USA Softball
JO Cup 14u/16u/18u

Pre-Tournament Packet

Spartanburg, SC

July 25 – August 1, 2020
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Players, Coaches, and Families,

Congratulations! Your team was invited to participate in the 2020 USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO) Cup. The JO Cup allows your athletes the opportunity to showcase their abilities in front of the USA Softball Women’s National Team coaches and selection committee members. Your participation in this tournament directly supports the Women’s National Team program and will help Team USA achieve Gold at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. You must be a 501c3 to receive any monies. Featuring two double-elimination brackets into a single championship game, this tournament will run as a non-profit event.

The USA Softball JO Cup will be hosted July 25 – August 1 in Spartanburg, SC. The tournament will be a five-game guarantee consisting of three pool play games and double-elimination bracket. There will be a blind-draw for bracket play with protection of the champion and runner-up from the 2019 JO Cup. To participate in this event, your team will need to register with your local association. Since this is not a National Championship event, you will not need a championship roster, but you are required to submit your roster to the Tournament Director for scorekeeping and recruiting purposes. As a notice, this event does not allow college players to participate.

To find the top competitors in the country, we recommend registering your strongest team. The entry fee for this event is $3,000. After expenses, a portion of the entry fee will be donated to the USA Softball Legacy Club and another portion will be used as a payout to the top teams in each age division.

We look forward to your participation in this prestigious softball event presented by USA Softball, the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States. You can get additional information at www.usajocup.com or by contacting Julie Whiteaker at (405) 425-3446; jocup@usasoftball.com.

Respectfully,

Julie Whiteaker
Julie Whiteaker
USA Softball
Tournament Director
Tournament Information (A-Z)

Tournament Name: 2020 – USA Softball JO Cup 14u/16u/18u

Location: Tyger River Park
179 Dillard Rd. / Duncan, SC 29334

Dates: July 25th – 31st, 2020 *August 1st used as rainout/makeup day*

Website: www.usajocup.com

Entry Fee: $3000 per team – Checks payable to ‘USA Softball’
Mail entry fee to the Tournament Director (address below).
Or call (405) 425-3446

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, July 1st, 2020

Tournament Format: 5 game Guarantee – 3 pool play games with Double Elimination Bracket.
Pool Play does not seed in bracket.

Tournament Director: Julie Whiteaker
2801 N.E. 50TH Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
(405) 425-3446 (Office)
jwhiteaker@usasoftball.com

Housing Director: HBC Event Services
BOOK HERE
(505) 346-0522 (Office)
support@hbceventservices.com

Note: This is not a stay and play event!
**Dates / Deadlines**

**Friday, July 17th:**
All required items are due by July 17th.

*Please send to Julie Whiteaker*

- Register USA Softball
- Proof of Insurance
- Entry Fee $3000
- Player Profiles (see template)
- Background Check (all adults)
- SafeSport Certification (all adults)
- ACE Training (1 Coach)

**Saturday, July 25th**

**Team/Player Check-In:** We will NOT be doing a team/player check-in for this event as it is considered INVITATIONAL.

**Bat Testing:** All bats must be tested and stickered prior to game use. Only 1-2 people are allowed to bring ALL bats for testing. Any player using a bat that has not been tested could be subject to ejection from the game or tournament. Umpires will also be checking to make sure bats meet regulations outlined in the USAS Official Rules of Softball **Rule 3 Section 1.**

*See shared Google Doc to schedule your bat testing time*

**Coaches / Managers Meeting:** Meeting starts at 6:00 pm via ZOOM.  [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83195544701](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83195544701). One representative from each team must be present. Blind bracket draw will take place.

**Sunday, July 26th**

**Pool Play:** Each team will play three pool play games. Play will begin Sunday morning at 8 am. You must participate in your pool games or you will be eliminated from bracket play.  
*Pool games will NOT seed into bracket.*

**Monday, July 27th**

**Pool Play:** Pool play continues at 8am.

**Tuesday, July 28th**

**Bracket Play:** Bracket play starts at 8am.

**Wednesday, July 29th**

**Bracket Play:** Bracket play continues starting at 8am. Elimination games begin.
Thursday, July 30th  
**Bracket Play:** Bracket play continues starting at 8am.

Friday, July 31st  
**Bracket Play:** Championship Day, bracket play concludes.

