



Nebraska Half-Century Softball Challenge **2012 SPA National Qualifier – Council Bluffs, IA** **Wednesday/Thursday, May 30-31: 65/70/75/80 Divisions**

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SPA Registration Form, Requirements and Guidelines:

- ❑ To view, type, print, sign and submit the following required forms to SPA Headquarters sufficiently in advance of the required deadlines

Click Forms or Registration on the following website:

<http://softballspa.com>

- ❑ SPA Team Registration, National Player Registration, Official Team Roster and Player Addition & Player Release Forms
- ❑ SPA Basic Rules, Policies & Procedures – Click Playing Rules

Nebraska Half-Century Softball Challenge

2012 SPA National Qualifier in Council Bluffs, IA

Wednesday/Thursday, May 30-31: 65/70/75/80 Divisions

Council Bluffs Recreation & Softball Complex: I-80 Exit 2A
to 2900 Richard Downing Avenue, Council Bluffs, IA

Tournament Overview

Nebraska Half Century Softball (NHCS), in cooperation with **Nebraska Senior Softball**, will be hosting a **Softball Players Association (SPA) National Qualifying Tournament** with teams invited in four age divisions (65, 70, 75 and 80) and three classifications (AA, AAA and Major) to compete for the **NHCS Softball Challenge** tournament championships. All participating teams may choose to compete in the **SPA North America National Championships** in Dalton, GA in early to mid-September.

AGE & ELIGIBILITY: The age a player attains on his birthday in 2012 is considered his age for the entire calendar year. All players must be born on or before December 31, 1952. A player must meet the minimum age of the group in which he competes, but may play in any younger age group. Every player will be required to check-in prior to the first game and present his **SPA Photo I.D. Card**, and **driver's license** (if so requested). Should a player compete in this tournament and fail to furnish proof of official registration and eligibility prior to the end of the tournament, the team, which he played for, will forfeit all games in which the player participated.

BASIC RULES, POLICY & PROCEDURES: In order to avoid any possible misrepresentation or confusion during this tournament, it is important for each and every team manager to know in advance and fully understand that all competition during this tournament shall be conducted in accordance with current 2012 SPA Softball Rules. SPA headquarters will mail the **2012 SPA Rule Book** to each team manager shortly after your team's annual **Team Registration Form**, **Official Team Roster** and **\$35.00** registration fee is received by SPA headquarters. Every player and team must be officially registered for 2012 prior to competing in our **SPA/NHCS Challenge**.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT: Each team is guaranteed a minimum of five games unless adverse weather conditions occur. Tournament competition will be round robin play with teams playing each opponent in their respective division. In case of ties, the final standings and tournament champion in each division and classification will be determined by (1) Won/Loss record, (2) Head-to-Head Competition, (3) Least Runs Against (all games) and (4) Run Margin Comparison (all games).

EQUIPMENT: BALLS: The Baden Lexum and/or Dudley Thunder approved slow pitch, 44 COR 400 compression, yellow optic softballs, will be provided and used throughout the tournament. **BATS:** All bats must have a factory/manufactured stamp of 1.20 BPF and will be subject to inspection prior to each game. The following bats are **not approved** for use in this tournament; Miken Original (gray bat) and any titanium or fast pitch bat.

UNIFORM APPAREL: All players on a team shall properly wear team jerseys, with contrasting numbers a minimum of six (6) inches in height, and ball caps that are alike in color, trim and style. Uniforms shall be free of inappropriate symbols or wording. Street type clothing, shoes and jewelry that are inappropriate will not be allowed and may cause player disqualification, if not corrected.

UMPIRES: We have eight elite umpires that are already scheduled to work our tournament. One official umpire will work each game with the exception of the championship finals when two umpires may be used. All umpire judgment calls are final. A Protest Fee of \$50.00 must be posted at the time of protest. If the protest is ruled in your favor, your money will be returned.

LINE-UP CARDS & SCOREKEEPERS: Team managers shall provide their official game lineup and substitutes to the umpire and opposing team manager at least 10 minutes prior to scheduled game time. A sufficient number of four-part carbonless line-up cards will be provided to each team manager prior to the start of the tournament. Each team shall be responsible for keeping their own scorebook and the game umpire will update his scorecard with the number of runs scored each inning by each team. Should a conflict occur at any time during the game as to the correct score, this matter shall be promptly called to the umpire's attention and mutually resolved among the two team managers and umpire.

