

**THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF
USA SOFTBALL OF PENNSYLVANIA
(DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania)
REVISED AND AMENDED AS OF February 1, 2019**

ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.01 NAME

The name of the organization shall be USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania to be known as ASA of PA). The headquarters of the Association shall be located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania with offices at 6449 Snavely Court, Harrisburg, PA 17111. The Association shall be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1.02 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- A. To promote amateur softball, within the boundaries assigned to the Association by the USA Softball, Inc, for all persons regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, or ancestry.
- B. To promote all phases of USA Softball of Pennsylvania including Men's, Women's, Youth, Industrial, Church, Coed, Fraternal, Civic and Township Recreation organizations
- C. To establish uniform softball rules and regulations that can be observed by all its members.
- D. To provide the game of softball with the proper safeguards, in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship, so that that game will be fostered as a non-professional sport, engaged in by its members as a recreational activity.
- E. To encourage the union of all eligible teams, organizations, or groups, into such separate divisions of play, with active membership in the Association, as is deemed necessary to advance the cause of amateur softball.
- F. To establish and maintain, by allied and affiliated membership, alliances with other organizations devoted to the promotion of amateur softball.
- G. To conduct well organized and planned Qualifying, District, Area, State, Regional and National Tournaments, in all divisions of play where possible.
- H. To be represented in all divisions of play in Regional and/or National Area and National Championship Tournaments.
- I. To define areas and districts in a manner that will benefit member teams.
- J. To educate and train, in the proper skills of USA Softball of play and rules, through promoting, organizing and conducting clinics, seminars and training course.

1.03 RULES

The official Rules of Softball and the Code of USA Softball shall be, and hereby are made a part of, the Constitution and By-laws of this Association, and with like force and effect as if they were herein set forth. Where a conflict occurs, the rules and regulations as they are specifically written within this Association's Constitution and By-laws shall have precedence unless specifically involved with teams advancing to National Championship Play.

1.04 JURISDICTION

The Association is the governing body of USA Softball to be played within the state of Pennsylvania, except for softball played in the county of Philadelphia and is so recognized as such by USA Softball.

1.05 DEFINITIONS

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

- A. "Amateur" –An USA Softball of Pennsylvania player who engages in the sport solely for the pleasure, physical, mental or social benefits he or she derives there from, and to whom softball is no more than an.
- B. "Code" – The Constitution and By-Laws of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
- C. "Council" – The governing body of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
- D. "District" – A geographical area, encompassing a specific county or counties within the territory of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
- E. "Host Team" – A team selected to represent the sponsoring organization of a Championship Tournament.
- F. "Ineligible Player" – A player who is not eligible to participate in USA competition.
- G. "Invitational Tournament" – A tournament that does not lead to a Championship Tournament and is sanctioned by the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
- H. "Pick Up Player" – Any individual not participating as a regular season roster member of the same particular team in the same league. In order to be eligible as a Pickup Player that individual must meet all of the requirements as stated in the Code of The USA Softball of Pennsylvania. Pickup Players must have played for an USA registered team during the current season and must have played in the same division of play and at the same or lower classification as the team for which they are being picked up.
- I. "State Office" – The headquarters of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
- J. "Suspension of the Rules" – While in regular session and with the consent of **60%** of the council members voting the council may vote to consider any provision of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
- K. Membership – Membership in USA Softball of Pennsylvania includes team registration or individual registration.

1.06 AMENDMENTS

- A. This code may be amended by a 60% majority vote of the Council Members voting at the Annual Spring Meeting, providing the proposed amendment was presented to the Secretary of the Association by one member of the Council, in writing, at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.
 - 1. The State Office will make all proposed amendments available to each member of the Council in attendance at the Annual Spring Council Meeting.
 - 2. A change may be made to a proposed amendment that is being considered by the Council with the permission of the presenter. A change may also be made in any proposed amendment by consent of 60% majority of all Council Members voting on the proposed change. However, any proposed amendment that has been changed must receive a 60% vote of the Council Members voting in order to be approved.
While in regular session and with consent of 60% of the Council Members voting, the Council may vote to consider any provision of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania
- B. All amendments approved at the Annual Spring Meeting shall go into effect on the first day of January of the next year unless an earlier date is specified in the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERSHIP

2.01 TEAMS

- A. Adult - The membership of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania is open to any team, providing they play in a league where all of the teams are registered with the USA Softball of Pennsylvania, and they are able to abide by this Code, and who pay the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Note: A league is defined as a group of four(4) or more teams, playing a minimum of eight (8) games scheduled over no less than a thirty (30) day period, with no more than two (2) games being played in one (1) day. This shall include both Adult and Youth play.
- B. Independent Adult- The membership of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania is open to the independent team unable to play in an available organized USA sanctioned league providing they are able to abide by this Code and who pay the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Note: An Independent

Adult Team will only be eligible to compete in Championship Play Tournaments that to lead to National Championships in either the Adult Class "A" Major or Super Divisions of paly. To be eligible to compete in these Tournaments, the team must have the written approval of the District Commissioner of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania is open to the independent team unable to play in an available organized USA Softball of Pennsylvania sanctioned league provided they are able to abide by this Code, and who pay the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Note: Unless approved by the State Commissioner or State Junior Olympic Commissioner, an independent youth team will be eligible to compete only in Championship Play Tournaments that lead to a National Championship at the highest level of paly available in their respective age group. (Junior Olympic Gold Level for 18 and Under Girl's Fast Pitch and they may sign only one (1) Championship roster per type or division of pay each year for advanced play.

- C. Youth – Youth membership is open to teams of local athletic associations or organizations where all teams within that athletic association or organization are registered members of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania). NOTE: With the various benefits USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) offers its members, it is our policy to accept only those teams from associations where all teams within their program are registered with USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Association of Pennsylvania).
- D. Independent Youth – The membership of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania is open to the independent team unable to play in an available organized USA Softball of Pennsylvania sanctioned league providing they are able to abide by this Code, and who pay the required dues as set by the Board of Directors. Independent youth teams must be individually registered and must abide by classification criteria set forth in Classification Guidelines section and obtain approval from the State JO Classification Board consisting of the State JO Commissioner, State Deputy JO Commissioner, District Commissioner and District JO Commissioner to determine at what level they may compete.

2.03 UMPIRES

- A. Adult – The membership of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) is open to all umpires that are members of a local umpiring association that holds an ASA/USA Softball of Pennsylvania Charter, are able to abide by this Code, and who pay the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- B. Youth – The membership of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) is open to umpires who will not reach their eighteenth birthday prior to September 1 of the current year, after receiving the recommendation of their District Umpire-In-Chief and paying the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

2.04 ALLIED MEMBERS

Allied members are such associations as may enter into alliances with USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) to further the promotion of amateur softball. Allied members shall pay dues of fifty dollars (\$50) annually unless waived by unanimous vote of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

2.05 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

- A. Players, managers and coaches automatically acquire membership in USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) upon payment of the team and/or individual registration fee by their team.
- B. Associate members are those individuals who desire to aid in the promotion of USA Softball ofand who have previously served as members of the Council. Associate members shall pay an annual membership fee and shall be entitled to attend the Annual Spring Meeting of this Association without voice, and to receive the official publications of the USA Softball and USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of PA).
- C. Trade members are those companies who desire to aid in the promotion of amateur softball. Trade members shall pay an annual fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) and meet all requirements established by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and shall be entitled to receive the official publications of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of PA). The privilege of exhibiting at the Annual Spring Meeting shall be extended to those meeting the requirements for such as established by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

2.06 TERM OF MEMBERSHIP

All memberships are annual and expire on December 31 of the current year.

ARTICLE 3 – OFFICERS, PLAYER REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER OFFICIALS

3.01 TITLES

- A. The titles of the elected officers of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) are President and Vice Presidents.
- B. The Chief Advisor of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) shall be the State Commissioner who is appointed by the USA Softball of Pennsylvania..
- C. The officers of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) shall include the President, **Area** Vice Presidents and all members of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

3.02 DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

- A. Nomination – A new District Commissioner should be recommended by the Area Vice President.
- B. Appointment – After reviewing the recommendation of the Vice President the State Commissioner will make the appointment.
- C. Term of Office – The District Commissioner shall serve at the discretion of the State Commissioner.
- D. Removal – A District Commissioner may be removed at any time for just cause by the State Commissioner.
 - 1. A decision to remove may be appealed by the District Commissioner, in writing, to the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 - 2. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS may sustain the removal action taken by the State Commissioner by a majority vote.
 - 3. The decision of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS is final.
- E. Duties – The duties of a District Commissioner are those duties promulgated by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - 1. Being responsible for all monies and dues owed to USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania).
 - 2. Promote ASA of Pennsylvania in the counties and areas assigned.
 - 3. Appoint a District Umpire-In-Chief.
 - 4. Appoint all District Deputy Commissioners, County Commissioners **and JO Commissioner**.
 - 5. Send all registrations to the State Office **within 10 days** after receiving same.
 - 6. Police all sanctioned tournaments within the District **and sanction all invitational tournaments and showcase events**.
 - 7. Administer all Championship tournaments within the District and file all tournament results with the State Office within **ten (10)** days of the completion of the Tournament.
 - 8. Classify each Adult fast pitch pitcher and all teams in the District not previously classified by the State, Regional or National Classification Committee or the Code of **USA Softball**.
 - 9. Attend the Annual Spring and Fall Meeting of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania).
 - 10. Attend all meetings of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) **as required by the State Commissioner**.

3.03 VICE PRESIDENTS

- A. Election – A Vice President from the eligible Council Members of each area shall be elected by **at the** annual Area Meeting. If more than one candidate is nominated for the position voting will be done by ballot.
- B. Term of Office – Vice Presidents shall serve a term of one (1) year and be eligible for reelection.
- C. Removal – A Vice President may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- D. Duties – the Vice President's duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Represents his area on the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 2. Conduct an area meeting prior to March 1.
 3. May appoint an Area Umpire-In-Chief.
 4. Assist the President in the performance of his duties. The **Area** Vice President shall act in the absence or inability of the President to perform.
 5. Appoint an Area Junior Olympic Youth Commissioner.
- E. Vacancies – If the Vice President for any reason dies, resigns, is unable to act, or is removed from Office, then a new Vice President shall be appointed by the State Commissioner with the ultimate approval of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS until such time as a new **Area** Vice President is elected at the next **area** meeting.

3.04 PRESIDENT

- A. Nominations – Presidential candidates shall be nominated at the Annual Spring Meeting.
- B. Election – The President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council.
- C. Term of Office – The President shall serve a term of one (1) year and is eligible for reelection.
- D. Vacancy – If the President is absent or unable to perform, the Senior Vice President in terms of service as a Commissioner, shall act as President. If a President resigns or is removed from office, a new President shall be elected by a majority of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS from among its members until a new President is elected at the Annual Spring Meeting.
- E. Removal – A President may be removed for just cause by a two-thirds majority vote of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- F. Duties – The duties of the President shall include but not be limited to the following:
 1. Preside at all sessions of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and the Council.
 2. Direct the policies of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania).
 3. Perform such duties as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania).

