### Article Number | Change
--- | ---
**Article 301 C 02 b** | **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 may play in the Men's Class A and/or Class B Slow Pitch.

**Comments:** Allows Men's Armed Services to play in Men's Class A and/or Class B Slow Pitch

**Article 301 C 02 c 02** | **c. Fast Pitch.**

02. In all adult Fast Pitch, no USA Men's National Team Member may participate below the Major level.

**EXCEPTION:** A member of the USA Junior Men's National Team may participate below the Major level in a National Championship Final. **Non-pitching members on USA Softball Men's National Team may pitch at the Open level, but cannot bat or assume any other defensive position.**

**Comments:** Allows non-pitching members of the USA Softball Men’s National Team to pitch at the Open level, but not bat or play any other defensive positions.

**Article 301 C 02 e 02** | **e. Slow Pitch.**

02. A restricted slow pitch player list will be compiled by a USA Softball committee representing slow pitch. The restricted slow pitch players list will be available on the USA Softball 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 USA Softball restricted slow pitch player's list may only play Class A and Super. Any team that participates in the **Men's Class A may not have more than five (5) players from the USA Softball restricted slow pitch player list. Any appeals regarding this list can be made through the National Office to the slow pitch sub-committee.**

**Comments:** Increases the number of restricted players on a Class A team from three (3) to five (5).

**Article 301 D 06** | **06. Industrial Qualifications.** Deleted from Code

**Comments:** Removes Men’s Industrial Slow Pitch as a USA Softball National Championship. This also removes Men’s Industrial Slow Pitch from Articles 306, 309 and 315
Article 303 A 05

05. Pick-up players must be from the team’s same or lower classification. (Adult Slow Pitch Only) A Player who is individually classified may be picked up by a team with the same classification. Said classified players may only play one Class lower than their current team’s classification. For those players who are not individually classified, their current team’s classification applies.

Comments: In Adult Slow Pitch, a player who is eligible by their individual player classification may be picked up by a lower classified team. For example, a Class D player playing on a Class C team may be picked up by a Class D team.

Article 306 A 10

10. Military / First Responders Slow Pitch

NOTE: The Military / First Responders playing guidelines, championship dates, and location will be established by the USA Softball Executive Director.

Comments: Adds a Military/First Responder Slow Pitch National Championship, with dates and location established by USA Softball Executive Director.

Article 309 C 01 l

l. Open Co-ed. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.

Comments: The Executive Director will establish and approve dates for Open Co-ed.

Article 309 C 01 m

m. Class C, Class D and Class E Co-ed. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.

Comments: The Executive Director will establish and approve dates for Class C, Class D and Class E Co-ed.

Article 310 B

B. At-Large Berths. Deleted from Code.

Comments: Teams qualify through their local association; there are no berths to be awarded.

Article 310 F


Comments: Teams qualify through their local association; there are no berths to be awarded.

Article 312

National Qualifier Tournaments. Deleted from Code

Comments: Teams qualify through their local association; there are no National Qualifiers.
USA SOFTBALL GOLD QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS (Junior Olympic 16-Under and 18-Under Gold Only)

A. Eligible Teams.

01. Registrations. All USA Softball registered Girls' 16-Under Gold and 18-Under Gold Fast Pitch Teams within their respective age groups may participate in any Gold National Qualifier.

02. Previously Qualified. Teams previously qualified for the National Championship Finals are eligible to compete in any Gold National Qualifier.

B. Assessment Fees. A $15.00 per team assessment fee to be paid to USA Softball.

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

D. Region Administrator. The Regional VP will appoint a Gold Administrator for their respective Region. This individual, along with the Regional VP, is responsible for ensuring all Gold National Qualifier information is posted on the TournamentUSASoftball.com website & for communicating the dates/sites of their events to the National Office.

E. Notification. All Gold National Qualifiers must be posted on the TournamentUSASoftball.com site by January 10 each year. Associations who have not posted their events by Jan 10 may lose berths allocated to their Region, and the berths will be redistributed.

