



WELCOME TO THE 2019 BILL VARNELL MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT HOSTED BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMETS

This is the first year that the NH Comets host this tournament in memory of a dear friend and Comets coach. Bill Varnell spent the last 15 years of his life as an active and enthusiastic coach, mentor, and board member for various softball organizations. When his daughter, Kelly, was old enough to begin tee-ball, he jumped in as a coach and never looked back. Continuing to volunteer as a Concord Northeast Softball coach for the next 10 years, including taking on the summer All-Stars team, he also joined the Concord Northeast Board and went on to help establish and coach a 'fall ball' season for the greater Concord area which is still going strong today. Well-known and respected throughout the organization, he was always the first to volunteer for events and lend a hand at the annual Sanel Park family clean-up day and take on larger projects such as the reconstruction of Briggs Field and building new batting cages for all teams to use. Always supporting his daughter and her friends, many of whom were his past players, Bill took advantage of not coaching during their Concord High School games to act as a team photographer and bookkeeper while attending all of the games and being part of the CHS booster club. Actively following her softball career, he acted as an assistant coach for the Dragons Softball Organization before he became an assistant coach for the New Hampshire Comets organization. Stepping up to the role of head coach and joining the Comets board, he established a new Comets team which he continued to coach for the next three years until his death. Always an extremely encouraging coach and active member throughout the organizations he worked with, Bill focused on making sure his players were growing in skill as well as having fun especially taking pride in watching less experienced players grow in confidence and skill leaving many with fond memories. The NH Comets are honored to remember Coach Varnell with hosting a tournament in his name.

~ TOURNAMENT STAFF ~

Tournament Director: CHRIS KELLEY, NH COMETS VICE PRESIDENT CELL: 603-759-8894
Schedule Coordinator: CHAD DUFORD, DIR. OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CELL: 603-848-8428
Umpire in Chief: KRISTEN TAYLOR EMAIL: gktaylor@comcast.net

~ INFORMATION & TOURNAMENT RULES ~

Check in locations (at each respective facility): At least 30 minutes prior to playing their first game, teams must check-in and present birth certificates, proof of insurance and an approved roster complete with players' names and addresses to the tournament director/site director. See below for the people who will be at each site.

10u – Dillon Field Site Director: Liz Kovar
12u – Martin Fields Site Director: Jay Wyatt
14u – NHTI Site Director: Craig Stephson
14u – Sanel Park Site Director: Chad Duford or Tournament Director, Chris Kelley



USA SOFTBALL RULES WILL BE FOLLOWED, INCLUDING THE OPTIONAL BATTING RULES FOR POOL PLAY, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

1. No infield or batting practice on playing fields.
2. Teams should exchange lineup cards with SHIRT NUMBER, FIRST INITIAL, LAST NAME, and POSITION at least 10 minutes before game time. If there is an official scorer, the scorer should receive his/her lineup card at the same time. Umpires will take lineup cards at the pre-game coaches and captains meeting.
3. If there is no official scorer, the home team's book is official. The visiting team scorer is encouraged to confer regularly with the home team scorer to avoid misunderstandings regarding the correct score. Digital "scorebooks" are permitted to be official as long as the scorer can quickly create a play-by-play of each inning.
4. The run rule is in effect. 15 runs after the 3rd inning, 12 runs after the 4th, 8 runs after the 5th.
5. If there is a protest, the game officials on the field will resolve the protest with the help of the UIC if necessary before the game is resumed. Protest resolutions are final. No protests will be allowed after the game is completed.
6. Should any game be suspended due to weather or unusual conditions, it will be resumed at the point of suspension, subject to the rain policy below.
7. Game time is forfeit time for all games if a team does not meet ASA rules of eligibility. A forfeit will be given a score of 3-0.
8. Please clean out the dugout/bench area after each game.
9. No smoking or consumption of alcoholic beverages is allowed at any tournament site.
10. Please abide by all of the local requirements of the fields regarding parking, pets, etc.
11. Managers/head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their coaches, players, parents and fans.

SCORE REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

BOTH TEAMS are responsible for reporting game scores. Please text the Schedule Coordinator, Chad Duford at 603-848-8428 and include all relevant information (e.g., 12U pool A, Florida State 8, Washington 3). Please check the scores recorded for your team regularly on the Tourney Machine site established for the Bill Varnell Memorial Tournament. As of 6:00 pm Saturday, all scores will be considered correct and will be used to create the Sunday brackets.

Brackets will be available on Tourney Machine as close to 8:00 pm as possible Saturday evening. (Please don't call or text before 8:00 pm as it just delays the process.)

Please continue to report all **scores** on Sunday. This will allow us to keep Tourney Machine updated and accurate.



TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Each team will play three pool play games that will be used to create Sunday's single-elimination brackets. Champions and runners-up will receive team and individual trophies.

Pool Play

1. Home team will be decided by a double coin toss prior to the game.
2. No new inning can start more than 90 minutes after the game begins. The umpire will start the clock and notify the teams of the start time. Pool play games may end in a tie, although the international tiebreaker will be used in pool play within the time limit.

