



# **2018 CODE**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## USA SOFTBALL OF WASHINGTON CODE

### PART 1 - ORGANIZATION

101	NAME .....	3
102	OBJECTIVES .....	3
103	JURISDICTION .....	3
104	DEFINITIONS .....	3
105	REGULATIONS .....	4
106	AMENDMENTS .....	4
107	TRADEMARKS .....	5
108	STATE ASSOCIATION .....	5
109	DISTRICTS .....	5
110	AREAS .....	5
111	MEMBERSHIP .....	5
112	OFFICERS .....	6
113	DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS .....	8
114	PLAYER REPRESENTATIVES .....	9
115	STATE JUNIOR OLYMPIC COMMISSIONER .....	10
116	UMPIRES .....	11
117	COUNCIL .....	11
118	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE .....	12
119	MEETINGS - SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS .....	12
120	COMMITTEES .....	13
121	UMPIRES .....	15

### PART 2 - COMPETITION

201	ELIGIBILITY .....	17
202	ROSTERS .....	18
203	PICK-UP PLAYERS .....	19
204	LEVELS OF NON-CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY .....	20
205	DIVISIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY .....	21
206	LEVELS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY .....	21
207	RULES OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY .....	21
208	DATES OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY .....	23
209	CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW .....	24
210	DISQUALIFICATION .....	24
211	<b>USA Softball of WA</b> DRUG CONTROL PROCEDURE AND POLICY .....	24
212	RULES OF NON-CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY .....	24
213	WASA BACKGROUND CHECKS .....	24

### PART 3 - PROCEDURE

301	GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY .....	25
302	CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY AWARDS .....	25
303	SOFTBALLS .....	25
304	FINANCIAL OBLIGATION .....	26
305	TOURNAMENT REPORTS .....	26
306	BIDDING .....	27
307	TOURNAMENT CONTRACT .....	28
308	COMPLAINT PROCEDURE .....	28
309	REINSTATEMENT-PROFESSIONAL .....	28
310	CLASSIFICATION .....	28
311	<b>USA Softball of WA</b> HALL OF FAME AND HALL OF HONOR .....	33

PART 1 - ORGANIZATION

**Article 101** **NAME.** The name of the association shall be "The Washington Amateur Softball Association," affiliated with the [USA Softball Association](#) sometimes referred to as the ASA, sometimes referred hereinafter to as the [USA Softball of Washington](#) or State Association and previously known as the Washington State Softball Association, or the WSSA. The Association shall be incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Washington.

**Article 102** **OBJECTIVES.** The objectives of the [USA Softball of WA](#) shall be:

- A. To promote and regulate amateur softball for all persons regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, or ancestry.
- B. To establish uniform softball rules and regulations.
- C. To provide it with proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship.
- D. To encourage the union of all eligible teams, organizations, or groups into such separate associations with active membership in the [USA Softball of WA](#) as may from time to time be deemed best adapted to advance the cause of amateur softball.
- E. To establish and maintain by allied membership, alliances with associations devoted wholly or partially to the promotion of the game of amateur softball.
- F. To promote and conduct annual amateur softball championships, invitational tournaments and league play.
- G. To educate and train in the proper skills of amateur softball play and rules of the game through promoting, organizing and conducting clinics, seminars and training courses.

**Article 103** **JURISDICTION.** The [USA Softball of WA](#) is the governing body of amateur softball in the State of Washington, excluding Seattle/Tacoma and the county of Spokane within the State of Washington, and is so recognized by the [USA Softball](#).

**Article 104** **DEFINITIONS.** Whenever used in this Code, unless otherwise specifically mentioned, the following words, terms and phrases are defined to mean:

- A. **Association** means the Washington Amateur Softball Association/[USA Softball of WA](#), the state organization. NOTE: see definition below of Local Association.
- B. **Annual Meeting** means the meetings of the Council held bi-annually in accordance with Article 119 of this Code.
- C. **Bonafide Resident** means that the person is domiciled and is actually physically residing within a given district. For the purpose of this definition, state statutes or local ordinances shall not be binding in determining residency and a person establishing a residency for the principal purpose of participating with a [USA Softball of WA](#) registered team is not a Bonafide Resident.
- D. **Championship Tournament or Championship Competition** means a tournament or competition from which the winner and other selected teams may advance to higher levels of play (qualifiers, sub-district, district, state) of this Association. (See Article 206 for the levels of championship play.)
- E. **Classification Guidelines** means the Northwest Classification Guidelines as adopted by the Northwest Council and by the state association.
- F. **Code** is what was formerly the [USA Softball of Washington](#) Constitution and by-laws. The Code is further described as the rules and regulations of the Washington Amateur Softball Association.
- G. **Commissioner** means a district commissioner that represents a member district association. A commissioner is the principal liaison between a district area and the [USA Softball of Washington](#).
- H. **District** is defined as a geographical area encompassing a specific number of Counties as listed in Article 109 of this Code.

- I. **Frozen Roster** means no addition or deletion of a player is allowed, except pick-up players may be added for championship play.
- J. **Host Team** means a team selected by a local district to represent it in a state, regional or National Tournament that the local association is hosting.
- K. **Invitational State Tournament** means tournaments that terminate with the Invitational State Championship.
- L. **Local Association** means a district association.
- M. **Player Representative** means a representative from a district or state association.
- N. **Procedural Codes** means the Codes set forth in and defined by PART 3 of the WASA Code.
- O. **Sanctioned Tournament** means a tournament requested by the district commissioner and approved by the State Commissioner.
- P. **State Commissioner** means the commissioner of the state association. The commissioner is the principal liaison between the state and USA Softball office.
- Q. **State Office** means the state headquarters of the association, located in the home town of the State Commissioner.
- R. **National Entry Form.** A National Tournament Entry Form is required for Championship play and shall be sent to the tournament director with the team's roster, signed by an USA Softball Representative.
- S. **WASA** means Washington Amateur Softball Association, the State Organization or the Washington State Softball Association, an affiliate of the ASA.

**Article 105 REGULATIONS.** The Operating regulations of the Association are defined in this document, hereinafter referred to as the Code, which is divided into three parts as follows:

- PART 1 Articles 101-199 Organizational
- PART 2 Articles 201-299 Competition
- PART 3 Articles 301-399 Procedural

**Article 106 AMENDMENTS.** Amendments to the USA Softball of WA Code shall be acted upon only at duly called Council meetings. Amendments shall be considered by the USA Softball of WA Council at the associations fall or special meeting.

**A. Amendments to the USA Softball of WA Code.**

- 1. A proposed amendment to the Code must be in writing, signed by a member of the council and sent to the state commissioner by September 10 to be considered at the Fall Council Meeting.
- 2. The state commissioner shall then prepare and mail or e-mail to each council member all properly submitted proposed amendments five days prior to the Fall Council Meeting.
- 3. A two-thirds (2/3) approval of the members of the Council voting on the proposed amendment shall be required for the change to be adopted.
- 4. An amendment to a proposed change that is being considered at the annual fall meeting without being previously submitted may be acted upon by unanimous consent of Council members voting on the proposed change.
- 5. An amendment shall be effective on January 1 of the following year, unless otherwise specified in the amendment.
- 6. Council approval of committee reports: When the Council votes to approve any committee report, the Council is voting only to approve that report and is not voting to make any changes to the USA Softball of WA Code. Amendments to the Code can be made only by the official amendment process specified above.
- 7. Suspension of the Rules: While in regular session and with the consent of three-fourths (3/4) of its members, the Council may vote to consider any provision of the USA Softball of WA Code submitted by a committee of this Association.
- 8. Any changes made at the National or Region meetings that affect the USA Softball of WA Code will be sent out by the State Office in a memo to the district staff who will send a memo to their district and deputy staff.

**Article 107 TRADEMARKS.**

- A. Refer to the **USA Softball of WA** Code.
- B. All trademarks, service marks, and logos referring or relating in any way to **USA Softball of WA**WASA or Washington State Softball Association, are the exclusive property of the **USA Softball of WA** and may not be used without the express written authority of the **USA Softball of WA**.

**Article 108 ASSOCIATION.** **USA Softball of WA** shall be divided into district associations, each of which shall be headed by a commissioner who will serve as the voting representative of the district.

- A. **District.** Each district of the state association shall have a local association.
- B. **Dues.** Each district association shall pay an activity fee, a registration fee for each umpire, and a registration fee for adult and Junior Olympic teams, as agreed to annually by the Council.
- C. **Territory.** The approved territory within a district association shall be on file with the State office. Any dispute involving territorial rights of the district association shall be heard by the State Commissioner, whose decision shall be final.
- D. **Representation.** Each district association in good standing shall be entitled to be represented at the annual meeting of the association.
- E. **Vacancy.** If the commissioner of a district leaves office for any reason the State Commissioner shall appoint an interim commissioner until he appoints a replacement for the retiring commissioner. The State Commissioner shall make a recommendation concerning the possibility of merging the district with another district.

**Article 109 DISTRICTS.** The **USA Softball of WA** shall be organized into district associations as listed below: Districts are counties.

<b>District</b>	<b>Counties:</b>
District #1.	Asotin, Garfield, and Whitman
District #2.	Chelan, and part of Douglas
District #3.	Benton, Franklin, Columbia, Walla Walla
District #4.	Yakima, Kittitas, and Klickitat
District #5.	Grant, Adams, and Lincoln
District #6.	Clark and Skamania
District #7.	Cowlitz and Wahkiakum
District #8.	Thurston and Mason
District #9.	Kitsap
District #10.	Snohomish
District #11.	Whatcom
District #12.	Grays Harbor and Pacific
District #13.	Jefferson and Clallam
District #14.	Lewis
District #15.	Skagit, Island and San Juan
District #16.	Okanogan and part of Douglas
District #17.	Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens

- A. By letter of agreement between two (2) adjacent districts, a school service district may play in an adjoining district without being classified as "out of district".

**Article 110 AREAS.**

**Article 111 MEMBERSHIP.** Upon proper application and qualification, membership in **USA Softball of WA** shall be available to organizations, teams and individuals on a voluntary basis and who agree to be governed by the **USA Softball of WA** Code. The Association shall also have the following classes of membership:

- A. **Advisory Personnel.** These individuals shall serve as advisory personnel to the

state Junior Olympic commissioner, the state UIC, and the state player representative at the annual meeting.

1. The district Junior Olympic commissioners.
2. The district umpire-in-chiefs, State Deputy UIC's
3. The district player representatives.

**B. Individual members.** Individual members are those who automatically acquire membership in **USA Softball of WA** when their team pays its annual registration fee to its district association in accordance with the established eligibility rules of the association.

