

\$9.95



**THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY
OF SOFTBALL**

**ASA
CODE**

2010

This copy of the ASA Code became effective on January 01, **2010**. The ASA does have the authority to make emergency changes from time to time and highly recommends that you review the official copy of the ASA Code which can be found on the ASA website at **WWW.ASASOFTBALL.COM**. In the event a conflict in language between this printed version of the Code and the version on the internet, the official copy of the ASA Code found on the ASA website controls. If there is incorrect information regarding this Code published or issued via voice, written, electronic or any other form of communication, whether by ASA personnel or not, the provisions and intent of the Code found on the website will always prevail.

PLEASE REVIEW THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT

ASA CODE PREAMBLE

WARNING, DISCLOSURE AND DISCLAIMER

One of the primary purposes of ASA's official playing rules (including its equipment standards) and ASA's Code is to promote competitive balance and to preserve the integrity of the sport of amateur softball. ASA's official playing rules and Code should not be considered a guarantee that participants, spectators or others will be safe or free from injury or harm. There are risks and dangers incidental to the game of softball, including specifically (but not limited to) the danger of being injured by thrown bats, thrown balls, batted balls or other objects. Softball poses a risk to its participants, spectators and other persons at or near ASA events or practices. Softball is a vigorous team sport at times involving severe cardiovascular stress and violent physical contact. Softball involves certain risk, including but not limited to death, serious neck and spinal injuries resulting in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage and serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, muscles and internal organs, and equipment provided for the protection of the participants may be inadequate to prevent serious injury. It is further disclosed that softball involves a particularly high risk of ankle, knee, head, and neck injury. In addition, participation in ASA events may involve activities incidental thereto, including but not limited to, travel to and from the site activity, participation at sites that may be remote from available medical assistance, and possible reckless conduct of other participants. Participants engaging in softball and activities incidental to softball do so with knowledge of the danger involved and agree to accept any and all inherent risks of property damage, personal injury, or death. Parents, family, guests, participants and spectators assume all risk and danger of personal injury, losses, damages to person or property and all hazards arising from, incidental to or related in any way to the game of softball. **DISCLAIMER:** THE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC. ("ASA"), ITS OFFICIALS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS, CONTRACTORS, LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS AND AFFILIATES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY (INCLUDING DEATH) OR LOSS OF PROPERTY TO ANY PERSON SUFFERED WHILE WATCHING, PLAYING, PRACTICING, OR IN ANY OTHER WAY AT OR INVOLVED IN THE GAME OF SOFTBALL FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING ORDINARY NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF ASA OR ITS AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS, THE OWNERS AND LESSORS OF THE PREMISES AND ALL OTHERS WHO ARE INVOLVED AND INCLUDING THE RECKLESS CONDUCT OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS. ASA EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL LIABILITY FOR ANY INJURY OR PROPERTY LOSS RELATED IN ANY WAY TO THE GAME OF SOFTBALL. This warning, disclosure and disclaimer are intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by applicable laws. If any portion is held invalid the remainder of the warning, disclosure and disclaimer will continue in full legal force and effect.

ASA STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

VISION **ASA will be the standard of excellence in softball**

MISSION **The Amateur Softball Association is the National Governing Body of softball in the United States.**

We develop, administer and promote the sport of softball to provide opportunities for participation and the best possible experience for those involved.

VALUES

- **Teamwork**
- **Fair Play**
- **Common Good**
- **Promotion and Education**
- **Sportsmanship & Civility**

GOALS

- **Ensure our future success as the leader in softball by improving the leadership and governance of our organization.**
- **Continue and enhance our long standing focus on the player, the quality of the game, quality of service, and overall service.**
- **Be accountable to each other and our sport in our mutual efforts to be the international leader in the sport of softball.**
- **Focus on financial and organization effectiveness that enhances our service, products and image.**
- **Craft effective external and internal connections with our players, officials, parents, affiliates and the public.**
- **Create an internationally recognized, world class venue that meets our needs, and supports our mission and vision.**

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ASA CODE

(Adopted January 27, 1977 with amendments through 2010)

PART 1

MISSION AND DEFINITIONS

Article 101 NAME. The name of the association shall be ‘ The Amateur Softball Association of America ‘, hereinafter referred to as the Association or ASA. The Association shall also do business as ‘ USA Softball ‘ and ‘ American Softball Association ‘.

Article 102 MISSION STATEMENT. Develop, direct and promote the sport of softball to ensure maximum participation, optimal performance and educational excellence.

Article 103 OBJECTIVES. The objectives of the ASA shall be:

- A. To promote amateur softball for all persons regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry.
- B. To establish uniform softball rules and regulations.
- C. To encourage amateur softball to be conducted in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship and establish principles for ethical behavior and matters relating to conflict of interest as provided by the ASA Council and Board of Directors.
- D. To encourage the union of all eligible teams, organizations or groups into such separate associations with active membership in the ASA 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 non-profit associations or organizations devoted wholly or partially to the promotion and development of the game of softball on a state, regional or national level.
- F. To promote and conduct annual amateur softball championships.
- 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 104 PRINCIPLES. It shall be the responsibility of each member of the ASA to strive to fulfill the goals of the ASA and to promote the sport of softball. At a minimum, each member of the ASA:

- A. Shall follow the rules and regulations of the ASA as established by the ASA Code and Playing Rules.
- B. Shall support the ASA’s programs that promote the sport of softball and educate players, coaches, officials, volunteers and the public about the game.
- C. Shall act at all times with the utmost civility and sportsmanlike conduct, promoting wholesome, safe competition.
- D. Shall strive to provide programs that encompass fairness to the participants and promote fair play and sportsmanship.
- E. Shall take seriously their responsibility as a role model and encourage competitiveness in a positive manner.

Article 105 JURISDICTION. The United States Olympic Committee and the International Softball Federation recognizes ASA as the governing body of amateur softball in the United States. The ASA agrees to submit, upon demand of the United States Olympic Committee, to binding arbitration in any controversy involving the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official to participate in amateur softball competition, as provided for in the United States Olympic Committee's Constitution and By-laws. The ASA shall remain free from outside restraint and shall independently determine and control all matters central to its governance, and shall not delegate to another, such determination and control.

Article 106 DEFINITIONS. Whenever used in this Code, unless otherwise specifically mentioned, the following words, terms and phrases are defined to mean:

1. **ASA** is the Amateur Softball Association of America, the national organization.
2. **Additional Player** is a player that has been added to a team's championship roster and meets all the requirements set forth in Article 501 and 502 of this Code.
3. **Annual Meeting** is the meeting of the Council held annually in accordance with **Article 401(A)** of this Code.
4. **Association** is the Amateur Softball Association of America, the national organization.

NOTE: See definition below of Local Association.

5. **Championship Play** is a tournament or competition from which the winner or the winner and other selected teams may advance to higher levels of play of this Association (See **Article 508, Levels of Championship Play** of this Code).
6. **Church Member** is one who regularly attends the religious services of the sponsoring church congregation. If a church member attends the services of two or more churches and is on the bona fide membership roll of one of the churches, then this player is ruled a member of the church where their name appears on the membership roll.
7. **Classification** is level of play within a division.
8. **Code** is the operating regulations of the Amateur Softball Association.
9. **Commissioner** is the commissioner of a local association. A commissioner is the principal liaison between a local association area and the ASA.
10. **Commissioner Emeritus** is a retired commissioner honored for 15 or more years of service.
11. **Committees** refer to those standing committees identified in **Article 402** of this Code and those created by the president.
12. **Defending Champion**
 - a. **Adult Team.** A team composed of five (5) or more of the players that won the championship of that particular division of play the preceding season. These five players must be physically present at the championship tournament site in order for the team to be eligible.
 - b. **Junior Olympic Team.** The first place and second place teams of each Class A National Championship Finals shall receive a berth to the Junior Olympic Girls' USA / ASA National Championship Finals in the team's current or succeeding year's age classification provided the team has five (5) participating players from the previous year's roster on the current year's roster and physically present at the current championship tournament site prior to the start of their first game.

NOTE: The defending champion berth will be awarded to the team composed of five (5) or more participating players that won the championship of that particular age classification the preceding year.

- c. **Split / Separate Teams.** If a team is eligible to return to a National Championship Final, and splits into two or more separate teams, with each meeting the above mentioned criteria, the team with the most players from the previous year's team receives the berth. If multiple teams have the same number of returning players, the berth will be awarded based on the previous year's registered manager. If the previous year's manager does not return, the berth will be awarded based on a coin flip or draw at the ASA National Office.
13. **Division** refers to the different types of championship competition conducted by this Association (See **Article 506, Divisions and Classifications of Championship Play Defined** of this Code).
14. **Doping** is the administration of or use by the competing athlete of any substance foreign to the body or of any physiological substance taken in an abnormal quantity or taken by an abnormal route of entry into the body, with the sole intention of increasing in an artificial and unfair manner their performance in competition. When necessity demands medical treatment with any substance that because of its nature, dosage or application is able to boost the athlete's performance in competition in an artificial and unfair manner, this is to be regarded as doping.
15. **Full-Time Employee** is a person who works at least the minimum number of hours normally worked by a full-time employee in that particular job or industry.
16. **Full-Time Student** is determined by the registration requirements of an educational institution.
17. **His** (e.g. he, him) is also to include female gender.
18. **Host Team** is a team that is representing a local association in a regional or national championship tournament and said team must be from the local association hosting the tournament.
19. **Ineligible Person/Team** is a team, player, manager, official, or member who is not eligible to participate in ASA championship competition or ASA sanctioned events, (A suspended person is included in this definition).
20. **Invitational Tournament** is a tournament that does not lead to a championship tournament.
21. **Local Association** refers to a member association.
22. **Mandatory Classification** is the process by which teams are moved up a class based on their performance in the preceding year's National Championship Final or USA Softball Championship Series (See **Article 507 (G), Mandatory Classification** of this Code). To qualify for a berth in the present year's National Championship Final in the higher classification, the team must meet the provisions of 'Defending Champion ', (See **Article 106 (12), Defending Champion** of this Code).
23. **Members** are those individuals, teams and organizations that come under **Article 201** of this Code.
24. **National Office** is the national headquarters of the Association located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
25. **Participation in Championship Play** is being available at the tournament and signing the ASA Official Tournament Signature Form. Participation in sanctioned events is being available to play, coach, manage, umpire and assist in the organization or otherwise be a part of a sanctioned event other than as an observer.
26. **Pick-up Player** is a player who has been added to a team's championship roster and meets all the requirements set forth in **Article 503** of this Code.
27. **Player Representative** is a representative from a local association.

28. **Qualified Team** is a team who has earned and accepted a berth to an ASA National Championship.
29. **Region** is a geographical entity encompassing a specific number of local associations, as listed in **Article 202** of this Code.
30. **Returning Team** is a team that is eligible to return directly to a specified championship the following year. The team, in order to be eligible to return, must meet the provisions of 'defending champion', (See **Article 106 (12)**, **Defending Champion** of this Code).
31. **Sanctioned Tournament** is a tournament approved by the ASA or a local association.
32. **Substitute Team** is a team eligible to replace a qualifying team in the next level of championship play when the qualifying team is unable to advance. The substitute team must be the next highest finishing eligible team from the qualifying tournament. A substitute team may not replace a previous year's defending champion or a returning team in the current season's championship play.
33. **Suspended Person/Team** is a player, manager, official, team or other ASA member who has been found in violation of this Code and is therefore ineligible to participate in ASA championship competition or ASA sanctioned events.
34. **Team** refers to but shall not be limited to the following: players, coaches, managers, trainers, scorekeepers and sponsors.
35. **Team Personnel** is defined as all coaches, managers, scorekeepers and other on field assistants that are required to meet the eligibility requirements of the ASA.
36. **Unsportsmanlike and Unprofessional Conduct** refers to conduct that is detrimental or unbecoming to the purposes and objectives of the ASA and/or its local associations.

Article 107 REGULATIONS.

- A. **Operating Regulations.** The Operating regulations of the Association are defined in this document, hereinafter referred to as the ASA Code, which is divided into seven parts as follows:

Part 01	Articles 101	-	199	Mission and Definitions
Part 02	Articles 201	-	299	Organization
Part 03	Articles 301	-	399	Administration
Part 04	Articles 401	-	499	Business Procedures
Part 05	Articles 501	-	599	Eligibility, Competition and Tournaments
Part 06	Articles 601	-	699	Bid Procedures and Responsibilities
Part 07	Articles 701	-	799	International Play

- B. **Order of Business.**

01. Robert's rules of order shall be the parliamentary law for all meetings of the association.
02. All meetings are open except when in executive session.

PART 2
ORGANIZATION

Article 201 MEMBERSHIP. Upon proper application and qualification, membership in ASA shall be available to state or metro associations, individuals, teams, umpires, scorekeepers, Council Members as further defined in this Code and organizations on a voluntary basis who agree to be governed by the Code, rules and regulations of ASA. The Association shall have the following classes of membership.

A. **Local Associations.** The geographical area of the United States shall be divided into state and metro associations each of which shall be represented by a commissioner who shall act as a liaison between such area and ASA. Each state of the United States shall be a part of a local association. State and Metro associations are defined as follows:

State Associations

Metro Associations

01) Alabama
02) Alaska
03) Arizona
04) Arkansas
05) Central California
06) Northern California
07) Southern California

Greater San Joaquin County(08
Oakland (09
Sacramento (10
San Francisco (11

12) Colorado
13) Connecticut
14) Delaware
15) Florida
16) Georgia
17) Hawaii
18) Idaho
19) Illinois
21) Indiana
22) Iowa
23) Kansas
24) Kentucky
25) Louisiana
26) Maine
27) Maryland-DC
28) Massachusetts
29) Michigan
31) Minnesota
33) Mississippi
34) Missouri

37) Montana
38) Nebraska
39) Nevada
40) New Hampshire
41) New Jersey
43) New Mexico

Chicago (20

Detroit (30
Minneapolis (32

Kansas City (35
St. Louis (36

Newark (42

44)	New York	
45)	Southern New York	Buffalo (46
47)	North Carolina	
48)	North Dakota	
49)	Ohio	Cincinnati (50 Dayton (51
52)	Oklahoma	
53)	Oregon	Portland (54
55)	Pennsylvania	Philadelphia (56
57)	Rhode Island	
58)	South Carolina	
59)	South Dakota	
60)	Tennessee	Memphis (61
62)	Texas	Dallas (63 Fort Worth (64 Houston (65 San Antonio (66
67)	Utah	
68)	Vermont	
69)	Central Virginia	
70)	Piedmont Virginia	
71)	Washington	Seattle Tacoma (72 Spokane (73
74)	West Virginia	
75)	Wisconsin	
76)	Wyoming	

B. Registration Requirements, Fees and Dues.

01. **Registration Requirements.** Any local association that does not register a combined minimum of 500 adult and Junior Olympic softball teams including payment during any given year shall be referred to the Board of Directors for possible reallocation of territory to other associations.

02. **Affiliation Fee.** Each local association shall pay annually an affiliation fee of \$1,000.00 and shall be responsible for membership dues as set forth in **Article 201 (A)(03)** of this Code. The \$1,000.00 payment may be made in two installments as follows: \$500.00 on or before January 31 and \$500.00 on or before June 30.

NOTE: Any affiliation fee not received by the deadline dates will incur a \$250.00 late fee.

03. **Dues.** Each local association shall pay the following dues:

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|-------|
| a. | Each Adult Team | \$ | 8.00 |
| b. | Each Junior Olympic Team | \$ | 8.00 |
| c. | Each Adult Umpire | \$ | 18.00 |
| d. | Each Junior Olympic Umpire | \$ | 18.00 |
| e. | Each Scorekeeper | \$ | 8.50 |
| f. | Individual registrations fees will be approved by the council. | | |

NOTE: Each local association may individually register Junior Olympic and/or adult players, managers, coaches, or team officials. Every 10 persons registered individually shall be counted as one team. Each Junior Olympic team must include one adult registration. **Each Association**

may submit their individuals, umpires, and team registrations through a compatible and ASA Board of Director approved registration system of their choice that best suits their Association needs.

04. **Boundaries.** The boundaries of a local association shall be on file in the National Office, signed by the commissioner. A local association making a complaint or a request for a change of boundary of another association must first make request of the association to be affected. If the associations involved in the request do not resolve the matter they may request a hearing before the Board of Directors. The request must be filed with the National Office by October 1, and is to include full documentation of the request. The Board of Directors decision on the request shall be final.
 05. **Special Provision.** Upon application and acceptance by the Council, any territory or possession of the United States may become a member. The ASA Board of Directors will select the commissioner.
 06. **Corporate Entity.** Each local association shall be registered as a Not for Profit corporate entity in the state the local association is located.
 07. **Tax-Exempt.** Each local association corporate entity shall be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a "tax-exempt" organization.
- C. **Individual Membership.** Individuals acquire membership in ASA by paying applicable registration fees to their local association in one of the following categories:
01. Individual registration.
 02. Membership on a registered team in compliance with **Article 501 (B)** of this Code.
 03. Scorekeepers.
 04. Umpires.
- D. **Allied Members.** A non-profit association or organization may become an Allied Member of the Association upon meeting the requirements set forth in this Code and approval of 60% affirmative vote of the Council. All applications for Allied Membership shall be submitted to the Membership Committee for a determination as to whether such organization has qualified for membership status, before submission to the Council. Organizations eligible for Allied Membership are:
01. **Armed Forces.** The Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines shall be eligible for membership under this classification.
 02. **Educational Based Organizations.** Organizations comprised of member educational institutions that conduct national softball competition on a level of proficiency appropriate for the selection of amateur softball players to represent the United States in international play, shall be eligible for membership under this classification.

NOTE: The eligibility of organizations under this classification must be based upon the play of the athletes in competitions conducted by educational institutions sanctioned by a national accrediting body.

- 03. **State Parks and Recreation Organizations/Associations.** Organizations and/or Associations, whose primary purpose is to promote Parks and Recreation activities, including softball in their respective jurisdictions.
 - 04. **Philanthropic and Instructional Organizations.** Organizations that are philanthropic in nature or that primarily promote the instruction of the game of softball in a clinical or other setting and do not conduct any national softball competition.
 - 05. **State Games Organizations.** The national State Games Organization is eligible for membership under this classification.
 - 06. **Disabled Sports Organizations.** Organizations that conduct national softball competition that is designated exclusively for individuals who are physically or mentally handicapped shall be eligible for membership under this classification.
 - 07. **Allied Member Requirements.** In order to obtain and maintain their allied membership all eligible organizations must comply with the following requirements.
 - a. **Allied Member Fee.** Each allied member shall pay annually on or before January 31, an affiliation fee of \$250.00. Allied members who have not paid their annual fee within 30 days of the due date will be removed as an Allied Member and must reapply for membership.
 - b. **Allied Team Registration.** Teams that are associated with allied members of ASA and for which the local association the team is from does not offer a program may join ASA directly by paying a fee of \$10.00. The local association the team is from shall be given credit for the membership and all fees collected in excess of the normal team registration fee shall be credited to the account of the local association.
 - c. **Allied Member Application.** Applications for allied membership must be received in the National Office by September 1 to be considered at the next Council Meeting.
- E. **Affiliated Members.** A non-profit association or organization may become an Affiliated Member of the Association upon meeting the requirements set forth in this Code and approval of 60% affirmative vote of the Council. All applications for Affiliated Membership shall be submitted to the Membership Committee for a determination as to whether such organizations have qualified for membership status, before submission to the Council. Organizations eligible for Allied Membership are:
- 01. **Regional or Nationally Based Softball Organizations.** Organizations which have member affiliates in a minimum of 30 states and which conduct national softball competition on a level of proficiency appropriate for the selection of softball players to represent the United States in international play shall be eligible for membership under this classification.
 - 02. **Nationally Based Softball Promotional Organizations.** Organizations which are national in scope and which conduct player or coach clinics or camps, softball competition or which are engaged in any other activities that promote the sport of amateur softball on a national level in accordance with the objectives of the ASA shall be eligible for membership under this classification.

03. **Other Organizations.** Organizations which are not members of a national organization eligible for membership as an Affiliated Member and which conduct softball competition, clinics, player camps, or which are engaged in any other activities that promote the sport of amateur softball on a city, county, state or regional level in accordance with the objectives of the ASA shall be eligible for membership under this classification.

04. **Affiliated Member Requirements.** In order to obtain and maintain their affiliated membership all eligible organizations must comply with the following requirements.

a. **Affiliated Member Fee.** Each affiliated member shall pay annually on or before January 31, an affiliation fee of \$250.00. Affiliated members who have not paid their annual fee within 30 days of the due date will be removed as an Affiliated Member and must reapply for membership. For all national tournaments or world tournaments organized by any affiliated member, the affiliated member shall pay ASA a tournament fee of \$200 per tournament. A multiple tournament rate can be negotiated with the Executive Director and must be approved by the Board of Directors.

b. **Insurance.** Each affiliated member shall obtain and maintain insurance for all softball programs (including tournaments and/or other activities) sponsored or organized by the affiliated member. Each affiliated member shall ensure that ASA is named as an additional named insured on all such insurance policies.

c. **Registration.** Teams participating in affiliated member programs are required to be ASA registered. Each affiliated member shall ensure and require that all teams participating in any affiliated members program are current in their registration with ASA and currently affiliated with one of ASA's state or metro associations. Teams that are not registered or affiliated with ASA and one of ASA's local associations shall not be eligible to play in any program sponsored by any affiliated member. ASA membership shall be opened and available to any such team not currently registered with ASA or ASA's local association, upon application and upon the team's satisfaction of all requirements of the applicable local association.

F. **Membership Classification Category.** In the event any dispute or issue arises as to which particular membership category, an organization falls within, then, pursuant to **Article 303**, the Executive Director (or their designee) shall make the final decision on the type of membership that is available to any organization.

G. **Life Members.**

01. Life Members are those individuals who desire to aid in the promotion of the game of softball, and who have previously been members of the ASA or served as members of the Council of the ASA.

02. Life Members shall pay lifetime dues of \$150.00 and, without voice, also receive the official publication of the ASA as often as it is printed, and an official ASA Guide. In addition, a membership plaque shall be issued to each life member.

- H. **Lifetime Pass.** A Council member who has served for five or more years may be given a lifetime pass to ASA events when they resign, if approved by the Board of Directors.

Article 202 REGIONS. The local associations as defined in **Article 201 (A)** of this Code shall be organized into 15 regions.

REGION	ASSOCIATIONS
01. New England.	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.
02. Mid-Atlantic.	New Jersey, Newark, New York, Buffalo and Southern New York.
03. Central Atlantic.	Delaware, Maryland-DC, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Central Virginia, Piedmont Virginia and West Virginia.
04. South Atlantic.	Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
05. Southern.	Alabama and Florida.
06. Southwestern.	Arkansas, Louisiana, Memphis, Mississippi and Oklahoma.
07. Texas.	Texas, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio.
08. Great Lakes.	Michigan, Detroit and Wisconsin.
09. East Central.	Ohio, Cincinnati and Dayton.
10. Midwest.	Illinois, Chicago, Indiana and Kentucky.
11. Northern.	Minnesota, Minneapolis, North Dakota and South Dakota.
12. Mid-America.	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Kansas City, St. Louis and Nebraska.
13. Rocky Mountain.	Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.
14. Pacific Coast.	Central California, Northern California, Southern California, Greater San Joaquin County, Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco, Hawaii and Nevada.
15. Northwest.	Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Portland, Washington, Seattle Tacoma and Spokane.

Article 203 TERRITORIES. The fifteen regions listed in **Article 202** of this Code shall be organized into four territories as follows:

- A. **Eastern.** (Inclusive of Regions: **1, 2, 3 and 9**)
- B. **Northern.** (Inclusive of Regions: **8, 10, 11 and 12**)
- C. **Southern.** (Inclusive of Regions: **4, 5, 6 and 7**)
- D. **Western.** (Inclusive of Regions: **13, 14 and 15**)

Article 204 SECTIONS. The fifteen regions listed in **Article 202** of this Code shall be organized into two sections as follows:

- A. **East.** (Inclusive of Regions: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10**)
- B. **West.** (Inclusive of Regions: **7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15**)

EXCEPTION: The State of Oklahoma will participate in the West Section.

**PART 3
ADMINISTRATION**

Article 301 ELECTED OFFICERS.

A. President.

01. **Term of Office.** The president shall serve a term of two years and is eligible for re-election after being out of office for two years. The two-year term shall begin at the conclusion of the Annual Council Meeting. The president must maintain National Council member status.
02. **Removal.** A president may be removed for just cause by a sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) vote of the Board of Directors.
03. **Duties.**
 - a. Preside at all sessions of the Board of Directors and Council.
 - b. Direct the policies of ASA as established by the Council and the Board of Directors.
 - c. Appoint all committees unless otherwise specified herein.
 - d. Create ad hoc committees necessary to meet the needs of the association.
 - e. Serve as an ex officio member of all committees.
 - f. Coordinate with the Executive Director and Board of Directors the negotiations and execution of all contracts and agreements on behalf of the Association.
 - g. Coordinate and approve the agenda for all meetings of the Board of Directors with the Executive Director.
 - h. Coordinate a mail, fax or telephonic vote from the Board of Directors for any expenditure that will exceed a budgetary line item.
 - i. Determine the site of the Board of Directors meetings.
 - j. The President may call a special meeting of the Board of Directors or the Council when business requires or when directed to do so upon written petition sent to the President by sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) of the members of the respective bodies.
 - k. Delegate duties and authority to the Executive Director.
 - l. Perform such duties as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of ASA.

B. President Elect.

01. **Nominations.** Candidates for president elect shall submit their names to the National Office no later than 30 days prior to the National Council meeting. Presidential candidates must have and maintain National Council member status.
02. **Election.** The president elect shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council.
03. **Term of Office.** The president elect shall serve a term of two years and will become president at end of the two year period.
04. **Removal.** A president elect may be removed for just cause by a sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) vote of the Board of Directors.
05. **Vacancy.** If the president elect for any reason resigns, is unable to act, or is removed from office or dies, an election will be held at the next Council meeting.

06. **Duties.** Those Duties as prescribed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

C. **Immediate Past President.**

01. **Term of Office.** The Immediate Past President shall serve a term of two years, beginning immediately upon the completion of their term as President.

02. **Removal.** An Immediate Past President may be removed for just cause by a sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) vote of the Board of Directors.

03. **Duties.** If the President for any reason resigns, is unable to act, is removed from office, or dies, the Immediate Past President will assume the duties of the President.

D. **Territorial Vice Presidents.**

01. **Nominations.** Candidates for Territorial Vice President shall submit their names to the National Office no later than 30 days prior to the National Council Meeting. Territorial Vice President Candidates must have and maintain National Council Member Status.

02. **Election.** Two Territorial Vice Presidents shall be elected in each territory. The Territorial Vice Presidents shall come from the Council members of their respective territory and shall be elected by a majority vote of these same Council members. Four (4) representatives, one (1) in each territory will be elected each year beginning in November 2008. This election will take place at the Annual Council Meeting.

03. **Term of Office.** Territorial Vice Presidents shall serve a term of two years that shall begin **at the end of the last Board of Directors Meeting** following the conclusion of the Council meeting.

04. **Removal.** A Territorial Vice President may be removed for just cause by a two-thirds vote of the territories National Council members or a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

05. **Vacancy.** If a Territorial Vice President resigns, dies, retires or is otherwise unable to continue, then the vacancy will be filled by a vote of the National Council members of their respective territory or by the Board of Directors until the next Territory election.