3.05 STATE COMMISSIONER

- A. Appointment – The State Commissioner shall be appointed by the USA Softball of Pennsylvania and will be the Chief Advisor for USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania).
- B. Removal – The State Commissioner may only be removed by the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
 1. Advise USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) in all affairs concerning USA Softball in its territory.
 2. Appoint and remove District Commissioners in accordance with Article 3.02.
 3. Manage the State Office including the Hall of Fame, and perform such duties as delegated herein and as designated by the USA Softball of Pennsylvania..
 4. Negotiate and execute all contracts and agreements on behalf of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
 5. Make the decision on any request to interpret the Code.
 6. Act on behalf of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) in all matters of emergency that are not directly covered by the code.
 7. Appoint the Secretary and Treasurer of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania), subject to the approval of the Council.
 8. Appoint all Committees except the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 9. Fill all vacancies as specified in this Code.

3.06 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- A. Appointment – The Executive Director shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
- B. Term of Office – At the pleasure of the State Commissioner.
- C. Duties – The duties of the Executive Director are as follows:
 1. Supervise the day-t-day operations and administrative duties of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) State Office.
 2. Interpret the Code of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) in the absence of the State Commissioner.

3. Process all paperwork, rosters and necessary forms and forward to the location of advance tournaments.
4. Must be available to attend and/or administer any USA Softball of Pennsylvania meeting as directed by the State Commissioner or BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
5. And ALL other special projects and duties as assigned by the State Commissioner or the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

3.07 TREASURER

- A. Appointment – USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) Treasurer shall be appointed by the State Commissioner subject to the approval of a majority vote of the Council.
- B. Removal – The Treasurer may be removed by the State Commissioner.
- C. Duties – The Treasurer’s duties are as follows:
 1. Prepare the budget for the fiscal year subject to approval by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and a majority vote of the council.
 2. Prepare the year –end financial report.
 3. Attend all meetings of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 4. Pay the bills incurred by the Association and record all the transactions of the Association in a timely manner.

3.08 SECRETARY

- A. Appointment – USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) Secretary shall be appointed by the State Commissioner subject to the approval of a majority vote of the Council.
- B. Removal – The Secretary may be removed by the State Commissioner.
- C. Duties – The Secretary will be assigned duties as they arise and will record the minutes of all meetings.

3.09 PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE

- A. District
 1. Three (3) Player Representatives shall be appointed by the District Commissioner.
 2. Term of Office – District Players Representatives shall serve a term of one (1) year and are eligible for reappointment.
 3. Vacancy – If a District Player Representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the District Commissioner.
 4. Removal – The District Player Representatives may be removed for just cause by the District Commissioner.
 5. Duties – The District Player Representatives should advise and convey to the District Commissioners of the Area, suggestions, recommendations, and criticisms of programming, rules changes (player and eligibility), tournament playing conditions and facilities, umpiring and any other pertinent matters.
 6. Voting – The District Player Representatives should attend and be a voting member of the Area and State Meeting.
- B. Area
 1. Election – Three Player Representatives, of which one must represent the Women’s program, shall be elected from each area.
 2. Term of Office – Area Player Representatives shall serve a term of one (1) year and are eligible for reelection.
 3. Vacancy – If an Area Player Representative’s position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment of the Area Vice President.
 4. Removal – Area Player Representatives may be removed for just cause by the Area Vice President.
 5. Duties – The District Player Representatives should advise and convey to the District Commissioners of the Area, suggestions, recommendations, and criticisms of programming, rule changes (player and eligibility), tournament playing conditions and facilities, umpiring and any other pertinent matters.
 6. Area Player Representative shall attend and be a voting member of the Council of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) at the Annual Spring Meeting.

- C. States
 1. Election – A state Player Representative shall be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) by a majority vote of the Area Player Representatives. The person finishing as runner-up in the voting shall be the Alternate Player Representative. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast a vote to break the tie.
 2. Term of Office – The state Player Representative shall serve a term of two (2) years and is eligible for reelection.
 3. Vacancy – If the State Player Representative’s position becomes vacant, the Alternate Player Representative shall fill the position.
 4. Removal – The State Representatives may be removed for just cause by the State Commissioner.
 5. Duties – The State Player Representative should advise Representatives should advise and convey to the Central Atlantic Regional Council recommendations, suggestions and criticisms of programming, rule changes (player and eligibility), tournament playing conditions and facilities, umpiring and any other pertinent matters.

3.10 UMPIRE IN CHIEF

- A. State
 1. Appointment – The State Umpire-In-Chief will be appointed by the State Commissioner.
 2. Term of Office – At the pleasure of the State Commissioner.
 3. Duties – The State Umpire-In-Chief duties are as follows:
Promote and organize Umpire’s Associations statewide. Arrange, conduct and approve rules interpretation and Umpire Clinics throughout the State. Preside at all meetings of the Umpire’s Committee and other duties as assigned by the State Commissioner.
- B. State Deputy Umpire-In-Chief:
 1. Appointment – The State Deputy Umpire-In-Chief will be appointed by the Sate Umpire-In-Chief.
 2. Term of Office – At the pleasure of the Sate Umpire-In-Chief.
 3. Duties – The State Deputy Umpire-In-Chief duties are as follows:
Promote and organize Umpire’s Associations where needed throughout the State, conduct umpire clinics where assigned, attend all meetings of the State Umpire’s Committee as called by the State Umpire-In-Chief and other duties as assigned by the state Umpire-In-Chief.
- C. District Umpire-In-Chief
 1. Appointment – The District Umpire-In-Chief will be appointed by the District Commissioner.
 2. Term of Office – At the pleasure of the District Commissioner.
 3. Duties – The District Umpire-In-Chief duties are as follows:
Promote and organize Umpire Associations throughout the District, conduct umpire clinics where needed, other duties as assigned by the District Commissioner and attend all other meetings of the Umpire’s Committee as called by the State Umpire-In-Chief.

3.11 JUNIOR OLYMPIC COMMISSIONER

- A. Appointment – A Junior Olympic Commissioner shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
- B. Term of Office – At the pleasure of the State Commissioner.
- C. Duties – To promote the Junior Olympic Softball program of the State, attend and represent the State Junior Olympic Program at the State and Central Atlantic Regional meetings and other activities that relate to the Junior Olympic program as may be delegated by the State Commissioner, BOARD OF DIRECTORS or EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

3.12 DEPUTY STATE COMMISSIONER

- A. Appointment – Deputy State Commissioner shall be appointed by the State Commissioner as required.
- B. Term of Office – At the pleasure of the State Commissioner.
- C. Duties – To promote softball statewide and perform such duties as may be delegated by the State Commissioner.

3.13 AREA JUNIOR OLYMPIC COMMISSIONER

- A. Appointment – An Area Junior Olympic Commissioner shall be appointed by the Area Vice President.
- B. Term of Office – At the pleasure of the Area Vice President but not to exceed the term of the Area Vice President.
- C. Duties – To promote the Junior Olympic Softball Program of the area, and other activities that relate to the Junior Olympic Program as may be delegated by the Area Vice President.

3.14 COMMISSIONER EMERITUS

- A. Upon completion of twelve (12) years of service, any Commissioner that has reached sixty (60) years of age may be recommended by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS or his Area Vice President for the status of Commissioner Emeritus upon his retirement as an Active Commissioner.
- B. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall consider all such recommendations and a 2/3 vote of approval is required to confirm a person for this position.
- C. A person that has been named Commissioner Emeritus is entitled to attend the Annual Spring Meeting of the Association and shall have one (1) vote on all matters.

3.15 AREA UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF

- A. Appointment when deemed necessary shall be made by the Area Vice President.
- B. Term of Office – At the pleasure of the area Vice President.
- C. Duties – To promote and organize the development of Umpires and their development within the Area by arranging, conducting and approving rules interpretation clinics and mechanics schools within the area. Preside at the Umpires Committee Meeting at the Area Meeting. Other duties as directed by the Area Vice President.

3.16 UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF EMERITUS-In-Chief

- A. Upon completion of twelve (12) years of service, any District Umpire-In-Chief that has reached sixty (60) years of age may be recommended by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS or his Area Vice President for the status of Umpire-In-Chief Emeritus upon his retirement as an Active Umpire.
- B. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall consider all such recommendations and a 2/3 vote of approval is required to confirm a person for this position.
- C. A person that has been named Umpire-In-Chief Emeritus is entitled to attend the Annual Spring Meeting of the Association and shall have one vote on all matters.

ARTICLE 4 – COMMITTEES

4.01 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. Members – The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall consist of the President, the Executive Director, Area Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, State Commissioner, State Junior Olympic Commissioner, State Umpire in Chief, District Commissioner with the highest registrations, one (1) at large member to be named by the State Commissioner and the immediate Past State Commissioner.
- B. Duties – The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall oversee the finances of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) and fix the salary, if any, of the State Commissioner, the Executive Director, Treasurer, Secretary and Sate Umpire-In-Chief. It shall also be responsible for the general affairs of the Association in the interval between meetings.

4.02 EXECUTIVE BOARD

- A. Members – The Executive Board shall consist of the Board of Directors and all District Commissioners.

4.03 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. Members – The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall consist of the Board of Directors, Executive Board, JO State Commissioner, Women’s State Commissioner, State Senior’s Representative, Master’s State Representative, Slow Pitch Commissioner, State Slow Pitch Classification Commissioner, State Co-ed Commissioner, Women’s State Fast Pitch Commissioner, Hall of Fame Administrator and the Executive Committee Member At Large, State Player Representative, State Deputy Slow Pitch Representative, Executive Committee Member at Large and State Umpire Women’s Coordinator.

4.04 CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

- A. Members – The Adult Classification Committee shall consist of the Classification director and at least three members representing Fast Pitch, at least three members representing Slow Pitch and at least three members representing modified pitch. One of the members representing each Division of play shall act as the Chairman of that Division. All Committee Members shall be appointed by the State Commissioner. Each classification committee shall meet and make decisions independently of each other.
The Junior Olympic (Youth) Classification Committee shall consist of the State Junior Olympic Commissioner, Deputy State Junior Olympic Commissioner, team’s District Commissioner and/or District Junior Olympic Commissioner and /or Area Junior Olympic Commissioner.
- B. Duties – The Adult Classification Committee shall be responsible for the observation and evaluation of the performance and potential ability as displayed in any regular season or Championship Tournament play, whether or of USA Softball of Pennsylvania sanctioned, to determine classification for ASA of Pennsylvania purposes.
The Junior Olympic Classification Committee shall be responsible to evaluate whether team’s roster is in compliance with the Junior Olympic Classification criteria outlined in under the Classification Guidelines.

