

**USA SOFTBALL™**  
Region 9

**Northwest Mountain  
Region 9  
Procedural Code**

# Procedural Code

Revised 1/28/17

The USA Softball of Northwest Mountain Region # 09 shall follow the USA Softball Code for the operation of the region with the following exceptions and changes

## ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. Name:

- A. The name of this association will be the Northwest Mountain Region (9) of USA Softball sometimes referred to as the "Association" or "ASA."

### 2. Objectives:

- A. To promote the game of softball within the Northwest Mountain Region in accordance with the National USA Softball Code.
- B. To generate more communications between the Associations which make up the Northwest Mountain Region.

### 3. Jurisdiction:

- A. Anything defined herein, pertains to this region only for the purpose of clarification only, and does not supersede those written in the National ASA Code.

### 4. Amendments:

- A. Any amendment(s) to this procedural code must be in written form, signed by one (1) voting members of the Northwest Mountain Region.
- B. All code changes must be submitted to the Regional Director, in writing, and must be received no later than December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- C. The Annual Regional Meeting is the only meeting that amendments to this procedural code can be voted on.
- D. The Local Association Commissioners have the authority to amend this procedural code between Annual Council Meetings. The Region Council Members at the next Annual Council meeting of the Northwest Mountain Region must ratify such amendments.
- E. Amendments requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the NW Council members present.
- F. An amendment approved by the NW Council shall be effective on March 1 following the annual meeting unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

**5. Proxies:**

- A. Authorization for representation of a council member, who is an active member of said local association to vote for that council member at the scheduled Regional Meeting, will represent that Council Member for the entire meeting, no partial meeting proxies. It will be made known at the beginning of the meeting who will be proxies and for whom.
- B. Proxies are not eligible for election to Regional and/or National positions.

**Article 2**  
**Northwest Mountain Voting Council**

**1. Regional Meeting**

- A. All meetings are to be rotated on a schedule. The host association shall be responsible for meeting arrangements and providing a secretary. The host commissioner shall mail/email the minutes within 20 days following the annual meeting to the Regional Director for approval. The Regional Director shall then mail/email a copy to the voting members of the NWM Regional Council.

1) Rotation Schedule

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>
2017	Alaska	2023	Portland
2018	Seattle	2024	Utah
2019	Washington	2025	Wyoming
2020	Oregon	2026	Alaska
2021	Montana	2027	Seattle
2022	Idaho	2028	Washington

- B. Regional meetings held in conjunction with the National Council Meeting will be for the purpose of awarding championship tournaments and/or to caucus members for information relative to National Council.

- C. The annual meeting is to begin on Friday, one week prior to Super\_Bowl, and may continue through Sunday if necessary.

D. Regional agenda items and code changes for the annual meeting must be submitted to Regional Director no later than January 1<sup>st</sup> or by a date set by the Regional Director.

E. Regional Fund

- 1) Each local association shall be assessed \$50 annually to defray the expenses of the Regional Director, Regional Jr. Olympic Commissioner and the Regional Player Representative.
  - a) From each \$50 assessment, the Regional Director shall receive \$25, the Regional JO \$12.50 and the Regional Player Rep \$12.50.
  - b) The Regional Director upon proper submittal of expense receipts shall dispense all monies from the Regional Fund.
  - c) Each Local Association shall be assessed \$150.00 per year plus .50 cents per registered umpire.

F. Northwest Mountain Voting Council

- 1) The Northwest Mountain Voting Council shall be made up of the local association Commissioners, Player Representatives, At-Large Player Representatives, Junior Olympic Commissioners, Umpire-In-Chiefs, Regional UIC for Region #09, Commissioner(s) Emeritus and National recognized Allied/Affiliated Members. The members must have their Background Check cleared for the current year.
- 2) The Regional Director election will be conducted at the annual Regional Meeting in the “odd” year. The elected Director will serve a term of two (2) years commencing at the conclusion of the annual National Council Meeting.
- 3) A Regional Director may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the regional voting council members.
- 4) Duties of Regional Director and the Regional Vice President
  - a) Regional Director or the Regional Vice President shall represent their region on the Western Territory Oversight Committee.
  - b) Insure that a Regional Junior Olympic Commissioner is elected in accordance with USA Softball Code.
  - c) Insure that a Regional Player Representative is elected in accordance with USA Code.
  - d) Insure that a Regional Umpire-in-Chief is elected in accordance in accordance with USA Softball Code.
  - e) Notify Council Members of:
    - Regional meeting date / time / place and agenda.
    - Regional tournament bids and hosts sites awarded by the

region.

- Western Territory Nationals
- f) Following up with appropriate Commissioners concerning deficiencies reported to the National Office or problems involving an Association Commissioner (i.e. missing Annual Financial Reports, Membership Production Reports, serious complaints, etc.)
- g) Insuring all championship tournament bids and reports are signed and forwarded to the National Office.
- h) Insuring all USA Softball tournaments held within the region, which were awarded by the National Council, file proper reports and pay the USA Softball guarantee and assessment fees following completion of the tournament.
- i) Providing assistance to all Association Commissioners when requested.
- j) Promoting USA Softball in the region through exhibit booths at meetings involving more than one association within the region.
- k) Notifying the National Office of any problems within the region.

5) **Regional Vice President**

The Regional Vice President shall be elected every even year at the National meeting. The Vice President will take office on the first Board of Directors meeting of the next year. The regional Vice President roles is in accordance with the (USA Softball Procedural Manual Article 101 D).

