

ADULT SOFTBALL

PLAYERS GUIDE

Important information your team
needs to know for a successful
season of play!



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Thank you to our Sponsor!



Welcome

The purpose of this league is to provide an opportunity for interested adults to play in a safe and organized league. Fair play and good sportsmanship are the responsibility of every player, captain, and spectator. Leagues are organized to meet a variety of skill levels. Although we open our leagues to skill levels from recreational to competitive, remember this is for FUN. Have a safe and enjoyable softball season! The program supervisor reserves the right to adjust leagues and divisions as necessary. Leagues may be combined based on enrollment.

Important Information

Staff Contact Information

Program Supervisor – Athletics

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Division Manager of Recreation

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Rainout Line

You can receive program closure information by text, email, or smartphone app via Rainout Line. Visit <https://www.epd.org> and click **Weather Updates**. Follow the directions on the page to set up alerts on cancellations or facility closures for the programs that interest you.

- **Call-In Method:**
 - Dial 630-333-9594 and enter your extension:

Monday Softball	Extension 17
Tuesday Softball	Extension 18
Wednesday Softball	Extension 19
Thursday Softball	Extension 20

Team Sideline

The Elmhurst Park District utilizes Team Sideline for rostering, scheduling and score reporting. Upon registration, the captain will receive information on how to invite players to their team and complete their roster. Game schedules and standings are also available through Team Sideline, and accessible at any time by any player, by visiting epd.org → Programs → Adult Sports Leagues → League Schedule & Standings.

Payment, Prizes & Refunds

League Fees

The total league fee must be paid at the time of registration. Payment may be received in the form of cash, check, credit card or sponsorship money.

Refund Policy

Teams are eligible for a refund before the season begins if the refund request is made **before the registration deadline**. If the refund request is made after the registration deadline, but before the schedule is posted, the requesting team is only eligible for a refund if another team in the same division is on the waitlist. No refund will be given after the season starts.

If not enough teams are registered for a specific division and divisions cannot be combined, a refund will be issued to any teams registered due to the cancellation of that division.

Prizes & Payouts

Teams compete for payouts awarded to the top two finishers in the regular season play and top two finishers in the Post-Season Tournament.

SPRING LEAGUE

Regular Season Awards:

- \$275 check awarded to League Champion
- \$175 check awarded to League Runner-Up

Tournament Awards:

- \$150 check awarded to Tournament Champion
- \$100 check awarded to Tournament Runner-Up

FALL LEAGUE

Regular Season Awards:

- \$250 check awarded to League Champion
- \$125 check awarded to League Runner-Up

Tournament Awards:

- \$100 check awarded to Tournament Champion
- \$50 check awarded to Tournament Runner-Up

Tie-Breaker Policy

To determine a league champion, the tiebreaker will be based on:

1. League standing during the regular season (winning percentage)
2. Games back
3. Head-to-head*
4. Head-to-head run differential
5. Average run differential
6. Total runs against
7. Total runs for
8. Coin toss.

*Generally, head-to-head will only determine one winner. After that, the next tie breaker is used to break the tie between the remaining teams. Head-to-head could be versus the entire league depending on the standings. If two or more teams have the same record, it would focus on the group of teams that have the same records.

General District Rules

- Local ordinances prohibit any alcoholic beverages on District property. Players and captains are subject to game suspensions and/or team forfeitures. Teams will be held responsible for fans.
- Teams are reminded that the Elmhurst Park District does not carry medical insurance covering injuries incurred while participating in the Elmhurst Park District Adult Leagues.
- The use of profanity, obscene gestures, and taunting are strictly prohibited by any player, coach, or spectator on or off the field. Captains must make sure their conduct is proper in every respect and must make sure their players and spectators do the same.
- The Program Supervisor has final power in decision-making in all matters pertaining to the league. The Program Supervisor will call all meetings between team captains if necessary. Any special meetings desired by teams must be requested by the team captain.
- The Elmhurst Park District reserves the right to modify all league rules, regulations, and procedures as necessary.

