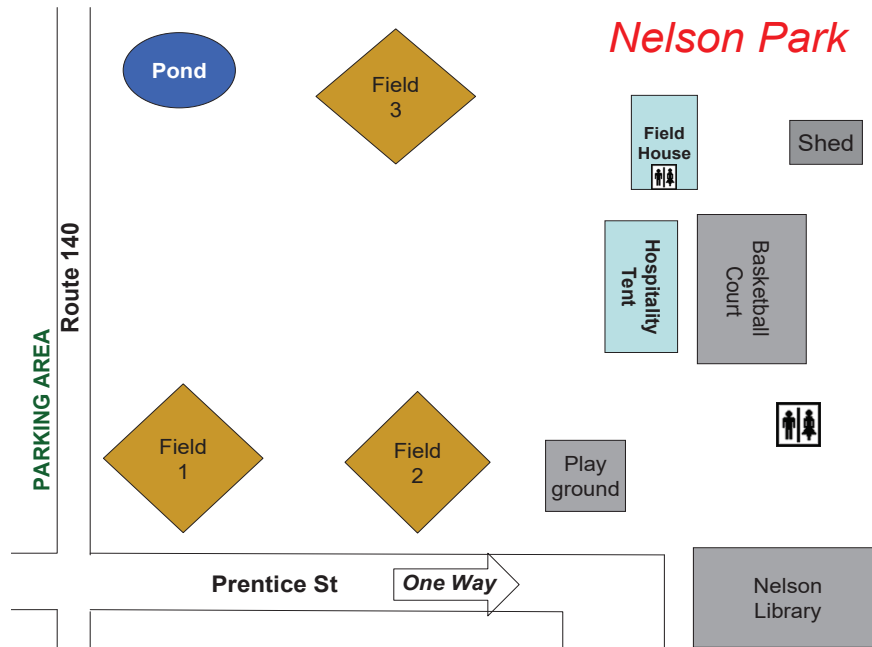


# General Information



## Complex Info:

Nelson Park is located at 6 Prentice St in North Grafton. The complex has 3 softball fields with covered bench areas, a Concession stand with bathrooms, basketball court and a playground. There are no outfield fences. There is plenty of open space to picnic and relax between games. Please note that the Town of Grafton prohibits smoking at Nelson Park.

## Parking:

There is ample parking in the large grassy area on Route 140 across the street from Nelson Park. Library parking is reserved for umpires and tournament staff.

*Please note that Nelson Park is located within a residential neighborhood. While there is limited on-street parking along Prentice Street and surrounding streets, we strongly encourage everyone to use the lot across the street. If you do park along Prentice or side streets, please be courteous to our neighbors and make sure you do not block driveways or park on someone's lawn.*

## T-Shirts & Concessions:

The stand offers hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream treats in addition to drinks and snacks. Tournament T-shirts can be pre-ordered. We may have a limited supply available in the stand.

## Awards:

Awards will be presented to the top three teams.  
*Please note that we are not doing MVP balls after each game.*

## Umpires:

Two umpires per game. This is NOT a Pay-at-the-Plate event.

## Weather:

Rain-outs and rain delays will be determined at the field by the tournament director based on current conditions. Game times and number of games played may be adjusted if weather requires.

## STANDINGS & PLAYOFF RULES

The 12 teams will be divided into two 6 team divisions.

Each team will play the other teams in their division for a total of 5 games.

Teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie.

Tie breakers will be used in the following order:

1. Head-to-head games (if more than two teams are tied, head-to-head applies if and only if the tied teams have all played each other),
2. Least number of runs allowed,
3. Most runs scored,
4. Coin flip. (or “names drawn from a hat” if more than 2 teams are tied.)

After the 5<sup>th</sup> game, each team will play a one game “playoff” against their counterpart in the other division to determine the final standings. The #1 seed in the East division will play the #1 seed in the West division. The #2 team in East will play the #2 team in West and so forth.

The winner of the 1 vs. 1 playoff game will be declared the tournament champion. The winner of the 2 vs. 2 game will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher.

For the championship and 3<sup>rd</sup> place games, there is no time limit.