6) **Commissioner Committee**

The Commissioner Committee shall consist of the nine (9) local association Commissioners and “Commissioner(s)” Emeritus. This committee shall make recommendations to the USA Softball of Northwest Mountain Region and must be approved by the Council before becoming official. The Regional Director “shall chair the meetings.”

7) **Junior Olympic Committee**

- a) The Junior Olympic Committee shall consist of the nine (9) local association Junior Olympic Commissioners. This committee shall make recommendations to the USA Softball of NWM Council and must be approved by the Council before becoming official. The Regional JO shall chair their meetings.
- b) The Regional Junior Olympic Commissioner shall be elected by the NWM Council members at the annual meeting in the odd years for a term of two years and is eligible for re-election in accordance with the USA Procedural Code 109. A newly elected Regional JO

Commissioner shall take office following the Annual National Meeting.

8) Player Representative Committee

- a) The Player Representative Committee shall consist of the nine (9) local association Player Representatives. This committee shall make recommendations to the USA Softball NWM Council and must be approved by the Council before becoming official. The Regional Player Representative shall chair their meetings.
- b) The Regional Player Representative shall be elected by the USA Softball NWM Council members at the annual meeting in the odd years for a term of two years and is eligible for re-election in accordance with USA Procedural Code 109. A newly elected Regional Player Representative shall take office following the Annual National Meeting.

9) Umpire-In-Chief Committee

- a) Local Association Umpires-in-Chief shall make up the committee. This committee shall make recommendations to the NWM Council and must be approved by the Council before becoming official. The Regional UIC will chair their meetings.
- b) The Regional Umpire-In-Chief shall be elected by the NWM Council members at the annual meeting in the even years for a term of two years and is eligible for re-election in accordance with the USA Procedural Code 111B. A newly elected Regional UIC shall take office following the Annual National Meeting.

10) Team Information

- a) Team Registrations shall be figured by division (i.e. men, women, coed, JO and by fast pitch, modified pitch and slow pitch).
- b) Team Classifications
  - i. All Local Associations must do a final classification of their adult teams by July 15, in accordance with the classification guidelines as approved by the NWM Council. (Refer to the NWM Region # 09 Classification Rules and Guidelines for detailed information)
  - ii. All Local Associations must do a final classification of their Junior Olympic teams by July 1 and/or prior to Championship Play, and in accordance with the classification guidelines as approved by the NWM Council.

## **Article 3**

### **Championship Play Junior Olympic**

USA Softball (Part 3 Eligibility, Competition and Tournaments - Articles 301–316) and NWM Regional Codes shall govern all qualifying tournaments with the following additions:

#### **1. Tournament Rotation System**

- A. A Championship Tournament rotation schedule for Junior Olympic shall be set up and projected for a cycle of eight (8) years in each activity with each Local Association in the region. Exception: Local Associations shall not be included in activities in which they do not register teams.
- B. A Local Association passing its turn to hold a scheduled tournament may lose its turn in the rotation system for that cycle. Tournaments given back to the Region by a Local Association must be turned back to the Region by Oct 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the National Meeting. The Region 09 Council, at the national meetings Regional meeting will bid tournaments given back to the Region by a Local Association. These Tournaments will be held in the upcoming year. Local Associations may still bid for a passed tournament without penalty.
- C. Any changes in the NWM Region Tournament rotation system must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the NW Council Members present. A copy of the rotation system shall be a part of this procedural code.
- D. 18/16 Gold Territory Tournaments shall be on a rotation basis and run in accordance with Article 315 of the USA Softball Code. Rotation will be set up between those associations that have registered Gold teams. New Associations that register Gold teams will be placed at the end of the current rotation.
- E. A tournament rotation schedule for the Junior Olympic Class A and Class B USA Western National Championship Finals has been established for the Western Territory (Region 09, and 10) for a period of three (3) years. Local Region 09 Associations interested in hosting a Class A or Class B Western National Championship finals, as outlined in the rotation schedule, must submit a bid by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year per USA Procedural Code 302 F of the USA Code.
- F. Region 09 Associations submitting Territorial bids must notify the Regional Director of their intent to bid and the tournament(s) they are bidding on by January 1st of each year. These bid presentations shall be made and tournaments awarded at the January Regional meeting each year. The

bids shall be for two years out. The Territorial voting council at the National Meeting shall give final award approval.

- G. USA Western National Championship Finals sites and dates must be finalized at the National Council Meeting two years in advance.

## 2. Tournament Dates

### A. Junior Olympic NQ, RNQ, GTQ

- 1) Junior Olympic shall have one (1) girl's fast pitch Class A National Qualifier in each age classification. Tournaments shall be held on the weekend containing the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in June except associations with extenuating circumstances may have the option of the weekend before or the weekend after.
  - a) Any change of these dates must be brought back to the Board a year in advance for approval.
  - b) The exception does not apply to the 16A and 18A classification
- 2) JO Regional tournaments shall be held on the weekend containing the third Saturday in July.
  - a) When the month has five weekends, a berth may be added to the Regional tournament for the USA Nationals
  - b) When the month has only four weekends, all regional berths shall be placed in the RQ/NQ tournaments for the USA Nationals
- 3) Regional and National Qualifiers for Region 9. There will be three qualifiers, two in the fall and one in the spring. The spring qualifier will have 1 berth for each age group and be held the second weekend in June. All age groups will be held in one location. The two fall qualifiers will be run with the 10A, 12A, and 18A held together and the 14A and 16A held together. This creates four tournaments for the remaining four associations willing to run them. (Oregon, Portland, Seattle and Washington) These can be run between the last weekend in August and October 15<sup>th</sup>. Oregon and Portland would be run early in the sequence and Seattle and Washington later in the available weekends. Seattle would be the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in September. Additionally the 16 Gold Regional berth would be allocated to the top 16A team wanting the berth.
- 4) Junior Olympic 16 and 18 Gold Territory Qualifiers shall be held in accordance with USA Code Article 315.