F. GOLD Qualifying Tournament Procedures.

01. National GOLD Qualifying Tournaments.

a. Qualifiers within a region will be based on mutual agreement from the associations with the region. Only associations within the region that have Gold teams will be allowed to host a National Qualifier. If
02. **Sites / Number of Teams.** Any associations hosting Gold Qualifying Tournaments must do so at sites that can accommodate all Gold teams who have entered prior to the tournament entry deadline.

03. **Tournament Bracket.** In accordance with Article 311 ( A ) ( Exception ) of the USA Softball Code, the official double elimination or three-game bracket is to be utilized for all Gold National Qualifiers.

04. **Tournament Entry Procedures.** Sites may accept entries at any time after the event is listed on the USA Softball tournament website. Any teams wishing to enter must submit the following to the respective tournament directors the following:

   a. **Approved – USA Softball Official Tournament Entry Form**

   b. **Approved – USA Softball Championship Roster**

   c. **Tournament Entry fee.** Receipt of the entry fee and roster does not guarantee a team a spot in the tournament.
05. **USA Softball Website Posting.**

   a. **Tournament directors must follow** Procedural Manual Article 105 (D) (14) with regard to posting and using www.tournamentUSAsoftball.com

   b. **Tournament directors must submit, to the National Office,** an official order of finish and tournament bracket within 24 hours after the conclusion of the tournament.

   c. **Tournament directors** will scan/email the original rosters and official tournament entry forms (completed) to the National Office and the host director for the National Tournament.

   d. Failure to submit paperwork on time will result in assessment fees to be raised from $15 per team to $50 per team to be paid to USA Softball.

06. **Master List of Qualified Teams.** The National Office will maintain a master list of all Gold teams who have qualified and accepted berth(s) for the National Championship Finals. Maintaining this list will require each **Tournament Director** to submit on Monday following the event they have hosted, a list of teams that qualified at the event they hosted. Inclusive in the report will be the following: Team Name, as it appears on their USA Softball Official Tournament Entry Form, Manager’s Name including Street Address, City, State, Zip Code and Telephone Numbers.

07. **Notification of Unfilled Berths.** **Tournament directors must advise the Regional VP and Regional Gold Program Administrator immediately if any Gold berth goes unclaimed from the event they hosted. In the event regional berths are not awarded, the following process will be used:**

   a. **Unused berths will be added to the next remaining qualifier scheduled within their respective region. Unused berths will continue to be passed down until all remaining qualifiers within a region have been held.**

   b. **In the event all qualifiers within a region have concluded and unfilled berths remain, the**
unallocated berths will be returned to the National Office for distribution to other regions.

08. **Entry Fees.** Tournament directors are asked to review the tournament fees in light of the double elimination or three-game bracket format and adjust accordingly.

09. **Awarding of Berths.** Weather permitting; teams must participate in order to receive a berth.
   
a. If the tournament has fewer entries than the number of berths, then the number of berths will be reduced for that tournament. **The number of berths shall always be at least one (1) less than the number of teams entered.**
   
b. Berths shall be based on the number allowed by the USA Softball Code for each Region and by the number of teams participating.
   
c. **Regions** will retain the option to offer less berths but cannot offer more than allowed by the USA Softball Code **without permission from the National Office.**
   
d. Unused berths will revert back to the National Office for distribution **to other associations.**

   **Comments:** Adjusts regulations for USA Softball Gold Qualifying Tournaments

**Article 314 H**

All teams are eligible to qualify for the USA Softball Class A Fast Pitch National Championship Finals through their Local Association.

**Comments:** Eliminates a limit on number of berths. Allows all teams to qualify for Class A National Championship finals through their Local Association.

**Article 314 I**

**Girls’ Class A USA Softball Fast Pitch Regional National Championship Finals.**  
18, 16, 14, 12-Under

USA Softball shall conduct one **Regional National** Championship Finals in each age classification of Junior Olympic Girls’ Class A Fast Pitch in each of the following regions, In accordance with **Article 203, Regions** of this Code.

**Note:** Nothing in this Code should preclude the Regions from combining 2 or more Regional National Championship Finals.

