



USA Softball of Indiana
By-Laws



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**BY-LAWS
OF THE
INDIANA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.
USA SOFTBALL OF INDIANA**

Last updated: March 4, 2021

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PURPOSES

The name of the association shall be “Indiana Amateur Softball Association, Inc.,” hereinafter referred to as “USA Softball of Indiana,” and is organized as a public benefit corporation in order to facilitate the sport of softball across the state of Indiana. USA Softball of Indiana is organized and shall be operated exclusively within the meaning of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any successor provision of the law.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these By-Laws, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, or any successor provision of the law. Further, the corporation may perform any purpose which non-profit corporations are authorized under the Indiana Non-profit Corporation Act of 1991, as amended, and shall have all the rights, powers, privileges, and immunities which are not, or thereafter may be, allowed to nonprofit corporations under the laws of the State of Indiana.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of USA Softball of Indiana shall include, but will not be limited to:

- I. To provide amateur softball to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, or ancestry.
- II. To establish uniform softball rules and regulations as set forth in the Tournament Operational Code (Exhibit C).
- III. To provide proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship and establish principles for ethical behavior and matters relating to conflict of interest, as provided by the Executive Board.
- IV. To encourage the union of all eligible teams, organizations, or groups with active membership in USA Softball of Indiana as deemed best to advance the cause of amateur softball.
- V. To establish and maintain alliances with non-profit associations or organizations devoted wholly or partially to the promotion and development of the game of softball.
- VI. To promote and conduct annual amateur softball championships.
- VII. To educate and train in the proper skills of amateur softball play and rules of the game through promoting, organizing and conducting clinics, schools, seminars and training courses.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

Section 1. Relationship to USA SOFTBALL

The Indiana Amateur Softball Association, Inc./dba as USA Softball of Indiana, is an affiliated association of the Amateur Softball Association of America (USA SOFTBALL). USA Softball is

recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and by the International Softball Federation (ISF) as the national governing body of amateur softball in the United States of America.

USA SOFTBALL has agreed to submit, upon demand of the USOC, to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association in any controversy involving the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official to participate in amateur softball competition, as provided for in the USOC's Constitution and By-Laws. USA Softball of Indiana agrees to abide by the commitments of USA SOFTBALL but shall remain free from outside restraint and shall independently determine and control all matters central to its governance, and shall not delegate to another, such determination and control.

Section 2. State Commissioner of USA Softball of Indiana, Inc.

The State Commissioner shall be appointed by USA SOFTBALL and shall be the principal liaison between USA Softball of Indiana and the USA SOFTBALL National Office. At all times, the State Commissioner's retention, removal, or replacement shall be in accordance with the requirements and processes set forth in the USA SOFTBALL National Code. If the position should in any way become vacated by resignation, removal, or otherwise, a succeeding State Commissioner of USA Softball of Indiana shall also be appointed in accordance with the USA SOFTBALL National Code. The powers of the State Commissioner are as follows:

- 2.1. The State Commissioner shall be in full and complete control of all programs, tournaments, finances, and personnel (including officers)
- 2.2. The State Commissioner shall annually appoint other Executive Board Members and Officers of USA Softball of Indiana.
- 2.3. The State Commissioner shall annually appoint such other persons as may be required to facilitate the program. Examples of these appointments may include, but shall not be limited to: Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner, Umpire-in-Chief, Assistant State Commissioner(s), Executive Board Members, JO Council Members, District Commissioners, Deputy District Commissioners, etc.
 - 2.3.1. **All such individuals shall be appointed to one-year terms to run from January 1st through December 31st**, and may be appointed for additional terms.
- 2.4. The State Commissioner may serve concurrently as President of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV. ASSISTANT STATE COMMISSIONERS AND OTHER OFFICERS

Section 1. General Qualifications, Suspension and Removal

1.1. Commissioners and other officers should be civic-minded persons of unquestionable integrity; individuals above reproach, with both knowledge and understanding of the game of softball; persons with excellent interpersonal and communication skills, willing to give countless hours to promote and coordinate USA SOFTBALL leagues and USA SOFTBALL Championship play.

1.2. Assistant State Commissioners, Region Vice-Presidents, District Commissioners, Deputy District Commissioners, and other officers shall not be eligible to serve if they are also in a leadership

position with a competing softball association. The State Commissioner has the final decision regarding the definition of a competing softball association.

1.3. Assistant State Commissioners, Region Vice-Presidents, District Commissioners, and Deputy District Commissioners and other officers **may be removed at any time for just cause as follows:** The Compliance and Ethics Committee shall review all written complaints against a Commissioner or other officer to determine if there is probable cause for removal. Should a majority of the Compliance and Ethics Committee find that probable cause for removal exists; they shall forward this information to the State Commissioner for immediate review and action. The State Commissioner may remove a person from any appointed position at any time.

Section 2. Assistant State Commissioners

Commissioners who distinguish themselves by years of service, loyalty, and devotion; who command the respect of their peers; and who demonstrate leadership and expertise in a special area; may be assigned the additional responsibilities of Assistant State Commissioner. These individuals shall be accountable to the State Commissioner.