## 3. Tournament Rotations

	<u>A. National/Regional National Qualifiers: (Class A)</u>				
<u>Year</u>	<u>18A</u>	<u>16A</u>	<u>14A</u>	<u>12A/10A</u>	
2018	Montana	Oregon	Portland	Wash	



2019	Idaho	Utah	Seattle	Montana
2020	Oregon	Portland	Wash	Idaho
2021	Wash	Idaho	Utah	Seattle
2022	Montana	Oregon	Portland	Wash

**B. Regional Tournaments:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>18A/B</u>	<u>16A</u>	<u>14A</u>	<u>12A/B</u>	<u>10A/B</u>
2018	Idaho	Wash	Montana	Seattle	Oregon
2019	Oregon	Idaho	Utah	Portland	Seattle

**Class B**

<u>Year</u>	<u>18B</u>	<u>16B</u>	<u>14B</u>
2018	Idaho	Wyoming	Portland
2019	Oregon	Wash	Montana

**C. Western National Championships:**

**Class A**

Year	Bid Year	10/12A	14A	16A	18A
2019	2017	R10	R9	R10	R9
2020	2018	R9	R10	R9	R10
2021	2019	R10	R9	R10	R9
2022	2020	R9	R10	R9	R10

**Class B**

Year	Bid Year	10B	12B	14B	16/18B
2019	2017	R10	R9	R10	R10
2020	2018	R9	R10	R10	R10
2021	2019	R10	R10	R10	R9
2022	2020	R10	R10	R9	R10

**D. 18 /16 Gold Territory Qualifiers and 16 Gold Regionals**

Year	Region 9	Region 10
2018	Oregon	
2019	Seattle	
2020	Washington	
2021	Oregon	
2022	Seattle	
2023	Washington	

- 1) Gold Territory Tournaments shall be on a bid basis based on those associations that registered gold teams in the previous year and continue to have a gold team for the host year. Associations must host the tournament according to USA Code Article 313.
- 2) The site of the tournament must be at a local association that has a gold registered team.
- 3) All bids must be presented at the Territory meeting held at the National Council Mtg.
- 4) An Association may not be awarded the Gold Territory in two consecutive years unless no other bids are submitted.

#### **4. Tournament Data**

##### **A) Pre-Tournament Information**

- 1) NQ, RNQ, information shall be sent to all local Association Commissioners no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) Regional Tournament information shall be sent to all local Association Commissioners and all local Association JO Commissioners no later than the January Regional meeting.
- 3) Tournament information should include the following:
 

• tournament host	• tournament director/staff
• tournament draw info	• entry deadline
• site of managers meeting	• tournament dates and start time
• awards	• time limit/tie breaker (if used)
• hotel/motel info	• type of ball to be used
• gate admission fees	• misc. information

##### **B) Post-Tournament Information**

- 1) Results of NQ, RNQ, and Regional tournaments shall be sent within one week of the tournament to the Regional JO Commissioner, local association commissioners and the appropriate national tournament directors for all advancing teams.
- 2) Regional and National Tournament reports must be distributed to each Local Association Commissioner and Junior Olympic Commissioners (as appropriate) within 30 days of the tournament. Reports shall include all game scores, completed bracket, order of finish and team home area.

- 3) USA "A" and "B" Western National Championship Finals reports shall be sent to all Local Association Commissioners and Regional Junior Olympic commissioners in the Western Territory (Regions 09 and 10) within 30 days of the tournament. Reports shall include all game scores, completed bracket, order of finish and team home area.
    - a. Failure to file a report may result in forfeiture of the following year's rotation.
  - 4) The Regional Jr. Olympic Commissioner shall be responsible for the tabulation of all youth regional/national tournament results, champions, runner-ups, association and tournament sites and shall include all NSF check, handling fees accumulated.
- C) Local Associations shall be responsible for all entry fees including no-shows, provided that tournament spot cannot be filled by a late entry.
- D) Local Associations shall be responsible for uncollectible checks paid by their teams. Payment is due within 60 days of the tournament, and shall include the Bank NSF check handling fee. Failure to comply shall result in teams from that Local Association not being allowed to participate in any Championship Play until full payment has been made.
- E) For Regionals, the Local Association Commissioner of each NWM Association shall notify the tournament director who will be the respective representatives to the Regional Tournament. This shall be done by phone, mail, e-mail or fax, no later than 5PM (host association time) the Monday preceding the Tournament.
- 1) Failure to notify shall eliminate the Local Association team from Regional competition
- F) Entry Fees
- 1) National Qualifiers, Territory Qualifiers Regional National Qualifiers, and Regionals shall include the national assessment fee.
  - 2) Gold Territory shall establish an entry fee in conjunction with other Gold Territory Qualifiers within the defined Territory.
  - 3) Junior Olympic USA National Championship Finals entry fee shall include the National Assessment fee established by the BOD of the USA.
- G) Breakdown of Championship Tournament Entries
- 1) "A" Regional Championship\_Tournaments shall be open to all registered USA "A" teams within the region providing they participated in their respective Local Association Tournament (if held).

