

NEBRASKA

RULE BOOK

2026

Table of Contents

2026 JO/Youth State Dates	page 2
2027 JO/Youth State Dates	page 3
2026 Adult State Dates	page 4
District Boundaries	page 5
USA Softball of Nebraska Staff	page 7
Nebraska Softball Foundation Trustees	page 8
District Commissioners	page 9
Registration fees JO/Adult	page 13 (2.09)
Insurance/background check/ACE	page 13-14 (2.10 & 2.11)
Deadlines (state & districts)	page 16 & 17 (7.01 c)
JO Roster player eligibility	page 17 (7.02)
Pickup Players	page 17-18 (7.04)
District/State Entry Fees	page 19 (8.04)
Advancing to Nationals	page 20 (8.05 b)
Team Uniforms	page 20 (9.01)
District & State Awards	page 20 (10.01)
Run Ahead Rule Slow & Fast Pitch	page 21 (11.02)
Time Limits JO	page 21 (11.03)
JO Pitching Distance/Official Softballs	page 21 (11.04)
8U Coach Pitch Rules	page 21-23 (11.06)
10-Under Class C & D Rules	page 23 (11.07)
Start Game Times for State JO & Adult	page 24 (11.08)
Slow Pitch Home Run Rule Limits	page 25 (11.17)
Adult Slow Pitch Rules	page 25 (11.18-11.22)
Coed Slow Pitch Rules	page 25-26 (11.23)
Senior Rules Slow Pitch 50, 60-Over	page 26-27 (11.25)
Junior Olympic Classification Mandatory	page 27-29 (12.01-12.07)
Adult Team Mandatory Reclassification	page 29 (12.08)
Umpire Game Fees	page 30 (13.04)
Umpire Registration Fee	page 32 (15.04)
Hall of Fame/Awards	page 34-36 (16.01-16.08)

2026 USA Softball of Nebraska Girls FP State Dates

Districts – June 5-7

Class B – June 12-14

14U, 16U, 18U – Hastings

Class B – June 19-21

8U B & 8U C, 10U, 12U– Hastings

Class C – June 26-28

10U, 12U - Hastings

Class C – July 3-5

14U & 16/18U – Hastings

Class D – July 10-12

10U, 12U, 14U, 16U/18U – Hastings

2027 USA Softball of Nebraska Girls FP State Dates

Districts – June 4-6

Class B – June 11-13

14U, 16U, 18U – Hastings

Class B – June 18-20

8U B & 8U C, 10U, 12U– Hastings

Class C – June 25-27

10U, 12U - Hastings

Class C – July 2-4

14U & 16/18U – Hastings

Class D – July 9-11

10U, 12U, 14U, 16U/18U – Hastings

2026 ADULT SLOW AND FAST PITCH STATE DATES

MFP – July 17-19

MFP C, D – Hastings

MSP/WSP – July 24-26

MSP D, E, F/WSP D, E - Hastings

Coed – July 31-Aug 2

Coed D, E, F – Hastings

MSP – August 8-9

Open - Hastings

USA Softball of Nebraska District County Boundaries

District 1	Adult Slow Pitch Jim Lee – jnpfd59@hotmail.com JO Youth – Geni Karre – rgkarre@hotmail.com UIC TBA
Counties	Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Scottsbluff, Banner, Kimball, Morrill, Cheyenne, Deuel, Garden, Box Butte
District 2/6	JO Youth Allison Aschoff – Allison.aschoff@gmail.com Adult Slow Pitch Dave Fauss – tammymcginnis68@gmail.com UIC Bob Hoppe – thehoppes1969@gmail.com
Counties	Dist 2 Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Brown, Keya Paha, Rock, Boyd, Holt Dist 6 Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Antelope, Pierce, Wayne, Thurston, Boone, Madison, Stanton
District 3	JO Youth - Geni Karre – rgkarre@hotmail.com Adult Slow Pitch - Jim Lee – jnpfd59@hotmail.com UIC TBA
Counties	Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Keith, Hayes, Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Lincoln, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Dawson, Frontier
District 4	Adult Slow Pitch – Steve Farrens – farrenss2@gmail.com JO Youth Kurk Wiedel – kurk.wiedel@gmail.com UIC Eddie Walters - eddie.waltersusasb@gmail.com UIC Keith Koupal – ktkoupal@hotmail.com
Counties	Dawson, Buffalo, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin
District 5	JO Youth Kurk Wiedel – kurk.wiedel@gmail.com Adult Slow Pitch Steve Farrens – farrenss2@gmail.com UIC Brennin Leach – usanedistrict5@gmail.com
Counties	Hall, Howard, Sherman, Valley, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Polk, Greeley
District 7	JO Youth Kurk Wiedel – kurk.wiedel@gmail.com Adult Slow Pitch Steve Farrens – farrenss2@gmail.com UIC Carl Sandoval – csandoval@neb.rr.com
Counties	Adams, Webster, Hamilton, Seward, Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Nickolls, Thayer, Jefferson, York
District 8	JO Youth Roni Wobken – roniwobken@gmail.com Adult Slow Pitch Brian Kindley – bkragamuffin@yahoo.com UIC David Christensen - christendl01@gmail.com
Counties	Cuming, Burt, Colfax, Dodge, Washington, Butler, Saunders
District 9	JO Kurk Wiedel – kurk.wiedel@gmail.com Adult Slow Pitch Brian Kindley – bkragamuffin@yahoo.com UIC Sean Loving – slovins25@gmail.com
Counties	Gage, Johnson, Otoe, Pawnee, Nemaha, Richardson, Cass, Lancaster
District 9a	JO Kurk Wiedel – kurk.wiedel@gmail.com Adult Slow Pitch Brian Kindley – bkragamuffin@yahoo.com UIC – Sean Loving – slovins25@gmail.com
County	Lancaster - City of Lincoln
District 10	JO Youth Roni Wobken – roniwobken@gmail.com Adult Slow Pitch Brian Kindley – bkragamuffin@yahoo.com UIC Jeff Riley – neusasbdist10@yahoo.com
Counties	Sarpy, Douglas, City of Omaha, Bellevue

USA Softball of Nebraska MISSION STATEMENT

To work together cooperatively and efficiently for and with all participants to provide a quality competitive softball program for the citizens of Nebraska and visiting states.

GOALS

1. To establish a democratically selected Board of Directors to determine rules, regulations, establish policy, and oversee the administration of competitive softball in Nebraska.
2. Encourage active involvement from leagues and teams throughout Nebraska to serve as board and committee members.
3. Establish a program of umpire recruitment and training to provide the very best officiating possible for sanctioned leagues and qualifying tournaments.
4. To work with the Nebraska Softball Foundation and their fundraising efforts to ensure the financial support of the USA Softball of Nebraska Program into the future.
5. To recognize those individuals, through the USA Softball of Nebraska and N.S.F. award programs, which have made a major contribution to the game of softball in the State of Nebraska.

USA Softball of Nebraska Officials

4103 Osborne Drive East, Hastings NE 68901

Phone: 402-462-7100

Web: www.nebraskasoftball.org

State Commissioner	Joe Patterson 1037 Highland Dr, Hastings NE 68901 jpatterson@playasaball.com	402-462-7100
USA Softball President	Dwaine Ladwig 200 3 rd Ave, Shelby NE 68662 dladwig@polkcountyne.gov	402-366-0206
Deputy State Commissioner	Kurk Wiedel 1030 Barger, Hebron NE 68370 kurk.wiedel@gmail.com	402-768-3539
State Umpire-In-Chief	Eddie Walters 4403 Linden Drive, Kearney NE 68847 eddie.waltersusasb@gmail.com	308-627-3136
Deputy State UIC	Carlos Sandoval, 622 East 13, Crete NE 68333	402-418-1726
State JO Commissioner	Roni Wobken 1665 County Road A, Scribner NE 68057 roniwobken@gmail.com	402-679-7578
Office Manager	Teresa Podany 4103 Osborne Drive East Hastings NE 68901 softball1@playasaball.com	402-462-7100
Accounting Manager	Allison Petr 4103 Osborne Drive East Hastings NE 68901 softball2@playasaball.com	402-462-7100

Nebraska Softball Foundation Trustees

President Jeff Hansen	20760 Ames Ave, Elkhorn NE 68022	402-490-6215
Vice Pres. Dan McElravy	1111 Ivy Ave, Crete NE 68333	402-418-2404
Treasurer Ric Ferguson	1110 Lakeridge Drive, Hastings NE 68901	402-984-5129
Secretary Joe Patterson	4103 Osborne Drive East, Hastings NE 68901	402-462-7100
Trustee Mike Gonzales	810 Norris Ave, McCook NE 69001	308-340-4175
Trustee Dave Fauss	2305 Skyline Drive, Norfolk NE 68701	402-860-3681
Trustee Eddie Walters	4403 Linden Drive, Kearney NE 68847	402-627-3136
Trustee Chris Ladwig	1704 Summerfield Ave, Grand Island NE 68803	402-984-4632
Trustee Neal Lewis	2236 N 160 th Road, Concordia KS 66901	308-244-4001
Trustee Kurk Wiedel	1030 Barger, Hebron NE 68370	402-768-3539

