



of Iowa

## USA Softball of Iowa State Code

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**USA Softball of Iowa**  
**State Code**  
*Revised – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025*  
**2025 Code Changes and Points of Emphasis in Red Bold Type**

**Part 1. Organization** *(back to Table of Contents)*

**Article 101** **Name.**

The name of the organization shall be the **USA Softball of Iowa** hereinafter referred to as the Association or **USA Softball of Iowa**.

**Article 102** **Mission Statement** *(back to Table of Contents)*

Develop, direct and promote the sport of softball to ensure maximum participation, optimal performance and educational excellence within the state of Iowa.

**Objectives.** *(back to Table of Contents)*

The objectives of USA Softball of Iowa shall be:

- A. To promote amateur softball for all persons regardless of age, sex, race, religion, national origin or ancestry.
- B. To promote and conduct annual amateur softball championships.
- C. To educate and train in the proper skills of amateur softball play and rules of the game through promoting, organizing and conducting clinics, seminars and training courses.

**Article 103** **Jurisdiction.** *(back to Table of Contents)*

USA Softball of Iowa is an affiliated association of the USA Softball, hereinafter referred to as USA Softball. The United States Olympic Committee and the International Softball Federation recognize USA Softball as the governing body of softball in the United States. The Constitution and the by-laws of the USA Softball are adopted by the USA Softball of Iowa and are incorporated herein by reference. The USA Softball of Iowa territory shall include the State of Iowa.

**Article 104** **Regulations.** *(back to Table of Contents)*

The operating regulations of the USA Softball of Iowa are defined in this document, hereinafter referred to as the USA Softball of Iowa Code. If not addressed herein, the USA Softball Code shall be used as operating regulations for the state level.

**Article 105** **Amendments to Code and Rule Changes.** *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. **Amendments to the USA Softball of Iowa Code** *(back to Table of Contents)*
  - 1. Changes to the USA Softball of Iowa Code may be acted upon only at USA Softball of Iowa annual meetings.
  - 2. A proposed amendment to the USA Softball of Iowa Code must be in writing, and in the USA Softball of Iowa office a minimum of 7 days before the annual meeting date.

3. The State Commissioner, or his designee shall prepare and distribute to each member of the USA Softball of Iowa Council all properly submitted proposed Amendments at least 7 days prior to the annual meeting.
4. A 60 % approval of the members of the USA Softball of Iowa Council who are present and voting on the proposed amendment shall be required for the change to be adopted. Only members that have met the SafeSport Guidelines for Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO's) of USA Softball are authorized to vote on or make any decision that has authority over a minor (Under 18 years of age) participant.
5. An amendment approved by the USA Softball of Iowa Council shall be effective on the date of passing the amendment unless otherwise specified in the amendment.
6. Any amendment approved by the USA Softball of Iowa Council shall automatically become a part of the USA Softball of Iowa Code.

B. **Playing Rule Changes.** [\*\(back to Table of Contents\)\*](#)

1. A proposed rule change must be in writing by an USA Softball of Iowa Council member and sent to the USA Softball of Iowa office at least 7 days prior to the annual meeting of the USA Softball of Iowa Council.
2. The State Commissioner, or his designee, shall prepare and distribute to each member of the USA Softball of Iowa Council all properly submitted rule changes at least 7 days prior to the USA Softball of Iowa annual meeting.
  - a. A 60% vote of those USA Softball of Iowa Council members present and voting at the annual meeting is required for the approval of changes in the official playing rules. Only members that have met the SafeSport Guidelines for Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO's) of USA Softball are authorized to vote on or make any decision that has authority over a minor participant (Under 18 years of age).
  - b. Any rule change that is approved by the USA Softball of Iowa Council shall automatically become a rule change for play in all USA Softball of Iowa tournaments.
  - c. Rules approved shall be effective on the date of passage of the change in the rule unless otherwise specified.

C. **Emergency Procedure** [\*\(back to Table of Contents\)\*](#)

Between annual meetings of the USA Softball of Iowa Council, any Council member may submit a proposed amendment to Iowa ASA Playing Rules or Code to the State Commissioner and ask that an emergency be declared, and the proposed amendment submitted for a vote of the Council in the manner outlined in Article 105 A & B. If the State Commissioner believes that the proposed

amendment is of sufficient importance that it should be acted upon by the Council prior to their next scheduled meeting, the State Commissioner shall forward the proposed amendment to the USA Softball of Iowa President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. If the Elected Officer agrees with the Commissioner that the proposed amendment is of sufficient importance and that it should be acted upon by the Council prior to their next scheduled meeting, then an emergency shall be declared, and the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the members of the USA Softball of Iowa Council for a vote in the manner outlined in this Article. The proposed amendment shall be mailed either by U.S. Mail or electronic mail to each member of the Council with a ballot asking each member to vote to accept or to reject the proposed amendment. The deadline for returning ballots shall be not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (14) days after the date on which such amendment and ballot are mailed. Each ballot must be signed or electronically signed by a Council member and received by the State Commissioner prior to the deadline in order to be counted. If valid ballots are received from less than or exactly one-half (1/2) of the members of the Council by the deadline, then the proposed amendment shall be deemed rejected. If valid ballots are received from more than one-half (1/2) of the members of the Council by the deadline, then the proposed amendment shall be deemed rejected unless two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots received vote to accept the proposed amendment.

**Article 106** [Membership.](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

Teams, leagues, and umpires may become members of USA Softball of Iowa by paying the appropriate membership fees. The USA Softball of Iowa Executive Committee shall set the membership fees. Teams, leagues, and umpires that are members of the USA Softball of Iowa are also members of USA Softball of Iowa. Membership is valid from the date the dues are received in the USA Softball of Iowa office, until December 31 for adult teams and August 31 for youth teams of the year the dues are received in the USA Softball of Iowa office.

**Article 107** [Elected Officers.](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

A. [President](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

1. Nominations. Presidential candidates shall be nominated at the USA Softball of Iowa annual meeting.
2. Election. The president shall be elected by a majority vote of those USA Softball of Iowa Council members present and voting at the annual meeting.
3. Term of Office. The president shall serve a term of one year and is eligible for re-election.
4. Vacancy. If the president for any reason resigns, is unable to act, is removed from office, or dies, then the Vice-President shall act as president until the next USA Softball of Iowa annual meeting.
5. Removal. A president may be removed for just cause by a majority vote of the USA Softball of Iowa Council or two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.
6. Duties.

- (1) Preside at all sessions of the Executive Committee and USA Softball of Iowa Council.
- (2) Perform such duties as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of USA Softball of Iowa.