- 2) "B" Regional Championship Tournaments shall be open to all registered USA "B" teams within the region providing they participated in their respective Local Association Tournament (if held).
- 3) Any "A" team is qualified for the USA Girls' "A" Western National Championship Finals provided they participated in their respective Local Association Tournament (if held).
  - a) Refer to USA National Code Article 316G.
- 4) Any "B" team is qualified for the USA Girls' "B" Western National Championship Finals provided they participated in the respective Local Association Tournament (if held)
  - a) Refer to USA National Code Article 316H.

#### H) Awards

- 1) 6 teams and under shall receive: 1 team award; 1<sup>st</sup> place individual trophies. Appropriate memorabilia to 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- 2) 7-16 teams shall receive: 3 team awards; individual awards for 1<sup>st</sup> place team.
- 3) 17-24 teams shall receive: 4 team awards; individual awards for 1<sup>st</sup> place team;
- 4) 25 or more teams shall receive: 6 team awards; individual awards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams;

### 5. Tournament Format

#### A) National Qualifiers (NQ), Regional National Qualifiers (RNQ)

- 1) Minimum number of teams required for qualifying tournaments to award berths is six (6).
- 2) Bracketing shall be determined by a draw according to the USA Code Article 311.
- 3) All tournaments must utilize an approved USA format.

#### B) Regional Tournaments

- 1) The tournament format shall be a 3 game guarantee.
- 2) Associations hosting JO Regional Tournaments must be able to accommodate up to a minimum of 32 teams. The host association may increase the size of the Regional tournament over the established entries to whatever they can accommodate with the tournament format.

- 3) All Regional Tournaments shall be a minimum of two days, and if the host so schedules, the tournament could start on Friday as early as 8 am.

C) Junior Olympic USA National Championship Finals

## 6. Tournament Draw

- A) All draws shall be public with all team managers or representatives given the opportunity to be present.
- B) The draw for all Regional tournaments cannot be held earlier than 5 p.m. on the Monday preceding the opening day of the tournament.
- C) The draw shall be conducted using the format outlined in the USA National Code.
  - 1) The Local Association with the most teams shall draw first, then the Local Association with the second most teams will draw second, etc.
  - 2) In case of ties between Local Associations, the lowest Local Association number will draw first.

Association numbers are:

Alaska	09111	Idaho	09112	Montana	09113
Oregon	09114	Portland	09115	Utah	09116
Wash	09117	Seattle	09118	Wyoming	09119

- 3) When more than one team within a Local Association must draw, position to draw shall be based on alphabetical order according to the team name listed on the roster.
- 4) Exceptions:
  - a) Tournament hosts and defending champion may be seeded into the bracket, but must play in the first round or sub-round.
  - b) Two teams from the same association shall not play each other in their first game if possible.

## 7. Tournament Logistics

A) Tournament Staff

- 1) Tournament Directors cannot be an active participant as a player, coach or umpire in that Regional Tournament.
- 2) Official scorekeepers should be provided for every game.

B) Team Rosters; Refer to USA Code Article 302

- C) Player Identification; Refer to USA Code Article 301
- D) Playing Fields; Refer to USA Playing Rules
- E) Player Admission; Refer to USA Playing Rules
- F) Run Ahead Rule; Refer to USA Playing Rules
- G) Time Limits: Refer to USA Code 310 O
- H) Tie Breaker; Refer to USA Code Article 310 P
- I) Tournament Rules; Refer to USA Code Article 310

## **8. Awarding of Championship Tournament Berths**

- A. Region 09 Class "A" Fast Pitch Tournaments are awarded berths per USA Code
- B. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS qualify "A" teams for USA National Championship Finals.
- C. Region 09 shall have one or more berths to the HALL OF FAME Tournament in Oklahoma City for each age group based on the number of teams registered.
  - 1) Berths shall be awarded to the highest finishing Region 09 teams based on their performance in Championship play from the previous year in all age groups. Teams must participate in the same age group and qualify as a returning team to accept the berth.
  - 2) Berths shall be awarded to the highest finishing teams in Region 09 Regional Championships.
  - 3) The Regional JO Commissioner, along with the Local Association Commissioner, shall contact qualifying teams within 30 days of the completion of Regional play to notify teams of their award of the berths for the next year's HOF Tournament.
  - 4) Berths must be accepted in writing within 15 days or the berths will be offered to the next highest finishing team.
  - 5) Teams advancing from the "A" NQ or RNQ must inform the Qualifying Tournament Director within 24 hours of their intent to go the USA National Tournament.

- a) GFP-A After the USA "A" National Championship berths are determined, teams qualifying thru their local association tournaments may enter the USA "A" Western National Championship Finals.
- 6) Tournament directors shall contact teams in their order of finish for obtaining unfilled berths to that National Championship final. Those teams shall have twenty-four (24) hours to decide if they are going to accept the berth to attend the National Championship Finals.
- 7) Junior Olympic teams previously qualified for USA Girls' Fast Pitch National Championship play are eligible to participate in Regional and National Qualifier play per USA code.
- 8) Teams qualifying for Regional/National Championship Tournaments shall not be excluded from Local Association Championships.

## **9. Umpires**

- A) Per USA Code

## **Article 4 Regional Championship Playing Rules**

- 1. Casual Profanity/Unsportsmanlike Conduct Rule (Refer to USA Code)**
- 2. Uniforms; (Refer to ASA Code)**
- 3. Home Run Rule (Refer to ASA Code)**

## **Article 5 Umpires**

### **1. Regional Umpire-in-Chief**

#### A) Duties

- 1) Organize and conduct meetings with Local Association UIC's in Region 09.
- 2) Conduct Local Association clinics upon request of these organizations.
- 3) Conduct regional clinics in cooperation with the Regional Director and with his/her approval.