District Commissioners

District 1	SP James Lee , 2806 Pawnee Ave, North Platte NE 69101	308-520-0399
	JO Geni Karre , 1009 East D St, North Platte NE 69101	308-539-0767
	UIC TBA	
District 2	SP Dave Fauss , 2305 Skyline Drive, Norfolk NE 68701	402-860-3681
	JO Allison Aschoff , 710 N Maple Street Osmond NE 68765	402-750-9660
	UIC Bob Hoppe , 1301 Sheridan Drive, Norfolk NE 68701	402-841-8907
District 3	SP James Lee , 2806 Pawnee Ave, North Platte NE 69101	308-520-0399
	JO Geni Karre , 1009 East D St, North Platte NE 69101	308-539-0767
	UIC TBA	
District 4	SP Steve Farrens , 4249 Yarrow Road, Grand Island 68803	308-482-0693
	JO Kurk Wiedel , 1030 Barger, Hebron NE 68370	402-768-3539
	UIC Keith Koupal , 1024 West Panorama Road, Lincoln NE 68523	308-233-2253
District 5	SP Steve Farrens , 4249 Yarrow Road, Grand Island 68803	308-482-0693
	JO Kurk Wiedel , 1030 Barger, Hebron NE 68370	402-768-3539
	UIC Brennin Leach , 418 East 31 st Apt 67, Hastings NE 68901	308-216-1233
District 6	SP Dave Fauss , 2305 Skyline Drive, Norfolk NE 68701	402-860-3681
	JO Allison Aschoff , 710 N Maple Street Osmond NE 68765	402-750-9660
	UIC Bob Hoppe , 1301 Sheridan Drive, Norfolk NE 68701	402-841-8907
District 7	SP Steve Farrens , 4249 Yarrow Road, Grand Island 68803	308-482-0693
	JO Kurk Wiedel , 1030 Barger, Hebron NE 68370	402-768-3539
	UIC Carlos Sandoval , 622 East 13, Crete NE 68333	402-418-1726
District 8	SP Brian Kindley , 19119 Marcy St Apt 203, Elkhorn 68022	402-541-3322
	JO Roni Wobken , 1665 County Road A, Scribner NE 68057	402-679-7578
	UIC David Christensen , 240 Riverview Drive, Blair NE 68008	402-909-2441
District 9	SP Brian Kindley , 19119 Marcy St Apt 203, Elkhorn 68022	402-541-3322
	JO Kurk Wiedel , 1030 Barger, Hebron NE 68370	402-768-3539
	UIC Sean Loving , 709 Folsom Lane Apt 27, Lincoln NE 68522	402-318-9433
District 9A	SP Brian Kindley , 19119 Marcy St Apt 203, Elkhorn 68022	402-541-3322
	JO Kurk Wiedel , 1030 Barger, Hebron NE 68370	402-768-3539
	UIC Sean Loving , 709 Folsom Lane Apt 27, Lincoln NE 68522	402-318-9433
District 10	SP Brian Kindley , 19119 Marcy St Apt 203, Elkhorn 68022	402-541-3322
	JO Roni Wobken , 1665 County Road A, Scribner NE 68057	402-679-7578
	UIC Jeff Riley , 3202 South 144 th Ave, Omaha NE 68105	402-578-4375

State Divisional Player Representatives

MSP Representative Ric Ferguson
1110 Lakeridge Drive, Hastings NE 68901 **402-984-5129**

JO Representative Dan McElravy
1111 Ivy Ave, Crete NE 68333 **402-418-2404**

NOTICE

Each of the following is a trademark and/or service mark of the USA SOFTBALL:

*USA Softball of Nebraska

*USA Softball

No use of any of these trademarks is permitted without the expressed written consent of USA Softball, who will take appropriate legal action against any unauthorized use of its marks.

**BYLAWS
USA SOFTBALL OF NEBRASKA**

New rules and/or changes are bold and italicized in each section. These changes were made at the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors meeting held on December 5-6, 2025. Check with your District Commissioner for any changes to these bylaws.

ARTICLE I - General Provisions

1.01 Name - The name of the association shall be the USA Softball of Nebraska.

1.02 Organization - The USA Softball of Nebraska is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1972 under the Nebraska State Non-Profit Corporation Act.

(a) The USA Softball of Nebraska recognizes all amateur sports; claims jurisdiction and is the sole governing body over all forms of the game of softball in the State of Nebraska.

(b) The USA Softball of Nebraska shall include all areas as designated by USA Softball.

1.03 Objective - The objective of USA Softball of Nebraska shall be to promote amateur softball for all players and coaches. To establish uniform rules and regulations, conduct annual Championship Tournaments, and educate and train in the proper skills of amateur softball play, through rules established for clinics and seminars.

1.04 Coordination of Activity - The USA Softball of Nebraska shall work with and coordinate its work with all civic, service, and religious organizations within the State of Nebraska.

1.05 Affiliation - The USA Softball of Nebraska shall pay, through the State Commissioner, all dues required to affiliate USA Softball of Nebraska with USA Softball. The official playing rules and USA Softball Codes as adopted by USA Softball shall be and hereby are made a part of the Bylaws and Codes of the USA Softball of Nebraska. With like force and effect, except in an instance in which the USA Softball code conflicts with enforceable Federal, State, or Local laws and regulations. When a conflict occurs, the bylaws and codes of USA Softball shall have precedence. The USA Softball codes as adopted by USA Softball and as amended from time to time shall be attached to these bylaws as an exhibit hereto.

1.06 Definitions - USA Softball of Nebraska Code is used, unless otherwise specifically mentioned, by the definitions listed in the USA Softball Code will be accepted.

1.07 Amendments - A proposed amendment to these Bylaws or Procedural Code must be in writing, signed by a member of the Board of Directors and sent to the State Commissioner at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Board of Directors meeting. Amendments will only be considered at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

EXCEPTION: See Section (c)

(a) The State Commissioner shall prepare and mail to each member of the Board of Directors all properly submitted proposed amendments at least ten (10) days prior to the time the amendment will be voted on.

(b) Amendments for Procedural Code changes may be rescinded by a 2/3 vote at the annual USA Softball of Nebraska meeting.

EXCEPTION: Legislative proposals for the Chairman of a standing committee may submit changes in the Bylaws or Procedural Codes provided such proposals are in writing and receive majority approval of the members of that committee.

(c) It will require an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors present and voting to approve an amendment.

(d) Emergency change in the Bylaws or Procedural Codes may be made by two-thirds (2/3) approval of the Board of Directors voting on the proposed amendment. Such votes may be made by mail ballot. Emergency changes adopted by USA Softball will be made part of the playing rules by the State Commissioner.

ARTICLE II - Membership and Dues

2.01 Types of Membership - Registered leagues, independent teams, individual players, non-competing members, umpires, USA Softball of Nebraska officers, NSF officers and Life members.

2.02 Competing Members - All players automatically acquire membership in the association when their team pays its annual registration fee in accordance with established eligibility rules.

2.03 Registered Leagues - Are defined as a group of four or more USA Softball of Nebraska registered teams, playing a minimum of eight games, scheduled over no less than a 45-day period. Local leagues retain the right to administer their programs with more or less restrictive playing and eligibility rules. Deviations from USA Softball of Nebraska rules must be clearly specified in writing with a copy going to each team in the league.

2.04 Independent Team - Is a team that plays an independent schedule and does not play in league play.

2.05 Umpires - All umpires registered with USA Softball of Nebraska in the State of Nebraska will automatically acquire membership in this association.

2.06 USA Softball of Nebraska Officers - All appointed and elected officers of this Association shall automatically acquire membership in this association.

2.07 NSF Officers - All appointed and elected officers of this Foundation shall automatically acquire membership in this association.

2.08 Life Members - The Board of Directors of this association shall have the discretion to elect a position of Life Member to any person whom they desire to confer special distinction for outstanding service. This member shall be entitled to the privilege of attending all meetings.

2.09 Registration – JO teams and Umpires must register on Register Play. Individual JO fee includes USA Softball registration as well as secondary insurance policy, and it is mandatory for one (1) adult coach to register with each JO team. **NOTE:** Registration period will run from September 1 through August 31 of each year.

