



2026 NISA Overview

Rules and Important Dates

Eligibility

Recreational Only

- No tryouts or cuts allowed.
- Full-time travel players are **not eligible**.
- High School rostered softball players will **not be eligible**.

Tournament / Part-Time Players (within their own rec program)

- Players rostered on tournament or part-time teams affiliated with their rec organization **are eligible**.
- These players **must be evenly distributed** among all teams in the division.
- Coaches and league administrators must coordinate this distribution prior to team formation/draft.
- No team should have a competitive advantage due to an uneven number of advanced players.
- Violations may result in:
 - Forfeits
 - Player reassignment
 - Loss of coach eligibility
- The intent is to protect league integrity and ensure fair and equal development for all players.

Age Divisions

- Divisions are based on **age as of August 31, 2025**.

Fees

Spring Season

- **6U:** No fee
- **8U–14U:** \$60 per team

Dates

Spring Ball (6U–14U)

April 20, 2026 – June 27, 2026

Fall Ball (6U–14U)

September 6, 2025 – October 18, 2025

Umpires

- **6U:** No umpires needed
- **8U–10U:** Umpires required; patched not required
- **12U & Up:** Patched umpires required
 - Non-patched umpires allowed **only if both coaches agree**

Cancellations / Forfeits

- Teams canceling **within 6 hours** of game time for reasons other than weather/field conditions or last-minute umpire cancellation **will forfeit**.
- Both coaches must confirm games **3–5 days** in advance.

Schedules & Scores — Spring Season ONLY

- **6U:** Do not report scores
- **8U–14U:**
 - **Gamechanger** is required for scoring and rosters; games must be scored live in GameChanger. Paper scorebooks are optional for your own records
 - **NISA will pull scores out of game changer for standings. Please confirm scores with opposing team before leaving fields.**
 - **Player of the Game:** Report for the *opposing team* only, via the Google link on the NISA website.
 - Teams may **not** nominate their own players, if you do, they will be removed.
 - Regular season games may end in a **tie**

Standings (8U–14U) — Spring Season

- Standings determined by **win percentage** of reported games
- **10U–14U:** Must play **10 games** to qualify for seeding by win percentage
- Tiebreakers:
 1. Head-to-Head
 2. Average Runs Allowed

Tournament Rules — Spring Season (8U–14U)

General Tournament Rules

- Regular season rules apply unless noted
- Seeding based on regular season standings
- **Teams must play 10 games** to qualify for win-percentage seeding
 - Teams with fewer than 10 games are seeded last
- Higher seed hosts games and provides umpires & game balls until finals
- Championship & 3rd/4th place games:
 - **Location:** Woodstock – Bates Park
 - **Date:** June 27, 2026
 - Umpires & game balls provided by NISA
- Weekday playoff games follow regular season rules
- Games **cannot** end in a tie — International Tie Breaker (ITB) applies

Game Time Limits

10U

- 1st/2nd place game: **1:45 finish the inning**
- 3rd/4th place game: **1:45 finish the inning**

12U & 14U

- 3rd/4th place: **1:45 finish the inning**
- Championship (1st/2nd): **Full 7 innings — no time limit**

Tie-Breaker (All Divisions)

- If tied at the No New Inning mark or after regulation (12U/14U championship):
International Tie Breaker (ITB) begins
 - Last batted out from previous inning starts on 2nd base
 - All pitching and position rules still apply

8U Tournament — Spring Season

- Championship & 3rd/4th place played at Woodstock – Bates Park on final day
- Umpires and balls provided by NISA
- Regular season rules apply, including pitching rules
- No New Inning time limit enforced
- ITB used if game ends tied
- Trophy presentation follows final games

6U Tournament — Spring Season

- No end-of-season tournament for 6U