- 4) Answer requests for rule interpretations under guidelines of the National Rules Interpreter.
- 5) Serve as Regional Tournament UIC when requested.
- 6) Observe and evaluate umpires in the region upon request.
- 7) Assist umpire associations in the region upon request.
- 8) Complete projects as assigned by the Regional Director.
- 9) Attend Regional Council meetings and provide an annual report and budget proposal.
- 10) Coordinate assignment of umpires for rotation to Regional Tournaments.
- 11) Recommend umpires to the National Supervisor of Umpires for National Major Tournaments, Olympic Sports Festival, International competition, National Modified Fast Pitch Tournaments and Inter-Service Championships.

## **2. Budget**

- A) The NW Council at the annual meeting shall approve the UIC budget.
  - 1) Annual budget will include a breakdown of travel expenses, printing and postage, NW Regional umpire awards, etc.
- B) The Local Association shall be responsible for the expenses of the National Deputy UIC to travel within the region, provided the National Office does not make reimbursement.
- C) Each Local Association shall be assessed \$150.00 per year plus .50 cents per registered umpire.
  - 1) The individual umpire assessment shall be based on the number of umpires registered for each Local Association during the previous year. The assessment is due and payable to the Regional Director by April 1 of each year.
- D) The Regional Director upon proper application from the UIC shall disperse all money from the UIC fund.
- E) Expense vouchers with receipts must be submitted no more than 30 days after date of occurrence. Reimbursement to be made by the Regional Director within 15 days after receipt of a proper request.



### **3. USA Softball Umpire School Clinics**

#### **4. Regional Tournament**

##### **A) Regional Tournament UIC**

- 1) Will be the Local Association UIC from the Local Association hosting the tournament(s) or the designee of the Local Association Commissioner.
- 2) Cannot be an active participant as a player or coach in that Regional Tournament.
- 3) Shall not officiate games in that tournament except in case of an emergency.
- 4) Umpire evaluations must be filed with the National Deputy UIC by September 15. Failure to file a report will result in forfeiture of umpire rotation for the following year.
- 5) Shall receive a minimum of \$50 per day and lodging if needed by the Regional Tournament.

##### **B) Selection of Assigned Umpires**

- 1) Due to the fluctuating number of teams in individual tournaments it is not possible to pre-determine which tournament each Local Association will have. The Regional UIC is to insure that Local Associations rotate as much as possible to different tournaments.
- 2) The umpire's Local Association Commissioner and Local Association UIC must approve umpires selected for Regional Tournaments.

##### **C) Payment of Game Fees, Transportation, Housing**

- 1) Fees shall be the same as a national tournament per USA Code. Effective 2012 all game fees are to be paid immediately after completion of his/her final assignment.
- 2) The host association is responsible for providing the following to assigned umpires.
  - a) Transportation to and from the playing fields upon request to the local Commissioner or UIC prior to the tournament.
  - b) Housing with two umpires per room if one-way travel is more than 30 miles. Umpires with guest will be responsible for ½ room rate.

- c) Umpires shall inform the local Regional Tournament UIC of his/her room requirements no later than Sunday preceding the tournament
- d) When umpire clinics are held on the day prior to the tournament, then an additional room night shall be furnished. If the clinic is held before noon and an umpire has to drive over 75 miles to the meeting a nights lodging shall be furnished.
- e) If an umpire is assigned to a game that begins after 4pm, he/she shall receive an additional room night.

D) Umpire Awards

- 1) A NWM Region award shall be given to each umpire working in a NWM Region Championship Tournament. The Regional UIC shall obtain and distribute these awards.

**5. Umpire Rotation**

- A) Umpires will be assigned by the Regional Umpire Staff

**Article 6  
Awards**

**1. NW Hall of Fame**

A) Committee Members

- 1) The NW Hall of Fame Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of five (5) individuals appointed by the NW Regional Director. The Regional Director will appoint the chairman, two (2) members to a three (3) year term and (2) members to a five (5) year term

B) Purpose of Committee

- 1) Receive nominations to the Hall of Fame and recommend to the Council, people who have been nominated and who meet the approved criteria for selection to the NW Regional Hall of Fame.
- 2) Shall meet at the annual meeting of the NW Council.
- 3) Shall be limited to a maximum of the 4 best candidates submitted each year.

C) Funding of Awards

- 1) Each Local Association shall be assessed \$50 annually or as needed to defray the expenses of the committee. This levy must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the NW Council.

D) Submission of Nominees

- 1) December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year shall be the deadline for submitting nominations.
  - 2) Nominations must be submitted electronically on the NW Hall of Fame application and accompanied by two letters of recommendation.
  - 3) All nominations must be accompanied by detailed information and documentation submitted electronically.
  - 4) Any Region 15 member on the ASA Council may nominate individuals for the NW Region Hall of Fame.
- E) Review of Candidates: The committee will receive for review all candidates and information in December. The committee will meet at the annual NW Region meeting to finalize selection for the following year.
- F) Presentation of Awards
- 1) Presentation of Hall of Fame awards shall be made at the annual Northwest Regional meeting banquet. The Local Association commissioner whose candidate is being inducted is responsible for notification of induction and all information relating to the awards presentation.
- G) Categories and Criteria
- 1) Player (three points needed for selection)
    - a) All Star Team
    - b) MVP Award
    - c) Recognition Award
    - d) Home run, batting or defense award
    - e) Regional participant (5 years equals one point)
    - f) National Championship participant (2 years equal one point)
  - 2) Umpire (thirty points needed for selection)
    - (a) 10 years local association membership (2 points)
    - (b) Each Regional Tournament worked (2 points)
    - (c) Each Regional Tournament worked as UIC (3 points)
    - (d) Each National Championship Tournament worked (3 points)
    - (e) Each National Championship Tournament worked as UIC (5 points)
    - (f) Assistant UIC at Regional or National Tournament (4 points)

**Note:** Requirements: Must have umpired 15 years, and inactive 2 years from National Championship tournaments.
  - 3) Manager or Sponsor (five points needed for selection)
    - a) 20 or more local seasons (5 points)
    - b) 2-5 Regional Tournaments (2 points)
    - c) 1-2 National Championship Tournaments (2 points).