DUGOUTS: Cold refreshing water, bananas and oranges will be provided in each dugout throughout the tournament. Team managers and players are encouraged to keep their dugout clean of paper cups and debris during and after the conclusion of each game.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: A **mandatory** team managers' meeting will be held on **Field No. 1** at **7:30 AM** on **May 30** prior to the first tournament games to review rules and enable all managers an opportunity to present questions or address any concerns. Depending on the number of participating teams, as many as thirty (36) games may be played each day on six (6) fields with games scheduled to start at 8:15, 9:30, 10:45, 12:00 noon; 1:15 and 2:30 PM. Game times may be modified, depending on the number of registered teams. Tournament pairings and schedules for round robin play will be sent via e-mail to all participating team managers seven days prior to the start of the tournament. Every effort will be made to complete games on Thursday, May 31, no later than 3:00 PM to enable teams to return home that day.

TEAM CHECK-IN PROCEDURES: The guidelines and procedures are included on page 4 in the tournament INFORMATION PACKET.

SPECIAL AWARDS: Team awards will be presented to the championship teams as well as tournament championship shirts to each roster player who participated during the tournament.

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: A complete listing of selected motel accommodations with phone no., room rates, and distance and directions from the softball complex will be sent to all team managers in March. A substantial number of rooms will be blocked for "**NHCS Tournament**" teams at numerous motels in Omaha and Council Bluffs at special reduced rates. However, available rooms will be held only through May 15. It is recommended you make your team's reservations as early as possible to (1) avoid late reservation problems, (2) take advantage of lower room rates and (3) enable you to stay at those motels closest to the softball complex at a reasonable rate. When you, as team manager, or your players, secure your reservations, be sure to identify the name of your team as participating in "NHCS Tournament," to ensure you receive the tournament reduced room rates.

TEAM REGISTRATION: Each team must complete, sign and return the attached **NHCS Official Team Registration Form**, accompanied by the tournament entry fee of **\$395.00**, payable to **Dave Banghart**, Tournament Director, **Nebraska Half Century Softball**, 1734 North 127 Street, Omaha, NE 68154-3638, so as to be received in Omaha **no later** than **May 14, 2012**.

TEAM ROSTERS & OTHER FORMS: Two **TYPED** copies of the **SPA Official Team Roster Form** must be completed and received in Omaha on or before May 14. **Hand written rosters will not be accepted!** Team Managers may view, **type** player's names, and other required information and then print **Team Roster Forms** as well as other required forms directly from the **SPA** website at www.SoftballSPA.com.

NOTE: Team managers who submit their **team entry form, fee** and complete **team roster with all signatures** received in Omaha on or before **April 30, 2012**, will be rewarded with a **\$20.00** reduction on their entry fee of **\$375.00**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Dave Banghart, Nebraska Half-Century Softball**, via e-mail to NHCS softball@aol.com; or phone **402/445-0040** or **402/578-4612** (cell).

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Council Bluffs Recreation Complex

Wednesday, May 30-31, 2012: 65/70/75/80 Divisions

TEAM CHECK-IN GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

(This document is included in the Tournament Packet)

In order to complete the team and individual player check-in process on Wednesday morning in a timely and reasonable manner to minimize delays, we ask that all team managers and players cooperate to the fullest extent according to the following guidelines and procedures:

1. Team Check-In will be available from 7:45 to 10:00 AM on Wednesday at the check-in table for their respective age division. Teams playing the first game at 8:15 AM should check-in no later than 8:00 AM. Teams playing their first game later should wait to check-in until all first game teams have completed their check-in.

2, Prior to checking-in, every team **manager** must assure that his SPA Team Roster is legible and properly completed including the (a) **2012** team registration no., (b) all players' names, (c) current Player I.D. Nos., (d) phone no., (e) address and (f) personal signature.

3. **Managers** are required to review their team's player I.D. cards prior to check-in to insure that all player cards are legal and up to date.

4. The team manager and/or assistant manager and all players on the team shall check-in together as a group.

5. The team **manager** shall provide to the tournament staff two identical copies of his SPA Team Roster including the signatures of all competing roster players

6. Each **player** participating in this tournament should have his current **driver's license** available when he presents his **SPA Player I. D. Card.**

7. If a player possesses an expired I.D. Card, prior to check-in, he must complete and present the necessary renewal form and pay the required renewal fee, plus an additional \$25 reinstatement fee, to be eligible to play.

8. After the player's I.D. Card has been presented and verified, the tournament staff will secure a red/white/blue flag wristband on the **player's** wrist that must be worn throughout the tournament. A few words of caution, "If a **player** comes to bat without the required wristband, the umpire will declare him out. No appeal will be granted.

Your cooperation and assistance is much appreciated and I want to take this time to wish you and your team a fun-filled, successful and memorable tournament in Council Bluffs. We thank you for continued interest and support of our annual event.

Dave Banghart, Tournament Director
Nebraska Half-Century Softball