01. **Eligible Teams.** All teams within a USA Softball **Regional National** Championship
Finals Region that have not qualified for a USA Softball Junior Olympic Girls’ Class A Fast Pitch National Championship are eligible to qualify for the USA Softball Regional National Championship Finals through their local association. Teams may play in the Regional National Championship of their choice.

NOTE: Ineligible. Any team that has qualified for a USA Softball Junior Olympic Girls’ Fast Pitch National Championship Finals is not eligible to participate in a USA Softball Regional National Championship Finals.

02. **Format.** Each USA Softball Girls’ Fast Pitch Regional National shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) games – two games of pool play and a seeded double elimination bracket. *(Effective 2020, Each USA Softball Girls’ Fast Pitch National and Regional National Championship Finals shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of five (5) games – three games of pool play and a seeded double elimination bracket. NOTE: This is optional for 2019)*

03. **Opening Ceremonies.** Each Regional National Championship Finals shall have a pre-tournament luncheon/draw for the managers and opening ceremonies.

04. **Berths.** The first and second place team in each Regional National Championship Finals shall receive a berth to the Junior Olympic Girls’ USA Softball 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.

**Comments:** Changes Territorial Championship Finals to Regional National Championship Finals and allows regions the option of combining 2 or more regional events.

**Article 314 I 02**

02. **Format.** Each USA Softball Girls’ Fast Pitch Territorial Tournament shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) games – two games of pool play and a seeded double elimination bracket. *(Effective 2020, Each USA Softball Girls’ Fast Pitch National and Regional Tournament shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of five*
(5) games – three games of pool play and a seeded double elimination bracket. NOTE: This is optional for 2019)

Comments: Changes the minimum number of games from four (4) to five (5). Three pool play and a seeded double elimination bracket.

Article 314 J Girls’ Class B USA Softball Fast Pitch Regional National Championship Finals.

18, 16, 14, 12, 10-Under

USA Softball shall conduct one Regional National Championship Finals in each age classification of Junior Olympic Girls’ Class B Fast Pitch in each of the following regions, in accordance with Article 203, Regions of this Code.

NOTE: Nothing in this Code should preclude the Regions from combining 2 or more Regional National Championship Finals.

01. Eligible Teams. All teams within a USA Softball Regional National Championship Finals Region are age eligible to qualify for their USA Softball Regional National Championship Finals through their local associations. Teams may play in the Regional National Championship of their choice.

02. Format. Each USA Softball Girls’ Fast Pitch Regional National Championship Finals shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) games – two games of pool play and a seeded double elimination bracket. (Effective 2020, Each USA Softball Girls’ Fast Pitch National and Regional National Championship Finals shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of five (5) games – three games of pool play and a seeded double elimination bracket. NOTE: This is optional for 2019)

03. Opening Ceremonies. Each Regional National Championship Finals shall have a pre-tournament draw luncheon for the managers and opening ceremonies.

Comments: Changes Territorial Championship Finals to Regional National Championship Finals and allows regions the option of combining 2 or more regional events.
Article 314 K

Girls’ Class GOLD USA Softball Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.

18-Under and 16-Under

The berths for each division will be allocated as follows:

- Returning Teams: 2 (Champion and Runner-Up)
- National Office: 8
- Additional Berths: 18
- Regional Berths = 2/Region: 20
- Maximum Possible Number of Teams: 48

a. Additional berths will be awarded by the National Office to the Regions with the highest percentage of participation in the previous 2-3 years.
b. The National Office has the right to award their eight (8) berths to any team registered with USA Softball. These berths can be awarded to the teams who did not participate in a qualifier.
c. Unused berths will be returned to the National Office for immediate distribution to the current year’s tournaments with the largest number of Gold teams participating.
d. Berths from Gold Qualifying Tournaments must be awarded no later than the weekend which includes the 3rd Saturday in June. Extension of the deadline must be approved by the Executive Director.

Comments: Realigns the berths to be allocated to the Regions instead of Territories. Changes the maximum number of teams from 64 to 48. Applies for both 16-Under and 18-Under. Removes 315 L from Code.