2.1. **Duties.** The duties of the Assistant State Commissioner shall be those duties assigned by the Executive Board and the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- 2.1.1. Assistant State Commissioners shall service the commissioners, teams, managers, coaches, players, umpires, league officials, fans and reporters within their appointed area of responsibility. They shall pass along all pertinent information and communications, ensuring that all individuals have equal access to the programs and benefits of USA Softball of Indiana.
- 2.1.2. Assistant State Commissioners shall operate within established guidelines as published in the USA SOFTBALL National Code, USA Softball of Indiana By-Laws, and USA Softball of Indiana Code, realizing that established limitations are for the good of all.
- 2.1.3. Assistant State Commissioners shall annually attend and participate in the Spring Commissioners Convention / Hall of Fame Banquet and the Executive Board meeting which shall be held between the USA SOFTBALL National Convention and the end of the year.

2.2. *Junior Olympic (JO) Assistant State Commissioner*

Per the USA SOFTBALL National Code, the State Commissioner shall appoint a JO Assistant State Commissioner for the USA Softball of Indiana JO program.

2.2.1. The JO Assistant State Commissioner shall direct the USA Softball of Indiana JO program. This individual shall be responsible for and accountable to both the State Commissioner and the Executive Board for all phases of the JO program.

2.2.2. The JO Assistant State Commissioner shall recommend appointment of JO District Commissioners and JO Umpires-in-Chief to the State Commissioner for appointment.

2.3. *Management Team*

2.3. Management Team 2.3.1. The State Commissioner shall appoint a Management Team to assist with the operation of the USA Softball of Indiana. Members of the Management Team will include the State Commissioner, JO Commissioner, Umpire in Chief, Adult State Commissioner, and an At-Large position appointed by the State Commissioner.

2.4 Adult State Commissioner

2.4.1 Duties. The duties of the Adult State Commissioner shall be those duties assigned by the Executive Board and the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

2.4.2 Chair the Adult Slow Pitch Reclassification Committee

2.4.3 Chair the Indiana Power Series Committee

2.4.5 Oversee and maintain the Indiana Power Series Points

2.4.6 Collect and complete all Adult team National Championship rosters, pick up player forms, and tournament entry forms.

2.4.7 Assist Tournament Director with the State Tournament bracket draws and seeding

include the State Commissioner, JO Commissioner, Umpire in Chief, President of

*Section 3. **Region Vice-Presidents***

Region Vice-Presidents should be individuals who distinguish themselves by years of service, loyalty, and devotion; who command the respect of their peers; and who demonstrate leadership and expertise above the normal call of duty; may be assigned the additional responsibilities of Region Vice-President. These individuals shall be accountable to the State Commissioner.

3.1. Duties. Duties of the Region Vice-Presidents are those duties assigned by the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to:

- 3.1.1.** Region Vice-Presidents shall coordinate USA SOFTBALL Championship play, classification and reclassification, umpire clinics and schools and region meetings as necessary to promote USA Softball of Indiana within their region.
- 3.1.2.** Region Vice-Presidents shall recommend individuals for appointment by the State Commissioner to the positions of District Commissioner, JO District Commissioner, and Regional Umpire-in-Chief to assure effective coverage and promotion within the limits of their region.
- 3.1.3.** Region Vice-Presidents shall service the commissioners, teams, managers, coaches, players, umpires, league officials, fans and reporters within their appointed region. They shall pass along all pertinent information and communications, ensuring that all individuals within their region have equal access to the programs and benefits of USA Softball of Indiana.
- 3.1.4.** Region Vice-Presidents shall operate within established guidelines as published in the USA SOFTBALL National Code and USA Softball of Indiana By-Laws, realizing that established limitations are for the good of all.
- 3.1.5.** Region Vice-Presidents shall annually attend and participate in the Spring Commissioners Convention / Hall of Fame Banquet and the Executive Board meeting which shall be held between the USA SOFTBALL National Convention and the end of the year.

*Section 4. **District Commissioners***

District Commissioners should be civic-minded persons respected in their local district. These individuals must be knowledgeable about both the community's softball programs and facilities. These individuals shall report to the Region Vice-President.

4.1. Duties. Duties of the District Commissioner are those duties assigned by the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to:

- 4.1.1.** District Commissioners shall be responsible and accountable for all monies and dues collected on behalf of and owed to USA Softball of Indiana. These monies

include the State Commissioner, JO Commissioner, Umpire in Chief, President of shall
include team registrations, individual player or adult registrations, umpire registrations, umpire clinic, umpire's school, tournament sanctions, insurance advancement fees, umpire equipment, softball purchases, etc. These monies and accompanying forms shall be submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt.

