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2023 Southern CA Championships Logo, Mugshot 40s (NY) batting at 2023 Northeast Championships, Northeasterns Logo.

## “Player Exemption” Explained

Player Exemptions can be confusing.

There are two types of Player Exemptions.

1.

The first is in the Rulebook and is the most common. It concerns players that were not on the Qualifying Roster used for the Eastern or Western Nationals, the World Championships or the TOC.

These “Player Exemptions” basically allow teams to add players in the same age and skill level. For example, on aged 40 to 60 teams, managers can add these players to get to 12.

In addition, teams can add even more Roster Exemption players who are older or in a lower skill level. Again, in the 40-60 age divisions, managers can add these players to get to 15 total players.

No players can be added if a 40-60 age division team is at 15 players. There are different limits for older teams with 11 and 12 defensive players. (See Section 4.2 in the Rulebook).

2.

The second type of Exemption

## 23 Teams in the 2023 So-Cal Championships Earn TOC Berths



**By Donna McGuire  
Softball News Report**

Seventy-six teams from California and eight from other states converged on Hemet and Cathedral City in late June to compete in the 2023 Southern California State Championships.

After six days of play ended, 23 of the 84 entrants had captured berths to the 2023 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida. One division champion hailed from Arizona. Another came from Washington state. The rest call the Golden State home.

Five teams, including all three women’s division winners, successfully defended their 2022 titles.

Player is designed to help teams that fall short of the minimum number of players shortly before the tournament begins and is an emergency exemption. This is called the "One-Time Exemption" and can only be used if the team falls below the minimum number of defensive players: Less than 10 in 40-60 age divisions, less than 11 in the 65-80 age divisions, and less than 12 in the 85 age division.

SSUSA had expanded the "One-Time Exemption" during COVID, which may have caused some of the confusion.



## July 2023 Obituaries

### Daniel E. Guilfoyle



### **Danny Guilfoyle, 79, of Rochester, NY, died on June 5.**

Danny played softball since the late 1960s and started with Senior Softball USA back in the 1990s.

Born in New York, he played on New York teams, starting in fast-pitch leagues in the early 1960s, according to his biography in the Rochester Softball Hall of Fame. By 1986, "he played for numerous teams including Roger's Midway in the Major League and went to the first USSSA World Tournament... that year."

Danny was inducted into the local Rochester Softball Hall of Fame in 2006.

In SSUSA tournament play, he has played with Cortese Auto/Thirsty's 55s, Prince George's 55s, Rally Time Sports 60s, Bathtub Billy's/Cornerstone Dental 60s, and Rochester Classics 60s, 65s, and 70s from 2009 until 2019.

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**Bill Biggs**



### **HTS-Here To Smash (CA) Pitches to Broken Dollz (CA) in the 2023 SoCal Championships, Women's 40+ Major Division.**

In addition, six teams swept every game they played: Pro Moves in the Women's Masters 40+ AAA division; J.K. Inc. in the Men's 50/55+ Major Plus division; CANVAZ Softball in the Men's 55+ Major division; So Cal Riptide 55s in the Men's 55/60+ AA division, Enforcers in the Men's 60+ Major division; and D & K Softball in the Men's 70/75+ Gold division.

Winning a championship proved extra special for D & K Softball, which dedicated this season to former teammate Richard "Stitch" Fearn, a San Diego resident who died March 11 from heart-related issues. A "little guy," Fearn always hit the ball well with power, Manager Larry Littlejohn said. Fearn earned the nickname Stitch because of how often he needed stitches to close cuts, Littlejohn said.

"Everybody loved him," Littlejohn said. "Unfortunately, Father Time caught up with him."

Teams enjoyed mid-80s temperatures June 20-23 before the mercury climbed into the low 90s for weekend play June 24-25, Tournament Director Jerry Smith said. The tournament featured many close games, with several divisions needing two championship games to determine a winner.

### **Results (all teams are from California unless otherwise noted):**

**Women's 40+ Masters Major:** HTS-Here To Smash needed two championship games to defend its 2022 title. HTS lost the first title game 11-10 but edged Broken Dollz 17-16 in the second. TST finished third in the three-team division.

**Women's 40+ Masters AAA:** Pro Moves held opponents scoreless twice and swept all six games it played, including a 15-5 title game victory over Monster Mash Up (photo below). Pro Moves won four of its games by double-digits. Blue Crush finished third in the four-team bracket.