06. **Duties.** A Territorial Vice President shall represent their territory on the Board of Directors and shall co-chair at their respective territorial meetings.

E. **Regional Directors.**

01. **Election.** A regional director from each region shall be elected prior to or at the annual meeting. The regional director shall come from the National Council members of the respective region and shall be elected by a majority vote of the region's National Council members, local association Junior Olympic commissioners, local association player representatives and local umpires-in-chief.

02. **Term of Office.** Regional directors shall serve a term of two years that shall begin at the conclusion of the annual Council meeting. Regional directors from the following regions are elected in odd years: Mid-Atlantic,

Southern, Texas, Midwest, Northern, Rocky Mountain and Northwest. Regional directors in the following regions are elected in even years: New England, Central Atlantic, South Atlantic, Southwestern, Great Lakes, East Central, Mid-America and Pacific Coast.

03. **Removal.** A regional director may be removed for just cause by a two-thirds vote of that region's national Council members, local Junior Olympic commissioners, local player representatives, and local umpires-in-chief or a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.
04. **Vacancy.** A regional director vacancy due to death, incapacitation, resignation or other reason may be filled by a vote of the Council members, local association Junior Olympic commissioners, local association player representatives and local umpires-in-chief of the affected region.
05. **Duties.** A regional director shall conduct regional business including awarding of the regional tournaments in their region.

Article 302 BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors shall be selected regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry except as may be required by the United States Olympic Committee to ensure adequate athlete representation and female representation of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows: President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, three athlete representatives elected by the athletes, one at-large member elected annually by the Board of Directors and eight territorial vice presidents.

A. **Duties.** The duties of the Board of Directors shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

01. Employ, establish the salary, evaluate, and direct the Executive Director in the general affairs of the ASA;
02. Shall interpret **Article 303** of this Code by majority vote.
03. Consider and make the final determination on commissioner appointments;
04. Review and take action on any unethical behavior of ASA Council members;
05. Attend to all matters concerning future directions and goals of the ASA;
06. Attend to all matters concerning the annual meeting of the ASA;
07. Review and take such action as the Board of Directors deems necessary or appropriate with respect to any redistricting issues;
08. Attend to all matters concerning the ASA's insurance program;
09. Attend to all matters concerning the annual budget;
10. Attend to all business of the ASA between annual meetings; and
11. Prepare specifications for championship trophies and awards, review all bids, and make final selection of the trophy vendor.
12. **Review National Championship Final hosts whose overall rating is less than seventy percent (70%).**

B. **Meetings.** The Board of Directors shall convene during the annual meeting and may hold such additional meetings as are necessary to conduct the interim business of ASA. All meetings are open to Council members except when in ' executive session '.

01. **Site.** The ASA President shall determine the site of all Board of Directors meetings.
02. **Notice.** The Executive Director shall send to each member of the Board of Directors written notice of each meeting of the Board of Directors at least three (3) days prior to such meeting. The notice shall specify the date and time of the meeting and shall also include either a place where the meeting

will be held or a telephone number which a Director may use to participate in the meeting telephonically. Notice may be sent by regular mail or other reputable delivery service, by facsimile or by e-mail. Notice shall be deemed given to a Director when deposited in the United States mail or with a reputable delivery service addressed to the mailing address for such Director as shown in the official directory of the Association or such other mailing address as such Director may specify to the Executive Director in writing from time to time, or when transmitted to the facsimile number or e-mail address of such Director as shown in the official directory of the Association or such other facsimile number or e-mail address as such Director may specify to the Executive Director in writing from time to time. The notice need not specify the purpose of the meeting. Any business that may be transacted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting may also be transacted at a special meeting of the Board of Directors.

03. **Quorum.** A quorum shall consist of a majority of all eligible voting members of the Board of Directors.
04. **Proxy.** Authorization for representation of a Territorial Vice President by proxy may be obtained by submitting a request for same in writing to the Executive Director at least one week prior to the date of any Board of Directors meeting.
 - a. In order for a proxy to be approved, they must be a Council member from the Territorial Vice President's own territory.
 - b. This written proxy is not transferable and is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
 - c. A proxy properly certified according to the preceding paragraphs is entitled to be in attendance at all meetings of the Board of Directors with the privilege of voting.
 - d. A proxy shall receive the financial benefits extended to all other territorial vice presidents.
- C. **Budget Approval.** At the conclusion of the annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall meet and approve the final budget and it shall be sent to each Council member along with minutes of the meeting.
- D. **Special Meetings.** The president may call a special meeting of the Board of Directors or the Council when business requires or when directed to do so upon written petition sent to the president by sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) of the members of the respective bodies.
- E. **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 the Board of Directors may be taken. If and when a mail or telegraphic vote is taken, the Executive Director shall:
 01. Mail or telegraph each member of the Board of Directors a clear statement of the question to be decided.
 02. Request that the vote be returned at a given date.
 03. Close the vote on the date given.
 04. Notify all officers of the results of the vote immediately.
 05. File and upon request make available to officers copies of the mail or telegraphic vote.

Article 303 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. The title of the chief paid administrator is Executive Director.

- A. **Employment.** The Executive Director shall be employed under the terms of a contract of employment and may be renewed by the Board of Directors at any time, but never for more than eight years from the date of renewal.
- B. **Bond.** The Executive Director shall be bonded at the expense of the Association for the sum of \$1,000,000.00.
- C. **Removal.** The Executive Director may be removed for just cause by a sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) vote of the Board of Directors.
- D. **Duties.**

- 01. Manage the National Office of the Association, including the Hall of Fame, and perform such duties and exercise such authority as provided therein and as delegated by the president and/or Board of Directors.
- 02. Hire, evaluate, discharge or discipline employees.
- 03. Recommend the salaries of all employees subject to approval of the Board of Directors.
- 04. Negotiate and execute all contracts and agreements on behalf of the Association except, however, any contract in excess of \$100,000.00 or for a duration of more than one year must be approved by the Board of Directors or it shall be void. The Executive Director shall notify the Board Members of all contracts.
- 05. Prior to signing the contract for the National Meeting site, the Executive Director or their designees shall conduct an inspection of the facility to determine if suitable.
- 06. Make the final decision on any interpretation of the Code and appoint a qualified interpreter to act in their absence.

EXCEPTION: In situations where an interpretation involves the **Article 303**, the interpretation shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

- 07. Act in behalf of the Association in all matters of emergency that are not covered in the Code.
- 08. Report to the Board of Directors any commissioner(s) not carrying out their duties as described in this Code.
- 09. Prepare a preliminary budget request for the following year for presentation to the Board of Directors.
- 10. Three (3) days prior to each meeting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director shall provide to each board member the following:
 - a. An agenda approved by the president.
 - b. A copy of the proposed budget and all necessary background information.
- 11. Shall send the approved budget with the minutes of the annual meeting and each Board of Directors meeting to each Council member within 30 days after the meeting.
- 12. Receive prior authorization from the Board of Directors for any expenditure that will exceed a line item's budget. Any emergency overrun must immediately receive post expenditure authorization. Emergency authorization requests shall include an explanation regarding the nature of the emergency.

The President shall obtain authorization through a mail, fax, or telephone vote of the Board of Directors.

13. Review with a committee consisting of the members of the membership services staff all tournament bids received by July 1 and return unsatisfactory bids to bidding cities by August 15.
14. Shall have the authority to submit Code and/or Playing Rules changes to the Council consistent with **Article 403 (A)** and **(B)**.
15. All national tournament representatives as required by the ASA Code will be assigned by a committee consisting of the executive director, director of membership services and the president.
16. May work with the Host Organizing Committee to change the dates for tournaments for good cause.

E. **Executive Director Emeritus.** Upon retirement after completion of 30 years of service to the ASA, the Board of Directors may choose to elect the Executive Director to the position of Executive Director Emeritus.

Article 304 COUNCIL. The Council shall be composed of the following members each of whom is entitled to one vote. Council members are selected without regard to race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

- A. Commissioners of each local association.
- B. Regional player representatives.
- C. One additional player representative for each 2,000 teams registered from a local association in the preceding year.
- D. Regional Junior Olympic commissioners.
- E. Regional umpires-in-chief.
- F. Past Presidents.
- G. Executive Director(s) Emeritus.
- H. Commissioner Emeritus.
- I. Council Member Emeritus.
- J. A representative from each allied and affiliated member.
- K. Athlete representatives.

Article 305 COMMISSIONERS. A local association commissioner is the principal liaison between a local association and the ASA.

A. **Association Review and Nomination.** If a commissioner position should become vacated for any reason, a panel consisting of the President, or their designee, the respective Regional Director, or their designee and the ASA Executive Director, or their designee shall:

01. **Association Review.** Determine the viability of the association by conducting an Association review to include but not be limited to the following performance indicators.

- a. All duties of the Commissioner as promulgated by the ASA Code.
- b. The Annual Registration / Assessment Report.
- c. The Five-Year Registration reports that includes adult and Junior Olympic teams and all umpires.

02. **Association Review Options.** Based on the findings of the review, the panel shall make a written recommendation to the Board of Directors to:

- a. Retain the association as it currently stands.
- b. Retain the association under recommended actions of the committee.

- c. Merge the association with another existing local association.
03. **Nomination.** The panel shall appoint a temporary commissioner who shall serve until the next meeting of the Board of Directors.
 04. **Evaluation.** The temporary commissioner must serve a minimum of six (6) months prior to being reviewed by the Commissioner's Appointment Committee. The commissioner's performance will be reviewed by the Commissioner's Appointment Committee at the Council Meeting. The committee shall make a written recommendation to the Board of Directors to either make the temporary commissioner interim or permanent, or to reject the temporary commissioner.
- B. **Election.** The Board of Directors, by a majority vote, shall either confirm the commissioner for interim or permanent status or reject the temporary commissioner and order another Association Review.
 - C. **Term.** A commissioner shall serve until they resign or are removed from office.
 - D. **Duties and Penalties.** The duties of a commissioner are those duties promulgated by the Board of Directors and the Executive Director and shall include but not be limited to the following:
 01. Represent the best interest of ASA in their association.
 02. Remit annually, on or before June 1, registration fees totaling \$1,500.00 or more.
 03. Being responsible for all moneys and dues owed to the ASA team and umpire registration fees must be remitted within 30 days of receipt. Failure to do so is grounds for suspension and removal.
 04. Awarding and supervising all tournaments in their local association area.
 05. Appointing deputy and/or district commissioners, an umpire-in-chief, a Junior Olympic softball commissioner, and such other persons as may be required.
 06. Being responsible for the establishment of an ASA championship play classification code to determine team and/or player classifications to be used in the local association (See **Article 507 (A) Team Classifications of Championship Play** of this Code).
 07. Coordinating an annual meeting of the local association, and filing with the Executive Director, within thirty (30) days after the meeting or prior to December 31, of the current year, a complete report of this meeting on a form supplied by the Executive Director.
 08. Filing a financial report on an approved form within seven months of the conclusion of the local association's fiscal year. A copy of the local Internal Revenue Tax Filing is acceptable.
 09. Enforcing and abiding by the rules and regulations of ASA in their local association area as promulgated by this Code.
 10. Commissioners that host regional, territory, and national qualifying tournaments are responsible to see that advancing team's rosters and affidavits are forwarded to the National Championship Finals.
 11. Commissioners whose association is hosting a National Championship Final must turn in all financial reports.
 12. No commissioner is eligible for office in this Association or may be elected as a commissioner or receive travel or hotel remuneration to the annual meeting, unless all duties as set forth in **Article 305 (D)** of this Code have been fully performed.

13. Each local association shall file with the National Office, no later than May 31st of each year, a listing of all championship tournaments (excluding sub district, district, county) to be held in the commissioner's association during the current year.

E. Restricted Activities.

01. No sporting goods manufacturer, dealer, representative or employee thereof may hold office or serve as commissioner in this Association without full disclosure and approval of the Board of Directors.
02. No person affiliated with a competing softball association is eligible for office or to serve as a local commissioner. The Board of Directors of the ASA has the final decision regarding the definition of a competing association.
03. No local association commissioner may umpire at a state, regional or National Championship Final hosted within their own local association.
04. A commissioner may serve only in an advisory capacity with a local association or as its secretary and/or treasurer.

- F. Discipline.** A commissioner may be subject to certain forms of discipline, including but not limited to, reprimand, probation, or removal at any time for just cause by the Board of Directors.

Article 306 EMERITUS. A retired commissioner or council member honored for 15 or more years of service.

- A. Commissioner Emeritus.** A retired commissioner honored for 15 or more years of service.

01. **Years of Service.** Upon completion of 15 years of service, any commissioner may be recommended by their regional director for the status of commissioner emeritus upon their retirement as an active commissioner. A commissioner over 70 needs only 10 years of service as a commissioner.
02. **Approval.** The Board of Directors shall consider all such recommendations and a two-thirds vote of approval is required to confirm a person for this position.
03. **Entitlement.** A person who has been named commissioner emeritus is entitled to attend the annual meeting of the Association and shall have one vote on all matters.

- B. Council Member Emeritus.** A retired council member honored for 15 or more years of service.

01. **Years of Service.** Upon completion of 15 years of service, any council member may be recommended by their commissioner for the status of council member emeritus upon their retirement as an active council member. **Recommendation must be made by August 31 and must be made on official nomination form.**
02. **Approval.** The Board of Directors shall consider all recommendations **at the fall Board of Directors meeting prior to the Annual Council meeting** and a two-thirds vote of approval is required to confirm a person for this position.

03. **Entitlement.** A person who is approved as council member emeritus is entitled to attend the annual meeting of the Association and shall have one vote on all matters. No financial reimbursement will be considered for a person of Council Member Emeritus status.

Article 307 ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVES. The Athlete Representative shall comprise seven positions on the ASA council with three positions or such additional number as to be not less than twenty percent (20%) of the members of the Board of Directors and shall be elected in accordance with procedures approved by the United States Olympic Committee (**USOC**). The person elected to represent the ASA on the USOC Athlete Advisory Council shall hold one of these positions.

- A. **Election.** The ASA shall conduct the election of athlete representatives in accordance with procedures approved by the USOC.
- B. **Eligibility.** Any softball player who meets the following standards shall be eligible to be elected as an athlete representative:
01. Within the ten (10) years before election, the softball player has represented the United States in the Olympic Games, Pan American Games an Operation Gold event, International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championship or other international championship recognized by ISF; or
 02. Within the twenty-four (24) months before election, the softball player has been a member of an USA Softball Men or Women's National Team. These standards are meant to comply with the standards for athlete representatives established by the United States Olympic Committee in its Bylaws and as provided for in the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act. If for any reason the above standards are determined not to conform to the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee, this **Article 307 (B)(02)** of this Code will be automatically amended to conform thereto.
- C. **Term of Office.** Athlete representatives shall be elected to a two-year term except the athlete representative to the USOC Athlete Advisory Council who shall serve a four-year term during the quadrennium. Athlete representatives shall be eligible for re-election in accordance with eligibility requirements listed in **Articles 307(A), and 307(B)(01) and 307(B)(02)** of this Code.
- D. **Alternates.** Five alternates shall be elected to serve as a proxy for an athlete representative who is unable to attend a Board of Directors or Council Meeting. An alternate shall also fill the unexpired term of an athlete representative should the person elected leave office for any reason during their term.
- E. **Removal.** An athlete representative may be removed from office for just cause by a sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) vote of the Board of Directors. Any athlete representative who is not in attendance at two consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors shall be removed from office.

Article 308 JUNIOR OLYMPIC COMMISSIONERS.

- A. **Local Junior Olympic Commissioners.**
01. **Selection.** A local association Junior Olympic commissioner shall be appointed by each local commissioner.
 02. **Term of Office.** The local Junior Olympic commissioner shall serve a term of one year and be eligible for re-appointment.

- 03. **Vacancy.** If the local Junior Olympic commissioner position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the local commissioner.
- 04. **Removal.** A local Junior Olympic softball commissioner may be removed for just cause by the local commissioner.
- 05. **Duties.** A local Junior Olympic commissioner shall represent their local association at all regional and territorial meetings and shall be eligible for appointment to regional and territorial committees.

B. Regional Junior Olympic Commissioners.

- 01. **Election.** A regional Junior Olympic commissioner shall be elected by a sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) vote of that region's national Council members, local Junior Olympic commissioners, local player representatives and local umpires-in-chief.
- 02. **Term of Office.** The regional Junior Olympic softball commissioner shall serve a term of one year and be eligible for re-election.
- 03. **Vacancy.** If the position of regional Junior Olympic softball commissioner becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment of the regional director until the next regional meeting.
- 04. **Removal.** A regional Junior Olympic softball commissioner may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of that region's national Council members, local Junior Olympic commissioners, local player representatives and local umpires-in-chief.
- 05. **Duties.**
 - a. Regional Junior Olympic commissioners shall represent their region in all regional, territorial, and national meetings and shall be eligible for appointment to committees.
 - b. Assist the regional director in coordinating all activities regarding the Junior Olympic program in their region.
 - c. Assist local association Junior Olympic commissioners in the development of their respective Junior Olympic programs.

Article 309 PLAYER REPRESENTATIVES.

A. Local Associations.

- 01. **Selection.** A local player representative shall be appointed by each local commissioner. The player representative must be an active rostered player.
- 02. **Term of Office.** Player representatives shall serve a term of one year and are eligible to be re-appointed.
- 03. **Vacancy.** If a player representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the local association commissioner.
- 04. **Removal.** A local association player representative may be removed for just cause by their respective local commissioner.
- 05. **Duties.** Player representatives shall represent their local associations' at all regional and territorial meetings and shall be eligible for appointment to regional and territorial committees.

B. **Regional.**

01. **Election.** A regional player representative shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of that region's national Council members, local Junior Olympic commissioners, local player representatives and local umpires-in-chief.
02. **Term of Office.** Regional player representatives shall serve a term of one year and are eligible for re-election.
03. **Vacancy.** If a regional player representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment of the regional director until the next regional meeting.
04. **Removal.** Regional player representatives may be removed for just cause by a sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) vote of that region's national Council members, local Junior Olympic commissioners, local player representatives and local umpires-in-chief.
05. **Duties.** Regional player representatives shall represent their region, in all regional, territorial, and national meetings and shall be eligible for appointment to committees.

C. **At-Large.**

01. **Appointment.** Each local association Commissioner shall appoint one at-large player representative for each 2,000 teams registered the preceding year.
02. **Term of office.** At-large player representatives shall serve a term of one year and are eligible for re-appointment.
03. **Vacancy.** If an at-large player representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the local association commissioner.
04. **Removal.** An at-large player representative may be removed for just cause by their respective local association commissioner.
05. **Duties.** At-large player representatives shall represent their local association at all regional, territorial and national meetings and shall be eligible for appointment to committees.
06. **Competing Association.** No person affiliated with a competing softball association and/or organization is eligible for office or to serve as an at-large player representative.

Article 310 UMPIRES-IN-CHIEF.

A. **Local Umpire-In-Chief.**

01. **Selection.** A local association umpire-in-chief shall be appointed by each local commissioner.
02. **Term of Office.** The local association umpire-in-chief shall serve a term of one year and be eligible for re-appointment.
03. **Vacancy.** If the local association umpire-in-chief position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the local commissioner.
04. **Removal.** A local association umpire-in-chief may be removed for just cause by their respective local commissioner.
05. **Duties.** A local association umpire-in-chief shall represent their local association at all regional and territorial meetings and shall be eligible for appointment to regional and committees.

B. Regional Umpire-In-Chief.

01. **Election.** A regional umpire-in-chief shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) vote of that region's national Council members, local Junior Olympic commissioners, local player representatives and local umpires-in-chief.
02. **Term of Office.** The regional umpire-in-chief shall serve a term of one year and be eligible for re-election.
03. **Vacancy.** If the regional umpire-in-chief position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment of the regional director until the next regional meeting.
04. **Removal.** A regional umpire-in-chief may be removed for just cause by sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) vote of that region's national Council members, local Junior Olympic commissioners, local player representatives and local umpires-in-chief.
05. **Duties.**
 - a. Regional umpires-in-chief shall represent their region in all regional, territorial, and national meetings and shall be eligible for appointment to committees.
 - b. Assist their regional director in coordinating all activities regarding the umpire program in their region.
 - c. Assist local umpires-in-chief in the development of their respective umpire programs.
 - d. Serve on the National Umpire Staff.
06. **Reimbursement.** The National Office shall reimburse the regional umpire-in-chief for any expenses incurred while acting in their official capacity. All other expenses are the responsibility of either the region or the local association commissioners.

C. National Championship Final Umpire-In-Chief.

01. **Umpire-in-Chief Assignment.** Each National Championship Final umpire-in-chief shall be assigned by the National Director of Umpires.
02. **Use of Assistant Umpires-in-Chief.** The use of an Assistant Umpire-in-Chief shall be governed as follows:
 - a. If a National Championship Final has more than 40 teams and plays on more than one (1) complex, an assistant umpire-in-chief shall be assigned by the National Director of Umpires.
 - b. If a National Championship Final has more than 100 teams, two (2) assistant umpires-in chief shall be assigned by the National Director of Umpires.
 - c. **If a National Championship Final is played in more than 2 complexes, assistant umpire-in-chiefs' shall be assigned by the National Director of Umpires.**

Article 311 UMPIRES

A. **Registration.**

01. An umpire may register through the local association commissioner where they reside or work either as an umpire or in their regular occupation.
02. Registered umpires become members of ASA on a voluntary basis and agree to be governed by the Code, rules and regulations of the ASA. Registration by an umpire does not establish an employer/employee relationship and no umpire is considered an employee of ASA or the local association, but is instead acting as an independent contractor.
03. Registration is on an annual basis and shall expire December 31 of each year.
04. A member of the armed forces may become a 'military' registered umpire only while stationed overseas, by registering through their military base athletic office.
05. 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 505, Suspension** of this Code.

B. **Championship Play.**

01. Only ASA-registered umpires may be used in championship play.
02. All tournaments that lead toward national play require a minimum of two umpires per game.

C. **Conduct.**

01. **Use of Tobacco.** Umpires may not smoke or use tobacco like products on the playing field. This includes but is not limited to chewing, dipping and spitting.
02. **Use of Alcohol.** Umpires may not consume alcoholic beverages on a game day until assignments have been completed.

D. **National Championship Finals Selection.** Selection of umpires for the National Championship Finals shall be made as follows:

01. **Assignment.** An umpire may umpire in only one National Championship Final each year.

EXCEPTION: If additional umpires are necessary at the last minute due to the number of teams, an umpire can be assigned in the second tournament as a host umpire.

02. **Conflict of Assignment.** The tournament umpire-in-chief should avoid assigning umpires to a National Championship Final game in which their local association is participating whenever possible.

03. **Fast Pitch**

- a. **Men's and Women's Major.** The National Director of Umpires shall select all umpires.
- b. **Junior Olympic GOLD Girls' 18-Under.** The National Director of Umpires shall select all umpires.

- c. **All other Fast Pitch National Championships.** Shall use a minimum of three (3) outside (at-large) umpires to be selected from within the respective region hosting the entries.
- d. **Deficiencies.** Should there be a deficiency in the number of team entries, the tournament director in cooperation with the host commissioner, may contact the regional director who has the authority to reduce the number of assigned at-large umpires to no less than three (3).

04. **Modified Pitch.** The National Director of Umpires shall make the following assignments to the respective national championship finals:

- a. Men's (09) Man Modified: Seven (7) at-large umpires.
- b. Men's (10) Man Modified: Seven (7) at-large umpires.

NOTE: Of the fourteen (14) umpires assigned, six (6) shall be selected by the previous year's National Championship Final Umpires-in-Chief as follows:

- 01. Three (3) from the Men's (09) Man.
- 02. Three (3) from the Men's (10) Man.

05. **Slow Pitch.**

- a. **Mens Class A and Women's Open.** The National Director of Umpires selects all umpires for this championship.
- b. **Men's Class B, Men's Class C, Men's Class D, and Women's Class D.** There shall be three (3) umpires from each region as selected by the Commissioners of their respective regions for the above championships. These forty-five (45) rotational selections shall alternate between the above championships as determined by the National Director of Umpires. Additional umpires may be added as host umpires based on the number of teams.
- c. **In all other divisions of slow pitch, including 16-Inch, Church, Masters, Seniors and Junior Olympic.** A minimum of three (3) outside umpires shall be selected from within the respective region hosting the tournament. The tournament host is responsible for housing and game fees. All outside umpires are to be selected from within the region hosting the tournament. Should there be deficiency in the number of team entries, the tournament chairman, in cooperation with the host commissioner, may contact the regional director who shall have the authority to reduce the number of assigned outside umpires to no less than three.
- d. **USA Men's and Women's National Championship Series.** The Regional Umpire-in-Chief of each region, will submit two names to the National Director of Umpires. These names must have attained the newly adopted ASA / USA "Elite" status in slow pitch. From the thirty (30) names submitted, the National Director of Umpires and the Deputy Director(s) of Umpires will select the final twelve (12) umpires for this championship.

Article 312 ASA HALL OF FAME.

A. **Purpose.** To honor those men and women who have played a major role in the growth and development of softball, one of the great sports of the United States. Also, to bring to the attention of the public, the widespread value of, and interest in, the game of softball by so honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to its' success.

B. **Nomination Requirements.**

01. **Categories.**

a. **Players.**

01. **Selection.** To be selected for the ASA Hall of Fame, a person must have been an active player in ASA whose active playing days have been terminated for a minimum of three (3) years. A person must receive seventy-five percent (75%), nine (9) votes to be selected.

02. **Evaluation.** The length of playing time is to be considered as a factor in the evaluation of candidates. No minimum playing time is required. Fame at the national level shall be used as a gauge for candidacy, and it shall be national fame at a National Championship Final level. Factual and detailed information must be presented to the committee before a candidate can be accepted. Scrapbooks and newspaper clippings are acceptable, also letters from competent references.

03. **Prerequisites.** A player must have been selected to the first team All-American team on two occasions and the second team All-American team at least one time to be considered.

NOTE: If a player has any combination of five all-star teams, they shall be eligible for consideration. National Championship Final averages and statistics plus number of times competing in a National Championship Final shall be used. Any special recognition at a National Championship Final shall be considered, such as leading hitter, defensive leader, stolen base leader, home run leader or Most Valuable Player (MVP).

a. **Number to be Selected.** No more than five each year shall be selected.

NOTE: One additional player may be selected in compliance with above exception.

b. **Fast Pitch.**

01. **Pre 1951.** If a player competed from 1933 through 1950 or when there was no second All American team, they shall be considered on the material available. Since records are not complete prior to this time and there were no second All American teams, all available material shall be considered.

02. **1951 - 1985.** To be considered, a player must have been selected as an All American a minimum of three times (first team twice-second team once).

NOTE: If a player has any combination of five (5) All Star teams, they shall be eligible for consideration. Statistics plus how often the player participated in National Championships shall be considered. Special recognition at a National Championship (e.g. leading hitter, defensive leader, most stolen bases) shall be considered.

03. **Post 1985.** To be considered, a player must have been selected to a minimum of five (5) All American teams or a combination of seven (7) All Star/All American teams.

c. **Slow Pitch.**

01. **Pre 1982.** To be considered, a player must have been selected first team All American twice and second team All American at least once.