- 4.1.2. District Commissioners shall service the teams, managers, coaches, players, umpires, league officials, fans and reporters within their appointed district. They shall pass along all pertinent information and communications, ensuring that all individuals within their district have equal access to the programs and benefits of USA Softball of Indiana.
- 4.1.3. District Commissioners shall recommend individuals for appointment by the State Commissioner to the positions of Deputy District Commissioner and District Umpire-in-Chief to assure effective coverage and promotion within the limits of their district.
- 4.1.4. District Commissioners shall recommend qualified umpires to the Region Umpire-in-Chief to umpire USA SOFTBALL Championship play.
- 4.1.5. District Commissioners shall operate within established guidelines as published in the USA SOFTBALL National Code, USA Softball of Indiana By-Laws and Tournament Operational Code, realizing that established limitations are for the good of all.
- 4.1.6. District Commissioners are encouraged to attend and participate in the Spring Commissioners Convention / Hall of Fame Banquet and attend all region meetings.

assessments, municipalities insurance, team insurance, tournament insurance,

*Section 5. **Deputy District Commissioners***

Deputy District Commissioners should be civic-minded persons respected in their local district. These individuals must be knowledgeable about both the community's softball programs and facilities. These individuals shall report to the District Commissioner.

5.1. **Duties.** Duties of the Deputy District Commissioner are those duties assigned by the Executive Board and the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to:

5.1.1. The Deputy District Commissioners shall assist the District Commissioners in performing their duties (as listed in Section 4 of this Article) and any other duties that may be assigned to them by the, State Commissioner, or District Commissioner.

*Section 6. **State Umpire-in-Chief***

Umpires, who, by their years of dedicated service, who because of their expert umpiring abilities, command the respect of their peers; and who have demonstrated their leadership abilities, may be assigned the additional responsibilities of Umpire-in-Chief. This individual shall be appointed by and accountable to the State Commissioner. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall be responsible for the umpire program for USA Softball of Indiana according to the requirements and guidelines as set forth in the Umpire Code (Exhibit B).

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. General Provisions.

1.1. The business and affairs of USA Softball of Indiana referenced in the Code Sections of the By-Laws and all exhibits shall be managed under the direction of the Executive Board. Members of the Executive Board are those individuals who have excelled in their leadership roles in their areas of expertise. These individuals combine their collective skills to govern the direction of USA Softball of Indiana rules and tournament operations. All USA Softball of Indiana Executive Board Members and USA Softball of Indiana committee members shall submit to an annual background check coordinated by the Executive Board President through the USA SOFTBALL National Office.

1.2. From time to time, the State Commissioner of USA Softball of Indiana and the Executive Board may delegate to Officers of USA Softball of Indiana such powers and duties as they may see fit in addition to those specifically provided in these By-Laws.

Section 2. Number and Tenure

2.1. The State Commissioner shall appoint all Region Vice-President members on the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the five (5) Adult Region Vice-Presidents and five (5) Junior Olympic Vice-Presidents. The ten (10) Executive Board Members will have voting rights on all matters that come before the Executive Board. The USA Softball of Indiana State Commissioner, Assistant State Commissioner(s), Junior Olympic Commissioner, Adult State Commissioner, State Umpire(s)-in-Chief, Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Liaison, Indiana Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Liaison will be ex-officio (non- voting) members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall conduct and manage business as governed by the USA Softball of Indiana By-Laws.

2.2. The Executive Board shall include at-least one representative from each USA Softball of Indiana region. The State Commissioner may appoint additional representatives as necessary for the good of USA Softball of Indiana.

2.3. An Executive Board Member may serve concurrently as both an Officer and Executive Board Member of USA Softball of Indiana.

Section 3. Duties

3.1. Duties of an Executive Board Member are those duties assigned by the Executive Board and State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following: Executive Board Members shall service the commissioners, teams, managers, coaches, players, umpires, league officials, fans, and reporters within the appointed area of responsibility. Furthermore, they will pass along all pertinent information and communications, ensuring that all individuals have equal access to the programs and benefits of USA Softball of Indiana.

3.2. Executive Board Members shall operate within established guidelines as published in the USA SOFTBALL National Code, USA Softball of Indiana By-Laws, realizing that established limitations are for the good of all.

3.3. Executive Board Members shall propose Amendments to the sections of the Indiana By-Laws referenced as Code and Exhibits, as required, keeping USA Softball of Indiana in tune with the USA SOFTBALL National Code, Guide and Playing Rules, as well as local established practices. Their goal will be to enable all participants to compete on a fair and equal basis.

3.4. Executive Board Members shall attend and participate in the Spring Commissioners Convention/Hall of Fame Banquet and the Executive Board meeting between the USA SOFTBALL National Convention and the end of the year.

3.5. When an Executive Board Member is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, the State Commissioner **may**, at his or her discretion, appoint a proxy. Whenever possible, the proxy shall come from the same region.

Section 4. Restrictions

No person in a leadership position with a competing softball association will be eligible to serve as an Executive Board Member. The State Commissioner has the final decision regarding the definition of a competing softball association.

Section 5. Suspension or Removal

An Executive Board Member may be removed at any time for just cause as follows: The Compliance and Ethics Committee shall review all written complaints against an Executive Board Member to determine if there is probable cause for removal. Should a majority of the Compliance and Ethics Committee find that probable cause exists, they shall forward this information to the State Commissioner for immediate review and action.