FOR 2026 SEASON

Adult	\$40.00	Adult Umpire (18-over/background check)	\$75.00
Junior Olympic	\$38.00	Youth Umpire (17-under)	\$55.00
Individual J.O. \$30.00 - \$500 Deductible			

Individual Registration - All JO Teams that participate in USA Softball Championship play (districts, state) must register using the individual **Register Play ne.registerplay.com** online registration program. Any JO team who does not participate in Championship play will have an option to register either as a team or individually.

2.10 Individual Registration Insurance - Each individual registrant will receive the following benefits:

1. When you individually register it provides individual accident insurance.
2. \$5,000,000 per occurrence limit of Liability Insurance, plus \$250,000 Excess Accidental Medical Insurance.
3. Coverage follows the individual throughout the calendar year, even if you change to another USA Softball team.
4. Coverage extends to the team as an insured entity if all team members register individually.
5. Coverage extends to the leagues as an insured entity, as well as to league officers, if all league members register individually.
6. The policy has a \$500 deductible with a 90/10 copay.
7. Coverage will follow the player through the current High School Softball season. If the player registers for the next season after September 1st.

2.11 Championship Play Requirements (JO Teams Only) – All JO Team Coaches assisting in USA Softball Championship play (districts, state, regional, national) must obtain the below requirements to be within the field of play/dugout. Be sure to check your Register Play profile status. Please complete the below in the order listed.

A. USA Softball Background Check – All JO team coaches (18 & over) assisting within the field of play/dugout must have a USA Softball background check (current year).

1. Fee: USA Softball Background Check **\$24.42** with ID card

B. SafeSport – All JO team coaches assisting within the field of play/dugout must be SafeSport Trained. The SafeSport training is composed of 3 individual lessons; all lessons must be completed in full before you are considered Safe Sport Trained.

EXCEPTION: The Yearly Refresher Course is only required in the season(s) following the completion of the initial SafeSport Training.

NOTE: All 3 lessons or the Yearly Refresher Course must be completed before you will be allowed to begin ACE.

NOTE: Lessons or refresher courses will appear GREEN on your Member Profile Home Plate page when completed.

1. FEE: Free

C. ACE Education: Each JO Championship team must have one (1) coach within the field of play/dugout be ACE Educated (current year) which includes a background check, to participate in championship play. It is highly recommended that all coaches associated with JO teams complete the ACE Education program (current year) which includes a background check.

NOTE: You will not be allowed to start your ACE Education until your background check has been cleared, and SafeSport is completed. Only one (1) level is required per year.

D. Completion Requirements – Please log into your own Member Profile on **ne.registerplay.com**.

1. **For Background Check** – in register play go to dashboard, my family, Compliance, click required by background check. ***It could take several weeks for the Background Check to be cleared.***

2. **For SafeSport** – In Register Play go to dashboard, my family, compliance, click safe sport required.

3. **For ACE Education** – Must complete SafeSport first. In register play go to dashboard, My Family, compliance find ACE education.

ARTICLE III - Officers

3.01 Board of Directors - The Board shall govern the activities of the USA Softball of Nebraska under the guidance of USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska Bylaws and Codes. The Board shall consist of the President, Immediate Past President, State Commissioner, Deputy State Commissioners, State Junior Olympic Commissioner, State Umpire-In-Chief, At-Large Representative, State Player Representative, State Divisional Representatives and a maximum of twenty (20) District Commissioners as appointed by the State Commissioner. The State Commissioner, with approval of the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors, may appoint and dismiss past USA Softball of Nebraska officers to serve as members of the Board.

a) All JO Board of Directors must have a current USA Softball background check.

3.02 State Commissioner - Shall be selected by the National USA Softball Board of Directors. His/her duties shall be: serve as ex-officio member of all committees; responsible for the enforcement of rules and regulations of the USA Softball of Nebraska and USA Softball; shall award and supervise all tournaments in the State of Nebraska; serve as Treasurer of the USA Softball of Nebraska and collect all moneys due; shall file a financial report annually with the USA Softball of Nebraska Finance Committee and the USA Softball; shall appoint the Deputy State Commissioner, State Junior Olympic Commissioner, State Umpire-In-Chief, State Player Representative, At-Large Representatives, District Commissioners, and such other aids as may be required, by USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors. The State Commissioner may appoint committees as needed. These committees shall convene at the call of the Committee Chairman.

3.03 President - Shall be elected at the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors meeting for a term of two years. The President shall preside over all meetings, appoint committees, and perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors, and shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees. President may appoint committees as needed. These committees shall convene at the call of the Committee Chairman.

3.04 Secretary - The secretary shall keep the minutes of the directors' and executive committee meeting to see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws and the laws of the State of Nebraska. Be custodian of the corporate records, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

3.05 Chief Deputy State Commissioner - Shall perform the duties of the State Commissioner in his temporary absence or inability to act and shall perform other duties as assigned by the State Commissioner.

3.06 State Junior Olympic Commissioner - Shall be responsible for the development of the Junior Olympic youth division in the State of Nebraska and shall perform other duties as assigned by the State Commissioner.

3.07 State Umpire-In-Chief - Shall be responsible for umpire activities in the State of Nebraska. He shall initiate an extensive program of recruiting and training of umpires in the state and shall be responsible for the appointment of umpires for all Championship tournaments in the state.

3.08 District Commissioners - Adult district commissioners are appointed by the State Commissioner. The State Junior Olympic Commissioner, with the approval of the State Commissioner, appoints Junior Olympic district commissioners.

3.09 Commissioner Emeritus – There shall be added to the Board of Directors a position of “Commissioner Emeritus” commissioners that have served a minimum of twenty-five years upon retirement may be appointed to remain on the Board of Directors following their nomination and majority vote of the current Board.

3.10 Suspension and Removal - Appointed officials may be removed from office for just cause by the State Commissioner. The Board of Directors of the USA Softball of Nebraska may remove elected officials for just cause. The Board of Directors shall fill vacancies in elected state offices. Such action shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting.

3.11 Appointed Positions - All appointed positions are made for the current year, unless otherwise designated.

3.12 Executive Committee - There shall be an executive committee consisting of the President, State Commissioner, Past President, Secretary, and a Board Member, who is a player representative selected by the remainder of the Executive Committee, who shall exercise all the powers of the Board of Directors when the Board is not in session. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. At any time, the President or majority of the Executive Committee may request a vote by telephone or mail of the Executive Committee members on any question, matter, or resolution. If the vote is by mail, notice of the vote, along with such information as may be helpful or necessary in understanding the question shall be mailed at least two weeks before the time fixed for depositing the written votes with the Secretary. Action taken will be reported at the next board meeting. This committee shall also evaluate the State Commissioner in regard to his performance and offer suggestions in areas they feel will make USA Softball of Nebraska a better organization.

ARTICLE IV - Meetings

4.01 Board of Directors Meetings - May be held at the discretion of the State Commissioner, State President, or by request of two-thirds of the membership of the Board of Directors.

4.02 Proxy - Authorization for representation of a member by proxy for any official meeting may be obtained by submitting a request in writing to the State Commissioner for approval by the Board at said meeting. All proxies must be current USA Softball of Nebraska members.

4.03 Quorum (all meetings) - Shall consist of two-thirds of the Board members.

ARTICLE V - Assets

5.01 Dissolution of Assets - Dissolution of assets in final liquidation of this corporation shall be provided by Nebraska State Law Section 21-19,134 RRS NEB, and if applicable, without preference among members.

ARTICLE VI

Championship Tournament Procedural Code

6.01 General Rule - To participate in USA Softball of Nebraska programs, a person must meet eligibility requirements of the USA Softball of Nebraska Bylaws and Procedural Codes and USA Softball eligibility rules.

6.02 Illegal Players – Any team found using an illegal player may be dropped immediately from the tournament. Penalties other than removal from the tournament may be considered by the tournament protest committee. The illegal player must be removed from the tournament.

6.03 (JO ONLY) USA Softball Championships

- A. Teams must register/insure individually via Register Play and submit payment via Stripe.
- B. Fulfill all the requirements of 2.11

6.04 (JO ONLY) USA Softball of Nebraska National Tournament Berth Requirements

- A. Rosters complete with proper signatures **MUST** be turned into your local District JO Commissioner.
- B. Play in the USA Softball of Nebraska State Championship. This includes teams winning a berth from another USA Softball Association.
EXCEPTION: *Class A* & Gold Teams
- C. Must meet the requirements of 6.03.
- D. Paperwork – The team must work with the USA Softball of Nebraska State Office in securing the required paperwork and making the proper payment.