02. **Post 1982.** To be considered, a player must have been selected first team All American a minimum of five times and second team All American a minimum of two times. Any combination of nine (9) All Star/All American teams shall also be considered.

- b. **Umpires.** In order to be selected as an umpire, an umpire must meet the following criteria:

01. Umpired for a period of fifteen (15) years.
02. Umpired in five (5) national championships.
03. Must have been retired at least three (3) years from major competition.

- c. **Managers.** In order to be selected as a manager, a manager must meet the following criteria:

01. Managed for a period of fifteen (15) years.
02. Managed in five (5) national championships.
03. Must have been retired at least three (3) years from major championship play.

- d. **Sponsors.** In order to be selected as a sponsor, a sponsor must meet the following criteria:

01. Sponsored a team(s) for ten (10) years.
02. Participated in four (4) National Championship Finals.

- e. **Commissioners.** In order to be selected, a commissioner must have been a commissioner for fifteen (15) years and have served in some of the following areas:

01. Served as Regional Director.

02. Served as Chair or Vice-Chair of a national committee.
03. Hosted National Championship Finals.
04. Any special recognition received and/or other services to humanity.

f. **Meritorious Service.** This person's contributions must have reflected an impact at the national level.

C. **Procedures.** Selections to the ASA Hall of Fame shall be as follows:

01. **Deadline.** Candidates must be submitted on or before September 1 of the current year.
02. **Nomination Forms.** Each Council Member may nominate no more than two (2) candidates each year.
03. **Evaluation of Candidates.** Factual and detailed information must be presented to the committee before a candidate can be accepted. Scrapbook and newspaper clippings are acceptable; also, letters from competent references. A candidate will be considered three times, but the nominee does not need to be considered in consecutive years. If a candidate is not selected in either the first or second year, the nomination will automatically be considered at the next council meeting unless the person who nominated the candidate informs the national office by September 1 not considered the candidate that year.
04. **Selections.** The names of the candidates for selection to the Hall of Fame shall remain confidential and released only to the Hall of Fame committee. Voting shall be conducted by written ballot.
 - a. No more than five (5) players shall be selected each year.
 - b. No more than ten (10) candidates from the following categories; umpires, managers, sponsors, commissioners and meritorious service may be selected each year with no more than three (3) selected in any one category.
05. **Awards.** A specially designed plaque and a framed certificate shall be given to those elected to the Hall of Fame. In addition, each shall receive a Hall of Fame identification card, which shall permit the selectee and spouse to attend all ASA tournaments.
06. **Presentation.** An announcement of the year's selection shall be made at the ASA Council meeting with special stories sent to the home area of the selectees, as directed by the respective local commissioner.
07. **Induction.** Formal induction ceremonies and presentation of awards shall be made during the Annual Council Meeting Banquet.
08. **Removal.** The Hall of Fame committee, by seventy-five percent (75%) vote, may with just cause, recommend removal of an individual elected to the Hall of Fame. Such recommendations, when approved by a sixty-six point seven (66.7%) vote of the council, shall remove said individual from the Hall of Fame.

Article 313 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.

A. **Procedure.** For complaints not covered under **Article 305 (F)**, **Article 505** or **Article 705** of this Code, any member of the ASA may file a complaint with the ASA alleging that the complainant has been or is about to be detrimentally affected by an action of another member of the ASA in violation of ASA rules.

01. Any complaint shall be in writing and signed under oath by the individual or the chief executive officer of the group or organization making the complaint. The complaint shall be filed with the Executive Director by Registered or

Certified Mail and must be received by the Executive Director prior to or within six (6) months after the alleged violation of the ASA rules. Any complaint received which seeks relief for a violation of the ASA rules that occurred more than six (6) months prior to the receipt of the complaint by the Executive Director shall not be considered.

02. The complaint shall:

- a. Set forth the name and address of each party;
- b. Set forth the particular factual allegations that form the basis of the complaint, with each allegation set out in separate, numbered paragraph(s);
- c. Include a specific reference to each provision of the ASA Code or Rules that is alleged to have been violated;
- d. Set forth the efforts made to exhaust available remedies at the local or regional level or set forth a specific allegation that exhaustion would result in unreasonable delay causing irreparable harm to the complainant;
- e. Provide any and all evidence in support of the claimant's allegations;
- f. Set forth the specific relief requested; and
- g. Request a hearing if one is desired.

NOTE: If the complaint does not contain the above information, the Executive Director may dismiss the complaint without prejudice to its re-filing. If, upon review of the complaint, the Executive Director determines the complainant failed to exhaust all available remedies at the local or regional level, unless it is determined that exhausting all such remedies would result in unreasonable delay causing irreparable harm to the complainant, the Executive Director may dismiss the complaint without prejudice to its refiling.

03. Whenever a complaint is filed with the ASA, the Executive Director shall provide the party against whom the complaint is made with a copy of the complaint.

04. The party charged may respond in opposition to the complaint. The response must be made, in writing, within twenty (20) days after receipt of a copy of the complaint, or such shorter period of time as the Executive Director shall set by written notice, but such time to respond shall in no event be less than five (5) business days after receipt of a copy of the complaint. The respondent shall provide a copy of its response to the complainant at the same time the response is provided to the Executive Director.

05. The response shall:
 - a. Respond to each factual allegation contained in the complaint, with the response to each allegation set out in separately numbered paragraphs which correspond to the paragraphs contained in the complaint;
 - b. Provide any and all evidence in support of the respondent's position.
06. The complainant may file a reply to the response within five (5) business days of receipt of the response.
07. If either party requests a hearing, the process will be as follows:
 - a. A date, time and place for the hearing which is not unduly burdensome for the complainant or the respondent will be selected by the Executive Director and will in no event be later than forty-five (45) days after the filing of the complaint. The hearing will be held before the Executive Director.
 - b. Each party has the right to be represented at the hearing by an attorney, with each party to bear its own expense for counsel. Each party has the right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and arguments in support of its position.
 - c. If requested and paid for by the party, a record of the hearing may be made by a court reporter. Each party shall have the right to obtain a transcript of the hearing, if any, at its own expense.
 - d. The complainant has the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the respondent has violated a specific provision of the ASA Code or Rules and that such violation has caused or is likely to cause the complainant harm.
 - e. Within thirty (30) days after the hearing, the Executive Director shall render a written report of the decision. A copy of this report will be provided to each party.
08. If neither party requests a hearing, the Executive Director shall review the complaint and any response or reply and shall issue a written report of the decision, a copy of which will be provided to each party.
09. Complaints involving the ASA President and/or the ASA Executive Director:
 - a. For any complaint involving the President as a party, whether as the accuser or accused, the duties of the President as described in this section shall revert to the immediate past president.
 - b. For any complaint involving the Executive Director as a party, whether as the accuser or accused, the duties of the Executive Director as described in this section shall revert to the president.
 - c. In the event of a complaint involving the President, the Executive Director or the immediate past president, the duties, as described in this section, shall be filled by a representative elected by the Board of Directors.
- B. **Appeal.** Any party adversely affected by the decision of the Executive Director regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the ASA Board of Directors.
 01. The appeal shall be in writing and signed by the party making the appeal. The appeal shall be filed with the Executive Director by Registered or Certified Mail and must be received by the Executive Director within ten (10) business days of the date of the written report of decision issued by the

Executive Director. The appellant shall provide a copy of the appeal to the adverse party. If no appeal is received within ten (10) business days of the date of the written report of the decision of the Executive Director, such decision shall be final and binding upon all parties.

02. The appeal shall:
 - a. Set forth the name and address of each party;
 - b. Set forth the specific grounds upon which the appeal is based;
 - c. Set forth the specific relief requested.
03. Any party opposing the appeal shall file a response in writing with the Executive Director within five (5) business days of receipt of the appeal. The party opposing the appeal shall provide a copy of its response to the appellant at the same time it is provided to the Executive Director.
04. Upon receipt of the response from the party opposing the appeal, or upon expiration of the time for such response to be filed, the Executive Director shall provide all written materials relevant to the appeal to the members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consider the appeal at their next meeting. If a meeting of the Board of Directors is not scheduled to occur within forty-five (45) days after the Executive Director's receipt of the appeal, the ASA President shall call a special meeting of the Board of Directors to consider the appeal within such forty-five (45) day period which may be conducted in person or by telephonic conference, at which time the Board of Directors shall review the appeal and decide what action is warranted, if any. The complainant and the respondent shall each have the right, at their respective sole expense, to attend that portion of the Board of Directors meeting in which the recommendation of the special committee is reviewed by the Board of Directors and shall be allowed the opportunity to address the Board of Directors at that time. Any vote on the disposition of the appeal shall be made in open session. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final and binding on all the parties.

C. **Accelerated Review Procedure.** When a complaint pursuant to this article, **Article 313** of this Code, involves the right of an athlete or coach to participate in an upcoming competition, the complainant may file a request for accelerated review of the complaint.

01. This request shall be attached to the complaint and shall:
 - a. Specifically request that the complaint be filed under the accelerated review procedures set forth in this section;
 - b. Set forth the specific factual allegations which complainant alleges support the request for accelerated review by showing that the complainant will suffer irreparable harm if forced to file its complaint under the regular procedures outlined in **Article 313 (A)** of this Code.
 - c. Provide any and all evidence in support of its request for accelerated review.
02. The Executive Director will then review the request for accelerated review and decide if the complainant has shown by a preponderance of the evidence that the complainant will suffer irreparable harm if the complaint is reviewed under the regular complaint procedures. The factors to be considered by the Executive director include, but are not limited to, any delay in filing the complaint with the Executive Director, support of the complaint by

any ASA local affiliated organization, and the severity of the potential loss to the complainant balanced against the interference with the conduct of the competitors. If the Executive Director determines the complainant will suffer irreparable harm if the complaint is not reviewed under an accelerated procedure, the Executive Director shall provide the party against whom the complaint is brought with a copy of the complaint as soon as reasonably possible.

03. The party against whom the complaint is brought shall have an opportunity to respond, in writing, to the charges set out in the complaint in accordance with a time schedule set by the Executive Director. Upon receipt of the response by the party charged in the complaint or upon the expiration of the time within which the response must be filed, the Executive Director will present all the written materials regarding the complaint to the president.
04. The president will appoint a panel of one (1) or more members of the Board of Directors and shall include a sufficient number of Athlete Representatives, who are directly elected to the panel by the Athlete Representatives then serving on the Board of Directors, so as to comprise not less than twenty percent (20%) of the panel. The panel shall evaluate all written materials relevant to the complaint and shall make a written report of its decision within the time period set by the Executive Director. A copy of the decision will be provided to each of the parties. Such decision is made on behalf of the Board of Directors and shall not require further approval by the Board of Directors. The decision shall be final and binding on all the parties.

- D. **Waiver of Protest Rights.** Failure of an aggrieved party to act upon knowledge of a violation of the ASA Code or Rules affecting the eligibility of an athlete or team to participate in an ASA tournament prior to such competition shall act as a waiver of any right thereafter to protest such participation.
- E. **Binding Arbitration.** The ASA shall submit to binding arbitration to the extent required by the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act or the Bylaws of the United States Olympic Committee, as amended from time to time.
- F. **Remedies.** If any complaint filed hereunder is decided in favor of the complainant, the Executive Director or the Board of Directors, as the case may be, may enjoin the respondent from further or future violations of the ASA rules or may prevent the respondent from participating in any ASA events for such period as the Executive Director or the Board of Directors, as the case may be, deems appropriate in their sole discretion. Nothing in this Code shall entitle a complainant to receive monetary relief.

PART 4
BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Article 401 COUNCIL MEETINGS.

A. **Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting shall begin no earlier than October 15 and conclude no later than November 20.

01. **Site.** The site of the meeting shall be determined by a majority vote of the Council members at the annual meeting.

02. **Alternate Site.** A mail or telegraphic vote shall be taken of the Council members in order to select a new site whenever the predetermined location of the annual meeting has been withdrawn.

03. **Notice.** Notice of an annual meeting shall be sent to all Council members by the Executive Director at least 30 days before the meeting.

04. **Voting.** On all matters coming before the annual meeting, each Council member shall be entitled to one vote.

05. **Quorum.** A quorum shall consist of the president or one or more regional director(s) and at least fifty percent (50 %) plus one of the Council members.

06. **Proxy.** Authorization for representation of a Council member by proxy may be obtained by submitting a request for same in writing to the Executive Director at least one week prior to the date for the annual meeting.

NOTE: A proxy request for either a commissioner emeritus, council member emeritus or a Past President shall not be granted.

a. **Active Membership.** In order for a proxy to be approved, they must have been an active member of said local association (deputy, district commissioner, board member or officer) requesting a proxy and be listed on the commissioner's annual report on file in the National Office no later than September 1.

b. **Voting Privileges.** 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.

c. **Financial Benefits.** A proxy shall receive the financial benefits extended to a Council member.

d. **Duration of Authority.** A proxy for a regional player representative, regional Junior Olympic commissioner or a regional UIC may be approved by the Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the regional director, provided the proxy is a representative of a local association within their region and is so listed on file with the Executive Director no later than September 1.

Such proxy must also conform to all the other requirements for a Council member's proxy. A proxy must serve for the entire Council meeting. Single day or partial day proxies will not be approved.

07. **Travel.** Each year the Board of Directors shall determine whether the ASA will be responsible, in whole or in part, for expense of transporting members of the Board of Directors, Local Commissioners, Regional Player Representatives, At-Large Player Representatives, Regional Junior Olympic Commissioners, Regional Umpires-in-Chief, Past Presidents who are no

longer an active commissioner and Commissioner Emeritus to and from the annual Council Meeting to be held the following year. On or before January 15 of each year, the Executive Director shall send written notice to each person identified in this paragraph **A (07)** informing them of whether the ASA will be responsible in whole or in part for such expenses. If such expenses will be paid in whole or in part by the ASA, all airline reservations must be made through the ASA Travel Service at least forty-five (45) days before the beginning of the annual Council Meeting. If air travel is not elected, then mileage shall be reimbursed at the rate then allowed as depreciation under the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations; provided, however, in no event shall such reimbursement exceed the cost of the lowest airfare which could have been obtained for such Council Member had air travel been elected.

08. **Other Expenses.** Each year, before the close of the annual Council Meeting for that year, the Board of Directors shall determine whether and to what extent other expenses incurred by members of the Board of Directors, Local Commissioners, Regional Player Representatives, At-Large Player Representatives, Regional Junior Olympic Commissioners, Regional Umpires-in-Chief, Past Presidents who are no longer an active commissioner and each Commissioner Emeritus who has served as an active commissioner for twenty-five (25) or more years, including but not limited to lodging expenses (room and tax only) incurred at the host hotel or approved hotel for such annual Council Meeting, shall be reimbursed by the ASA, provided that such persons attended all sessions and assigned committee meetings as verified by roll call. If reimbursement of any such expenses is approved by the Board of Directors, eligible Council Members shall file a claim for reimbursement with the ASA no later than sixty (60) days after the close of such annual Council Meeting on a form approved and in accordance with procedures established by the ASA.
09. **Registration Fee.** Each year the Board of Directors shall determine an amount to be collected from each Council Member as a registration fee for the annual meeting to be held the following year. On or before January 15 of each year, the Executive Director shall send written notice to each Council Member informing them of the registration fee to be charged for the Council Meeting to be held that year. The registration fee shall be set in an amount necessary to cover all costs associated with the annual meeting or such lesser amount as the Board of Directors may determine in its sole discretion. The Board of Directors shall have the authority, but not the obligation, in its sole discretion to waive the registration fee of any Council Member. The Board of Directors shall have the authority, but not the obligation, in its sole discretion to charge Council Members who are not eligible for reimbursement of travel costs or other expenses pursuant to **Article 401(A)(07)** and **Article 401(A)(08)** above a registration fee which is less than the amount charged to Council Members who are eligible for reimbursement of travel costs or other expenses pursuant to **Article 401(A)(07)** and **Article 401(A)(08)** above.
- B. **Special Meetings.** The president may call a special meeting of the Council when business requires or when directed to so upon written petition sent to the president by sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) of the members of the respective bodies.

Article 402 COMMITTEES. Standing committees shall be established and organized as follows:

- A. **Boy's and Men's Fast Pitch.** This committee shall promote the game of boy's and men's fast pitch and set tournament dates and select tournament sites.
- B. **Commissioner Emeritus.** This committee shall review proposed amendments to the ASA Code and send representatives to the various committee meetings to express the interest of the Commissioner Emeritus in regard to proposed legislation.
- C. **Compliance and Ethics.** This committee shall consist of at least one member from each ASA territory and shall review commissioners and Council members' actions that involve conduct detrimental to the purposes and objectives of ASA including but not limited to:
 01. A conflict of interest.
 02. Unethical behavior.
 03. Non-performance of duties as set forth in this Code.

This Committee shall have the authority to conduct hearings and impose discipline including reprimand, probation or removal. Persons disciplined by the Ethics Committee shall have the right of appeal to the Board of Directors whose decision will be final.
- D. **Equipment Testing and Certification.** This committee shall make recommendations to the Council as to establishing standards for equipment and shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors for enforcement of the standards.
- E. **Hall of Fame.** This committee shall provide and publicize the ASA Hall of Fame. Its duties shall include but not be limited to the following:
 01. Review the requirements for our ASA Hall of Fame and publicize so they shall be continually before our commissioners.
 02. Request nominations from commissioners for Hall of Fame consideration.
 03. Call attention each spring through Balls and Strikes to members of our Hall of Fame Committee that any future nominations to be considered for the election at the annual Council meeting must be prepared early, with the required information and materials thoroughly enumerated.
 04. Committee members. The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of 12 Council members appointed by the president for a term of four years. Members of this committee may be removed by the President for just cause. The President may appoint proxies for members unable to attend the current year's meeting.
- F. **Junior Olympic Softball.** This committee shall promote interest, participation and registration of individuals, teams and leagues in the ASA Junior Olympic Softball Program. Its duties shall include but not be limited to:
 01. Assist in preparing and circulating ASA Junior Olympic Softball Program folders to promote the program.
 02. Assist the ASA National Office in any manner possible that shall promote the Junior Olympic Softball Program.

- G. **Legislative.** This committee shall attend to all legislative matters pertaining to the total operation of the ASA as prescribed by this Code. Its duties shall include but not be limited to the following:
01. Respond to all requests from Council members for assistance in preparation of amendments to the Code.
 02. Initiate and receive for consideration and present in proper form for action all proposed amendments to the Code.
 03. Encourage all Council members to consult and correspond with this committee relative to any problems of interpretation of the Code. This shall enable the committee, by study and research, to clarify many points now in practice that have been improved in our past operations.
- H. **Long Range Planning.** This committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors for future directions and goals of the ASA.
- I. **Membership.** This committee shall consist of at least two members from each ASA territory and shall provide a program for increasing membership of all types in the ASA. Its duties shall include but not be limited to the following:
01. 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.
 02. 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 teams in the ASA early in the season.
 03. Encourage commissioners to report team and umpire memberships on the correct forms promptly to the National Office with the remittance of fees.
 04. Review commissioners whose membership production is unsatisfactory and conduct hearings and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for possible discipline including reprimand, probation or removal.
- J. **National Championship Finals Tournament Awards Committee.** This committee shall consist of at least twenty (20) members, at least one from each region and not less than five from each territory. This committee shall accept bids and award tournaments in the categories listed in **Article 518**.
- K. **Player Representatives.** This committee shall review proposed amendments to the ASA Code and send representatives to the various committee meetings to express the interest of the player representatives in regard to proposed legislation.
- L. **Playing Rules.** This committee shall be organized as follows:
01. **Purpose.** This committee shall review, study and formulate the Official Playing Rules governing the game of softball including but not limited to:
 - a. Slow Pitch
 - b. Fast Pitch.
 - c. Modified Pitch.
 02. **Make-Up.** The committee shall be subdivided into three units to study and make recommendations for the playing rules of: slow pitch, fast pitch, and modified pitch. Each subcommittee's duties shall include but not be limited to:

- a. Seeking from players, umpires, commissioners and others suggestions for improvements in the playing rules.
 - b. Making recommendations to the Council on all proposed rule changes.
03. **Members.** The Playing Rules Committee shall consist of the following and any other member appointed by the President:
- a. The chairman and vice-chairman of the Fast Pitch, Slow Pitch and Modified Pitch Committees and the chairman of the Equipment Testing and Certification Committee shall be members of the Playing Rules Committee.
 - b. The director of umpires shall be a member of the committee and shall serve as the secretary.
 - c. The Executive Director and the president shall be ex-officio members of the committee.
 - d. The president shall appoint at least one player representative to the committee.
 - e. The president shall accept recommendations from all allied members for committee member representation.
 - f. The president shall appoint a chairman for the committee and may appoint additional committee members as deemed necessary.
- M. **Special Programs.** This Committee shall make recommendations to the council as to programs or events for the special needs population. It will review any request for special programming submitted by a council member.
- N. **Tournament Programs.** This committee shall include a minimum of one member from each region. **Its duties shall include but not be limited to:**
- 01. **Reviewing standards and procedures for conducting National Championships.**
 - 02. **Reviewing and updating all National Championship evaluation forms.**
 - 03. **Recommending potential legislation in the area of National Championships.**
 - 04. **Meeting with all bidding cities at the National Council Meeting to review the rules and time limits on their bid presentation, the order in which the tournaments will be bid, and the order that the cities will present their bids to the council.**
- O. **Umpires.** This committee shall promote the general welfare of the umpires in the Amateur Softball Association. Its duties shall include but not be limited to:
- 01. Initiate an intensive program of enrolling new umpires and increasing membership.
 - 02. Encourage use of ASA-registered umpires in all softball competition.
 - 03. Encourage every ASA affiliate to conduct spring rules clinics for umpires, managers and players.
 - 04. Review umpire uniform periodically and make recommendations to Council for possible changes.

- P. **Ad Hoc Committees.** Those committees created by the President for special purposes. These committees shall be effective January 1 of the year through December 31, and must be re-appointed by the president.

Article 403 Amendments to the ASA Code and Playing Rule Changes.

- A. **Amendments to the ASA Code.** Amendments to the ASA Code shall be governed as follows:

01. **Regular Procedure.** Except as provided in **Article 403 (A)(02)** below, any proposed amendment to the ASA Code shall be proposed and acted upon only in accordance with the regular procedure outlined herein.
 - a. Amendments to the ASA Code proposed under **Article 403 (A)(01)** may be approved only at duly called Council Meetings upon a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote of those in attendance and entitled to vote at such meeting.
 - b. A proposed amendment to the Code submitted by a member of the Council or Executive Director must be in writing, signed by the member submitting the proposal and received by the Executive Director at least forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the Annual Meeting, however, the Chair of the Legislative Committee may submit proposed amendments to the ASA Code at any time before the Executive Director mails written notice of all properly submitted proposed amendments as required in **Article 403 (A)(01)(c)** below.
 - c. At least fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the Annual Meeting, the Executive Director shall mail to each member of the Council written notice of all properly submitted proposed amendments.
 - d. Prior to the vote of the Council, the Legislative Committee shall review each proposed amendment to the ASA Code and shall issue a report that details the recommendation of the Legislative Committee as to whether each proposed amendment should be accepted or rejected by the Council. The report shall recommend that each proposed amendment be rejected unless sixty percent (60%) of the Legislative Committee voted to recommend acceptance of such proposed amendment.
 - e. Revisions to proposed amendments to the ASA Code may be made at any time prior to the vote of the Council if the author(s) of such proposed amendment consents to such revision and either: (1) sixty percent (60%) of the members of the Legislative Committee vote to accept such revision during a meeting of such committee; or (2) seventy-five percent (75%) of the Council Members vote to accept such revision. Before a properly revised amendment may be voted upon by the Council, the proposed amendment, as revised, shall be read to the Council in open session.
 - f. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of those in attendance and entitled to vote at an annual Council Meeting, the Council may consider any amendment to the ASA Code which was not proposed in the manner specified by this **Article 403 (A)(01)** of this Code.
 - g. Unless otherwise specified in the amendment, any amendment approved by the Council shall be effective on January 1st of the following year.

- h. When the Council votes to approve a report of any committee other than the Legislative Committee, the Council is voting only to approve that report and is not voting to make any changes to the ASA Code.
 - i. Amendments to the Code which affect expenditures of funds allocated to the ASA by the USOC or which affect the selection of international, Olympic, and Pan American Team members, such as any team governed by **Article 701**, of this Code (including athletes, coaches, administrators and sports staff) shall be subject to ratification by the Board of Directors before taking effect.
02. **Emergency Procedure.** Between annual meetings of the Council, any Council member or Executive Director may submit a proposed amendment to the ASA Code to the Chair of the Legislative Committee and ask that an emergency be declared and the proposed amendment submitted for a vote of the Council in the manner outlined in this **Article 403 (A)(02)** of this Code. If the Chair of the Legislative Committee believes that the proposed amendment is of sufficient importance that it should be acted upon by the Council prior to their next scheduled meeting, the Chair shall forward the proposed amendment to the President. If the President agrees with the Chair of the Legislative Committee that the proposed amendment is of sufficient importance that it should be acted upon by the Council prior to their next scheduled meeting, then an emergency shall be declared and the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the members of the Council for a vote in the manner outlined in **Article 403 (A)(02)** of this Code. The proposed amendment shall be mailed **and or electronically mailed** to each member of the Council. There will be a waiting period of fifteen (15) days from the date the proposed amendment was mailed **and or electronically mailed** for any council member that wishes to write a rebuttal to the proposed amendment. After the waiting period the national office will send a copy of the ballot and a copy of the rebuttal to the proposed amendment to all council members asking each council member to accept or reject the proposed amendment. The deadline for returning ballots shall be not less than ten (10) nor more than thirty (30) days after the rebuttals and ballots were mailed **and or electronically mailed**. Each ballot must be signed **and or electronically signed** by a Council member and received by the ASA prior to the deadline in order to be counted. If valid ballots are received from less than or exactly fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Council by the deadline, then the proposed amendment shall be deemed rejected. If valid ballots are received from more than fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Council by the deadline, then the proposed amendment shall be deemed rejected unless sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) of the ballots received vote to accept the proposed amendment.
- B. **Playing Rule Changes.** Amendments to the ASA Rule Book shall be governed as follows:
- 01. **Regular Procedure.** Except as provided in **Article 403 (B)(02)** below, any proposed amendment to the ASA Playing Rules shall be proposed and acted upon only in accordance with the regular procedure outlined herein.