Section 6. Regular Meetings

The USA Softball of Indiana Executive Board shall meet at least twice annually. The Executive Board shall meet at the Spring Commissioners Convention/Hall of Fame Banquet and between the USA SOFTBALL National Convention and the end of the year. The minutes of these meetings must be filed with the USA SOFTBALL National Office within thirty (30) days of the meeting, but before December 31st of each year.

Section 7. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the State Commissioner, or by a majority of the Executive Board in the absence of State Commissioner.

Section 8. Notice

3.2. Executive Board Members shall operate within established guidelines as published in the Notice of the place, day, and hour of every regular and special meeting shall be given to each Executive Board Member, either by facsimile, electronic mail, telephonic communication, or by notice later than the second day before the day set for the meeting.

Section 9. Compensation

Executive Board Members may receive compensation for their services and may, by authorization of the State Commissioner, be allowed to receive reimbursement for their expenses actually and reasonably incurred on behalf of USA Softball of Indiana.

Section 10. No Personal Liability

In absence of fraud or bad faith, the Executive Board Members or Officers shall not be personally liable for the debts, obligations, or liabilities of USA Softball of Indiana. USA Softball of Indiana may obtain insurance covering the Executive Board Members and Officers, in amounts and to the extent determined by the Executive Board. USA Softball of Indiana shall indemnify the Executive Board and Officers to the maximum extent permitted by the Indiana Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1991, as amended, and USA Softball of Indiana shall indemnify its currently acting and its former Executive Board Members, Officers, agents, and employees

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

The Committees will include, but shall not be limited to, the Compliance and Ethics Committee, the Hall of Fame Committee, the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Tournament Organizing Committee (Exhibit F), the Adult Classification Committee and the Jr. Olympic Committee. In addition, the State Commissioner or Executive Board may appoint any such other committees on an as-needed basis.

Section 1. General Qualifications, Suspension and Removal

1.1. Members of any Committee shall not be eligible to serve if they are also in a leadership position with a competing softball association. The Executive Board has the final decision regarding the definition of a competing softball association.

1.2. Members of any Committee **may be removed at any time for just cause as follows:** The Compliance and Ethics Committee shall review all written complaints against a Committee member to determine if there is probable cause for removal. Should a majority of the Compliance and Ethic Committee find that probable cause for removal exists; they shall forward this information to the State Commissioner for immediate review and action.

1.3. Members of any Committee may serve concurrently as a member of any other committee.

Section 2. Compliance and Ethics Committee This committee is appointed by the Assistant State Commissioner and shall report directly to the State Commissioner.

Section 3. Hall of Fame Committee This committee shall promote the USA Softball of Indiana Hall of Fame. This committee shall be appointed by the Assistant State Commissioner, and report to the State Commissioner.

Section 4. Long Range Planning Committee This committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Board for potential future direction and goals of USA Softball of Indiana. 4.1 Appointment. All members will be appointed by the Assistant State Commissioner, and report to the State Commissioner.

Section 6. Adult Classification Committee These committees, one for Slow Pitch and one for Fast Pitch, shall meet as needed to conduct the following business: 6.1 Appointment. All members will be appointed by the Assistant State Commissioner, and report to the State Commissioner.

This committee shall work for teams and players to ensure "fair play" classification of individuals and teams for all USA Softball of Indiana advancement events. The make-up of this committee will consist of seven members with one serving as chair. The members of this committee will be appointed by the Assistant State Commissioner and must be in good standing with USA Softball of Indiana. All members of committee are required to vote during the decision-making process. Consideration of equal representation of members from throughout the state should be considered during the appointment process.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

Section 1. Banking and Accounting

All funds of the association shall be deposited in a federally insured (FDIC) banking institution checking account in the name of USA Softball of Indiana, Inc. The association's accounting year shall commence on January 1st and close on December 31st of each year. An annual report of the financial condition of the association shall be made to and received by the USA SOFTBALL National Office after the close of the association's accounting year. Annual membership dues will be those as set forth in Exhibit A.

Section 2. Account Authorization

Only the USA Softball of Indiana State Commissioner can make authorized withdrawals from the association's banking account. In the event the USA Softball of Indiana State Commissioner cannot authorize withdrawals due to disability or death, the assistant treasurer of the association is authorized to make withdrawals for the continuity of the normal operations of the association. The assistant treasurer shall be appointed by, and is accountable to the State Commissioner.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the By-Laws may be made by sixty (60) percent vote of the Executive Board Members present at any meeting that takes place in an odd- numbered year (2017, 2019, 2021 etc.). Amendments must be submitted to the State Commissioner or his/her designee at-least ten (10) days prior to any meeting. Notice can be the reading of an amendment at the previous Executive Board Meeting in which the proposed amendment is recorded in the meeting minutes. Amendments, subject to the same time constraints listed above, may be made in an even-numbered year (2016, 2018, 2020, etc.), but require a ninety (90) percent vote by the Executive Board Members present. No changes to tournament format that would affect the bidding organizations, not including the dates of the tournament, can be made after the tournaments are awarded without permission of the bidding organization.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION

The corporation may dissolve and wind up its affairs in accordance with the applicable laws of the State of Indiana. Upon dissolution of the corporation or the winding up of its affairs, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the corporation's liabilities, dispose of the corporation's assets as provided in the Articles of Incorporation, as follows:

“Upon dissolution, the assets shall be used to discharge or make provisions for the discharge of the Corporation's liabilities and obligations; assets held by the Corporation upon a condition requiring return, transfer, or conveyance that occurs by reason of dissolution, shall be returned transferred, or conveyed in accordance with the condition; the assets subject to any contractual or legal requirement shall be returned, transferred, or conveyed pursuant to the contractual or legal requirement. Any assets remaining shall be distributed as provided by the By-Laws provided that, under no circumstances, shall the Corporation's remaining assets shall be transferred to a person or entity not described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.”

Amended: October 23, 1981

Amended: October 22, 1983

Amended: October 20, 1984

Amended: October 19, 1985

Amended: December 6, 1986

Amended: December 5, 1987

Amended: December 9, 1989

Amended: December 8, 1990

Amended: December 7, 1991

Amended: December 4, 1993

Amended: December 9, 1995

Amended: December 6, 1997

Amended: December 5, 1998

Amended: December 11, 1999

Amended: December 1, 2001

Amended: December 6, 2003

Amended: December 10, 2005

Amended: December 9, 2006

Amended: December 15, 2007

Amended: December 13, 2008

Amended: March 21, 2009
Amended: December 11, 2009
Amended: March 20, 2010
Amended: December 11, 2010
Amended: December 5, 2011
Amended: December 15, 2012
Amended: December 17, 2013
Amended: December 6, 2014
Amended: December 19, 2015
Amended: December 19, 2016
Amended: December 30, 2017
Amended: December 16, 2018
Amended: March 9, 2019
Amended: December 15, 2019

Amended March 4, 2021

EXHIBIT 'A'

ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEES

Annual membership dues may be amended from time by or at the direction of the Executive Board as needed. The State Commissioner may adjust fees, as necessary, to incorporate any internet, web-based or other service fees.

1. **Adult Teams**
 - a. Summer league registration \$ 30.00
 - b. Spring league registration \$ 30.00
 - c. Fall league registration \$ 30.00
 - d. Tournament Team Sanction Fee (each entry) \$ 15.00

- e. Invitational Tournament Sanction Fee \$25.00
2. **Junior Olympic (JO) Individual Registration** Junior Olympic (JO) **individual** registration (All USA Softball of Indiana Gold, Class A and Class B teams must register as individuals.) \$19.00
 - b. JO **adult individual** registration (All teams must include at least **two** individually registered adults.) \$ 25.00
3. **Junior Olympic (JO) team registration**
 - a. JO Girls' Fast Pitch Class C team registration \$ 20.00
 - b. JO Girls' Coach Pitch 8-Under team registration \$ 20.00
 - c. JO Girls' Slow Pitch team registrations \$ 20.00

3. **Umpire registrations**
 - a. Renewal or New \$ 80.00
 - b. JO (age 17 and under) \$ 45.00

EXHIBIT 'B'

UMPIRE CODE OF THE INDIANA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC. USA SOFTBALL OF INDIANA

An umpire must be a person of unquestionable integrity; individuals above reproach, with both knowledge and understanding of the game of softball; persons who can remain calm and in charge of the strangest and most unusual of situations. All USA Softball of Indiana Umpires shall submit to an annual “background check” coordinated by the State Umpire-in-Chief through the USA SOFTBALL National Office. The Umpire Code herein may be amended from time to time at the direction of the Executive Board.

Restrictions. No person in a leadership position with a competing softball association is eligible to serve as a State Umpire-in-Chief, Assistant Umpire-in-Chief, Region Umpire-in-Chief, or District Umpire-in-Chief. The Executive Board has the final decision regarding the definition of a competing softball association.

Suspension or Removal. A State Umpire-in-Chief, Assistant Umpire-in-Chief, Region Umpire-in-Chief, or District Umpire-in-Chief may be removed at any time for just cause as follows: The Compliance and Ethics *Committee* shall review all written complaints against a State Umpire-in-Chief, Assistant Umpire-in-Chief, Region Umpire-in-Chief, or District Umpire-in-Chief to determine if there is probable cause for removal. Should a majority of the Compliance and Ethics Committee find that probable cause for removal exists; they shall forward this information to the State Commissioner for immediate review and action.