Pool Play Results/Elimination Bracket Seeding

The Tournament Staff will determine the official pool results as follows:

1. Two points for a win and one point for a tie.
2. Ties in the standings will be broken using head-to-head play, if possible.
3. All other ties will be resolved using the following criteria, in order.
 - a. Fewest runs allowed
 - b. Best run differential (limited to plus/minus 8 per game)
 - c. Most runs scored
 - d. Single coin-flip (if between two teams)
 - e. Random drawing (if more than two teams)
4. For 10u play, reminders:
 - a. ~~There is no infield fly rule.~~ *The infield fly rule will be in effect per USA Softball Rules.
 - b. There is no dropped 3rd strike rule.
 - c. Runners can advance on the release of the pitch.

Single-Elimination Play

1. Brackets will be available on tourneymachine.com as close to 8:00 pm as possible on Saturday evening. Please do not inquire earlier as that just delays the process.
2. At the 10U level the teams will be ranked 1 through 4 and placed into a standard single elimination bracket.
3. At the 12U level the teams will be ranked 1 through 8 and placed into a standard single elimination bracket.
4. At the 14U level the teams will be ranked 1 through 12 and placed into a standard single elimination bracket. Teams ranked 1 through 4 will receive a first-round bye.
5. The higher ranked team from pool play will be the home team for all single elimination games.



6. Until the semifinals, no new inning can start more than 90 minutes after the game begins. The umpire will start the clock and notify the teams of the start time. Teams are encouraged to maintain a brisk pace of play and umpires are encouraged to keep things moving.
7. There is no time limit on semifinals or finals.
8. The international tiebreaker will be used if a game with a time limit reaches that time limit or when extra innings are needed.

RAIN AND OTHER DELAYS

The Tournament Staff may change the Tournament Format if there are prolonged delays or severe weather conditions. Our goal is to have as many teams play as many games as possible. Changes may include shortening pool play games, or eliminating some pool play games or one or more rounds of single elimination play. We will do our best to get everyone the number of innings they deserve, but circumstances may make that impossible.

In pool play and in elimination play before the semifinals, the clock will not stop during a delay.

Pool Play – During Rain Delay

If a delay would cause a game to go beyond 1:45, the score will revert to the last full inning, unless the home team has taken the lead when the delay begins.

If there are games that cannot be played on Friday or early on Saturday due to the weather, we will reschedule to later time periods on Saturday if weather and field conditions permit.

A game that cannot be played on schedule and cannot be rescheduled will be scored 3-3.

Single-Elimination Play – During Rain Delay

The Tournament Director reserves the right to call any game before the semifinals having progressed to the time limit, or to reduce the number of innings for a completed game if necessary. If a delay would cause a game with a time limit to go beyond 1:45, the score will revert to the last full inning unless the home team has taken the lead when the delay occurs. If the result is a tie, the higher seeded team will be advanced in the bracket.

In the semifinals and in championship games, if a game cannot be continued and 5 innings have been played, the game will be declared complete. If the score is tied, or if fewer than 5 innings have been played, or if games cannot be played at all, the top two teams that have not been eliminated will be declared the champion and runner up.



Tournament T-Shirt Sales

Coach Bill Varnell was a very musical person and his children participated in chorus, orchestra and musical theatre throughout their Concord School District years as well as private lessons on several instruments. He was very supportive of everyone's musical efforts and enjoyed going to student recitals, concerts, and plays. There is a scholarship in his name at Concord High School that goes to a senior every year. Proceeds from our t-shirts sales will be donated to the Friends of the performing Arts at Concord High School to support the scholarship fund.

T-shirts can be ordered through the following website: <https://www.brinetteamsales.com>. T-shirts are \$20.00 a piece. The t-shirts will be delivered to the site that the teams are playing at. Shirts will be sorted by team and by name for easy distribution.





DIRECTIONS TO FIELDS

10U

Dillon Field – 181 Liberty St., Concord, NH. I-93 to Exit 15W. Merge onto US-202 W toward US-3/N Main St/Downtown. Turn left onto N Main St/US-3 S/US-202 W. Take the 1st right onto Franklin St. Pass through roundabout staying on Franklin St. After ½ mile turn right onto Liberty St. Field will be on right; parking on is on the left across the street from Dillon Field. ***There is a small parking lot by the field that will be for the umpires and tournament staff only.***

12U

Martin: Fields 1 & 2 – 36 Iron Works Road, Concord, NH. I-93 to Exit 12N. Merge onto South Main St/NH- 3A North. After ¼ mile turn left onto Rockingham St. After ½ mile, at a 4-way stop with Cimo's Market on the corner, Rockingham St. becomes Iron Works Rd. Continue ¼ mile and the access road to the field will be on the right. ****There are no dugouts at Martin Field 2****

14U

NHTI – 31 College Drive, Concord, NH. Take Exit 1 off I-393 in Concord, NH. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp toward NHTI. As you enter campus, soccer fields and the baseball field will be on your right. The softball field will be on the left. ***There is no parking on College Drive. Please use the parking lot.***

Sanel Park: Towle Field and Briggs Field– Old Suncook Road, Concord, NH. From Exit 13 on I-93, go south 1 mile on Route 3/Manchester Street. Turn left on Old Suncook Road, then turn right to stay on Old Suncook Road. Sanel Park will be on the left.