

We welcome you to the 12th annual Marlboro Diamond Cat Classic and thank all of our registered teams for participating in our 12U tourney division. Indeed, as we were unable to host last year's tournament for reasons that we are all too aware, we are very excited to have this event back in the fold and look forward to a weekend of exciting softball.

Weather permitting, each team will have the chance to play three different teams on Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10. The standings after these three pool games will determine the seeding for a single elimination playoff on Sunday, July 11. This will give each team a minimum of four games over the weekend.

All games will be played at the Baldelli Softball Complex in Marlboro, which is regarded to be one of the best softball facilities in the Central Massachusetts area. In addition to three well-groomed fields with dugout roofs (one with a sound system for music and player introductions), we have a fully operational concession stand with clean rest rooms, a batting cage, four warm-up areas for pitchers and catchers and a smaller instructional field that can also be used for warm-ups. Adjacent to the facility is a playground and wading pool, should players and families want to bring their bathing suits and cool off after their games.

At least 45 minutes prior to their first game, each team must check in and submit for the tournament director's review: 1) birth certificates; 2) insurance certificate; and 3) USA Softball-approved roster, containing names and addresses of all players (note: all teams MUST be registered as Class C teams through USA Softball prior to the start of the tourney, or they will not be allowed to participate).

In addition, USA Softball now requires all coaches to have completed a background check and have their approved background check card visible at all times during USA Softball-approved tournaments. It is critical that all teams adhere to this as we don't want to be in a position to have to remove a coach from a game because they have not followed this step.

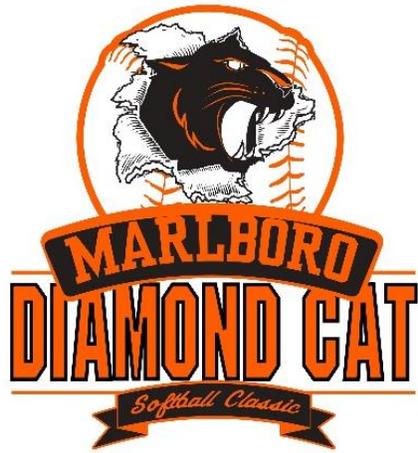
We hope that the Diamond Cat Classic will be a positive and enjoyable experience for the players, coaches, and families of each of the teams entered.

For more information, please feel free to contact me directly at paulvaccaro@comcast.net or 617/610-5876.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. Vaccaro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul J. Vaccaro
Tournament Director, Marlboro Diamond Cat Classic



GENERAL INFORMATION

Directions. Tournament games will be played at the Baldelli Softball Complex, located at the Hildreth School on 85 Sawin Street in Marlboro, Massachusetts.

Parking. There is a large parking lot located behind the Hildreth School to the left and parking out at the front fields. Because we do expect parking to be very tight on Saturday and Sunday, however, we ask that you inform your teams to carpool where possible. We will also look to block park teams on the weekend and will provide staffing during peak times to assist with this effort.

Please note that the Baldelli Softball Complex is located within a residential neighborhood. While there may be limited street parking along Church Street and surrounding streets, we strongly encourage everyone to fill the lots at the complex first. If you do park along the street, please be courteous to our neighbors and make sure you do not block driveways or park on someone's lawn.

Complex Info. The Baldelli Softball Complex has three softball fields, a concession stand, batting cage and playground. There are bleachers at two of the three fields but plenty of room to bring lawn chairs. All three fields have covered dugouts. **Please note that no dogs, no personal grills and no alcohol are allowed at the facility.**

Baldelli Field is also equipped with a sound system, where music will be played in between innings and teams scheduled to play there will be introduced before their game. All teams will be scheduled to play at least one pool game on Baldelli Field.

Concession stand. We will be offering a variety of foods for the weekend, including hamburgers, hot dogs, steak sandwiches, french fries, onion rings and soft pretzels as well as soda, Gatorade, water, slushes and assorted candy and chips. In addition, hot breakfast sandwiches will also be available on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Tournament T-shirts. Tournament t-shirts will be available for sale at the Concession Stand.

Format. Each team will play a total of three pool games between Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10. Results of the pool games will determine seeding for a single elimination championship round on Sunday, July 11. Weather permitting, every team will play a minimum of four games.