All other playoff games will have a 90-minute time limit (no new inning after 90 minutes).

In the event of a tie during a trophy game, we will use the USA Softball international tie breaker.

*Please note: In the event that there are fewer than 12 teams in the tournament, it may be necessary to adjust the playoff system. It is possible we could go to a 2-game playoff or a straight points system with no playoff game. Whatever adjustments we make, the main objective is to offer the opportunity to play as many games as possible against as many different opponents as feasible. It is also possible if we have less than 12 teams, not every team will play a 6<sup>th</sup> game.*

## STANDINGS & SEEDING CAN BE FOUND AT:



<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10N6imgXDpoS-ICNR1XH4M3HUCPIrIeoqSVSB9tCaexk/edit?usp=sharing>



## USA SOFTBALL OF MASSACHUSETTS TOURNAMENT RULES

### REQUIRED RULES (CLASS A, B, & State Championship Tournaments)

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*The following rule references support all sanctioned USA SOFTBALL OF MASSACHUSETTS LOCAL, INVITATIONAL and STATE ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENTS for both Class A & B Junior Olympic Youth Tournaments.*

#### TIME LIMIT:

A minimum time limit of 1 hour 30 minutes. **THE TIME LIMIT CANNOT BE A DROP-DEAD TIME.** Once an inning begins and time expires, the inning must be completed per USA Softball rules. Exceptions to this rule will be allowed in cases of inclement weather or in cases of scrimmages and showcase format tournaments. Any changes to time limits **MUST** be communicated to the teams prior to the change going into effect.

#### TEAM LINE-UPS

Pool Play Games – The following line-ups are allowed:

- Straight 9 and/or/DP/Flex – Teams may bat 9 players with or without the DP/Flex.
- Continuous Order – When batting “up to” all roster players, any additional batter(s) shall be listed as an EP and may be listed anywhere in the batting order and may play defense at any position.

\* Example – A team may choose to bat 11 players and list one additional player as a substitute. A team is **NOT** required to bat all 12 players.

**Shorthanded Rule (Rule 4 D2a Exception): In all Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Pool Play Only. When a team elects to use more than 9 batters an out will be recorded if a player leaves the game for any reason other than injury or ejection. If a player leaves for an injury and cannot continue in the game, the game will continue with the injured player(s) batting position(s) being skipped with no out recorded.**

**Teams cannot play with fewer than 8 players.**

Elimination Games –

- Teams may use “straight 9” or DP/Flex. Both line-ups may use one EP in their line-up (a max batting order of 10 players). Teams that bat everyone in their line-up will take an out if a player is removed for any reason other than an ejection.

**Teams will not be allowed courtesy runners, pinch runners or pinch batters when batting everyone.**



## USA SOFTBALL OF MASSACHUSETTS TOURNAMENT RULES

### REQUIRED RULES (CLASS A & B TOURNAMENTS)

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#### **METAL CLEATS:(Rule 3 Section 6.G Exceptions)**

Metal cleats are not allowed for 12U divisions and lower. The tournament can prohibit metal cleats in older divisions BUT must make it clear in the tournament rules.

#### **COACH CONDUCT:**

Coaches that are ejected from a tournament game WILL be prohibited from coaching their team's next game. Depending on the circumstances of the ejection, a coach may be suspended for the remainder of the tournament and may also require a disciplinary hearing with USA Softball MA.

#### **HOME TEAM:**

- Pool Play - The home team will be determined by a coin flip.
- Elimination Play – Higher seed will have choice of home team. Should both teams be the same seed, a coin flip will be used.

#### **TIE GAMES (See Rule 5, Section 11):**

During pool play, games may end in a tie **even with time remaining**. During elimination play, games that are tied after 7 innings or after time has expired will go into the USA Softball tie-breaker rule.

#### **RUN AHEAD RULE – (See Rule 5, Section 9 A.1.B)**

Game will be complete if a team is ahead by the following runs: 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, & 8 runs after 5 innings. The run ahead rule will be in-effect for both pool and elimination games.

**At no time should tournament directors add additional rules without the approval of USA Softball of Massachusetts.**