Section 1. State Umpire-in-Chief

- 1.1. **Appointment.** Per the USA SOFTBALL National Code, the State Commissioner shall appoint a State Umpire-in-Chief for the USA Softball of Indiana Umpire program.
- 1.2. **Duties.** Duties of the State Umpire-in-Chief are those duties assigned by the Executive Board and the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - 1.2.1. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall be responsible and accountable for all money collected on behalf of and owed to USA Softball of Indiana. These monies shall include umpire registrations and umpire equipment, etc. These monies and accompanying forms shall be submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt.
 - 1.2.2. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall annually register as an umpire and be in good standing with USA Softball of Indiana.
 - 1.2.3. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall annually meet the requirements of an USA Softball of Indiana “Championship” umpire as hereinafter described:
 - 1.2.4. Attend an USA Softball of Indiana State or USA SOFTBALL National umpire school in the year or previous two (2) years and if the previously mentioned school requirement is met in prior two (2) years, the umpire must attend an approved USA Softball of Indiana rules clinic in

the year and Submit a completed USA SOFTBALL umpire test to the State Umpire-in-Chief prior to working.

- 1.2.5. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall attend and participate in:
 - 1.2.5.1. The biennial National Umpire-in-Chief Clinic held in odd (2017, 2019 etc.) years.
 - 1.2.5.2. The annual Spring Commissioners Convention / Hall of Fame Banquet
 - 1.2.5.3. The annual USA SOFTBALL National Convention and serve on assigned committees.
 - 1.2.5.4. The annual year-end USA Softball of Indiana Umpire Staff meeting.
 - 1.2.5.5. The annual Executive Board meeting, which shall be held between the USA SOFTBALL National Convention and the end of the year.
- 1.2.6. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall recruit, train and evaluate umpires within USA Softball of Indiana.
- 1.2.7. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall schedule, organize, advertise and conduct USA Softball of Indiana State umpire clinics and schools as necessary to recruit and train umpires.
- 1.2.8. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall establish open lines of communication with all umpires within the state. This shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 1.2.8.1. Administering an active, up-to-date website.
 - 1.2.8.2. Authoring and mailing an informative annual newsletter to all registered umpires, commissioners, and interested administrators.
- 1.2.9. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall assign qualified “Championship” umpires and umpires-in-chief to all Championship play within Indiana.
- 1.2.10. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall work with the State Commissioner to assign qualified “Championship” umpires and umpires-in-chief to National Tournaments as opportunities are available.
- 1.2.11. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall operate within established guidelines as published in the USA SOFTBALL National Code, USA Softball of Indiana Constitution and By-Laws, and USA Softball of Indiana Code, realizing that established limitations are for the good of all.

*Section 2. **Assistant Umpires-in-Chief***

Umpires, who, by their years of dedicated service, who because of their expert umpiring abilities, command the respect of their peers; and who have demonstrated their leadership abilities, may be assigned the additional responsibilities of Assistant Umpires-in-Chief. These individuals shall be accountable to the State Umpire-in-Chief.

- 2.1. **Appointment.** The State Commissioner shall appoint Assistant State Umpires-in-Chief as necessary for the good of the USA Softball of Indiana Umpire program.
- 2.2. **Duties.** Duties of the Assistant State Umpires-in-Chief are those duties assigned by the Executive Board and the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - 2.2.1. Assistant State Umpires-in-Chief shall be responsible and accountable for all money collected on behalf of and owed to USA Softball of Indiana. These monies shall include umpire registrations, umpire clinics, umpire schools, umpire equipment, etc. These monies and accompanying forms shall be submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt.
 - 2.2.2. Assistant State Umpires-in-Chief shall annually register as an umpire and be in good standing with USA Softball of Indiana.
 - 2.2.3. Assistant State Umpires-in-Chief shall annually meet the requirements of an USA Softball of Indiana “Championship” umpire as hereinafter described:
 - 2.2.4. Attend an USA Softball of Indiana State or USA SOFTBALL National umpire school in the year or previous two (2) years and
 - 2.2.5. If the previously mentioned school requirement is met in prior two (2) years, the umpire must attend an approved USA Softball of Indiana rules clinic in the year and
 - 2.2.6. Submit a completed USA SOFTBALL umpire test to the State Umpire-in-Chief prior to working.
 - 2.2.7. Assistant State Umpires-in-Chief shall attend and participate in:
 - 2.2.7.1. The annual Spring Commissioners Convention / Hall of Fame Banquet
 - 2.2.7.2. The annual year-end USA Softball of Indiana Umpire Staff meeting.
 - 2.2.7.3. The annual Executive Board meeting, which shall be held between the USA SOFTBALL National Convention and the end of the year.
 - 2.2.8. Assistant State Umpires-in-Chief shall recruit, train and evaluate umpires within USA Softball of Indiana.
 - 2.2.9. Assistant Umpires-in-Chief shall recommend qualified “Championship” umpires to the State Umpire-in-Chief for use in qualifying Championship events, State and/or National Tournaments.

