Congratulations on an outstanding season and thank you for choosing to participate in the 2027 USSSA Eastern National Championships! The tournament will be held in Salisbury/Ocean City, Maryland with games and festivities played at the Henry S. Parker Athletic Complex and nearby facilities as needed. This packet includes important details to help your team prepare for the tournament, please read it carefully.

AGE	CLASS		DATES
10U, 11U, 12U*	Open	Week 1	July 13-18
13U, 14U*	Open & B	Week 2	July 20-25
15U, 16U, 18U	Open & B	Week 3	July 26-31

*12U & 14U "B" division will play a split bracket format

WEBSITE

https://www.usssa1.com/softball/tournament-info/national-championship-events

Please check back frequently for updates

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

East Coast Events

eastcoast.events@usssa.com

Office: (410) 439-2255

HOST LOCATION

Mid- Atlantic Amateur Sports Alliance (MAASA)

Robely Rivera (General Questions);

rrivera@wicomicocounty.org

Office: (410) 548-4914

HOTEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Tournament is Stay to Play usssa1hotels.com

Tournament Housing- HBC Events Support@hbceventservices.com

Sign up for the official USSSA Eastern Nationals newsletter – Receive on and off the field news first, as it is released

Sign Up Here

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CHECKLIST FOR MANAGERS/TEAM ADMINISTRATORS

Required

1. Register for the tournament: 10U-12U (link) || 13U-14U (link) || 15U-18U (link)
    a. Pay the full entry fee ($1,425) and you're in! You are good to go and can work on booking your hotels and preparing to take part in this memorable event.
    b. OR you can choose to pay the deposit ($730) first and the balance at a later date – no later than June 21 (Week 1&2) and July 2 (Week 3). This will hold your spot in the event and the balance due will remain in the cart of your USSSA account.
2. Abide by the tournament's Stay to Play requirement: Reserve a minimum of 20 room nights per team (Ex: 5 rooms for 4 nights or any combination) through the tournament's lodging partner, HBC Event Services. usssa1hotels.com or call 505-346-0522. OR Select accommodations outside of HBC (house rental, condo, etc.), and pay the housing opt-out fee ($900 per team) Housing Opt-Out Link.
    a. Email Robely Rivera- rrivera@wicomicocounty.org with an exemption request if you are a local team, commuting daily, or whose players all have their primary residence within 60-miles of the tournament. Secondary, seasonal and vacation homes do not qualify for exemption.
3. Enter your team roster online at www.usssa.com.
4. Attend the Manager's Check-In and Meeting, bringing with you:
    a. Two copies of your signed roster to the Manager's Check-In (must have all player and parent signatures)
    b. Two copies of your proof of insurance certificate

Optional:

1. Submit forms for any additional options:
    a. T-shirt pre-order information will be emailed to all teams registered by mid- June.
    b. Good Luck Social Media Ads: **Link coming soon**
    c. Discounted Attraction Tickets: **Info on page 4**
    d. Practice Fields 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fields allotted in 1:45 increments for $25. Payment is due at Manager's Check- In. For the Salisbury area, contact Jerry Mears at jmears@wicomicocounty.org.

ONLINE ENTRY

The Eastern Nationals has a single-entry fee with an option to pay a deposit to hold your place in the event. This can be managed through your USSSA account. There are no Gate Fees.

To participate in the tournament your team must complete the online entry through www.usssa.com

1. Pay the full entry ($1,425) OR
2. Pay deposit ($730) which will hold your spot in the tournament. Pay the balance remaining in the cart of your USSSA account at later date. **Full balance of the entry fee is June 21st for Week 1& 2 and July 2nd for Week 3.**

Your registration is subject to approval by your state director. Early online entries are encouraged as there may be a maximum number of teams that can be accepted for each age and class division.

The official team roster posted on the USSSA website shall be the only roster in effect for the event. Any changes to your roster may be subject to state and/or national director approval.