**Bill Biggs, 66, of Napa, CA., died June, 2023.**

Bill started to play with Senior Softball USA back in 2008, and after a break of a few years, he returned in 2017.

He was also a member of the local Northern California Senior Softball Association. "Our brother softball player, Bill Biggs, passed away June of 2023 at his home in Napa, CA," according to his NCSSA obituary. "He was a strong left fielder and hitter. Before he stopped playing due to an injury, the last teams he played for were the Suisun Red's Sierra league team, OMG and the Misfits 65's. May Bill rest in peace."

Bill has also played on Extreme Softball 50s, Please Don't Bug Me 60s, and It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere 60s, all based in California.



**Women's 50+ Seniors:** LOL – Legit Ol' Ladies (photo below) rebounded from an 0-2 start in pool play to win the five-team division. It lost the first title game 15-12 but defeated Takin' Chances in the second game 19-11. LOL earned the 50+ Major TOC berth while Takin' Chances earned the 50+ AAA berth. Stix With Impact finished third.



**Men's 40+ Masters Major:** Third-seeded Genesis/One 5 Sports/BG defended its 2022 title by double dipping the top-seeded Flatliners 19-4 and 26-9. Chaos finished third in the nine-team bracket.

**Men's 40+ Masters AAA:** In a best-of-three format, Shoots defeated Screwballs 29-11, lost 22-23 and won 27-26 to take the two-team division.

**Men's 50+ Major:** Third-seeded Team Shadow lost the first title game by a run, 27-26, but struck back to win the second 34-22 over top-seeded Never Forget. Top Gun Diamonds finished third in the five-team bracket.

**Men's 50+ AAA:** Seventh-seeded Top Gun Renegades won its bracket games by 2, 3, 2 and 1 run, including a 15-14 championship game victory over Viejos So Cal. Team SMS of Nevada finished third in the nine-team bracket.

**Men's 50/55+ Major Plus:** J.K. Inc. 55 outscored its opponents by an average of 13 runs while notching a 6-0 overall record. It defeated Stadium 22-11 to win the title. L.A.F. 55 finished third in the three-team division.

**Men's 55+ Major:** CANVAZ Softball capped a 5-0 tournament with its best game, a 20-3 championship victory over Ink Games. Top Gun Phantoms finished third in the three-team division.

**Men's 55+ AAA:** Second-seeded Top Gun Storm knocked off top-seeded Fossil Fuel 26-12 to capture the three-team division. Dirty Sox finished third.

**Men's 55/60+ AA:** Undeclared So Cal Riptide 55 (photo below) won the division and the 55+ AA TOC berth by defeating the Advil Knights 60s 23-8 in the title game. Advil Knights earned the 60+ AA TOC berth. So Cal Riptide 60s finished third in the three-team bracket.



**Men's 60+ Major:** The top-seeded Enforcers capped a 5-0 tournament with a 19-8 title game victory over Tradition Softball. Top Gun Warriors finished third in the five-team bracket.

**Men's 60+ AAA:** Michael's Automotive Group of Washington (photo below) went 5-1 overall and defeated So Cal NDY 29-7 in the championship game. Though the finale became a blow-out, Michael's won two nailbiter bracket games, 16-14 and 16-15. Top Gun Fury won four elimination games to finish third in the eight-team bracket.



**Men's 65+ Platinum:** The third-seeded Arizona Scorpions Major Plus team double dipped the Major team R&R to win the division. Samurai finished third in the three-team bracket.

**Men's 65/70+ Gold:** Top Gun Stealth, a 65+ AAA team, lost its first bracket game then won three in a row, including a 7-6 nailbiter in the "if" championship over No Guts, No Glory. The Weakened Warriors finished third in the three-team bracket.

**Men's 65/70+ AA:** Lights Out, a 65+ team, defeated Git-R-Done, a 70+ team, 15-8 for the title. Both teams earned TOC berths. Majestic finished third in the four-team bracket.

**Men's 70/75+ Gold:** D & K Softball, which played only one close game, successfully defended its 2022 title and finished 6-0 by defeating the Mustangs 70s in the championship game. So Cal Gusto took third in the four-team division.

**Men's 75+ AAA:** So Cal Warriors (photo below) defeated Git-R-Done 15-11 to win the title. J Squared finished third in the four-team division.