- a. Amendments to the ASA Playing Rules proposed under **Article 403 (B)(01)** of this Code may be approved only at duly called Council Meetings upon a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote of those in attendance and entitled to vote at such meeting.
 - b. A proposed amendment to the Playing Rules submitted by a member of the Council or Executive Director must be in writing, signed by the member submitting the proposal and received by the Executive Director at least forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the Annual Meeting, however, the Chair of the Playing Rules Committee and the Chair of the Equipment Testing and Certification Committee may each submit proposed amendments to the ASA Playing Rules at any time before the Executive Director mails written notice of all properly submitted proposed amendments as required in **Article 403 (B) (01)(c)** of this Code.
 - c. At least fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the Annual Meeting, the Executive Director shall mail to each member of the Council written notice of all properly submitted proposed amendments.
 - d. Prior to the vote of the Council, the Playing Rules Committee shall review each proposed amendment to the ASA Playing Rules and shall issue a report which details the recommendation of the Playing Rules Committee as to whether each proposed amendment should be accepted or rejected by the Council. The report shall recommend that each proposed amendment be rejected unless sixty percent (60%) of the Playing Rules Committee voted to recommend acceptance of such proposed amendment.
 - e. Revisions to proposed amendments to the ASA Playing Rules may be made at any time prior to a vote of the Council if the author(s) of such proposed amendment consents to such revision and either: (1) sixty percent (60%) of the members of the Playing Rules Committee vote to accept such revision during a meeting of such committee; or (2) seventy-five percent (75%) of the council Members vote to accept such revision. Before a properly revised amendment may be voted upon by the Council, the proposed amendment, as revised, shall be read to the Council in open session.
 - f. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of those in attendance and entitled to vote at an annual Council meeting, the Council may consider any amendment to the ASA Playing Rules which was not proposed in the manner specified by **Article 403 (B)(01)** of this Code.
 - g. Unless otherwise specified in the amendment, any amendment approved by the Council shall be effective January 1st of the following year.
 - h. When the Council votes to approve a report of any committee other than the Playing Rules Committee, the Council is voting only to approve that report and is not voting to make any changes to the ASA Playing Rules.
02. **Emergency Procedure.** Between annual meetings of the Council, any Council member or Executive Director may submit a proposed amendment to ASA Playing Rules to the Chair of the Playing Rules Committee and ask that an emergency be declared and the proposed amendment submitted for a vote of the Council in the manner outlined in this **Article 403 (B)(02)**. If the Chair of the Playing Rules Committee believes that the proposed amendment is of sufficient importance that it should be acted upon by the

Council prior to their next scheduled meeting, the Chair shall forward the proposed amendment to the President. If the President agrees with the Chair of the Playing Rules Committee that the proposed amendment is of sufficient importance that it should be acted upon by the Council prior to their next scheduled meeting, then an emergency shall be declared and the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the members of the Council for a vote in the manner outlined in this **Article 403 (B)(02)**. The proposed amendment shall be mailed **and or electronically mailed** to each member of the Council. There will be a waiting period of fifteen (15) days from the date the proposed amendment was mailed **and or electronically mailed** for any council member that wishes to write a rebuttal to the proposed amendment. After the waiting period the national office will send a copy of the ballot and a copy of the rebuttal to the proposed amendment to all council members asking each council member to accept or reject the proposed amendment. The deadline for returning ballots shall be not less than ten (10) nor more than thirty (30) days after the rebuttals and ballots were mailed **and or electronically mailed**. Each ballot must be signed **and or electronically signed** by a Council member and received by the ASA prior to the deadline in order to be counted. If valid ballots are received from less than or exactly fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Council by the deadline, then the proposed amendment shall be deemed rejected. If valid ballots are received from more than fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Council by the deadline, then the proposed amendment shall be deemed rejected unless sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) of the ballots received vote to accept the proposed amendment.

Article 404 TRADEMARKS. All trademarks, service marks and logos referring to or relating in any way to the ASA, and the trade name of the ASA, are the exclusive property of the ASA and may not be used without the express written authority of the ASA.

Article 405 ASSIGNMENT OF COPYRIGHT.

- A. The Official Rules of Softball, having been assigned to ASA on May 31, 1980, from the International Joint Rules Committee on Softball (**IJRCS**), are those rules as published by the ASA in their annual guide and are incorporated herein by reference.
- B. The copyright number 270057, registered with the Copyright Office of the United States of America, specifies the rights, titles and interests of the Official Playing Rules that were adopted by the ASA Council by mail ballot on October 10, 1980, to become effective January 1, 1981.

PART 5
ELIGIBILITY, COMPETITION AND TOURNAMENTS

Article 501 ELIGIBILITY.

- A. Eligibility Compliance Required By Each Player, Manager and Team.**
- 01. It is the duty of each player, player's parent (if applicable), manager, coach and team to review ASA's eligibility requirements and comply with ASA's eligibility requirements. Each team manager/coach is responsible for complying with the eligibility requirements and other requirements set forth in the ASA Code as to his/her team. This specifically includes, without limitation, eligibility requirements pertaining to proper classification, proper divisions, eligible pick up player requirements, eligible age requirements and all other eligibility requirements.**
 - 02. As to eligibility matters, any assurances or statements from ASA members, ASA commissioners or ASA officials other than ASA's Executive Director are not binding and shall not be binding upon ASA and shall not constitute a valid excuse for a team's, manager's or player's failure to comply with any eligibility requirement. ASA disclaims any and all liability for any player, team, manager or coach's reliance's upon assurances of persons other than ASA's Executive Director. ASA disclaims any and all liability for any player, team, manager or coach's failure to comply with all eligibility requirements.**
 - 03. Teams, players, coaches and managers that are ineligible under the ASA Code and that incur travel and other expenses in connection with an ASA tournament *do so at their own risk and peril*. Teams, players, coaches and managers that are ineligible under the ASA Code are subject to disqualification or forfeiture at any time, as otherwise provided for in the ASA Code (i.e. upon the timely protest of any other team or official).**
 - 04. Any ASA official's signature (i.e. Commissioner's signature) on a roster form or any other document 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. Any solicitation or invitation for a team to participate in an ASA tournament by a Tournament Director or other ASA Official shall not be considered a determination of that team's eligibility. Eligibility of players or teams shall be exclusively governed as provided in the Code.**

B. **International Eligibility Standards.** The ASA shall not adopt an eligibility standard that is more restrictive than that of the applicable international sports federation, the International Softball Federation.

C. **Team Eligibility.**

01. **Team Registration.** A team must register with the local association in which the greatest number of its' players reside, and this number must be retained for the remainder of the season.

EXCEPTION: Teams in an adjoining county to a state or metro association may register with either the state or the metro association by mutual consent of the State/Metro Commissioner's involved.

02. **Team Participation.** A team may register and participate in more than one division of play, but that team is limited to only one classification within a division of Championship play.

EXCEPTIONS:

a. **All Divisions of Play. In National Championship Finals, teams can play in a higher classification than their current classification. Participation in a higher classification could affect the team in their next ASA playing season.**

b. **Armed Services Teams.** The Women's Armed Services team must play in Women's Class Open Slow Pitch and the Men's Armed Services team must play in the Men's Class A Slow Pitch.

c. **Fast Pitch.**

01. In all adult Fast Pitch, no USA National Team Member may participate below the Class A level.

02. All Men's Fast Pitch players and or teams are eligible to participate in the Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship and retain their eligibility for their original classification in championship play.

03. Men's Major Fast Pitch players will be classified by a restricted fast pitch players list. The restricted fast pitch players list will be available on the ASA website and this list will be updated, modified and/or revised on a regular and continuous basis, but will be finalized by July 1 each year for the current year's National Championship Finals. The players on this list are ineligible to participate in the Men's Class A, B and C Fast Pitch classification. Any appeals regarding this list can be made through the ASA National Office to the fast pitch sub-committee.

d. **Modified Pitch.** Men's 9-Man Major Modified Pitch teams will be determined by a restricted pitchers/players list. The restricted modified pitch pitchers/players list will be available on the ASA website and this list will be updated, modified and/or revised on a regular and continuous basis but will be finalized by August 1 each year for the current year's National Championship Finals. Pitchers/players listed on this list are ineligible to participate in the 9-Man Class A and 10-Man

Modified championship play tournaments. Any appeals regarding this list can be made through the ASA National Office to the modified pitch sub-committee.

e. **Slow Pitch.**

01. All Men's Slow Pitch players and or teams are eligible to participate in the Men's Class A National Championship and retain their eligibility for their original classification in championship play.
02. A restricted slow pitch player list will be compiled by an ASA committee representing slow pitch. The restricted slow pitch players list will be available on the ASA website and this list will be updated, modified and/or revised on a regular and continuous basis but will be finalized by August 1 each year for the current year's National Championship Finals. Players on the ASA restricted slow pitch player's list may only play Class A. Any team that participates may not have more than two (2) players from the ASA restricted slow pitch player list. Any appeals regarding this list can be made through the ASA National Office to the slow pitch sub-committee.
03. All Women's Slow Pitch players and or teams are eligible to participate in the Women's Class Open National Championship and retain their eligibility for their original classification in championship play.
04. All Slow Pitch players and teams need to review ASA Code **Article 507 G 01** for classification restrictions prior to completing team roster.

03. **Junior Olympic**

- a. **Any Junior Olympic team participating in championship play must have at least one ACE certified coach (current year) on the field/dugout during championship play games.**
- b. **All Junior Olympic team personnel assisting in the dugout must have an ASA background check (current year).**

D. **Player Eligibility.**

01. **Player Participation.** A player may participate in any one local association during the current year.

EXCEPTIONS:

- a. In 9-Man Class A Modified and 10-Man Modified Pitch, teams shall be made up of players from their respective region. No rostered player can play in championship play if they come from outside their respective region.
- b. In the 50, 55, 60 and 65 seniors divisions of slow pitch teams shall be made up of players from the team's home state plus adjoining states. The home state is defined as the state where the most players on the roster reside.

02. **Rostered Player.**

- a. A player may participate as a regular rostered player on only one team within a division in championship play during a season.

EXCEPTIONS:

01. **Armed Forces.** Members of the Armed Forces team are exempt from this rule if competing with their individual service (branch) team or the Armed Forces team.
 02. **Men's Major Fast Pitch.**
 03. **Men's Class A Slow Pitch.**
 04. **Women's Class Open Slow Pitch.**
- b. On adult or Junior Olympic rosters, a player may participate in more than one adult or Junior Olympic division of play, but that player is limited to only one classification within a division of play.
- c. **Adult Player Classification.** Individual adult players may not play more than one (1) classification below the classification level of their most recent team.
- d. **Junior Olympic Classification. Once a player participates in an intercollegiate softball program for a university, college, or junior/community college, she is ineligible to play in the Junior Olympic Gold or Class B program.**
03. **Electing to Participate.** Once electing to participate in championship play on a team registered in a local association, the player may not play in the same division in any other local association during the current year.

EXCEPTION: In the Seniors Divisions, a player may play in the same division in another local association, but not in the same classification.

04. **Player Identification.**

a. **Providing Proper Identification.**

01. Upon demand by league or tournament officials including National championship finals, 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 suspension. For the purpose of this section, driver's licenses or comparable identification is acceptable.
02. In all Championship Play events, every player must sign in prior to playing. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the tournament, unless the player has not played, in this case they will be allowed to sign in. A player must provide proper identification (which shall include a current photograph of the player and the player's signature) to the tournament director prior to participating in the competition. The Tournament Director shall follow the sign in procedures developed and provided by the National Office. The tournament director shall compare the identification with the name and signature appearing on the team's championship roster.

- b. **Local Association Photo / Identification Card.** If a photo ID card for a player is issued by the local ASA Commissioner and/or their designated Deputy, it will satisfy the required proof of age during ASA championship play. The card will include the date of birth and signature of the player and any other information required by the current ASA Code. The card will also include the signature (or facsimile) of the local ASA Commissioner and/or their designated Deputy to certify the date of birth and that proof of age is on file with the local ASA office. Other information on the card may include the player's ASA registration number and information on the ASA insurance coverage. A photo ID card with the above requirements and issued by the local ASA will satisfy the requirements of paragraph a, b and c.
 - c. **Junior Olympic Birth Verification.** 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 photo ID card issued by a local ASA Commissioner and/or their designated deputy or a valid passport. In the case of a Junior Olympic player whose name has changed from that which appears on their birth certificate, baptismal certificate, hospital certificate, driver's license or passport by reason of adoption or a 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.
05. **Proof of Age.** A player must provide proof of age in Junior Olympic, adult 23-Under, masters and seniors divisions.
- a. **Junior Olympic Age Qualifications.** A player's age as of December 31 determines the age in which the player is eligible to play the following year.
 - 01. **10-Under Age Classification.** A player born after December 31, **1998** is ELIGIBLE.
 - 02. **12-Under Age Classification.** A player born after December 31, **1996** is ELIGIBLE.
 - 03. **14-Under Age Classification.** A player born after December 31, **1994** is ELIGIBLE.
 - 04. **16-Under Age Classification.** A player born after December 31, **1992** is ELIGIBLE.
 - 05. **18-Under Age Classification.** A player born after December 31, **1990** is ELIGIBLE (Includes Junior Olympic GOLD).
 - 06. Players of younger age classification may play in older age classifications, but an older age classification player may not play in the younger age classification.

For the 2010 Junior Olympic Playing Season, use the chart below to determine Junior Olympic Age Qualifications. ' **E** ' indicates the player is eligible for the respective age group(s).

AGE GROUP		18	16	14	12	10
YEAR OF BIRTH	1991	E				
	1992	E				
	1993	E	E			
	1994	E	E			
	1995	E	E	E		
	1996	E	E	E		
	1997	E	E	E	E	
	1998	E	E	E	E	
	1999	E	E	E	E	E
	2000 - 2010	E	E	E	E	E

- b. **23-Under Age Qualifications.** A player who is 23 years of age or under on December 31, is eligible for the 23-Under age classification during the following year.
 - c. **Masters and Seniors Age Qualifications.** Cutoff date is December 31. A player whose birthday (35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75) is on or before December 31 of the current year is eligible.
06. **Industrial Qualifications.** The ASA shall conduct championship tournaments for industrial or all-employee teams.
- a. **Eligible Teams.** All players must be full-time employees of one company or of one city or county government or of one military installation, **or of one fraternal organization (same Lodge)** and must have competed together during the current season of play. Military Teams: Base/Post level teams (active duty military only) may participate in this division of play. U.S. Armed Forces All Star Teams may not enter National Championship Finals unless they have played through local association or regional play leading to the nationals.
 - b. **Full Time Employee Qualifications.** To qualify as a full time / contract employee, a player must work the minimum number of hours per week normally worked in the industry by a full-time employee.
 - c. **Layoffs.** A player who has established seniority on the job and is temporarily laid off may continue to play in the industrial division.
 - d. **Length of Service.** A player must have been continuously employed by the company on a full-time basis from April 15 of the current year to be eligible for industrial competition.

- e. **Name of Team.** Industrial teams may use only the name of the company they represent in the brackets on rosters, and any other communication efforts such as radio, TV and newspaper during industrial competition. This provision would not preclude a team from having additional sponsors or from wearing a uniform displaying another sponsor's name.
- f. **Retirees.** A company's employee who has completed the required number of years of service with the company and then elects to retire under the company's regular retirement plan would maintain eligibility to participate in the industrial division for said company.

07. **Church Qualifications.** All players must be church members by March 1.

- E. **Protest of Eligibility.** Protest of player eligibility can be made or appealed at any time. Eligibility protests cannot be waived by local notice.

Article 502 ROSTERS. A team's roster becomes official when a commissioner or designee signs it for championship play. Each team is permitted pick up players according to Article 503 of this code.

- A. **Rosters.** Male rosters shall include only male players and female rosters shall include only female players.
- B. **Number of Players.** A championship roster can only have a maximum of 20 players, including pickup players. A manager or coach shall not count as a player unless listed as one. Player(s) names cannot be removed or replaced once the player on the roster has participated in championship play.
- C. **Roster Change Deadline.** The roster change deadline for championship play is 24 hours prior to the start of championship tournament play.

NOTE: Local associations may establish an earlier deadline for classification purposes.

- D. **Roster Form.** Roster forms shall be provided by the ASA National Office and are the only official rosters for championship play.
- E. **Roster Procedure.** The roster / affidavit form must be signed by the player, their guardian (if necessary) and the manager. Parent's signatures are not required for players 18 years of age and over. 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 local commissioner or their designee.
- F. **Roster Eligibility.** Receipt and acceptance of an official ASA 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.

Article 503 PICK-UP PLAYERS.

- A. **General Rule.** All teams are permitted to pick-up three players as follows:
 - 01. The team adding pick-up players must select eligible roster members from ASA registered teams in the team's own local association.

EXCEPTION: All men's and women's fast pitch divisions, Junior Olympic Boy's Fast Pitch and Junior Olympic Gold Girls' 18-Under Fast Pitch. Pickup players may come from teams within the region that are no longer eligible for

championship play. Pick-up players will not be allowed after the National Championship Finals for the National Championship Series.

02. Pick-up players must have played for an ASA-registered team during the current season and must have played in the division of play for which they are being picked up.
03. Pick-up players must be selected only from ASA registered teams no longer eligible for championship play.
04. Pick-up players must be from the team's same division and the same or lower classification.

CLARIFICATION: In Junior Olympic play there two types of classification, one type of classification is Gold, Class A and Class B; the other type of classification is age classification, 18-Under, 16-Under, 14-Under, 12-Under and 10-Under. Therefore as an example, a player who has competed on a Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch 16-Under team is not an eligible pick-up player for any team below the 16-Under age classification.

05. Players (Adult and Junior Olympics) whose teams have qualified to compete in the highest level tournaments within a classification shall not be eligible pick-up players.

CLARIFICATION: A player who has competed in any Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch National Championship is not an eligible pick-up player for the Girls' 18-Under Gold National Championship.

EXCEPTION: A player who has competed in the Men's 23-Under or Women's 23-Under championship play is eligible to participate in other adult championship play during the same season as a pick-up player.

06. No player may be picked up for National Qualifiers, Junior Olympic Hall of Fame Tournaments or Territory Qualifying tournaments.
07. In adult divisions of play, a pick-up player may be substituted for after participation.
08. In Junior Olympic divisions of play, a pick-up player may not be substituted for after participation.
09. 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.
10. A player may play with only one team other than their own team within a division in a season.
11. Teams adding pick-up players must submit a completed official ASA pick-up player form attached to the official roster before the team plays in the tournament.
12. Pick-up players who chose to participate in the Junior Olympic Girls' Class B program may not have participated in any college softball program.

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

01. If players are picked up prior to the local association championship, they must be governed by their local association rules.
02. If players are picked up after their local association championship, the pick up player(s) must be governed by **Article 503** of the **ASA Code**.

- C. **Church Slow Pitch and Industrial Slow Pitch Teams.** Teams may not pick up any player that does not meet the eligibility requirements of that division of play.

Article 504 ASA DRUG CONTROL PROCEDURE AND POLICY. The ASA will adopt and enforce the findings, procedures and penalties in accordance with the United States Anti-Doping Agency (**USADA**) and the United States Olympic Committee (**USOC**).

Article 505 SUSPENSION.

- A. **Acts of Suspension.** A team, team member, manager, team official or umpire may be suspended for any of the following:

01. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
02. Physical violence, such as an attack on an umpire, tournament official or participant immediately preceding, during or immediately following a game.
03. Commission of fraud, such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster or giving false information to tournament officials.
04. Participating when they do not meet the eligibility requirements of the ASA.
05. Knowingly competing with or against individuals or teams which are suspended from ASA play.
06. Commission of any act while participating in ASA activities such as: failure to pay indebtedness, destruction of property, violation of state or local laws or any other acts that are contrary to the objectives and purposes of ASA.
07. Violation of ASA substance abuse policies and procedures.
08. Forfeiting a game in championship play.

- B. **Suspension Procedures.**

01. **Time Limitations.** Suspension complaints must be filed with the Commissioner in whose association the offense is alleged to have occurred or the commissioner in whose association registered the player or team, not more than six (6) months from the alleged date of violation.
02. **Hearing.** Prior to suspension, the accused must be given an opportunity for a hearing by the commissioner in whose jurisdiction the violation took place. The commissioner may appoint a deputy or district commissioner, an officer or an official of the local association or any other disinterested party to conduct the hearing in their place.
03. **Notification.** The accused must be notified in writing of the time, place and date of the hearing. A team or team member is entitled to an alternate date if for a good cause the original date is not acceptable. Should the accused player fail to attend the hearing, the person conducting the hearing may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance.
04. **Rulings.** After hearing the evidence the person presiding at the hearing shall render a written decision within fourteen (14) days. If a decision is not rendered within fourteen (14) days, a written appeal may be made to the Executive Director or their designee, whose decision shall be final.
05. **Right of Appeal.** Following the decision of the local association commissioner, the accused or any person claiming that an act of suspension was or was not committed may appeal in writing within fourteen (14) days to the Executive Director or their designee, whose decision shall be final. The Executive Director must render a decision on any appeal within fourteen (14) days.

- C. **Effect of Suspension.** A team, team member, manager, team official, or umpire shall cease to be eligible to participate in tournaments conducted or sanctioned by ASA while suspended by ASA or any local association.
- D. **Suspension Procedures (Tournament Play).**
 - 01. **Protest Committee.** There shall be a tournament protest committee including the tournament director, ASA Representative and other members as agreed upon by the tournament director and the ASA Representative. The Protest Committee shall have jurisdiction to decide questions of suspension from that tournament or to which a decision (except one of an umpire's judgment) in tournament play be appealed. The decision of such Committee shall be final.
 - 02. **Hearing.** Upon the discovery of an ineligible player or acts of suspension under **Article 505 (A)** of this **Code**, the team or team member shall be provided a fair notice and opportunity for a hearing before the Tournament Protest Committee whose decision shall be final.
 - 03. **Suspension.** A team that is **in violation of** this rule shall forfeit the game being played or the game last played. **The ineligible player shall be suspended from further play in the tournament and in any subsequent tournament for which he/she may have qualified by virtue of their play in the tournament in which they were suspended. The team may be subject to further penalties.**
 - 04. **Forfeits.** Teams that forfeit as a result of other than ineligible players or acts of suspension under **Article 505 (A)** of this **Code**, shall be allowed to continue in tournament play unless the forfeit was their eliminating loss.
- E. **Additional Penalties.** A team, team member, manager, team official or umpire may be suspended for a period of time for violations outlined in **Article 505 (A)** at the sole discretion of the commissioner in the association where the offense occurred. However, the following acts of suspension require a minimum of one-year loss of eligibility:
 - 01. Physical violence.
 - 02. Commission of fraud.
 - 03. Competing knowingly with or against suspended players.

Article 506 DIVISIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY DEFINED.

- A. The ASA recognizes the following divisions and classifications of championship play. Each local association shall establish a classification code to determine team and/or player classification for championship play in the following divisions:

DIVISIONS	CLASSIFICATIONS
01. Men's Fast Pitch	Major A B C

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2011 Men's Class A becomes Men's Open.

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------|
| 02. | Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch | |
| 03. | Women's Fast Pitch | Major
A
B |
| 04. | Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch | |
| 05. | Men's Slow Pitch | A
B
C
D
E/ Rec |
| 06. | Women's Slow Pitch | Open
C
D |
| 07. | Men's (09) Man Modified Pitch | Major
A |
| 08. | Men's (10) Man Modified Pitch | |
| 09. | Men's Industrial Slow Pitch | |
| 10. | Men's 16-Inch Slow Pitch | Major
A |
| 11. | Men's Church Slow Pitch | |
| 12. | Co-ed Slow Pitch | Open
C
D |

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2011 Co-ed Open will be retained.

13. **Men's Masters 40-Over Fast Pitch**

14. **Men's Masters 45-Over Fast Pitch**

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2012 Masters 45-Over becomes Masters 50-Over.

15. **Men's Seniors 50-Over Fast Pitch**

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2012 Seniors 50-Over becomes Seniors 60-Over.

16. **Men's Masters 35-Over Slow Pitch**

17. **Men's Masters 40-Over Slow Pitch**

18. **Men's Masters 45-Over Slow Pitch**

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 19. | Men's Seniors 50-Over Slow Pitch | Major Plus
Major
AAA
AA |
| 20. | Men's Seniors 55-Over Slow Pitch | Major Plus
Major
AAA
AA |
| 21. | Men's Seniors 60-Over Slow Pitch | Major Plus
Major
AAA
AA |
| 22. | Men's Seniors 65-Over Slow Pitch | Major Plus
Major
AAA
AA |
| 23. | Men's Seniors 70-Over Slow Pitch | Major
AAA |
| 24. | Men's Seniors 75-Over Slow Pitch | Major
AAA |
| 25. | Women's Masters 35-Over Slow Pitch | |
| 26. | Boy's Fast Pitch | 18-Under
16-Under
14-Under
12-Under
10-Under |
| 27. | Boy's Slow Pitch | 18-Under
16-Under
14-Under
12-Under
10-Under |
| 28. | Girls' Fast Pitch | 18-Under GOLD

Class A 18-Under
16-Under
14-Under
12-Under
10-Under

Class B 18-Under
16-Under
14-Under
12-Under
10-Under |

- 29. **Girls' Slow Pitch**
 - 18-Under
 - 16-Under
 - 14-Under
 - 12-Under
 - 10-Under

B. **Additional Classification.** Local associations may adopt additional classifications (adult and Junior Olympic). A copy of each local association classification code shall be filed with the ASA National Office.

NOTE: Listing in any of the above divisions and/or classifications does not indicate a National Championship Final unless also listed under **Article 516** of this Code.

Article 507 CLASSIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY.

- A. **Local Association.** The local association commissioner shall classify teams and/or players within the local association in accordance with their respective classification code. A copy of each local association classification code shall be filed with the ASA National Office.
- B. **Team Classification.** A team, who has been classified in any division of play during the previous year, will remain in the same classification during the current season until reclassified by their respective Classification Board. However, if a team is subject to the ASA Mandatory Classification Rule, the new classification is effective immediately.
 - 01. An adult team may participate in championship play in a higher classification but not below its assigned classification. Participation in a higher classification could affect the team's classification.
 - 02. A Junior Olympic Class B team may participate in a Class A National Qualifier. Participation in a higher classification could affect the team's classification.
 - 03. Teams may not participate in more than one national championship final in any division of play unless specifically covered in this Code.
 - 04. Men's Seniors Slow Pitch will be classified by a three member National Seniors Classification Board to be appointed by the President.
- C. **Local Classification Board.** Each local association shall establish a classification board to review, upon written application, the classification of a team and/or players, and shall have the authority to change the classification if found to be not in accordance with the respective classification code.
- D. **Regional Classification Code.** The region shall have the authority to classify teams according to a classification code adopted and approved by the voting members of the region. A copy of the regional classification code shall be submitted to the ASA National Office.
- E. **Regional Classification Board.** The voting members of the Region, by majority vote, may revise and amend a classification code of a local association within the region to correct inequities in classification as reflected in regional tournament play. This body may also assign classification for ASA play to teams belonging to allied member organizations within the region.

F. National Adult Slow Pitch Player Classification Board.

01. **Responsibilities.** The National Player Classification Board will oversee all aspects of the adult slow pitch classification. The Board will create procedures regarding classification.
- a. The Board will consist of five people, one representative from each territory plus one at-large member, as shown:
- Eastern Territory
 - Northern Territory
 - Southern Territory
 - Western Territory
 - At large member to be assigned by ASA President.
- b. Each territory representative shall name a territorial subcommittee comprised of no less than five and no more than 9 people from their territory. Local association representatives will be assigned in conjunction with the Association Commissioner.
02. **Duties.** The duty of the board is to uphold the national team and player classification strategy. The board, in concert with the National ASA Office staff, will oversee a National Player Classification Registry. The Board, in concert with National ASA staff, will communicate with tournament directors of National Championships to ensure all teams participating in ASA Slow Pitch events are within the procedures. The board will also seek out further information by contacting local commissioners, player representatives, district commissioners, league directors, and tournament directors to acquire the best and most recent information on teams and players.