- 4) Commissioner
  - a) 10 years of service
  - b) Nominee shall have served in some of the following areas:
    - Regional Director
    - Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a National Committee
    - Host a National or Regional Tournament classified 'Major' or 'A'
    - Special Recognition
- 5) Meritorious Service
  - a) This category includes Individuals or organizations which offer any combination of the above categories. Candidates can be an organizer, bidder, years of service, financial contributor etc. Non player candidates may still be an active participant.
- 6) ASA Hall of Fame members will automatically be inducted into the NWM Region Hall of Fame

## **Article 7 NW Regional Code**

### **1. Amendments to the Code**

- A) All code changes must be submitted to the Regional Director, in writing, and must be received no later than December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- B) Amendments may be made at any meeting and requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the NW Council members present.
- C) An amendment approved by the NW Council shall be effective on March 1 following the annual meeting unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

### **2. Reprinting of the Code**

- A) Updating and reprinting of this code shall be done at the conclusion of each annual meeting of the NW Council.

### **3. Dates of Revisions**

1/31/17

# **USA Softball NW Mountain Region # 09 Classification Rules & Guidelines**

## **Article 1-General**

### **1. Purpose**

- A) To establish rules and guidelines for the classification of teams and players for tournament and championship competition.

### **2. Objectives**

- A) To attain, in an equitable manner, classification of teams at their respective level of athletic proficiency for the various levels of tournaments and championship play conducted by Local Associations.

### **3. Administration**

- A) A NWM Regional Committee shall consist of each Local Association's player representative with a Local Association Commissioner as chair of the committee.
  
- B) Each Local Association shall properly administer the resulting procedural code. Additional procedures and /or rules may be established by the Local Association, but in keeping with the above purposes and objectives as long as they are not inconsistent or in variance with the guidelines.

## **Article 2- Classification Boards**

### **1. Formation of Boards**

- A) Each Local Associations shall designate a Classification Board to evaluate, classify and review team competitive levels according to the classification guidelines.
  - 1) The Board shall consist of 3 or more members, one of which should be the Local Association Player Representative.
  - 2) The Local Association subject to approval by the Local Association Commissioner shall determine the method of selection to the Classification Board.
  
- B) Regional Classification Boards, one for adult and one for Junior Olympics shall be appointed by the Regional Director.

## **2. Authority of Boards**

- A) Classify players and teams prior to the beginning of regular season play based on past performance and current season roster.
- B) Review players and teams during season play for reclassification prior to the appropriate USA deadline.
- C) Hear properly filed appeals from players and teams on their classification status by the appropriate USA deadline.
- D) Develop additional guidelines and regulations as the need arise.
- E) Promote teams to level of play where the team is reasonably competitive.

## **Article 3- Team Roster**

### **1. Submission of Team Roster**

- E) The team roster shall be submitted prior to participating in leagues or tournament play.
  - 1) There shall be no transfers or additions of players to team roster after a date that has been established by the National USA or Local Associations.
  - 2) Teams must retain at least four (4) players from their qualifying tournament roster to be eligible for their Regional or Western National Berth.

## **Article 4- Classification of Teams**

### **1. General Information**

- A) Team classifications are described to differentiate between levels of competition.
- B) Basic classification definitions shall be used by Classification Boards as guidelines when evaluating teams.
  - 1) In determining proper athletic proficiency for teams, shall be limited to an overall comparison of all teams within the Regional area.
    - a) **EXCEPTION:** Teams that regularly compete in championship tournaments. Championship tournaments are those leading to District, Local Associations championship, Regional or National tournaments. This includes qualifying tournaments)

- 2) Teams that regularly compete in championship tournaments shall be evaluated on an overall comparison of all teams within the Regional area with reasonable consideration of teams on a National level.
- C) Home Run Hitter (Men's and Coed Classification)
- 1) A Player who, while playing on a standard field, has the potential, under normal game and weather conditions, of hitting a home run in any game.
- D) Field Dimensions (Men's and Coed Classification)
- 1) The USA Official Guide requires that a slowpitch game be played on a fenced field which has fences established at a minimum distance of 275 feet (300 feet preferred) using an USA approved restricted flight ball.
    - a) Deficit field dimensions are not to be construed as to preventing USA slowpitch from being played, however special ground rules might be required.
  - 2) Field dimensions and softball types are established so that the definition of a home run hitter can be established.
    - a) A batter who averages one or more homeruns in every three (3) games.

## **Article 5- Adult Classifications**

### **1. Adult Slow-pitch**

- A) A team that has 4 or more players on their roster from teams that finished in the top 30% of the Regional Tournament or Qualifying Tournaments held the year before shall qualify as a returning team.

### **2. Adult Fast pitch**

- A) Each Local Association Commissioner shall classify teams at the time of registration for the current year.
- B) Any four returning players from a team constitutes a returning team for the purpose of classification.
  - 1) The intent of the procedure is to keep teams from disbanding to re-form under another sponsor name with the key players from the previous year's team.