All players participating in USSSA Fastpitch youth tournaments shall have proof of age in possession of their team manager at all times. Proof of age must be verified by a government issued document that identifies the player by name, gender and birth date.

*Refunds cannot be issued after the deadlines listed above.

*Checks are NOT accepted. All entries must be completed and paid online.

STAY TO PLAY HOTEL REQUIREMENT

USSSA works through HBC Event Services to secure a wide variety of lodging partners. All out of town teams must book their rooms through HBC Event Services, or follow the housing opt-out instructions below. Only a minimum of 20 room nights per team is required (Ex: 5 rooms for 4 nights or any combination.) **Please note, if you book a stay directly with a hotel or with a non-partner hotel, you will not be stay to play compliant.** usssa1hotels.com

HOUSING OPT-OUT

We recognize that a variety of housing options exist, so an opt-out fee offers an alternative. After paying the opt-out fee, your team can stay wherever they would like (ex: non-partner hotel, vacation home, condo, campsite, etc.). The fee is $900 (or about $75 a family, based on a roster of 12). **Any team not booking the minimum of 20 room nights through HBC Event Services is responsible for paying the opt-out fee in order to remain eligible for the tournament**

Pay the opt-out fee here: Housing Opt-Out Link

Local teams, commuting daily, whose players all have their primary residence within 60-miles of the tournament can email Robely Rivera- rrivera@wicomicocounty.org with an exemption request. Secondary, seasonal and vacation homes do not qualify for exemption.

Opt-Out Fee Deadlines: June 21st for Week 1&2 and July 2nd for Week 3. Refunds **will not** be issued after the deadlines listed above. Refunds may be issues prior to stated deadlines less a $25 processing fee. No refunds will be issued after stated deadlines.

GOOD LUCK SOCIAL MEDIA ADS

Family, friends, and team supporters can purchase a good luck ad to be featured on our official Facebook and Instagram pages. **Deadline to purchase is TBD.**

📣 **$30 per post** – includes 1 photo and a short message (15–20 words)
🗓️ Posts will go live the week of the tournament.

🔗 Facebook: facebook.com/usssaeastcoast
📸 Instagram: instagram.com/usssaeastcoast

📝 **Order here:** https://www.wicosports.org/good-luck-ads

DISCOUNTED ATTRACTION TICKETS

Info coming soon.

TOURNAMENT MERCHANDISE

Apparel and souvenirs, such as t-shirts, pins and softball novelties will be sold during the Manager's Check-In and at the parks throughout the tournament. Pre-order instructions will be emailed to teams in mid-June.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tournament Headquarters

Henry S. Parker Athletic Complex (711 W Naylor Mill Road, Salisbury, MD 21801)
Other parks within the Salisbury/Ocean City area will be used as needed.

**Daily park assignments for each age/class bracket will not be known until the event and are always subject to change.*

Park Rules and Details

- No metal cleats on turf fields.
- No admission is charged at park entry to players or guests, as it was included in your tournament entry.
- Regular-sized coolers are permitted. Teams are responsible for supplying their own beverages in the dugout. No alcohol permitted. Any non-water item (sunflower seeds, Gatorade, etc.) is prohibited in the dugouts on turf fields.
- Grills and open flames are not allowed; concession stands are available.
- Pop-up tents are allowed as long as they do not impede tournament function. Every park has covered dugouts.
- Pets are permitted, but MUST be leashed. Owners will be asked to remove any pets making a nuisance.

Rainout Line

Weather related announcements will be communicated through a dedicated Rainout Line. The phone number is 410- 220-0050, or you can download the free app. It is imperative that your team utilizes this line. For download details, visit https://rainoutline.com/search/dnis/4102200050.

Rules

All playing rules shall be governed by the official USSSA Fastpitch softball rulebook and national by-laws. The rulebook online, at www.usssa.com will always supersede the latest printed version if a discrepancy exists.