B. **Vice-President.** *(back to Table of Contents)*

1. Nominations. Vice-Presidential candidates shall be nominated at the annual meeting.
2. Election. The Vice-President shall be elected by majority vote of those USA Softball of Iowa Council members present and voting at the annual meeting.
3. Term of Office. The Vice-President shall serve a one-year term and is eligible for re-election.
4. Vacancy. If the Vice-President for any reason resigns, is unable to act, is removed from office or dies, then a special election must be held by the USA Softball of Iowa Executive Committee. The nominations and election may take place by mail. The newly elected Vice-President shall serve until the next annual meeting.
5. Removal. A Vice-President may be removed for just cause by a majority vote of the USA Softball of Iowa Council or by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.
6. Duties. The Vice President shall preside at all Executive Committee meetings and USA Softball of Iowa annual meetings in the absence of the President.

C. **Secretary-Treasurer.** *(back to Table of Contents)*

1. Nominations. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be nominated at the annual meeting.
2. Election. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of those USA Softball of Iowa Council members present and voting at the annual meeting.
3. Term of Office. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve a one-year term and is eligible for re-election.
4. Vacancy. If the Secretary-Treasurer for any reason resigns, is unable to act, is removed from office, or dies, then the Executive Committee may nominate and elect a new Secretary-Treasurer to fill the remainder of the term. The nomination process and election may take place by mail.
5. Removal. A Secretary-Treasurer may be removed for just cause by a majority vote of the USA Softball of Iowa Council or by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.

6. Secretary/Treasurer Duties.
  - (1) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and depositing all monies received by IASA.
  - (2) The Secretary-Treasurer shall pay all bills owed by USA Softball of Iowa, with the approval of the State Commissioner.
  - (3) The Secretary-Treasurer shall give a written financial report to each member of the Executive Committee and the USA Softball of Iowa Council within 30 days of the conclusion of the fiscal year.
  - (4) The Secretary-Treasurer shall take minutes of all meetings of the USA Softball of Iowa and disseminate/distribute them to all members of the Executive Committee and/or the USA Softball of Iowa Council.

**Article 108** [State Commissioner.](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

The State Commissioner shall be nominated, chosen, serve and perform the duties in accordance with the USA Softball Code, Article 305. The State Commissioner shall each year, complete and pass the USA Softball Background Check and SafeSport Certification (SafeSport Compliant Regulations) at the expense of USA Softball of Iowa.

**Article 109** [State Junior Olympic Commissioner.](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

The State Junior Olympic Commissioner position shall be governed by Article 308A of the USA Softball Code. The State JO Commissioner shall each year, complete and pass the USA Softball Background Check and SafeSport Certification (SafeSport Compliant Regulations) at the expense of USA Softball of Iowa.

**Article 110** [State Umpire-In-Chief \(UIC\).](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

The State Umpire-In-Chief position shall be governed by Article 310A of the USA Softball Code. The State UIC shall each year, complete and pass the USA Softball Background Check and SafeSport Certification (SafeSport Compliant Regulations) at the expense of USA Softball of Iowa.

**Article 111** [Player Representatives.](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. The At-Large Player Representative positions and the State Player Representative position shall be governed by Article 309A and Article 309C of the USA Softball Code.
- B. District Player Representatives.
  1. Appointment. The District Commissioner shall appoint District Player Representatives. Each District Commissioner may appoint one District Player Representative for each division of play and may add one player representative for each 100 teams registered based on the registrations or the preceding year.

The State Commissioner shall appoint Women's Player Representatives, as deemed necessary, to represent registered teams in women's slow pitch and co-ed slow pitch divisions of play.

2. Term of Office. The District Player Representative shall serve a one-year term and is eligible for re-appointment.
3. Vacancy. If a District Player Representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the District Commissioner.
4. Removal. The District Commissioner may remove a District Player Representative for just cause.
5. Duties.
  - a. The District Player Representative shall represent their district at the annual player representative meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the USA Softball of Iowa Council.
  - b. Shall serve on the State Classification Board to assist with player classification and player reclassification appeals.

**Article 112** [District Commissioners.](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

A. Adult District Commissioners

1. Appointment. Adult District Commissioners for Men's Slow Pitch, Men's Fast Pitch, Men's 14" Slow Pitch and Men's 16" Slow Pitch shall be appointed by the State Commissioner. The State Junior Olympic Commissioner shall appoint a JO District Commissioner for each JO District.
2. Term of Office. A District Commissioner shall serve a term of one year and is eligible for re-appointment.
3. Vacancy. If a District Commissioner resigns, is removed from the position, is unable to perform the duties of the position or dies, the State Commissioner shall appoint a new District Commissioner to fill the remainder of the term of office.
4. Removal. The District Commissioner may be removed from office by the State Commissioner for just cause.
5. Duties.
  - a. The District Commissioner is responsible for recruiting and registering teams and umpires in their district.
  - b. The District Commissioner is responsible for collecting team and umpire registration fees and forwarding them to the USA Softball of Iowa office within 30 days of receipt of the fees.

- c. The District Commissioner is responsible for organizing and operating a District Tournament for each division and classification of play in their district, as assigned.
- d. The District Commissioner is responsible for filing a financial report for their District Tournament within 5 working days upon the completion of their District Tournament.
- e. The District Commissioner is responsible for sanctioning tournaments in their district with the IASA and filing a sanction form complete with the tournament sanction fee a minimum of one week prior to the start of the tournament to be sanctioned.
- f. The District Commissioner is responsible for promoting the USA Softball of Iowa program in his district. To help promote the USA Softball of Iowa program, while not working for or in cooperation with a competing softball organization(s). (Competing softball organization is termed as those organizations that provide the same or similar softball services and are not members or affiliate members of the USA Softball of Iowa
- g. The District Commissioner is responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations of the USA Softball of Iowa and USA Softball.
- h. The District Commissioner will serve as a tournament director for USA Softball of Iowa State, Mid-America Regional or National Qualifying Tournaments as assigned by the State Commissioner.

B. **Junior Olympic District Commissioners** [\*\(back to Table of Contents\)\*](#)

- 1. Appointment. Junior Olympic District Commissioners shall be appointed by the State Junior Olympic Commissioner for each Junior Olympic District.
- 2. Term of Office. A Junior Olympic District Commissioner shall serve a term of one year and is eligible for reappointment.
- 3. Vacancy. If a District Commissioner resigns, is removed from the position, is unable to perform the duties of the position or dies, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner shall appoint a new Junior Olympic District Commissioner to fill the remainder of the term of office.
- 4. Removal. The Junior Olympic District Commissioner may be removed from office by the State Commissioner for just cause.
- 5. Duties.
  - a. Shall each year complete and pass the USA Softball Background Check and SafeSport Certification (SafeSport Compliant Regulations) at the expense of USA Softball of Iowa.

- b. Help promote USA Softball of Iowa to their local teams, leagues and tournaments.
- c. Answer questions and help teams get registered; encourage tournaments to sanction their events with USA Softball of Iowa.
- d. Evaluate teams as to their skill level to be sure they are playing in the correct classification.
- e. Encourage recreational programs in their district to register their teams with USA Softball of Iowa.
- f. Act as the tournament directors for our various state tournaments.
- g. Participate in the Annual State Council Meeting.
- h. Not actively provide administrative assistance for any competing softball organizations.

