

**MID-WEST SIGNATURE SHOWCASE  
TOURNAMENT RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION**  
Last update: September 24, 2013.

**1. Check in Information:** Each Team **MUST** check-in at the Tournament Desk at least 1 hour **BEFORE** their first game. At check-in, teams must submit a copy of their insurance and sanction proof, unless you have submitted this in advance. Teams will receive their player wristbands at check-in (see Item #24 for wristband information).

**Tournament Desk hours are:**  
Saturday: 7am - 6pm, Sunday: 7am – 4:30pm.

**2. No players, team coaches, or parents/spectators will be allowed in areas designated "College Coaches Only".** This includes the Hospitality Tents and the Scouting Areas behind each field's backstop. Please do not take the chairs. Please do not sit in the chairs. Please remind parents that if there is no space for the college coaches, then the girls are the ones who will miss out.

**3. No parking is allowed in areas that are designated as "Tournament Staff Parking Only" or "College Coach Parking Only".** Only cars with the tournament decal on the dashboard or with the college coach VIPASS are allowed to park here. Parking is not allowed on the grass along the street. There will be signs posted and parking attendants to assist you.

**4. ASA Official Rules of Softball apply except where otherwise stated.** Teams need to be sanctioned with ASA to play in this tournament.

**5. Awards:** #1 seeds from each pool will participate in a playoff on Sunday to determine the tournament Champion. Winner will receive the distinctive Signature Showcase Champion T-shirts. Seeding will be determined by win/loss record, and ties will be broken by head-to-head, then least runs allowed, then runs scored, then coin toss.

**6. Tournament Format:** The teams will be divided into pools. All teams will play a 4 pool games for seeding, weather permitting. Then teams will be seeded and the #1 seeds will play for the Championship while the 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> seeds will play consolation games against same seeds in other pools.

**7. Mercy Rule:** The 8 runs after 5 innings "mercy" rule will end the scoring. However teams can play the last two innings if both teams agree. We do not want teams to be humiliated, but if the coaches agree, the teams can continue to play until 7 innings are over. But score is based on the score at time of "mercy". Both coaches have to agree that they continue to play. If the down team is still playing hard, let them play, but try not to humiliate a team.

**8. Playing Rules:** Teams must turn in a lineup sheet to the umpires prior to start of game. Teams may use unlimited defensive substitution during this tournament and you may bat 10 players. This is very simple. Put the 9 or 10 girls that you want to hit on your lineup. Then put the girls in the field that you want to play defense. You can change the defensive players every inning if you want. If you change the batting order, you must let the umpire know. You do not need to tell the umpire about defensive changes, nor do you have to worry about re-entries, unless they are going back into the batting order. There is no catcher speed up rule, but you can utilize the courtesy runner rule for pitchers and catchers. For this tournament, the definition of courtesy runner is a player who is not currently in the batting order. If you do not have a bench player, use the last out.

**9. Uniform shirts must be numbered.** Pick up players may wear their original team's uniform. We highly recommend no duplicate numbers as it confuses the college coaches. No jewelry other than post type earrings in ears is allowed. Post type earrings in ears may be worn but must be taped. Umpires will be the judges in jewelry matters. If the umpire deems the earring unsafe, then the player must remove them with no argument.

**10. Protests:** This is a non-protestable tournament. The home plate umpire will settle rule disagreements at the time. Please don't argue. Remember the spirit of the tournament. College coaches don't want to spend their time watching arguments. Teams that refuse to play when umpire says "Play Ball" could be penalized, upon review of tournament director, with forfeit of all remaining games.