Schedule & Timeline

Teams are NOT allowed to reschedule their games. Games must be played as the schedule dictates. All schedules and schedule changes will be posted on Team Sideline. The Elmhurst Park District reserves the right to modify all schedules as necessary to operate the league. This includes, but is not limited to, changing schedules to accommodate cancellations.

Regular Season Play

- Games will be played at Berens Park fields.
- Game timeslots are 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, or 9:30pm, depending on the number of teams registered.
- Teams are not guaranteed an equal number of games at each time slot.

Divisions

Your league selection only signifies your preference at the level that you would like to be placed in. Ultimately, the Program Supervisor will decide on the level at which you are seeded based on previous league appearances.

Game Cancellations & Make-up Games

Do not assume games are canceled because of weather conditions. Every effort will be made to play the games as scheduled. If games are determined to be playable and your team does not show, you will lose by forfeit.

Information regarding cancellations will be available via Rainout Hotline. Rainout and cancellation information will be available as soon as a decision has been made. When possible, the game decision will be made by 3:00pm on the day of the game. Teams will be given at least two weeks' advance notice (up to the 4th week of the season) for all make-up games. After Week 4, teams will be given one week's notice for all make-up games. In extreme circumstances, teams may be given less than a week's notice for make-up game.

For softball, rainouts will be rescheduled as double headers first when possible. If the schedule does not allow for a double header, the make-up game will be added to the end of the season, extending the season.

Post Season Tournament

A BONUS single-elimination tournament is conducted at the end of the regular season. League standing will determine the seeding of each team in the tournament. The top 8 teams in each league shall be eligible for the tournament. In extreme circumstances, the tournament may be cut to the top four teams in each league or cut completely.

In the event the tournament is cut due to time constraints, the tournament prize money will be added up, and divided evenly amongst the top four teams in each league.

Tournament play has separate award pay outs from regular season league play. Several games may be played in succession. Tournament rules will be the same as regular season, except for games that are tied at the conclusion of 7 innings or one (1) hour.

- In this situation, the game will continue to be played until one team is ahead at the end of an inning utilizing the "International Tiebreaker Rule".

Roster checks may be conducted for all tournaments, semi-final, and championship games. Players not listed on the roster or who are without photo identification will not be allowed to participate.

Inclement Weather

Lightning

The Elmhurst Park District has installed the Perry Weather Lightning Detection System in Berens Park to help protect participants, spectators, and staff from the potential danger of lightning strikes. The Perry Weather Lightning Detection System constantly monitors and analyzes conditions in the atmosphere that may be conducive to the formation of lightning.

When certain parameters indicate that the likelihood of a lightning strike within the area is high, the system will activate a siren sound for 10 seconds one time.

If the siren sounds:

- All games will immediately cease, and players, participants, and staff will be required to clear the fields and stands and take shelter.
- Games will not be allowed to continue until an all-clear signal is sounded, indicated by a siren sound for 5 seconds three times.

Staff reserves the right to stop play and clear fields due to weather conditions even if the Perry Weather Lightning Detection System has not sounded.

If during a game, weather conditions force a stoppage of play (except for lightning and/or thunder) before the game is considered official, a 30-minute delay shall be in effect. If after 30 minutes, conditions have not improved to continue the game, the game shall be called off and rescheduled for a later date.

If weather conditions force a second stoppage of play before the game is considered official, the game shall be called off and rescheduled for a later date. Should two games be called off in the evening because of lightning, thunder, and/or weather-related issues, the remainder of the evening's games shall also be called off and rescheduled later.

Tornado

Should the tornado siren sound, all players must evacuate the fields immediately. All games will be called off at that time. Players have the option to take shelter in The Hub until the store has cleared.

Heat Index

If the heat index is more than 115 degrees at game time, games will be canceled until the heat index is less than 115 degrees.

Air Quality

The Elmhurst Park District uses airnow.gov to monitor air quality, to ensure outdoor activities can take place safely. Please refer to the guidelines below:

- **GOOD** Great day to be active outside!
- **MODERATE** Good day to be active outside! People who are unusually sensitive to air pollution could have symptoms.
- **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS** It's OK to be active outside, especially for short activities. For longer activities such as athletic practice, take more breaks and do less intense activities. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy.
- **UNHEALTHY** For all outdoor activities, participants should take more breaks and do less intense activities. Park District may consider cancellation or rescheduling of games.
- **VERY UNHEALTHY** Outdoor activities will be canceled and rescheduled.