USA SOFTBALL OF PENNSYLVANIA OF PENNSYLVANIA CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

The following classification guidelines and polices will be reviewed and followed in classifying **ADULT** teams.

POWER HITTER

For the purpose of classification, a power hitter shall be defined as an individual capable of hitting a home run over fence distances as specified in the official guide and for whom the outfields play deeper in their defensive positions than they normally play for other offensive batters.

Any current season’s roster containing four (4) or more members in Fast or Slow Pitch, or two (3) or more members in Modified Pitch, or any roster from any previous season which was reclassified by either the State, Regional or National Classification committee must carry at least the new level of classification of the roster reclassified by the State, Regional or National Classification Committee.

USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) classifies individual players.

Teams do not receive a level of classification simply by playing in a particular league. Admittedly, some leagues are better than others, but it also must be recognized that all teams within a league do not possess the same ability or potential.

MEN’S SLOW PITCH

USA Softball Association Championship Play Home Run rules shall apply in all classes of play.

The following factors will be considered when determining a slow pitch team’s appropriate classification level. The level of success experienced by roster members in previous years of USA and non-USA championship play both

collectively and individually. The team in question shall be classified at the highest level in which they have demonstrated the ability to compete effectively against other teams classified at such a level. The number of home runs a team can consistently hit assuming normal weather conditions and a fence distance of 300 feet. Teams will generally be placed at the highest level where they can consistently hit the limit of home runs allowable.

USA Softball of Pennsylvania Championship Play Home Run rules shall apply in all classes of play.

CLASSIFICATION POLICIES

CLASS “A” AND CLASS “B” SLOW PITCH

All Class “A” and Class “B” Teams will be dealt with on a case by case basis should the situation ever arise.

Teams classified in accordance with these policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification as long as the team participated in USA advanced play at the higher level either in a County or District Championship event, National Qualifying event, Eastern or Western State Championship event or USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) State Championship finals. The appeal must be filed on the proper ASA of Pennsylvania Official Classification Appeal Form and submitted to the State Classification Director with the approval of the District Commissioner. The State Slow Pitch Committee and the State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the State Classification Committee will be final. If the appeal is granted, the team’s roster will be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to the next higher classification level.

CLASS “C” SLOW PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

- A. Wins USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) State Championship Finals two years in a row.
- B. Participates in any Class “C” National Qualifying event competing for advancement to National Tournament Championship play.

Are subjected to the guidelines of the classification code and classification committee.

CLASS “D1” SLOW PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

- A. Wins USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) State Championship Finals and finishes in the top two (2) places in USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) State Championship Finals (East/West) two (2) consecutive years.

Are subjected to the guidelines of the classification code and classification committee

CLASS “D2” SLOW PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

- A. Wins USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) State Championship Finals and finishes in the top four (4) places in USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) Eastern or Western State Championship Finals.

Are subjected to the guidelines of the classification code and classification committee

CLASS “E/REC” SLOW PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

- A. Finishes in the top four (4) places of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) Eastern or Western State Championship Finals.
- B. Compete in any Class “D” County/District/Area or State Qualifying Tournament and wins at least two (2) games (forfeits do not count).
- C.. May be moved up to Class “D” at any time if the District Commissioner and/or Slow Pitch Committee deems them a Class “D” team.

Are subjected to the guidelines of the classification code and classification committee

CLASS “A”

All or nearly all players in the lineup are capable home run hitters. All players are skilled offensively and defensively with players that have good skills, athletic abilities and experience. Defensively, they are capable of taking games away from their opponents with strong, clean fielding. Teams usually have a generous sponsor with a large travel budget and recruit players from across the state or even bordering states to be competitive in their class on a national level. Any men’s slow pitch team participating in USA Championship Tournament will fall under the eight (8) home run limit rule as adopted by the National USA Code. This is the highest classification in USA Slow Pitch National Play.

CLASS “B”

Nearly all players in the lineup are capable home run hitters. Nearly all players are highly skilled outstanding players with few, if any, mid caliber players in the lineup. Teams may be registered as a Tournament team only or they will play in their local association’s top level of tournament play. Teams usually have a good sponsor with a good travel budget and usually recruit players from across the state to play in the competitive tournaments they may enter within and outside the state. Any men’s slow pitch team participating in USA Championship Tournament will fall under the six (6) home run limit rule as adopted by the National USA Code.

CLASS “C”

Consistent hitter capable of hitting with power and able to place the ball in gaps of the defense at will. Solid defense – errors unusual. Well rounded player in all aspects of the game. Strong offense may overshadow some defensive ability.

CLASS “D1”

Slightly above average hitter. Some power but more likely extra base hitter. Capable of hitting outfield gaps but not at will or with consistency. Defensively sound but will make mistakes occasionally. Above average both offensively and defensively but not consistent enough to be class “C”. Most could play Class “C” but not necessarily start at that level

CLASS “D2”

Slightly below average hitter. Power is rare, coming more from the equipment than overall ability. Extra base hits are rare but could happen depending on defensive ability of the opponent. Demonstrates most basic defensive skills but not with consistency. Average to slightly below average both offensively and defensively. Still fine tuning most skills.

CLASS “E/REC”

Below average hitter. Power should NOT exist due to ability. Offensive ability is more from equipment than personal skill. Extra base hits should be extremely rare and mainly be due to opponents lack of defensive skill or lack of speed of the player. Defensively weak. No great defensive skills should be evident. Even the most basic defensive ability should be a challenge. Errors should be expected. These players are still learning the most basic aspects of the game.

NEW TEAM

To be considered a new team for classification purposes the team must not have more than three (3) members of any roster from the previous year. A team that has four (4) or more members from a previous year’s roster must carry at least the level of classification of that team. Their classification could be higher if their ability dictates such, but in no case is a lower classification permitted.

In the classification of teams and their personnel, potential is an important factor along with ability. Many times, for various reasons, teams do not play well early in the season yet seem to come together or develop as the season progresses. Classifications must be made early in the season, many times before the team reaches its true potential. Commissioners must consider many variables in making their classification of teams in the early season.

WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH

OPEN

Any team with four (4) or more roster members from any team that:

- A. Finishes first or second in USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) State Championship Finals in two (2) consecutive seasons of play at the Class "C" level.

An OPEN team can have good power and team speed. They are capable of making things happen on Offense, in that they are able to hit to all fields for both power and average, They are solid defensively in the critical middle positions. They may turn the double play with ease and consistency. They are capable of scoring large sums of runs in any given game, but do not require large leads to win. Their defense is capable of winning without any great number of runs.

It has excellent talent and is strong both offensively and defensively. They too are capable of scoring many runs in any given game but do not require large numbers of runs to win. They are capable of winning with excellent defense. Their overall ability is unquestioned.

Team speed plays an important part in the classification of women's softball, much more so than in the men's game. Power is important as the ability to score runs is a determining factor in the classification of any women's team. Defense plays a much more important role in this classification, also, simply because there are not nearly as many runs scored per game In the upper classifications of women's softball, thus making team speed that much more important.

CLASS "C"

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes in the top two (2) places in USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) State Championship Finals.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) in the Eastern National Championship Finals.
3. Wins three (3) tournaments or finishes first or second in any four (4) tournaments.

CLASS "D"

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes in the top four (4) places in USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) State Championship Finals.
2. Participates in the USA Softball of Pennsylvania National Championship Tournament Finals.
3. Finishes in the top four (4) in the Eastern National Championship Finals.

CLASSIFICATION OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

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.

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

Women's Class Open may have any female player on the roster to play in Open.

Women's Class C may have three (3) Open classified players on the roster to play in C.

Women's Class D may have three (3) C classified players and no Open classified players on the roster to play in D.

NOTE: YOU MUST BE AT LEAST SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE TO COMPETE IN ADVANCED PLAY TOURNAMENTS AND YOUR DISTRICT COMMISSIONER MUST BE SUPPLIED WITH THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS VERIFYING PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE.

ROSTER CLARIFICATION: A women's roster for advanced tournament play can consist of players from different ASA of Pennsylvania registered, league Women's or Coed Teams.

- The players must have played no fewer than 4 games with that USA Softball of Pennsylvania registered league team.
- The roster turned in for Advanced Play tournaments solidifies that Advanced Play team. There are no additions to the original roster. Additions must be made via a pick up form.
- The fees for an Advanced Play roster that is not a league team will be \$40.00 more than that of a league registered team. This fee will pay for that Advanced Play Team's registration fee.
- PICK UP PLAYERS – A woman may be picked up for an Advanced Play Women's team from a league registered USA Softball of Pennsylvania Women's team or a league registered USA Softball of PA COED Team. Specific woman must have played in no fewer than 4 games with the team from which they are being selected.
- **IF YOU ARE A TOURNAMENT TEAM THAT IS NOT A REGISTERED USA SOFTBALL OF PALEAGUE TEAM, YOUR ROSTER MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE WOMEN'S STATE COMMISSIONER NO LATER THAN JUNE 15TH OF THE CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR FOR APPROVAL AND CLASSIFICATION. THIS CLASSIFICATION WILL BE BASED UPON THE PERSONNEL SELECTED FOR THE TEAM'S ROSTER.**

NOTE: Players that have no USA Softball 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 shall be classified at that level within a half of a playing classification. The higher classification level from any association will set the base standard for classification, within a two (2) year time period.

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 class.

COED OR CO-REC

CLASS "B"

A Class "B" team is capable of scoring regularly without a great deal of power. A "B" team is strong defensively and capable of turning a double play with ease and consistency. They run bases well and field the ball with finesse. They may have more than one long ball hitter, but the team is not built around power. This team should be at best a recreational team and capable of competing at the National "B" level. The home run rule is adopted by the **USA** National Code.

CLASS "C"

A Class "C" team is inconsistent both defensively and offensively. They are not a team that wins by scoring a large sum of runs in any particular game. A Class "C" team is a singles hitting team. (This should be an average Co-Rec team), The home run rule is: 4 Runs -- then all excess are outs.

CLASS "D"

A Class "D" team has virtually no power and does not score any great sum of runs with any regularity. Class "D" teams have no great hitters or real finesse in their defense. Class "D" teams do not win consistently in any level of competition, show a winning percentage only against very poor caliber teams. The home run rule is: 2 --then all excess are outs.

CLASS "ED"

A Class "E" team has below average hitters and power should not exist due to ability. Offensive ability is more from equipment than personal skill. Extra base hits should be extremely rare and mainly due to opponents lack of defensive skill or general lack of speed of the player. Teams are defensively weak and no great defensive skills should be evident. The most basic defensive ability should be a challenge with errors to be expected. These players are still learning the most basic aspects of the game. The home run rule is 0 ~ then all excess are inning ending outs.

MEN'S MODIFIED PITCH

Teams will be reclassified depending teams participating in the tournament or returning to defend their title, unless too strong and the team will be reclassified to the next higher classification. All classification changes will be made by the State Modified Committee.