**Article 113** [Deputy State Commissioners.](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. Appointment. The Deputy State Commissioners shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
- B. Term of Office. The Deputy State Commissioners shall serve a one-year term and are eligible for re-appointment.
- C. Removal. A Deputy State Commissioner may be removed for just cause by the State Commissioner.
- D. Vacancy. If a Deputy State Commissioner resigns, dies, is unable to perform the duties as assigned or is removed from the position, the State Commissioner, may, at his discretion appoint a new Deputy State Commissioner.
- E. Duties.
  - 1. Shall serve on the tournament site selection committee to determine sites for state and regional tournaments.
  - 2. Shall each year complete and pass the USA Softball Background Check and SafeSport Certification (SafeSport Compliant Regulations) at the expense of USA Softball of Iowa.
  - 2. Shall serve as a tournament director for state, regional, or national qualifying tournaments as assigned by the State Commissioner.
  - 3. To help promote the USA Softball of Iowa program, while not working for or in cooperation with a competing softball organization(s). (Competing softball organization is termed as those organizations that provide the same or similar softball services and are not members or affiliate members of the USA Softball of Iowa.)

**Article 114** [USA Softball of Iowa Council](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. The USA Softball of Iowa Council shall be composed of the following members, each of whom shall have one vote.
1. The State Commissioner
  2. The Junior Olympic Commissioner
  3. Each Deputy State Commissioner
  4. The State Player Representative
  5. All At-Large Player Representatives
  6. Each District Commissioner
  7. The State Umpire-In-Chief
  8. Each District Player Representative
  9. Each Deputy State Umpire-In-Chief
- B. [Annual Council Meeting](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*  
The annual meeting of the USA Softball of Iowa shall take place as scheduled by the State Commissioner. Only members that have met the SafeSport Guidelines for Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO's) of USA Softball are authorized to vote on or make any decision that has authority over a minor (Under 18 years of age) participant.
1. The site or format of the meeting shall be determined by the State Commissioner.
  2. All Members shall each year complete and pass the USA Softball Background Check and SafeSport Certification (SafeSport Compliant Regulations) at the expense of USA Softball of Iowa.
  3. Notice. Notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed to all members of the USA Softball of Iowa Council at least 7 days prior to the annual meeting.
  4. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of those members of the USA Softball of Iowa Council present and voting.
  5. Travel. Each voting member of the USA Softball of Iowa Council shall be reimbursed for their mileage to the annual meeting at a rate determined by the State Commissioner.

**Article 115** [Executive Committee – Board of Directors.](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. Members. The Executive Committee shall consist of the State Commissioner, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner, The State Player Representative, each At-Large Player Representative, the State Umpire-In-Chief, the top three District Commissioners in team registrations, top three Junior Olympic District Commissioners in team registrations and the Deputy State Commissioners.
- B. All Members of the Executive Committee/Board of Directors shall each year complete and pass the USA Softball Background Check and SafeSport Certification (SafeSport Compliant Regulations) at the expense of USA Softball of Iowa.

- C. Duties. The Executive Committee shall make recommendations to the State Commissioner on the operation of the USA Softball of Iowa program. The Executive Committee shall approve the operating budget of the USA Softball of Iowa as presented by the State Commissioner.
- D. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet as scheduled by the State Commissioner. Additional meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the State Commissioner as needed.
  - 1. The meeting site or format shall be determined by the State Commissioner.
  - 2. Notice. Notice of the meetings shall be sent to all voting members of the Executive Committee at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.
  - 3. Quorum. A quorum shall be those members of the Executive Committee present and voting at the meeting.

**Article 116** [Committees](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. [District Commissioners](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

The District Commissioners Committee shall meet at the annual meeting to discuss registration procedures and district, state and regional tournament duties and responsibilities. The committee shall consist of the District Commissioners (Adult and Junior Olympic), Deputy State Commissioners and the State Commissioner.
- B. [Umpires](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

The umpires committee shall meet at the annual meeting to discuss rule changes, changes in umpire mechanics and state and regional tournament responsibilities. The committee shall consist of the State Umpire-In-Chief and the Deputy Umpires-In-Chief as assigned by the State Umpire-In-Chief.
- C. [Player Representatives](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

The player representatives committee shall meet at the annual meeting to discuss new rules and state and national legislation that affects the game. The player representatives committee shall consist of the District Player Representatives as assigned by the District Commissioner and the State Player Representative and all At-Large Player Representatives.

**Article 117** [Umpires](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. [Staff](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*
  - 1. State Umpire-In-Chief. The USA Softball of Iowa Umpire-In-Chief (UIC) position shall be governed by Article 310A of the USA Softball Code. The State Commissioner shall also appoint the Junior Olympic UIC and Adult Program UIC.
  - 4. The State UIC shall appoint a District UIC for each District (based on the Men's Slow Pitch District geographical areas) to help in the recruitment, registration and training of umpires, as well as other duties as outlined in the State UIC Manual.

C. **Duties of the Umpire Staff** *(back to Table of Contents)*

The UIC and DUIC's shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Recruit, Retain and Train Umpires in their area.
2. Maintain current umpire registration status (at the expense of the USA Softball of Iowa) and complete and pass the USA Softball Background Check and are current with their SafeSport Certification (SafeSport Compliant).
3. Attend the UIC clinic in Oklahoma City (UIC only) at the expense of the USA Softball of Iowa state office.
4. The UIC shall train the DUIC's to conduct clinics throughout the state and shall assign DUIC's to train umpires at these clinics.
5. The UIC and the DUIC's shall interpret rules as necessary.
6. Serve as UIC for state and regional tournaments as assigned by the State UIC.
7. The state UIC shall recommend umpires for assignments to state, regional and national tournaments.
8. To help promote the USA Softball of Iowa program, while not working for or in cooperation with a competing softball organization(s). (Competing softball organization is termed as those organizations that provide the same or similar softball services and are not members or affiliate members of the USA Softball.)

D. **Registration** *(back to Table of Contents)*

1. An umpire must register through the local association where they reside or work either as an umpire or in their regular occupation.
2. An umpire shall not be considered registered until he has paid the appropriate registration fee to the USA Softball of Iowa office. Registration shall be valid until December 31 of the year the umpire has registered with the USA Softball of Iowa office. Umpires shall not be allowed umpire for those under 18 years of age (minor adults) unless they are registered and have passed the USA Softball Background Check and are current with their SafeSport Certification (SafeSport Compliant). An umpire's membership may be declined or revoked for unethical, immoral or unprofessional conduct.
  - a. Registered umpires become members of USA Softball of Iowa on a voluntary basis and agree to be governed by the Code, rules and regulations of USA Softball of Iowa. Registration by an umpire does not establish an employer/employee relationship and no umpire is considered an employee of the USA Softball of Iowa or the local Association but is instead acting as an Independent Contractor.