Rosters

Maximum roster size for this softball league is 20 players. **All rosters and waivers will be finalized by team captains via Team Sideline.** Captains will be sent a link to invite their players to their teams. Players will register and create their own individual Team Sideline account by clicking the link sent by their team captain. All rosters will be locked after the third week of games. Paper rosters and waivers will no longer be utilized.

Rosters are due before the team's first scheduled game! Any team which does not turn in a roster before their first game will forfeit the game.

No change to the roster can be made after the 3rd game, except in the case of an injury. A doctor's note will be required, and the replacement player must be of similar ability to the injured player. Any change(s) will require approval by the Program Supervisor prior to the game. Any team giving false information on a roster shall be dismissed from the league without any money being refunded.

To be eligible, a player must meet all the following criteria:

- Must be 18 years of age on or before the first scheduled game.
- Must be listed on the team's roster.
- Must have accurate information on the roster and sign-in sheet.
- Must have a photo I.D. with them while in the facility.
- **Can only be rostered on one roster per sport per night.**

Any team found to be using an ineligible player will forfeit the game. A player is ineligible if they meet any of these restrictions:

- A player who is not 18 years of age on or before the first scheduled game.
- A player not on the team's roster
- A player using a false name or nickname on the roster and/or sign-in sheet.
- A player using an improper/incorrect address (i.e., non-resident using an Elmhurst address).
- A player with no photo I.D., proof of residency, and/or incomplete/inaccurate roster information.
- A player on more than one roster per sport per night.
 - **Exception:** A player may be rostered on a League Team and an Open Division Team, though they should anticipate numerous scheduling conflicts.
- A player currently listed on a professional team roster. Amateur players are eligible.
 - **Exception:** Professional athletes are permitted in Open Division.

Roster Checks

If a team suspects that the opposing team is using an un-rostered/ineligible player, a roster check may be requested. At that time all players from both teams will be required to produce photo identification. The time taken to complete the roster check will count towards the hour game

period. If use of an un-rostered/ineligible player is found, the game will result in the forfeiture of the team in which he/she is caught illegally playing.

If the roster check occurs:

- Prior to the beginning of the game, all players without photo identification will not be allowed to play.
- During the game, the game shall immediately be stopped and photo identification of all players from both teams will be checked.
- **Roster checks MUST be made before the fourth inning of the game begins.**

Any players unable to produce photo identification at that time shall be declared an un-rostered player. Staff shall have the right to request a roster check on any individual player or team at any time. A captain may request a roster check on any individual player arriving late. A player roster checked in this fashion shall not force the entire team to be roster checked.

Team Captain Responsibilities

Each team must designate a “team captain” who will be the sole liaison between the team and the Park District. Anyone outside of the designated captain who contacts the Park District on behalf of their team will be charged an extra fee of \$5/contact.

Team captains must notify the Elmhurst Park District by 10:00am on the day of their game of any forfeiture. Failure to do so will result in a \$25 fine charged to the captain’s account.

The team captain may be a player or non-player, but their responsibilities include:

- Distributing copies of all league policies, schedules, etc. to their players.
 - Located on www.epd.org/athletics
- Informing their players of all rules and regulations prior to the first game, and as often thereafter as necessary to ensure no violations occur.
- The captain is responsible for the conduct of their spectators and participants.
- Informing players of the game schedule, make-up dates, etc. and pass along any other information received from the Park District.
- **Team captains are the only players that may address the official.** If an official does not act appropriately, or if there is consistently poor officiating and/or knowledge of the rules, please contact the Athletic Supervisor and appropriate communication/action will be taken.
- Sign the score sheet after each game, to assure accuracy of score recorded.
- Responsible for making sure the Park District has current address and home/work phone numbers.
- If it is known that the captain will be unavailable during a certain period, it is the responsibility of that captain to e-mail the Program Supervisor and submit another contact name, if other than the co-captain.

Any team giving false information on a roster shall be dismissed from the league without any money being refunded.