A player that is listed on several USA Softball of PA rosters will carry the classification of the highest level team he is a member of. This prevents a Class "A" player from playing down to Class "B" or a Class "B" player playing down to Class "C".

However, there is a significant issue with pitchers. There is a significant shortage of pitchers so pitchers ultimately may participate on several teams in different leagues. This could result in a pitcher being a rostered player with a Class "A", Class "B" or Class "C" team. Therefore, this results in the Class "B" and Class "C" teams from having a pitcher so most of the time they will not attend the State Tournament.

The following guidelines are now in effect for the Men's Modified Pitch:

1. Allow any rostered player to pitch with their respective teams in their respective State Tournaments making it possible for the player to participate in two (2) separate class tournaments.
 - Example: Pitcher being classified as Class "A" and Class "B" may pitch for two (2) different teams in the State Tournaments (Class "A" to Class "B" or Class "B" to Class "C").
2. The player cannot play any other position except for the highest classified team. If the pitcher is also hitting, he can only hit while he is pitching. If brought in as a relief pitcher, he must pitch for at least three (3) outs in order to bat. If pitcher gets up in the top of the first, he must stay in the game for at least three (3) outs as a pitcher.
 - Examples:
 - Officially Classed "A" –
Class "A" team can hit, play any position and pitch
Class "B" team can pitch only and hit while in the game as a pitcher
 - Officially Classed "B" –
Class "B" Team can hit, play any position and pitch
Class "C" Team can pitch only and hit while in the game as a pitcher

Teams classified in accordance with the above policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in USA Softball of Pennsylvania play at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper USA Softball of Pennsylvania Official Classification Appeal Form and submitted to the State Classification Committee chairperson with the approval of their District Commissioner. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the State Classification Committee will be final decision if the appeal is granted, the team's roster will be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, other than pick-up players for championship play, the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to the higher classification level.

OPEN (MAJOR) MODIFIED PITCH

An OPEN team is strong both offensively and defensively. Although capable of scoring regularly, they do not require large leads to win. Defensively, they are capable of defeating their opponents with strong, clean fielding. An Open team is the top of the line and reflects that in all of its play. This team is capable of competing at the USA Softball of Pennsylvania Modified Pitch Major National Tournament.

CLASS "A" MODIFIED PITCH

A Class "A" team is capable of scoring runs regularly as the direct result of power. They are strong both offensively and defensively and can rely on their power to win. Defensively they are capable of winning with strong and well played fielding.

CLASS "B" MODIFIED PITCH

A Class "B" team is capable of scoring regularly, without a great deal of power. They are strong defensively and are able to turn the double play in most instances. They run the bases well and field the ball with finesse. Even though they are capable of scoring large sums of runs, they are not considered a power hitting team. Pitching doesn't handicap the defense by providing unnecessary base runners through a lack of control.

CLASS "C" MODIFIED PITCH

A Class "C" team is capable of playing both offensively and defensively. They are not a team that wins repeatedly by scoring a large sum of runs in any particular game. They rely upon the base hit to score and must bunch many hits in an inning to score a large number of runs. They hit few home runs and many of their extra base hits are the result of hustle, speed and aggressive base running. Their pitching is inconsistent often resulting in base runners due to walks. They have difficulty making the offensive team put the ball in play through their inability to throw strikes.

CLASS "D" MODIFIED PITCH

This level of modified pitch is for teams unable to maintain a definite winning percentage (record of 500) in any competition rated Class "C" or lower due to pitching problems and the inability of its members to execute the basic offensive and defensive fundamentals of softball with any consistency. These teams usually score few runs due to a lack of power and an inability to "bunch" base hits. Defensive weaknesses often allow unearned runs. The pitching is usually very weak due to poor location and a lack of speed which results in many "flat" pitches being offered. In order to participate in Championship play at this level the team must be approved and recommended by their District Commissioner with a definite verifiable record below .500. Teams which are questionable or have borderline ability of potential, will not be permitted to participate at this level of Championship Play. Teams discovered participating in this level of state championship competition with unquestioned winning records will be subject to immediate disqualification with NO refund of entry or expense fee. NOTE: Teams should clarify any questions concerning their classification with their District Commissioner prior to participating in championship play.

WOMEN'S MODIFIED PITCH

OPEN

An "OPEN" team is strong both offensively and defensively. Although capable of scoring regularly, they do not require a large lead to win. Defensively, they are fundamentally sound and make few errors, often winning games on the strength of their defensive plays. Strong pitching is an unquestioned characteristic. An "OPEN" team is capable of scoring regularly without a great deal of power. Pitching, although not overpowering, doesn't handicap the defense by providing unnecessary base runners through their lack of control. These teams are capable of winning regularly.

CLASS "C"

A Class "C" team is offensively and defensively inconsistent. They commit many errors and their pitching provides the offensive team with numerous base runners due to walks. This team does not score any great sum of runs with regularity and has no true power hitters.

WOMEN FAST PITCH

CLASSIFICATION POLICIES

CLASS "B" FAST PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more players on their roster or any player transferring from any team:

- A. Winning the State Championship.
- B. Winning or finishing second in the Regional Championship Tournament.
- C. Winning a National Qualifying Tournament in two (2) successive years must play at the next higher classification level the following year.

MEN'S FAST PITCH

CLASSIFICATION POLICIES

The winner of the Class "C" State Tournament will not be reclassified to "C+" unless they win the Class "C" State Tournament 2 years in a row. They may not add a pitcher to their roster that was reclassified to "C" in the year following their win. If they choose to do so, they will then be moved to "C+". The Class "C" State tournament will be a double elimination format. The tournament will be seeded due to the team's finish the prior year. Teams will be separated by league in the first round if possible. If there is interest an open state tournament will be held.

TEAMS MOVED BY NATIONALS

Any team given an "R" or an "M" tag by their finish at Nationals must carry that classification for the following season. Every player on that roster and the pick-ups from that National tournament are locked into that classification. If one player with a locked classification appears on a "C" or "C+" roster, that team will carry the classification of that player.

TEAMS MOVED BY THE STATE

Teams that are moved up by the State by their finish at the State Tournament or for other reasons, must carry that classification for the following season. If three (3) or more players from a team that was moved to "B" or "C+" by the State appear on a "C" roster, that team will be "B" or "C+".

TEAMS MOVED BY THE STATE

Appeals will be considered after evaluating the teams or individuals results from league play, districts, national qualifiers, state tournament and national tournament. The deadline for entering appeals for the current season will be July 1st. Appeals entered after July 1st will be taken under consideration for the following year. **Appeals will not be considered from teams moved by the National.**

FOREIGN OR OUT OF STATE PLAYERS

Any foreign player that wants to play USA advanced play in the state of PA will have an "A" or Major classification in the State of PA. Foreign players will not be eligible to play in USA Softball of PA "C" State Tournaments.

Each team will be allowed to have one player with an out of state residence play with them in the Men's "C" State tournament providing they played with the team for at least two (2) league games in the current year. The player must be a non-pitcher unless the pitcher participated with the same team the prior year at the Class "C" State Tournament while they were a PA resident.

ROSTER REVIEWS

Any Class "C" USA Softball Advanced play roster that has a reclassified pitcher on it must be reviewed by the Fast Pitch Classification Committee. All "C+" rosters must be reviewed by the Fast Pitch Classification Committee.

CRITERIA TO ENTER NATIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

All "C" or "C+" teams must enter the Class "C" or "C+" State tournament in order to be eligible to enter the Open National tournament.

All teams that are participating in Nationals MUST enter through the USA Softball of PA state office.

All pick-up players for Open Nationals must be approved by the Fast Pitch Classification Chairman before pick-up forms are sent to the State Office. Pick-up forms may not be hand carried to the National Tournament.

PRIZE MONEY

Prize money will be awarded to the highest finishing teams in the Class "C" State Tournament. The amount of prize money awarded and the amount of place finishers to receive prize money will be determined by the amount of teams in the tournament.

CLASS "B" FAST PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more players on their roster or any player transferring from any team:

- A. Winning the State Championship.
- B. Winning or finishing second in the Regional Championship Tournament.
- C. Winning a National Qualifying Tournament in two (2) successive years must play at the next higher classification level the following year.

The National Classification code requires any men's class "B" team that finishes in the top six (6) positions at the National Championship Tournament to be moved to Class "A" for the immediate following season. Other USA Softball of Pennsylvania teams that win regional or area championships will be subject to reclassification based upon meeting further criteria established by the State classification committee.

Teams classified in accordance with the above policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned USA Softball of Pennsylvania tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper USA Softball of Pennsylvania Classification Appeal Form and submitted to the State Classification Committee chairperson. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the committee will be final. Any classification changes will be filed with the State Office.

If the appeal is granted, the team's roster shall be frozen for the remainder of that year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal will be nullified and the team reclassified to the next higher classification level. Any team not falling into any of the above guidelines will be dealt with by the District Classification Committee. Any classification changes must be filed with the State Office by March 1st of the current year.

40 & OVER MEN'S

No Major pitchers are permitted. Former Class "A" pitchers must be out of the game three years in order to be eligible for participation. Current Class "B" and Class "C" pitchers will be eligible. Any pickups for USA Softball of Pennsylvania Championship tournament play must be made from within the district of the team.

A. Appeals – All classifications made by the State Classification Committee (teams and roster members thereof) shall remain the exclusive responsibility of the State Classification Committee. Appeals must be properly submitted in writing to the Classification director whose decision, with the ultimate approval of the committee will be final.

B. Any current season's roster containing four (4) or more members in Fats and Slow Pitch or two (2) or more members in modified pitch, of any roster from any previous season which was reclassified by either the State, Regional, or National classification committee must carry at least the new level of classification of the roster reclassified by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committee.

C. District Classification Committee Slow – Fast – Modified Pitch

1. Members – District Classification Committees shall consist of the District Commissioner or his designee and any number of members as deemed necessary by the District Commissioner or his designee. Membership is not restricted and all committee members shall be appointed by the District Commissioner or his designee.

2. Duties – The District Classification Committee shall be responsible for the observation and evaluation of the performance and potential ability as displayed in any regular season, invitational tournament, and/or championship tournament play, whether or not USA Softball of Pennsylvania sanctioned, to determine classification for District purposes, which shall be consistent with USA Softball of Pennsylvania classification guidelines as defined by the State Classification Committee.

3. Appeals – All classifications proposed by the District Classification Committee shall be presented to the District Commissioner for approval. All teams reclassified shall be notified promptly, and shall have the right of appeal. Appeals shall be submitted in writing to the Committee whose decision, with the approval of the District Commissioner, will be final. Any team may formally apply in writing to the District Classification committee for reclassification, with formal action being taken by the Committee. All appeals for classification in which the appealing team was classified by the State, Regional or National Classification committee may be considered by the District Committee for further action. The District Classification Committee is not permitted to revise any classification adjustment or realignment made by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committees.