Softball & Bats

The tournament ball will be USSSA stamped approved, yellow leather cover, .47 cor. All bats must bear the current USSSA stamp with a manufacturer's stamp of 1.20 BPF and must be in accordance with the current year's regulations.

Metal Cleats

Metal cleats are NOT allowed on turf fields. Fields 5-8 at the Henry S. Parker Athletic Complex are turf infields. Please make sure that your team is prepared to play on these fields and has proper footwear (turf shoes, molded cleats, etc.).

Awards

The full-size package that will be awarded for divisions with *more than 32 teams* consists of team trophies to the top six teams, individual awards to the top six teams, team sportsmanship award, outstanding pitcher award, outstanding offensive player award, outstanding defensive player award & MVP award. Divisions with 32 teams or less will have a reduced awards package. In the case of a division having a split bracket, both brackets will have the applicable awards package.

10U Open, 11U Open, 12U OPEN Week 1: July 13-18 Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, July 13

9 – 10:00am	Manager's Check In- MANDATORY Location: Wicomico County Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave. Salisbury, MD Managers can arrive anytime between the hours of 9 – 10:00am and should allow 20 minutes for the check-in process. **Bring two copies of signed team roster and insurance** T-shirt Pre-Order Pick Up
10:30am	Manager's Meeting & Lunch- MANDATORY (max 2 coaches per team) Location: Wicomico County Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave. Salisbury, MD

Theme: Diamonds are a Girls Best Friend — Opening Ceremony – Location Wicomico County Civic Center
Schedule TBD

Wednesday July 14	National Championship Pool Play Begins
Thursday July 15	National Championship Pool Play Continues
Friday July 16	National Championship Bracket Play Begins
Saturday July 17	National Championship Bracket Play Continues
Sunday July 18	National Championship Bracket Play Concludes

**Please note for travel considerations that championship games may not begin until late afternoon/evening.*

Bracket schedules will not be posted in advance per national policy. The pool play and double elimination brackets will be given to coaches during the Manager's Check-In. Player, coach and other pre-tournament items will also be distributed at the Manager's Check-In.

Note that all times are subject to change. This includes the actual schedule for pool and bracket games. The actual number of days needed for pool and bracket games cannot be determined until all registrations are in and the event layout is completed. Please verify itinerary during the Manager's Check-In. Once the tournament begins, managers must check online for any changes in the game times, field assignments, or other items related to tournament play or functions.

The USSSA Fastpitch program will use a six-game format for these age divisions in the Eastern National Championship Tournament. Teams will be seeded into pools based on current USSSA ranking points and/or power ratings (adjustments will be made to avoid teams from the same area playing each other) and play 4-pool games. All teams will be seeded into double elimination bracket following pool play. 12U division teams will be seeded into spilt brackets 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 tournament director following USSSA Fastpitch guidelines as approved by the USSSA Fastpitch National Committee.

13U Open, 14U Open, 14U B Week 2: July 20-25 Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, July 20

9 – 10:00am	Manager's Check In- MANDATORY Location: Wicomico County Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave. Salisbury, MD Managers can arrive anytime between the hours of 9 – 10:00am and should allow 20 minutes for the check-in process. **Bring two copies of signed team roster and insurance** T-shirt Pre-Order Pick Up
10:30am	Manager's Meeting & Lunch- MANDATORY (max 2 coaches per team) Location: Wicomico County Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave. Salisbury, MD
10:30am	College Recruiting Seminar Location: Wicomico County Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave. Salisbury, MD

Theme: Diamonds are a Girls Best Friend — Opening Ceremony – Caroline St Stage (Ocean City beach)

3:00pm	Family Viewing Area Opens
3:30pm	Parade Staging Beings
3:45pm	Parade Begins
4:30pm	Games & DJ Dance Party
5:30pm	Ceremony Concludes

Wednesday July 21	National Championship Pool Play Begins
Thursday July 22	National Championship Pool Play Continues
Friday July 23	National Championship Bracket Play Begins
Saturday July 24	National Championship Bracket Play Continues
Sunday July 25	National Championship Bracket Play Concludes

**Please note for travel considerations that championship games may not begin until late afternoon/evening.*

Bracket schedules will not be posted in advance per national policy. The pool play and double elimination brackets will be given to coaches during the Manager's Check-In. Player, coach and other pre-tournament items will also be distributed at the Manager's Check-In.