Forfeits

If a team fails to have enough rostered players in their dugout by game time, the game will be awarded to the opposing team with a score of 7-0, at the conclusion of a 10-minute grace period. The grace period is considered part of the one-hour time limit for the game.

Once an umpire declares a game forfeited, the game cannot be played. If a team forfeits two games, they are ineligible for the post-season tournament, per Program Supervisor discretion. Forfeiture of a doubleheader will be counted as one forfeit for eligibility purposes.

Code of Conduct & Rule Violations

Elmhurst Park District Code of Conduct

The Elmhurst Park District is dedicated to providing a safe, fun environment. Our positive approach is geared towards instilling an enjoyment of physical activity. Participants and spectators are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior and always be respectful of others. Below is the Elmhurst Park District Code of Conduct:

- Abiding by all laws and rules.
- Treating all participants, spectators, parents, District staff and law enforcement with respect as individuals, regardless of their race, sex, gender-identification, creed or ability.
- Not using any foul, abusive, harassing, sexually suggestive, or intimidating/menacing words, gestures, body language, or behavior towards any participant, spectator, or parent.
- Refraining from and reporting any use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances, weapons, or devices that may be used as a weapon.
- Not using violent or unwanted physical contact with a participant, spectator or parent.
- Controlling, taking responsibility and consequences for your actions/inactions.
- Always treating the facilities, equipment, supplies, and property with respect.

Additionally, all players, captains, and spectators are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect toward officials, Park District staff, and other participants/visitors. Violations of the following rules will result in disciplinary action as outlined below. Disciplinary action may be escalated based on severity of individual act/reoccurrence.

Ejections & Game Suspensions (Minimum of 1 Additional Game)

Players or captains committing any of the following violations will be ejected from the current game and suspended for a minimum of one additional game, at the Program Supervisor's discretion:

- Use of excessive foul language
- Being under the influence of alcohol or any mind-altering substance while on School District or Park District property.
- Smoking or use of tobacco products (including vapes) on School District or Park District property.
- Team members (other than the captain) argue with, or disputing calls made by officials.
- Verbal Harassment of officials or staff before, during, or after a game.

Ejections & Extended Suspensions (Minimum of 2 Additional Games)

Players or captains committing any of the following violations will be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of two (2) additional games, at the Program Supervisors discretion:

- Use of excessive foul language (second offense)
- Possession and/or consumption of alcohol/drugs while on District property (second offense)
- Throwing equipment in anger
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Use of tobacco products (second offense)
- Possession of a firearm on Park District/School District property.

Ejection of Spectator & Forfeiture of Game

Spectators committing any of the following violations will be ejected from the facility and team will receive a forfeit. Spectators must be policed by their respective team members.

- Use of excessive foul language by spectators
- Spectators in possession of alcohol on District property.

Expulsion from League Play

Active participation in any type of disorderly conduct (fighting, etc.) will result in expulsion from the league for a minimum of 1 full year, beginning the day of the incident, for the player and possibly the team.

If, for any reason, an official, Park District Staff or School District staff is physically or verbally threatened or assaulted by a player or captain before, during or after a game, that person may be expelled from participation in any adult leagues indefinitely and police will be notified.

Protests

Protests regarding rule's interpretations must be submitted in writing, along with a \$25 fee, within 24 hours of the game in question. Judgment calls cannot be protested. If the protest is valid, the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is not allowed, the protest fee will not be returned. Protests will not be allowed in any post-season tournaments.

Game Rules Applicable to All Leagues

The Elmhurst Park District has adopted the following rules to govern the Adult Softball leagues organized and controlled by the Park District. Rules not specifically addressed herein will be governed by the [Official USA Softball Rules](#), expect where local adaptations apply.

League Administration

To ensure league parity:

- Teams that won their league in Spring or Fall may be moved up a division for Fall at the Program Supervisor's discretion.
- Teams that finished .500 or better in Spring or Fall may not move down a division for Fall at the Program Supervisor's discretion.

- If there are not enough teams to support a league, teams may be placed in another available league.