## **Article 6- Reclassification of Adult Teams**

## 1. General Information

- A) Roster changes may be cause for reclassification
- 1) If a team loses up to 70% of their team, they must be considered for reclassification.
  - 2) If a team has 4 or more players that have played on a reclassified team, that team will be reviewed for reclassification.
  - 3) If a team ends up with 4 or more returning players by way of the pick-up rule prior to any level of championship play, that team will automatically be reclassified and must play at the next highest level available to them. **REASON:** teams may try to get around the returning players rule and then have the potential of having 7 players that played with them the year before by using the pick-up rule that is available to them.

## 2. Adult Slowpitch

- A) Teams being reviewed and possibly reclassified up one classification will be awarded a berth in the following years Regional Tournament.
- 1) MSP B and WSP Open- teams must finish either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> two years in a row before they are reviewed for reclassification.
  - 2) MSP C and WSP C- The top 30% of finishers in Regional play will be reviewed for reclassification the following year. This includes State Tournaments, National Qualifiers and Regional Tournaments, if held.
  - 3) MSP D and WSP D- The top 30% of finishers in Regional play will be reviewed for reclassification the following year. This includes State tournaments, National Qualifiers and Regional Tournaments, if held.
  - 4) MSP E- The top 35% of finishers in the NW Regional Championship play will be reviewed for re-classification the following year. This includes State Tournaments, National Qualifiers and Regional Tournaments, if held.
  - 5) Teams that win qualifiers and advance to a Western National Tournament and did not play in the NW Regional Tournament may automatically be reclassified the following year if they have 4 or more returning players. Reasons why they did not play in Regionals may be submitted by their State/metro Commissioner or by the manager. The decision of reclassification by the regional committee would be final.
  - 6) If a team has four (4) or more players on teams that finished in the top 30%, they would be reviewed for reclassification as well.



### **3. Adult Fastpitch**

- A) Teams shall be reclassified to the next highest classification based on the following criteria.
  - 1) Teams that win a B or C National Qualifier.
  - 2) If a Regional Tournament is played, the top 20% of the finishers will be reviewed for reclassification the following year.
- B) Reclassified teams shall receive a Regional berth in their respective reclassification. If a Regional Tournament is held, all teams may participate in their respective tournament.
- C) National Adult Fastpitch Pitchers Classification Board – Refer to USA Code

## **Article 7- Classification Appeals Process for Adult Teams**

### **1. General Information**

- A) Local Association Commissioners in each area shall hear the appeal regarding reclassification and make recommendations to the classification committee by the last Wednesday in June.

### **2. Adult Fastpitch/Adult Slowpitch**

- A) Teams may appeal their classification to the NW Classification Committee. Teams are expected to play in at least two tournaments or one round of traveling league play before making an appeal.
- B) The appropriate two-page form must be completed in full and postmarked no later than August 1st in order to be considered. The team's original Championship Play Roster of the previous year and the current year must accompany the appeal request.
- C) Teams must allow up to fourteen (14) days for an appeal to be processed. The roster shall be marked with the applicable classification as determined by the classification committee and forwarded to the appropriate Championship Tournament Director. Copies shall be kept on file and made available if a team wishes to enter a qualifying tournament.
- D) If an appeal is granted and the team is allowed to play at the same level as in the previous year, the team's roster will be frozen.

- 1) Any player addition will automatically move the team back to the higher classification.
  - a) The intent of this procedure is to inhibit teams from losing two events with an intentionally weaker team, be classified down and then add players who become even more competitive.

## **Article 8- Types of Adult Team Classifications**

### **1. Men's Slow Pitch**

#### A) Class 'A'

- 1) Teams are skilled offensively and defensively with players that have good skills, athletic abilities and experience.
- 2) Defensively, they are capable of taking games away from their opponents with strong, clean fielding.
- 3) Teams will generally finish in the upper half of tournaments they enter.
- 4) Teams may not compete in 'B' or lower tournaments unless approved by the Tournament Director and their State or Metro Commissioner.
- 5) Teams may follow the 'A' homerun rule (8) unless they are playing down in which case they may follow the 'B' homerun rule (4).
  - a) Teams that have 3 or more run hitters will generally be classified 'A'.
- 6) Teams may not have more than three (3) players from the restricted player list on their roster

#### B) Class 'B'

- 1) Teams may be registered as a Tournament team only, or they will play in their local association top level of league play.
- 2) Teams may have highly skilled players, but highly skilled or experienced players will fill not all defensive positions. Team speed is above average.
- 3) Teams may win one or two games in championship tournaments, but are competitive with teams in this classification.
- 4) Teams may compete in 'B' or higher-level tournaments.

- 5) Teams may not compete in 'C' or lower classifications unless approved by the Tournament Director and their State or Metro Commissioner.
- 6) Any team which establishes itself as a strong 'B' team, or which has improved through addition of higher caliber players will be considered for reclassification.
- 7) This classification will follow the 'B' homerun rule.

C) Class 'C'

- 1) Team play a competitive schedule. They generally play at least six (6) tournaments.
- 2) Teams may have skilled players, but skilled players will fill not all defensive positions.
- 3) Team speed is average.
- 4) Teams may be moved to 'B' with the addition of higher caliber skilled players.
- 5) This classification will follow the 'C' homerun rule.

D) Class 'D'

- 1) Teams play a less competitive schedule than 'C' teams, and participate in less than six (6) tournaments.
- 2) Teams may have a few skilled players but are usually lacking in making the defensive plays on a consistent basis. Teams speed is average.
- 3) Teams will be asked to play in a 'C' tournament if they finish in the top three (3) positions of three (3) 'D' tournaments.
- 4) Teams will follow the 'D' home run rule.