**C. Dues.**

1. Each local association shall pay the following dues;
  - a. Each Adult Team \$22.00
  - b. Each JO Team \$21.00
  - c. Each Adult Umpire \$45.00
  - d. Each JO Umpire \$45.00
  - e. Individual Registration will be approved by the **USA Softball** National Council (\$16.00 for Non Photo ID, \$22.00 for Photo ID with \$1.50 to stay in each local district.) There is a \$4.95 shipping fee per invoice for this registration.
2. Each district association (military) team that plays in their base programs shall pay over the amount due to the ASA National Office the sum of \$4.00. The state receives \$2.00 and the district retains \$2.00.
3. District Commissioners must submit team and umpire registrations and fees within fifteen (15) days after receipt of funds to the **USA Softball of WA** office. Teams and umpires shall not actively participate in any **USA Softball** activities or apply for **USA Softball** insurance until their registrations and fees have been submitted to the **USA Softball of WA** office.  
Exception: Payments from Cities or Counties may have an extended time period.
4. When **USA Softball** national code amendments increase the team and individual player registration fees, that same dollar increase shall automatically be added to the amount districts are required to submit to the state office. Districts may raise their registration ceiling by the same amount.

**Article 112 OFFICERS.**

A. **Elected Officers.** The titles of the elected officers of the **USA Softball of WA** are President, Past President and President Elect. The President shall be elected from the following members of the **USA Softball of WA** (District Commissioner, District Commissioner Emeritus, District JO, District Umpires and Chief and District Player Representative, Deputy District Commissioner, Deputy District JO, Deputy District Umpires and Chief and Deputy District Player Representative.). The President and President Elect can't be from the same District.

1. President.
  - a. Term of Office. The president shall serve a term of two (2) years. Vacancy. If the president is temporarily absent or unable to act, the past president shall act as president. Likewise, if the president resigns or is removed, the past president shall serve as president.
  - b. Removal. A president may be removed for just cause by vote of the Council.
  - d. Duties
    - (1) Preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Council.
    - (2) Direct the policies of the **USA Softball of WA**.
    - (3) Appoint all committees except the Executive Committee.
    - (4) Perform such duties as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the **USA Softball of WA**.

2. Past President.

- a. Term of Office. The past president shall serve until a new Past President is in office.
  - b. Vacancy. A past president vacancy due to death, incapacity, resignation, or other reasons shall not be filled.
  - c. Removal. The past president shall be removed for just cause by a majority vote of the Council.
  - d. Duties. Preside at meetings when the president and is unable to attend.
3. President Elect
- a. Term of Office. The president elect shall serve two years. Then become president the following year when the president becomes the Past President.
  - b. Vacancy. A president elect vacancy due to death, incapacity, resignation, or other reasons shall not be filled.
  - c. Removal. The president elect shall be removed for just cause by a majority vote of the Council.
  - d. Duties. Preside at meetings when the president or past president is unable to attend.
- B. State Commissioner.** The title of the Chief Administrative Officer is the **USA Softball of WA State Commissioner.**
- 1. The State Commissioner shall be the secretary/treasurer or he may appoint a person to serve in the capacity of state secretary.
  - 2. If deemed necessary the State Commissioner shall be bonded at the expense of the association for the sum of \$10,000.
  - 3. Duties.
    - a. Manage the State office of the association and perform such duties and exercise such authority as provided therein and as delegated by the president and/or Executive Committee.
    - b. Hire, discharge or discipline employees.
    - c. Recommend the salaries of all employees subject to approval of the Executive Committee.
    - d. Prepare an annual budget for the approval of the Executive Committee.
    - e. Negotiate and execute all contracts and agreements on behalf of the association. Such contracts and agreements must be reported to the Executive Committee.
    - f. Make the final decision on any interpretation of the Code.
    - g. Act on behalf of the association in all matters of emergency that are not covered in the Code.
    - h. Report to the Executive Committee if any commissioner is not carrying out his duties as described in the Code.
    - i. Appoint an umpire-in-chief, deputy umpire-in-chief, a Junior Olympic commissioner, player-at-large, deputy state commissioner, district commissioners and other personnel as needed to conduct the state association business.
- C. State Commissioner Emeritus.**
- 1. Upon completion of fifteen (15) years serving as State Commissioner he/she shall be eligible for the status of commissioner emeritus upon his retirement as an active state commissioner.
  - 2. The Council shall consider all such recommendations and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval is required to confirm a person for the position.
  - 3. A person who has been named commissioner emeritus is entitled to attend all state, regional and national meetings of the association and shall have one (1) vote on all matters (must also meet National requirements).
  - 4. All expenses to special, Executive Committee, state, regional and national meetings shall be reimbursed by the state association.
- D. Past State Commissioner.**
- 1. Upon completion of five (5) years serving as State Commissioner he/she shall be eligible for the status of past commissioner upon his retirement as an active state commissioner.
  - 2. The Council shall consider all such recommendations and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval is required to confirm a person for the position.
  - 3. A person who has been named past state commissioner is entitled to attend

all state, regional and national meetings of the association and shall have one (1) vote on all matters.

4. All expenses to special, Executive Committee, state, regional and national meetings shall be reimbursed by the state association.

**E. State Secretary.**

1. The state secretary shall be a paid position with the budget set each year by the Executive Committee and approved by the council.
2. The state secretary shall take minutes at all meetings and supervise the state office personnel.
3. The state secretary job may be adjusted or assumed by the State Commissioner.

**F. Deputy State Commissioner.**

1. Appointments. The deputy state commissioner shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
2. Term of Office. The deputy state commissioner shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be reappointed by the State Commissioner.
3. Vacancy. A deputy state commissioner vacancy due to death, incapacity, resignation, or other reasons shall be filled by the State Commissioner.
4. Duties. Assist the State Commissioner in any capacity requested.
5. Vote. The deputy state commissioner shall have one (1) vote on the Council and on the Executive Committee.

**Article 113 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS.**

- A. **Appointments.** District commissioners shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
- B. **Term of Office.** A commissioner shall serve a term of one year and may be reappointed by the State Commissioner.
- C. **Suspension and Removal.** A commissioner may be removed at any time for just cause as follows:
  1. The State Commissioner shall investigate any written complaint against a commissioner to determine if there is probable cause to remove a commissioner.
- D. **Duties.** The duties of a commissioner are those duties promulgated by the Executive Committee and/or the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:
  1. Being responsible for all monies and dues owed the **USA Softball of WA**. Team and umpire registration fees must be remitted within fifteen (15) days of receipt. Failure to do so is grounds for suspension and removal.
  2. Approve and supervise all tournaments in his district.
  3. Appointing deputy commissioners, an umpire-in-chief, a Junior Olympic commissioner, a player representative, and other advisory personnel as may be required.
  4. Being responsible for applying the WASA championship play classification code to determine team and/or player classification to be used in the state association (see Article 317 Classification).
  5. Shall preside at all local district association meetings.
  6. File reports as requested by the State Commissioner.
  7. Enforce the rules and regulations of the **USA Softball of WA** in his area as promulgated by this Code.
  8. Commissioners that host state tournaments are responsible to see that advancing teams' rosters and affidavits are forwarded to the next level of championship play.
    - a. Sign in the proper space the State Commissioner's signature, if necessary, and initial by you.
    - b. Forward all applicable copies to the state office.
    - c. A tournament report including a completed game bracket, order of finish, all tournament selection and a financial report shall be sent to all district commissioners.
  9. All regional tournament forms shall be completed and forwarded to the



regional director.

- a. A tournament report including a completed game bracket, order of finish, all tournament selection and a financial report shall be sent to all Commissioners in the Region.
10. Commissioners that have not turned in all financial or tournament reports upon completion of state, regional or area tournaments could be called to appear before the membership committee and are subject to removal.
11. It is the commissioner's responsibility to forward all rosters, pick-up player forms, birth certificates, entry fees of teams that are attending championship play to the proper tournament director prior to the tournament deadline dates. Also, the commissioner is to sign the State Commissioners name on the championship roster by them; list as N. W. Region 9 and fill out a National Tournament Entry form. Send to the State Office the State Commissioner's copy of all forms sent.
- E. Lifetime Pass.** A commissioner who has served for five (5) or more years may be given a lifetime pass to **USA Softball of WA** activities, when he resigns, if approved by the Executive Committee.
- F.** No sporting goods manufacturer, dealer, representative or employee thereof may hold office or serve as commissioner in this association.
- G.** No member is eligible for office in this association or may be elected as a commissioner, receive travel, or hotel expenses to the annual meeting, unless all duties as set forth in Article 113 D. have been fully performed.
- H.** A district commissioner may serve only in an advisory capacity with an affiliated association, or as its secretary and/or treasurer.
- I.** No district commissioner if directly involved in the tournament in an official capacity, may umpire at a state, regional, area, national, or qualifying tournament hosted in his own district.
- J. District Commissioner Emeritus.** A commissioner who has served for ten (10) or more years may be given a position on the **USA Softball of WA** Council when he retires as District Commissioner, if approved by the Executive Committee.
  1. **Vote.** The District Commissioner Emeritus shall have one (1) vote on the Council.

## **Article 114      PLAYER REPRESENTATIVES.**

- A. State Player Representative.**
  1. **Appointment.** The State Commissioner shall appoint the state association player representative. The player representative must be an active rostered player.
  2. **Term of Office.** The state player representative shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be reappointed.
  3. **Vacancy.** If the state player representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by the State Commissioner.
  4. **Removal.** The state player representative may be removed for just cause by the State Commissioner.
  5. **Duties.** The player representative shall represent the **USA Softball of WA** at all state and regional meetings. And assume the duties of the At-Large Player Representative.
  6. **Vote.** The state player representative shall have one (1) vote on the Council and on the Executive Committee.
- B. Deputy State Player Representative.**
  1. **Appointment.** The Deputy State Player Representative shall be appointed by the State Commissioner. The player representative must be an active rostered player.
  2. **Term of Office.** The deputy state player representative shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be reappointed by the State Commissioner.
  3. **Vacancy.** If the deputy state player representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by the State Commissioner.
  4. **Removal.** The deputy state player representative may be removed for just

- cause by the State Commissioner.
  - 5. Duties. Assist the State Player Representative in any capacity requested.
  - 6. Vote. The deputy state player representative shall have one (1) vote on the Council and on the Executive Committee.
- C. At-Large Player Representative.**
- 1. Appointment. The State Commissioner shall appoint one (1) at-large representative for each two thousand (2000) teams registered in the preceding year.
  - 2. Term of Office. At-large player representatives shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be reappointed.
  - 3. Vacancy. If the state player at-large representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by the State Commissioner.
  - 4. Removal. An at-large player representative may be removed for just cause by the State Commissioner.
  - 5. Duties. The at-large player representative shall represent **USA Softball of WA** at all regional and national meetings. He shall chair the player representative committee at the annual meeting.
  - 6. Vote. At-large player representatives shall have one (1) vote on the Council and on the Executive Committee.