3. Uniform. To work in a state, regional or national tournament, the umpire must be attired in the official USA Softball uniform. The USA Softball uniform shall be that as described in the official playing rules. The UIC shall determine the uniform color combinations for his/her tournament.

**Part 2 Competition** *(back to Table of Contents)*

**Article 201 Eligibility** *(back to Table of Contents)*

**A. General Rules** *(back to Table of Contents)*

1. A player may play in any state/metro association during the current season.
2. Once electing to participate in championship play on a team registered in a state/metro association, the player may not play in the same division in any other state/metro association during the current season. EXCEPTION: Transfer of Employment and Pick-Up players. EXCEPTION: In Master's and Senior divisions, a player may play in the same division in another state/metro association, but not in the same classification.
3. A player may participate as a regular rostered player on only one team within a division in championship play during a season. EXCEPTION: Girls 8 & Under Coach Fast Pitch, Masters and Senior Divisions – a player may participate in all age classifications for which he/she is eligible. Pick-up players as provided in this code may compete in their class or above, but not below it.

**B. Team Registration** *(back to Table of Contents)*

1. A team must register with the USA Softball of Iowa if the greatest number of players on the roster reside or are employed full time in the state of Iowa. A team registering to play in Iowa must do so with the district commissioner where the greatest number of players on the roster reside.
2. Junior Olympic Registration - USA Softball Membership Cards: Each Junior Olympic Player that participates in state championship play must be Individually Registered and have an USA Softball of Iowa membership card prior to playing in the tournament. This membership card is verification that the player has registered with USA Softball of Iowa for the current season. Failure to produce the card will make the player ineligible to compete in the tournament.
3. All Junior Olympic teams playing in any USA Softball of Iowa sanctioned Tournament shall have at least one adult coach who is ACE certified. In addition, all other adult team personnel on the field or in the dugout shall have an USA Softball Background Check and be SafeSport Certified.

**C. International Eligibility Standards.** - The USA Softball of Iowa may not adopt an eligibility standard that is more restrictive than that of the applicable international sports federation, the International Softball Federation.

**D.** All other eligibility requirements shall be according to Article 501 of the USA Softball Code.

Article 202 [Rosters](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. **General.** Teams must compete with the same roster in championship play as used during the regular season, except teams are allowed to pick up (3) three players of the same class or lower when advancing in championship play.
- B. **Number of Players.** A maximum of 20 players, including pick-ups, a manager, and a coach are allowed in fast pitch, slow pitch and modified pitch on a team roster. A manager or coach shall not count as a player unless he is an active player.
- C. **Roster Deadline.** In all Adult Divisions of play the Official Championship Roster used. Rosters may not be changed following the teams first game in championship play other than under the provisions for pick-up players, as set under Article 503 of the USA Softball National Code.

\*In all Junior Olympic (Youth) Divisions of play the Official Championship Play Roster must be handed-in to the Tournament Director prior to the team's first game. All registration, identification and age requirement information must also be met before a team's participation in the tournament.

\*1. Any team that submits an entry fee and is drawn into an USA Softball of Iowa State Tournament bracket shall not, under any circumstances, receive a refund or be dropped from the tournament bracket unless another team can be found to take that teams place.

- a. The Official Championship Roster must be submitted to the Tournament Director before the team's first game.
- D. **Roster Change Deadline:** If championship play begins (i.e. National Qualifier) prior to the team participating in an USA Softball of Iowa District or State Tournament (whichever occurs first) that team must use the same roster it competed with in championship play, but may make roster changes until the first game in the tournament or the State and or National Championship Tournament in the same division of play. Once a team has qualified for a National Championship, that team shall not be permitted to change their roster. (Exception: Pick-Up Players and Player Releases).
- E. **Roster Form.** The official USA Softball Championship play roster form must be used by all teams competing in championship play. The roster must be signed by the player, the player's parent or guardian (if under 18 years of age) and must include the player's Bonafide Residence.
- F. **Roster Eligibility.** Receipt and acceptance of an official USA Softball affidavit roster shall not be considered as a determination of the eligibility of a player or team. Eligibility of players or teams shall be governed as provided in the USA Softball of Iowa and USA Softball Code.
- G. **Gender Determination**  
USA Softball's Procedural Code states that Championship Play eligibility relies upon a person's sex classification as set forth on a person:
- Birth Certificate; or
  - Driver's License
  - Valid Passport
- UNLESS there is a local law that says otherwise, and then the local law must be followed.

**The State of Iowa determines the sex of the individual as: In the construction of statutes, the following rules shall be observed regarding a person's biological sex: Sex - when used to classify or describe a natural person, means the state of being either male or female as observed or clinically verified at birth. A certificate of birth filed under this section shall include a designation of the sex of the person. Senate File 418, 2/28/25**

**Addition: National Championship Play**

In the event the aforementioned documentation sets forth an “X” for gender/sex of the individual or some other indication of ‘non-binary’ status (e.g. “NB”) as a gender/sex, then such person shall be classified into the male classification for programs for Championship Play eligibility, UNLESS there is a local law that says otherwise, and then the local law must be followed.

A failure to provide such documentation, or the absence of such documentation, shall require a person to be classified into the male classification for programs for Championship Play eligibility.

**Reminder:**

This policy only applies to USA Softball’s Championship Play and does not limit a Local Association or the Local League’s ability to provide different standards for non-championship play. As to non-championship play, each Local Association can decide for itself and allow or permit activities, eligibility, and participation in such non-championship play any way it sees fit – including disregarding sex classification or creating its own eligibility rules or classification for its Association’s non-championship play.

**Article 203**    **[Pick-Up Players](#)**    *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. Pick-Up players may be used as provided for in **Article 503** of the USA Softball Code. Players that are not rated (NR) assume the classification of the team and level they played with.

**Article 204**    **[Divisions and Classifications of Championship Play](#)**    *(back to Table of Contents)*

The USA Softball of Iowa Executive Committee shall determine which divisions and classifications of play shall be offered by the USA Softball of Iowa.

**Article 205**    **[Levels of Championship Play](#)**    *(back to Table of Contents)*

The following levels of championship play shall be recognized at the local and state level:

**[District/Sub-State Championships](#)**    *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. District tournaments may be held in Men’s Fast Pitch, Men’s 14" Slow Pitch, and Men’s 16" Slow Pitch. To compete in a district tournament, the team must be registered for the current season with USA Softball of Iowa. The team must compete in the district tournament where the greatest number of players on their roster reside. Exception: If a team wishes to compete in a district other than the one where the greatest number of players on their roster reside, the team must be granted permission to do so from their District Commissioner by signing their Official Roster. A team may only compete in one district tournament per division of play.

**[State Championships](#)**    *(back to Table of Contents)*

- B. The USA Softball of Iowa Executive Committee will determine which State tournaments will be held in any division and classification.