G. Mandatory Classification.

01. **Mandatory Player Classification.** Starting January 1 each year will start a player appeal process where each player can submit an appeal to have their player rating dropped. This process ends June 30 and at that time appeals will not be accepted until January. We have taken our team procedures and based it on the ASA 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 that we have in place helps create a fair and level playing field for all of our teams not only at a local but also at a national level. Below are the procedures that we use on how to classify a team. Players on the ASA Restricted List can only participate in the Men's A or Coed Open Programs.

SUMMARY OF SLOW PITCH CLASSIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATION	RESTRICTIONS
01. Men's Class A	Five (5) players from the ASA Restricted Player's List.
02. Men's Class B	Three (3) A classified players and no players from the ASA Restricted Player's List.

03. Men's Class C **Three (3) B classified players and no players from Class A or the ASA Restricted Player's List.**
04. Men's Class D **Three (3) C classified players and no players from Class A, Class B or the ASA Restricted Player's List.**
05. Men's Class E **Three (3) D classified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C or the ASA Restricted Player's List.**
06. Women's Class Open **Any female player.**
07. Women's Class C **Three (3) Open classified players.**
08. Women's Class D **Three (3) C classified players and no Open classified players.**
09. Co-ed Class Open **Any female player and two (2) male players from the ASA Restricted Player's List.**
10. Co-ed Class C **Two (2) Open classified female players and no male players from Class A, Class B or the ASA Restricted Player's List.**
11. Co-ed Class D **Two (2) female C classified players and two (2) male C classified players. No Open classified female players or male players from Class A, Class B or the ASA Restricted Player's List.**

NOTE: Players that have no ASA playing history should be handled in the following manner. If a track record of a player can be verified in another National Association that player can be classified at that level or higher.

02. **Mandatory Team Reclassification.** An adult team that has four or more players on a roster, including pick-up players, from a team or teams that finished in the following divisions and classifications in the same National Championship Final must participate in the next higher classification in championship play for their next ASA playing season unless they played in the highest classification. In all Adult national Championships, the top finishing 10% (plus ties) will be reclassified to the next higher classification. Fractions will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

NOTE: If a team fails to participate in Championship play the next calendar year this restriction will remain in effect until the team participates at the higher classification.

NOTE: The ASA National Office shall forward the championship rosters for teams that are subject to the Mandatory Classification Rule, **Article 507 (G)(03)** to the respective National Championship Tournament Directors as follows:

01. The tournament for which the team is advancing (Higher Classification).

02. The tournament for which they participated in the previous year (Lower Classification).

03. **Restricted Classification Rule.**

- a. **Teams.** A team that wins two or more games in a double elimination bracket, or three or more games in a three game bracket, excluding forfeits, in a National Championship Final may not participate in a lower classification in the same division of championship play during their next ASA playing season unless they played in the highest classification. A team that has four or more players on a roster, including pick-ups, from such a team shall be considered the same team.

EXCEPTIONS:

01. Men's Major Fast Pitch. Any team that has not competed in the Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship Tournament for two consecutive years shall be allowed to participate in a lower classification regardless of the number games won at the national tournament, provided they have received permission from their Local Commissioner, to compete at a lower classification for the following season.
 02. Men's Class A Slow Pitch
- b. **Returning Players.** A team that has a combination of four or more players on a roster, including pick-ups, from a team or teams subject to mandatory reclassification and/or restricted classification must maintain the classification as assigned by the mandatory classification rule.
 - c. **Pitchers.** Male and Female pitchers that are classified Major Fast Pitch by the local association in which they reside must remain in that classification until changed by the same local association. Any Men's Class B or Class C Fast Pitch pitcher who earns First team All Tournament Awards, MVP or outstanding pitcher and whose team is reclassified pursuant to **Article 507 (G) (02)** or **Article 507 (G) (03)**, must pitch at the higher classification the following ASA playing season.
 - d. **Girls' Class B Fast Pitch.** Teams and players who participate in Class A tournaments, or higher, that lead to a National Championship Finals, shall not be eligible to participate in the Class B competition. Girls' Class B teams must be made up of players who participate in the same league.

EXCEPTION: A Girls' Class B Fast Pitch team that participates in a higher classification National Qualifier must comply with **Article 507 (B) (02)**.

- H. **Classification Appeal.** Teams and players classified in accordance with this article have the right to appeal their classification after participating at the higher classification. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the team's local commissioner and should include game results and reason for the appeal. The local commissioner shall evaluate the information presented and forward the appeal with their recommendation to the Chair of the Tournament Programs

Committee. The Tournament Programs Committee shall review the information presented. If the appeal is granted, the team's roster and players shall be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, except **Pick-Up Players** pursuant to **Article 503**, the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to at least the next higher classification.

Article 508 LEVELS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY. The following are levels of championship play:

- A. **Local Association Championships.** Local associations may conduct sub district, district or county championships for the purpose of qualifying teams for local association championships. These tournaments are open to registered member teams in accordance with the rules and regulations of the local association, provided such rules and regulations are not in conflict or inconsistent with this Code or the established policies of the ASA. Local associations may not conduct championship play tournaments in locations outside of their association's boundaries without permission from that local association's commissioner.
Local Associations may conduct JO qualifying tournaments for the following years championship play. Teams that participate in these tournaments must use age eligible players for the year the championship play will be played and must meet the returning team requirement to maintain their berth.
- B. **National Qualifiers.** The association shall conduct national qualifiers in the following divisions of championship play.
 - 01. Junior Olympic Girls' Gold 18-Under, Class A 18-Under, 16-Under, 14-Under, 12-Under, 10-Under Fast Pitch.
NOTE: Local association berths may be given as additional berths in these Junior Olympic qualifiers.
 - 02. Adult Slow Pitch National Qualifiers may be held in Adult Slow Pitch. The association hosting the tournament must use their local association berths. Teams that accept the berths must abide by the rules set forth by their local association to advance in championship play.
- C. **Regional Championships.** Regional Championships may be held in any division and classification.
- D. **Territory Qualifying Tournaments.** Territory Qualifying Tournaments will be held in accordance with **Article 515** of this Code.
- E. **National Championships Finals.** National Championship Finals will be held in accordance with **Article 516** of this Code.
- F. **USA Softball Men's and Women's National Championship Series.** The USA Softball Championship Series will be held in accordance with **Article 517** of this Code.

Article 509 DATES OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY.

- A. **Local Association Tournaments.** The dates for **Junior Olympic Class A Championships** must be scheduled to be completed at least twelve (12) days prior to the start of the first game of their prospective **Junior Olympic National Championship final**.
- B. **Regional Tournaments.** The dates for regional tournaments shall be established by the commissioners within the respective region. Junior Olympic Gold **and Class A** Regional Tournaments must be **scheduled to be completed** a minimum of **twelve (12)** days prior to the start of the first game in the Junior Olympic Gold National Championship Final.
- C. **National Championship Finals.** The Executive Director has the authority to change dates of National Championship Finals for extenuating circumstances.
 - 01. **Adult Slow Pitch.** All adult slow pitch National Championship Finals shall be scheduled over the Labor Day weekend, commencing no earlier than Friday at 6:00 p.m. and concluding no later than Labor Day, with the following exceptions:
 - a. **Men's Class A and Women's Open Slow Pitch.** This National Championship Final will be played on the weekend that contains the fourth Saturday after Labor Day commencing no earlier than 6:00 p.m. on Thursday.
 - b. **Men's Class B, C, D and E/Rec Slow Pitch.** These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled on Labor Day weekend and shall commence no earlier than Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and concluding no later than Monday.
 - c. **Men's 35-Over Masters Slow Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend following Labor Day, commencing no earlier that Friday at 6:00 p.m. and concluding no later than Sunday.
 - d. **Men's 40-Over Slow Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend preceding the Labor Day weekend, commencing no earlier than Friday at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) and concluding no later than Sunday.
 - e. **Men's 45-Over Slow Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend following Labor Day, commencing no earlier than Friday at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) and concluding no later than Sunday.
 - f. **Men's Seniors Slow Pitch.** These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled as per approval by the National Championship Finals Awards Committee.
 - g. **Men's Industrial Slow Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled over the weekend that includes the fourth Saturday in August, commencing no earlier than Friday at 6:00 p.m. concluding no later than Sunday.
 - h. **Women's Class C and D Slow Pitch.** These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled on the weekend including Labor Day and shall commence no earlier than Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and concluding no later than Monday.

- i. **Women's 35-Over Slow Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend that includes the second Saturday in August, commencing no earlier than Friday at 6:00 p.m. and concluding no later than Sunday.
- j. **Open Co-ed.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend that includes the third Saturday in September, commencing no earlier than Friday at 9:00 a.m. and concluding no later than Sunday.
- k. **Class C and Class D Co-ed.** These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled on the weekend preceding the Labor Day weekend commencing no earlier than Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and concluding no later than Sunday.
- l. **Men's Church.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the second weekend in August.

02. **Adult Fast Pitch.** All adult fast pitch National Championship Finals shall be scheduled as follows:

- a. **Men's Major Fast Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend that includes the first Saturday in August. The tournament may not begin prior to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday and concluding no later than Sunday. If there are 13 or more teams entered into the Championship, the bracket shall reflect a four day schedule.
- b. **Men's Class A, B and C Fast Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on Labor Day Weekend commencing no earlier than 6:00 p.m. Thursday and concluding no later than Labor Day.

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2011 Class A becomes Open.

- c. **Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the first weekend in August at the same time and location as the Boy's 18-Under Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.
- d. **Men's Masters 40-Over Fast Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend preceding Labor Day weekend commencing no earlier than 6:00 p.m. Wednesday and concluding no later than Sunday.
- e. **Men's Masters 45-Over Fast Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend which includes the second Saturday in September and shall be scheduled for a maximum of four days to conclude on Sunday.

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2012 Men's Masters 45-Over becomes Men's Masters 50-Over.

- f. **Men's Seniors 50-Over Fast Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend which includes the fourth Saturday in September, commencing no earlier than Friday at 9:00 a.m. and concluding no later than Sunday.

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2012 Men's Seniors 50-Over becomes Men's Seniors 60-Over.

- g. **Women's Major, Class A and B Fast Pitch.** These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled on the weekend that includes the first Saturday in August and shall be scheduled for a minimum of four days, and shall be held at one site.
 - h. **Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled on the weekend that includes the third weekend in July and shall be conducted for a maximum of four days.
03. **Modified Pitch.** These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled on Labor Day Weekend, commencing no earlier than Friday at 6:00 p.m. and concluding no later than Labor Day.
04. **Junior Olympic National Championship Finals.**

Actual schedule shall be as follows.

- a. **Boy's Slow Pitch** (all ages). These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled and completed on the weekend that includes the third Saturday in July. This championship is scheduled for a maximum of five days.
- b. **Girls' Slow Pitch** (all ages). These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled and completed on the weekend that includes the last Saturday in July. This championship is scheduled for a maximum of four days.
- c. **Girls' USA/ASA Class A Fast Pitch** (all ages). These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled and completed on the weekend that includes the first Saturday in August and shall commence no earlier than 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. Opening ceremonies shall be held on that Sunday afternoon. These championships are scheduled for a maximum of eight days.
- d. **Girls' ASA Class A Fast Pitch** (all ages). These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled and completed on the weekend that includes the first Saturday in August and may have the option of commencing no earlier than Monday. Opening ceremonies may be held on that Monday. These championships are scheduled for a maximum of seven days.
- e. **Girls' ASA Class B Fast Pitch** (all ages). These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled by the territory in which the tournament takes place, but must be scheduled between the weekend that contains the third Saturday of July and the weekend that includes the second Saturday of August and may have the option of commencing no earlier than Monday. Opening ceremonies may be held on that Monday. These championships are scheduled for a maximum of seven days.
- f. **Girls' ASA Gold 18-Under Fast Pitch.** This National Championship Final shall be scheduled and completed on the weekend that includes the **first** Saturday in August **and not be held more than seven (7) days. This event won't have an opening ceremonies event and the managers meeting can't be scheduled prior to 6:00 PM on the prior Sunday.**

- g. **Boy's Fast Pitch.** These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled for a maximum of five days. The actual schedule shall be as follows:
 - 01. The 18-Under Boy's shall be held the first weekend in August, and shall be held at the same site as the Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch National Championship Final.
 - 02. The 16-Under, 14-Under, 12-Under and 10-Under Boy's shall be held on the first weekend in August and shall be held at the same site.

Article 510 GENERAL REGULATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY. All championship play must be conducted in accordance with this Code and the playing rules as adopted by the ASA. In case of a conflict between the playing rules and the ASA Code in championship play, the ASA Code shall take precedence.

- A. **Assessment Fees.** Each team participating in ASA Championship play beginning at the regional level shall be assessed a \$15.00 assessment fee to be paid to ASA. This shall be from all Regional Championships, Territorial Championships, National Qualifiers, Territory Qualifying Tournaments and Adult Slow Pitch National Tournaments. For further information (See **Article 606 (D) Tournament Assessment Fees and Summary of Tournament Assessment Fees**) of this Code.
- B. **At-Large Berths.** For the purpose of determining at-large tournament berths:
 - 01. Only registrations received by October 15 shall be counted for at-large berths.
 - 02. Adult and Junior Olympic classifications for each respective division shall be considered collectively.
- C. **Continuation of Game.** In the event of rain or any cause that interrupts a game, the game must be resumed at the exact point where it was stopped.
- D. **Entry Deadlines.** An official team entry form and proper entry fee must be submitted to the tournament director of all National Championship Finals at least seven (7) days prior to commencement of the tournament.

EXCEPTION: The Men's Major Fast Pitch, Women's Major Fast Pitch, Men's Class A Fast Pitch, Men's Class B Fast Pitch, Men's Masters 40-Over Fast Pitch, Men's Masters 45-Over Fast Pitch and Men's Seniors 50-Over Fast Pitch.

- E. **Fill-In Procedure.**
 - 01. In all National Championship Finals, the local commissioners working with the organizing committee (commissioner makes the final decision) have the option of adding a maximum of eight (8) teams to replace vacancies created by regular entries not entering. Fill-in teams must have participated in a regional tournament in their respective division of play and be the next team in the order of finish. Fill-in teams would alternatively come from the hosting association and their region. If the eight (8) positions cannot be filled, the fill-ins can come from touching regions, at the discretion of the host commissioner. If the tournament entries are still not complete, then the remaining fill-in teams can come from any association at the discretion of the

host commissioner provided that such team(s) have properly qualified through regional championship play and have been selected in the proper order of finish.

02. At the discretion of the host commissioner, when all eight fill-in spots have been used and the tournament capacity has not been reached, additional fill-ins may be added up to tournament capacity based on order of request provided that such teams have properly qualified through local association or regional championship play and have been selected according to the order of finish.

EXCEPTIONS:

- a. **Junior Olympic Girls' Class A Fast Pitch Only.** No fill-in procedure if the tournament has 138 qualified teams. At no time will the fill-in procedure be used to exceed 138 teams.
 - b. **Men's Class B, C and D Slow Pitch and Women's Class C and D Slow Pitch.** Fill-in teams shall be selected only from teams that played Championship Tournaments and fill-in berths shall be offered to teams based on the order of finish.
- F. **Junior Olympic General Regulations.** The ASA has developed the following policy regarding Junior Olympic tournament play as follows:
01. **Use of Alcohol Beverages.** The sale or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited at all Junior Olympic tournaments.
 02. **Use of Tobacco Products.** The use of any tobacco products is prohibited at all Junior Olympic Tournaments.
 03. **Cash Award Prizes.** No Junior Olympic player may participate in any tournament in which cash prizes are awarded.
- G. **National Championship Finals Entry Fee.** Each team participating in a National Championship Final shall be assessed a \$100.00 fee. The assessment shall be included in the tournament entry fee (See **Article 603 (A)**, **Fast Pitch and Modified Pitch Bids**, and **Article 604 (A)**, **Slow Pitch Bids**, of this Code).
- H. **Official Order of Finish.** The following procedures will be used in determining the official order of finish.

NOTE: When breaking ties with more than two (2) teams within the same position in the bracket, once you pass a step when following the order of finish code procedures, you do not return to those passed steps until changing to a different bracket position.

01. **Completed Tournament.** The tournament director shall determine the official order of finish based upon the following:
 - a. Top four teams based upon their actual finish.
 - b. Remaining teams listed by descending order of finish according to their bracket position when eliminated (e.g. fifth place shall show two teams tied for that position, the next two teams tied for seventh, the next four teams tied for ninth, etc).

- c. Tied teams shall be determined by:
 - 01. Head to head competition.
 - 02. The team that advanced the farthest in the winner's bracket.
 - 03. Won-loss records.
 - 04. The teams shall be ranked according to the fewest runs allowed per game played.
 - 05. If a tie still exists, the teams shall be ranked according to the most runs scored per game played.
 - 06. If a tie still exists, by a coin toss.

EXCEPTION: If there are only two teams remaining and each has one loss, the championship game must be played or the teams shall be declared co-champions.

- 02. **Incomplete Tournament.** In the event a national qualifier, regional, territorial qualifier or national championship final tournament cannot be completed within the scheduled time frame the following procedures shall be used to break ties among teams in the same spot in the bracket.

- a. Head to head competition.
- b. The team that advanced the farthest in the winner's bracket.
- c. Won-loss records, except among undefeated teams.
- d. 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-champions.

In the case of the ASA East / West National Championship Finals and the Eastern / Northern / Southern / Western Championship Finals, Co-Champions will not be declared. If this occurs, the tiebreaker in **Article 510 (H)(02)** will be used to determine the team advancing to the USA National Championship Series.

- e. The teams shall be ranked according to the fewest runs allowed per game played.
- f. If a tie still exists, the teams shall be ranked according to the most runs scored per game played.
- g. If a tie still exists, by a coin toss.

- I. **Official Tournament Entry Form.** The official tournament entry form must be signed by the local association commissioner and accompany the roster / affidavit form for national qualifier, regional, territory qualifying or national championship final tournaments.
- J. **Severe Weather Guidelines.** The ASA has adopted severe weather guidelines that can be found on the ASA website at www.asasoftball.com .
- K. **Souvenir Items.** Selling souvenir items with the ASA emblem or logo is restricted and must be cleared in writing with the National Office.
- L. **Substitute Teams.** If for any reason a team cannot compete in the next level of championship play during the current season, the runner-up team or next highest eligible team in the respective tournament shall be substituted for the team.

M. **Team Conduct.**

01. **Team Manager.** Team managers must have full control of their players at all times including on or off the field.
02. **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.
03. **Fighting.** During regional, territorial, national tournament or National Championship Final 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.
04. **Unsportsmanlike.** Managers are to report any unsportsmanlike or derogatory acts by players or spectators to the tournament director.
05. **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.
06. **Altered Bat.** Any player discovered using an altered bat, including a doctored bat or a bat with additional weight shall be called out and suspended from further tournament competition for a minimum of two years. ASA shall have the right to take possession of a bat that is, in the sole discretion of the Tournament Committee, 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 player shall surrender ownership of the altered bat to ASA; otherwise a bat of equal or greater value, in the sole discretion of ASA, shall be returned to the player. A team that is discovered to have within its possession or control an altered bat may be suspended from further tournament competition.
07. **Hotel / Motel.** Any hotel or motel management report of destruction of hotel / motel property or abuse of hotel / motel guests by a team competing in championship play.
08. **Property Damage.** Any property damage reported by officials of the hosting facility in championship play.
09. **Team Conduct Violation Penalty.** Any team or individual violating the above shall be subject to the suspension procedure in **Article 505.**
10. **Artificial Noise-makers. The use of artificial noise-makers during championship play is prohibited.**

N. **Tie Breaker Rule.** A region may, by majority vote, establish procedures for a tiebreaker in qualifiers and regional tournaments. In all Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch National Qualifiers and National Championship Finals; Women's Fast Pitch National Championship Finals; Men's Masters Fast Pitch National Championship Finals; and **Men's Seniors Fast Pitch National Championship Finals** the tiebreaker shall be in effect.

O. **Time Limit Rule.** A region may by majority vote establish procedures for a time limit in qualifiers, regional or tournaments. When the time limit rule is in effect, time begins with the first pitch. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tie breaker rule shall be in effect at the start of the next inning.

01. In Junior Olympic 10-Under Class A and 10-Under Class B Fast Pitch pool play, no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tiebreaker shall be in effect at the start of the next inning.

- 02. In Junior Olympic 10-Under Class A and 10-Under Class B Fast Pitch elimination play, no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tiebreaker shall be in effect at the start of the next inning.
- 03. In all Junior Olympic Class A 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under pool play; Class B 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under pool play; and Gold pool play; no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tiebreaker shall be in effect at the start of the next inning.
- 04. In all Junior Olympic Class B 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under elimination play; no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tiebreaker shall be in effect at the start of the next inning.

NOTE: There will be no time limit in the Junior Olympic Class B 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under elimination play for the upper and lower bracket final games, and the championship and the ' if necessary ' games.

P. **Tournament Completion Options.** At any time during or prior to the tournament with the unanimous agreement of the Tournament Director, ASA Representative and the tournament Umpire-in-Chief, the following procedures may be followed to complete a tournament because of circumstances beyond the control of the tournament hosts.

- 01. A National Championship Finals may be extended.
- 02. A National Championship Finals may be completed by, but not limited to, using the following options:
 - a. Drop pool play games and play elimination games only.
 - b. Set a game time limit of one hour or five innings.
 - c. Convert the tournament to a single elimination.

Q. **Umpires.**

01. The following National Championship Finals require a minimum of three umpires per game:

Men's	Major	Fast Pitch
Men's	Class A	Fast Pitch
Men's	Class B	Fast Pitch
Men's	23-Under	Fast Pitch
Men's	Masters 40-Over	Fast Pitch
Men's	Masters 45-Over	Fast Pitch
Women's	Major	Fast Pitch
Women's	Class A	Fast Pitch
Women's	Class B	Fast Pitch
Women's	23-Under	Fast Pitch
Men's	Class A	Slow Pitch
Men's	Major 16"	Slow Pitch
Men's	Class A 16"	Slow Pitch
Men's	(09) Man	Major
Men's	(09) Man	Class A
Men's	(10) Man	Modified Pitch

USA National Championship Series

Junior Olympic Girls' 18-Under	Gold		Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls' 18-Under	Class A	USA / ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls' 16-Under	Class A	USA / ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls' 14-Under	Class A	USA / ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls' 12-Under	Class A	USA / ASA	Fast Pitch

02. The following National Championship Finals require a minimum of two umpires per game:

Men's	Class C		Fast Pitch
Men's	Seniors 50-Over		Fast Pitch

Junior Olympic Boy's	18-Under		Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Boy's	16-Under		Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Boy's	14-Under		Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Boy's	12-Under		Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Boy's	10-Under		Fast Pitch

Junior Olympic Girls'	10-Under Class A	USA /ASA	Fast Pitch
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Junior Olympic Girls'	18-Under Class A	ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	16-Under Class A	ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	14-Under Class A	ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	12-Under Class A	ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	10-Under Class A	ASA	Fast Pitch

Junior Olympic Girls'	18-Under Class B	ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	16-Under Class B	ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	14-Under Class B	ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	12-Under Class B	ASA	Fast Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	10-Under Class B	ASA	Fast Pitch

Men's	Class B		Slow Pitch
Men's	Class C		Slow Pitch
Men's	Class D		Slow Pitch
Men's	Masters 35-Over		Slow Pitch
Men's	Masters 40-Over		Slow Pitch
Men's	Masters 45-Over		Slow Pitch
Men's	Industrial		Slow Pitch
Men's	Church		Slow Pitch

Men's Seniors Slow Pitch
(Including Major Plus, Major, Class AAA and Class AA and All Age Classifications)

Women's	Open		Slow Pitch
Women's	Class C		Slow Pitch
Women's	Class D		Slow Pitch
Women's	Masters 35-Over		Slow Pitch

Co-ed	Open		Slow Pitch
Co-ed	Class A		Slow Pitch
Co-ed	Class B		Slow Pitch

Junior Olympic Boy's	18-Under		Slow Pitch
Junior Olympic Boy's	16-Under		Slow Pitch

Junior Olympic Boy's	14-Under	Slow Pitch
Junior Olympic Boy's	12-Under	Slow Pitch
Junior Olympic Boy's	10-Under	Slow Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	18-Under	Slow Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	16-Under	Slow Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	14-Under	Slow Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	12-Under	Slow Pitch
Junior Olympic Girls'	10-Under	Slow Pitch

Article 511 CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW.

- A. **Bracket.** The ASA Official Double Elimination Bracket is to be used in all regional tournaments, national qualifiers, National Tournaments and National Championship Finals. All game times and field assignments are to be listed on the official bracket prior to the tournament draw.

EXCEPTIONS:

01. **Junior Olympic Pool Play.** The following exceptions apply to Junior Olympic Pool Play:
- In all Junior Olympic Class A and Class B National Championship Finals, qualifying pool play (providing each team with two games) shall be used to seed teams for the purpose of drawing into the double elimination bracket.
 - In Girls' Fast Pitch 18-Under Gold pool play (providing each team with two games) shall **not be used for seeding purposes.**
 - In Junior Olympic Girls' Slow Pitch, if there are less than 85 teams, qualifying pool play shall be conducted; if there are 85 or more teams, there shall be no qualifying Pool play.

NOTE: Teams must participate in pool play to be eligible for the double elimination bracket.

02. **Pool Play for the Men's Seniors Slow Pitch, Women's Major Fast Pitch and Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch Division.** In these National Championship Finals, qualifying pool play shall be used as follows:
- Four Pools of Play.** Teams shall be divided into four team pools. The host local association shall add one to three teams as is necessary to complete four team pools, (e.g. three teams when 37 entries, two teams when 38 entries, and one team when 39 entries).
 - Local Association Protection.** When qualifying pool play is used in Women's Major Fast Pitch, Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch, and Men's Seniors Slow Pitch Championships, teams qualifying from the same local association shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in qualifying pool play. When the number of teams entered in the tournament from a local association is greater than the number of pools, the final alignment in pool play shall be determined by the ASA Representative.
 - Pool Play Procedures.** In pools of four teams, each team shall draw to determine which other team they play in the first game. The winners of each of the first games in a pool shall play each other with the winner being declared the Number 1 seed in the pool and the loser

being declared the Number 2 seed. The losers of each of the first games in a pool shall play each other with the winner being declared the Number 3 seed in the pool and the loser being declared the Number 4 seed.

- d. **Three Team Pools.** In pools of three teams, the teams shall play each other team in the pool once each. Ties in three team pools shall be settled by:
 - 01. Won – Loss records
 - 02. If a tie exists, teams shall be ranked according to which team won in head to head competition.
 - 03. If a tie still exists, teams shall be ranked according to the fewest runs allowed per game played.
 - 04. If a tie still exists, teams shall be ranked according to most runs scored per game played.
 - 05. If a tie still exists, there shall be a coin toss.
- e. **Open Pool Positions.** Any open spot in a pool shall be considered as a forfeit in computing pool play standings.
- f. **Seeding onto the Double Elimination Bracket.** Teams shall be seeded onto the ASA Official Seeded Double Elimination Bracket based on their finish in pool play.
- g. **Seniors Pool Play Time Limits.** These games will be one (1) hour plus one (1) inning.
- h. **Classifications.** The ASA National Office may combine divisions or classifications based on recommendations of the seniors classification committee.