**Article 115 STATE JUNIOR OLYMPIC COMMISSIONER.**

- A. Appointment.** The state Junior Olympic Commissioner shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
- B. Term of Office.** The state Junior Olympic Commissioner shall serve a term of one (1) year.
- C. Vacancy.** If the position of state Junior Olympic Commissioner becomes vacant, it shall be filled by the State Commissioner.
- D. Removal.** The state Junior Olympic Commissioner may be removed for just cause by the State Commissioner.
- E. Duties.** The duties shall include the following:
  - 1. To head and be responsible for the state Junior Olympic program.
  - 2. Assist in preparing and circulating **USA Softball of WA** Junior Olympic Softball program materials to promote the program.
  - 3. Arrange and supervise clinics to improve the quality of the Junior Olympic program and coaches.
  - 4. Assist district Junior Olympic Commissioners with the development of their district Junior Olympic programs.
  - 5. Chair the Junior Olympic committee at the annual meeting.
  - 6. Vote. The Junior Olympic commissioner shall have one (1) vote on the Council and on the Executive Committee.
  - 7. The Junior Olympic District Commissioner Shall be approved to perform the following, if authorized by the District Commissioner: It is the Junior Olympic Commissioners responsibility to forward all rosters, pick-up player forms, birth certificates, entry fees of teams that are attending championship play to the proper tournament director prior to the tournament deadline dates. Also the Junior Olympic Commissioner is to sign the State Commissioners name on the championship roster by them; list as **N. W. Region 9** and fill out a National Tournament Entry form, if required. Send to the State Office the State Commissioner's copy of all forms sent.
- F. Deputy State Junior Olympic Commissioner**
  - 1. Appointment. The deputy state Junior Olympic Commissioner shall be appointed by the state commissioner.
  - 2. Term of Office. The deputy state junior Olympic commissioner shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be reappointed by the state commissioner.
  - 3. Vacancy. A deputy state junior Olympic commissioner vacancy due to death, incapacity, resignation or other reasons shall be filled by the state commissioner.
  - 4. Duties. Assist the state commissioner in any capacity requested.
  - 5. Vote. The deputy state junior Olympic commissioner shall have one (1) vote

on the council and executive committee.

**Article 116 UMPIRES.**

**A. State Umpire in Chief.**

1. Appointment. The state Umpire in Chief shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
2. Term of Office. The State Umpire in Chief shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be reappointed by the State Commissioner.
3. Vacancy. If the position of State Umpire in Chief becomes vacant, it shall be filled by the State Commissioner.
4. Removal. The State Umpire in Chief may be removed for just cause by the State Commissioner.
5. Duties. The duties shall include the following:
  - a. To head and be responsible for the state umpire program.
  - b. Select umpires for state tournaments as provided for in the Code for such tournaments.
  - c. Arrange and conduct clinics to improve and standardize umpiring throughout the state.
  - d. Assist District Umpire in Chief with the development of their district umpire programs.
  - e. Chair the UIC committee at annual meeting.
6. Vote. The State Umpire in Chief shall have one (1) vote on the Council and the Executive Committee.

**B. Deputy State Umpire in Chief.**

1. Appointment. The Deputy State Umpire in Chief shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
2. Term of Office. The Deputy State Umpire in Chief shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be reappointed by the State Commissioner.
3. Vacancy. If the position of Deputy State Umpire in Chief becomes vacant, it shall be filled by the State Commissioner.
4. Duties. Assist the State Umpire in Chief in any capacity requested, and is part of the state UIC Executive Board.
5. Vote. The Deputy State Umpire in Chief shall have a vote on the state UIC Executive Board.

**Article 117 COUNCIL.**

**A.** The Council shall be composed of the following members, which are selected without regard to race, color, religion, national origin or sex. These individuals shall be voting members of the Council and are entitled to one (1) vote each.

1. The Commissioner of each district.
2. The State Player Representative.
3. One (1) additional player representative for each two thousand (2000) teams registered with the state association in the preceding year.
4. The State Junior Olympic Commissioner.
5. The State Umpire in Chief.
6. The State Commissioner.
7. State Commissioners who have been selected as commissioner emeritus.
8. District Commissioner Emeritus

**B. Annual meetings.** The annual meeting of the **USA Softball of WA** shall be held between the weekend prior to Monday Columbus Day Holiday, and the next two following weekends.

1. Site. The site of the fall meeting shall be determined by vote of the Council at the fall meeting.
2. Bids. Bids to host the fall meeting shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
  - a. A district association planning to bid for the fall meeting must submit a bid with all pertinent information including hotel rates and meeting facilities, etc. to the state office no later than September 10.
  - b. A commissioner may submit a bid only for the district of which he is a

commissioner.

- c. If no bid is received by September 10, the State Commissioner shall make arrangements for the meeting.
3. Notice. Notice of the annual meeting shall be sent to all Council members by the host meeting Commissioner at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.
4. Voting. Each Council member shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all matters coming before the annual meeting.
5. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of the president, vice president and at least 50% plus one (1) of the Council members.
6. Proxy. Authorization for representation for a Council member by proxy may be obtained by submitting a request for same in writing to the State Commissioner at least one (1) week prior to the date for the annual meeting.
  - a. In order for a proxy to be approved he must be an active deputy district commissioner, board member, or officer of said affiliated association requesting the proxy and be listed on the commissioners roster on file with the state office.
  - b. This written proxy is not transferable and is subject to the approval of the Executive Committee and the Council.
  - c. A proxy properly certified according to the preceding paragraphs is entitled to be in attendance at all meetings of this association with the privilege of voting.
  - d. A proxy will receive the financial benefits extended to a Council member.

#### **Article 118 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

- A. Members.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the president, past president, president elect, State Umpire in Chief, Deputy State Umpire in Chief, State Junior Olympic Commissioner, Deputy State Junior Olympic Commissioner, State Player Representative, Deputy State Player Representative, at-large Player Representative, State Commissioner emeritus, State Commissioner and Deputy State Commissioner. Each of these members shall have one (1) vote.
- B. Duties.** The Executive Committee shall direct the State Commissioner in the general affairs of the **USA Softball of WA**. Also, it shall be responsible for the direction of the general affairs of the association in the interval between annual meetings.
- C. Finances.** The Executive Committee shall be aware of all financial transactions of the association.
- D. Meetings.** All meetings are open to Council Members except when in "executive session."
  1. Site. The site of the Executive Committee meetings shall be determined by the State Commissioner and approved by the President.
  2. Notice. Notice shall be sent by the State Commissioner to each member of the Executive Committee at least fifteen (15) days prior to said meeting.
  3. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of all eligible voting members of the Executive Committee.
  4. Proxies. Proxies will not be accepted to replace members of the Executive Board.
- E. Travel.** Members of the Executive Committee who attend Executive Committee meetings shall be reimbursed for motel room, meals, and auto travel expenses. An air travel request must be submitted three (3) weeks prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

#### **Article 119 MEETINGS - SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.**

- A. Special Meetings.** The president may call a special meeting of the Executive Committee or the Council when business requires or when directed to do so upon written petition of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the respective bodies.
- B. Mail or Telegraphic Vote.** When ordered by the president a mail or telegraphic vote on any action that might lawfully be taken at any regular meeting of either the Executive Committee or the Council (whichever is involved) may be taken. If and

when a mail or telegraphic vote is taken, the State Commissioner shall:

1. Mail or telegraph each member of the Executive Committee or Council (whichever is involved) a clear statement of the question to be decided.
2. Request that the vote be returned by a given date.
3. Close the vote on the date given.
4. Notify all officers and Council members of the result of the vote immediately.
5. File and upon request make available to officers and Council members copies of the mail or telegraphic vote.

**C. Order of Business.**

1. The order of business for any meeting of the **USA Softball of WA** shall be as follows:

**FALL MEETING:**

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Committee Reports
4. State Tournament Reports
5. Executive Committee Reports
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
8. Election of Officers
9. Award all Bids
10. Adjournment

2. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary law for all meetings of the association.

**D. Business Format.**

1. The time frame for the Fall Meeting shall be as follows:
  - a. Saturday a.m. – break-out sessions
  - b. Saturday p.m. – committee meetings
  - c. Sunday a.m. – general session

**E. Reimbursements.** Each member of the Executive Committee, each commissioner, voting player representatives, voting umpire-in-chief, and voting Junior Olympic commissioner representative attending the annual meeting, and discharging his duties by attending all sessions verified by a roll call, shall be reimbursed in a reasonable amount, as determined by the Council of the WASA to pay such allowance from current receipts as shown in the preceding years financial report, and such other expenses as approved by the Executive Committee and Council

**F. State Umpire Meeting.** The State Umpires meeting will be held in the Spring, at a site and date to be determined by the State UIC and the State Commissioner. The Umpires will not be reimbursed for attending the Fall Council Meeting.

**Article 120 COMMITTEES.**

**A. Classification/Reclassification.**

1. District Classification/Reclassification.
2. Fast Pitch Classification/Reclassification. The president shall select three members from the Council to serve on this committee.
3. Junior Olympic Team Reclassification.  
The Junior Olympic State Commissioner shall appoint three (3) active members from the Junior Olympic Commissioners to serve on this committee.
4. Slow Pitch Classification/Reclassification.

**B. Executive.** The Executive Committee may convene during the annual meeting and may hold additional meetings as are necessary to conduct the interim business of the **USA Softball of WA**.

**C. Membership.**

1. The committee shall provide a program for increasing memberships of all types in the **USA Softball of WA**. Its duties shall include but not be limited to the following:
  - a. Urge commissioners to enroll teams and umpires as early as possible

- in the current year, and provide a systematic plan for increasing the membership of this association and general promotion of softball.
- b. Urge commissioners to secure the basic team fee included in the registration and entry fee of teams in leagues to insure the total registration of softball teams in the WASA early in the season.
  - c. Encourage commissioners to report team and umpire memberships on the correct forms promptly to the State office with the remittance of fees.
  - d. Review commissioners whose membership production is unsatisfactory and conduct such hearings as requested by the president under Article 113 D. of this Code.
  - e. Review and screen any complaints from any member of this association and report a finding of same to the **USA Softball of WA** president and State Commissioner.
2. This committee shall consist of three members appointed at the fall meeting by the **USA Softball of WA** president. This committee shall be made up of voting members of the Council, but only one (1) such member may be a district commissioner. A committee member may be removed for just cause by the **USA Softball of WA** president and shall serve for one (1) year, and may be re-appointed.
- D. Junior Olympic.**
1. This committee shall promote interest, participation and registration of individuals, teams and leagues in the **USA Softball of WA** Junior Olympic softball program. Its duties shall include but not be limited to:
    - a. Assist in preparing and circulating **USA Softball of WA** Junior Olympic softball program folders or materials to promote the program.
    - b. Assist the **USA Softball of WA** state office and Junior Olympic commissioner in any manner possible that will promote the Junior Olympic softball program.
  2. Membership on this committee shall consist of the district Junior Olympic commissioners from each of the **USA Softball of WA** districts. The committee shall be chaired by the state Junior Olympic commissioner.
- E. Player Representatives.**
1. This committee will review proposed amendments to the **USA Softball of WA** Code and send representatives to the various committee meetings to express the interest of the player representatives in regard to proposed legislation.
  2. This committee shall consist of the district player representative from each district and the at-large player representative. The committee shall be chaired by the at-large player representative, or by the state player representative in his absence.
- F. Umpires.**
1. This committee shall promote the general welfare of the umpires in the **USA Softball of WA**. Its duties shall include but not be limited to:
    - a. Initiate an intensive program of enrolling new umpires and increasing membership.
    - b. Encourage use of **USA Softball of WA** registered umpires in all softball competition.
    - c. Encourage every **USA Softball of WA** umpire affiliate to conduct spring rules clinics for umpires, managers and players.
    - d. Assist the state and zone umpire-in-chief in any way possible in the operation of the state umpire program.
  2. Membership on this committee shall consist of the state deputy UIC and the District Umpire in Chiefs from each district. The committee shall be chaired by the State Umpire in Chief.