### **C. Men's Class D and E (Rec.) 12" Slow Pitch Softball State Championship Series**

**USA Softball of Iowa will host a West Regional Qualifier and East Regional Qualifier for Class E and D Men's Slow Pitch. The Regional Qualifier Champion from each region will receive an unpaid berth to the National Tournament in their Class and to validate this berth they must play in the State Finals.**

**Teams that have already earned National Berths at early season national qualifier tournaments must participate in their respective classification state tournament final to validate their national berth. In the event the Champion from either the D or E Regional Qualifiers finishes in the top 2 in the new State Tournaments, the berth obtained at the Regional Qualifier will go to the next highest finishing team in the new State Tournament.**

**The top teams of the state tournaments will receive remaining berths to nationals that Iowa is allocated that were not given out in the regional qualifiers.**

- D. USA Softball of Iowa Men's Class C Slow Pitch Teams must compete in the USA Softball of Iowa Men's Class C Slow Pitch State/National Qualifier to be eligible to compete in the USA Softball Men's Class C National Championship Tournament.**
- E. To compete in an USA Softball of Iowa state tournament, a majority of the players on the team roster must reside or be employed full time within the state of Iowa during the current season. Teams may play in only one state tournament per year per division of play. Exception: Men's Class D and E Slow Pitch East-West will advance to the Championship Series. Girl's Fast Pitch 8 & Under Coach Fast Pitch Players may also play in Girl's 10 & Under Fast Pitch.
- F. Previously qualified youth teams that have qualified for a National Tournament may play in State or Mid-America Regional Tournaments. Adult teams that have qualified for a National Tournament berth MUST play in USA Softball of Iowa State Tournament in the division of play and classification of that team to be eligible for receive the National Tournament berth. The national berth from the tournament shall be awarded to the highest finishing team not previously qualified.
- G. All USA Softball of Iowa Junior Olympic Fast Pitch teams that would like to participate in the USA Softball Northern National Tournaments must participate in at least one Iowa USA Sanctioned Invitational Tournament in addition to participating in the USA Softball of Iowa State Tournament in that division and classification of play.
- H. All USA Softball of Iowa Junior Olympic Fast Pitch teams that would like to participate in the USA Softball Class A National Tournaments must meet the following criteria:
1. Teams must play in the state tournament if held.
  2. Teams must play in at least one additional USA Softball sanctioned tournament in the current year.
  3. The berth may be used for either the current year or the following year (must meet returning team requirements if used in the following year).
  4. There will be one berth for every 8 teams entered in the state tournament.
  5. 14U, 16U and 18U tournaments are open to any USA Registered Team, including out-of- state teams, who may also qualify for the berth, provided they meet with the Approval of their State

Commissioners.

6. Sanctioned Tournaments - Tournaments that are not part of Championship Play may be sanctioned by USA Softball of Iowa. The tournament host will agree to all requirements as listed on the "Invitational Tournament Sanction Form" which must be completed and agreed to in order to receive the sanction. Teams and coaches participating in a sanctioned tournament must comply with all rules and regulations of USA Softball, USA Softball of Iowa and the local tournament. The tournament host has the right to use any playing rules adaptations as they may desire. All sanctioned tournaments must be listed on the tournamentUSA.com web site.

**Article 206** [Rules of Championship Play](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

The rules of championship play shall be governed by the USA Softball Code, Article 510 with the EXCEPTION OF:

A. [Uniforms](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

In state tournament play, team members are required to wear the same (like) colored shirt with **at least** a six-inch Arabic numeral and must be visible on the back of the uniform shirt. Players on the same team shall not wear identical numbers and players without numbers will not be permitted to play.

B. [Time Limits: Junior Olympic Fast Pitch](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

10 and 12 & Under Time Limit: A one hour and ten (70) minute time limit will be used with no new inning started after time expires. 14, 16 and 18 & Under Time Limit: A one hour and thirty (90) minute time limit will be used with no new inning started after time expires.

C. [Run Ahead Rule](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

Junior Olympic Fast Pitch: A 12 run ahead rule will be used after three 10 run ahead after 4 innings and an 8 run ahead rule will be used after the fifth inning.

B. [Tie-Breaker Rule:](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

**Junior Olympic Fast Pitch** At the top of the eighth inning, if the score remains tied, the tie-breaker rule will be used. If the game is tied at the end of the time limit, the Tie-Breaker rule will go into effect in the top half of the next inning. The last batter due up in the inning will be placed on second base to start the inning.

**Men's Fast Pitch Tiebreaker:** If the game is tied after 8 complete innings, the Tie-Breaker rule will be used. The last batter due up in the inning will be placed on second base to start the inning.

D. [Casual Profanity Rule](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

The umpire has the authority to assess ONE OUT per play against the offending team for the use of CASUAL PROFANITY which shall be defined as expletives (Vulgar or Profane Language), which is not appropriate in a recreational sports setting, used by a player, manager/coach or team representative on the field or in the dugout. This may include words not being directed at any one individual, but rather are made out of frustration or loss of self-control. In the opinion of the umpire, if these words are audible to the umpire and surrounding players or spectators to the extent that it detracts from the values of softball competition based on good sporting behavior and fair play, the umpire may assess a Casual Profanity Out. Actions of players and/or coaches during the team's final out of their term at bat and/or prior to them taking the field on defense shall be carried over to that teams next term at bat. Actions of players and/or coaches during pre-game activities, which occur after the umpires have entered the field of play, will be

enforced during the team's first term at bat. All outs (charged either while on offense or defense) will be assessed against the offending team during their term at bat. Only ONE "Casual Profanity" out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of vulgar or profane language exceeding these limits will subject the individuals to ejection from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. A player ejected from the game for exceeding these limits will not have a casual profanity out charged to the TEAM. The Casual Profanity penalty "out" will be assessed as a TEAM OUT and will not affect any batter or base runner (all action stands). For scoring purposes, the putout will be credited to the catcher.

E. **[Sportsmanship Rule](#)** *–(back to Table of Contents)*

The umpire has the authority to assess one out per play against the offending team for excessive protests, arguments, complaints or behavior not appropriate in a recreation sports setting. Throwing a bat, glove, rude gestures, insulting or disparaging remarks, or baiting or taunting opposing players or game officials would be examples of such actions. Such conduct exhibited by a player, coach or team representative will be penalized. Actions of players and/or coaches during the team's final out of their term at bat and/or prior to them taking the field on defense shall be carried over to the teams next term at bat. Actions of players and/or coaches during pre-game activities, which occur after the umpires have entered the field of play, will be enforced during the team's first at term bat. An Umpire, UIC or Tournament Director shall have the authority to issue a postgame ejection for unsporting behavior that occurs after the last out of the game after the umpires have left the confines of the field. This may include, but is not limited to, spectating, restroom or concession areas, parking areas or any property of the softball complex or park. The violator shall serve the ejection in his/her next regularly scheduled and played contest in championship play. All outs (charged either on offense or defense) will be assessed against the offending TEAM during their term at bat. Only one "unsportsmanlike" out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of continued or excessive unsportsmanlike conduct will subject the individual(s) to ejection from the game. A player/coach/ or team representative ejected from the game will not have a un-sportsmanship out called against them. The Unsportsmanlike penalty "out" will be assessed as a TEAM OUT and will not affect any batter or base runner (all action stands). For scoring purposes, the putout will be credited to the catcher.