4. Roster – Any team whose current season's roster conforms to Article 4.03 (d) of the Constitution and Bylaws of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball fAssociation of Pennsylvania) must

carry at least the new level of classification of the roster reclassified or adjusted by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committee.

5. Roster Personnel – Any team whose current season’s roster contains two (2) or more members of any roster from any previous season whose classification was higher must be reviewed by the Committee to determine evaluation of the performance and potential ability of that team. All teams will report any such players will, upon discovery by the District of State Classification Committee, result in immediate reclassification to the higher level as represented by those players. Failure to review any affected team, when known by the Committee, will result in automatic and immediate reclassification to that higher level by the State Classification Committee when a formal appeal in writing is received and reviewed for validity.

6.. Any team that wins two (2) or more games (excluding forfeits) in a State Tournament (including Area of Divisional State Tournaments in Men’s Class “C” and “D” Slow Pitch) may not participate in a lower classification in the same Division of Championship Play during the following season. A team which has five (5) or more players on a roster from such a team shall be considered the same team.

7. An adult team which has four (4) or more players on a roster from a team that has won an USA Softball of Pennsylvania Fast Pitch or Slow Pitch State Championship Tournament, two (2) or more players on a roster from a team that has won a Modified Pitch State Championship Tournament, as a Class “B”, “C”, or “D” classification levels must play at the next higher classification for the following season unless they played in the Coed division.

8.. Teams classified in accordance with 4.04 (e) have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned USA Softball of Pennsylvania Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper USA Softball of Pennsylvania Official Classification Appeal form and submitted to the proper State Classification Director. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. If the appeal is granted, the team’s roster shall be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to the next higher classification level.

The standings of all USA Softball of Pennsylvania State championship tournament finals shall be posted on USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) web page in a timely fashion upon the conclusion of the tournament. The classification of all teams will be adjusted by their finish in the tournament as specified by the USA Softball National or USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) Code or by the Classification Committee of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania), Region 1 or the USA Softball National will be indicated on the standings as posted. This shall include all teams with Mandatory Classification because of their finish in the tournament or Restricted Classification due to winning two (2) or more games in the tournament as per code of the USA Softball nationally or USA Softball of Pennsylvania.

JUNIOR OLYMPIC

JUNIOR OLYMPIC

- A. 18U Gold – See USA Softball National Code.
- B. Class “A” – See USA Softball National Code with the following exceptions:
 1. Players may be drawn from multiple counties, metros, **state associations** or leagues.
- C. Class “B” – See USA Softball National Code with the following exceptions:
 1. All rostered players must be drawn from:
 - a. A community/metro/county recreational league within one of the sixteen (16) established USA of PA Districts exclusively. **Teams recruiting players from across established district or state lines are not eligible to play Class “B”.**
 - b. Class “B” teams may participate in Class “A” tournament, then making the team subject to being reclassified to Class “A” for the remainder of the season based on their ability to compete against Class “A” teams (See “Reclassification” below).
 - c. Class “B” teams may be subject to be reclassified to a Class “A” team if their level of competitiveness appears to exceed that of a typical Class “B” team (See “Reclassification” below).
- D. Class “C”
 1. Teams participating at the community/recreational level only.
 - 2.. Class “C” (recreation) players may be eligible pickup players for Championship Tournament ONLY if they are individually registered and insured.
- E. Reclassification

1. The JO Classification Committee reserves the right to reclassify a team based on the above criteria and the following:
 - a. Teams who play at the higher classification may be subject to reclassification to the higher classification for the remainder of the season if the following prevails:
 1. The team performs at .500 or better in the higher level tournament.
 2. The team qualifies for championship play at the higher level.

4.05 UMPIRES

- A. Members – The Umpire’s Committee shall consist of the State Umpire-On-Chief, the State Deputy Umpire-In-Chief, the Area Umpire-In-Chiefs and all District Umpire-In-Chiefs.
- B. Duties – To meet annually at the Spring Meeting of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) and at other times as deemed necessary by the State Umpire-In-Chief to determine policies relating to umpiring and the enforcement of the playing rules.

4.06 PLAYER REPRESENTATIVES

The Player Representatives Committee shall be composed of the District and Area Player Representatives.

- A. Duties –Include but not be limited to electing USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania) State Player Representative as directed by the Code, and hear and review all information concerning legislative proposals and Championship Play Tournaments and make their findings known to the Council.

4.07 HALL OF FAME

The Hall of Fame Committee shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.

- A. Duties – To gather and review all material and information for selection of individuals into the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Hall of Fame.

4.08 TOURNAMENT ORGANIZING AND EVALUATIONS

- A. Members – to be appointed by the State Commissioner.
- B. Duties – To gather information from and concerning State Championship Tournaments and their sites in an effort to improve and promote more effective and professional Championship Tournaments.

4.09 ADULT WOMEN

- A. Members – The Adult Women’s Committee shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the State Commissioner and a representative from each District, appointed by their District Commissioner.
- B. Duties – To meet at the Annual Spring Meeting of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania) and at any other time deemed necessary by the State Commissioner, Chairperson or Board of Directors.

4.10 JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

- A. Members – Junior Olympic Youth Program Committee shall consist of the State Junior Olympic Commissioner appointed by the state Commissioner and all District Junior Olympic Commissioners appointed by their District Commissioner
- B. Duties - To meet at the Annual Spring Meeting of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania) and at any other time deemed necessary by the State Commissioner, State JO Commissioner or Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS

5.01 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

- A. Date and Site – The date and site of the Annual Spring meeting of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania will be set and determined by the Executive Director.
- B. Notice – Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to all District Commissioners at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the District Commissioner to contact each of their staff members of date and site.
- C. Voting – Each Council Member shall have one (1) vote on all items at the Annual Spring Meeting.
- D. Council – The Council of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania) shall be composed of the President, the State Commissioner, the State Executive Director, the State Umpire-In-Chief, State Junior Olympic Commissioner and the duly appointed District Commissioners, the District Umpire-in-Chiefs, the District Junior Olympic Commissioners, all Player Representatives, Deputy Commissioners, Area Directors, League Officers and a Representative of each Allied Member.
- E. Removal of Council Members – Any elected member of the Council may be removed by a 60% vote of the Council providing notice has been given to each member of the Council at least ten (10) days prior to the vote on removal. An appointed member of the Council may be removed from office for just cause deemed detrimental to this Association by the State Commissioner.
- F. Quorum – A quorum shall consist of a majority of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE plus a minimum of twenty-five (25) additional eligible voting members.
- G. Proxy – Authorization or representation by proxy at a meeting may be obtained from the State Commissioner and/or President prior to the vote.
- H. Roll Call – A roll call of all eligible Council members shall be taken at each session of the Council or Committee Meeting to verify attendance and those eligible to vote.

5.02 FALL MEETING

- A. Date and Site – The date and site of the Fall Meeting shall be set by the EXECUTVE DIRECTOR.

5.03 REIMBURSEMENTS

- B. Reimbursement each officer, member of the BOARD of DIRECTORS, member of the Executive Committee, Player Representative, Junior Olympic Commissioner, District Umpire-In-Chief, and additional personnel must be approved by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS attending the Annual Fall Meeting.

ARTICLE 6 – DISTRICTS AND AREAS

6.01 DISTRICTS

- A. District 1 Counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Upper Luzerne and Wyoming
- B. District 2 Counties of Dauphin, Lancaster and Lebanon
- C. District 3 Counties of Berks, Lehigh, Lower Schuylkill and Northampton
- D. District 4 Counties of Clinton, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Tioga and Union.
- E. District 5 County of York
- F. District 6 Counties of Chester and Delaware
- G. District 7 Counties of Fayette, Green and Washington, Westmoreland
- H. District 8 Counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Center, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Jefferson and Somerset
- I. District 9 Counties of Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Indiana and Lawrence, Mercer and Venango
- K. District 11 Counties of Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton and Perry
- L. District 12 Counties of Carbon, Columbia, Lower Luzerne, Monroe and Upper Schuylkill
- M. District 13 Counties of Cameron, City of DuBois, Elk, Forrest, McKean, Potter and Warren
- N. District 14 County of Montgomery
- O. District 15 – County of Bucks
- P. District 16 – Counties of Lackawanna, Pike and Wayne

1. Upon a District Commissioner leaving Office for any reason, the BOARD OF DIRECTORS will review all pertinent information concerning the Area and its past performance as a District to determine the feasibility of its continuation as a District or the possibility of merging the Area with another District.

6.02 AREA

- A. Southeastern Districts – 2, 6, 14, 15
- B. Northeastern Districts – 1, 3, 12, 16
- C. Central Districts – 4, 5, 8, 11
- D. Western Districts – 7, 9, 10, 13

ARTICLE 7 – ELIGIBILITY

7.1 FOREIGN PLAYERS

NO foreign players are eligible to compete in Adult Fast Pitch (exception Men’s Major), Adult Slow Pitch or Junior Olympic Gold 18 and Under Fast Pitch. Foreign players are eligible to compete in Men’s Major Fast Pitch, Modified Pitch and Junior Olympic Class “A” and Class “B” Fast Pitch or Slow Pitch.

7.2 IDENTIFICATION

At all State Championship Areas and Finals, in order to be eligible, a player must provide proper identification (which shall include a current photograph of the player and the player’s signature) to the Tournament Director or Designee before the start of the competition. The Tournament Director or Designee shall compare the identification with a name and signature appearing on the team’s Championship Roster.

ARTICLE 8 – DISQUALIFICATIONS

8.01 ACTS OF DISQUALIFICATION

An individual or team may be disqualified for any of the following:

- A. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- B. Physically assaulting an Umpire or an Official of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) or for violation of the rules of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania). (This applies to any player, manager, coach, sponsor or anyone connected with a team, or an umpire registered with the USA Softball of Pennsylvania. Bumping, pushing or shoving shall be considered physical violence in terms of enforcing this article.
- C. Commission of fraud, such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to Tournament Officials.
- D. Participating while not meeting the eligibility requirements of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania).
- E. Competing on a professional softball program without the approval of his Commissioner.
- F. Knowingly competing with or against players that are disqualified from or ineligible to participate in either the USA Softball of Pennsylvania
- G. Engaging in any act which results in the destruction of property belonging to others or is in violation of State or Local law, or is contrary to the purposes and objectives of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania, while participating in USA Softball of Pennsylvania activities.
- H. Issuing a bad check or failure to pay rightful indebtedness owed to any Officers or Official of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
- I. Competing with ineligible players in championship play of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.
- J. Failing to produce valid identification upon request for such by a Tournament Official in Championship Play.
- K. Qualifying for and failing to advance to the next level of Championship Play, unless due to circumstances beyond the control of the team.
- L. Forfeiting a Championship Play Tournament Game.
- M. Failing to meet substance abuse standards.
- N. Competing while ineligible.

8.02 DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

A. The person(s) subject to suspension shall be entitled to a hearing before the State Commissioner, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner, or a Deputy or District Commissioner in whose jurisdiction the violation took place.