Article 314 M 04

04. Eligible Players. A Class C team must be comprised of players that are classified by their local association at the Class C or Rec level.

Comments: Requires a Class C team to be classified by the Local Association.
Article 315 B

New item – will re-letter as needed

B. Branding. National invitational tournaments cannot use USA Softball marks and logos before the tournament is approved by the Local Association USA Softball Commissioner and the USA Softball Executive Director.

Comments: Adds the requirement of any NIT to be approved by the Local Association USA Softball Commissioner and USA Softball Executive Director before using USA Softball marks and logos.
### Article 111 D 01

**Assignment.** An umpire may umpire in only one Fast Pitch and one Slow Pitch National Championship Finals each year.

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

**Comments:** Allows an umpire to umpire one Fast Pitch and one Slow Pitch National Championship event each year.

### Article 112

Transposes the definitions of Allied and Affiliated members.

**Comments:** Changes were made based on how the Amateur Sports Act is read.

### Article 112 A

**Affiliated Members.** A non-profit association or organization may become an Affiliated Member of the Association upon meeting the requirements set forth in the Code and Procedural Manual with 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 organization has qualified for membership status, before submission to the Council. **Affiliated Members may vote with either the Local Association, Region, Territory, and Section in which they live or with the Local Association, Region, Territory, and Section in which the organization’s National Office is located.**

**Comments:** Gives Affiliated members the option to vote with the Local Association, Region, Territory and Section in which they live or where the organization’s National Office is located.

### Article 112 B

**Allied Members.** A non-profit association or organization may become an Allied Member of the Association upon meeting the requirements set forth in the Code and Procedural Manual with 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 organizations have qualified for membership status, before submission to the Council. **Allied members may vote with either the Local Association, Region, Territory, and Section in which they live or with the Local Association, Region, Territory, and Section where the organization’s National Office is located.**

**Comments:** Gives Allied members the option to vote with the Local Association, Region, Territory and Section in which they live or where the organization’s National Office is located.
Article 113 A  

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. Their contributions must exceed the expectations of their regularly assigned position.

**Comments:** Clarifies requirements for Hall of Fame nominees

Article 113 B 01 a 03  

03. **Prerequisites.**

a. **Fast Pitch.** The minimum requirements for consideration are three selections as an All-American including at least one selection to the First Team; or three selections as a member of Team USA or any combination of the three.

**NOTE:** The selection process developed by a joint venture of USA Softball and the approval of the United States Olympic Committee must be utilized in selecting the national team. Multiple selections to Team USA during the same year will be limited to one (1) per season in determining eligibility for Hall of Fame induction.

b. **Slow Pitch.** The minimum requirements for consideration are three selections as an All-American including at least one selection to the First Team; or three selections as a member of Team USA or any combination of the three.

**Comments:** Separates prerequisites for Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch Hall of Fame nominations.

Article 113 B 01 b  

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 three (3) national championships, at least one at the highest available classification.
03. Must have been retired at least three (3) years from major competition.
04. Contributions to the National Umpire Program.
05. Contributions to the success of the Umpire-in-Chief clinic.
06. Effective as a clinician of the National or International level or for the military level.
07. Effective as an instructor at National Umpire Schools.

**Comments:** Requires umpires to have umpired at the highest available
classification in order to be nominated to the Hall of Fame. Administrative and Clinician requirements have also been removed because many umpires are not afforded the opportunity to serve as a Regional UIC or member of the National Umpire Staff.

**Article 113 B 01 c**

   c. **Managers / Coach.** In order to be selected as a manager / coach, a manager / coach must meet the following criteria:
   01. Managed / Coached for a period of fifteen (15) years.
   02. Managed / Coached in five (5) national championships.
   03. Must have been retired at least three (3) years from major championship play.