- For the purposes of these rules a Play refers to the duration of one player's time at-bat and a team's Term at-bat refers to a team's half-inning, which begins when the third out of the previous inning is made and continues until the third out of the team at-bat occurs.

G. **[Girl's 8 & Under Fast Pitch Coach Pitch Rules](#)** *(back to Table of Contents)*

The Playing Rules and Regulations for the Girl's 8U Coach-Pitch Junior Olympic State Tournaments shall be determined by the USA Softball of Iowa JO Girl's Fast Pitch Committee Members (State and District JO Commissioners) and posted on the USA Softball of Iowa website.

H. **[Girl's Class C Fast Pitch VIP \(Very Important Players\) Program](#)** *(back to Table of Contents)*

The Playing Rules and Regulations for the Girl's Class C Fast Pitch VIP Junior Olympic State Tournaments shall be determined by the USA Softball of Iowa JO Girl's Fast Pitch Committee Members (State and District JO Commissioners) and posted on the USA Softball of Iowa website.

**Article 207** [Dates of Championship Play](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

Dates for district tournaments shall be established by the district commissioner. The district commissioner shall notify the USA Softball of Iowa office of the dates of their district tournament no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Dates for state tournaments shall be established by the State Commissioner by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

**Article 208** [District and State Tournament Seeding and Draw](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. Bracket. The official USA Softball championship double elimination or three-game bracket shall be used for district and state tournament play. All Junior Olympic Fast Pitch and Men's Fast Pitch, Men's Masters 35 & Over Slow Pitch, All Women's Slow Pitch, Men's Class B Slow Pitch and All Co-Ed Slow Pitch will use the Official USA Softball 3-Game Guarantee Bracket for championship play. The State Commissioner and Executive Board shall determine the tournament format to be used in all state tournaments.
- B. State Tournament Seeding. The number and placement of teams seeded into the tournament bracket shall be determined by the State Commissioner and may be based on the results from the District Tournaments, previous years state tournament results, Invitational Tournament Results, District Player Rep. input, Peer review survey, team classification or criteria stipulated by the tournament format.
- C. Draw Procedures. The district tournament shall be drawn as determined by the district commissioner. State tournaments shall be drawn by the State Commissioner or his designee. Whenever possible, byes will be awarded to District Champions. The byes will be awarded based on a random draw of the District Champions. All tournaments shall be a blind draw. Teams will be protected from playing a team from their own district for the first round of all state tournament. Teams are required to be available to play any time during the tournament.

**Article 209** [Disqualification](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

Disqualification of a team, team member, manager or team official shall be in accordance with Article 505 of the USA Softball Code.

**Article 301** [State Tournament Awards](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. Team. Team awards will be provided for each state tournament by the USA Softball of Iowa. The number and type of awards for at each tournament shall be determined by the State Commissioner.
  - 1. Individual Awards - Adult Tournaments – The top 4 Teams will select the All-Tournament Team selections from their own team based on their order of finish in the Tournament. The Tournament Champion will select the MVP from their own team.
  - 2. Youth (JO Tournaments) - Individual awards will be presented to the Team Champions (14) and Team Runner-Up, of each Junior Olympic State Tournament.
- C. The top 4 teams in the 16" Men's Major State Tournament shall be awarded expense money based on their finish in the tournament. First place will receive 40%, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 30%, 3<sup>rd</sup> place 20% and 4<sup>th</sup> place 10% of the travel fund.
- D. The highest finishing Iowa team in the Men's Class C 12" Slow Pitch Iowa National Qualifying Tournament in the current season will receive a National Tournament Reimbursement Fee for

the USA Men's Class C National Tournament in the amount of \$50 for each team entered in the Men's Class C Slow Pitch Iowa Qualifying Tournament. The Travel Fee will be paid after the team's participation in the USA Softball Class C National Tournament in the current season.

- E. The two highest finishing Iowa teams in the Men's Class D 12" USA Softball or Iowa Championship Series Finals in the current season will receive a National Tournament Reimbursement Fee for the USA Men's Class D National Tournament in the amount of \$50 for each team entered in the Men's Class D Slow Pitch Championship Finals. The Travel Fee will be paid after the team's participation in the USA Softball Class D National Tournament in the current season. **Teams that participate in the State Finals that have already received a national berth per an earlier season Championship event are not eligible for the National Tournament Reimbursement Fee. Iowa Regional Qualifier Tournament Champions are eligible for Travel Funds by finishing in the top two teams in the State Finals.**
- F. The two highest finishing Iowa teams in the Men's Class E 12" USA Softball or Iowa Championship Series Finals in the current season will receive a National Tournament Reimbursement Fee for the USA Men's Class E National Tournament in the amount of \$50 for each team entered in the Men's Class E Slow Pitch Championship Series Finals. The Travel Fee will be paid after the team's participation in the USA Softball Class E National Tournament in the current season. **Teams that participate in the State Finals that have already received a national berth per an earlier season Championship event are not eligible for the National Tournament Reimbursement Fee. Iowa Regional Qualifier Tournament Champions are eligible for Travel Funds by finishing in the top two teams in the State Finals.**

Tournament hosts may present other individual awards for adult tournaments only, and at their cost. The awards must be approved by the State Commissioner.

**Article 302** [Softballs](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

The USA Softball of Iowa shall provide balls for 14" and 16" Slow Pitch State Tournaments. All other tournaments teams will either "hit their own" or "pitch their own" depending on the tournament format and supply their own softballs for doing so.

**Article 303** [Financial Obligation](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. District Fees. The district commissioner is responsible for paying the team and umpire registration fees to the USA Softball of Iowa office. The district commissioner is responsible for paying the tournament sanction fee for any local invitational tournaments that apply for USA Softball of Iowa sanction. The district commissioner is also responsible for all fees for district tournament play.
- B. Failure to Pay Obligation. Any district commissioner who does not pay his financial obligation by September 15 of the current season shall result in the removal of the district commissioner.

**Article 304** [Tournament Reports](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. District Reports. The district commissioner shall file a district tournament report with the USA Softball of Iowa office within 5 working days of the completion of the district tournament.

- B. State and Regional Tournaments. The tournament director for all state and regional tournaments held in Iowa shall file a tournament report, including a completed bracket, a listing of all advancing teams, and entry fees for all advancing teams.