E) Class 'E/Rec'

- 1) Teams play less competitive schedule than D teams.
- 2) Teams may have a few skilled players but are usually lacking in making the defensive plays on a consistent basis.
- 3) E/Rec teams generally are USA League teams that play in few tournaments.
- 4) Teams will be asked to play in a D tournament if they finished 1<sup>st</sup> in any tournaments.

- 5) Teams will follow the E/Rec home run rule.
- F) Men's Masters 35 & over, 45 & over – Refer to USA Code

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

### **A) Class 'Open'**

- 1) Teams are skilled offensively and defensively with players that have good skills, athletic ability and experience.
- 2) Defensively, they are capable of taking games away from their opponent with strong, clean fielding. They turn the double play easily.
- 3) Offensively, teams have better than average power and better than average team speed.
- 4) Teams may win one or two games, in championship play and are competitive with other teams in this classification.
- 5) Teams may not compete in 'C' or lower classification tournaments unless approved by the local Tournament Director or their Association Commissioner.

### **B) Class 'C'**

- 1) Teams play a competitive schedule. They generally play in 4 to 6 tournaments.
- 2) Teams may have skilled players but not all defensive positions will be filled by skilled players.
- 3) Teams may be moved to open with the addition of higher caliber skilled players.
- 4) Teams may not compete in 'D' classification tournaments unless approved by the local tournament director and their State or Metro Commissioner.

C) Class 'D'

- 1) Teams play less competitive schedule than 'C' teams, and participate in less than 4 to 6 tournaments.
- 2) Teams may have a few skilled players but are usually lacking in making the defensive plays on a consistent basis.
- 3) Teams will be asked to play in 'C' tournaments if they finish in the top three (3) positions of (3) 'D' tournaments.

**3. Coed Slow Pitch**

- A) Class 'Open' Refer to USA Code
- B) Class 'C' Refer to USA Code
- C) Class 'D' Refer to USA Code

**4. Mandatory Player Classification**

- A) Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> each year, an appeal process will start wherein a player can submit an appeal to have their player rating dropped. This process ends August 1, and at that time no appeals will be accepted until the following January. Our team procedures are now based on the USA Code in which a team could have 3 mandatory players from the next higher division on their roster. We consider our list equal to mandatory classified players. With the player classification system we have in place, it helps create a fair and level playing field for all teams not only at a local but also at a national level.
- B) Players on the USA Restricted list can only participate in the Men's A or Coed Open Programs. Players with a + designation may play in their class or higher.

Men's Slow Pitch

- Men's A Refer to USA Code
- Men's B Refer to USA Code
- Men's C Refer to USA Code
- Men's D Refer to USA Code
- Men's E Refer to USA Code

Women's Slow Pitch

- Women's Open, Class C and Class D Refer to USA Code

- C) Any player selected, as an All-Tournament player in any National Tournament will be classified to the next highest level for the next 2

seasons.

## **5. Men's and Women's Fast Pitch**

### A) Class 'Major'

- 1) Budgeted, traveling, highly competitive teams, which generally have been established for several years.
- 2) Teams have skilled defense and a proficient offense and are composed of strong, athletic, skilled players.
- 3) Teams usually place within the top quarter in competitive tournaments.
- 4) Major teams compete in Open or Major tournaments and may be invited to participate in 'A' tournaments.
- 5) Teams may not compete in 'B' or lower classification.
- 6) A team will generally have two (2) or more major class pitchers.

### C) Class 'A'

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

### C) Class 'B'

- 1) Teams will range from better teams from the recreational level leagues, to the less successful teams from the 'A' leagues.
- 2) Teams may have highly skilled players, but highly skilled or experienced players will fill not all defensive positions.
- 3) Teams may win one or two games, at best, in championship tournaments.

- 4) Teams may compete in 'B- or higher-level tournaments.
- 5) Teams may not compete in 'C' or lower classification tournaments.
- 6) Any team which establishes itself as a strong 'B' team, or which has improved through the addition of higher caliber players, will be considered for reclassification.
- 7) A team will generally not have any pitchers that can dominate the game.

D) Class 'C'

- 1) Teams play in recreational level leagues and do not regularly participate in tournaments.
- 2) A team's offense and defense is inconsistent and often limited.
- 3) The 'C' teams will generally have younger and inexperienced players, but they have the older experienced pitcher who cannot compete in the 'B' class.

## **Article 9 - Junior Olympic Classification**

### **1. 18U/16U Gold Fast pitch**

- A) Open to all players within the region, and in accordance with the Regional and National USA Codes.
- B) Teams shall register with the Association where the majority of players reside or attend school.
- C) Teams are not classified as Gold teams until the teams accepts a berth to the 18U or16U Gold National Tournament.

### **2. Class 'A'**

- A) Teams are competitive and travel.
- B) Teams are select, hand-picked or self-declared.
- C) Teams may participate in Class Gold and 'A' invitational tournaments.

### **3. Class 'B'**

- A) Involves some travel.

- B) Teams come from local districts players not form out of local association
- C) Teams may participate in Class 'A' and 'B' invitational tournaments.

**4. Class 'C'**

- A) Non Travel teams (Allow one or two invitational tournaments)
- B) Teams play in local Rec programs
- C) Players come from local Districts or rec programs
- D) Teams may participate in Class 'A' and 'B' invitational tournaments.

**5. Reclassification**

- A) The local association may reclassify teams. Based on tournament performance at any time.

**Dates of Revisions**

01/31/17

01/30/18