2025 Traverse City Waves Northern Classic Tournament Rules

1. In pool play, the team listed first will occupy the first base dugout. A pre-game coin flip will determine the home team. In bracket play, the highest seeded team will be the home team and will occupy the third base dugout. If two teams with equivalent seeds meet, a coin flip will determine the home team.
2. There will be a one hour and 10 -minute time limit on each game—no new inning starts after one hour 10- minutes, except for the championship game which will be time limited at 80 minutes, finish the inning.
3. Games will be 6 innings, unless shortened by the time limit. In pool play, two points are awarded for a win and one point for a tie. There CAN be ties in pool play, but not in bracket play. In bracket play only, the international tie breaker will be used after 6 innings or the time limit, whichever comes first.
4. We will play a 12-run mercy rule after 3 innings, 10 after four innings, and 8 after 5 innings.
5. The home team will keep the official score. There will be no infield practice before games. Teams may use the edges of the field for grounders or the outfield for fly balls. Every effort will be made to start games promptly at the scheduled times.
6. No game protests will be allowed. All decisions will be finalized on the field. Make every attempt to set a good example for our young athletes. Settle it and move on.
7. When batters are on deck they must warmup in a designated area near your dugout, NFHS rules. The only exception to this would be if a 12U or 14U team is playing on fields 4 5 or 6 at the Civic Center in Traverse City. The officials will designate the appropriate area for warmup.
8. Courtesy runners are allowed for the pitcher and catcher. Courtesy runners must be used first from the group of players who are not yet in the game. Once everyone has been in the game, the player who made the last out of the previous inning is the courtesy runner. Should any other situations arise involving courtesy runners, umpire’s decisions on courtesy runners are final.
9. In the interest of getting as many girls as much playing time as possible, **you can place as many EP’s (extra players)** in a lineup as you’d like (bat everyone if you’d like). An EP is simply an extra batter, and they may be substituted freely defensively for any player but must remain in the same position in the lineup (i.e. bat 10, play nine in the field, or bat 11, play nine in the field). A DP/Flex may also be used.
10. 9U Format: There is one pool of 6 teams. Each team will play three pool games to determine seedings 1 through 6 for single elimination bracket play as shown on the schedule. 9U may play 4 outfielders. Dropped third strike is NOT in effect, 7 run rule per inning, NO run rule in Championship games.
11. 10U Format: There are FOUR pools of 4 teams. Each team will play three pool games to determine seedings for bracket play. Teams 1-8 will be in the Championship Bracket and teams 9-16 will be in the Consolation Bracket.
12. 11U Format: There are 3 pools of 5/5/4 teams. Each team will play three pool games to determine seedings 1 through 14 moving into single elimination bracket play as shown on the schedule. The top 7 teams will be in the championship bracket and the next 7 teams will be in the consolation bracket.
13. 12U Format: There are 4 pools of 5/4/4/4 teams. Each team will play three pool games to determine seedings 1 through 17 moving into single elimination bracket play as shown on the schedule. The top 8 teams(Seed 1-8) will be in the Gold Bracket, the next 5 teams(Seed 9-13) in the Silver Bracket and the next 4 teams(Seed 14-17) in the Bronze Bracket.
14. 14U Format: There are 4 pools of 5/4/4/4 teams. Each team will play three pool games to determine seedings 1 through 17 moving into single elimination bracket play as shown on the schedule. The top 8 teams(Seed 1-8) will be in the Gold Bracket, the next 5 teams(Seed 9-13) in the Silver Bracket and the next 4 teams(Seed 14-17) in the Bronze Bracket.
15. High School Format: There are 2 pools of 5 and 4 teams. Each team will play three pool games to determine seedings 1-9 for a single elimination bracket play as shown on the schedule.
16. You must play all scheduled games. We want to provide as much opportunity for the girls to play as possible. Weather permitting, each team is guaranteed 4 games. In the event of inclement weather, every effort will be made to play all the scheduled games. Keep your fingers crossed for no rain!
17. No metal cleats allowed in the 9U, 10U, 11U, and 12U divisions.
18. 9& 10U will pitch from 35 feet, 11U & 12U will pitch from 40 feet, and 14U, 16U, High School, and 18U will pitch from 43 feet.
19. TIE BREAKER RULES: If two teams are tied for points in the final pool standings, we will use the following rules to determine places:

* Tiebreaker #1: Most wins
* Tiebreaker #2: Head to Head
* Tiebreaker #3: Least number of runs allowed
* Tiebreaker #4: Coin flip.

\*\* Note we are a non-sanctioned event yet follow the age limitations with the December 31st cutoff.