**Article 305** [Bidding for State, Regional, National Qualifying Tournaments](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

- A. Submitting Bid. The actual bid must be on the official USA Softball of Iowa bid form. The official form will be mailed to all prospective bidders no later than the first Friday of November of the current year.
- B. Sealed Bids. Bids must be filed with the USA Softball of Iowa office by the bid deadline. The bids will be opened by the State Commissioner the first business day after the bid deadline.
- C. Awarding of Tournaments. The tournament site selection committee shall be responsible for awarding tournament bids. The site selection committee shall consist of the State Commissioner and members of the Executive Committee/Board of Directors.
- G. Bid is Awarded. After the bid has been awarded, the successful bidder must deposit 25% of the total bid based on the 5-year bid average for that tournament to the USA Softball of Iowa office within 30 days of being awarded the tournament.
- H. Dates of Tournament. The State Commissioner shall establish the dates for all state tournaments. The tournament dates are the only acceptable dates for the tournament.
- I. Obligations of Bidder. By presenting a bid to the USA Softball of Iowa office, the bidder agrees to abide by the obligations as listed in the host responsibilities booklet. This booklet will be distributed with the bid form.

**Article 306** [Classification](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

**A. General**

- 1. USA Softball of Iowa classification philosophy is our mission is best achieved by grouping together teams within our state who are similar in caliber to one another.
- 2. In judging teams, we examine their ability to compete within that class and not their ability to win that class in USA Softball Championship play. Teams are to be classified at the highest possible classification level using this standard.
- 4. Team classification shall be based on the roster that is submitted and the make-up of the classifications of those players on the roster as determined by the USA Softball Player Classification Database.

**B. [Classification Board](#)** *(back to Table of Contents)*

- 1. The Classification Board shall be appointed by the USA Softball of Iowa Commissioner and will consist of District Player Representatives and District Commissioners.

Meetings: The Classification Board will meet at any such time as deemed necessary to hear all appeals and review all classification appeals of players in order to submit a local recommendation to the National Slow Pitch Player Classification Board.

Authority: USA Softball of Iowa will designate a Classification Board to evaluate, classify and review team competitive levels according to the classification guidelines. The Classification Board shall have the authority to act on the following:

1. Classify players and teams prior to the beginning of the regular season play based on past performance and current season roster.
2. Review players and teams for possible reclassification prior to the appropriate USA Softball deadline.
3. Hear properly filed appeals of players and teams on their classification status by the appropriate USA Softball deadline.
4. Develop additional guidelines and regulations as the need arises.

Board Objectives: To determine proper athletic proficiency for teams, the Classification Board shall be limited to an overall comparison of all teams within the state and their finish in invitational, state and national tournament play in USA Softball or any other Softball organization.

#### C. [Player Classification Appeals](#) *(back to Table of Contents)*

Players classified in accordance with this article have the right to appeal their player classifications online on the [USA Softball National Player Database](#). The State Classification Board will assist the National Classification Board for Adult Men's, Women's, and Co-Ed Slow Pitch by providing information to assist in these decisions. When called upon to make a determination regarding a player classification USA Softball of Iowa officials will examine a variety of factors including but not limited their history in USA Softball championship play, history with other associations, softball skill level and past athletic accomplishments outside of softball and to the National Classification Board for final review. All appeals must be submitted by the player through the USA Softball Player Classification Database manager. Players should submit the following information when appealing their classification:

1. A brief statement stating the reason for the appeal. (i.e. playing ability and skill level, change in that skill level due to age or injury)
2. Evidence to support the reclassification appeal **Example:** Team Names, playing time and position, batting average and fielding percentage and Classification of other USA Softball registered teams played with or against and in what classification or level of play.

#### D. Mandatory Reclassification/Restricted Classification

**Mandatory Player Classification**- Starting January 1 each year will start a player appeal process where each player can submit an appeal to have their player rating dropped. This process ends June 30 and at that time appeals will not be accepted until January. We have taken our team procedures and based it on the USA Softball Code in which a team could have 3 Mandatory players from the next higher division on their roster. We consider our list equal to Mandatory classified players. With the player classification system that we have in place helps create a fair and level playing field for all of our teams not only at a

local but also at a national level. Below are the procedures that we use on how to classify a team. Players on the USA Softball Restricted List can only participate in the Men's A or Coed Open Programs.

**The following teams may have up to the following number of players on their roster:**

1. Women's Class Open Any female player.
2. Women's Class C Three (3) Open classified players.
3. Women's Class D Three (3) C classified players.
4. Co-ed Class Open = Any female player and 2 male classified players from the USA Softball Restricted Players List
5. Co-ed Class C = Any female player and no male classified players from Class A, Class B or the USA Softball Restricted Players List
6. Co-ed D = Two (2) female C classified players and two (2) male C classified players. No Open classified female players or male players from Class A, Class B, Class C+ or the USA Softball Restricted Players List.
7. Co-ed Class E/EE = Two female D classified players and two male Class D classified players.

A PLAYER MAY NOT PLAY IN MORE THAN ONE CLASSIFICATION LOWER THAN THEIR CURRENT PLAYER CLASSIFICATION. A PLAYER IS CLASSIFIED TO A SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION, UNTIL RECLASSIFIED BY THE NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION BOARD. PLAYERS WITH A + DESIGNATION ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY DOWN A CLASS.

**E. Men's 12" Slow Pitch (Class A, B, C, D and E (Rec.))**

**1. Returning Teams**

Returning Teams shall be defined as team that returns with 4 or more players (including pick-ups, players from any other reclassified teams of the same level, and up to three players from one classification higher than their current player classification. Players with a + designation are not allowed to play down a class.

**2. Team Restricted Classification**

Returning teams with two or more wins, excluding forfeits, in a National tournament must play in the same or higher classification in their next USA Softball playing season and shall be considered the same team for restricted and/or mandatory reclassification purposes.

**3. Player Classification**

All men's slow pitch players participating in championship play will be individually classified. The National Softball Player Classification Board will oversee all aspects of adult slow pitch classification including those for both teams and players. USA Softball of Iowa representatives will assist the board by providing information to assist in these decisions. When called upon to make a determination regarding a player classification USA Softball of Iowa officials will examine a variety of factors including but not limited their history in USA Softball championship play, history with other associations, softball skill level and past athletic accomplishments outside of softball.

Player Rosters for championship play may include higher classified players. Players who were members of a team subject to mandatory or restricted reclassification must maintain the same classification as assigned by the mandatory or reclassified rule in their next ASA season. The number of players shall be as follows:

- a. A Class B team may not have more than **4** members who are classified as Class A Players.
- b. A Class C team may not have more than **4** members who are classified as Class B Players.
- c. A Class D team may not have more than **4** members who are classified as Class C Players.
- d. A Class E team may not have more than **4** members who are classified as Class D Players.

