

4th Annual Missouri River Classic Skills Competition

1. A skills competition for all tournament participants will be held under the lights at **Veterans Memorial Ballpark** in Mandan beginning **Saturday at 7:00 p.m.** Although attempts were made to minimize scheduling conflicts, some conflicts were inevitable due to field availability. Tournament personnel will attempt to reasonably accommodate any teams experiencing a conflict that desire to partake in the skills competition, so don't worry too much about coming a little late. Please also understand that the playing of the tournament games will have greater priority than the skills competition. Therefore, the skills competition may be limited or canceled if additional game time is needed due to inclement weather.
2. Mandan's Veterans Memorial Ballpark was recently renovated and artificial turf was installed. To ensure the turf is protected and to avoid unnecessary wear, mats will be utilized at home plate and the pitching surface. **ADDITIONALLY, NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS MAY BE CONSUMED IN THE STANDS AND NO FOOD, SUNFLOWER SEEDS, COLORED DRINKS, AND SWEETENED DRINKS WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE PLAYING SURFACE OR IN THE DUGOUTS.** Violation of these rules may result in disqualification from the skills competition.
3. The skills competition is structured so that every player from partaking teams will be allowed to compete. It is open to all tournament participants and all age divisions. There will be separate events for each of the 9, 10, 11, and 12-year-old age divisions. Except for those tournament participants qualifying for the Homerun Derby by hitting a homerun over the fence during tournament play, a player will be limited to compete in only one Skills Competition event. Awards will be given to the winners of each event.
4. Coaches of players desiring to compete in the skills competition must return the attached Skills Competition Registration Form by email to Nancy at info@bismarckyouthbaseball.org by **Wednesday, June 5 at noon.**
5. Participants must wear their team's numbered jersey during the competition.
6. The skills competition will consist of a Homerun Derby, Base Running Relay, Around The Horn Relay, and Outfield Sniper Contest.
 - a. **Homerun Derby** – Each team will designate one team representative to participate in the long ball contest in advance of the tournament. Additionally, any player who hits a homerun over the fence during tournament play will also qualify. A team's designated homerun derby participant cannot be changed after tournament play begins, except in the event of injury or illness and, in that instance, the original participant will not be permitted to participate in the Homerun Derby.

During the contest, each participant will be allowed 5 outs per round with a homerun over the fence being the only swing not resulting in an out. The top 3 hitters after the first round will qualify for the final round. The hitter with the

most homeruns in all rounds will be declared the winner. The Homerun Derby will be the last event of the evening. **The hitter will face live pitching.** Each participant may provide his own pitcher. If the participant does not have a pitcher, one will be provided for him.

- b. **Base Running Relay**- Four players from a team will race in relay format around the 90 feet base paths with the winner determined by the fastest time.
 - c. **Around The Horn Relay** -Four players will be positioned at each base with a ball at home plate. The players will throw the ball from home, to third, to second, to first, and then home with the fastest team winning.
 - d. **Outfield Sniper**- All players not participating in any other Skills Competition event will be eligible to enter the Outfield Gun Accuracy contest. Each player will field three balls and fire throws to a target with points awarded on an accuracy basis. The top three from each division will advance to the final round with the highest point getter from all rounds declared the winner.
7. Please encourage your players to participate in the Skills Competition. It is sure to be an entertaining and memorable event!