03. **Three Game Format.** In lieu of pool play, the respective Tournament Directors shall utilize an ASA official approved three (3) game guaranteed format for the following:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------------|
| a. | Boy's | 18-Under Fast Pitch. |
| b. | Boy's | 16-Under Fast Pitch. |
| c. | Boy's | 14-Under Fast Pitch. |
| d. | Boy's | 12-Under Fast Pitch. |
| e. | Boy's | 10-Under Fast Pitch. |
| f. | Men's | Major Fast Pitch. |
| g. | Men's | Class A Fast Pitch. |
| h. | Men's | Class B Fast Pitch. |
| i. | Men's | Class C Fast Pitch. |
| j. | Men's | 23-Under Fast Pitch. |
| k. | Men's Masters | 40-Over Fast Pitch. |
| l. | Men's Masters | 45-Over Fast Pitch. |
| m. | Men's Seniors | 50-Over Fast Pitch. |
| n. | Men's Masters | 35-Over Slow Pitch. |
| o. | Men's Masters | 40-Over Slow Pitch. |
| p. | Men's Masters | 45-Over Slow Pitch. |
| q. | Women's | Class A Fast Pitch. |
| r. | Women's | Class B Fast Pitch. |
| s. | Women's Masters | 35-Over Slow Pitch. |

B. **Drawing onto the ASA Official Double Elimination Bracket.** In all Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch Class A, Class B and Junior Olympic 18-Under Gold National Championship Finals:

01. **Order of Draw.** The region with the most teams shall draw first, the region with the second most teams shall draw second, etc. In case of ties between regions, the lowest region number shall draw first. When more than one team within a region must draw, positions to draw shall be based on alphabetical order according to the team name listed on the roster. Fill-in teams shall draw after all qualified teams from their respective region have drawn. Each fill-in team draw position shall be based on alphabetical order according to the team name listed on the roster.
02. **Bracket Protection.** The ASA Official Double Elimination Bracket shall be used. Teams qualifying from the same region shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in the first two rounds of the winner's bracket. When the number of teams entered in the tournament from a region is greater than the number of sections on the bracket, the final alignment shall be determined by the ASA Representative.
 - a. Teams qualifying through Regional tournament play will represent the region from which the team qualified; or
 - b. Teams qualifying through National Qualifier Tournament play will represent the Region that hosted the National Qualifier Tournament.
 - c. Gold teams qualifying through Territorial Qualifying Tournament play will represent the region that hosted the Territorial Qualifying Tournament.
 - d. **Any of the top four (4) teams from the previous year's Gold National Championship will be placed into the double elimination bracket in opposite quads if they qualify.**

NOTE: The double elimination bracket draw shall be done at the completion of the **team's** pool play games, with each team drawing their position onto the double elimination seeded bracket.

NOTE: If the Junior Olympic Gold National Championship Finals is televised in Oklahoma City, OK, the field will be split into two 32 team brackets with the winner of each bracket playing in the final game. The winner of the final game will be declared the official winner of the tournament.

03. **Territorial Tournaments. The association with the most teams will draw first, the association with the second most teams shall draw second, etc. In case of ties between associations, the tie will be determined alphabetically. When more than one team within and association must draw, positions to draw shall be determined based on alphabetical order according to the team name listed on the roster.**
- C. **National Championship Final Draw.** Each team properly entered in a National Championship Final must be notified of the time and location of the draw. The draw can be held up to seven (7) days prior to the start of the tournament so teams can be notified of their start time. Teams from local associations must be protected from playing each other for the first two rounds if at all possible.

EXCEPTION: The Men's Major Fast Pitch, Women's Major Fast Pitch, Men's Class A Fast Pitch, Men's Class B Fast Pitch, Men's Masters 40-Over Fast Pitch, Men's Masters 45-Over Fast Pitch, Men's Seniors 50-Over Fast Pitch, **Men's Nine (9) Man Major Modified, Men's Nine (9) Man Class A Modified and Men's Ten (10) Man Modified** draws may be done not more than twenty (20) days prior to the start of the tournament.

D. **Seeding (Adults).**

01. **First Round Defined.** For the purpose of seeding, the first round of a tournament is completed when each team has won or lost a game.
02. **Seeded Teams.** Only teams that shall be seeded are the previous year's defending champions and first runner-up teams and the current year's host teams.

EXCEPTION: The Men's Class A Slow Pitch National Championship teams will be seeded by the ASA 2K Series point standings with the assistance of the National Player Classification Board.

03. **Multiple Seeds and Host(s) Teams.**

- a. In classes of play where there are two seeded teams and two host teams, the defending champion and second place teams shall be placed in opposite halves of the bracket. The two host teams shall draw for a position in opposite halves of the bracket and must play the first day and the first round of the tournament with times being assigned by the tournament committee for the best gate.
- b. In all classes, the defending champion and host teams shall draw for opposite brackets and shall play the first day and the first round of the tournament with times being assigned by the tournament committee for the best gate.

04. **Regional Protection.** Teams qualifying from the same region shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in the first two rounds of the winner's bracket.

EXCEPTION: When qualifying pool play is used In Junior Olympic, teams qualifying from the same region shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in qualifying pool play. When the number of teams entered in the tournament from a region is greater than the number of pools, the final alignment in pools shall be determined by the ASA Representative.

05. **Local Association Protection.** In National Championship Finals, where no teams have qualified through regional tournament play, teams from the same local association shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in the first two rounds of the winner's bracket.

EXCEPTION: When qualifying pool play is used In Junior Olympic, teams qualifying from the same local shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in qualifying pool play. When the number of teams entered in the tournament from a local is greater than the number of pools, the final alignment in pool play shall be determined by the ASA Representative.

E. **Draw Procedure.**

01. The region with the most teams shall draw first, the region with the second most teams shall draw second, etc. In case of ties between regions, the lowest region number shall draw first. When more than one team within a region must draw, position to draw shall be based on alphabetical order according to the team name listed on the roster.
02. In National Championship Finals where no teams have qualified through regional tournament play, the local association with the most teams shall draw first, the local association with the second most teams shall draw second, etc.
03. Any team qualifying for a National Championship Final from a national qualifier shall draw from the region in which they qualified.
04. In Seniors Division National Championship Finals, teams shall draw for their position in qualifying pool play and shall be placed onto the official association bracket based on the results of the qualifying pool play.
05. The ASA Official Seeded Double Elimination Bracket Book shall be used. Teams in the same qualifying pool **who have played each other** shall be protected from playing each other in the first round of the double elimination bracket.

Article 512 JUNIOR OLYMPIC HALL OF FAME TOURNAMENTS. The ASA shall conduct Hall of Fame Junior Olympic Tournaments in Girls' Class A 18-Under Fast Pitch, Girls' Class A 16-Under Fast Pitch, Girls' Class A 14-Under Fast Pitch, and Girls' Class A 12-Under Fast Pitch.

- A. **Eligible Teams.** The tournaments shall be open to 26 teams based upon one host team from Oklahoma and one team per region as determined by said region (This team must be a registered team in the region they are representing.), and two teams from Hall of Fame qualifying tournaments. The top eight (8) regions in the previous year's participation in Girls Fast Pitch National Championship Events shall each receive one additional berth (Girls Fast Pitch Gold, Class A and Class B National Championship Finals). Cumulative totals will be used for each age group (The same total will be used for each age group). ASA will conduct two Hall of Fame qualifying tournaments, one in the East and one in the West. The winners of these tournaments will be granted a berth to the following year's Hall of Fame tournament. The National Office will assign these tournaments. Teams that qualify through these tournaments must use age eligible players for the year the Hall of Fame tournament will be played and must meet the returning team requirement to maintain their berth. The top eight finishers in each of these Hall of Fame Tournaments shall receive a berth to the Girls' USA / ASA Class A Fast Pitch National Championship Final in the age group in which they participated. In each tournament, the top eight teams' rosters are frozen with the exception of pick-up players in accordance with **Article 503, Pick-up Players**, of this Code.
- B. **Rosters.** Teams must compete in accordance with **Article 502, Rosters** of this Code.
- C. **Location.** Tournaments shall be conducted in Oklahoma City and utilize the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium Complex.
- D. **Dates.** Tournaments shall be conducted during June and July.
- E. **Schedule.** The 26 teams shall play a three game format. If eight or less teams attend, a round-robin format shall be used. The regional directors are required to confirm with the national office the team attendance or its possible replacement two weeks before the tournament.

- F. **Awards.** The top eight teams shall receive an automatic berth to the National Championship Final and Hall of Fame patches. Team trophies shall be awarded to group winners. A winner's award plaque shall be on display at the Hall of Fame.
- G. **Regional Notification Deadline.** Each region will notify the ASA National Office by May 1 if they will be using their berth(s) in each age group. If the ASA National Office is not notified by May 1, or if a region notifies the ASA National Office that they are not going to utilize their berth(s), the following fill-in procedure will be used:
01. Requests will be accepted from those regions that would like additional berths to the Hall of Fame tournaments. These requests must be in writing from the Regional Director, and must specify in which age group(s) an additional berth is requested. A region may request an additional berth at any time prior to May 1.
 02. On the first Monday in May, the ASA National Office will do a blind draw by age group of the regions that have requested additional berths. The draw will continue until all Hall of Fame vacancies are filled. The remaining regions will be drawn and put on a waiting list in the order they were drawn. This will be known as the Hall of Fame Tournament Waiting List. The ASA National Office will notify the Regional Directors of the results of the draw within 48 hours of the draw.
- H. **Hall of Fame Qualifying Tournaments.** Hall of Fame Qualifying Tournaments must be completed at least twelve (12) days prior to the start of the Hall of Fame tournament in their respective age group. If a region holds a Hall of Fame Qualifying Tournament and does not send a team to the Hall of Fame Tournament, the berth will go to the region first in line on the Hall of Fame Tournament Waiting List.
- NOTE:** A region must receive permission from the ASA National Office to hold a Hall of Fame qualifying tournament that will be completed less than twelve (12) days prior to the start of the Hall of Fame Tournament in their respective age group.
- I. **Pick-Up Players.** No players may be picked up for Hall of Fame Tournaments.
- J. **Previously Qualified Teams.** Previously qualified teams may compete in the Hall of Fame Tournaments without having to forfeit their berth to the National Championship Finals as indicated in **Article 513 (L)** of this Code.
- K. **Hall of Fame Tournament Berth Representation.** The teams that are awarded berths to the National Championship Finals from the Hall of Fame Tournaments shall represent their region at the National Championship Final. These teams shall be protected, where possible, from playing teams from their region in qualifying pool play at the National Championship Final.

Article 513 NATIONAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENTS.

- A. **National Qualifier Tournaments.** These tournaments are to be coordinated through the regional directors. **Junior Olympic National Qualifier Tournaments must be scheduled to be completed at least twelve (12) days prior to the first game of their prospective Junior Olympic National Championship Final.**

- B. **Eligible Teams.** The tournaments shall be open to all member teams; however, a limit on the number of entries may be necessary because of the number of fields available for play.

NOTE: A Junior Olympic Class B team may participate in a Class A National Qualifier. Participation in a higher classification could affect the team's classification.

- C. **Rosters.** Teams must compete in accordance with **Article 502** of this Code. Once a team has qualified for a National Championship Final through participation in a National Qualifier that team shall not be permitted to change their roster.

NOTE: A team may forfeit their berth and adjust their roster as provided in **Article 501, Eligibility, and Article 502, Rosters** of this Code and re-enter championship play in the same or higher classification. This will include Junior Olympic GOLD teams.

- D. **Pick-Up Players.** Pick-up players are not allowed in National Qualifiers.
- E. **Location.** Dates and sites must be received at the ASA National Office by January 1 or the tournament shall be awarded in order of rank to the region that registered the most teams in that division and classification of play during the preceding year. Regions awarded an additional National Qualifier must accept or decline the tournament within 10 days or the tournament shall be awarded to the next region in order.

F. **Allocation of the Junior Olympic National Qualifiers by division of play.**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01. Junior Olympic Girls' | One tournament in Oklahoma City. |
| Gold 18-Under Fast Pitch: | (Two Berths) |
| 02. Junior Olympic Girls' | |
| Class A 18-Under Fast Pitch: | One tournament in each region. |
| 03. Junior Olympic Girls' | |
| Class A 16-Under Fast Pitch: | One tournament in each region. |
| 04. Junior Olympic Girls' | |
| Class A 14-Under Fast Pitch: | One tournament in each region. |
| 05. Junior Olympic Girls' | |
| Class A 12-Under Fast Pitch: | One tournament in each region. |
| 06. Junior Olympic Girls' | |
| Class A 10-Under Fast Pitch: | One tournament in each region. |

G. **Adult Slow Pitch**

NOTE: Adult Slow Pitch National Qualifiers may be held in Adult Slow Pitch. The association hosting the tournament must use their local association berths. Teams that accept the berths must abide by the rules set forth by their local association to advance in championship play.

- H. **Bracket.** The official association bracket is to be used in all Junior Olympic national qualifiers.
- I. **Time Limit.** No time limit rule less than one hour and thirty minutes for fast pitch and one hour and fifteen minutes for slow pitch shall be allowed in Junior Olympic national qualifiers.

- J. **Tournament Host.** Although a formal contract shall not be negotiated between the tournament host and the ASA, it is expected that all national qualifying tournaments shall be conducted within the rules and procedures of the ASA and in a manner that shall protect the integrity and reputation of the ASA.
- K. **Assessment Fee.** An assessment fee of \$15.00 per team shall be sent to the National Office no later than 10 days after the tournament is completed.
- L. **Notification and Entry.** A listing of Junior Olympic Girls' Class A Fast Pitch National Qualifiers must be published to the ASA Junior Olympic membership by January 1. National Qualifier hosts are permitted to receive entries anytime after January 15, provided that compliance with **Article 508 (D)** of this Code has been met. Entries shall be accepted on a first come, first served basis. A minimum of twenty four (24) teams per age group, must be offered in order to conduct a National Qualifier in Girls Class A Fast Pitch.
- M. **Previously Qualified.** Junior Olympic Teams which have previously qualified for a National Championship Final may compete in other National Qualifiers. If a previously qualified team wins another berth from a National Qualifier, the highest finishing team without a berth will qualify.
- N. **Withdrawal.** A team must notify the national qualifier tournament director within two days of receiving a berth to a National Championship Finals if the team is required to withdraw from the national qualifier in accordance with this Code. The tournament director shall refund the team's entry fee if notice is received within two days and the bracket has not yet been drawn.

Article 514 REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS.

- A. **Assessment Fee.** An assessment fee of \$15.00 per team shall be paid to ASA.
- B. **Awarded.** Regional tournament bids shall be awarded by a majority vote of the National council members, local Junior Olympic Commissioners, local player representatives, and local umpires-in chief of the respective region.
- C. **Bids.**
 - 01. Regional bids are to be coordinated through the regional director.
 - 02. In the event that no satisfactory bid is received for a regional tournament, the regional director shall award the regional tournament to the local association who will agree to conduct it.
- D. **Entry Fee.** An entry fee may be charged in regional tournaments.
- E. **Regional Draw.** Regional tournament draws may be drawn by regional commissioners at designated meetings or may be drawn in accordance with National Championship Final draws under **Article 511 (F)** of this Code. Regional commissioners with simple majority vote have option on which procedure to adopt.
- F. **Umpire Assignments.**
 - 01. All regional tournaments require a minimum of two umpires per game.
 - 02. Assignment of umpires to regional championships is the responsibility of the host commissioner. It is recommended the host commissioner invite umpires from outside the host association.
 - 03. During regional tournament play, an umpire from an association may not work (when possible) behind the plate when a team from their association is playing, and it is suggested that they not work the bases.

Article 515 ASA TERRITORY QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS (Junior Olympic 18-Under Gold Only). The ASA shall conduct two Territory Qualifying Tournaments and **may hold four (4)**. **Berths would be divided evenly amongst all of the Territory Qualifiers** in Junior Olympic Girls' 18-Under Gold Fast Pitch in each of the following Territories as defined in **Article 203** of this code as follows:

A. **Eligible Teams.**

01. **Territory Registrations.** All ASA registered Girls' 18-Under Gold Fast Pitch Teams within their respective territories.
02. **Territory Teams Protection.** If any Territory Tournament should have fewer than 24 teams entered by April 15th, then teams from any Territory may enter that particular Territory Tournament.
03. **Previously Qualified.** Teams previously qualified for the National Championship Finals are not eligible to compete in any Territory Tournaments.

B. **Assessment Fees.** A \$15.00 per team assessment fee to be paid to ASA.

C. **Site.** The site of these tournaments shall be determined by a vote of the council members within their respective territories.

D. **Territory Administrator.** Each Territory will appoint a Junior Olympic Commissioner from one of their Regions to track entrants and communicate with other Territories if a Qualifier is open to all other Territories.

E. **Notification.** Each appointee shall notify the Assistant Director of Membership Services of their appointment by February 1 each year.

F. **Gold Territory Qualifying Tournament Procedures.**

01. **Territory Qualifying Tournaments.** Each Territory shall hold two (2) Territory Qualifying Tournaments (TQT) with half of each Territory's complement of berths being awarded at each of the two Territory Qualifiers **or may hold four (4)**. **Berths would be divided evenly amongst all of the Territory Qualifiers.** Each Region within the Territory could only host one of two Territory Qualifiers in the same year unless no other Region in that Territory wished to host. By mutual agreement, regions within a territory may set the date for Territory Qualifiers in any order they desire. If no agreement can be reached, then the Region with the most Gold participation in the previous year would host the first Territory Qualifier in that Territory and the Region with the second most participation in the previous year in that Territory would host the second Territory Qualifier in that Territory. If a particular Region did not wish to host a Territory Qualifier, the Region with the next highest Gold participation would be offered the Territory Qualifier. That process would go on until all Regions had declined and would revert back to the Region with the most Gold participation in the previous year.
02. **Sites / Number of Teams.** All territories are to host TQT's at sites that can accommodate all GOLD teams registered in their respective territories and all territories are to regard twenty-four (24) teams as a minimum number of teams for a TQT. Sites with capabilities of hosting more than this minimum should be given preference for the purpose of maximum participation.

03. **Tournament Bracket.** In accordance with **Article 511 (B)** of the ASA Code, the official ASA bracket (double elimination bracket) is to be utilized for all TQT's.
04. **Tournament Entry Procedures.** TQT's may accept entries at any time after 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Eastern Standard Time on March 15. The following procedures will be used for both territory teams and non-territory teams:
 - a. Territory Teams. Entries for territory teams will be accepted at any time after 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Eastern Standard Time on March 15.
 - b. On March 22, all of the entries from territory teams will be placed in a blind draw, and positions will be drawn for placement on the territory tournament list. After March 22, territory teams will be placed on the territory tournament list in the order they are received.
 - c. On April 15, if the territory tournament is not filled with territory teams, it will be open to non-territory teams (See Non-Territory Teams below).
 - d. Non-Territory Teams. Entries for non-territory teams will be accepted any time after 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Eastern Standard Time March 15.
 - e. On March 22, all of the entries from non-territory teams will be placed in a blind draw, and positions will be drawn for placement on the non-territory waiting list. After March 22, non-territory teams will be placed on the non-territory waiting list in the order they are received.
 - f. On April 15, if the territory tournament is not filled with territory teams, it will be open to non-territory teams, starting at the top of the non-territory waiting list.
 - g. Any team wishing to enter a TQT must submit to the respective tournament directors the following:
 01. ASA Official Tournament Entry Form.
 02. Tournament Entry Fee (Check or Money Order). Receipt of the check and roster does not guarantee a team a spot in the tournament.
05. **Master List.** Each TQT director will forward their master list of both territory and non-territory teams to the National Office for posting on the ASA website beginning March 23, and every Tuesday thereafter. The TQT directors will update these lists on a weekly basis.
06. **Tournament Entries.** Each TQT director will submit to the National Office no later than midnight local time on April 15, a list of the territory teams entered in their tournaments (Inclusive of Team Name, as it appears on their Entry Form, Manager's Name including Street Address, City, State, Zip Code and Telephone Numbers).
07. **Adding Non-Territory Teams.** As of April 15, if the number of territory teams entered in a TQT has not reached 24, the TQT directors will add non-territory teams in order of position on the non-territory team's list to fill the tournaments.
08. **Late Territory Entries.** Territory teams that submit entry applications after April 15 will be added to the non-territory team's list in the order that they are received.
09. **ASA Website Posting.** Each TQT director will submit to the National Office for posting on the ASA website the list of all teams participating in their tournament (Inclusive of Team Name, as it appears on their ASA Official Tournament Entry Form, Manager's Name including Street Address, City, State, Zip Code and Telephone Numbers).

10. **Master List of Qualified Teams.** The National Office will maintain a master list of all GOLD teams who have qualified for the National Championship Finals. Maintaining this list will require each TQT director to submit each Monday, starting the first week in June, a list of teams that qualified the previous weekend (Inclusive of Team Name, as it appears on their ASA Official Tournament Entry Form, Manager's Name including Street Address, City, State, Zip Code and Telephone Numbers).
11. **Notification of Teams Qualifying.** TQT directors will be notified each week of teams qualifying by the National Office and will remove qualified teams from the participating teams list. TQT directors will then fill open tournament slots from the waiting list in order of placement (See Draw Procedures below) until the tournament field is filled or the list is exhausted. If there is still a waiting list of territory teams that was established prior to April 15, those teams will be contacted first in order of placement until the tournament is filled or the list is exhausted. Once the territory waiting list (established prior to April 15) is exhausted and tournament slots remain open, teams on the non-territory waiting list will be contacted in order of placement.
12. **Notification of Unfilled Berths.** ASA Regional Directors and or ASA Regional Junior Olympic Commissioners are to notify the ASA National Office by June 1, or immediately upon discovery, that a regional Gold berth will not be used. In the event regional berths are unfilled the following process will be used:
 - a. Returned regional berths will be added to the territory tournament berths from which the region is assigned. The extra berths will be added evenly between the two territory tournaments with the first TQT getting the odd berth.
 - b. If one TQT has already transpired, all returned regional berths will go to the second TQT.
 - c. If both TQT's have been completed when the regional berth is returned, the order of finish for the TQT with the largest field of teams will be used to offer a berth to the highest finishing team that has not yet qualified.
 - d. In the event both TQTs had the same number of teams, the first TQT will be used to determine the team to which the berth will be offered.
 - e. In the event more than one regional berth is returned and the TQTs have been completed the TQT not used to fill the first returned berth will be used to assign the second. The process will continue to be followed until all returned regional berths have been filled.
 - f. In the event all TQT lists have been exhausted without finding an eligible team, **Article 510 (E)** of the ASA Code will be used to determine fill-in teams.
13. **TQT Entry Fees.** TQT directors are asked to review the tournament fees in light of the double elimination only format and adjust accordingly.

Article 516 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS. The following teams are eligible for National Championship Final competition as follows:

A. Special Provisions.

- 01. **Armed Forces.** The Armed Forces shall have either one representative team from each of the armed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines) or only one representative team if an inter-service championship is held.
- 02. **Geographical Hardships.** Certain National Championship Final berths have been granted by the Council because of geographical hardships and are outlined in this Article.
- 03. **Hawaii.** If Hawaii does not participate in the regional, it shall have one berth in certain National Championship Finals as indicated in this Article.
- 04. **Puerto Rico.** Puerto Rico is eligible to qualify one team in each National Championship Final Tournament.
- 05. **Combined Local / Regional Berths.** A region or any local association may combine berths and conduct a joint championship where the commissioners within the respective regions determine it is in the best interest of their regions or local associations.
- 06. **Direct to National Championship Finals.** In the following Divisions and Classifications, any team playing in the local championship tournaments (if scheduled) may advance to the National Championship Final:

01.	Men's	Major	Fast Pitch
02.	Men's	Class A	Fast Pitch
03.	Men's	Class B	Fast Pitch
04.	Men's	Class C	Fast Pitch
05.	Men's	23-Under	Fast Pitch
06.	Men's	Masters 40-Over	Fast Pitch
07.	Men's	Masters 45-Over	Fast Pitch
08.	Men's	Seniors 50-Over	Fast Pitch

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2012 Men's Masters 45-Over becomes Men's Master's 50-Over and Men's Seniors 50-Over becomes Men's Seniors 60-Over.

09.	Women's	Major	Fast Pitch
10.	Women's	Class A	Fast Pitch
11.	Women's	Class B	Fast Pitch
12.	Women's	23-Under	Fast Pitch
13.	Men's	(09) Man Major	Modified Pitch
14.	Men's	(09) Man Class A	Modified Pitch
15.	Men's	(10) Man	Modified Pitch
16.	Men's	Class A	Slow Pitch
17.	Men's	Industrial	Slow Pitch
18.	Men's	Church	Slow Pitch
19.	Men's	Major 16-Inch	Slow Pitch
20.	Men's	Class A 16-Inch	Slow Pitch
21.	Men's	Master's 35-Over	Slow Pitch
22.	Men's	Master's 40-Over	Slow Pitch
23.	Men's	Master's 45-Over	Slow Pitch

24.	Men's (Major Plus, Major, AAA and AA and All Age Classifications)	Seniors	Slow Pitch
25.	Women's	Open	Slow Pitch
26.	Women's	Masters 35-Over	Slow Pitch
27.	Co-ed	Open	Slow Pitch
28.	Co-ed	Class C	Slow Pitch
29.	Co-ed	Class D	Slow Pitch
30.	Junior Olympic	Boy's	Fast Pitch
31.	Junior Olympic	Boy's	Slow Pitch
32.	Junior Olympic	Girls'	Slow Pitch

B. **Men's Class A and Women's Open.** The ASA will conduct one (1) National Championship Final each for Men's Class A and Women's Open Slow Pitch. The tournaments will be held in Oklahoma City on the weekend that contains the fourth Saturday after Labor Day.

C. **Men's Class B Slow Pitch will conduct one (1) National Championship Final. The tournament will be held in Oklahoma City on Labor Day weekend.**

NOTE: EFFECTIVE: 2011.

D. **ASA East / West National Championship Finals.** The ASA will conduct two (2) National Championship Tournaments in following divisions and classifications:

01. **Men's Senior Slow Pitch.**
02. **Men's Class C Fast Pitch**
03. **Men's Class A 16-Inch Slow Pitch**
04. **Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch**

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2011 for Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch.

One championship will be played in each of the two (2) sections in accordance with **Article 204, Sections** of this Code.

E. **ASA East / West National Championship Finals.** The ASA will conduct two (2) National Championship Tournaments in following divisions and classifications:

01. **Men's Class B Slow Pitch**

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2011 Men's Class B Slow Pitch will be one (1) Championship in Oklahoma City on Labor Day weekend.

02. **Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch.**

One championship will be played in each of the two (2) sections in accordance with **Article 204, Sections** of this Code.

- a. **Qualifying. Teams will qualify for these National Championship Finals through their local associations. Local Associations shall establish a process by which teams may earn a berth into these National Championships. Local associations and regions may combine berths to qualify teams for these tournaments in accordance with Article 516 (A)(05) of this Code. Teams may play in the tournament of their choice.**

F. **ASA Eastern / Southern / Northern / Western National Championship Finals.** The ASA will conduct four (4) National Championships in following divisions and classifications:

- 01. **Men's Class C Slow Pitch.**
- 02. **Men's Class D Slow Pitch.**
- 03. **Men's Class E/Rec Slow Pitch**
- 04. **Women's C Slow Pitch**
- 05. **Women's D Slow Pitch**
- 06. **Co-ed C Slow Pitch**
- 07. **Co-ed D Slow Pitch**

One championship will be played in each of the four (4) territories in accordance with **Article 203, Territories** of the ASA Code.