ARTICLE VII

Team Rosters and Championship Tournament Deadlines

7.01 Rosters – Teams (Adult and Junior Olympic) must use the same roster in championship play as used during the regular season. Exception: teams are allowed to pick up three (3) players when advancing in championship play.

- (a) Number **of Players** A maximum of twenty (20) players, including pickup players will be permitted on a team roster. A manager or coach will not count as a player unless listed as one; names cannot be removed or replaced once the roster is used in championship play.
- (b) Roster/**Affidavit** Roster/Affidavit forms will be provided by the Register Play program and are the only official rosters used for USA Softball of Nebraska championship play. JO ONLY – online roster will be the **ONLY** roster accepted for championship play.
- (c) Roster **Deadline** To be eligible for championship play, the team manager must fill out the official championship tournament roster/affidavit completely. It must be signed by the player and his/her guardian (if necessary). Parent signatures are not required for players over 18 years of age. A red line must be drawn on the line beneath the last player's name listed on the roster.

1. Submit one (1) copy of the roster to your District Commissioner no later than the dates listed as follows:

- Junior Olympic Class B, C & D..... May 25
- Men’s Fast Pitch.....Two weeks before state tournament
- Adult Slow Pitch.....Two weeks before state tournament
- COED..... Two weeks before state tournament

2. In the event championship play should begin earlier than these dates, the roster change deadline would be one (1) day earlier than the start of championship play.
3. 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.

7.02 Eligibility - Eligibility of players or teams shall be governed as provided in the USA Softball Competition Procedures Code.

(a) Junior **Olympic Rosters** All JO teams must have been members of and participated in regular/season play or played an independent schedule and be a USA Softball registered.

1. Players may participate in more than one (1) Junior Olympic division (for example GFP or GSP) of play. Players are limited to only one (1) age classification (this includes the age of the team as well as the Class A, B, C, D) example 16B classification within a division.
2. Junior Olympic Teams that have competed in championship play are not eligible to compete in adult championship play in the same year.
3. A player’s age as of **September 1** determines the age in which the player is eligible to play the following year.
4. Junior Olympic college players that meet the age requirement may play in the USA Softball of Nebraska State Championship. *College players are allowed to play in Nebraska state tournaments, however, if they advance to Nationals, they are not legal players unless in Class A.*
5. All Junior Olympic **Class B** teams must qualify for the USA Softball National Tournaments through a USA Nebraska State Tournament.
6. (For all championship play only) All Junior Olympic team personnel assisting in the dugout must wear a wristband issued by USA Softball tournament director that signifies they have been background checked and safesport approved for the current year. This practice is encouraged to be used by all sanctioned USA Softball events.

7.03 Entry Forms - Official USA Softball tournament entry forms for qualifiers and National tournaments must be signed by the state commissioner or his designate and accompany the roster/affidavit form.

7.04 Pickup Players – *All teams are permitted to pick-up four (4) players as follows:*
(a) *The team adding pick-up players must select eligible roster members from USA Softball registered teams.*

(b) Pick-up players must have played for a USA Softball registered team during the current season.

- (c) (JO ONLY) Pick-up players who have competed in any Junior Olympic State Championship are not eligible pick-up player for any other Junior Olympic State Championship.
- (d) (JO ONLY) Pick-up players must be registered during the current season. Players must be registered seven (7) days prior to the start of a National Championship Final.
- (e) Pick-up players must be selected only from USA Softball registered teams no longer eligible for championship play.
EXCEPTION: A player that has been released from a team's championship roster prior in accordance with the Player Release form.
- (f) Pick-up players must be from the team's same division (MFP, MSP, WFP, WSP, GFP) and the same or lower age classification (JO this does not include the actual Class A, B, C, D). (Adult Slow Pitch Only) A player who is individually classified may be picked up by a team with the same classification. Said classified players may only play one class lower than their current team's classification. For those players who are not individually classified, their current team's classification applies.
EXCEPTION: Players who are age eligible may be picked up by a lower age classification team.
CLARIFICATION: A player who has competed in any Junior Olympic Girls Fast Pitch National Championship Finals is an eligible pick-up player in a higher classification. Therefore, as an example, a player who participates in a Western Championship Final is an eligible pick-up player for any team at the USA Softball National Championship Final.
- (g) Players (Adult and Junior Olympics) whose teams have qualified to compete in the highest-level tournaments within a classification shall not be eligible pick-up players.
CLARIFICATION: A player who has competed in any Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch National Championship Finals is not an eligible pick-up player for any other Junior Olympic Girls' National Championship Finals.
- (h) No player may be picked up for National Gold Qualifying tournaments.
- (i) In adult divisions of play, a pick-up player may be substituted for after participation.
- (j) In Junior Olympic divisions of play, a pick-up player may not be substituted for after participation.
- (k) A player may play as a pick-up player with only one team other than their rostered USA Softball registered team within a division in a season.
- (l) Teams adding pick-up players must submit a completed official USA Softball pick-up player form attached to the official roster before the team plays in the tournament.
- (m) If additions are made prior to USA Softball of Nebraska programs DISTRICT play, they must be from the State of Nebraska. Pick-up players are not allowed for Junior Olympic district tournaments.
- (n) Junior Olympic Class C & D teams are allowed to pick-up three players including the pitching position.

ARTICLE VIII

Divisions, Deadlines and Fees for Championship Play

The USA Softball of Nebraska programs may conduct Championship tournaments leading to State and National Tournaments in divisions approved by the State Commissioner.

8.01 District Qualifying Tournaments - May be held in divisions and classifications as approved by the District Commissioner.

8.02 Division of Play - Will be the same as listed in the USA Softball Code with the following additions:

<u>Divisions</u>	<u>Classifications</u>
Girl's Fast Pitch	8-Under B & C
Girl's Fast Pitch	Class D 10, 12, 14, 16/18-Under
Men's Fast Pitch	Class D
Men's Slow Pitch	Class F
Coed Slow Pitch	Class E, F
Women's Slow Pitch	Class E

8.03 Maximum Number of Teams

Number of Teams The number of teams that will advance from district competition to state tournaments will be set by the State Junior Olympic Commissioner for Junior Olympic with the approval from the State Commissioner based on the number of championship team registrations received from each district.

(b) **Fill-In Procedure** The State and/or Junior Olympic Commissioner will use a fill-in procedure to fill vacant berths in state tournaments.

(e) Teams will qualify to advance to national competition as specified in the USA Softball Code.

8.04 Championship Tournament Entry Fees:

DISTRICTS

Junior Olympic \$300.00

STATE TOURNAMENT

8-Under (*one umpire*) \$275.00

GFP 10-18 Class C & D \$325.00

GFP 10-12 Class A & B \$350.00

GFP 14, 16, 18 Class A & B \$375.00

ADULT STATE TOURNAMENT

Adult Fast Pitch \$475.00 No Gate

Adult Slow Pitch (3 game guarantee bracket) \$375.00 No Gate

NOTE: All Junior Olympic, Adult Slow Pitch and Adult Fast Pitch will use the three (3) game guarantee format for state. There will be NO GATE admission for spectators or players for adult slow & adult fast pitch state tournaments. There are NO district tournaments for Adult Slow Pitch. ALL slow pitch teams will be classified by their district commissioner and sent to the state tournament.

(a) Once championship tournament brackets have been drawn the entry fees are non-refundable.

8.05 Championship Tournament Brackets – The official USA Softball championship bracket will be used in all USA Softball of Nebraska district and state tournaments.

(a) **Junior Olympic District/State Tournaments** – Teams will be seeded by ranking on Register Play.

(b) Advancing to Nationals - Junior Olympic and Adult teams wishing to advance to a National Tournament must have played in the USA Softball of Nebraska state tournament in that class. Teams may go direct to Nationals if there is not a state tournament in their class.

(c) Girls Fastpitch Class C & D teams planning on attending Class C and D state must qualify by playing in a District Tournament.

ARTICLE IX – Team Uniforms & Equipment

9.01 Uniforms – Teams competing in Championship tournaments in all divisions must wear shirts alike in color and the number at least 6 inches high on the back of the shirt.

(a) **Headwear** Caps, visors, and headbands are optional. All players are not required to wear headwear, but if worn, caps and visors may be intermixed and must be the same color(s) as the team uniform. Caps and visors do not have to be the same color for everyone, just the same color as the team uniform. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headbands and cannot be worn, either around the head or around the neck. Plastic visors may not be worn.

(b) Shoes with metal cleats may be used in adult fast pitch and JO divisions of 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under ONLY.

(c) **Face Masks:** All Junior Olympic fast pitch batting helmets shall be equipped with a NOCSAE approved face mask/guard.

(d) Analytic Swing Sensor will be allowed as an attachment on the knob of the bat starting 2022.