**Article 121 Umpires.**

**A. Staff.**

1. **State.** The umpire organization shall be under the direction of the State Umpire in Chief. The State Umpire in Chief, a Deputy Umpire in Chief.

2. **District.** Each district shall have a District Umpire in Chief selected by the district commissioner and approved by the State Commissioner and the State Umpire in Chief.
  3. **Reimbursement. (for State Meetings Only)**
    - a. The State UIC shall be reimbursed by **USA Softball of WA**.
    - b. The Deputy State UIC's shall be reimbursed by **USA Softball of WA** unless that person is also a District UIC in which case he/she shall be reimbursed by his/her district.
    - c. The District UIC shall be reimbursed by his local district
- B. Registration.** An umpire may register only through the state association commissioner and the district commissioner whose territory he resides or is employed.
1. Umpire registration fees shall not exceed \$10.00 more than the sum paid to the state office for adult umpires and JO umpires. \$20.00 over the sum paid to the **USA Softball** National Office shall be required to register both adult and JO umpires with the state office. \$8.00 of the fee will be used for umpire travel to state championship tournaments that are assigned by the State Umpire-in-Chief. Regional assignments will be reimbursed in the same manner as long as there are umpire travel funds available. \$4.00 of the fee will be used for umpire travel and training as deemed necessary by the State Umpire in Chief. As well as all fees collected for travel and training will be managed by the State Umpire in Chief or his deputy.
  2. When **USA Softball** national code amendments increase the umpire registration fees, that increase shall automatically be added to the amount district are required to submit to the state office. District may raise their registration ceilings by the same amount as the national increase.
  3. Registered umpires become members of the **USA Softball/USA Softball of WA** on a voluntary basis and agree to be governed by the codes.
  4. An umpire who lives near the borderline of two (2) associations may register and umpire in either after obtaining permission from both commissioners involved.
  5. Registration is on annual basis and shall expire December 31 of each year.
  6. A member of the armed forces may become a "Military" registered umpire only while stationed overseas, by registering through his military base athletic office.
  7. Umpire membership may be declined or revoked for unethical, immoral or unprofessional conduct. Before declining or revoking membership, the umpire must be given the same hearing procedure afforded a team or team member as set forth in Article 212 C.
- C. Championship Play.**
1. Only **USA Softball** registered umpires shall be used in championship play.
  2. Assignment of umpires to state tournaments is the responsibility of the State Commissioner and the **USA Softball of WA** umpire-in-chief. Tournament selection shall be based on the following.
    - a. **USA Softball** registration of two (2) complete years.
    - b. Recommendation from district or higher level tournaments.
    - c. Previous experience in district or higher level tournament.
    - d. Percentage of registered umpires in each district.
    - e. Attendance at one or more **USA Softball of WA** zone clinics or the northwest regional clinic during the current year.
    - f. Tournament assignment formula (See Article 121 I)
    - g. The requirements in Article 121 I include both State and local assigned umpires.
  3. Two (2) umpires shall be used in all games. Three umpires shall be used starting with semi-final games except in the following classifications.
    - a. Women's "C", Men's and Women's "D" Slow Pitch
    - b. Coed, Co-rec, Rec, Industrial, Church and over 35 Slow Pitch.
    - c. Women's "C" Fast Pitch
    - d. Seniors; 50, 55, 60, 65 and 70
      1. Saturday's games one (1) umpire
      2. Sunday's games two (2) umpires

**Note:** This is a minimum requirement.

4. The tournament umpire-in-chief of the respective state tournament shall, whenever possible, avoid using umpires in games involving teams from his/her local district. The tournament umpire-in-chief shall not officiate games in that tournament except in cases of emergency.
- D. Uniforms for Championship Play.**
1. Umpire uniforms for State Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch tournaments shall comply with the uniform requirements as defined in rule ten (10) section one (1) C in the current years rule book. **All umpires shall be dressed alike when entering the field of play.**
  2. Shorts pants are allowed for Slow Pitch games. Navy Blue shorts with either the navy blue or powder blue short-sleeve polo shirt. After 2020, **USA Softball** letters are worn on the left chest of the polo shirt. Only **USA Softball** anklet sock shall be worn. **All umpires shall be dressed alike when entering the field of play**
- E. Game Fees.** All game fees for state tournaments play shall be set at the fall meeting each year. The current fee is \$30.00 per game and umpires shall be paid immediately at the completion of their assignment. Exception: Extra time may be approved by the State UIC for those Cities and Counties that are unable to pay at the completion of the umpire assignments.
- F. Recommended Fees for the Umpire-in-Chief.**
- |       |       |            |
|-------|-------|------------|
| 2-11  | Teams | \$150.00 * |
| 12-23 | Teams | \$175.00 * |
| 24-31 | Teams | \$200.00 * |
| 32-48 | Teams | \$250.00 * |
| 49-64 | Teams | \$250.00 * |
1. Tournaments that are combined shall be considered as one tournament based on the combined number of teams as long as they are at one site.
  2. If additional sites are needed for overflow, an additional UIC shall be required at each site. This person shall not be allowed to work games while acting in this position. He/She shall be allowed to work games when the tournament moves back to a single site. \* **UIC at the additional site shall be paid at a \$50.00 per day rate.**
  3. **Mileage.** Mileage will be paid by the State Office to those umpires assigned to State, Regional and Gold Sector Championship Tournaments by the State UIC at the rate of 35 cents per mile, payable for one (1) round trip per vehicle, i.e., if more than one umpire rides in the same vehicle only one mileage will be reimbursed. The State Office shall base mileage by a formula set by the Washington State Department of Transportation. Mileage will be paid only if umpire travel funds are available.
- G. Housing Allowance.** Umpires from outside the local area holding the tournament and assigned by the State UIC will be paid the following as a housing allowance.
1. Umpires from outside the local area holding the tournament and assigned by the State Umpire in Chief will paid the following allowance. Tournament directors will have the option of providing a motel room for (2) umpires per room), or paying the per diem listed below.
    - a. One day tournament.....\$0.00
    - b. Two day tournament.....**\$40.00**
    - c. Three day tournament.....**\$80.00**
    - d. Umpires that travel over 75 miles to the umpire meeting location the day before or before noon on the day of the tournament and a local hotel/motel receipt is presented an additional \$40.00 will be paid to the umpire.
- H. Maximum Umpire Assignments Local/State.** The local association must provide qualified umpires in that class of ball at the tournament to fulfill the minimum umpire assignments. These local umpires cannot be from outside the district association unless approved and assigned as locals by the State Commissioner or the State UIC.



1. Teams	Local: FP	SP	Outside: FP	SP
2-5	3	3	1	1
6-9	4	4	2	2
10-11	8	6	3	2
12-16	10	8	4	3
17-19	12	10	4	3
20-24	14	12	5	5
25-32	16	14	6	6
33-40	18	16	7	7
41-48	20	18	8	8
49-56	22	20	9	9
57-64	24	22	10	10

2.\*\*\*At least one (1) umpire assigned by the State UIC will be required for all Adult Slow Pitch Championship Tournaments.

- I. **Fulfilling assignments.** Any district UIC that agrees to assign an umpire to a State Tournament and fails to do so may forfeit the right to send an umpire the following year.
- J. **Failure to show.** An umpire that accepts a State Tournament assignment from his/her district UIC and then does not go to the tournament may not be assigned to post season play for two (2) years as determined by the State UIC.

## PART 2 - COMPETITION

**Object.** This Code shall guide the organizing and conduct of all state and invitational tournaments of this association for all classes of play for both adult and Junior Olympic competitions. It is the purpose of this association to organize, promote and conduct the best possible championship and invitational tournaments for all divisions of play. The Code cannot cover every possible situation or contingency; however, the regulations herein listed shall be followed and adhered to by commissioners, tournament directors, and umpires. This Code shall not be in conflict with the **USA Softball** Code for tournament play. All competition shall be conducted in accordance with applicable rules as outlined in the **USA Softball of WA** Code.

### Article 201 ELIGIBILITY.

#### A. GENERAL RULE.

1. A player may play in any association during the current year.
2. Once electing to participate in championship play on a team registered in an association, the player may not play in the same division in any other association during the current year.  
EXCEPTION: Transfer of Employment (Article 201 E in the national code), pick-up players (Article 203 A 1 in the national code).  
EXCEPTION: In Master's and Senior Divisions, a player may play in the same division in another association, but not in the same classification.
3. A player may participate as a regular rostered player on only one team within a division in championship play during a season. EXCEPTION: Master's and Senior divisions - a player may participate in all age classifications for which he/she is eligible. Pickup players as provided in 203 (in the national code) may compete in their established class or above, but not below it.
4. Protest of player eligibility can be made or appealed at any time. Eligibility protests cannot be waived by local notice.
5. Player Identification.
  - a. Upon demand by league or tournament officials, a player must produce proper identification (which shall include a current photograph of the player and the player's signature) or the player shall be declared ineligible and the team subject to disqualification. For the purpose of this section, driver's licenses or comparable identification is acceptable.

- b. Proof of Age. A player must provide proof of age in Junior Olympic, masters and senior divisions.
  - c. At all National Championship Finals, in order to be eligible, a player must provide proper identification (which shall include a current photograph of the player and the player's signature) to the tournament director before the start of competition. The tournament director shall compare the identification with the name and signature appearing on the team's championship roster.
- B. Team Registration.** A team must register with the association in which the greatest number of its players resides.
- 1. JO teams playing in championship play will be required to register through the approved individual USA Softball Registration Programs (Non Photo Card or Photo Card) and be required to carry Bollinger Medical Insurance or insurance that matches Bollinger limits.
- C. FOREIGN PLAYERS.** No foreign players are eligible to compete in USA Softball adult fast pitch, adult slow pitch and JO Gold 18-Under Fast Pitch championship play. Foreign players are eligible to participate in adult modified pitch and Junior Olympic Class A and B Fast and Slow Pitch 18, 16, 14, 12, and 10-Under championship play.
- D. Junior Olympic Age Qualifications.** A player's age on December 31 of the current year determines in which the player is eligible to play. Per USA Softball Code.
- E. Masters & Senior Age Qualifications.** Cutoff date is December 31. A player whose birthday (35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, and 75) is on or before December 31 of the current year is eligible.

## Article 202

**ROSTERS.** Teams must compete with the same roster in championship play as used during the regular season's play, except teams are allowed to pick up three (3) players when advancing in championship play. Team rosters shall be filed with the district commissioner prior to a team's participation in an USA Softball tournament.