- a. **Berths.** Berths into these National Championships will be based on the following:

All Men's Class B, C, D and E/Rec and Women's Class C and D berths are based on adult team registrations from the previous year as follows:

			Men's				Women's
Host Teams			4	Host Teams			4
0	-	500	6	0	-	100	6
501	-	1,000	10	101	-	200	10
1,001	-	2,000	12	201	-	400	12
Over		2,000	14	Over		400	14
Each Region			4	Each Region			4

- b. **Qualifying.** Teams will qualify for these National Championship Finals through their local associations. Local Associations shall establish a process by which teams may earn a berth into these National Championships. Local associations and regions may combine berths to qualify teams for these tournaments in accordance with **Article 516 (A)(05)** of this Code. Teams may play in the tournament of their choice.

G. **Girls' Class A USA / ASA Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.**
18, 16, 14, 12, 10-Under

Defending Champion	1
Runner-Up	1
Host Teams	2
Hall of Fame – Not Applicable For 10-Under	8
National Qualifiers	15
Regional Berths – Two Teams from Each Region	30
Returning Teams from the previous year's USA / ASA National Championship Finals and ASA National Championship Finals	0 - 16

Association Berths based on previous year's Girls' Fast Pitch registrations: Associations registering 201 – 999 teams receives one (1) berth, for associations above 999 teams, those associations will receive an additional berth for each increment of 500 team registrations. As an example, an association that registers 2900 teams would receive 5 total berths. The best way to determine the berths is to take total registered teams and divide by 500 – the number of berths is the whole number – no rounding up.

Approximate Additional Berths for each increment of 500 teams:
(75 – 92)
Associations registering 201+ teams (0 – 76)

Total Berths Based on Registrations 75 - 178

Geographical Hardships	Alaska	1
	Hawaii	1
	Rocky Mountain Region	1

Maximum Possible Number of Teams (Approximate) 135 - 235

H. **Girls' Class A ASA Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.**

The ASA shall conduct one National Championship Finals Tournament in each age classification of Junior Olympic Girls' Class A Fast Pitch in each of the following territories, In accordance with **Article 203, Territories** of this Code.

01. **Eligible Teams.** All teams within an ASA National Championship Finals Territory that have not qualified for an USA / ASA Junior Olympic Girls' Class A Fast Pitch National Championship are eligible to qualify for the ASA National Championship Finals Tournament through their local association. Teams may play in their closest National Championship.
[Ineligible. Any team that has qualified for an USA / ASA Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch National Championship is not eligible to participate in an ASA National Championship Finals Tournament.]
02. **Format.** Each ASA Girls' Fast Pitch National Tournament shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) games – two games of pool play and double elimination bracket.
03. **Opening Ceremonies.** Each National Tournament shall have a pre-tournament luncheon/draw for the managers and an opening ceremonies.

04. **Berths.** The first and second place team in each National Tournament shall receive a berth to the Junior Olympic Girls' USA / ASA National Championship Finals in the team's current or succeeding year's age classification provided the team has five (5) participating players from the previous year's roster on the current year's roster and physically present at the current championship tournament site prior to the start of their first game.

I. **Girls' Class B ASA Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.**

The ASA shall conduct one National Championship Finals Tournament in each age classification of Junior Olympic Girls' Class B Fast Pitch in each of the following territories, in accordance with **Article 203, Territories** of this Code.

- 01. **Eligible Teams.** All teams within an ASA National Championship Finals Territory are age eligible to qualify for their ASA Territory National Championship Finals Tournament through their local associations. Teams may play in their closest National Championship.
- 02. **Format.** Each ASA Girls' Fast Pitch National Tournament shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) games – two games of pool play and double elimination bracket.
- 03. **Opening Ceremonies.** Each National Tournament shall have a pre-tournament luncheon/draw for the managers and an opening ceremonies.

J. **Junior Olympic GOLD Girls' 18-Under Fast Pitch**

EFFECTIVE 2008. There will not be a Defending Champion or top Three Runners-Up from the 2007 Gold National Championship receiving berths to the 2008 Gold National Championship. The berths will be allocated as follows:

National Qualifier	2
Regional Champion	15

Regional Berths based on previous Year's Gold Participation in Regional Play:

Region with the highest participation	5	
Region with the second highest participation	5	
Region with the third highest participation	1	
Region with the fourth highest participation	1	
Region with the fifth highest participation	1	
Region with the sixth highest participation	1	
Region with the seventh highest participation	1	15

Territorial Berths based on previous Year's Gold Participation in Territorial Play:

Territory with the highest participation	12	
Territory with the second highest participation	12	
Territory with the third highest participation	4	
Territory with the fourth highest participation	4	32

Maximum Possible Number of Teams **64**

K. **Girls' Class Gold ASA Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.**
The ASA shall conduct one National Championship Finals Tournament in each age classification of Junior Olympic Girls' Class A Fast Pitch in each of the following territories, In accordance with Article 203, Territories of this Code.

01. **Eligible Teams.** All teams within an ASA National Championship Finals Territory that have not qualified for an USA / ASA Junior Olympic Girls' GOLD Fast Pitch National Championship are eligible to qualify for the ASA National Championship Finals Tournament through their local association. Teams may play in their closest National Championship.

[**Ineligible.** Any team that has qualified for an USA / ASA Junior Olympic Girls' GOLD Fast Pitch National Championship is not eligible to participate in an ASA National Championship Finals Tournament.]

02. **Format.** Each ASA Girls' Fast Pitch National Tournament shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) games – two games of pool play and double elimination bracket.

Article 517 USA SOFTBALL MEN'S / WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES.

The ASA will conduct a USA National Championship Series Tournament in the following divisions and classifications:

A. **MEN'S CLASS B.** The ASA will conduct a USA National Championship Series for Men's Class B Slow Pitch in accordance with **Article 204** and **Article 516 E.**

01. **Eligible Teams.** The National Champions from the East and West National Championships.

02. **Entry Fee.** Teams will not pay an entry fee to play in these tournaments.

03. **Dates.** These National Championship Series will be played the weekend that contains the fourth Saturday after Labor Day. These tournaments cannot start before 12:00 Noon on Friday.

04. **Tournament Format.** In the Championship Series involving two (2) teams, each class will compete in a best three out of five series for the USA National Championship Series.

05. **Rules and Regulations.** These tournaments shall be conducted under the same procedures as all National Championship Finals listed in this Code.

EXCEPTION: Pick-ups will not be allowed after the National Championship Finals for the National Championship Series.

06. **Expenses.** Each team participating in these tournaments shall receive reasonable transportation costs not to exceed the cost of fifteen airline tickets to the tournament and eight (8) hotel rooms paid for by ASA. This transportation can only be used by the players on the national championship final roster plus one manager and one coach – not to exceed 15 total persons.
07. **Site.** The sites of the USA National Championship Series Tournaments shall be recommended to the Board of Directors by the Executive Director for approval one year in advance. The Executive Director can accept or solicit bids for host sites for these tournaments. The Men's and Women's Tournaments may or may not be played at the same site.
08. **Trophies and Awards.** The ASA Board of Directors will set the specifications and requirements pertaining to trophies and awards.

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2010. The Women's Class C and Class D Slow Pitch will receive cash awards for the winners and will not be participating in the Championship Series Finals.

- B. **MEN'S CLASS C AND MEN'S CLASS D SLOW PITCH.** The ASA will conduct a USA National Championship Series for Men's Class C and Class D Slow Pitch in accordance with **Article 203** and **Article 516 F**.

- 01 **Eligible Teams.** The National Champions from the Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western National Championships.
- 02 **Entry Fee.** Teams will not pay an entry fee to play in these tournaments.
- 03 **Dates.** These National Championship Series will be played the weekend that contains the fourth Saturday after Labor Day. These tournaments cannot start before 12:00 Noon on Friday.
- 04 **Tournament Format.** In the Championship Series involving four (4) teams, a four team round robin leading into a seeded double elimination bracket will be played.
- 05 **Rules and Regulations.** These tournaments shall be conducted under the same procedures as all National Championship Finals listed in this Code.

EXCEPTION: Pick-ups will not be allowed after the National Championship Finals for the National Championship Series.

- 06 **Expenses.** Each team participating in these tournaments shall receive reasonable transportation costs not to exceed the cost of fifteen airline tickets to the tournament and eight (8) hotel rooms paid for by ASA. This transportation can only be used by the players on the national championship final roster plus one manager and one coach – not to exceed 15 total persons.
- 07 **Site.** The sites of the USA National Championship Series Tournaments shall be recommended to the Board of Directors by the Executive Director for approval one year in advance. The Executive Director can accept or solicit bids for host sites for these tournaments. The Men's and Women's Tournaments may or may not be played at the same site.
- 08 **Trophies and Awards.** The ASA Board of Directors will set the specifications and requirements pertaining to trophies and awards.

Article 518 National Championship Finals Tournament Awards Committee. This Committee shall accept bids and award tournaments in the following categories:

A. **National Championship Finals Tournament Awards – Fast Pitch / Modified Pitch.**

1. Men's Major, Class A, Class B and Class C Fast Pitch
2. Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch
3. Men's 40-Over, 45-Over and 50-Over Fast Pitch
4. Boy's Fast pitch
5. Women's Major, Class A and Class B Fast Pitch
6. Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch
7. Men's Modified Pitch
8. Women's Modified Pitch
9. Fast Pitch National Invitational Tournaments (NIT)

B. **National Championship Finals Tournament Awards – Slow Pitch.**

1. Men's Senior East / West Slow Pitch
2. Women's Masters 35-Over Slow Pitch
3. Girls' Slow Pitch
4. Boy's Slow Pitch
5. Men's Major and Class A 16-Inch Slow Pitch
6. Slow Pitch National Invitational Tournaments (NIT)

Article 519 NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS. National Invitational Tournaments shall be conducted as follows:

- A. **Bids.** Bids for conducting national invitational tournaments must be submitted to the National Office by October 1, and approved by the local association ASA commissioner.
- B. **Schedule.** National invitational tournaments cannot be scheduled within the same week where it would conflict with the Championship Play of this Association in the same classification and division of play.
- C. **Sanction Fee.** The sanction fee for national invitational tournaments is \$200.00 and must accompany the bid. Checks are to be made payable to the Amateur Softball Association.
- D. **Assessment Fee.** The bid must include a minimum \$25.00 assessment fee per team, payable to the ASA National Office. Any additional entry fee must be specified in the bid.
- E. **Rules and Regulations.** Although a formal contract shall not be negotiated between the tournament host and the ASA, it is expected that all national invitational tournaments shall be conducted within the rules and procedures of the ASA and in a manner that shall protect the integrity and reputation of the ASA.
- F. **Signage and Display.** All National Invitational tournaments must clearly display on all of the tournament literature that the tournament is a national invitational tournament. All references to National Championship Finals are strictly forbidden. Any violation of this section shall make the tournament director(s) liable to the Amateur Softball Association or its local association for any damage caused by the improper promotion of the tournament.
- G. **Tournament Report.** A tournament report must be sent to the ASA National Office no later than 30 days following the completion of the tournament. The report must be notarized. Failure to comply could result in withholding future tournament

sanctions (Tournament Report Forms are provided by the National Office).

- H. **Bid Review.** All bids for national invitational tournaments shall be reviewed by the Special Events Committee and will forward a recommendation to the Council for their consideration.
- I. **Qualifying Team Eligibility.** Teams who enter championship play and qualify to advance to the next level of championship play are not eligible to participate in any ASA national invitational tournament until the team is eliminated from further championship play.

Article 520 Levels of Non-Championship Play.

- A. **Levels of Non-Championship Play.** The ASA recognizes the following levels of non-championship play:
 - 01. Local league (city or county)
 - 02. Invitational
- B. **Non-Championship Local League.** The ASA, as national governing body for softball in the United States understands that local city or county leagues may adopt and use ASA's official playing rules. The use of any or all of ASA's playing rules is strictly a local matter and the rules may be altered as league officials deem necessary to conduct their own league play. ASA expressly disclaims any and all liability associated with the use of its official playing rules or any modification of its official playing rules. One of the primary purposes of ASA's official playing rules, including its equipment standards, is to promote competitive balance and to preserve the integrity of the sport of amateur softball. ASA's official playing rules, or any modification thereof, should not be considered a guarantee that participants, spectators or others will be safe or free from injury or harm. As stated in the preamble to the ASA Code, there are many risks and dangers incidental to the game of softball and ASA disclaims any and all liability associated with the game of softball or the use of its rules or Code. ASA does not review, sanction or approve of any modifications to its official playing rules. To the extent ASA's official playing rules are modified by local leagues; such modification may increase the potential or likelihood of injury, death or property loss, including the dangers associated with increased batted ball speeds. ASA shall not be responsible for any injury (including death) or property loss to any person in connection with any modification of ASA's official playing rules or the use of ASA's rules or any modified rules at any game or event.
- C. **Non-Championship Invitational Tournament Play.** Invitational tournaments may be conducted by the local association and sanctioned by ASA provided the following conditions are met:
 - 01. **Teams.** Only teams ASA-registered are eligible to participate.
 - 02. **Conflict in Schedule.** No invitational tournament may be conducted which conflicts with championship play of the local association or the ASA.
 - 03. **Notification.** All entry blanks and publicity shall include the following statement, ' Sanctioned by the Amateur Softball Association ' or ' Sanctioned by ASA '.
 - 04. **Rosters.** Teams must participate with the same roster as used in regular season play, with the exception that each team may add three players from another team in their local association.
 - 05. **Umpires.** Registered ASA umpires must be used.
 - 06. **Sanction and Sanction Fee.** Only the local association in whose territory the tournament is conducted may sanction a tournament and shall

- be entitled to charge a sanction fee.
07. **Suspension.** Upon the discovery of an ineligible player or acts of suspension under **Article 505 (B)**, Suspension of this Code, the team or team member shall be provided a fair notice and opportunity for a hearing before the Tournament Protest Committee, whose decision shall be final. Teams suspended under this rule shall forfeit the game being played or the game last played and removed from the tournament.
 08. **Forfeits.** Teams that forfeit as a result of other than ineligible players or acts of suspension under **Article 505 (B)**, Suspension shall be allowed to continue in tournament play, unless the forfeit was their second loss.
 09. **Player Identification.** A player must provide proof of their identification when requested to do so by the tournament director. If a player cannot do so, they shall immediately be declared ineligible.
- D. **Use of ASA Official Playing Rules.** ASA's official playing rules are designed to be used at ASA championship events and implemented by ASA officials and volunteers. ASA shall not be responsible for any injury (including death) or property loss to any person in connection with the use and implementation of ASA's official playing rules at any event, whether or not the event is recognized or sanctioned by ASA.

PART 6
BID PROCEDURES

Article 601 BIDDING FOR A NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING. Bids to host the annual meeting shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:

- A. The Executive Director shall negotiate and secure proposals to host the ASA Annual Council Meeting. These proposals will be screened and approved for presentation to the ASA Council by the Board of Directors. The ASA Council will decide the final site by a majority vote.

EXCEPTION: The ASA Annual meeting will be in Oklahoma City every 5 years beginning in the year 2013 to celebrate ASA's 80th year anniversary.

- B. Council meeting bids may be accepted and awarded three years in advance when satisfactory conditions are guaranteed.
- C. The Executive Director shall handle all arrangements and negotiations for hotel facilities and shall be responsible for signing all necessary contractual agreements. They shall report their recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration and action. Prior to presenting bids to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director and/or their designee shall inspect the proposed facilities to ensure that the proposed facilities meet the required specifications for hosting the ASA National Council Meeting.

Article 602 BIDDING FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS.

- A. **Submitting Bid.** The actual bid itself must be submitted on the official ASA bid form.
- B. **Photographs.** When an association bids on National Championship Finals, photographs of the field must be included with the bid.
- C. **Site Specification Form.** Prior to bidding on a national championship, a site specifications form and 8 x 10 glossy photos of the playing fields and spectator areas for the site of the proposed tournament must be on file with the National Office by July 1.
- D. **Site Inspection.** Site specifications forms may be secured from local association commissioners. The commissioner shall personally inspect the site as provided in the site specification form and certify that the requirements have been met.
- E. **Code / Contract Compliance.** Tournament hosts shall comply with all procedures as set forth by the ASA Code and included in the tournament contract.
- F. **Sealed Bid.** Bids must be filed with the national office by July 1.
01. The bid shall be opened and screened in the national office by a tournament review committee and the results shall be sent to the Council for review at least 15 days prior to the start of the Annual Council Meeting.
02. All national championship bids must be submitted through the respective local association commissioner in whose area the tournament shall be held.
03. All tournament bids must include all fees required from the teams, including but not limited to entry fee, gate fee, housing surcharge, or other fees.
- G. **Reservation of Bid.** ASA reserves the right not to bid any tournament, but to place that tournament at a site approved by the ASA Board of Directors.

H. **Awarded at the National Meeting.**

01. The bids shall be awarded at the annual meeting by a majority vote of the Council members. Within divisions of play, the tournament with the highest number of bidders shall present their bids to the Council first; the tournament with the second highest number shall present their bids to the Council second and so on. In case of ties, a draw shall determine which tournament is to be presented first. If at any time during the voting, there are more than three bidders for a national championship and no one bidder receives a majority vote, then the two bidders with the least amount of votes shall be eliminated from the next round of voting.

NOTE: For the purpose of establishing a majority, votes cast for cities that have been eliminated or that have withdrawn shall not be considered a vote.

02. In any National Championship final with an East / West concept, council members will vote on those tournaments that are in the section they represent.
03. In any National Championship final with an Eastern / Northern / Southern / Western concept, council members will vote on the tournaments that are in their respective territory.
04. All Seniors Slow Pitch National Championship Finals shall be bid together and conducted at the same site.
05. All Junior Olympic Boy's Slow Pitch (18-Under, 16-Under, 14-Under, 12 Under and 10-Under) National Championship Finals shall be bid together and conducted at the same site on the same weekend.
06. The Women's Major, A and B Fast Pitch shall be bid together and conducted at the same site on the same weekend.
07. The Executive Director shall have the first option to place any National Championship Final in the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium that is not bid on at the annual Council meeting.
08. Cities bidding for the Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship Final must have two adjacent fields to host the tournament.
09. The Junior Olympic Girls 18 and Under Gold Fast Pitch will be **rotated to Oklahoma City every third year and in the off years will be placed in other parts of the country by the Executive Director.**
10. All Junior Olympic Slow Pitch will be played together at one site.
11. **All Co-ed Slow Pitch National Championship finals shall be bid together and conducted at the same site.**

I. **Bid is Awarded.** If the bid is awarded, the successful bidder must:

01. Remit **one thousand (\$1,000.00) to ASA before December 31 as the tournament deposit. Deposit applies to total amount due per team entered in the tournament.**
02. The ASA may not require any change after the bid is awarded unless approved by the National Championship Final Host Organizing Committee. The contract form from the National Office should conform to the bid and no changes should be made without approval of the National Championship Final Host Organizing Committee.
03. Once a tournament is awarded to a bidding city, it cannot be moved without the consent of the Board of Directors.

- J. **Proposed Date.** The bid shall set forth the proposed date for the National Championship Final to not be in conflict with the National Championship Final dates prescribed in **Article 509, Dates of Championship Play** of this Code.
- K. **Evaluating and Rating.**
01. The most recent National Championship Final evaluation/rating of the bidder shall be listed on the National Championship Final bid summary sheet provided by the ASA National Office.
 02. **At their fall meeting, the Board of Directors shall review tournament host that received a rating less than seventy percent (70 %) from the teams, the umpire-in-chief, the tournament representative or the National Office. This review shall take place at the Board of Directors (BOD) fall meeting, which the host or their designee shall be permitted to attend in order to speak on their behalf. After review the BOD may suspend a host's bidding privilege. Once bidding privileges have been suspended, a host must demonstrate to the BOD that all the necessary improvements or corrections have been made before they will be permitted to place another bid.**
- L. **Tournament Programs Committee.** Each bidder shall be advised of the time and place the bid may be discussed with the Tournament Programs Committee at the annual meeting.
- M. **Only One Bid.** If there is only one bid for a National Championship Final, the Tournament Programs Committee shall make a recommendation to the Council based on all available data to the Committee as to accept or reject the single bid.
- N. **Presentation to Council.** Each delegation bidding for a National Championship Final shall be allowed three minutes to make presentations to the Council members. Delegations with multiple bids shall be allowed an additional one minute for each additional bid.
- O. **Hospitality.** Also, it is permissible to set up hospitality rooms and/or to hold reception or cocktail gatherings. This should be cleared in advance with the ASA Executive Director, so that adequate room or meeting space is available and the function does not conflict with any ASA scheduled activity. Room or meeting space expense is the responsibility of the bidding delegation.
- P. **Awarded Two Years in Advance.** National Championship Final bids may be accepted and awarded two years in advance when satisfactory conditions are guaranteed. New facilities must be completed prior to bid being presented.
- Q. **No Satisfactory Bid.** In the event that no satisfactory bid is received for a National Championship Final, the Executive Director shall recommend host cities for those tournaments not awarded to the Board of Directors at the Board meeting at the close of the Council meeting who shall determine the site.
- R. **Failure to Meet Obligation.** Associations failing to meet their obligations, such as filing reports and paying off their bids for previous National Championship Finals are not allowed to bid for any ASA tournaments until all moneys and reports are complete or written off by the Board of Directors or the commissioner is replaced.
- S. **Pre-Tournament Fact Sheet.** Host city must supply complete information for pre-tournament fact sheet by February 1. Failure to do so without a reasonable explanation may result in host city forfeiting right to bid on a National

Championship Final for a period of one year and then only with approval of the ASA Executive Director.

- T. **Status Report.** Commissioners, that are late in turning in financial reports upon completion of a National Championship Final, must at least turn in a preliminary Status Report and the reasons as to why the report and/or moneys are late by the deadline.

Article 603 FAST PITCH AND MODIFIED PITCH BIDS. A minimum bid fee for the ASA established by the Board of Directors based on the value of each tournament. Bid fees would be evaluated on an annual basis and changes to any bid fees would be published well in advance of the deadline for submission of bids by bidding cities. The bidders are also responsible for:

- A. **Assessment Fee.** An assessment fee of \$100.00 per team shall be paid to ASA.

EXCEPTION: Tournaments with eight (8) teams or less pay no assessments to ASA.

- B. **Umpire Expense.** Umpire expenses must include the following:

01. Game fees for adult fast pitch shall be \$25.00 per game; game fees for youth fast pitch shall be \$25.00 per game; Men's Major Fast Pitch shall be \$25.00 per game and Junior Olympic GOLD fast pitch game fees shall be \$25.00 per game. The number of umpires to be assigned per game is addressed in **Article 510 (Q)** of the this code.
02. Housing accommodations. Two umpires to a room.
03. Housing, local transportation for UIC and \$100.00 per diem/per day for the tournament umpire-in-chief.
04. Housing, local transportation and \$50.00 per diem/per day for the assistant tournament umpire-in-chief when one is assigned, see **Article 310 (C) (02) (a)**, and **Article 310 (C) (02) (b)**, **Umpires-In-Chief**, of this Code.

- C. **Administrative Expenses.** Operational and administrative expenses including:

01. Field maintenance.
02. Police.
03. Scorers, scoreboard attendants, ball chasers.
04. Statistician-Announcer.
05. Ticket sellers, collectors, ushers.
06. Advertising-Publicity.
07. Printing: tickets, programs.
08. Telephone/Telegraph.
09. Postage and office.
10. Awards must be supplied in accordance with **Article 607 (B)**, **Championship Play Awards** of the Code.
11. ASA Tournament Representative, who shall arrive one day prior to the scheduled opening day of the tournament, shall receive housing, local transportation and \$100.00 per diem/per day.

Article 604 SLOW PITCH BIDS. A minimum bid fee for the ASA established by the Board of Directors based on the value of each tournament. Bid fees would be evaluated on an annual basis and changes to any bid fees would be published well in advance of the deadline for submission of bids by bidding cities. The bidders are also responsible for:

A. **Assessment Fee.** An assessment fee of \$100.00 per team shall be paid to ASA.

EXCEPTION: Tournaments with eight (8) teams or less pay no assessments to ASA.

B. **Umpire Expenses.** Umpire expenses must include the following:

01. Game Fees for adult slow pitch shall be \$20.00 per game. Game Fees for Junior Olympic slow pitch shall be \$16.00 per game. The number of umpires to be assigned per game is addressed in **Article 510 (Q)** of the this code.
02. Housing accommodations. Two umpires to a room.
03. Housing, local transportation and \$100.00 per diem/per day for the tournament umpire-in-chief.
04. Housing, local transportation and \$50.00 per diem/per day for assistant tournament umpire-in-chief when one is assigned see **Article 310 (C) (02) (a)**, and **Article 310 (C) (02) (b)**, **Umpires-In-Chief**, of this Code.

C. **Administrative Expenses.** Operational and administrative expenses including:

01. Field maintenance.
02. Police.
03. Scorers, scoreboard attendants, ball chasers.
04. Statistician-Announcer.
05. Ticket sellers, collectors and ushers.
06. Advertising-Publicity.
07. Printing: tickets, programs.
08. Telephone/Telegraph.
09. Postage and office.
10. Awards must be supplied in accordance with **Article 607 (B)**, **Championship Play Awards** of the Code.
11. ASA Tournament Representative, who shall arrive one day prior to the scheduled opening day of the tournament, shall receive housing, local transportation and \$100.00 per diem/per day.

Article 605 TOURNAMENT CONTRACT. Once a bid is awarded, arrangements shall be made for the formal signing of the tournament contracts.

A. **Awards.** All trophies and awards for National Championship Finals in accordance with **Article 607 (B) (03)** must be purchased through the approved ASA awards provider.

B. **Broadcast Rights.** The broadcast rights of all ASA National Championship Final games are exclusively those of the ASA and any broadcast or rebroadcast of these games must be only with the expressed written permission of the ASA.

C. **Evaluated by Participating Teams.** All local associations conducting National Championship Finals shall be evaluated by the participating teams. Most recent evaluation/rating of tournament bidders shall be provided to the Council at

the time of bid presentations. (Evaluation procedure shall be implemented by National Office with input from the Tournament Programs Committee).

- D. **Execution of Contract.** The ASA Executive Director shall arrange through the host and commissioner to set a meeting date for formal execution of the contract by all parties.
- E. **Field Specifications.** If awarded a National Championship Final, the host organizing committee and commissioner agree their playing fields shall conform to the specifications stated in the current ASA Official Playing Rules.
- F. **Financial Report.** A financial report must be filed with the National Office no later than thirty days following the completion of the National Championship Final.
- G. **National Championship Finals Entry Fee.** Each team participating in a National Championship Final shall be assessed a \$100.00 fee. The assessment shall be included in the tournament entry fee (See **Article 603 (A)**, **Fast Pitch and Modified Pitch Bids**, and **Article 604 (A)**, **Slow Pitch Bids** of this Code).
- H. **Tournament Site Inspection.** The Executive Director shall personally visit or designate a representative to inspect the tournament site and facilities prior to the execution of the contract if the site is hosting the tournament for the first time.
- I. **Souvenir Items.** A report, on the approved form, of all souvenir sales shall be required from the organizing committee of the tournament within 30 days following the completion of the tournament, which shall be accompanied by payment of the appropriate fee.
- J. **Souvenir Videos.** The selling of souvenir videos containing footage from any National Championship Finals are exclusively those of the ASA and any broadcast or rebroadcast of these games must be only with the expressed written permission of the ASA.
- K. **Tournament Results.** The National Championship Final's host is responsible for having an active website and updates the results on a daily basis.
- L. **Transmittal of Contract.** A copy of the tournament contract shall be forwarded to the host organizing committee and the respective commissioner from the area in advance of formal execution.