ARTICLE X Championship Tournament Awards

10.01 Tournament Awards – Awards will be provided by the tournament sponsor for all championship tournaments. The USA Softball of Nebraska will designate the type of awards.

(a) All State Tournaments & National Qualifier sponsors will provide 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team awards for 8 or more teams are in the tournament. Tournaments with 7 or less teams will receive 1st and 2nd place team awards. If there are 10 or more teams in the state tournament there will be fourth place medals handed out to teams. **NOTE:** The tournament sponsor will provide all individual awards for JO teams.

(b) USA Softball of Nebraska will provide Adults State Champions with a State championship t-shirt or ring. Only members present will receive shirts or rings and not exceed 20 shirts per team. JO ONLY State champions will receive a championship ring with a necklace and pouch.

(c) District Tournament sponsor shall provide 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team awards for 8 or more teams in tournament. If the tournament has 4-7 teams, 1st and 2nd place team awards are given. Tournament with less than 4 teams only first place is given.

10.02 Additional Awards - Tournament sponsors may furnish additional awards that have been approved by the State Commissioner.

10.03 Adult State Champions – State champions will receive a paid berth to nationals or paid state entry fee the next year.

ARTICLE XI - General Regulations

11.01 Codes - All Championship tournaments shall be conducted according to the USA Softball Championship Tournament Code and USA Softball of Nebraska Procedural Codes.

11.02 Run Ahead Rule - Will be used in all Championship Tournaments.

Fast Pitch (MFP)	Seven (7) runs after Five (5) innings
Fast Pitch (JO)	Eight (8) runs after Five (5) innings
Fast Pitch -	Ten (10) runs after four (4) innings
Fast Pitch -	Twelve (12) runs after Three (3) innings
Slow Pitch -	Ten (10) runs after Five (5) innings
Slow Pitch -	Fifteen (15) after four (4) innings
Slow Pitch -	Twenty (20) runs after three (3) innings

EXCEPTION: Equalizer Rule: Slow pitch 20 runs after 4 innings 15 runs after 5 innings

11.03 Time Limits (JO) – State & District USA Softball of Nebraska Championships

8-Under B, C	60 minutes
10-Under & 12-Under A, B, C, D	75 minutes
14-Under, 16-Under & 18-Under C, D	75 minutes
14-Under, 16-Under & 18-Under A & B	90 minutes

11.04 Junior Olympic Pitching Distances:

8-Under Coach Pitch	35'
10-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	35'
12-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	40'
14-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	43'
16-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	43'
18-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	43'

Official Softball Size/Color (Junior Olympic)

8-Under	11 inch – optic yellow
10-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	11 inch – optic yellow
12, 14, 16, 18-Under (Gold, A, B, C, D)	12 inch – optic yellow

JO Fast Pitch Softballs – Teams need to supply their own softballs for Championship play. Teams will hit their own ball. All balls will have a real leather cover (JO Only) be optic yellow with red stitch, have a COR of .47, .375 compression and meet the standards set in USA Softball Rule 3, Sect. 3.

11.05 Tie Breakers - (All Adult Slow Pitch, Adult Fast Pitch, Women and Junior Olympic Girl's Fast Pitch, Men's Senior Slow Pitch) If, after the completion of seven (7) innings of play, or time, and the score is tied, the tie-breaker rule will be played to determine a winning team. **NOTE:** A new inning is defined as beginning immediately after the third out of a completed inning.

11.06 8-UNDER COACH PITCH ONLY RULES - Teams will utilize all USA Softball of Nebraska J.O. rules and regulations with the following exceptions:

Flip-Flop Rule: When visitors are ahead by 6 or more runs with less than 10 minutes to play, we will clear the bases and the home team will continue to bat in a new inning for 3 outs or 5 runs whichever is first, the flip-flop rule is mandatory.

Ball: 11” optic yellow with red stitch COR .47 375 compression

Playing Field: Pitching distance 35 ft, and a pitching circle eight (8) ft radius around the pitching plate. Outfield: an area behind a line from the back side of each base from first to second, and from second to third base shall be designed as the outfield.

The Game: Five (5) innings or sixty (60) minutes.

Umpires - There will be one (1) umpire used during the state.

Team: Each team shall have ten (10) players on defense.

Batting Order/Lineup: All players present must bat using a continuous batting order. Players shall be listed by their first and last name in the order in which they will bat.

Base runner: *Each base runner may lead off when the pitched ball leaves pitchers’ hand and the runners are liable to be put out.*

Courtesy Runner: A courtesy runner may be put in for the catcher to run. It can be any player on the bench, and it is not considered a substitution. But if the courtesy runner is caught on base and it is their turn to bat, they will be called out and removed from the base to come to bat no other runner can replace the courtesy runner once on the base.

Defensive Positions: Six (6) infielders and four (4) outfielders. At the start of each pitch, all outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield, and the player-pitcher shall take a position within the eight (8) ft pitcher’s circle and shall not take a position directly in front of the coach/pitcher.

Outfield: An area 15 feet behind a line from the back side of each base, from first to second, and from second to third base shall be designated as the outfield.

Defensive Position: At the start of each pitch, all outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield.

Coach-Pitcher: Shall be a member of the team’s coaching staff and shall pitch the ball in an underhand motion to each batter of his/her team. The coach/pitcher must begin each pitch with at least one foot on the pitching rubber. *The new pitching distance will be 30’ and a chalk line is allowed for pitching rubbers.*

Player-Pitcher: Shall be an 8-Under playing member of the team and shall not pitch to the batters.

Coach-Pitcher Interference: The coach-pitcher shall be considered part of the playing field. Exception: In the judgment of the umpire, coach-pitcher interference occurs, the ball will be declared dead. Effect: All runners will return to the last base occupied. Placement of the base runners occupying the same base or base line will be passed on the lead runner unless they are forced to advance by the batter-runner. The umpire may remove the coach-pitcher from the game for repeated offenses after a warning.

Inning: Each team on offense will be allowed five (5) runs or three (3) outs at which time the teams will alternate offense and defense. Balls and Strikes will not be kept or called.

Run Ahead Rule: The game will be called at the end of four innings if one team is ahead by six (6) or more runs.

Tie-Breaker: The Tie Breaker Rule will be used to break ties after five innings or time has expired.

Batter: Each batter will be allowed five pitches to bat the ball in play. A batted foul ball on the fifth, sixth or seventh pitch will give another pitch to batter. Each batter will be allowed a total of eight pitches to bat the ball in play. Each batter that fails to bat the ball in play will be counted as an out, and the next batter in the batting order will take her place at bat.

NOTE:

-A caught foul fly ball will be an out whenever it occurs, including the fifth pitch or any subsequent pitch.

-No Bunting allowed.

-The Designated Player (DP) Rule will NOT be used.

-Infield fly rule: Not in effect.

-Dropped Third Strike: Not in effect.

-Base Stealing: Not allowed including home.

NOTE: Time will be called by the umpire when any infielder including the pitcher has the ball in the infield area (dirt or any other surface).

Overthrow: Batter runners are allowed to advance only one base per pitch on an overthrow and can only score on a batted ball with home plate being closed.

1. B & C Division Rule: A runner attempting to advance to any base they are allowed to advance
EFFECT: May be put out while between bases if they advance past home plate, they will be placed back at 3rd base.

2. If a batter strikes out and the ball is dropped by the catcher:

EFFECT: The batter is out, and the ball is dead.

3. Runners can only score on:

a. A batted ball.

11.07 (10-UNDER CLASS C & D) – The 10-under Class C & D division the dropped third strike would be an out. There is a maximum of 5 runs per half inning.

Outfield Defensive Position: At the start of each pitch, all the outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield. The outfield is an area 15 feet behind a line from the back side of each base, from first to second, and from second to third base shall be designated as the outfield. Defensive Position: At the start of each pitch, all outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield.

Flip-Flop Rule: When visitors are ahead by 6 or more runs with less than 10 minutes to play, we will clear the bases and the home team will continue to bat in a new inning for 3 outs or 5 runs whichever is first, the flip-flop is mandatory.

11.08 First GAME TIMES for State Tournaments

- (a) **JO state tournament first games** – State tournaments games can begin as early as 9:00 am on Friday.
- (b) **Adult Slow Pitch first games** – State tournaments may not begin prior to 7:30 pm on Friday.
- (c) **Adult Fast Pitch first games** – State tournaments may not begin prior to 6:30 pm on Friday.

11.09 Casual Profanity Rule - The umpire has the authority to assess ONE OUT against the offending team for the use of CASUAL PROFANITY which shall be defined as expletives (Vulgar or Profane Language) not directed at umpires or opposing players, uttered by a player, manager/coach, on the field or individual within the dugout involved with the play of the team, frustrated with themselves, a team mate or fan. All outs 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 responsible 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 and will not affect any batter or base runner. For scoring purposes, the putout will be credited to the catcher.