Saturday, August 1st  
Reserved for weather delays. Travel day for the teams.
**Tournament Information (A to Z)**

**Admission / Gate Passes:** There will be NO gate fee.

**Badges:** All coaches or team personnel must visually display their USA Softball badges with proof of background check and SafeSport per USA Softball Code. Badges must be worn.

**Concessions:** Concessions will be operating from the start of the tournament until the end of the last game. **Water will not be provided in the dugouts.**

**Note that this destination can reach temperatures well over 90 degrees this time of year. Plan accordingly and stay hydrated!**

**Conduct:** Managers and coaches are asked to have complete control of their players on and off the field in accordance with Article 310N of the USA Softball Procedural Code.

**Dugouts:** First/Top team will be in the 3rd base dugout; Second/bottom team will be in the 1st base dugout, unless dugouts are already occupied from a previous game.

**Equipment Confiscation:** Any piece of equipment found during a game to be unsafe, or not meeting USA Softball standards, will be confiscated by the umpire to tournament officials and held safely until the team is eliminated from the tournament.

**Format:** 3 Pool games then double-elimination bracket. Pool play will not seed into bracket.

**Game Changer:** We use Game Changer to keep scores of all games. Fans from home will be able to follow live play-by-play and real time stats online. **We are NOT using for official stats.** Please do not approach the scorekeepers to ask about specific plays.

**Game Schedule:** Pool play games will be posted online no later than Friday, July 24th by 5pm CT.
Tournament Information (A to Z)

Game Times: Please follow the times listed on the official tournament bracket. Game time is forfeit time. Teams should be ready to start a game immediately after the preceding game is completed. The Tournament Director reserves the right to reassign fields to keep the tournament on schedule.

Housing: If you have any questions please contact HBC Event Services at (505) 346-0522. This is not a stay to play event.

Inclement Weather: In the event of inclement weather, the game must be resumed at the exact point where it was suspended. It is the manager’s responsibility to contact the Tournament Director for rainout information. In the case of an evacuation, everyone in the park should take their belongings and go to their cars.

Please be sure to sign up to receive text messages form TournamentUSASoftball. This will be the first place that weather information will be sent from. Also follow @USASoftball on Twitter for live updates.

Live Streaming: All games will be live streamed. HiCast Sports will stream Sunday – Thursday. The Championship Games (Friday) will be streamed on MLB.COM.

Warm-Up Areas: Teams may use the space beyond the outfield temporary fence and hitting tunnels for warmups and long as they are not being used by the teams playing at that time. Pitchers are not allowed to warm up on the grass. The warning track and dirt areas are acceptable.

Line-Up Forms/Coin Toss: Tournament officials will provide line-up forms for each game. The team packet, that you will receive at check-in, will have 5 line-up forms. Beginning with your 6th game, each team will pick-up their line-up form from the scorekeeper’s table. The line-up form should be returned to the scorekeeper no less than 30 minutes prior to the game time. The coin toss will be done at this time to determine Home/Visitor of their game.
Tournament Information (A to Z)

Medical: We will have medical staff at the complex. Medical staff will be located at each po. Off-site Urgent Care facilities –

Pelham Medical Center  Regenesis Health Care Center
250 Westmoreland Rd.   301 Crescent Ave.
Greer, SC 29651         Spartanburg, SC 29306
About 9mi from fields   About 11mi from fields

Parking: There will be no charge for parking.

Playing Rules: All playing rules and regulations will be in accordance with the USA Softball Official Rules of Softball, 2020.


Souvenirs: Souvenirs will be available at Team IP trailers/tents.

Team Practices: Tyger River Park
               (864) 804-5814

Time Limit: POOL GAMES: The time limit will be one hour and forty minutes (1:40) and finish the inning. The game can end in a tie.

               BRACKET GAMES: There is no time limit. 7 innings will be played.

Tobacco Products: Smoking and tobacco products are not allowed on USA Softball property. This includes E-cigarettes.
Parks Rules and Regulations

The County Park Operations Manager or designee reserves the right to dismiss any spectator or team who is in violation of posted park rules or who presents a risk to others. The following are prohibited at tournaments held at Spartanburg County Parks:

- Pets, other than service animals.
- Alcoholic beverages or tobacco products.
- Weapons or firearms.
- Profanity.
- Disruptive behavior.
- Artificial noise makers.
- Soliciting.
- Soft-toss or “pepper” against fences or structures.
- The use of bicycles, skateboards, scooters, or any other wheeled recreational device or apparatus.
- The use of unauthorized vehicles inside park gates.
- Non-compliance with posted warning and regulatory signs.
- Unauthorized personnel in scoring towers and meeting rooms.
- Children under 12 years of age who are not accompanied by an adult.
- Placement of personal tents and other shade devices in unauthorized areas.
- Warm-up in places other than those designated for warm-ups.
Things to do in Spartanburg, SC

Spartanburg is happy to host teams from around the U.S. for the USA Softball Junior Olympic Cup at Tyger River Park, a jewel of our sports and recreation venues.