Awards. For the two finalists, individual trophies will be presented, as well as Most Outstanding Players named from each team as determined by the tournament committee in consultation with the respective team managers. Players from all teams will receive a participation pin at the conclusion of their final game.

MVP Balls. For all pool play games only, MVP balls will be exchanged at the end of each contest, with each team identifying an outstanding player from the opposing side. Teams are responsible for providing their own game balls, which should be signed by your entire team BEFORE each game. *Note: No player should receive more than one MVP ball. Please check with the opposing coach to see who has already received one.*

On-line results tracking. Pool game scores and Sunday's elimination round seeding, schedule and bracket results can be accessed on-line throughout the tournament at:

<https://www.itournamentbrackets.com/LMPoolPlayGames.aspx?BracketKey=17211>

Please note that this link is for reference only as official seedings and the Sunday schedule will be determined by the tournament director, who will communicate such to respective team coaches on Saturday evening.

Check-in. At least 45 minutes prior to playing their first game, teams must check-in and present birth certificates, proof of insurance and a Class C USA Softball-approved roster complete with players' names and addresses to the tournament director. Rosters and numbers will also be requested in advance for production of a tournament program and to prepare for player introductions on Baldelli Field.

Background checks for coaches. Per the National USA Softball Office, all coaches must complete the USA Softball background check and have their approved background check card visible at all times during the tournament. Coaches not following this step are at risk of being removed from games.

Scorebook. The home team will keep the official scorebook. The winning team should report game results to the Concession Stand immediately following each contest.

Rules. A complete set of rules is provided in this packet.

Disputes. The umpire-in-charge will resolve all protests on the field, in consultation with the tournament director (if necessary) before the contest will be allowed to continue. Decisions are final as no protests will be allowed after the game is completed.

Inclement weather. Rainouts and rain delays will be determined at the field by the tournament director based on current conditions. The tournament director further has the right to change schedules, shorten games and/or revise the tournament format should inclement weather dictate such.

Refund Policies. The Marlboro Diamond Cat Classic (the tournament) adheres to Mass USA Softball's recommended policies for refunds relating to team cancellations or the reduced number of games played due to weather, as follows:

Tournament Refund Policy

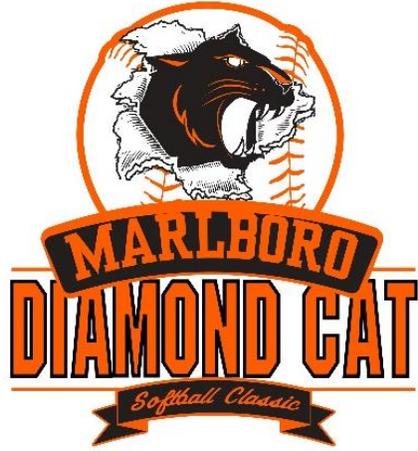
Should a team have to drop out of a tournament AND a replacement team has been found, the team shall be entitled to a full refund provided the schedule has not been released. If a replacement team is unable to be found, no refund will be returned. Teams dropping out once a schedule has been released by the tournament will not be entitled to a refund, even if a replacement team is found. Teams dropping out may be subject to additional penalties as determined by Mass USA Softball.

Tournament Weather-Related Refund Policy

Should the tournament have to shorten the number of games played due to weather, teams will be refunded based on the following formula:

If a team plays zero games, the team will be entitled to their entry fee less non-recoverable tournament expenses (i.e. perishable food, T-shirts, trophies, game balls, insurance, etc.). The tournament will provide Mass USA Softball with this calculation within 7 days of the tournament for approval. Once approved, the tournament MUST send each team a copy of this calculation along with their refund.

Teams playing one game will be entitled to 50% of their entry fee. For teams playing two or more games, no refund will be given. Teams will receive refunds within 14 days from when the tournament was scheduled.