11.10 Sportsmanship Rule – The umpire has the authority to assess one out against the offending team for excessive protests, arguments, complaints or behavior not appropriate in a recreation sports setting, throwing bat, glove, gestures, whining, etc. Such conduct exhibited by a player, coach or team representative will be penalized. All outs will be assessed against the offending team during their turn at bat. Only one “unsportsmanlike” out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per team at bat. Incidents of continued or excessive unsportsmanlike conduct will subject the individual(s) responsible ejected from the game. A player/coach/team representative ejected from the game will not have an un-sportsmanship out called against them. The un-sportsmanship “out” will be assessed as a team and will not affect any batter or base runner. For scoring purposes, the out will be credited to the catcher.

(a) **Protest Fee** – teams or individuals wishing to protest player eligibility or playing rules will be required to provide the tournament committee \$100 cash. If the protest is upheld the fee will be refunded. If the protest is not upheld the fee will be forwarded to the tournament revenue account.

11.11 Classification If a team is found to be in the wrong classification when participating in a state tournament, the tournament protest committee shall have the authority to remove said team from the tournament, refunding their entry fee.

11.12 Game Delays - In case of delays in scheduled game times, it is the responsibility of the team manager to confirm the new game starting time with the tournament director.

11.13 Districts - The State of Nebraska may be divided into areas and districts at the discretion of the State Commissioner, with approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

11.14 State Invitational Championships - May be conducted when conditions do not permit the playing of normal state tournaments.

11.15 Fees - Teams entering Championship tournaments must be current members of the USA Softball of Nebraska with all registration fees and accounts paid in full.

11.16 Returning Team - is a team that is eligible to return directly to specified championship tournament.

11.17 Slow Pitch Home Run Rule Limits - A limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in all Men's and Coed Slow Pitch Divisions.

- 5..... **MSP 35-O, 40-O, 45-O** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 5..... **MSP C, Coed C** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 3..... **MSP D, Coed D, WSP D** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 3..... **MSP Church** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 2..... **MSP 50-O, 55-O, 60-O** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 1..... **MSP E, Coed E** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 0..... **MSP F, Coed F** The batter is ruled out for any in excess

Adult Slow Pitch

11.18 Softballs – All Men's slow pitch will use 12" optic yellow softball. All Women's teams will use a 11" optic yellow softball. **Coed – Men will hit the 12" softball and the women will hit the 11" softball.** The balls will be red stitch, 52 COR .300 compression, and be marked with the USA Softball approved stamp. Teams will hit their own softball.

11.19 Equalizer Rule – The equalizer rule will be in affect if there are 3 teams in a division. The lower division team will receive an equalizer of 5 runs to start the game and they will play the higher division homerun rule, and the higher division team will be the home team.
OR the lower division team can play straight up and play lower divisions homerun rule and be the home team. When equalizer rule is used the run rule ahead will be 20 after 4 and 15 after 5.

11.20 – Slow Pitch Batter Count – One (1) ball and one (1) strike count all adult slow pitch. Each batter comes to the plate with the one (1) and one (1) count.

11.21 MSP C, D, 35-Over, 40-Over, 50-Over, 55-Over, 60-Over – On a fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run or four base awards, the batter and all runners are credited with a run. The batter and runners are not required to run the bases.

11.22 MSP F (ONLY) Continuous Batting – In Men's Slow Pitch Class F State Tournament the team has the option of having all their players in the batting order. NOTE: The shorthanded rule allows the game to continue with one less than is in the batting order.

11-23 ADULT SLOW PITCH PICK UP PLAYERS – teams may pick up players from one class higher if they meet the three-player requirement.

11.24 When a player is ejected from Adult Slow Pitch or Coed game the tournament committee can use their discretion on how long a player is out of the tournament.

11.25 Adult Slow Pitch Senior and Coed – divisions that have 1, 2 or 3 teams signed up for state will combine with the division closest to them using the equalizer rule. Divisions with 4 or more teams will not combine with other divisions.

11.26 Coed All Division Rules - Playing rules for these divisions shall be the same as USA Softball Championship Tournament rules with the following exceptions:

Coed – Men will hit the 12” softball and the women will hit the 11” softball. The balls will be red stitch, 52 COR .300 compression, and be marked with the USA Softball approved stamp. Teams will hit their own softball.

- (a) Coed all classes, a line will be marked in the outfield 200 feet from home plate. Outfielders must remain behind this line until the ball is hit. Violation of this rule will result in the offended team being given the option: the batter being awarded 1st base, or the result of the play. If the first option is exercised, runners may advance only if they are forced to do so.
- (b) **Coed All Classes Infield Positioning** – Infielders must remain positioned on the skinned infield portion of the field until the ball is hit.
- (c) **Equalizer Rule** - The lower division team will receive an equalizer of 5 runs to start the game and they will play the higher division homerun rule, and the higher division team will be the home team. OR the lower division team can play straight up and play lower division homerun rule and be the home team. When equalizer rule is used the run rule ahead will be 20 after 4 and 15 after 5.

11.27 BATS - The official bat for slow pitch must bear either the USA Softball 2000 certification mark, 2004 certification mark, or ASA 2013 certification mark and must not be listed on the USA Softball Non-Approved bat list. All bats must be tested prior to use in state championship play.

11.27 MSP Senior Rules - Men’s Slow Pitch 50-over, 55-over and 60-over will use the senior rules set by USA Softball.

- (a) **ARC:** 6 to 12 feet
- (b) **Pitching Count:** 1 ball and 1 strike
- (c) **Pitchers Box:** Pitchers can pitch from anywhere in the box, which is the width of the rubber and extends back 10 feet. (2 by 10 feet). One foot must be touching the box or inside when pitcher starts his delivery. Other USA Softball-type rules apply (no quick pitch, no behind the back)
- (d) **Pitching Mat:** The strike mat will be 34 1/2 inches long & 21 inches wide. The mat will cover up the original home plate up to the front edge of the plate. A legal pitch striking any part of the mat will be a strike.
- (e) **Five-runs-an-inning rule:** Teams can score only five runs per inning until the 7th inning, during which unlimited runs are allowed. When the potential fifth run reaches base, announce that. “Five on one” means fifth run on first base. “Five on two” means fifth run on second.
- (f) **Flip-flop rule:** When visitors are ahead by 10 or more runs at the start of the 7th inning, the home team bats first, flip flops are mandatory.
- (g) **Home Plate:** If they touch original home plate they are out. Catcher’s plate must tag original plate while in possession of the ball to record an out before runner crosses 2nd home plate. Runner may not return to third after crossing the commitment line (20 feet from home). If a catcher tags the runner after he crosses the 2nd home plate the runner automatically is safe.
- (h) **Courtesy Runners:** Unlimited per inning. A player can be a courtesy runner once per inning. If the courtesy runner is on base when his turn to bat comes, he is out on the base and then bats. (Any roster player can be a courtesy runner. No courtesy runner for a courtesy runner except in case of injury that forces the first courtesy runner from the game). Courtesy runners officially are in the game once they touch the base. Announce the runner’s number. (Scorekeepers track this. Umpires should too.
- (i) **Extra Batters:** Teams can bat all players, whether that’s 10, 11, 12 or more

- (j) **Sliding:** No sliding at first base (batter-runner) Except to avoid a collision.
- (k) **Extra-inning rule:** International tie-breaker rule applies. Last batter of previous inning starts at second base. He cannot be lifted for a courtesy runner until he reaches third.
- (l) **Bats:** Nearly every bat made in 2012 or earlier is legal; newer bats need USA Softball certification stamp senior bat don't need bat testing 2000, 2004, 2014.
- (m) **Home Runs:** Excess ones are outs. When a home run is hit, all offensive players can walk off the field (hit and sit is legal). 2 home runs are allowed per game.
- (n) **Injuries:** If a player must leave the game for any reason other than ejection, and the team has no sub, an out is recorded the FIRST time the player's position comes to bat no out after that.
- (o) Anyone may wear mitts.
- (p) Game time starts with coin flip. There will be a 65-minute time limit.
- (q) **Equalizer Rule -** When playing a team that has 6 or more players from an unequal age or skill level. The older or lower still rated team receives an equalizer of 5 runs. 1 run per inning from the 2nd inning through the 6th inning or an 11th player. Or if the whole team is a division older or lower rated team, they will receive both the runs and the 11th player. The team giving the equalizer shall be the home team. When the equalizer rule is used the run rule ahead will be 20 after 4 and 15 after 5.

ARTICLE XII

Classification Procedural Code

12.01 Purpose – To establish rules and guidelines for the classification of teams and players for Championship competition.