- 2.2.10. Assistant Umpires-in-Chief shall be willing, able and available to:
- 2.2.10.1. Serve USA Softball of Indiana as a clinician or instructor at one or more state or region umpire clinics or schools.
 - 2.2.10.2. Serve USA Softball of Indiana as an umpire or umpire-in-chief at one or more qualifying Championship events, State and/or National Tournaments.
 - 2.2.10.3. Serve the USA Softball of Indiana State Umpire-in-Chief as necessary to promote the USA Softball of Indiana Umpire program.
 - 2.2.10.4. Assistant State Umpires-in-Chief shall operate within established guidelines as published in the USA SOFTBALL National Code, USA Softball of Indiana By-Laws, and USA Softball of Indiana Tournament Operational Code, realizing that established limitations are for the good of all.

*Section 3. **Region Umpires-in-Chief***

Umpires, who, by their years of dedicated service, who because of their expert umpiring abilities, command the respect of their peers; and who have demonstrated their leadership abilities, may be assigned the additional responsibilities of Region Umpires-in-Chief. These individuals shall be accountable to the State Umpire-in-Chief and the Region Vice-President.

- 3.1. **Appointment.** The State Commissioner shall appoint Region Umpires-in-Chief as necessary for the good of the USA Softball of Indiana Umpire program.
- 3.2. **Duties.** Duties of the Region Umpires-in-Chief are those duties assigned by the Executive Board and the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - 3.2.1. Region Umpires-in-Chief shall be responsible and accountable for all money collected on behalf of and owed to USA Softball of Indiana. These monies shall include umpire registrations, umpire clinics, umpire schools, umpire equipment, etc. These monies and accompanying forms shall be submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt.
 - 3.2.2. Region Umpires-in-Chief shall annually register as an umpire and be in good standing with USA Softball of Indiana.
 - 3.2.3. Region Umpires-in-Chief shall annually meet the requirements of an USA Softball of Indiana “Championship” umpire as hereinafter described:
 - 3.2.3.1. Attend an USA Softball of Indiana State or USA SOFTBALL National umpire school in the year or previous two (2) years and
 - 3.2.3.2. If the previously mentioned school requirement is met in prior two (2) years, the umpire must attend an approved USA Softball of Indiana rules clinic in the year and
 - 3.2.3.3. Submit a completed USA SOFTBALL umpire test to the State Umpire-in-Chief prior to working.

- 3.3. Region Umpires-in-Chief shall attend and participate in:
 - 3.3.1. All region meetings as scheduled by the Region Vice-President.
 - 3.3.2. The annual Spring Commissioners Convention / Hall of Fame Banquet
 - 3.3.3. All qualifying Championship events, State and/or National Tournaments held within their region.
 - 3.3.4. The annual year-end USA Softball of Indiana Umpire Staff meeting.
- 3.4. Region Umpires-in-Chief shall recruit, train and evaluate umpires within their region.
- 3.5. Region Umpires-in-Chief shall recommend qualified “Championship” umpires to the State Umpire-in-Chief, Assistant Umpires-in-Chief, and Region Vice-President for use in qualifying Championship events, State and/or National Tournaments.
- 3.6. Region Umpires-in-Chief shall be willing, able and available to:
 - 3.6.1. Serve USA Softball of Indiana as a clinician or instructor at one or more state or region umpire clinics or schools.
 - 3.6.2. Serve USA Softball of Indiana as an umpire or umpire-in-chief at one or more qualifying Championship events, State and/or National Tournaments.
 - 3.6.3. Serve the USA Softball of Indiana State Umpire-in-Chief and the Region Vice-President as necessary to promote the USA Softball of Indiana Umpire program.
- 3.7. Region Umpires-in-Chief shall operate within established guidelines as published in the USA SOFTBALL National Code, USA Softball of Indiana Constitution and By-Laws, and USA Softball of Indiana Code, realizing that established limitations are for the good of all.

*Section 4. **District Umpires-in-Chief***

District Umpires-in-Chief shall be quality, respected umpires in their local district. These individuals must be knowledgeable about both the community’s softball programs and local umpires. These individuals shall report to the Region Umpire- in-Chief and District Commissioner.

- 4.1. **Appointment.** The State Commissioner shall appoint District Umpires-in-Chief as necessary for the good of the USA Softball of Indiana Umpire program.
- 4.2. **Duties.** Duties of the District Umpires-in-Chief are those duties assigned by the Executive Board and the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- 4.2.1. District Umpires-in-Chief shall be responsible and accountable for all money collected on behalf of and owed to USA Softball of Indiana. These monies shall include umpire registrations, umpire clinics, umpire schools, umpire equipment, etc. These monies and accompanying forms shall be submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt.
- 4.2.2. District Umpires-in-Chief shall annually register as an umpire and be in good standing with USA Softball of Indiana.
- 4.2.3. District Umpires-in-Chief shall annually meet the requirements of an USA Softball of Indiana “Championship” umpire as hereinafter described:
 - 4.2.3.1. Attend an USA Softball of Indiana State or USA SOFTBALL National umpire school in the year or previous two (2) years and
 - 4.2.3.2. If the previously mentioned school requirement is met in prior two (2) years, the umpire must attend an approved USA Softball of Indiana rules clinic in the year and
 - 4.2.3.3. Submit a completed USA SOFTBALL umpire test to the State Umpire-in-Chief prior to working.
- 4.3. District Umpires-in-Chief shall attend and participate in:
 - 4.3.1. All region meetings as scheduled by the Region Vice-President.
 - 4.3.2. All qualifying Championship events, State and/or National Tournaments held within their district and region.
- 4.4. District Umpires-in-Chief shall recruit, train and evaluate umpires within their district.
- 4.5. District Umpires-in-Chief shall recommend qualified “Championship” umpires to the Region Umpire-in-Chief and District Commissioner for use in qualifying Championship events, State and/or National Tournaments.
- 4.6. District Umpires-in-Chief shall be willing, able and available to:
 - 4.6.1. Serve USA Softball of Indiana as a clinician or instructor at one or more state or region umpire clinics or schools.
 - 4.6.2. Serve USA Softball of Indiana as an umpire or umpire-in-chief at one or more qualifying Championship events, State and/or National Tournaments.
 - 4.6.3. Serve the Region Umpire-in-Chief and the District Commissioner as necessary to promote the USA Softball of Indiana Umpire program.
- 4.7. District Umpires-in-Chief shall operate within established guidelines as published in the USA SOFTBALL National Code, USA Softball of Indiana By-Laws, realizing that established limitations are for the good of all.