DIRECTIONS TO BALDELLI SOFTBALL COMPLEX
Hildreth School, 85 Sawin Street, Marlboro MA

From Mass Pike

- Take Route 495 North exit.
- Follow directions from Route 495 (see below)

From Route 290

- Take I-290 East to Route 495 South exit
- Follow directions from Route 495 (see below)

From Routes 495 North & South

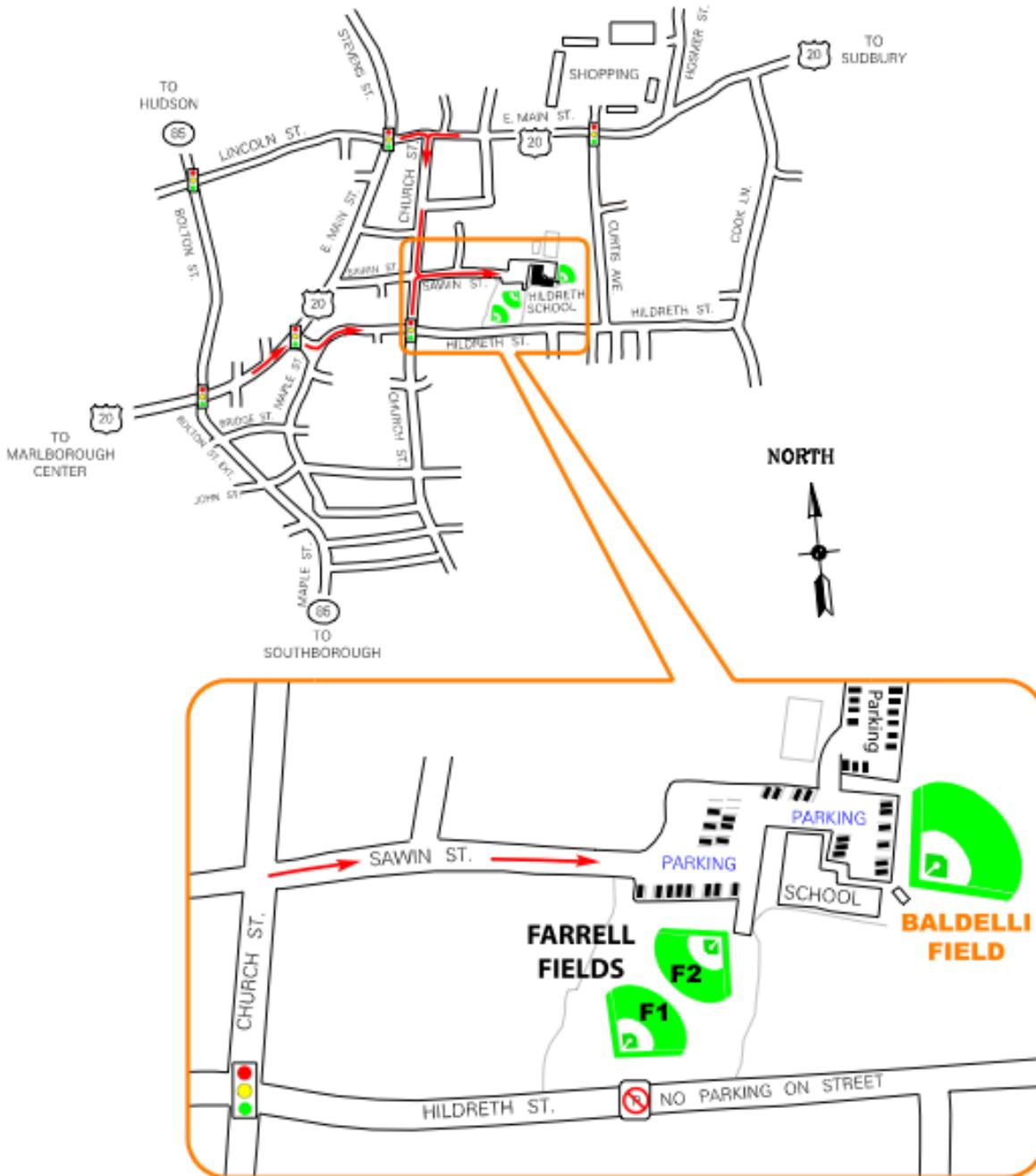
- Take Route 20 East/Marlboro exit. Get off exit and follow by the lake. Stay on Route 20 East past the Mobil Station.
- At the next set of lights will be St Mary's Credit Union on your left, go straight.
- At the 3rd set of lights past St Mary's you will take a left onto East Main Street (there will be a Marlboro Mini Market on the corner).
- From East Main Street, the first street on the right is Sawin Street, where you will take a right.
- At the top of the street go straight across and the school/complex will be in front of you.
- Farrell Fields are in front of the school (Farrell 1 is farthest from school, Farrell 2 is nearest school); Baldelli Field is in back of the school.