12.02 Objective – To attain in an equitable manner, classification of teams at their respective level of athletic proficiency for the various levels of championship play conducted by USA Softball of Nebraska.

12.03 Authority - The proposed classification guidelines are adopted by the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors and each local District Commissioner shall properly administer the resulting procedural code.

12.04 JO ONLY Classification - Are described to differentiate between levels of competition. Basic classification definitions will be used as guidelines when evaluating teams. Teams shall be classified by their District Commissioner with the assistance of the district classification committee.

12.05 JO Classification Guidelines

USA Softball Classifications are defined as follows:

Class A

This division is designed for highly competitive travel teams seeking the strongest level of competition. At the older age levels, Class A typically includes athletes who aspire to compete at the collegiate level.

Class B

This division is intended for teams pursuing competitive play without participating at the highest USA Softball level. It is generally suited for teams that have advanced beyond Class C competition. Class B teams typically follow a moderate travel schedule.

Class C

This division is reserved for teams that are developing competitively, participating in limited travel play, and often entering tournament competition for the first time. Teams may not self-register for Class C; they must initially register as Class B and then contact their District Commissioner to request reclassification into Class C.

- (a) Classify players/teams based on current season roster.
- (b) Appeals of classification changes must be made in writing to the State Commissioner, whose decision is final.
- (c) Team entries received after the entry deadline have no right of appeal.
- (d) The State Commissioner may initiate a change in a team's classification, if it is apparent that the District Commissioner has made an error in judgment as to the proper classification of any teams. Teams that wish not to compete at the revised classification may request a refund of the tournament entry fee. Any request must be made prior to the draw date for that tournament.
- (e) The District Commissioner may initiate a change in a team's classification after district tournament, if it is apparent that initial placement was incorrect.

12.06 Junior Olympic Classification – Junior Olympic (JO) team classification will be determined by the District Commissioner and the appointed classification committee. All JO teams will initially be placed in Class B, with the option to petition for placement in Class C based on the team's qualifications. OR All JO Teams will start with a classification of Class B. It is the coach's responsibility to communicate with their District Commissioner their desire to play at a lower classification based on the criteria that are listed below.

Each District Commissioner will establish a classification committee in their district. The committee will make final decisions for classification of each team based on the matrix of the following criteria supplied by each head coach:

- Previous year classification
- Current & previous season record
- #of games
- # of tournaments
- # of pitchers/pitcher(s) level
- Year round practice
- High School Program (14U – 18U)
- Town size of 5000 or more
- Select team/tryouts
- Age in the division

ARTICLE XIII

Championship Tournament Bid Procedural Code

13.01 Tournament Bids - Persons, organizations, or communities wishing to bid for District or State Championship Tournaments must submit their bids on the Official Bid Form (T10). Communities may bid for more than one championship tournament.

- (a) **District Tournament** - District tournament bids should be sent to the District Commissioner, who will determine the location of all District Tournaments within their district.
- (b) **State Tournament** - State tournament bids should be sent to the State Commissioner prior to December 1. Bids received after that date will receive consideration only if no bid has been received for that tournament. Tournaments not held in Hastings at the Bill Smith Softball Complex will be awarded by the State Commissioner after negotiating a contract that is fair for both parties.
- (c) **State Tournament Separate bids** - Separate bids must be submitted for each yr.
- (d) **State tournaments Not Bid** – Tournaments not bid, shall be awarded by the State Commissioner to an organization that will agree to conduct the tournament.

13.02 Tournament Income - All tournament income is to be retained by the tournament sponsor and will include, but not be limited to:

Ticket sales	Advertising sales	Concession sales	Souvenir sales
Program sales	Photograph sales	%Team Entry Fees	Donations

13.03 Tournament Income – District Tournaments will receive **\$240.00** of the district entry fee and State Tournaments outside of Hastings \$175.00

13.04 Tournament Expenses - Expenses to be paid by the tournament sponsor will include, but not be limited to:

Field rental	Field maintenance	Scorekeepers	Ticket sellers
Publicity	Misc. Expense	Umpire Fees	Trophies/Awards
Advertising	Motel rooms for umpires	2 umpires per room	
Motel room for USA Softball Rep	<i>IRS Mileage Rate</i>		

(a) **Championship tournament umpire game fees are:**

Game Umpire Fees for Championship Play Districts and State

Slow Pitch	\$30.00 per umpire per game	- \$45.00 one person
Fast Pitch (adult)		\$55.00 per umpire per game
Junior Olympic 75 minutes (10, 12 A, B, C, D) (14, 16, 18 C, D)		\$50.00 per umpire per game
Junior Olympic 60 minutes 8-Under B & C		\$50.00 per umpire per game
Junior Olympic 90 minutes 14, 16, 18 A and B		\$55.00 per umpire per game

NOTE: Umpires that drive to championship tournaments will be given a travel benefit of the following: the current IRS mileage rate – mileage is determined by one way trip

(b) **State & District tournament USA Softball representative & UIC fee: \$250 a day for Friday – Sunday**; Adult Fast Pitch \$200 a day; \$75.00 if Slow Pitch plays Friday night.

13.05 Bid must Include - An amount per team to USA Softball of Nebraska.

13.06 State Tournament Brackets - Adult tournaments shall be drawn and scheduled by the USA Softball of Nebraska Office and reviewed by the State Commissioner and Tournament Director prior to team notification. The State Junior Olympic Commissioner shall also review Junior Olympic tournaments.

ARTICLE XIV

Invitational Tournament Procedural Code

14.01 Invitational Tournament - Must be sanctioned through your District Commissioner before it will be published on the web site. Tournaments must include proof of sanction when sending information into the State Office for publication or it will not be published. Unsanctioned tournaments are not eligible for USA Softball of Nebraska sponsored liability insurance. Umpires working unsanctioned tournaments are not eligible for USA Softball of Nebraska accident or liability insurance.

14.02 Tournament Sanctions - are issued by the District or State Commissioner who notifies the District Umpire-In-Chief of the tournament dates.

14.03 Registration – All teams and Umpires must be USA Softball of Nebraska Sanctioned.

14.04 Conflicts of Schedule - No Invitational Tournament may be held that conflicts with championship play of the local association or the USA Softball.

14.05 Notification - All entry forms and publicity shall include the statement “sanctioned by the USA Softball of Nebraska” or “sanctioned by the USA Softball”.

14.06 Rosters - Teams must participate with the same rosters as used in regular season play, except for pickup players (see 7.04)

14.07 Umpires - Only USA Softball registered umpires may be used in USA Softball sanctioned tournaments.

ARTICLE XV

Umpire Procedural Code

5.01 Objective - This code shall serve as a guide for Umpires, Commissioners, and Tournament Directors. It cannot cover every situation or contingency; however, the regulations should be followed when possible.

15.02 Organization - The Nebraska State umpires’ organization shall be under the direction of the State Umpire-In-Chief. The State UIC, Deputy State UIC, and the District UIC’s shall comprise the State Umpire Staff.

15.03 Registered umpires - Registered umpires become members of the USA Softball of Nebraska Office on a voluntary basis and agree to be governed by the Code, rules, and regulations of the USA Softball of Nebraska Office.

15.04 Umpire Registration Fee – Umpires register on registerusasoftball.com to be an official USA Softball registered umpire. Adult Registration Fee: **\$75.00 for adults**, 18 and older, (Includes background check) and **\$55.00 for youth umpires 17-under**.

15.05 Registered Umpires - Only USA Softball registered umpires may be used in championship play and they must meet the requirements and guidelines as set by the State UIC.

(a) They must attend a state approved umpire-training clinic annually.

(b) All Championship tournament games will use two (2) umpires per game if available. Tournament games will be assigned by the tournament UIC. 8U will use one umpire for all state tournament games.

(c) No umpire shall be eligible to umpire in a championship tournament in which he/she is a player or coach.

15.06 USA Softball Registered Umpires - USA Softball of Nebraska umpires are encouraged to work for all USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska allied member organizations when it does not conflict with our championship tournament program. The policy of umpires accepting jobs with other organizations, or invitational tournaments, will be the same as USA Softball National policy on umpire assignments, which is, that such assignments must be cleared through the State Umpire-In-Chief, State Commissioner, District Umpire-In-Chief, or a USA Softball of Nebraska registered Umpire Organization Assigner. We do not want our umpires to be confused with different playing rules from different organizations.

15.08 Regulation Uniform - Umpires will wear the USA Softball of Nebraska regulation uniform for all championship tournaments.