B. The person must be notified in writing by certified mail of the time, place and date of hearing. He/she/they/is/are entitled to an alternate date, if, for a good cause, the original date is not acceptable. Should the accused fail to attend the hearing, the person conducting the hearing may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance.

C. After hearing all of the evidence, the person presiding over the hearing may take whatever action they deem appropriate in accordance with this Code. The person(s) involved should be advised, in writing, of the action taken, by the person presiding at the hearing. A copy of same must be sent to the State Office. The State Office shall then send notice of all suspension(s) to all District Commissioners who in turn will notify the District Umpire-In-Chief.

D. Any person(s) suspended from USA Softball or USA Softball of Pennsylvania play may appeal the decision to the State President. The decision of the State President may be appealed further according to the USA Softball/USA Softball of Pennsylvania Code. Those wishing to appeal must notify the State Commissioner in writing of such intention to appeal within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of the notice of disqualification.

E. Under NO circumstances will any individual involved be permitted to participate in USA Softball activity until he has either been found not guilty or has completed his term of suspension and has formally filed a written reinstatement request with his District Commissioner.

F. Knowingly competing with or against players that are disqualified from or ineligible to participate in either the USA Softball of Pennsylvania or USA Softball.

G. Engaging in any act which results in the destruction of property belonging to others or is in violation of State or Local law, or is contrary to the purposes and objectives of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania, while participating in USA Softball of Pennsylvania activities.

H. Issuing a bad check or failure to pay rightful indebtedness owed to any Officer or official of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.

I. Competing with ineligible players in Championship play of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.

J. Failing to produce valid identification upon request for such by a Tournament Official in Championship play.

K. Qualifying for and failing to advance to the next level of Championship play, unless due to circumstances beyond the control of the team.

M. Forfeiting a Championship play tournament game.

N. Failing to meet substance abuse standards.

o. Competing while ineligible.

8.03 JURISDICTION

Any individual or team disqualified by either USA Softball or the USA Softball of Pennsylvania association shall cease to be eligible to compete in all USA Softball of Pennsylvania sanctioned activities. These activities include championship tournament, Invitational tournament, league games, exhibition games and all-star games.

8.04 PENALTIES

An individual or team must be disqualified for a period of time at the discretion of the person responsible for holding the hearing, for violations outlined in 8.01 of this Code, with the exception that the following acts of disqualification require a minimum of one (1) year loss of eligibility.

A. Physical violence.

B. Commission of fraud.

C. Competing knowingly with or against disqualified players.

D. Issuing a bad check or stopping payment on a check or failing to pay rightful indebtedness to any Officer or Official of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania).

E. Competing with ineligible players in Championship play of the USA Softball Association or USA Softball of Pennsylvania Association.

- F. Competing with ineligible players in championship play of the USA Softball Association or USA Softball of Pennsylvania Association.
- G. Competing while ineligible.

ARTICLE 9 – REINSTATEMENT REQUIREMENT

9.01 PROCEDURE

- A. Any team or individual not found guilty or completed his term of suspension must formally file a reinstatement request with his local district commissioner.

ARTICLE 10 – CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

10.01 DIVISION AND LEVELS

USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) recognizes the following division and levels of Championship Play.

- A. Adult Fast Pitch
 - 1. Men’s Major
 - 2. Men’s Open
 - 3. Men’s 23 & Under
 - 4. Women’s 23& Under
 - 5. Women’s Open

- B. Junior Olympic Youth Fast Pitch
 - 1. Girl’s 18 & Under “Gold”/”A”/”B”/Recreation
 - 2. Girl’s 16 & Under Gold”/”A”/”B”/Recreation
 - 3. Girl’s 14 & Under Class “A”/”B”/Recreation
 - 4. Girl’s 12 & Under Class “A”/”B”/Recreation
 - 5. Girl’s 10 & Under Class “A”/”B”/Recreation
 - 6. Girl’s 8 & Under Recreation

- A Modified 10
 - 1. Men’s Class “A”
 - 2. Men’s Class “B” East/West
 - 3. Men’s Class “C” East/West
- B. Modified Church
 - 1. 10 Man Modified
- C. Church 35 & Over

- D. Adult Slow Pitch
 - 1. Men’s Class “B”
 - 2. Men’s Class “C”
 - a. C-1
 - b. C-2
 - 3. Men’s Class “D”
 - a. D-1 East/West
 - b. D-2 East/West
 - 4. Men’s Class “E”/”Rec” East
Men’s Class “E”/”Rec” West

- E. Master’s Slow Pitch
 - 1. 35 & Over Men’s ”COMP”
 - 2. 35 & Over Men’s Class “D”
 - 3. 35 & Over Men’s “REC”
 - 4. 40 & Over Men’s
 - 5. 45 & Over Men’s

- F. Senior Slow Pitch
 - 1. 50 & Over Men’s AA/AAA
 - 2. 55 & Over Men’s AA/AAA
 - 3. 60 & Over Men’s AA/AAA
 - 4. 65 & Over Men’s AA/AAA

- G. Women's Slow Pitch
 - 1. Women's Class "C" 2. Women's Class "D"
 - 3. Women's Class "E"/"Rec"

- H. Coed Slow Pitch
 - 1. Class "B" 2. Class "C" East
 - 3. Class "C" West 4. Class "D" East
 - 5. Class "D" West 5. Class "E"

- I. Junior Olympic Youth Slow Pitch
 - 1. Boy's 18 & U Class "B" 2. Boy's 16 & U Class "B"
 - 3. Boy's 14 & U Class "B" 4. Boy's 12 & U Class "B"
 - 5. Boy's 10 & U Class "B" 6. Girl's 18 & U Class "C"
 - 7. Girls 16 & U Class "C" 8. Girl's 14 & U Class "C"
 - 9. Girl's 12 & U Class "C" 10. Girl's 10 & U Class "C"
 - 11. Girls 18 & U Class "B" 12. Girl's 16 & U Class "B"
 - 13. Girl's 14 & U Class "B" 14. Girl's 12 & U Class "B"
 - 15. Girl's 10 & U Class "B"

10.02 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

- A. All entries and bracket positions will be determined and drawn by the tournament director. If pool play is utilized a predetermined seeded bracket will be utilized for double or single elimination.
- B. After draw is completed by the tournament director the brackets will be posted to the state website at www.usasoftballpa.org.
- C. Any team(s) approved by the District Commissioner for the tournament is responsible for the team(s) entry fee and/or any returned checks/applicable funds to the tournament director. Any team issuing a check for non-sufficient funds is eligible for disqualification from all play under USA Softball of PA under Article 802, Disqualification Procedures, Item I.
- D. All teams advancing to an Eastern National or higher tournament must play in the USA Softball of PA state tournament in their division/classification.
 - 1. Junior Olympic (Youth) – Participation is open to all individual and/or JO Independent travel teams registered with USA Softball of Pennsylvania at their respective age/classification may participate in the JO state tournaments. All teams are subject to approval/verification by State JO Staff and State JO Classification Committee.

10.03 TOURNAMENT REFUND PROCEDURE

- A. Refunds
 - 1. A full refund will be given any team that has previously won the right to advance in an earlier tournament, providing they notify the Tournament Director of the tournament they are dropping out within twenty-four (24) hours of their winning another tournament.
 - 2. If a tournament is postponed because of weather conditions, before any games are played, and the team notified the Tournament Director immediately upon notification of the postponement that they cannot return, they will be refunded ninety (90%) of their entrance fee.
 - 3. If a team has played one (1) game when the postponement occurs and the team notified the Tournament Director immediately upon notification of the postponement that they cannot return, they will be refunded fifty percent (50%) of the entrance fee.
 - 4. If a team played two (2) games they will not be entitled to any refund.

10.04 COMPETING IN MORE THAN ONE TOURNAMENT

An adult team qualifying in an Advance Play Qualifying Tournament may elect to play in another Qualifying Tournament that advances to a higher Championship Play Tournament than the first or to the State Championship Tournament.

Berths to advance that were won in the first qualifying tournament must be used. If the berths won in the first qualifying tournament becomes available through awarding of berths from the second tournament, that berth will be awarded to the highest place finishing non-qualifying team from the second tournament.

10.05 ROSTERS

ADULT

Teams must compete with the same roster as used during regular season play. Any player appearing on the Championship roster must have played for that team in regular season league games. Exception: Adult Super, Major, Class "A" (including Class "A", Class "B", Co-Ed Slow Pitch). Masters 35 & Over, Master's 40 and 45 & Over, Senior's 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 & Over teams. See USA Softball of Pennsylvania Code. No individual roster member may participate on more than one (1) roster team in the same league for the purpose of meeting these USA Softball of Pennsylvania Roster requirements. Teams that play in leagues with Open rosters will minimally be classified Class "B" or higher by the District Commissioner and/or by USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) Classification Committee.

JUNIOR OLYMPIC

Teams must compete with the same roster as used during regular season play. Any player appearing on the Championship roster must have played for that team in regular season league games. Exception: Junior Olympic Gold Level Fast Pitch teams. See USA Softball of Pennsylvania Code. No individual roster member may participate on more than one (1) roster team in the same league for the purpose of meeting these USA Softball of Pennsylvania Roster requirements. Teams that play in leagues with Open rosters will minimally be classified Class "B" or higher by the District Commissioner and/or by USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania).

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A. A maximum number of players (20) as indicated in each specific division will be permitted on a team roster.

B. PICKUP PLAYERS – Fast pitch, slow pitch and modified pitch teams are permitted to add or substitute three (3) players as follows:

1. Added players must be from other USA Softball of Pennsylvania except in Major Fast Pitch and Junior Olympic 18/16U Gold who can draw from the United States).
2. Added players must be from the team's same division and the same or lower classification level.
3. A player may play with only one (1) team other than his own regular season league team within a division in a season.
4. Pickup Players may be selected only from teams which are no longer eligible for Championship Play. Players that have competed in the highest level tournament in a classification (i.e National Championship in Super, Major, "A", "B", "C" and "D") will not be eligible pickups.
5. Additions prior to State Championship Play must be made from the team's own District or County.
6. Pickup players must sign an Official "Pick Up Player Form" form prior to the start of the tournament. The pickup players may enter competition at any time during the tournament.
7. Pickup players must have played for an USA Softball registered team of the same classification or lower during the current season and must have played in the division of play.
8. Junior Olympic players may participate in more than one (1) division of play (slow or fast), but are limited to only one (1) age classification within a division of play. Individual players are also eligible to play in the adult program as a pickup player. Junior Olympic players must be individually registered/insured to be eligible pick-up players for championship play.
9. Church teams may add only those players that meet the eligibility requirements of the division of play and those advance play tournament rules.

C. SLOW PITCH – Roster is limited to a maximum of twenty (20) players per team. Teams may add pickup players in championship play according to the rules and regulations of the USA Softball national code. The team may add or substitute three (3) players from USA Softball of Pennsylvania teams in the same division and the same or lower classification.