**Men's 75/80+ Gold:** Top Gun 80 Gold (photo below) went 5-1 and defeated Top Gun Olde Dawgs, a 75+ team, 19-8 in the title game. Both earned TOC berths. Git-R-Done finished third in the four-team division.



### Close Competition Defines the 2023 Northeast Championships



**By Donna McGuire  
Softball News Report**

Close games, recurring rain, and some hot afternoons highlighted the 56-team Senior Softball USA Northeast Championship played July 7-12 in the Syracuse, N.Y., area.

The largest Northeast Championship tourney in years drew teams from eight states plus Ontario, Canada. When a glove snapped around a softball for the tourney's final out, 11 teams had captured division crowns and berths to the 2024 Tournament of Champions to be played in Polk County, Florida.

The competition was so even that only four teams managed unbeaten runs through pool and bracket play.



**Batter from Mugshotz, Men's 40+ Major of New York, up to bat at the 2023 Northeast Championships.**

A rain delay greeted the seven divisions of younger teams that opened the tournament on a Friday. On championship Sunday, directors shortened games to finish before more rain arrived. Then on Monday, stubborn rain washed out the first day of pool games for the 65+ and older teams.

Tournament Director Gayle Collins credited field crews for getting fields playable, and she thanked players for their positive attitudes involving the weather, which included some temperatures in the 90s.

"We had a lot of close, close ball games," said Collins, who pointed to the 40+ Masters Gold championship game as an example. First Capital of New York won 26-25 on a walk-off home run.

Games took place at Hopkins Road Park in Liverpool and at Legacy Park in Clay. Hopkins Road Park will remain available to host the tournament for at least two more years, Collins said.

**Results:**

**Men's 40+ Masters Gold:** Top-seeded First Capital, (photo below), a Major team, finished 5-0 overall with a 26-25 championship game victory over Mutants/JVA Sports of Pennsylvania. The Mutants won four elimination games to reach the finals of the seven-team bracket. Vinnie's Hitmen of Pennsylvania finished third.



**Men's 50+ Major:** Top-seeded Taylor Made Construction/BPA of Pennsylvania (photo below) finished 6-0 overall, including a 21-13 championship game victory over second-seeded Steves Sports/AJS of Connecticut. Covello Sanitation of Connecticut finished third in the eight-team bracket, which was the tournament's largest.



**Men's 50+ AAA:** In a thrilling finish, second-seeded Magic Softball of Massachusetts (photo below) double dipped top-seeded 4 Seasons Paint & Remodeling/Evil Sports/Sundial Cocktails of Massachusetts 22-21 and 27-26 to win the title. OTC/SMIRES of New Jersey finished third in the four-team bracket.



**Men's 55+ Gold:** Top-seeded Finance of America of New Jersey, a Major team, capped a 5-0 weekend with a 21-13 championship game victory over third-seeded Bishop Electric of Rhode Island. Katama Air Park/JJM of Connecticut finished third in the seven-team division.

**Men's 60+ Major:** Top-seeded Buell Fuel of New York (photo below) double dipped Building Innovation Group/TJ Plumbing of New York 12-7 and 20-15 after losing to the same team in the winner's bracket finale. The Bank of Delaware finished third in the four-team division.



**Men's 60+ AAA:** Top-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York (photo below) capped a 5-0 tournament with a 14-10 championship victory over Team Ripoti/Jerzee of New Jersey. The New England Vipers of Connecticut finished third in the seven-team division.



**Men's 60+ AA:** In a best-of-three format, the New York Capitals (photo below) needed three games to dispatch Pelley's Stix of Ontario 18-10, 15-16 and 21-10.



**Men's 65+ Major:** Top-seeded Empire Monroe of New York double dipped DEEP PURPLE of Massachusetts 10-5 and 16-9 to win the four-team division. Talaga Construction of Connecticut placed third.

**Men's 65+ Silver:** Third-seeded Spring Ford of Pennsylvania defeated top-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York 13-9 in the championship game. The Durham Silver Stix of Ontario finished third in the five-team bracket.



**Men's 70+ AAA:** Fifth-seeded JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters Red edged top-seeded Upstate Xtreme/Boombah 17-16 in the title game. Brantford Nissan Seniors of Ontario took third in the five-team bracket.

**Men's 75+ AAA:** The second-seeded Syracuse Cyclones lost the first title game 13-11 but rebounded to defeat the Long Island Jaguars of New York 21-11 in the second title game. Rochester Knights/Bob Johnson Chevrolet finished third in the three-team division.

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