- A. Number of players.** A maximum of 20 players including pickups, a manager, and a coach shall be permitted on a team's championship roster. A manager or coach shall not count as a player unless he is an active player.
- B. Team Registration Deadline.** Teams must be registered with their respective district commissioners before they participate in an USA Softball sanctioned tournament. Teams must register in the district where the greatest percentage of their players reside.
- C. Team Registration.** District commissioner shall file their registrations and classification with the State office within seven (7) days of receipt of registrations and fees. Team rosters shall be filed with the District commissioner prior to a team's participation in any USA Softball tournament. Team registrations shall not exceed \$34.00 with \$20.00 for JO teams and \$21.00 for adult teams payable to the State office.
  - a. Individual Registration USA Softball. Individual player registrations shall not exceed \$16.00 per player, coach, manager or volunteer for \$250 deductible insurance with \$1.50 per registration retained by the district.
  - b. Individual Online Register USA Softball Non Photo Card. Individual player registrations shall not exceed \$16.00 per player, coach, manager or volunteer for \$250 deductible insurance plus on registration ID card. With \$1.50 per registration retained by the district.
  - c. Individual Online Register USA Softball Photo Card. Individual player registrations shall not exceed \$22.00 per player, coach, manager or volunteer for \$250 deductible insurance plus two players and one non player registration I card. With \$1.50 per registration retained by the district.
- D. Fall Team Registration.**
  - a. Any team that competes in a fall ball program and has less than eight (8) players, of those listed on their summer team roster, shall be considered a new team and shall be registered as a fall team.

- b. Any Team that competes in a fall ball program and changes their team name from their summer team name shall be considered a new team and shall be registered as a fall team.
  - c. Any team that competes in a fall ball program and has a different sponsor from their summer team sponsor shall be considered a new team and shall be registered as a fall team.
- E. **Junior Olympic Rosters.** Players may participate in more than one Junior Olympic division of play, but are limited to only one classification within a division of play.
  - 1. A team consisting of eight or more players from the same Junior Olympic team, which has competed, in championship play is not eligible to compete in adult championship play in the same year.
  - 2. For each member of a Junior Olympic team, one of the following forms of birth verification or proof of age must be attached to the team's roster/affidavit form: Birth certificate, baptismal certificate, hospital certificate, driver's license, a valid passport or an **USA Softball** individual registration card. In the case of a Junior Olympic player whose name has changed from that which appears on his/her birth certificate, baptismal certificate, hospital certificate, driver's license or passport by reason of adoption or court approved name change, a copy of the court order or decree approving such adoption or change of name shall also be attached to the roster/affidavit form. Photocopies of any of the above are acceptable.
  - 3. Team rosters must be on file with each district or deputy commissioner prior to participation in any **USA Softball** tournament or **USA Softball** activity. Junior Olympic only. Junior Olympic players in all age groups and classifications: A player may play in any State/Metro association in the Region in which the player resides, however; once the player makes a selection pursuant to **USA Softball** Code, Article 201 D; the player may not play in any other State/Metro association during the current year regardless of the division of play.
  - 4. **Roster Change Deadline.**
    - a. The roster deadline for championship play is Friday, one week prior to the start of championship tournament play. (NOTE: Local Associations may establish an earlier deadline for classification purposes.) (This is for the Junior Olympic Program only.)
    - b. **Roster Form.** Roster forms shall be provided by the **USA Softball** National Office and are the only official rosters for district, state, regional, area or national play.
    - c. **Roster Procedure.** The roster/affidavit form must be signed by the player, his/her guardian (if necessary) and the manager. A red line must be drawn on the line beneath the last player's name listed on the roster. The roster must be signed by the state/metro commissioner or his designee.
    - d. **Roster Eligibility.** Receipt and acceptance of an official affidavit roster shall not be considered as a determination of the eligibility of a player or team. Eligibility of players or teams shall be governed as otherwise provided in the code.
    - e. **Official Tournament Entry Form.** The official tournament entry form must be signed by the association commissioner and accompany the roster/affidavit form for all championship play tournaments.

## Article 203 PICK-UP PLAYERS.

- A. **General.** All teams are permitted to pick up three (3) players as follows:
  - 1. The team adding pick-up players must select eligible roster members from **USA Softball** registered teams in the team's own local association.
 

**Exception:** Junior Olympic pick-up players: Class B teams may only pick up players that are from their own district or neighboring district if the commissioners both agree through the state tournament. After the State Tournament, Class B and Class A teams may pick up players from the Washington State Association or the Metro Association that shared berths with **USA Softball of WA.**

Men's and Women's Major Fast Pitch, Men's and Women's Class A Fast Pitch, Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch and Junior Olympic Gold Girls 18-Under Fast Pitch. Pick-up players may come from teams within the region that are no longer eligible for championship play.

2. Pick-up players must have played for an **USA Softball** registered team during the current season and must have played in the division of play for which they are being picked up.
3. Pick-up players may be selected only from teams that are no longer eligible for championship play.
4. Pick-up players must be from the team's same division and the same or lower classification.  
**Exception:** A player who has competed in Junior Olympic, Men's 23-Under, or Women's 23-Under championship play is eligible to participate in adult championship play during the same season as a pick-up player.
5. No players may be picked up for any Qualifier.
6. In adult divisions of play, a pick-up player may be substituted for after participation.
7. In Junior Olympic divisions of play, a pick-up player may not be substituted for after participation.
8. Junior Olympic GOLD and Class A players who compete on adult teams as pick-up players are only eligible to be picked up for Major or Class A teams.
9. A player may play with only one team other than his own team within a division is a season.
10. Pick-up players must sign an official pick-up player form that also must be signed by the team's manager, the association commissioner and the players parent or legal guardian (if a minor) and attached to the team's official roster before the team plays in the tournament.

**B. Fast Pitch, Modified, and Slow Pitch Pickup Players.** An addition may be made at any level of championship play prior to the National Championship Final as follows:

1. If additions are made prior to association championship play, they must be made from the team's own district or county.
2. If additions are made prior to regional or National Championship Final play, they must be made from the team's own association.

**Exception:** Men's and Women's Major Fast Pitch, Men's and Women's Class A Fast Pitch. In Major and Class A adult fast pitch, if a pick-ups are made for the National Championship Final, they must be made from the team's own region.

**C. Church Slow Pitch and Industrial Slow Pitch teams** may not add any player that does not meet the eligibility requirements of that division of play.

**D. Junior Olympic Pick-Up Players.** Pick-up players must sign an official pick-up player form that also must be signed by the team's manager, the association commissioner and the player's parent or legal guardian and attached to the team's official roster before tournament play begins. Junior Olympic players are eligible to be pick-up players for another Junior Olympic Classification, if all other conditions are met as listed in all of Article 203.

## **Article 204 LEVELS OF NON-CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY.**

**A. Levels of non-Championship Play.** The **USA Softball of WA** recognizes the following levels of non-championship play.

1. Local league (city or county)
2. Invitational

**B. Non-Championship Invitational Tournament Play.** Invitational tournaments may be conducted by the state and sanctioned by **USA Softball** provided the following conditions are met:

**Assessment Fee:**

1. General Invitational Tournaments. \$5.00 per team of which \$3.00 goes to the State office and \$2.00 goes to the district to defray postage.

2. **National Point Series:** The tournament entry fee shall include a twenty five dollars (\$25.00) per team assessment fee to be used for the National Point Series travel fund.
3. Conflicts in Schedule. No invitational tournaments may be conducted which conflict with championship play of **USA Softball of WA**.
4. **Rosters.** All roster forms must be signed by the district commissioner or deputy commissioner from the team's district association.
5. **Pick-up Players.** See **USA Softball** Code, Article 204.
6. **Home Run Rule.** The current **USA Softball** home run limits shall apply to adult slow pitch in invitational tournaments unless deviations are listed on the tournament flyers and rules. The **USA Softball** Home Run Rule is under RULE 5-THE GAME – Section 8 HOME RUN RULE.

**Article 205 DIVISIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY.**

- A. **Divisions.** The **USA Softball of WA** recognizes all divisions of **USA Softball** championship play. In addition, they recognize both men and women's 14" slow pitch play.
- B. **Team Classification.** Each district will classify their teams using the classification system as adopted by the **USA Softball of WA** in Article 317.

**Article 206 LEVELS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY.**

- A. **Eligible Teams.** State Championships are open all member teams:
  1. Associations may combine national tournament berths and conduct joint championship tournaments when the commissioners of the involved associations determine it is in the best interest of their respective associations.
- B. **Junior Olympic State Tournament Entries.** The following shall be eligible for state championship play: All teams are eligible to participate in the **USA Softball of WA** State Tournaments in their classification and age division.

**Article 207 RULES OF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY**

- A. **Coaches.** All coaches, managers and adult members of the team that participate in Championship Play shall be required to have a background check through the National **USA Softball** Office. One coach on the team must be ACE certified with the current year. All teams must have the approved Medical insurance by the National Office.
- B. **Rules.** State tournament directors have the option of using double or a modified double elimination with a three game guarantee using a **USA Softball of WA** approved bracket. All championship tournaments must be conducted in accordance with this Code as adopted by the **USA Softball of WA/ USA Softball** with the following exception.
  1. Junior Olympic State Tournaments Shall use the **USA Softball** 3 game guarantee format Computer Program for all state tournaments.
    - a. EXCEPTION. 10U A/B and 18U A/B State Tournaments will have a two game pool play with a double elimination tournament. At the end of championship play teams will be classified and are able to select the Regional and Western National Tournament to play in. This tournament is called a State Classification Tournament.
- C. **Run Ahead Rule.** In state tournament play, an excessive run rule must be applied for all of the tournament games.
  1. Refer to **USA Softball** Playing RULE 5 –THE GAME –Section 9 RUN AHEAD RULE.
  2. **Complete Innings.** Complete innings must be played unless the home team scores the total while at bat.
  3. **Levels of Play.** A run ahead rule may be used in all levels of play lower than nationals.