D. FAST PITCH - Team rosters are limited to a maximum of twenty (20) players per team including pickups. NOTE: ADDED PLAYER RULE – Fast pitch teams are permitted to add or substitute no more than three (3) Players.

HOST TEAM (ADULT TEAMS ONLY)

Host fast pitch teams may add three (3) players to their regular season's roster. The added players cannot be selected from the District Champions or any other team that has qualified or is otherwise eligible to participate in the State Tournament. The Host Team may add its three (3) players from its respective area only after the winning team has had its opportunity to select three (3) players.

CLASS "B"

Adult Fast pitch teams may add or substitute three (3) players to their regular season's league roster as per the added player rule as stated above. The players must be from another USA Softball of Pennsylvania team. Rosters are limited to twenty (20) players including pickups.

CLASS "C"

Adult Fast pitch teams may add or substitute three (3) players to their regular season's league roster as per the added player rule as stated above. The players must be from another USA Softball of Pennsylvania team. Rosters are limited to twenty (20) players including pickups..

MASTER 40 & OVER

Teams may be formed for participation at this level.

- A. Modified Pitch (Modified 9 Man) – Roster is limited to a maximum of twenty (20) players per team, including pickups.
- B. Modified Pitch (Modified 10 Man) – Roster is limited to a maximum of twenty (20) players. Three (3) pickup players are permitted. Players must meet the requirements as stated in the pickup player rule as stated above.
- C. Church Fast Pitch – A team is permitted to add three (3) players to their regular season league roster, providing the added players played in the same church league. No pitcher classified "A" or higher may pitch in the Church State Tournament.
- D. Masters Slow Pitch –
 - 1.35 & Over – This division is for teams participating as a team of USA Softball of Pennsylvania Leagues. Teams may advance to National Championship Play from this division. NOTE: There will be no pickup players allowed for any team playing in this state championship tournament.
 - 2.35 & Over Class "D" – This division is open to all USA Softball of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
 - 3.40 & Over – This division is open to all USA Softball of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
 - 4.45 & Over – This division is open to all USA Softball of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
 - 5.50 & Over – This division is open to all USA Softball of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
 - 6.55 & Over – This division is open to all USA Softball of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
 - 7.60 & Over – This division is open to all USA Softball of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
 - 8.65 & Over – This division is open to all USA Softball of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
 - 9.70 & Over – This division is open to all USA Softball of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.

Coed or Co-Rec Slow Pitch

Major – Teams may be formed from individual roster members of USA Softball Pennsylvania sanctioned teams.

Class “A” – Teams having been classified “A” or teams utilizing players from Class “A” rosters and teams not participating as a team in a Coed or Co-Rec league.

Class “B” – Teams that have no roster members of Class “A” or Major teams and play together as team in a Coed or Co-Rec league.

Class “C” – Teams with no roster members of Major, Class “A” or Class “B” teams and play together as a team in a Coed or Co-Rec league where they are unable to maintain a winning percentage.

Class “D” – Teams with no roster members of Major, Class “A”, Class “B”, or Class “C” teams and play together as a team in a Coed or Co-Rec league.

Class “E” - Teams with no roster members of Major, Class “A”, Class “B”, Class “C” or Class “D” teams and play together as a team in a Coed or Co-Rec league.

10.06 ROSTER PROCEDURE:

- A. Each **ADULT** player must sign the current year’s copy of the Official USA Softball of Pennsylvania Championship Roster.
 - B. Each Junior Olympic player’s (under the age of 18 year of age) parent or guardian must sign the current year’s copy of the Official USA Softball generated from the individual registration system (www.registerUSA.com).
 - B. The County or Deputy Commissioner will sign each roster.
 - C. The Team Manager retains a copy of the roster for verification purposes at any tournament in which the team participates while the District/County Commissioner retains the other copies on file.
 - D. When the team qualifies to advance, the County Commissioner sends a copy of the roster to the District Commissioner.
 - E. When the team qualifies to advance past the District level, the District Commissioner signs the roster and forwards it to the Tournament Director of the tournament for which the team has qualified and copy to the State Office.
- a

10.07 TOURNAMENT PROTEST COMMITTEE:

- A. A Tournament Protest Committee shall be appointed, to whom a decision, (except one based on an Umpire’s judgment) may be appealed. The decision of such Committee is final. The selection of the Committee will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director.
- B. Protests pertaining to the interpretation of the playing rules must be ruled on and made final, by the Protest Committee, prior to the next pitch.
- C. Protest pertaining to the use of an ineligible player should be made as soon as it is apparent that an ineligible player is being used. This protest can be made by anyone present and not necessarily someone involved in the immediate game. The burden of proof rests with the protesting member.

10.08 ADVANCE PLAY TOURNAMENT RULES:

USA Softball of Pennsylvania Advance Play Tournament Rules:

- A. **RULES** – All state championship tournaments shall be decided by elimination tournaments conducted in accordance with this Code and that of the USA Softball.
 1. No USA Softball of Pennsylvania championship play tournament which leads to USA Softball National Championship Tournament play of any type or level may set aside any rule or USA Softball Softball or USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania). (NOTE: This includes excluding the use of any equipment approved by the USA Softball or the USA Softball of Pennsylvania with the following exceptions
 2. **ADULT ONLY** - All games must be completed. In the event of rain or any other cause which interrupts the play of a game, the game must be resumed at the exact point of interruption. Exception: In the event the tournament cannot be completed as scheduled, the Tournament Director will ascertain the procedure to determine the final results. NOTE: The following order

shall be used by Tournament Officials in order to complete any Championship Play tournament where weather conditions threaten the ability to conclude the tournament as scheduled:

- A. Play Winner's Bracket Games First
- B. 3-2 County
- C. 5 Inning Games
- D. One Pitch
- E. Single Elimination

3. The Dudley 52/300 softball is the approved softball that shall be used in ALL Men's Slow Pitch games leading to National championship tournament play

4. The Dudley 44/375 softball is the approved softball that shall be used in ALL Senior Slow Pitch games leading to National championship tournament play..

4. **JUNIOR OLYMPIC ONLY** – In the event of rain or any other cause which interrupts the play of a game, the game must be resumed at the exact point of interruption. Exception: In the event the tournament cannot be completed as scheduled the Tournament director will ascertain the procedure to determine the final results. NOTE: The following order shall be used by Tournament Officials in order to complete any Junior Olympic Championship Play Tournament where weather conditions threaten the ability to conclude the tournament as scheduled

- A. Reduce time limit per game
- B. 5 Inning Games
- C. Single Elimination:

B. ROSTERS – Prior to the deadline date each team participating in USA Softball of Pennsylvania Championship play must properly complete duplicate copies of the USA Softball Championship roster as per Section 10.07 of this Code.

1. One (1) copy of the roster must be filed with and approved by the team's County or District USA Softball of Pennsylvania Commissioner and submitted to the Tournament Director. A copy must be retained by the Manager and made available when used for various inspections throughout the course of the tournament.

(a). The roster must contain all required information pertaining to each individual player.

(b). An individual may participate as a player on only one (1) Championship Roster team per division or type of play during a season in USA Softball of Pennsylvania Championship play, unless otherwise specifically noted in the Bylaws and Constitution of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania. No individual player may participate as a roster member for more than one (1) team in the same league.

(c)... If a participating roster member is a minor, his or her parent or legal guardian must affix his or her signature to the roster in the designated area.

(d). Roster personnel in order to be eligible for championship play, must meet ALL requirements for the advance play tournament rules and be an active member of the league roster of the team for whom he/she is competing at the time of the championship play.

(e). The advance play tournament rules of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania), permits the use of PICKUP PLAYERS, as specified in the USA Softball national code.

(f). A PICKUP PLAYER is any individual player added to the roster that does not participate with the same particular team in the same league in regular season league play. No individual may participate as a player for more than one (1) team in the same league to meet the roster requirements.

1. Unless a player actually participates as a player with the particular team in regular season league games he or she cannot participate as a regular season roster member with that team in championship play. No individual may participate as a player for more than one (1) team in the same league to meet these roster requirements..

2. Simply being listed on the roster does not make an individual eligible to play in championship play.

(g). No team is to leave their District without a copy of their roster, properly completed and signed by their District Commissioner and either a Deputy or County Commissioner. AND MUST BE with the Official USA Softball of Pennsylvania State Tournament Entry Form to the Commissioner or Tournament Director where the tournament is being held. A copy of all team rosters MUST be in the Tournament Director's possession prior to the start of the first game of the tournament. Any team not abiding by this procedure will not be eligible to participate in the tournament and thus will not be permitted to compete.

1. The Official USA Softball of Pennsylvania State Tournament Entry Form MUST be forwarded with the Official Championship Roster.

- (h). Under no circumstances will any player be permitted to sign a roster at the tournament.
- (i). Teams must compete with the same roster in championship play as used during the regular season league play, except teams that are permitted to add three (3) pickup players as specified in the USA Softball National Code. Teams and players may participate on only ONE (1) team per division of championship play leading to a state, regional, area or national championship during any one season. (Exception for Pickup Players as stated earlier).

C. PROTESTS

Protests must be filed properly according to the Official USA Softball of Pennsylvania Rules. Decisions on protest involving the playing rules must be made prior to the next pitch.

D. HOUSING

Each team is responsible for making their own housing arrangements. It will benefit the individual team to do that as soon as possible after qualifying.

E. FIELDS, GAMES AND TIMES

It shall be the responsibility of each team manager to obtain the proper starting time and field for his team's games. He in turn shall be responsible for seeing that his team is available for play at the proper time and field. This shall also hold true in the event of a weather delay. The original starting time and field may be obtained from the team's local District Commissioner prior to the start of the Tournament. All other official times and fields are to be obtained from the Tournament Director or Tournament Committee.

1. Directions – Contact the District Commissioner in the area of the tournament or the Tournament Director to determine directions and when and where the team must report. It is the responsibility of at the proper field at the proper time for all games.
2. Upon arrival at the tournament site, competing teams must contact the Tournament Director as soon as possible to file information regarding their team representative and where and how that individual may be reached for emergency purposes throughout the play of the tournament. A meeting of all participating managers may be held prior to the start of the tournament. A copy of the tournament rules, ground rules and field directors' names should be given each manager or team representative to be read carefully. Starting times and pairing will be confirmed at this time.

F. UNIFORM

All members of each team must be properly dressed on the playing field. This means every player on the field must have the same identical uniform, including hats where applicable. Mixing of shorts and long pants is permitted but must meet the requirements as stated in the Official USA Softball Playing Rules and the USA Softball Code. Hats are mandatory for Fast Pitch male players only and must be worn properly. There is NO except to this rule. All managers and/or coaches must be neatly attired, dressed uniformly and in accordance with the color code of the team. (See USA Softball code for specifics on requirements for head wear and mixing of shorts and long pants). PENALTY – Any player, manager or coach not complying with the uniform code will not be permitted to participate in the tournaments.