Article 606 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION.

- A. **Bid Obligation.** Local associations awarded a regional, territorial, National Tournament or a National Championship Final must fulfill all obligations as specified in the bid.
- B. **Failure to Pay Obligation.** Failure to fulfill all obligations shall result in the suspension of the local association conducting the tournament and the local association commissioner of the area where the tournament is held.
- C. **Tournament Assessment Fees.** Each team participating in ASA championship play beginning at the regional level shall be assessed a \$15.00 assessment fee to be paid to ASA. This shall be from all Regional, National Qualifiers and Territory Qualifier play and any other tournament advancing teams to a Regional or higher level of competition (See **Summary of Tournament Assessment Fees** on page 95).
- D. **Tournament Entry Fees / Assessments.** The following is a review of all Tournament Entry Fees in relation to Tournament Assessment Fees (See **Summary of Tournament Entry Fees**).

SUMMARY OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

CODE REFERENCE	TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES
01. Article 517 (A) (02) (B) (02) USA Softball Men's / Women's National Championship Series	There shall be no Tournament Entry Fee
02. Article 519 (D) National Invitational Tournaments	Shall include a \$25.00 per team Assessment to ASA
03. Article 604 (A) ASA East / West Nationals Championship Finals	Shall include a \$100.00 per team Assessment to ASA
04. Article 605 (G) National Championship Finals	Shall include a \$100.00 per team Assessment to ASA

SUMMARY OF TOURNAMENT ASSESSMENT FEES

CODE REFERENCE	ASSESSMENT FEE PER TEAM
01. Article 513 (J) National Qualifying Tournaments	\$ 15.00
02. Article 514 (A) Regional Tournaments	\$ 15.00
03. Article 515 (B) Territory Tournaments	\$ 15.00
04. Article 519 (D) National Invitational Tournaments	\$ 25.00
05. Article 603 (A) Fast Pitch and Modified Pitch National Championship Finals	\$ 100.00
06. Article 604 (A) Slow Pitch National Championship Finals	\$ 100.00

Article 607 CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY AWARDS. Awards shall be made to teams and individuals as follows:

A. **Regional Tournaments.** A team trophy shall be awarded to the winner and runner-up of a regional tournament. Individual awards are optional.

EXCEPTION: Awards for individual performance, other than those based on team finish, are prohibited in Junior Olympic softball tournaments.

B. National Championship Finals.

01. **Championship Jackets.** In all adult divisions of play, the National office shall provide National Championship Final Jackets (with appropriate embroidery) to each individual whose name appears on the National Championship Final roster and who is present at the tournament. One manager and one coach shall also receive a jacket.

02. **Tournament Awards.**

a. **CATEGORY I (03 - 09 Teams)**

Teams Award First and Second Place
Individual Awards First Place – Medallion on Ribbon

Adult Division Only:

All-American Awards First Team Only **Certificates**
Batting Champion Leading Hitter
Home Run Champion Leading Home Run Hitter

b. **CATEGORY II (10 - 16 Teams)**

Teams Awards First, Second and Third Place
Individual Awards First and Second Place –
Medallion on Ribbon

Adult Division Only:

All-American Awards First Team Only **Certificates**
Batting Champion Leading Hitter
Home Run Champion Leading Home Run Hitter

c. **CATEGORY III (17 - 32 Teams)**

Teams Awards First, Second, Third and Fourth Place
Individual Awards First and Second Place

Adult Division Only:

All-American Awards First Team Awards and
Second Team Certificates
Batting Champion Leading Hitter
Home Run Champion Leading Home Run Hitter
MVP Most Valuable Player

d. **CATEGORY IV (33 - 48 Teams)**

Teams Awards First, Second, Third
Fourth and Two (2) Fifth Places
Individual Awards First and Second Place

Adult Division Only:

All-American Awards First Team Awards and
Second Team Certificates
Batting Champion Leading Hitter
Home Run Champion Leading Home Run Hitter
MVP Most Valuable Player

- e. **CATEGORY V** (**49 - and above Teams**)
- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Teams Awards | First, Second, Third
Fourth and Two (2) Fifth Places |
| Individual Awards | First, Second and Third Place |
| Adult Division Only: | |
| All-American Awards | First Team Awards and
Second Team Certificates |
| Batting Champion | Leading Hitter |
| Home Run Champion | Leading Home Run Hitter |
| MVP | Most Valuable Player |
- f. **CATEGORY VI** (**Seniors Only 01 - 05 Teams**)
- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Team Awards | First and Second Place |
| Individual Awards | Team Championship Jackets |
| All-American Awards | First Team Only |
| Batting Champion | Leading Hitter |
| Home Run Champion | Leading Home Run Hitter |

EXCEPTION: No Home Run Champion will be selected for the Men's Class D Slow Pitch.

03. **Individual Awards.** Individual awards shall be made to each individual whose name appears on the National Championship Final and runner-up roster and who is present at the tournament. The team manager and coach shall also receive an individual award.
04. **Individual Performance Awards.** Awards for individual performance other than those based on team finish, are permissible in adult divisions.
05. **All-American Team Selection.** All-American Team Selection (The **top level** in all divisions of adult play).
- a. To be selected to the first or second team, a player must have participated in at least four National Championship Final games.
- EXCEPTION:** Pitchers must have been credited with a minimum of two victories for selection to the first team. In slow pitch tournaments with 20 - 32 teams, All-American selections must come from teams that play at least five games. In tournaments with more than 32 teams, All-American selections must come from teams that play at least six games.
- b. Positions to be selected are as follows:
01. **Fast Pitch** Four infielders, four outfielders, three utility players, one catcher, and three pitchers.
02. **Slow Pitch. Five** infielders, four outfielders, five utility players and one pitcher.

- 03. **Co-ed.** Infield: two women and two men; outfield: two women and two men; utility: two women and two men; catcher: one player, pitcher: one player.
 - c. Slow Pitch All-American teams are to be for first and second teams.
 - d. A selection committee shall be appointed by the host organizing committee with no more than five or less than three persons serving on the committee and who shall be in attendance and observe a majority of all games played during the tournament. The ASA National Office representative shall be an active, working member of the selection committee and shall be charged with the responsibility of training the committee in their duties.
 - e. The selection of players shall not be predicated on the performance of players in the championship game(s), unless the committee unanimously agrees that such consideration is necessary in order to give consideration to players in similar positions that cannot be chosen on the basis of performance in games prior to the championship game(s).
 - f. Individual awards shall be presented to each player selected to the All-American first team. Players selected to the second team shall receive an engraved certificate from the ASA.
06. **All-Tournament Team Selection.** An All-Tournament Team will be selected (Adult Divisions and Classifications not covered under **Article 607(B)(05)** of this Code).
- a. To be selected to the first team or second team, a player must have participated in at least four (4) National Championship Final games.

EXCEPTION: Pitchers must have been credited with a minimum of two victories for selection to the first team. In slow pitch tournaments with 20 - 32 teams, All-Tournament selections must come from teams that played at least five (5) games. In tournaments with more than thirty-two (32) teams, All-Tournament selections must come from teams that play at least six (6) games.
 - b. Positions to be selected are as follows:
 - 01. **Fast Pitch.** Four infielders, four outfielders, three utility players, one catcher and three pitchers shall be selected.
 - 02. **Slow Pitch. Five** infielders, four outfielders, five utility players and one pitcher shall be selected.
 - 03. **Co-ed.** Infield: two men and two women; Outfield: two men and two women; Utility: two men and two women; Catcher: one player; Pitcher: one player.
 - c. A selection committee shall be constituted by the host organizing committee with no more than five or less than three persons serving on the committee. The committee shall be in attendance and observe a majority of all games played during the tournament. The ASA National Office representative shall be an active, working member of the selection committee and shall be charged with the responsibility of training the committee in their duties.

- d. The selection of players shall not be predicated on the performance of players in the championship game(s), unless the committee unanimously agrees that such consideration is necessary in order to give consideration to players in similar positions that cannot be chosen on the basis of performance in games prior to the championship games(s).
- e. Individual awards shall be presented to each player selected to the All-Tournament team.

EXCEPTION: No All – Tournament Team selected for the Men’s Class E / Rec Slow Pitch.

- 07. **Batting Champion.** A batting champion shall be determined at the National Championship Final on the basis of the highest batting percentage based on appearing at bat at least 15 times in the fast pitch National Championship Final and 15 times in the slow pitch National Championship Final.
 - a. Masters fast pitch batting champion shall be based on the highest percentage from 12 appearances.
 - b. Any player having participated in at least four complete games shall be eligible to be batting champion, if their number of hits would have been sufficient to give them the highest batting average and had they had 15 total appearances.
 - c. In the Co-ed division, two batting champions shall be named – one woman and one man.
 - d. Masters and Seniors Slow Pitch Divisions. The batting champion shall be based on the highest percentage from 15 appearances in tournaments with less than 24 teams.
- 08. Batters are to be credited with a home run for each four base award.
- 09. A home run champion shall not be selected in any tournament in which there is a home run limit of less than three.
- 10. Women’s Major Fast Pitch. Additional individual awards are as follows:
 - a. Most Valuable Player
 - b. Bertha Tickey – Most Valuable Pitcher
 - c. Erv Lind – Most Valuable Defensive Player
- 11. Men’s Major Fast Pitch. Additional individual awards are as follows:
 - a. Most Valuable Player
 - b. Herb Dudley – Most Valuable Pitcher
- 12. All trophies and awards for National Championship Finals in accordance with **Article 607 (B) (03)** must be purchased through the approved ASA awards provider.
- 13. The costs of all awards shall be borne by the tournament sponsor.

EXCEPTION: The ASA National Office shall provide jackets in accordance with **Article 607 (B)(01)**, **Championship Play Awards**, of this Code.
- 14. Selection of all trophies shall be made by the Board of Directors.

- C. **Unauthorized Awards.** At no time shall unauthorized awards be presented including merchandise awards that can be converted into money by the recipients.
- D. **Sponsors.** There shall be no advertising or sponsor names or logos on any National Championship team or individual awards.

Article 608 SOFTBALLS.

- A. Shall conform to the ASA Official Playing Rules.
- B. Shall be provided by the host association beginning at the local level.

Article 609 TOURNAMENT REPORTS.

- A. **Local Association Championship.** The association commissioner at the conclusion of the tournament shall:
 - 01. File with the respective National Championship Final organizing committee:
 - a. The name of the winning team.
 - b. The roster/affidavit form(s) and team entry form(s) of the advancing team(s).
 - 02. File with the national office a completed official tournament bracket.
 - 03. File the bracket and game scores with the local commissioner sending teams to the tournament.
- B. **National Qualifiers.** The association host commissioner at the conclusion of the tournament shall:
 - 01. File with the respective National Championship Final organizing committee:
 - a. The name of the winning team.
 - b. The roster/affidavit form(s) and team entry form(s) of the advancing team(s).
 - 02. File with the national office:
 - a. The completed official tournament bracket.
 - b. The official entry fees and assessment reporting forms, together with payment.
 - 03. File the bracket and game scores with the local commissioner sending teams to the tournament.
- C. **Regional Championships.** The association host commissioner at the conclusion of the tournament shall:
 - 01. File with the National Championship Final organizing committee:
 - a. The name of the winning team.
 - b. The roster/affidavit form(s) and team entry form(s) of the advancing team(s)
 - 02. File with the national office:

- a. The completed official tournament bracket.
 - b. The official entry fees and assessment reporting forms, together with the payment.
03. File the bracket and game scores with the local commissioner sending teams to the tournament.
- D. **Territory Qualifiers.** At the conclusion of the tournament, the tournament director shall file with the National Office:
01. The listing of the official order of finish within 24 hours of the completion of the tournament.
 02. The official entry fees and assessment reporting forms, together with the payment.
- E. **National Championship Finals.** The organizing committee, at the conclusion of the tournament, is responsible to file the following with the National Office:
01. Listing of the official order of finish within 24 hours after conclusion of championship play.
 02. Listing of first and second All-American / All-Tournament teams (adult divisions only) within 24 hours after conclusion of championship play.
 03. Photographs, including at least six action photos and team pictures of the champion within 30 days after conclusion of championship play.
 04. File the official entry fees and assessment reporting forms, together with the payment within 30 days after completion of tournament.
 05. The tournament organizing committee shall keep copies of score sheets for each tournament game a period of three months by the tournament organizing committee.
 06. Any statistics used for selection of All-America teams shall be copied and sent to the 15 regional directors for use in classification matters.
- F. **National Office Reports.** The ASA National Office shall publish the standings of all national championship finals indicating those teams that are subject to the Mandatory Classification Rule.

PART 7
INTERNATIONAL PLAY

Article 701 NATIONAL TEAM / COACH SELECTION COMMITTEE.

- A. **Committee Members.** The Men's National Team Selection Committee and the Women's National Team Selection Committee shall each be comprised of **five (5)** members consisting of at least **one (1)** athlete representative who meets the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee, the head coach of the National Team to be selected and **three (3)** members who are either members of the ASA or allied members of the ASA. The chair person of each National Team Selection Committee shall be elected by the members of such committee. Each member shall have one vote at all meetings. The committee shall act by majority vote.
- B. **Committee Selection.** The respective members of each Selection Committee, other than the athlete representatives(s), shall be appointed by a selection panel (the ' Selection Panel '). The athlete representative member(s) of the respective Selection Committees shall be elected by a majority vote of the athlete representatives who meet the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee. The Selection Panel shall consist of the ASA President, a person selected by the Board of Directors and an athlete representative who meets the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee. The athlete representative member of the Selection Panel shall be elected by majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors who are athlete representatives. Appointments and elections of members of each National Team Selection Committee shall take place as soon as reasonably practical after the conclusion of the ASA annual meeting which next follows the conclusion of each Summer Olympic Games. Persons appointed or elected as members of a National Team Selection Committee shall serve as members of such Committee until the conclusion of the next Summer Olympic Games or until such person resigns, dies or is removed. With the exception of the Head Coach, during the Olympic quadrennium in which a person is elected or appointed as a member of a selection panel or a National Team Selection Committee, that person shall not be eligible to be selected as a member of a National Team or as a member of the Coaching Staff for a National Team.
- C. **Committee Replacements.** If a vacancy occurs on a National Team Selection Committee, the replacement shall be selected from the same category and in the same manner as the member whose resignation, death or removal resulted in such vacancy.
- D. **Removal.** A National Team Selection Committee Member, including an athlete representative, may be removed with or without cause by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the Board of Directors; provided, however, that the seventy-five percent (75%) vote approval of the Board of Directors to remove an athlete representative shall include approval by a majority of those members of the Board of Directors who are athlete representatives.
- E. **Budget and Procedures.** The budget for each National Team Selection Committee shall be established by the Board of Directors. All policies and procedures employed and all expenditures of funds by a National Team Selection Committee must comply with the budget established by the Board of Directors and must be approved by the ASA Executive Director before such policies or procedures are employed or such funds are expended.

- F. **Meetings.** The ASA Executive Director, or their designee, and the ASA President shall have the right to attend, whether in person or by telephone, all meetings of a National Team Selection Committee. Provided, however, neither the ASA Executive Director (or their designee as may be applicable) nor the ASA President shall participate in or be present during any portion of a meeting of a National Team Selection Committee pertaining to selection or evaluation of particular athletes or coaches.

Article 702 NATIONAL COACHES AND PLAYER POOLS. Each National Coaches Pool shall consist of no less than eight candidates.

- A. **National Coaches Pool.** There shall be a National Coaches Pool for the Men's National Teams program and the Women's National Teams program. Each National Coaches Pool shall consist of no less than eight candidates. This pool shall be chosen by the applicable National Team Selection Committee from the qualified people who are involved in softball in the United States. The selection process shall be determined by the National Team Selection Committees. A coach selected as a member of the pool serves at the discretion of the respective National Team Selection Committee and can be removed from the pool by such committee. A coach selected as a member of the pool may at any time voluntarily remove their name from the pool. Selection of a coach as a member of the pool does not guarantee that such coach will be selected as a member of the Coaching Staff for the National Team.
- B. **National Player Pool.** There shall be a separate National Player Pool for each division within the National Teams program, e.g. Men's National Teams, Women's National Teams, Junior Men's National Teams, Junior Women's National Teams. The members of the National Player Pools for the Men's National Team and for the Women's National Team shall be chosen from individuals who are citizens of the United States at the time of selection and eligible under applicable eligibility rules for participation in a 'protected competition' as defined in the Bylaws of the United States Olympic Committee. The National Player Pools for the Junior Boy's National Team and for the Junior Girls' National Team shall consist of individuals who satisfy all applicable eligibility rules for participation in the competitions that are part of these programs. The members of each National Player Pool shall be determined by the applicable National Team Selection Committee and shall include open tryouts. The final decision regarding selection to the pool shall be made by the applicable National Team Selection Committee. Selection as a member of the pool in any given year does not guarantee selection to the pool in other years and does not guarantee that such athlete will be selected as a member or alternate of a National Team. Any individual may be a member of more than one National Player Pool as long as such individual meets all of the eligibility criteria for each such National Player Pool.

Article 703 TEAM AND COACH SELECTION FOR PROTECTED COMPETITION. As the National Governing Body for the sport of softball, it is the ASA's duty to select National Teams to participate in certain protected competitions as defined by the United States Olympic Committee Bylaws, as amended from time to time. The coaches and players will be selected to participate in such protected competitions in accordance with the following sections.

- A. **Coaching Staff.** There shall be a Coaching Staff for each National Team consisting of a Head Coach and a number of assistant coaches to be determined on a case by case basis by the applicable National Team Selection Committee. The Coaching Staff shall be selected by the respective National Team Selection Committee from the respective National Coaches Pool in accordance with the plan for selection developed by the National Team Selection Committee and, if applicable, approved by the United States Olympic Committee.
- B. **Players.** The appropriate number of athletes will be selected using the applicable guidelines for team size in each protected competition. The respective National Team Selection Committee shall select players and alternate players from the National Players Pool in accordance with selection procedures developed by the National Team Selection Committee and, if applicable, approved by the United States Olympic Committee.
- C. **Replacement Players.** In the event a replacement player is required, the respective National Team Selection Committee will select players from the National Players Pool in accordance with selection procedures developed by the national Team Selection Committee and, if applicable, approved by the United State Olympic Committee.
- D. **Final Approval of Committee Selections.** The selection decisions made by each National Team Selection Committee are subject to final approval by the ASA Board of Directors.

Article 704 TEAM SELECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OTHER THAN PROTECTED COMPETITION.

- A. **International Invitational Tournament.**
 - 01. For any international invitational tournament which is not a 'protected competition' as defined by the United States Olympic Committee Constitution, the following procedure shall be used in selecting the teams(s) which will participate:
 - a. The Executive Director shall determine which class of ASA Championship Play most closely resembles the level of competition expected to compete in such International Invitational Tournament.
 - b. The Executive Director shall send a written notice to each team which competed in the most recent ASA National Championship Final in the class of ASA Championship Play determined by the Executive Director in accordance with paragraph a. above, advising such teams of the International Invitational Tournament. The notice shall request each team to provide written notice to the Executive Director within a time fixed by the Executive Director stating whether they would accept an invitation to participate in such tournament if an invitation were awarded.
 - c. The Executive Director shall award the invitation(s) to those teams which provided written notice to the Executive Director agreeing to accept an invitation based upon their relative order of finish at the most recent applicable ASA National Championship Final.

Article 705 APPEALS REGARDING SELECTION PROCESS.

A. Right to Appeal.

01. Any player or coach adversely affected by a decision of the Men's or Women's National Team Selection Committee who believes such decision was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion; or (2) made in violation of the published rules for that particular team selection process, shall have the right to protest.
02. Such protest shall:
 - a. Include an original and five (5) copies of the complaint that shall be in writing, signed by the complainant and received by the Executive Director within five (5) business days after the announcement of the team selections;
 - b. Set forth in detail all evidence relied upon by the complainant in support of their claim;
 - c. Set forth the specific relief requested; and
 - d. Request a hearing if one is desired.
 - e. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Executive Director shall forward a copy to each member of the Board of Director's Sub-Committee. The Board of Director's Sub-Committee shall then determine whether the complaint satisfies the requirements set forth in this **Article 705 (A)(02)**. If the Board of Director's Sub-Committee determines the complaint does not satisfy the requirements set forth in this **Article 705 (A)(02)**, the Board of Director's Sub-Committee may, in its discretion, dismiss the complaint without prejudice to its refilling. The Board of Director's Sub-Committee shall send written notice of such dismissal and the reasons therefore to the complainant within five (5) business days after the date of receipt of the complaint by the Executive Director.
 - f. In the event the Board of Director's Sub-Committee dismisses the complaint without prejudice pursuant to the **Article 705 (A)(02) (e)**, the complainant shall have five (5) business days after receipt of the notice of dismissal to submit an amended complaint which satisfies the requirements set forth in this **Article 705 (A)(02)**. If the Board of Director's Sub-Committee determines that the amended complaint still fails to meet these requirements, the Board of Director's Sub-Committee may, in its discretion, dismiss the complaint with prejudice to its refilling.

B. Procedure.

01. If a hearing is not requested, the procedure will be as follows:
 - a. An Appeal Committee shall be formed consisting of three (3) members. One member of the Appeal Committee shall be appointed by the ASA President from the members of the Board of Directors. The other two (2) members of the Appeals Committee shall be persons elected by majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors who are athlete representatives who meet the United States Olympic Committee definition of an athlete representative. One person elected to the Appeal Committee by the athlete representatives on the Board of Directors shall be a person who meets the United States

Olympic Committee definition of an athlete representative. The other person elected to the Appeal Committee by the athlete representatives on the Board of Directors shall be a Council Member. Provided, however, members of the applicable National Coaches Pool, National Player Pool or National Team Selection Committee shall not be eligible to serve on the Appeal Committee.

- b. The Appeal Committee will review the protest and determine whether the information contained in the protest, if assumed to be true and uncontested, would be sufficient to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the decision of the applicable National Team Selection Committee was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion, or (2) made in violation of the published rules for the particular team selection process. If the Appeal Committee determines that, even if the information contained in the protest is assumed to be true and uncontested the information, is insufficient to satisfy the complainant's burden of proof, then the Appeal Committee shall issue a written report to the Board of Directors and the complainant rejecting the protest.
- c. If the Appeal Committee determines that if the information contained in the protest is assumed to be true and uncontested, the information contained in the protest is sufficient to satisfy the complainant's burden of proof, then the Appeal Committee shall direct the Chair of the applicable National Team Selection Committee to provide to the Appeal Committee and to the complainant within five (5) business days a written response to the protest which states whether the Committee believes the complainant's protest should be rejected and if so stating all of the reasons why the complainant's protest should be rejected (the ' Response '). The complainant shall have the right to provide the Appeal Committee, and the Chair of the applicable National Team Selection Committee, with a written reply to the Response (the ' Reply ') within five (5) business days after the date of the Response.
- d. Within five (5) business days after receipt of the Reply or expiration of the time allowed to provide the Appeal Committee with the Reply, the Appeal Committee shall examine all of the written materials submitted in favor of and against the protest and shall issue a written report to the Board of Directors which accepts or rejects the protest, a copy of which will be provided to all interested parties and the Executive Director. The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be the final decision regarding the protest and there shall be no further review of the decision within ASA / USA Softball.
- e. If a complainant receives an adverse determination of the protest, their rights to further review of such determination shall be limited to rights authorized by the United States Olympic Committee and the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, as amended from time to time (36 U.S.C. §§ 220501 et seq.).

02. If a hearing is requested, the process will be as follows:

- a. An Appeal Committee shall be formed consisting of three (3) members appointed in accordance with the procedure set forth in **Article 705 (B) (01) (a)** above.
- b. The Appeal Committee will review the protest and determine whether the information contained in the protest, if assumed to be true and uncontested, would be sufficient to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the decision of the applicable National Team Selection

Committee was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion, or (2) made in violation of the published rules for that particular team selection process. If the Appeal Committee determines that, even if the information contained in the protest is assumed to be true and uncontested, the information contained in the protest is insufficient to satisfy the complainant's burden of proof, then the Appeal Committee shall issue a written report to the Board of Directors with a copy to the complainant and the Executive Director, rejecting the protest.

- c. If the Appeal Committee determines that if the information contained in the protest is assumed to be true and uncontested, the information contained in the protest is sufficient to satisfy the complainant's burden of proof, then the Appeal Committee shall direct the Chair of the applicable National Team Selection Committee to provide to the Appeal Committee and to the complainant within five (5) business days a written response to the protest which states whether the Committee believes the complainant's protest should be rejected and if so stating all of the reasons why the complainant's protest should be rejected (the ' Response '). The complainant shall have the right to provide the Appeal Committee, and the Chair of the applicable National Team Selection Committee, with a written reply to the Response (the ' Reply ') within five (5) business days after the date of the Response.
- d. A date, time and place for the hearing which is not unduly burdensome for any of the interested parties or the Appeal Committee will be selected by the ASA Executive Director. The hearing must be conducted no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the Reply or expiration of the time allowed for the Reply; provided, however, that upon agreement of the parties or for good cause as determined by the Appeal Committee, the hearing may be continued for up to an additional ten (10) business days.
- e. The hearing will be conducted in a manner consistent with any applicable hearing guidelines established by the United States Olympic Committee. The complainant has the right to be represented at the hearing by an attorney of their choosing, at the expense of the complainant. The complainant has the right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and arguments in support of their position. A representative of the applicable National Team Selection Committee may be present and may call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and arguments in support of the decision of the National Team Selection Committee.
- f. If requested by an interested party, a record of the hearing will be made by a court reporter. The expense of such court reporter shall be borne by the party requesting the record. Each party may obtain a transcript of the hearing, at their expense.
- g. The complainant has the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence that the decision of the applicable National Team Selection Committee was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion, or (2) made in violation of the published rules for that particular team selection process.
- h. Within five (5) business days after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeal Committee shall render a written report of its decision to the Board of Directors, a copy of which will be provided to all interested parties and the Executive Director. The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be the final decision regarding the protest and there shall be no further review of the decision within ASA / USA Softball.

- i. If a complainant receives an adverse determination of the protest, their rights to further review of such determination shall be limited to rights authorized by the Bylaws of the United State Olympic Committee and the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. as amended from time to time.
- C. **Remedies.** If the Appeal Committee determines the complainant has met the applicable burden of proof in showing that the decision of the National Team Selection Committee was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion, or (2) made in violation of the published rules for that particular team selection process, the Appeal Committee may fashion a remedy consistent with the Appeal Committee's purpose and sufficient to remedy the claimed injury. The Appeal Committee is an ad hoc committee formed solely for the purpose of resolving a specific appeal brought pursuant to this **Article 705**. The Appeal Committee does not have the authority to alter the selection procedures or methods of the National Team Selection Committee, to remove any members of the National Team Selection Committee, or to award monetary relief.

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