- D. Home Run Rule.** All home runs for State Championship play will follow the current **USA Softball** playing RULE 5 –THE GAME – Section 8 HOME RUN RULE.
- E. Short Handed Rule.** In adult play teams may start with and continue to play with nine players regardless of the number of players who started the game, i.e., ten or eleven players.
- F. Time Limit Rule.** If a time limit is used it will be the same as the **USA Softball** Code/rule book.
- G. Senior Division.**
1. Women will be allowed in the Seniors Division of play up through the State level.
  2. Special rules for Senior Invitational State Tournaments will be printed on the tournament brochures. Special rulings will be approved by the **USA Softball** District Commissioner that has consignment of the tournament site prior to the distribution of the brochures.
- H. Field Dimensions.**
1. **USA Softball of WA** recommends slow pitch games be played on a 275 foot (minimum, 300 foot preferred) fenced field.
  2. Deficient field dimensions are not to be constructed as preventing **USA Softball of WA** slow pitch from being played. However, special ground rules might be required.
  3. Men's Slow Pitch Fences. The national standard for men's slow pitch fences is 300 feet. If a district is planning on building new fields now or in the future, it is recommended that they refer to the **USA Softball** guide under field specifications.
- I. Slow Pitch Game Ball.** Use **USA Softball** approved slow pitch balls.
- J. Entry Fee.** Entry to state tournaments shall be decided by the Council.
1. Tournament directors may add the fee charged by Tournament ASA to the entry fee of tournaments.
- K. Junior Olympic Entry Fee Deadline.**
1. Entry fee deadline shall be fifteen (15) days prior to the start of that state tournament.
  2. Paperwork deadline shall be one week prior to the start of the State tournament. State Tournament Directors shall be notified no later than two weeks before the state tournament by local Commissioners who will be attending each State Tournament from their district by email or US mail.
- L. Forfeits.** Upon discovery of an ineligible player the player is removed from the game and tournament, the team does not forfeit the game. Should a team become a loser through forfeit, default or failure to complete a scheduled game, the team shall be disqualified from any further competition in the tournament. The game may be forfeited to either the team being played or the last team played.
- M. Limitations.** A player may participate as a regular rostered player on only one (1) team within a division in championship play during a season.
- N. Uniforms.** The following has been accepted for adult slow pitch state tournament play. Fast pitch shall use the National rules pertaining to uniforms: All deviations to this rule must be approved by the tournament director on a case-by-case basis.
1. **Headwear.** Ball caps, visors and headbands are optional for all players. All players are not required to wear headwear. If worn, headwear must be worn properly, including the catcher, unless he/she is wearing a facemask. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headbands and cannot be worn around the head or neck. Note: Plastic visors are not allowed as headwear.
  2. **Shirts.** Long or short sleeved, or tank tops are permitted in adult slow pitch provided they are the same color with are numbered.
  3. **Pants.** Pants can be either long or short in style as long as they match in color.
  4. **Sweatpants.** May be worn over pants or shorts. However, if more than one (1) player wears sweatpants, they must all match in color.
  5. **Team Jersey.** Even during inclement weather, the team jersey with number shall be the outermost garment worn.

6. **Coaches.** Coaches must be neatly attired, dressed uniformly and in accordance with the color code of the team.
- O. Team Conduct (All USA Softball Play).**
1. **Team Manager.** Team managers must have full control of their players at all times including on or off the field.
  2. **Restricted Activity.** At no time shall any players, coaches or managers be allowed to drink alcoholic beverages or smoke on the field or in the dugout.
  3. **Fighting.** During regional, area or national championship play, anytime that a player, coach or manager strikes another player, coach or manager, said player, coach or manager is to be ejected from the game and is not to sit on the player's bench.
  4. **Unsportsmanlike.** Managers are to report any unsportsmanlike or derogatory acts by players or spectators to the tournament director.
  5. **Disputed Play.** In case of disputed play or decision, team managers or captains may consult game officials. The other players and coaches or sponsors are to be kept out of the discussion.
  6. **Altered Bat.** According to Article 310 N. 08 of the 2016 USA Softball Code, any person discovered in possession of an altered bat at or near the facility or grounds of a softball competition in which such equipment is not permitted to be used shall be subject to discipline pursuant to **Article 305** of this Code. USA Softball shall have the right to take possession of a bat that is, in the sole discretion of the official, reasonably suspected to be an altered bat. In the event the suspected altered bat is tested and determined to be an altered bat, then the person shall surrender ownership of the altered bat to USA Softball; otherwise a bat of equal or greater value, or a monetary equivalent, in the sole discretion of USA Softball, shall be returned to the owner of the subject bat. In addition, a player found in possession of an altered bat and found guilty according to **Article 305** of this Code shall be suspended from USA Softball play for a minimum of five (5) years. A team that is discovered to have within its possession or control an altered bat may be suspended from further tournament competition and USA Softball play for a period of two (2) years.
  7. **Hotel/Motel.** Any hotel or motel management report of destruction of a hotel/motel property or abuse of a hotel/motel guests by a team competing in USA Softball play.
  8. **Team Conduct Violation Penalty.** Any team or individual violating the above shall be subject to the disqualification procedure in the National Code, Article 305.
- P. Incomplete Tournament.** In the event a state tournament cannot be completed within the scheduled time frame the following procedure shall be used to break ties among teams in the same spot in the bracket.
1. Head to head competition.
  2. The team that advanced the farthest in the winner's bracket.
  3. Won-loss records, except among undefeated teams.
  4. If only two teams are tied for a position and have played each other, the winner of that game.
- EXCEPTION:** If there are only two teams remaining and each team has one loss, the championship must be played or the teams shall be declared co-champion.

## **Article 208 DATES OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY.**

- A. State Tournaments.** The dates for state tournaments shall be scheduled the last weekend in June (as long as this weekend is not a RQ/NQ weekend) to include the first two weekends in July prior to the northwest regional tournament in July.
  1. All other tournaments shall be played in accordance with dates on the bid accepted by the Council.
  2. Loser out rounds shall not begin until the second (2) day of a three (3) or more day tournament.
- B. State Tournament Dates.** Tournaments with twenty-four (24) or more teams run

on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tournaments under 24 teams may schedule games for two (2) days (preferably Saturday and Sunday) instead of three (3) days.

**Article 209 CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW**

- A. Championship Draw.** The official **USA Softball** bracket shall be used in all **USA Softball** sanctioned invitational, district and state tournaments.
- B. Adult Tournament Draw.** Tournament draws are to be public and interested team representatives should be invited to the draw. Any draw conducted without the host commissioner in attendance shall not be valid. The draw shall be Tuesday after 1:00 p.m. Use **USA Softball** draw procedure.
- C. Junior Olympic Draw.** Tournament draw may be held no earlier than Tuesday noon of the tournament week. Using the **USA Softball** draw procedure. Teams that win National Qualifiers and participate in their State Championships shall be seeded in opposite brackets.
  - 1. Junior Olympic State Qualifier draws shall be done no earlier than Tuesday noon of the tournament week. The draw shall be done in witness of a **USA Softball of WA** representative. Use **USA Softball** draw procedures.

**Article 210 DISQUALIFICATION. (Same as USA Softball Code)**

**Article 211 WASA DRUG CONTROL PROCEDURE AND POLICY. (Same as USA Softball Code)**

**Article 212 RULES OF NON-CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY.**

- A. Casual Profanity Rule.** Any player using casual profanity (expletives not directed at an umpire(s) or opposing player(s) and loud enough to be heard by spectators) will result in both teams receiving a verbal warning for the first offense and an out charged to the next batter, starting with the second and any additional offenses by either team. When casual profanity is heard during a live ball, the out is treated as a dead ball situation. If the play results in a third out and casual profanity is used by the offensive team, the first batter in the next inning of the offending team will be called out. If casual profanity is used by a member of the defensive team, the first batter in the next half inning will be called out.

**Article 213 WASA BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED.**

- A. Background check.** Any person of authority, any umpire, Head JO Coach or JO Coach, who is of the age of 18 or older, with the **USA Softball** program shall be background checked yearly. The background check may be through the **USA Softball** National background check program or other approved background check programs.
  - 1. All **USA Softball of WA** personnel (Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, JO Commissioners, Deputy JO Commissioners, UIC and Deputy UIC) must be background checked through the National Office (Register ASA).
  - 2. All coaches in JO Championship play must be ACE certified.



## PART 3 - PROCEDURE

### Article 301 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY.

- A. Security and First Aid.**
  - 1. All tournament directors shall make use of security when necessary.
  - 2. Tournament directors shall have first aid equipment at all field sites during tournament play.
- B. Alcoholic Beverages.** At no time shall any player, coach, manager, scorekeeper, sponsor or any person connected with the team be allowed to consume alcoholic beverage while on the field or in the dug out. Automatic ejections from the playing area shall result.
- C. Smoking.** Smoking is not allowed on the field or in the dug out.
- D. Souvenir Items.** Selling souvenir items with the National USA Softball emblem or logo is restricted and must be cleared in writing with the State office. Also, selling souvenir items with the USA Softball of WA emblem or logo must be cleared with the State office. The State office shall provide forms.
- E. Tournament Director.** The tournament director, UIC, or any umpire shall not be a participant in any state tournament as a player, manager or coach. In addition, the tournament director shall not be the UIC.

### Article 302 CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY AWARDS.

- A. Minimum Award Requirement.** Team awards, individual, all-star, and MVP's are the responsibility of the host association.
  - 1. 49-64 Team Tournament. 12 team trophies; individual awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place teams; all-star certificates and MVP.
  - 2. 33-48 Team Tournament. 8 team trophies; individual awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams; all-star certificates and MVP.
  - 3. 20-32 Team Tournament. 6 team trophies; individual awards for 1st and 2nd place teams; all-star certificates and MVP.
  - 4. 12-19 Team Tournament. 4 team trophies; individual awards for 1st and 2nd place teams; all-star certificates and MVP.
  - 5. 6-11 Team Tournament. 3 team trophies; individual awards for 1st and 2nd place teams; all-star certificates and MVP.
  - 6. 5 Teams or below. 2 team trophies; individual awards for 1st place team and MVP.
- B. Award Responsibilities.** Tournament Committee. Shall provide awards as listed in "A" above and below. The team awards and any championship patches shall be purchased through a designated USA Softball trophy dealer. The individual awards shall be alike for all age groups to be decided in the Junior Olympic meeting at the USA Softball of WA state council work shop in the Spring. USA Softball of WA designed patches will be awarded to the Junior Olympic players only.
  - 1. 20 State Championship patches.
  - 2. 20 Year Rockers for Junior Olympic tournaments only.
- C. Junior Olympic State Tournaments.** There shall be no all-star awards.
- D. Award presentation.** This shall be done by the host committee along with the State Commissioner or his designated representative at all state tournaments.

### Article 303 SOFTBALLS.

- A.** Balls for district and state tournament shall be selected by the tournament director. Shall conform with Rule 3, Section 3 of the USA Softball Official Playing Rules.
- B.** All tournament and league balls should bear the USA Softball trademark.
- C.** Shall conform with Rule 3, Section 3 of the USA Softball Official Playing Rules.