G. RAIN OR DELAY

In the event of rain or inclement weather which causes a delay in the tournament, it shall be each Team Manager's responsibility to report to the Tournament Director to obtain his team's proper time and scheduled contest. He in turn shall be responsible to see that his team is available for play at the proper rescheduled time and field.

H. OFFICIALS

USA Softball of Pennsylvania Umpires will be assigned to all games. All rulings will be made in accordance with the Official USA Softball Rule Book and Guide. An Official Scorekeeper will be at each field. However, it is suggested that each team have its own scorekeeper should there be no Official Scorekeeper available in which case, unless otherwise designated, the home team must assume the responsibility of providing a capable and responsible scorekeeper that will be

recognized and so designated as the Official Book. Any, player, coach, manager, or other member of a team using abusive language, pushing or striking an Umpire or Official of the tournament or committing any other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct will be immediately removed from the game, playing field and grounds.

I. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

NO alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed in the playing area. It will be the responsibility of the team to see that this rule is followed or the game is to be forfeited after the Umpire or Tournament Official has given said team one (1) minute to comply with this rule.

J. DUGOUT LIMITS

Maximum allowed is twenty-five (25) persons. The Umpire will request all unauthorized personnel to leave.

K. SOFTBALLS

Balls will be supplied by the Tournament Sponsor, USA Softball of PA. A 52-300 softball is required for all Men's Slow Pitch championship play leading to national championship tournament play. A minimum of one (1) new USA Softball of PA approved softball must be used to begin the play of each game in state championship tournament play. Bats may be checked for weight, size and legality before each game.

L. BRACKETS

Brackets will be posted at a convenient site at the tournament. An Official Tournament Bracket will be available to the manager or team representative of each participating team during their play in USA Softball of Pennsylvania state championship play.

M. NO batting or infield practice of any type will be permitted on the field where the game is scheduled. Check with the Tournament Director for the proper practice area.

N. SMOKING

NO smoking will be permitted on the playing field. Failure to comply will result in removal from the playing area. The use of tobacco in any form is prohibited in the dugout in Junior Olympic Play.

O. AWARDS

Awards approved by USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball Pennsylvania) will be presented to at least the winner and runner-up team.

1.. Awards Ceremony – All trophies and awards for USA Softball of Pennsylvania State Championship Tournament play must be presented at an awards ceremony commensurate with the tournament. This ceremony, when possible, should be conducted at or near the field where the tournament is concluded.

P. HOME TEAM

The home team for each game will be decided by a coin flip prior to the start of the game. In Adult Slow Pitch and Modified Pitch the Undefeated team will have the choice of being the home team in the Championship game. If the game goes to an "IF" game then there will be a coin flip. Adult fast pitch home team will be decided by a coin flip for all games.

Q. ILLEGAL PLAYERS

Any team found using illegal or ineligible players will be dropped immediately from the tournament. Opposing team will be declared the winner. Only the protested game will be considered for the purpose of won/lost records, no previous game will be affected. Any violations to the USA Softball of Pennsylvania advance play tournament rules do not have to be formally protested up on by an opposing team to be considered. It is the responsibility of the Tournament Director to act upon any alleged violation immediately. Proof of ineligibility must rest with the protesting team. If there is any doubt in respect to the eligibility of any player the situation should be cleared by the Manager in writing through the District Commissioner or the State Commissioner prior to the tournament. Illegal, ineligible players are subject to disqualification and/or suspension for a minimum of one (1) year. Any individual in the uniform of the team and occupying a position on the bench or in the

dugout or on the list of players or substitutes for the team involved in the play of the contest in question, will subject the team and/or player to the penalties for ineligibility.

R. TOURNAMENT RULES

In the event a State Tournament or National Qualifier is curtailed by inclement weather conditions and cannot be continued and more than 40% of the scheduled games have been completed, and a winner must be declared to advance to Regional, Area or National completion, the following will prevail:

- 1.. The team advancing the furthest in the winner's bracket.
- 2.. The teams will be ranked according to the best won/lost record except among undefeated teams.
- 3.. If only two (2) teams are tied for a position and have played each other, the winner of that game will be awarded the higher position.
4. In the event of a tie in (a) and (b), the teams shall be ranked according to the fewest runs allowed per game played.
5. If a tie still exists, the teams shall be ranked according to the most runs scored per game played.
6. If there should still be a tie after all of the above, the winner will be decided by a coin toss. Every effort will be made to complete state tournaments, even if the site and dates must be changed. All decisions on the continuation of the tournament for both the site and dates will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director.

S. RUN AHEAD RULE

A run ahead rule will apply after five (5) innings in ALL tournament games including the finals. At any time after four (4) or more full innings of play, any team obtaining a point spread of twenty (2) or more runs in slow pitch or after five (5) or more innings of play, any team obtaining a point spread of twelve (12) or more runs over the opposing team in slow pitch, ten (10) or more runs in modified pitch or eight (8) or more runs in fast pitch, will be awarded the game without further play. The losing team must have had their opportunity to bat in the inning in question.

T. LINEUP CARDS

Lineup cards listing the first and last name, uniform number and position of each member of the starting lineup and all substitutes available for play in that game must be submitted to the Home Plate Umpire or Official Scorer prior to the start of each game.

U. BAD CHECK

Any team issuing a bad check or stopping payment of a check will automatically be suspended from USA Softball of Pennsylvania play for a period of at least one (1) year from the date of the check in question fails to clear the bank. At no time will any member of the team in question be permitted to be reinstated until full restitution has been made. This will also apply for any situation which results in nonpayment of entry fee or rightful indebtedness to any Officer or Official of USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA USA Softball of Pennsylvania).

These rules were written for the protection of all involved, and to assure the success of the state tournament program. These rules will be strictly enforced at all tournaments. Action palpably designed to circumvent any part of these rules will not be tolerated and will result in removal from all further play in the tournament or suspension from future USA Softball of Pennsylvania play.

ARTICLE 11 – INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

11.01 AUTHORIZATION

Invitational tournaments may be conducted by various members and sanctioned by USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball Association of Pennsylvania), providing the following conditions are met:

- A. Teams – Must be registered with the USA Softball Association or the USA Softball of Pennsylvania Association.
- B. Conflict – No tournament will be sanctioned that conflicts with an USA Softball of Pennsylvania qualifier OR championship play in that division.
- C. Added Players – Teams may use added players in accordance with the individual tournament rules.

D. Umpires – Must be registered with USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania).

ARTICLE 12 – UMPIRES

12.01 MEMBERSHIP

An Umpire must be a member of a local umpire chapter that is chartered by USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania).

12.02 REGISTRATION

An umpire may register only through the District Commissioner whose territory he resides or is employed. Deadline for registration is June 15.

12.03 STATE CHARTER

Upon recommendation of the District Commissioner, the State Office shall issue a charter, free of charge, signed by the State Commissioner and the State Umpire-In-Chief. A minimum of ten (10) USA Softball of Pennsylvania approved umpires are necessary in order to apply for or maintain a charter.

12.04 FEES

The annual registration fee for each umpire shall be set by the Board of Directors.

12.05 GAME FEES AND EXPENSES

Any requests for adjustments to game fees and expenses for State Tournaments, must be made by the District Umpire-In-Chiefs and the Umpire's Committee through the State Umpire-In-Chief, and acted upon by the Board of Directors at the Annual Spring Meeting. Any adjustment approved by the Board of Directors will go into effect on January 1 of the next year.

12.06 UMPIRE ASSIGNMENTS

UMPIRES MAY WORK ONLY league and tournament games approved by the State Umpire-In-Chief.

12.07 TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Transfers of membership, between chapters in the same district, may be made before March 1 of the current year. Notification of such transfer must be made in writing with a copy sent to the District Commissioner.

12.08 SUSPENSION

Umpires may be suspended who:

- A. Are palpably unfair or biased in their decisions in games.
- B. Conduct themselves, on or off the field of play, in an unethical, immoral or unprofessional manner.
- C. Does not cooperate with USA Softball of Pennsylvania in the promotion of softball.
- D. Pursues a course of action that is detrimental to the welfare of this organization or the members thereof.
- E. Fails to abide by or conduct themselves within the provision and guidelines of the Code of the USA Softball, USA Softball of Pennsylvania or Local Umpire's Chapter of USA Softball of Pennsylvania.

12.09 RIGHT OF APPEAL

Any umpire suspended may appeal the suspension to the Board of Directors, through the State Secretary. A hearing will be scheduled by the State Office. NOTE: Suspensions made by and through the Local Chapter must be appealed through the local chapter and district prior to being appealed to the Board of Directors of the Sate Association.

12.10 STATE TOURNAMENTS

Allocation for State Tournament assignments will be made by the Sate Umpire-In-Chief.

ARTICLE 13 – HALL OF FAME PROCEDURES

13.01 PURPOSE

To honor those men and women who have played a major role in the growth and development of softball in the State of Pennsylvania.

13.02 GENERAL INFORMATION

There are four (4) categories for admittance to USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA of Pennsylvania) Hall of Fame.

- A. Administrator
- B. Player
- C. Umpire
- D. Manager or Coach

A minimum of fifteen (15) year affiliation with USA Softball of Pennsylvania (DBA ASA Softball of Pennsylvania) in either of the above categories or a combination of all four (4) is a requirement for consideration.

A ADMINISTRATOR

To be inducted as an administrator the nominee must have been a District Commissioner, County Commissioner, League President or an Officer of the Association or a benefactor or company that has made contributions to improve the game of softball in the jurisdiction of the USA Softball of Pennsylvania.

B. PLAYER

Must have played softball in Pennsylvania for at least fifteen (15) years and played in at least five (5) state or national championship tournaments during their career. To be selected, the person's active playing days must have been terminated for a minimum of three (3) years.

C. UMPIRE

Must have been a active Umpire or Umpire-In-Chief for a period of at least fifteen (15) years. Must have participated as Manager or Coach in five (5) or more state or three (3) or more regional championship tournaments during their career or managed or coached a team that won a state, regional, area or national championship.

D. MANAGER OR COACH

Must have been involved in USA Softball of Pennsylvania play for a period of at least fifteen (15) years. Must have participated as manager or coach in five (5) or more state or three (3) or more regional championship tournaments during their career or managed or coached a team that won a state, regional, area or national championship.

13.03 SELECTIONS

A maximum of four (4) individual candidates and one team will be inducted each year or at the discretion of the Hall of Fame selection committee.

13.04 NOMINATIONS TO INCLUDE

All nominations and applications must include a picture of the nominee to use in any award or program and publicity.

13.05 DEADLINE

Nominations must be submitted to the Selection Committee by November 1st to be considered for induction the following year.

DISCLAIMER

**NOTE: THE OFFICIAL COPY OF THIS CODE IS LOCATED IN THE STATE OFFICE AT
6449 SNAVELY COURT, HARRISBURG, PA 17111**