11. No glass containers, no pets, and no alcoholic beverages are allowed at the parks. No smoking is allowed on the fields or in the dugouts or in the bleachers. If you need to smoke please move away from spectators.
12. Please assist in keeping the dugouts clean for the next team, by picking up your trash after the game and placing it in the receptacle provided in the dugout.
13. Game Time: All games will start on time, not early. Official game will end at 7 innings. Game time slots are 2 hours.
- 13a. Drop Dead Rule: Official game will end at 7 innings. However at no time will games run longer than 1 hour 55 minutes.
14. Forfeits: Forfeits are to be avoided at all costs.
- 14a. Forfeits are at the discretion of the Tournament Director or staff. If you are short a player (due to injury or other unforeseen circumstances) and need one to keep you from forfeiting, please contact the Tournament Desk or Tournament Director immediately. Temporary replacement players may be available, but we do need some notice. To avoid a forfeit, you are allowed to borrow a player from another team. Forfeits benefit neither team since the objective of the tournament is for the girls to be seen on the field by the college scouts!
  - 14b. Teams that forfeit a game for any reason, risk not being accepted into the tournament again. If you are unable to play a game, you must advise the tournament officials, plus it is recommended that you attempt to find a replacement team for your game. You are ultimately responsible to make sure that your opponent is not shorted their opportunity to show their players.
  - 14c. Teams that need extra players are able to pick up players for the tournament. Please see Item #34 on Pickup Players for more information.
15. International Tiebreaker: During all tournament play, if the game is tied at the end of seven (7) innings, the International Tiebreaker will be used IF time is still remaining. This entails placing the last out from the previous inning on 2nd base to start the tiebreak inning with no outs. This will continue until time expires. If the game is still tied at the end of the tiebreak innings when time expires, the tie will stand. If time expires during the tiebreak inning, finish the batter's at bat and then game is over immediately (drop dead rule) and the score reverts to the last complete inning unless the home team is at bat and ahead in the score. Obvious delaying tactics will not be allowed by umpires. Remember - the college coaches want to see girls playing, not coaches maneuvering.
16. Order of Finish: The teams that seed #1 in each pool will play each other, and the winners of those games will play each other, until only 1 team is remaining, and they are the tournament Champions.
17. Team listed first (top) gets first base dugout; however, teams with back to back games on the same field will not be required to change dugouts. Home team is determined by coin toss. Home team will be the official scorebook (no separate scorebook). All teams should report the scores to the Tournament Desk by the end of the day of competition. (See Item #31 for Score Reporting Information).
18. Weather Contingencies: In case of uncontrollable circumstances or interruptions due to weather, the Tournament Director reserves the right to alter the tournament format in any way necessary to reach a conclusion. This can include, but may not be limited to shortened game times, fewer games guaranteed, or playing rule changes. Games interrupted might not be resumed. Everything possible will be done to get the players on the field as soon as possible.
- 18a. FPAAlerts Text Messaging: All teams are REQUIRED to have at least one responsible person on the team, either coach or parent or player, to sign up for the FREE text messaging update with FPAAlerts. This person will be notified via cell phone text message when delays or cancellations or schedule changes have occurred. This is a FREE service to the teams. Everyone on the team can sign up for this, but at least one responsible person MUST be designated so your team is not left out of the automated communications. Go to [www.signatureshowcases.com](http://www.signatureshowcases.com) and find the link to FPAAlerts.
  - 18b. Your Responsibility: It is ultimately the responsibility of the team managers and coaches to verify their schedule daily to make sure that no changes have been made. We do what we can to make it easy for you to be notified of changes, but you must do your part. Please be diligent on a daily basis, especially if there have been circumstances that could cause schedule changes.
19. It is the responsibility of the team managers and coaches to know their field assignments, times, etc, for all games. The Official Tournament Game Schedule will be maintained at the Tournament Desk. Please

verify your game schedule occasionally at the Tournament Desk. Teams that no-show a game risk being replaced in their other games, and also may not be invited to future tournaments.

**20. Injuries:** Due to liability issues, we do not have trainers on premises during this tournament. Emergency First Aid supplies will be available at the Tournament Desk. Ice is available at the concession stands. However, it is recommended that each team bring their own first aid supplies. If a player on your team experiences an injury that requires medical attention, you must contact the Tournament Desk immediately. An injury report must be filled out in order to have a record of the occurrence. If the injury is an emergency, call 911 and emergency services will be sent. Players who are or were unconscious or who are experiencing neck/head injuries should not be moved off the field.

**21. Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Managers/coaches are responsible for their own conduct and for that of their players, assistants and spectators. Abusive language and/or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in any degree. Noisemakers, whether homemade or store bought, are not allowed. Coaches, players, and spectators may be ejected from the game if in violation of this rule. The initial "cooling off period" is the rest of the game. Any manager, coach, player or spectator who is ejected from a game may/will have their behavior reviewed by the Umpire in Chief or the Tournament Director. The "cooling off period" may be extended from one game to the rest of the day and even to the rest of the tournament, depending on severity of conduct. Any manager, coach, or spectator who is ejected must leave the park for the duration of the cooling off period. A player who is ejected will be restricted to the dugout for any games during the cooling off period and will not be allowed to play in any games in any manner for the rest of the cooling off period. This is a severe penalty so be on notice that misbehavior on the part of players, coaches or spectators will not be tolerated. Managers/coaches may be held responsible for players and spectators behavior also. If any one who has been ejected fails to follow umpire instructions or fails to abide by the cooling off period, the team will be ejected from the tournament. Signature Showcases has a "zero tolerance" policy.