   **Comments:** Adds the word Coach to go along with Manager.

**Article 113 B 01 d**

   New item – will re-letter as needed
   d. **Head Coaches.** In order to be selected as a head coach, a coach must meet the following criteria:
      01. Must have been the head coach of a national team (Team USA) for a period of five (5) years.
      02. Win a minimum of two (2) WBSC approved International Championship events (World Championships, World Cups, International Cups, Border Battles and or the Olympics).

   **Comments:** Adds a Head Coach category for Hall of Fame nomination requirements.

**Article 113 B 01 f**

   f. **Meritorious Service.** This person’s contributions must have reflected an impact at the national level. The contributions must exceed the expectations of their regularly assigned position.

   **Comments:** Removes the requirement that contributions must exceed their regularly assigned position.

**Article 202 B**

   B. **Communications and Marketing**

   **Comments:** Adds marketing to the communications committee to help them work simultaneously.

**Article 303 B 01**

   01. Game fees for Adult Fast Pitch, Junior Olympic Fast Pitch and Modified Pitch shall be a minimum of $30.00 (Effective 2020, $40.00) per game. Game fees for Adult Slow Pitch shall be a minimum of $25.00 (Effective 2020, $30.00) per game and game fees for Junior Olympic Slow Pitch shall be a minimum of $21.00 (Effective 2020, $26.00) per game. The number of umpires to be assigned per game is address in Article 310 (R) of the Code.

   **Comments:** Adjusts the minimum umpire payment in 2020.

**Article 303 B 03**

   As approved in 2017:
   03. Housing, local transportation for UIC and a minimum of $125 per diem/per day for the
tournament umpire-in-chief. The UIC shall arrive one day prior to the scheduled opening day of the Championship.

**Comments:** Establishes the minimum per day per diem for the UIC.

**Article 303 B 04**  
As approved in 2017  
Housing, local transportation and a **minimum of $100** per diem/per day for the assistant tournament umpire-in-chief when one is assigned

**Comments:** Establishes the minimum per day per diem for the assistant UIC.

**Article 303 C 11**  
As approved in 2017  
USA Softball Tournament Representative, who shall arrive one day prior to the scheduled opening day of the tournament, shall receive housing, local transportation and a **minimum of $125.00** per diem/per day

**Comments:** Establishes the minimum per day per diem for the USA Softball Tournament Rep.
Rule 3, Section 6: Remove: Coaches, players and team representatives from displaying the names or logos of other softball associations on their uniforms.

Comment: Allows for other organizations logos to be on players and coaches uniforms.

Rule 3, Section 6A EFFECT 2: (Female Fast Pitch and all Slow Pitch) Ball caps and visors are optional for players. If worn, they may be mixed and must be worn properly, colors to include: black, white, gray, beige or team colors. The colors may be mixed and are not required to be the same for all team members. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headwear and cannot be worn around the head or neck. Plastic visors are not allowed.

Comment: Allows colors to be mixed when wearing caps or visors in Female Fast Pitch and all Slow Pitch Classifications of play.

Rule 3, Section 6D: An Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting color, or outlined in contrasting color, at least three inches high, must be clearly visible on all uniform shirts.

Comment: Revises the requirement for the size and location of the number placed on the uniform jersey.

Rule 4, Section 1C [1c]: When batting up to all roster players, any additional batters shall be listed as an EP and may be listed anywhere in the batting order and may play defense at any position.

Comment: Clarifies where EPs may be listed in the batting order for JO Fast Pitch Pool Play.

Rule 5, Section 3A: All games played using a Time Limit will be considered Regulation Games regardless of the number of innings completed/played.

Comment: Specifies that all games ending as a result of the Time Limit Rule will be considered Regulation Games.

Rule 7, Section 3B: (JO Boy’s 14U, 16U and 18U Slow Pitch) The batter shall assume a one ball, one strike count upon entering the batter’s box.

Comment: Adds JO Boy’s 14U, 16U and 18U Slow Pitch Classifications of Play to those who will start with a one ball, one strike count.

Rule 8, Section 10A [4]: Defensive changes involving the pitcher or catcher must be reported to the Plate Umpire to ensure the correct player may have a courtesy runner.

Comment: Requires teams to report those defensive changes involving the pitcher or the catcher.