General Gameplay Rules

- Infield fly rule applies.
- One foul ball after 2 strikes = out
- Bats must have a minimum of 10 inches of non-slip tape or other approved material.

Batting & Base Running

- The batter's box will not be marked off; however, the batter may not cross the imaginary place of the base until the ball is contacted. For the safety of the batters and the catcher, the batter may be required to move up in the batter's box.
- In all games in which a double first base is used, the batter/runner shall automatically be declared out if, on a play on the infield, he/she touches only the white portion of the base.
- Bunting is now allowed; batters must take a full swing at the ball.
- Batter is out if he/she throws the bat.
- Batter starts with a 1-1 count.
- No stealing bases
- No leadoffs. Base runners may leave the base if the pitched ball hits the ground, is short or is hit.
- Appeals for missed bases must be made to the umpire before the next pitch.

Courtesy Runner

Each team may designate two players before the game that will receive courtesy runners. No other courtesy runners will be awarded, unless a player is injured during the game. (At the umpire's discretion.) The courtesy runner will be the last out.

Pitching & Fielding

The pitcher shall take a position with both feet on the ground with one or both feet in contact with the pitching rubber. The ball shall be held in one or both hands in front of the body. The ball must be delivered to the batter at a height of at least 6 feet to a maximum of 10 feet from the ground.

The catcher must be positioned behind the no used batter's box. The catcher may not cross the imaginary place of home base until a pitched ball has landed. If the catcher breaks the imaginary plane before the pitched ball has landed, the batter will be awarded first base.

Team Size/Minimum Players

Eight players are required for an official game to start. Teams may add a 9th and 10th player at any time. Should a team play with only eight players, an out shall be recorded each time the 9th spot in the batting order is scheduled to bat. If at any time after completion of the 3rd inning, a team with only 8 players falls behind by 15 or more runs, the game shall be immediately declared over.

Equipment/Game Balls

One new game ball will be provided for each game. In the event of a home run or a foul ball, another new ball will be provided for the game to continue quickly. Extra balls provided by teams must conform to league specifications and be approved by the umpire prior to being allowed to be put into play. The Park District will provide one “extra ball” per field for the first two weeks of play if necessary. Additionally, scorebooks are provided to teams once per year. Please note, metal or detachable cleats are prohibited.

Player Conduct & Ejections

If a player is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, that player may not be replaced and the team must continue short-handed. An automatic out will be assessed each time that player would have batted. The team’s pitcher shall NOT be ejected for the remainder of the game. The pitcher shall NOT PITCH but can play any other position for the remainder of the game.

If a player is ejected from a contest (for anything other than use of metal or detachable cleats or use of tobacco products), that team’s pitcher shall NOT be ejected for the remainder of the contest. The pitcher shall NOT PITCH but can play any other position for the remainder of the contest.

If a player is ejected for substantial physical contact in the judgement of the umpire, the runner shall be declared out and immediately ejected. If a player is ejected for substantial physical contact, that team’s pitcher shall also be ejected.

Batting Order

Teams have the option of batting their entire roster, if desired. This must be declared prior to the start of the game. Once declared, it will be in effect for the entire game.

Home Run Rule

There will be a 5-home run limit per team per game. Any home runs more than 5, shall result in a dead ball out.

Slaughter Rule

Slaughter rule is in effect as follows:

- 20 runs after 4 innings
 - Or 3.5 inning if home team is ahead
- 12 runs after 5 innings
 - Or 4.5 innings if home team is ahead
- 10 runs after 5.5 or 6 innings

Game Length & Time Limits

All scheduled games will be 7 innings or the one (1) hour time limit, whichever comes first. No new innings will begin with 5 minutes or less remaining in the time limit.

If the game is tied after 7 innings and the time limit has not been met, extra innings will be played with international rules until the time limit, or a winner is determined. If the time limit has been met and the game is tied, then it will be ruled a tie.

Exception: Championship games will NOT have a time limit and are to be played to their maximum innings, unless weather conditions, or city ordinances (11:00pm) state otherwise. The slaughter rule remains in effect.

A game is considered official if 4 ½ innings are completed with home team winning or 5 innings are completed with visiting team winning. Any game called for rain prior to this point will be replayed in its entirety.