**Article 304 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION.**

- A. Sanction Fee.** District fees shall be paid by February 1.
  - 1. The fee shall be \$150.00 per district.
- B. Invitational Tournament Application and Sanction Fee.** These are due to the State office. Applications must be sent in for all tournaments each year on the form provided by the State office.
  - 1. The fee shall be thirty (\$30.00) per sanction. Only one classification per sanction is allowed. Exception: If two (2) divisions are being combined into one (1) tournament and competing together in the same bracket, i.e. B/C, C/D, 16U/14U. Tournaments not combining together are considered two (2) separate tournaments. Note: For violation of this rule the tournament director shall be fined double the sanction fee by the State office.
    - a. An invitational sanction fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per tournament is the maximum to be charged. Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be sent to the **USA Softball of WA** office with the tournament application by the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline date, to be listed in the **USA Softball of WA** Tournament Guide. The issuing district retains a five dollar (\$5.00) administration fee.
    - b. All teams participating in an invitational tournament will be assessed five dollars (\$5.00) per team. The five dollars (\$5.00) and all required forms shall be sent to the district within seven (7) days after completion of the tournament.  
Exception: Payments from Cities or Counties may have an extended time period.
    - c. **National Point Series:** The tournament entry fee shall include a twenty-five dollars (**\$25.00**) per team assessment fee to be used for the Xtreme Point Challenge travel fund.
- C.** A local association, before being awarded a state tournament must be able to fulfill all obligations as designated on the Tournament Bid Application.
- D.** Failure to fulfill all obligations after being awarded a state tournament could result in not being awarded any future state tournaments for a period of time as designated by the State Commissioner.
- E. Financial Report.** A financial report must be filed with the State office no later than fifteen (15) days following completion of the tournament.
- F. The Registration Fees Limitation.** Current fee caps shall rise by the same dollar amount as the National each time they approve an increase in team and umpire registration fees.

**Article 305 TOURNAMENT REPORTS**

- A. Tournament Reports.**
  - 1. State Tournaments. The host district commissioner or his designated deputy is responsible for:
    - a. Notifying the regional tournament director of the names of the qualifying teams from the state tournament.
    - b. Forwarding the entry fees and the rosters to the regional tournament director along with the official **USA Softball** entry form.
    - c. State Tournament Directors shall submit to the state office a check made payable to the **USA Softball of WA (USAWA)** for the \$10.00 per team state assessment fee, accompanied by the proper state assessment form
  - 3. State Tournament. The UIC for all state tournaments is responsible for filing a Tournament Report to the state UIC, which shall include the rating forms on all umpires working that tournament. This report is due within two (2) weeks after completion of the tournament. Umpire mileage shall not be paid until the report is received.
- B. Entry Fees.**
  - 1. Entry fees for state qualifiers and state tournaments shall be set at the fall meeting. These fees include all of the assessment fees and the travel fund, if applicable.

2. All Championship Play Tournaments will use Tournament MVP as the Official State Tournament site.
- C. State Assessment Fees.** Each state tournament director shall submit \$10.00 per team state assessment fee to the State office on the proper form.

**Article 306 BIDDING.**

- A. Financial Bid.** The financial bid for all state tournaments has been set at \$50.00. If the tournament is awarded the other bidders shall have their bid money refunded. If bidding on one or more classification in the same division, the bid is \$50.00 per classification. There are no additional monies guaranteed for the winning team(s) unless specified in the bid.
- B. Bid Dates.** All bids for the next calendar year shall be in the State office by March 1, accompanied with an appropriate check, and approved by the district commissioner. The State Commissioner may place any tournament not bid at the spring meeting.
- C. State Tournament Size.** The size of each of the state tournaments shall be determined by the Council.
1. Districts bidding on a tournament may request an increase to the number of entries if stated prior to their bid being awarded for that tournament. Also, the State Commissioner may increase the size of that tournament at his discretion.
  2. Any tournament not listed shall be determined at the fall meeting. Due to the small size of some of the state tournaments, it shall be possible to combine two (2) tournaments. The State Commissioner has the authority to determine which state tournaments can be combined for one financial bid.
- D. Direct Berth to Regional/National Tournaments.** Teams that by-pass a State Tournament, due to a tournament not being held in that classification shall submit to the State office the team's Championship roster (State Commissioner's copy) and copy of player pick-up form if applicable.
- E. Declared State Champion.** The following procedure shall be used in determining which team will be declared as the State Champion in any classification when a State Tournament is not held:
1. The team that finished highest in a Regional or National tournament according to the National order of finish.
  2. A team that is the only team entered in a Regional or National tournament from WASA.
- F. Suggested Starting Times for Slow Pitch.**
1. 25 teams and above . . . . . Friday
  2. 24 and less . . . . . Saturday
  3. 33-64 Team Tournament . . . . . 6 fields Friday, 12 Noon
  4. 25-32 Team Tournament . . . . . 4 fields Friday, 12 Noon
  5. 17-24 Team Tournament . . . . . 3 fields Friday, 4:00 p.m.
  6. 10-16 Team Tournament . . . . . 2 fields Friday, 6:00 p.m.
  7. 9 Teams and under . . . . . 1 field Friday, 6:00 p.m.
- G. Tournament Dates.** All tournaments shall run Friday to Sunday unless the State Commissioner grants special permission.
- H. Tournament Housing.** All bids must include a statement by the local commissioner that there is adequate housing available and the tournament will not conflict with other major events scheduled for the same time.
- I. Tournament Administration.** Tournament administration is vested in the State Commissioner or his duly appointed representative, the local district commissioner and the local tournament director.
- J. Tournament Facilities and Services.** All tournament bids shall include assurance by the district commissioner that proper tournament facilities including proper fence distances and correctly marked fields, including the batters boxes and services are available, adequate meeting rooms for the team managers and umpires prior to the start of the tournament; and a tournament office and umpire dressing facilities. Also, that proper news coverage and medical coverage is available prior to, during and after the tournament.

**Article 307** **TOURNAMENT CONTRACT.** On acceptance of the tournament bid, a contract shall be executed between the **USA Softball of WA**, the local district commissioner, and the local sponsor reflecting all of the above major points in addition to any others that may be agreed upon.

**Article 308** **COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.** Any member of the **USA Softball of WA** may file a complaint with the **USA Softball of WA** alleging that the complainant has been or is about to be detrimentally affected by an action of another in violation of **USA Softball of WA** rules. The complaint shall be filed with the State Commissioner following the **USA Softball** guidelines as established in the **USA Softball** Code.

**Article 309** **REINSTATEMENT-PROFESSIONAL.**

**A. Application.** An individual who has been a professional softball player may apply for reinstatement at any time. The individual shall make application in duplicate on an official **USA Softball** reinstatement form to the district commissioner in whose district he is a legal resident.

**Article 310** **CLASSIFICATION.**

**A. Classification Code.**

1. Purpose. To establish rules and guidelines for the classification of teams and players for sanctioned invitational tournaments and championship play in the following divisions:

<b>Divisions</b>	<b>Classifications</b>
a. Men's Fast Pitch	Major, A, B, C; Masters 40/O & 45/O
b. Women's Fast Pitch	Major, A, B, C; Masters 35/O
c. Men's Slow Pitch	Major, A, B, C, D, Rec; Masters 35/O, 40/O & 45/O; Seniors 50/O, 55/O & 60/O
d. Women's Slow Pitch	Major, A, B, C, D, Rec; Masters 35/O
e. J.O. Fast Pitch	Gold, A, B, Rec
f. Co-ed	Major, A, B, C, D

g. All other divisions and classifications; refer to the **USA Softball** Code.

2. Objectives. To attain, in an equitable manner, classification of teams and players at their level of athletic proficiency for the various levels of play in invitational and championship play conducted by **USA Softball of WA**.

3. Authority. This classification code is adopted by the **USA Softball of WA**. Each local district shall properly administer this code.

4. Team Roster. The team roster shall be submitted prior to participation in league or tournament play.

5. Championship Tournaments. Tournament play leading to a regional, area, zone or National tournament. This includes qualifying tournaments.

**B. USA Softball of WA Classification.** Team and player classification are described to differentiate between levels of competition. The classification committee in determining athletic proficiency for teams, shall be limited to an overall comparison of all teams and players within the **USA Softball of WA**.

**C. Men's and Women's Fast Pitch.**

1. Major Class. Budgeted, traveling, highly competitive teams, generally have been established several years; have skilled defense and a proficient offense, composed of strong, athletic skilled players; usually place within the top quarter in competitive tournaments; compete in Class Open or Class Major tournaments and may be invited to participate in Class A tournaments; may not compete in Class B or lower classifications; will generally have 2 or more Class Major pitchers.

2. Class A. Teams are skilled offensively and defensively with players that have good skills, athletic abilities and experience; will generally finish in the upper half of tournaments they enter; may occasionally win tournaments in which a few Class Major teams compete; may not compete in Class B or lower classification tournaments; generally has 2 or more Class A pitchers.

3. Class B. Teams will range from the better teams from the recreational level leagues, to the less successful teams from the Class A leagues; may have skilled players, but not all defensive positions will be filled by a highly skilled or experienced players; may win one or two games in championship tournaments; may compete in Class B or higher level tournaments; may not compete in Class C or lower classification tournaments; any team which establishes itself as a strong Class B team, or has improved through the addition of caliber players, will generally be moved up to Class A; will generally not have a pitcher that can dominate the game.
  4. Class C. Teams play in recreational level leagues and do not regularly participate in tournaments; offense and defense is inconsistent and often limited; will generally have younger and inexperienced players, have the older experienced pitcher who cannot compete in Class B
- D. Fast Pitch Pitcher Classification.** The classification committee may classify pitchers for the purpose of establishing a guide for classification when pitchers change teams or pick-up a pitcher that could change their classification.
- E. Men's Slow Pitch.**
1. Major Class. Budgeted, traveling, highly competitive, generally have been established several years; have skilled defense and a proficient offense composed of strong, athletic skilled players; utilize their power to score in any given inning or situation; have a lineup capable of power in any part of the order; built around its power and utilizes it to its fullest advantage; have class in their defense and turn the double play easily; usually place within the top quarter in competitive tournaments; compete in Class Super or Class Major tournaments and may be invited to participate in Class A tournaments; may not compete in Class B or lower classifications; will be allowed twelve (12) home runs per game.
  2. Class A. Teams are skilled offensively and defensively with players that have good skills, athletic abilities and experience; defensively, they are capable of taking games away from their opponents with strong, clean fielding; will generally finish in the upper half of tournaments they enter; may occasionally win tournaments in which a few Class Major teams compete; \*\*may play in Class B tournaments using the appropriate home run rule; follow the Class A home run rule unless they are playing up (Class Super or Class Major) or down (play the Class B home run rule); a team that has two (2) or more home run hitters will generally be classified Class A.
  3. Class B. Teams will range from the better teams from the recreational level leagues, to the less successful teams from the Class A leagues; may have highly skilled players, but not all defensive positions will be filled by a highly skilled or experienced players; team speed is above average; may win one or two games, in championship tournaments, are competitive with teams in this classification; may compete in class B or higher level tournaments; \*\*any team which establishes itself as a strong Class B team, or which has improved through the addition of higher caliber players, will be considered for reclassification; this classification will follow the Class B home run rule.
  4. Class C. Teams play a competitive schedule, generally play in at least six (6) tournaments; may have skilled players, but not all defensive positions will be filled by skilled players; team speed is average; will generally be moved to Class B with the addition of higher caliber skilled players; this classification will follow the Class C home run rule.
  5. Class D. Teams play a less competitive schedule than Class C teams, and participate in less than six (6) tournaments; may have a few skilled players but are usually lacking in making the defensive plays on a consistent basis, team speed is average; teams will be asked to play in a Class C tournament if they finish in the top three (3) positions of three (3) Class D tournaments; this classification will follow the Class D home run rule.
  6. Class Rec. Description. Recreational classification teams are those teams that participate in a recreational league or are classified by the local district classification committee. Those teams less proficient than a D team.