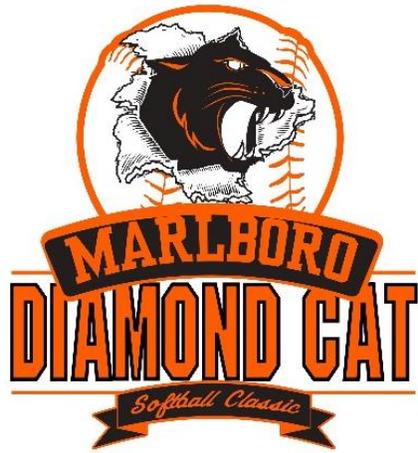
BALDELLI SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Home of Marlboro Diamond Cats Softball
at Hildreth School, 85 Sawin Street, Marlboro MA

Marlboro Girls Softball

DIRECTIONS TO:
FARRELL FIELD
BALDELLI FIELD
At Hildreth School,
Sawin St., Marlborough, MA





12U TOURNAMENT RULES

With Marlboro being a longtime member of the Central Mass-based Twin Valley Travel Softball League, the Marlboro Diamond Cat Classic chooses to closely mirror their 12U rules in an effort to provide the maximum playing experience for players. Where special rules are not stated, USA Softball Fast Pitch rules will apply.

1. Games are six innings or time limit. Once a game reaches the 1 hour and 20 minute mark, teams will finish that inning and the next inning will be declared the final inning. Umpires will keep official time on the field.

*Note: Unless Mercy Rules apply (see #8), in pool play the final inning should be played to its completion. If the home team is ahead going into the bottom of the final inning, the game is considered over.

2. Pool games can end in a tie as no extra inning games will be played in pool play.

3. A continuous batting order is to be used through the entire tournament consisting of ALL non-injured girls at the game (read: all girls present will bat). Players arriving late to a game will be added to the bottom of the order through the third inning. If a batter leaves the game she will be considered an out at her time to bat unless it is for medical/health reasons.

4. In order to speed up games, courtesy runners will be allowed for the next inning pitcher and catcher only at any time, The courtesy runner will be the last out made in the inning. Courtesy runners may not be used in the final inning or in extra innings.

5. Ten players in the field (with four outfielders). Free substitution is allowed with the exception of the pitching position, where only the starting pitcher is allowed to re-enter the game at that position.

6. Dropped 3rd strike and infield fly rule are in effect.

7. Bunting is allowed; however, fake or slash bunting (batter shows bunt then swings away) is **not** allowed and will result in an automatic out.

8. Mercy Rule (all games): 15 runs after 3 innings; 12 runs after 4 innings; 8 runs after 5 innings.

9. In pool play, there will be a maximum of five runs scored per inning* for ALL innings played. In elimination play, there will be a five-run rule* for all but the final inning, which will be an unlimited run inning (as well as extra innings). *Exception: On home runs hit OVER the fence, teams will be allowed to score more than the max number of runs (all runs count).

10. For any team with a 13+ run lead, baserunners can only advance on a batted ball or if forced on a hit batsmen or walk. They may **not** steal or advance on a thrown pitch (wild pitch or passed ball) and there is no delayed stealing or advancement on catcher's throwback to the pitcher.

11. The pitchers plate will be 40-feet from the apex (point) of the plate.

Additional Game Rules

- a. NO infield will be allowed prior to the start of any other game in the tournament. Teams are NOT allowed to use any part of the infield for their warm-ups.
- b. NO live batting practice will be allowed on any field. Soft toss is permissible via the use of hitting nets, whiffle balls and limited flight balls only.
- c. All players must wear matching uniforms. Unlike uniforms are permitted in cases of bloodied garments.
- d. Metal spikes are NOT allowed.
- e. Jewelry is NOT allowed, with the exception of medical bracelets.
- f. For pool games, the home team is determined by a coin flip; the higher seeded team is the home team during the elimination round on Sunday.
- g. One umpire will be used for all pool games. Two umpires will be used for all elimination games.
- h. This is a zero tolerance tournament. Coaches, players and/or parents who are ejected from a game are immediately banned from the premises for the duration of the tournament. (Note: If a player is ejected, the game will not be forfeited unless it reduces the line-up to under 8 players)
- i. The home team will keep the official scorebook. Game results should be reported to the Concession Stand immediately following the game.
- j. Protests MUST be settled on the playing field before the game will be allowed to continue. Judgment calls by the umpire are not grounds for protest and cannot be questioned. No protest will be allowed after the game is completed. The tournament director and game umpires will hear protests and make a decision.
- k. The tournament director will have final say on any rule interpretation that is debated or anything else not fully defined in this document.
- l. In the event of inclement weather, the tournament director reserves the right to amend the schedule, including reducing the number of games played, if necessary. We appreciate everyone's flexibility and patience should regional weather become an issue.