Men's 12" League Specific Rules

Team Composition

A team consists of 10 players, 11 if using an extra player (EP). To start a game, at least eight players must be present.

Pitching

The pitching rubber shall be 50 feet from home plate. After the pitcher has taken proper position, both feet in contact with the pitching rubber, the pitcher may take one step directly backwards before releasing the ball.

Co-Rec 14" Mushball League Specific Rules

Team Composition

A team consists of 10 players (5 females and 5 males), or 12 if using extra players (EP). If a team only has 8 or 9 players, at least 4 of them must be female. The maximum roster size is 20.

Pitching

The pitching rubber shall be 40 feet from home plate.

Defensive Alignment

Defensive positioning must include two males and two females in the outfield, two males and two females in the infield, and one male and one female in the pitcher-catcher positions.

If a team only has eight players, teams must position one male and one female in the pitcher-catch positions.

If a team has only nine players, and the number of males is greater than the number of females, teams must play three players in the outfield with a male playing the right field position.

Batting Order

The batting order shall alternate sexes. Should two males bat consecutively, an automatic out will be declared. Two players of the same sex can hold the same spot in the batting order if they alternate each time up to bat.

Gloves

Gloves are optional for female players but are not allowed for male players.

Walk Rule

Any walk to a male batter shall result in a two base award and the next batter (a female) has the option to walk or to bat.

Bases & Field Dimensions

Bases will be set at 65'.

USA Bat Testing and Certification Program

- All bats must be ASA/USA approved.
- Use of an illegal bat will result in:
 1. Immediate player ejection
 2. Automatic ejection of that team's pitcher for the remainder of the game.
- A player found to have an illegal bat a second time will be suspended for the remainder of league and post season play at the Program Supervisor's discretion.
- Approval in another park district league does not guarantee approval in Elmhurst Park District leagues.
- A complete list of legal/illegal bats can be found through [USA Softball Certified Equipment Guidelines](#)

The official bat in ASA Championship Play must meet all the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1 and:

1. The official bat, made up of the knob, handle, grip, taper, barrel and end cap shall be free of burs, dents cracks, sharp edges, rattles and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat may be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer and shall be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance for expansion. The official bat must bear either the 2000 Certification Mark, 2004 Certification Mark, or 2013 Certification Mark (Slow Pitch, Men's Adult Fast Pitch, Junior Olympic Boy's Fast Pitch and Men's Modified only), as shown below and must not be listed on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with 2000 or 2004 Certification Mark, **AND**
 2. must be included on a list of approved bat models published by USA Softball, **OR**
 3. must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with USA Softball Bat Performance Standard. This includes wooden bats.
- **NOTE:** USA Softball has begun transitioning to the new USA Softball Certification Marks for the 2020 calendar year. On behalf of equipment manufacturers, the USA Softball Equipment Testing and Certification Committee requested that the new certification marks be approved for the 2019 calendar year, and the USA Softball Board of Directors approved the new marks

(seen here) for 2019 USA Softball Championship Play. The Official Rules of Softball, Rule 3, Sections 1 and 3 will be updated for 2020 to identify the new Certification Marks for Championship Play.



All Games



Adult Fast Pitch/All Slow Pitch

Exception: Senior Softball bats may be used in Senior Championship Play only. *All bats in USA Softball Championship Play, except Seniors, must pass USA Softball's Bat Performance Standard. All bats having the 2000, 2004 or 2013 (Slow Pitch, Men's Adult Fast Pitch, Junior Olympic Boy's Fast Pitch and Men's Modified Pitch ONLY) Certification Mark and not listed on the list of non-approved bats with Certification marks will be allowed in USA Softball Championship Play. Bats with the 2013 Certification Mark will be allowed in Slow Pitch National Championship Play Only. For your convenience, USA Softball's website has a listing of all approved bats and bats that have USA Softball Certification Marks and are no longer approved.*

Non-Approved Bat Links

[USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks \(updated 4/6/26\)](#)

[USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with ASA Certification Mark \(updated 4/6/26\)](#)

[USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List w/2004 ASA Certification Mark \(updated 4/6/26\)](#)