**NOTE: A PLAYER MAY NOT PLAY IN MORE THAN ONE CLASSIFICATION LOWER THAN THEIR CURRENT PLAYER CLASSIFICATION. A PLAYER IS CLASSIFIED TO A SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION, UNTIL RECLASSIFIED BY THE NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION BOARD. PLAYERS WITH A + DESIGNATION ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY DOWN A CLASS.**

#### **4. Mandatory Team Reclassification for Iowa Men's 12" Slow Pitch Teams**

Returning Teams and Players must play in the next higher classification of championship play in their next USA Softball playing season. Finishes are based on (Percentages include teams tied for a position in the bracket and are rounded up from (i.e. 10% of 15 teams (1.5) is rounded up to 2 teams after 14 teams). There is no reclassification for Men's Class D & E Slow Pitch in tournaments with fewer than 8 teams.

1. In all Adult National Championships, the top finishing 10% (plus ties) will be reclassified to the next higher classification. Exception: Coed Class C and D – teams must finish in the top 10% two consecutive years. Men's Fast Pitch must finish first two consecutive years.
2. **Class D and E: There will be no mandatory reclassification based upon team finish at the Regional Qualifiers. The mandatory reclassification for the State Tournament Finals will be:**
  - a. **(1-7 teams – 0 team reclassifications)**
  - b. **1 team reclassification on an event of 8 - 14 teams**
  - c. **2 team reclassifications for tournaments with 15 teams to 24 teams**
  - d. **Each additional 10 teams or more will be based upon 10% with an additional 5 or more teams i.e. 25 teams up to 34 teams will be an additional team – 3 teams)**
3. Class C: The first and second place teams in the Class C State Tournament each year must compete in the USA Softball Class C National Tournament in the current or the next year and shall be governed by a top 20% finish (plus ties) in that National Tournament. Those teams not playing in the National Tournament in that two-year period will be mandatory reclassified based on the state tournament finish.

Mandatory reclassified teams must play at the next higher classification for one year before appealing to play in another classification level. NOTE: If a team fails to participate in Championship play the next calendar year this restriction will remain in effect until the team participates at the higher classification.

#### **Classification criteria for Men's Slow Pitch**

The following factors will be considered when judging a slow pitch team's appropriate classification level:

1. The level of competition roster members have competed at and the success they have experienced at these levels in previous years of USA Softball and non- USA Softball championship play.

2. The level of success teams judged to be of similar or lesser caliber have accomplished in USA Softball championship play.
3. Past athletic accomplishments of roster members outside of 12” slow-pitch softball.
4. Results of invitational tournament play.
5. The number of homeruns 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 number of home runs allowable.

**F. Men’s Modified Pitch – Mandatory Reclassification/Restricted Classification**

1. The top 2 finishers in the Class B state tournament shall be required to move up to Class A the following season provided they have a minimum of 4 players on their roster (including pick-up players) from the previous season.
2. Any team that wins at least 2 games in the Class A state tournament will not be allowed compete in the Class B state tournament the following season provided they have a minimum of 4 players on their roster (including pick-up players) from the previous season.

**G. 16-inch and 14-inch Slow Pitch.**

Sub-State Tournaments may be offered by each District for Men’s 16” or 14”, but participation is not mandatory for teams that want to participate in the State Tournament.

**H. Men’s Fast Pitch.**

Teams may compete in the All-Iowa Open Men’s Fast Pitch State Tournament where all teams regardless of classification. Teams are seeded into a Pool Play and Double Elimination, 3-game guarantee bracket or “Shoot-Out” Bracket based on last year’s finish, current years league or invitational tournament results. The format of the tournament is determined by the State Commissioner. Note: Any Men’s Fast Pitch team may declare that they want to play in the Major classification for the season.

**I. Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Teams.**

Teams may classify themselves to levels of competition, be classified by the JO District Commissioner where they are playing league(s), or be MANDATORY RECLASSIFIED based on the USA Softball of Iowa Classification Committee using results from the teams present and past seasons of play. Note: Girl’s Class Teams must be made up of players meet the A player may participate as a regular rostered player on only one team within a division in championship play during a season. A team may register and participate in more than one division of play but is limited to only one classification within national Championship Finals play. Exception: Girl’s Fast Pitch 8 & Under Coach Fast Pitch Players may also play in Girl’s 10 & Under Fast Pitch.

A team that wins two or more games, excluding forfeits, in a state tournament or regional tournament may not participate in a lower classification in their next USA Softball playing season. A team that plays in the same age division that has five or more players on a roster, including pick-ups, from such a team shall be considered the same team.

The top three (3) teams in Class B and Class C from the previous year that plays in the same age division will be classified to the next higher classification in their next USA Softball playing season if that team has five (5) or more players (including pick-ups) that participated with that team.

Example - If a team that plays in 10-Under Class B finishes in the top three places in the state or regional tournament and stays in the 10-Under age division in their next USA Softball playing season they must move up to class A. If the team moves up to the 12-Under age division they may play in either class A or Class B, but are not required to move up to Class A. A team that wins at least two games in a state or regional tournament may not move down a Class provided they stay in the same age division.

Each JO District Commissioner may classify teams in their District according to: a) past performance and current season roster based on a level of play where a team will be competitive b) classification changes made by the District Commissioner will be notified in writing to the affected teams no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Appeals of classification changes must be made in writing within five (5) days of notification, to the State Commissioner, whose decision is final. Note: Teams that are mandatory reclassified shall not be allowed to appeal their re-classification.

The following criteria may be used as **guidelines** when evaluating teams. The JO District Commissioner will have the final say as to what class your team will be placed in based on the level where your team will be competitive, unless your team is mandatory reclassified:

**Class A Teams:** Have numerous skilled players. Pitcher(s) are skilled and show above average control. Players are generally recruited or selected via tryouts. Teams play in five (5) or more Invitational Tournaments, occasionally traveling out of state or more than 60 miles to tournaments. Teams generally place in the upper half of the league or tournaments that they enter, occasionally winning a tournament. Teams practice in the off-season.

**Class B Teams:** Have a few skilled players. Offense and Defense is limited in ability and inconsistent although Teams may play in invitational tournaments. Pitcher(s) do not control the game. All players who wish to play are welcome. Teams generally place in the upper three-fourths of the league or tournaments that they enter. Teams hold practices in the off-season. Play is mostly recreational in nature, allowing players to participate in other activities and may not devote a large amount of time to softball.

**Class C/D Teams:** This division has no advancement and is set up for teams that are strictly recreational in nature. These tournaments are designed to give teams with little or no tournament experience a chance to participate in a state tournament. Players are less skilled and not as competitive as Class A/B teams. Teams do not have a desire to advance to further levels of Regional or National play.

## **J. Article 307**

### **[Conflicts between USA Softball of Iowa Code and USA Softball Code](#)** *(back to Table of Contents)*

If there is any article of the USA Softball of Iowa Code which conflicts with the USA Softball Code, the USA Softball Code shall take precedence. All USA Softball of Iowa members agree to be bound by the USA Softball of Iowa Code and the /USA Softball Code and Playing Rules. Failure to comply with the USA Softball of Iowa Code and/or the USA Softball Code and Playing Rules may result in the suspension of membership of a player, team, manager, umpire or official of the USA Softball of Iowa.