Playoff Rules

Seeding will be set using the recommended Mass USA Softball guidelines, as follows:

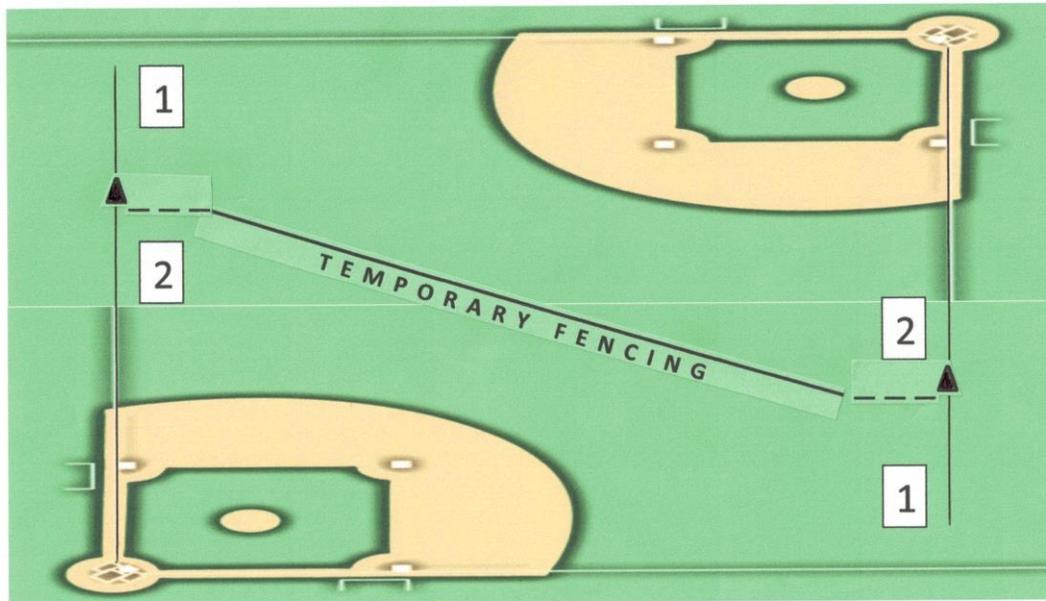
1. Rank teams by winning percentage
2. If two teams are tied, use head-to-head result. If more than two teams are tied, skip this step
3. If teams are tied, rank based on fewest runs allowed per game
4. If teams are tied, rank based on most runs scored per game
5. If teams are tied, a coin toss is used

NOTE: Should teams play an uneven number of pool games due to weather-related changes in the schedule, the above tiebreakers will still be applied. The only exception to this will be if there is an odd-numbered field that requires a team to play an additional (4th) pool game, In such case, after their final contest one game will be drawn at random that will not count toward the standings, run counts and tiebreakers for that team. The game result will count toward all for their opponent.

- Higher seed will be designated as the home team.
- For quarterfinal games, once a game reaches the 1 hour and 20 minute mark, teams will finish that inning and the next inning will be declared the final inning. There is no time limit for the semi-final and final games as the 6th inning will be considered the final inning, unless Mercy Rules apply.
- In the event of a tie, the international tie breaker format will be used (see USA Softball rulebook).

SPECIAL GROUND RULES FOR FARRELL 1 (NEAREST STREET) & FARRELL 2 (NEAREST PARKING LOT) FIELDS

Hildreth Street



Hildreth School Parking Lot

GROUND RULES

1. Balls hit to the right of the temporary fence on each field are LIVE AND IN PLAY.
2. Balls hit to the left and past the temporary fence on each field will be ruled a GROUND RULE DOUBLE.
EXCEPTION – If in the umpire's judgement a fly ball hit to the left of the temporary fence would have cleared the height of the fence, a HOME RUN can be called.