Calling all softball players –

Looking for chances to explore between games of the USA Softball Junior Olympic Cup at Tyger River Park? If you’re looking for the best dining options Spartanburg has to offer, we’ve got you covered: https://www.visitspartanburg.com/food-drink/.

Hoping to get outdoors and enjoy the warm summer air off the field? We’ve got that, too: https://www.visitspartanburg.com/things-to-do/outdoor-adventure.

Want to embrace your artistic side or catch some live music? Don’t worry, you’ve got plenty of options: https://www.visitspartanburg.com/things-to-do/arts/.

Looking for something to do with the family during the USA Softball Junior Olympic Cup? Spartanburg is home to tons of family-friendly options. From the state’s only free, urban putt-putt courses to the Children’s Museum of the Upstate, we know how to help keep the kids entertained. https://www.visitspartanburg.com/things-to-do/kid-friendly/

With plentiful outdoor adventure opportunities, Spartanburg has plenty of room for you to space out and stay cool during the summer. Indoor and outdoor dining is available as restaurants operate with limited capacity. State and County parks, trails, and waterways are open for adventure while City parks remain closed. And businesses across Spartanburg are encouraged to combat COVID-19 with hand hygiene, masks, and social distancing.

1. Explore the great outdoors on Croft State Park’s 7,000 acres of rolling, wooded terrain. There are 12 miles of biking and hiking trails, playgrounds for children, picnicking and camping areas, and fishing and boating at two lakes inside the park. Get your trail map or use your phone to navigate the trails at HikeCroft.com.

2. Grab some unique barbecue at Initial Q, a “gastro smokehouse” on Main Street featuring unique meats and all the BBQ sides you can think of. Once you’ve filled up, go downstairs to UnderPin Lanes ‘N Lounge to enjoy some (safely-distanced) games of bowling.
3. The Mary Black Rail Trail gives anyone looking to get outside plenty of options, and the ability to do so while social distancing. The Bike Park featuring adventurous design elements is open now. Not far off the Rail Trail is the Flock Shop, opened by the team behind local favorites Willy Taco and FR8yard. The spicy fried chicken restaurant offers to-go options for anyone looking to spice things up.

4. Grab some clubs from a local business and stop by the Sparkle City Mini-Putt course, the state’s only free, urban putt-putt course. The holes were designed by local artists and feature iconic Spartanburg elements like The Beacon’s light tower, logos from Spartanburg’s seven colleges and more.

5. Are you a fan of craft beer? There are dozens of taps of home-brewed goodness at RJ Rockers and Ciclops Cyderi & Brewery. Both are serving beer and food to match their handcrafted brews.

6. Learn all about our amazing musical heritage on the Music Trail in downtown Spartanburg. Take your phone and listen to music samples along the way.

7. FR8yard, one of the area’s first outdoor biergartens, features something for all ages: delicious food and drinks, games and a big-screen with sports or movies playing, not to mention live music several nights a week.

8. Embrace your inner bookworm at the Hub City Bookshop, Spartanburg’s locally-owned bookstore prominently displaying the work of local artists and supporting local writers. The Bookshop also has all the popular titles and can order your favorite reads.

9. Visit the Montgomery Building – a 1920s-era building which recently underwent a $29.5 million renovation to include new businesses like Sidewall Pizza, with its handcrafted pies and funky, welcoming vibes, and The Pharmacy, opened by local coffee staple Little River Roasting and James and James Collection menswear as the first occupants on the historic building’s ground floor.

10. Savor the Redneck Burger at the Nu-Way Restaurant and Lounge, chosen by the Food Network as Best Burger in South Carolina, and featured in Garden and Gun Magazine. Eat a chili-cheeseburger-a-plenty at the world-famous Beacon Drive-In and get some real Southern sweet tea.