(a) **National Tournaments** – All umpires assigned to any USA Softball National Tournament conducted in Nebraska must be approved by the Nebraska State UIC and the USA Softball of Nebraska State Commissioner. Nebraska umpires, who are assigned to a national tournament as host exchange outside of the state of Nebraska, will receive \$100 travel expense.

(b) Umpires applying or are selected to umpire at the National Tournament level must have worked at the State Tournament to be eligible to represent USA Softball of Nebraska.

(c) **Umpires Working Any USA Softball of Nebraska Tournaments** – Umpires that umpire any USA Softball of Nebraska sanctioned play are strongly encouraged to wear USA Softball of Nebraska uniforms.

15.09 Umpires Membership - may be declined or revoked for unethical, immoral, or unprofessional action. Before declining or revoking membership, the umpire will be given the same hearing procedure afforded by a team or team member.

15.10 State Umpire-In-Chief - Is appointed by the State Commissioner. He is responsible for all umpire activities in the state. He will represent all USA Softball of Nebraska umpires and carry out and

enforce USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska playing rules and regulations. His duties shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (a) He will be responsible for all umpire recruiting, training, discipline, and assignments in the State of Nebraska.
- (b) Appoint and train Deputy State Umpire-In-Chief(s), District Umpire-In-Chiefs for each district, and he may appoint such other aides as required.
- (c) Initiate an extensive program of recruiting and training for all umpires in the state and assist the District UIC's in conducting and supervising training clinics.
- (d) Act as USA Softball of Nebraska State Rules Interpreter.
- (e) Approve all state tournament umpire assignments and recommend to the State Commissioner umpires for assignment to regional/national tournaments.
- (f) He has the responsibility of distributing umpire packets, information and grading of umpire tests.
- (g) He has the responsibility of organizing a statewide program of local umpire associations.
- (h) He will work very closely with the Junior Olympic umpire program and help with training and game assignments.

15.11 District Umpire-In-Chief - Is appointed by the State UIC with the approval of the State Commissioner. He is responsible for all umpire activities in his/her district. He will represent all USA Softball of Nebraska umpires in his area and carry out and enforce USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska playing rules and regulations. His duties shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (a) Appoint and train Deputy Umpire-In-Chiefs for his district and he may appoint other aides as required.
- (b) Initiate an extensive program of recruiting and training for all umpires in his district.
- (c) Assign and approve all umpires for District tournaments and recommend to the State UIC umpires for the assignment to state, regional, area and national tournaments.
- (d) Distribute umpire packets, information and grading of umpire tests in his district.
- (e) Work very closely with the Junior Olympic umpire program and help with training and game assignments.

ARTICLE XVI

Hall of Fame Procedural Code

16.01 Purpose - To honor those men and women who have played a major role in the growth and development of softball in the State of Nebraska. To help bring to the attention of the public the widespread value of, and interest in, the game of softball by honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to its success.

16.02 The Hall of Fame - Shall consist of: Players, Umpires, Commissioners, Managers, Sponsors, or individuals with Meritorious Service.

(a) A maximum of six nominees will be selected for the Hall of Fame during each review cycle.

16.03 Nomination Requirements - An individual shall be considered for nomination to the Nebraska Softball Hall of Fame based on their contribution to softball in Nebraska. The person so nominated must have been a resident of Nebraska at the time of their contribution to Nebraska softball.

Players -- Must have played or been active in Nebraska softball for a minimum of ten years and have been inactive for at least three years.

(b) **Umpires** – An umpire may be considered for nomination to the Nebraska Softball Hall of Fame by meeting one of the categories listed below:

A. Umpire Performance

1. Nominee must have been assigned to a minimum of three USA National Tournaments, of which selection to one tournament must be an At-Large umpire to a national hosted outside of Nebraska. Nomination should include the name of the tournament UIC's and as much game assignment information available.

2. USA Regional assignments and College affiliations can be used as supplemental information for consideration. Please include any USA Regional tournament assignments, UIC and game assignment information that is available. Please include any college conferences and years on staff for each conference, plus any college regional or national tournament assignments, UIC and game assignment information that is available.

B. Umpire Service

1. Nominee must have (a combined) 10 years of service to USA Softball of Nebraska as a State UIC, Deputy State UIC or District UIC.

2. Supplemental information will be considered if the nominee has served umpires in the capacity as a championship tournament UIC, evaluator, assignor or mentor. Please include as much detail as possible.

EXCEPTION: A person over 40 years of age may be eligible for Hall of Fame if they played for over 20 years. If a player competed from 1930-1950, he/she shall be considered on materials available, since records are not complete prior to 1930. All materials shall be considered. No minimum playing time required. Umpires, Managers, Sponsors, Commissioners and Meritorious Service – must have been active in Nebraska Softball for the below number of years.

Team	Ten years of service to Nebraska Softball
Umpire.....	Ten years of service to Nebraska Softball
Managers.....	Ten years of service to Nebraska Softball
Sponsors.....	Ten years of service to Nebraska Softball
Commissioners.....	Ten years of service to Nebraska Softball
Meritorious Service.....	At the discretion of the Hall of Fame Committee

16.04 Nominations - May be made by any member of the USA Softball of Nebraska and must be sent to the State Commissioner before September 1 to be considered. All nomination information will be distributed by the USA Softball of Nebraska office staff to all committee members no later than one week prior to the selection committee meeting.

- (a) Nominations must include letters of reference to include factual and detailed information. Scrapbooks, newspapers, photos as well as additional detailed information are helpful to include. A good sharp photograph must accompany all nominations.
- (b) Nominees not selected in the first review cycle shall be held over and reconsidered during the following review cycle. Nominees not selected during the second review shall be notified that they will be held over and reconsidered after a one review cycle layover. For any ‘held over’ nomination applications, the committee recommends that additional information be provided to further support the nomination.
- (c) Hall of Fame applications must be signed by a USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Director of Foundation Board of Director.

16.05 Awards - A specially designed plaque shall be given to those elected to the Hall of Fame, and specially designed plaque shall be displayed in the Hall of Fame in honor of those elected.

- (a) In addition, each Hall of Fame inductee shall receive an identification card, which shall permit the member and spouse to FREE admission to all USA Softball of Nebraska sanctioned events.

16.06 Presentation – The nominees chosen for the Hall of Fame will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a banquet sponsored by the Nebraska Softball Foundation.

16.07 Committee - The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of six members appointed by the NSF President.

- (a) Three members are to be appointed each year for a term of two years.
- (b) If a committee member is nominated for an award or the Hall of Fame the committee chair will call and conduct a separate meeting of the committee to determine the merit of the nomination. This could be done by telephone conference call for a special meeting of the Hall of Fame Committee.
- (c) The Committee shall make its selections from those submitted and inform the State Commissioner of their selections at least thirty days prior to the Hall of Fame banquet.
- (d) The Committee shall also be responsible to actively seek and encourage qualified applicants for the Governor’s Award, Jim Lewis, Jim Hall and Kenny Znamenacek awards.

(e) The Committee shall help bring awareness to the public and media of the Hall of Fame and those so honored as members of the Hall of Fame.

(f) The Committee shall see to the maintenance and care of the Hall of Fame and shall have authority as to what is on display in the Hall of Fame Building.

16.08 Removal - The Hall of Fame Committee may, by a two-thirds vote, recommend the removal of an individual elected to the Hall of Fame. Such recommendation must then be approved by a two-third vote of the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors.

Other Annual Awards

Jim Lewis Award – The Jim Lewis award is given out to coaches, players, umpires, commissioners and meritorious people for their outstanding contribution and who have played an important role in the growth and development of the game of softball in Nebraska. Deadline *September 1*

Jim Hall Memorial Award – The Jim Hall Memorial Award is given out to a Nebraska coach of a women's or girl's team who exemplifies excellent coaching ability and the spirit of good sportsmanship both on and off the playing field. Deadline *September 1*

Kenny Znamenacek Memorial Award – The Kenny Znamenacek award is given to an individual who excels as an umpire in the game of softball, and who has made an impact on his/her local community or area through the promotion of the sport of softball and good citizenship. Deadline *September 1*

Governor's Award – The Governor's award honors a Nebraska community which has excelled in its commitment and services to the citizens of that community, in sports and recreation programs for people of all ages. It is not limited to softball activities but includes all forms of recreation. Deadline *September 1*

Nebraska Softball Foundation Scholarships – The Nebraska Softball Scholarship Program was established to award scholarships to USA Softball of Nebraska members who desire to continue their education. The scholarship must be used at a four-year college. Deadline before November 1.

Pat Schartz Memorial Scholarship – The Pat Schartz Memorial scholarship goes to the recipient that has a registered official or family member (mother or father) in the sport of baseball, softball or football official. The recipient must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The scholarship must be used at a four-year college in the state of Nebraska. Deadline before November 1.