## **F. Women's Slow Pitch.**

1. Major Class. Budgeted, traveling, highly competitive teams, which generally have been established several years; have skilled defense and a proficient offense and are composed of strong, athletic skilled players; utilize their power to score in any given inning or situation, have a lineup capable of power in any part of the order; team is built around its power and utilizes it to its fullest advantage; have class in their defense and turn the double play easily; usually place within the top quarter in competitive tournaments; compete in \*\*Class Major tournaments and may be invited to participate in Class A tournaments; may not compete in Class B or lower classifications.
2. Class A. Teams are skilled offensively and defensively with players that have good skills, athletic abilities, and experience; defensively, they are capable of taking games away from their opponents with strong, clean fielding; will generally finish in the upper half of tournaments they enter; may occasionally win tournaments in which Class Major teams compete; may not compete in Class B or lower classification tournaments, unless otherwise stated.
3. Class B. Teams will range from the better teams from the recreational level leagues, to the less successful teams from the Class A leagues; may have highly skilled players, but not all defensive positions will be filled by highly skilled or experienced players; may win one or two games in championship tournaments, are competitive with teams in this classification; may compete in Class B or higher level tournaments; \*\*any team which establishes itself as a strong Class B team or which has improved through the addition of higher caliber players, will be considered for reclassification.
4. Class C. Teams play a competitive schedule; generally play in 4 to 6 tournaments; may have skilled players but not all defensive positions will be filled by skilled players, will generally be move to Class B with the addition of higher caliber, skilled players.
5. Class D. Teams play a less competitive schedule than Class C teams; participate in less than 4 to 6 tournaments; may have a few skilled players but are usually lacking in making the defensive plays on a consistent basis; will be asked to play in a Class C tournament if they finish in the top three (3) positions of three (3) Class D tournaments.
6. Class Rec. Description. Recreational classification teams are those teams that participate in a recreational league or are classified by the local district classification committee. Those teams less proficient than a D team.  
Note: The following is for registration purposes only. All recreation division teams shall be registered as Class "D" to the National Office. The district commissioner shall indicate on the National registration form a "R" on the left side of the local number column.

## **G. Co-ed Slow Pitch.**

1. Class Major. This classification is not acknowledged in the Northwest; Class A team may attend the Class Major National Tournament by choice; limited to 5 home runs; an out is recorded for each additional home run.
2. Class A. Teams composed of 5 or more players capable of playing on a men or women's Class B team; are competitive at the regional and National level; limited to 2 home runs; an out is recorded for each additional home run, no ejections.
3. Class B. Teams composed of 5 or more players capable of playing on a men or women's Class C team; are competitive at the regional level; limited to 1 home run, an out is recorded for each additional home run, no ejections.
4. Class C. Teams composed of 5 or more players capable of playing on a men or women's Class D team; are competitive at the state level; no home runs allowed, an out is recorded for each home run hit, no ejections.
5. Class D. Teams composed of less than 5 players on a men or women's Class D team; are competitive at the state level; no home runs allowed, an out is recorded for each home run hit, no ejections.
6. Class Rec. Description. Recreational classification teams are those teams that participate in a recreational league or are classified by the local district classification committee. Those teams less proficient than a D team.

## H. Junior Olympic Fastpitch.

1. 18U Gold.
  - a. Open to region players, follow [USA Softball of WA/Region/USA Softball Code](#).
  - b. Highest level of championship play is the National Tournament.
  - c. Players hand picked or a select team.
2. Class A.
  - a. Open state, follow [USA Softball of WA / USA Softball Code](#).
  - b. Teams with one (1) or more non [USA Softball of WA](#) ball player(s).
  - c. Highest level of championship play is the National tournament.
  - d. Players hand picked or a select team.
  - e. Teams have one (1) or more strong pitcher supporting defense.
  - f. Teams playing ability is reason for re-classification.
  - g. A team can not move down to Class B level without the State Reclassification Chair approving the request.
3. Class B.
  - a. Team members are limited to their own district, with the exception of the border district, with permission from both District Commissioners or their designees.
  - b. Teams are only eligible for State B championship, regional and the Area B tournaments.
  - c. Class "B" teams consisting of five (5) or more players plus a pitcher (a total of six) that trophy in a State, Regional/National Qualifier, Regional or National Championship tournament as per [USA Softball](#) code shall be reclassified as a class "A" team the following year and is subject to a review by the classification committee. This will include combining players that played on a trophy team.
  - d. A team can move up or be re-classified until entry deadline for the Class A tournament.
  - e. A team cannot move down to the Recreational class without the State Reclassification Chair approving the request.
  - f. Tournament dates same weekend as Class A. All Junior Olympic tournaments can be bid on separately.
  - g. Team registration and roster deadlines shall follow [USA Softball of WA Code](#).
  - h. Teams are hand picked or a select team.
  - i. Teams generally have a strong pitcher, good defense.
  - j. Teams playing ability is reason for re-classification.
4. Recreational Class.
  - a. Teams are eligible for state, regional, area, or national tournament play.
  - b. Team members are limited to their district and do not go through a hand picked or a select team but rather everyone who wishes to participate shall not be denied participation.
  - c. Any team can move up to Class B until deadline entry for the Class B tournament.
  - d. A team cannot move down from Class B level if the district or state J.O. commissioner classifies the team as Class B.
  - e. Teams playing ability is reason for re-classification.
  - f. A team that places third (3) or higher in a Class B tournament may be subject to re-classification to Class B.
5. General.
  - a. Registered [USA Softball](#) teams that do not elect to compete in championship play. Their players are eligible to be picked-up at any level in their respective division of play. See Article 203 Pick-up Players in the ASA Guide.
  - b. Caution to Team Manager/Coach.
    - (1) Managers of teams that disband or that elect not to advance to championship play shall indicate to their district their decision prior to having any of the players being requested as pick-up players.
    - (2) Violators shall be subject to a hearing before the [USA Softball of WA Membership Committee](#) for possible suspension.

- I. **Classification Board.** Each district commissioner shall designate a classification board to evaluate, classify and review team and player competitive levels according to the guidelines established by the classification committee.
  - 1. Authority. The classification board shall have the authority to act on the following:
    - a. Classify teams and players prior to the beginning of regular season play based on past performance and current season roster.
    - b. Review teams and players during season play for possible reclassification prior to the appropriate **USA Softball of WA** deadlines.
    - c. File all appeals of team and player classification with the classification committee for review and possible status change.
    - d. The district commissioner shall review and provide his recommendation of all classifications prior to forwarding any information to the classification committee.
- J. **Classification Review.** All team and player classification recommendations made by the district boards shall be subject to approval of the classification committee who shall develop an appeal process.
  - 1. It is the goal of this classification system to promote teams and players to the level of play where the teams are reasonably competitive.
  - 2. The committee shall review all statistics from invitational and championship play from the prior year and make their recommendation for any classification changes.
  - 3. The classification appeals form shall be used and all deadline dates listed.
- K. **Classification Committee.** This committee shall be composed of one (1) representative from each local district that register teams in that division. The WASA president shall appoint the chairman of this committee. The state classification chairman shall select the members of the committee.
- L. **Reclassification Procedure Criteria--Adult Program.**
  - 1. Classification criteria shall be dictated by competition in any softball tournament.
    - a. The top four (4) teams from the Class C Slow Pitch State tournament shall be reclassified into the next highest level of play.
    - b. The top twenty-five (25) percent \*\*teams from the Class D Slow Pitch State tournament shall be reclassified into the next highest level of play.
    - c. The top twenty-five (25) percent from the State Recreation tournaments shall be reclassified into the next highest level of play.
    - d. Any team that was moved up must play in at least two (2) tournaments in the new classification before they can appeal. If the appeal is approved their roster shall be frozen at that class to maintain reclassification at that level.
    - e. A returning team shall be defined as a team with five (5) returning players in all slow pitch classifications. All **USA Softball** rosters shall be turned in prior to a team's participation in **USA Softball** play.
    - f. When a team is reclassified by the state or region an appeal must be submitted to the state classification chairman through your district commissioner, using the same procedure as when submitting an appeal of a state reclassification. The appeal must be approved before the team is eligible to appeal to the regional classification committee. Teams reclassified by the region only, shall appeal through the regional classification committee.
  - 2. Information required available to the classification committee.
    - a. Teams shall submit completed tournament game schedule, a copy of the team roster, and back up information such as: win/loss records, score sheets of games, etc. involving league play and any softball tournaments played during the current season.
    - b. This information shall be provided to the team's district commissioner, who shall forward the request to all members of the state or regional classification committee.
  - 3. Deadline for reclassification appeal shall be postmarked no later than June 29.



**M. Reclassification Procedure Criteria-- Junior Olympic.**

1. Classification criteria shall be dictated by competition in **USA Softball of WA** play.
  - a. Class "B" teams that trophy in a State Championship Tournament as per the State Code with five (5) or more returning players and a returning pitcher shall be reclassified as a class "A" team the following year and subject to a review by the Reclassification Committee.
  - b. Any team that was moved up must play in at least two (2) **USA Softball of WA** tournaments before they can appeal. If the appeal is approved their roster shall be frozen at that class to maintain reclassification at that level.
  - c. A returning team shall be defined as a team with five (5) or more returning players and a returning pitcher.
  - d. If a team is reclassified by the state an appeal must be submitted to the state classification committee.
  - e. Teams that move up in an age division the following year may be required to remain in their same classification if they have five (5) or more returning players. Teams will be reviewed by the Reclassification Committee for the proper placement.
2. Information required available to the classification committee.
  - a. Teams shall submit completed tournament game schedule, a copy of the team roster, and back up information such as: win/loss records, score sheets of games, etc.
  - b. This information shall be provided to the team's commissioner, who shall forward the request to all members of the classification committee.
3. Deadline for reclassification appeal shall be one (1) week prior to the deadline entry for the state tournament.
4. A team reclassified during the season from B to A or from Rec to B is given a grace period of seven (7) days from notification before that reclassification takes effect. A team may participate in an invitational tournament the weekend immediately following it's notification of reclassification provided they are already entered into that tournament. (This is for the Junior Olympic Program only.)

**Article 311 WASA HALL OF FAME AND HALL OF HONOR.**

- A. Umpire Indicator Club.**
1. Must have at least 7 years of service as a registered **USA Softball** umpire. Service doesn't have to be consecutive.
  2. Must have umpired/UIC'd at least three (3) Washington State Tournaments, National School may be used as 1 state tournament or be a member of the **USA Softball** National Indicator Fraternity.
  3. District UIC may grandfather any Umpire/UIC.
  4. Applicant shall submit application with a fee of \$15.00 to the State office. The district UIC shall sign application.
  5. Umpires will receive a patch, pin and a certificate from the State office.
  7. A plaque with all Indicator Club Members names will be placed on the Washington State Softball Wall of Fame.