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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 tournament director following USSSA Fastpitch guidelines as approved by the USSSA Fastpitch National Committee.

Opening Ceremony Map

Week 2 (July 20)



15U Open, 16U Open, 16U B, 18U Open, 18U B Week 3: July 26-31 Tentative Schedule

Monday, July 26

9 – 10:00am	Manager's Check In- MANDATORY Location: Wicomico County Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave. Salisbury, MD Managers can arrive anytime between the hours of 9 – 10:00am and should allow 20 minutes for the check-in process. **Bring two copies of signed team roster and insurance** T-shirt Pre-Order Pick Up
10:30am	Manager's Meeting & Lunch- MANDATORY (max 2 coaches per team) Location: Wicomico County Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave. Salisbury, MD
9 - 11:30am	Team Social – Info TBD
Afternoon/Evening	National Championship Pool Play Begins
Tuesday July 27	National Championship Pool Play Continues
Wednesday July 28	National Championship Bracket Play Begins
Thursday July 29	National Championship Bracket Play Continues
Friday July 30	National Championship Bracket Play Continues
Saturday July 31	National Championship Bracket Play Concludes

**Please note for travel considerations that championship games may not begin until late afternoon/evening.*

Bracket schedules will not be posted in advance per national policy. The pool play and double elimination brackets will be given to coaches during the Manager's Check-In. Player, coach and other pre-tournament items will also be distributed at the Manager's Check-In.

Note that all times are subject to change. This includes the actual schedule for pool and bracket games. The actual number of days needed for pool and bracket games cannot be determined until all registrations are in and the event layout is completed. Please verify itinerary during the Manager's Check-In. Once the tournament begins, managers must check online for any changes in the game times, field assignments, or other items related to tournament play or functions.

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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 tournament director following USSSA Fastpitch guidelines as approved by the USSSA Fastpitch National Committee.

2027 Scavenger Hunt

Get ready to play *on and off the field*! We're hosting a three-week-long scavenger hunt during the softball tournament, open to all participating teams. Gather your squad, complete challenges, and rack up points each week!

Dates

- Week 1: July 13-18
- Week 2: July 20-25
- Week 3: July 26-31

How To Participate

Download the Goosechase app available on Apple and Android devices.

Look for your week's scavenger hunt by entering the Join Code (the experience will not be live until sometime in June, and teams will not be added until registration closes for Eastern Nationals).

- Week 1: July 14 – July 19 – Join Code: ***Coming soon***
- Week 2: July 21 – July 26 – Join Code: ***Coming soon***
- Week 3: July 27 – August 1 – Join Code: ***Coming soon***

Enter the password to join the experience: ***Coming soon***

Who to Contact Page

Have questions on who would best to contact to answer a question you have? See below for question categories and the appropriate contact for that topic!

USSSA East Coast Events Office- eastcoast.events@usssa.com; 410-439-2255

- Anything related to "on the field" play
- Team Questions
- Player/Guest Player questions
- Tournament Rules
- Classification/berth questions
- Merchandise Pre-orders

Wicomico County Tourism Office- Office: (410) 548-4914

- Stay to play/Opt out questions- Robely Rivera- rrivera@wicomicocounty.org
- Scavenger Hunt- Laura Soper- lsoper@wicomicocounty.org
- General "off the field" questions- Robely Rivera- rrivera@wicomicocounty.org
- Reserving practice fields- Jerry Mears- jmears@wicomicocounty.org

HBC Event Services- support@hbceventservices.com; 505-346-0522

- Any hotel related questions