**22. Warm-up Area:**

- Pre Game Warm-up is to be conducted only in the Open Play Areas or in the grass outfield areas on fields with temporary fencing. Any team may use any of these allowed areas.
- Addition Information: There is to be no throwing of balls or batting in or near the sidewalk areas. Hitting or throwing of balls into permanent or temporary fencing is not allowed. Girls must wear batting helmets any time bats are being swung (even during soft toss and whiffles), and any player warming up a pitcher must wear a catcher's mask.

**23. Not applicable.**

**24. Wristbands:** All players must wear the appropriate colored wristband during the entire duration of the tournament. Players without wristbands will not be allowed to play. A limited number of extra wristbands will be available at the tournament desk if a band is lost or broken, but it is recommended that the players be extremely responsible with their wristbands. It is recommended that the wristband be attached loosely to prevent the need for removing it. The wristbands designate to the college coaches the year of graduation of the player and their recruiting eligibility.

**25. Double-Wide First Base:** Double wide first bases may be in use on the fields. The batter-baserunners are to use the foul side base, while the defensive player must use the fair side base. However, if the throw is coming from foul territory, then the batter-baserunner uses the fair side base, and the defensive player uses the foul side base.

**26. Player Profiles** - each team should designate one person on their staff to submit the player profile information for all players using the FPDatabase service. ALL players, even committed players, should be submitted so college coaches know who they are. You will receive additional information regarding this requirement with the deadlines for compliance.

**27. Cancellation/Refund Policy:** If a team cancels after being accepted in the tournament and we are unable to fill their spot, they will be subject to a 100% cancellation fee. If we are able to fill their spot, they will be charged a \$100 cancellation fee. After the game schedule has been completed, teams that cancel will be charged a 100% cancellation fee. There will be no refund of entry fees or practice game fees due to uncontrollable circumstances, such as weather. If you paid using the online pay option, you will also be subject to a minimum \$30 processing fee.

**28. Tournament does not provide water in the dugouts. Teams are allowed to bring coolers into the park.**

**29. Hotel Policy:** All teams are required to book their hotel reservations through our designated hotel coordinator. **TEAMS ARE NOT TO CALL OR CONTACT HOTELS DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE INTERNET.** Teams are only allowed to stay at tournament sanctioned hotels; these are hotels that give the tournament reduced rate rooms for the college coaches. You are required to support these hotels because they are helping your girls get scholarships by helping us make it more economical for the college coaches to attend the tournament, which encourages more coaches to come. Thank you for your cooperation.

**30. Official Ball:** We will be using the Yellow Optic .47 cor ASA logo softball during the tournament.

**31. Score Reporting:** Teams must report scores to the Tournament Desk or you can Twitter the scores to FPHQ or email or text them to the tournament director. Either team can report the score. There is a “DIY Scoreboards” at the Tournament Desk where you can “do it yourself” and write your scores. Please help us collect scores so we can determine pool winners, and post the scores on the website. If there is a discrepancy in the score, the home team scorebook is the official scorebook. Please confirm scores at the end of the game to avoid problems.

**32. Pick-up Players:** Teams are highly encouraged to bring more than 9 players to the tournament. A roster of 11 is recommended in case of injuries or illness, especially since forfeits are not allowed. Teams are allowed to pickup players for this event.

**33. Parking Fees:** Signature Showcases does not charge Gate Pass Fees at its showcase tournaments. However, at the Mid-West Signature Showcase, Berliner Park does charge a \$5 per day per car/van/suv Parking Fee. Everyone must pay this fee...players and coaches included. You keep your ticket/receipt for same day reentry. We thank you for cooperating with the attendants by having your fee ready as you drive into the park.

**34. The tournament committee reserves the right to qualify any team or any player to preserve the integrity of the tournament. Teams and players will be reviewed to determine, and ensure, eligibility. Teams or players may be subject to disqualification at any time. This is an invitational tournament.**

**35. Pitching distance for all showcase games is 43 feet.**

**36. Metal cleats are allowed at all Signature Showcases.**