EXHIBIT 'C'
TOURNAMENT OPERATIONAL CODE
OF THE
INDIANA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.
USA SOFTBALL OF INDIANA

Last updated: March 4, 2021

Article I. League Rules.

- A. Each local league retains the right to establish and maintain local league game and eligibility rules. Any deviation from USA SOFTBALL rules should be clearly spelled out in the local league rules prior to the season.
- B. This Tournament Operational Code may be amended from time to time as necessary by the Executive Board or by any officer given the authority by the board to do so.

Article II. Sanctioned Invitational Tournaments.

- A. The association shall **sanction** invitational tournaments in which USA SOFTBALL registered teams are eligible to compete. These tournaments are open only to member teams, and are subject to the following:
 - 1. Each team **competing** shall receive equal percentage, according to mileage traveled, of any expense allowance promised.
 - 2. All trophies, awards, medals, or other materials promised shall be delivered.
 - 3. Only USA SOFTBALL registered umpires shall be used for all games.
 - 4. All rules of this association shall be observed. (**Exception:** Different playing rules may be used, but should be clearly specified in all tournament information.)
- B. The sanction fee shall be \$25, which shall be payable to USA Softball of Indiana, under whose jurisdiction such invitational tournaments shall be conducted. A charter shall be issued to all sanctioned tournaments to post during tournament play. The State Commissioner may adjust fees, as necessary, to incorporate any internet, web-based or other service fees.
- C. The USA SOFTBALL municipality liability insurance protection extends to tournament officials of USA SOFTBALL sanctioned invitational tournaments or other non-championship tournaments, provided such tournaments are fully approved by USA SOFTBALL and all teams and umpires participating are registered with USA SOFTBALL. Local USA SOFTBALL associations are covered under the liability policy for their involvement in organizing and operating USA SOFTBALL sanctioned tournaments. Participating teams are not covered by accident insurance unless they have purchased the USA SOFTBALL team insurance or softball tournament coverage.
- D. The Indiana Amateur Softball Association, Inc./USA Softball of Indiana has amended its By-Laws to adopt a rule, which prohibits teams from participating in tournaments that are neither sanctioned nor approved by the State Commissioner. This amendment was adopted to insure a coordinated and organized program for member teams. Players and teams competing in tournaments not sanctioned or approved by the State Commissioner are subject to being disqualified from further activities of the association. Players and team managers are urged to check with their District Commissioner if there is any question as to whether a tournament has been sanctioned.

Article III. Protests in Championship Tournament Play.

- A. All protests in Championship Tournament Play pertaining to interpretation of playing rules shall

be settled immediately. The Tournament Director or his/her designee shall assemble the protest

committee of a minimum of three (3) tournament officials. The decision of the protest committee shall be final.

- B. Any protest involving player eligibility shall be submitted to the Tournament Director or his/her designee immediately upon its discovery.
 - 1. Upon discovery of an ineligible player the Tournament Director shall act immediately, even without a formal protest. Any team competing with an ineligible player shall be subject to all penalties in the USA SOFTBALL Code, including:
 - a. The ineligible player shall immediately be suspended from further participation in the tournament.
 - b. The team that used the ineligible player shall forfeit the game being played or the game last played and shall be suspended from further play in the tournament and in any subsequent tournament for which it may have qualified by virtue of its play in the tournament in which it was suspended and shall be placed last in the order of finish.
- C. Absolutely no protest fee shall be used in USA SOFTBALL Championship play.

Article IV. Suspension of Players / Protection of Officials.

- A. Any individual who initiates physical contact with an umpire, tournament official, or official of USA SOFTBALL during a game shall be removed from further participation immediately.
- B. Any individual who threatens or who commits any act of physical violence on any umpire, league, tournament or game official, either before, during or after a game shall be subject to the following:
 - 1. The State Commissioner shall give the individual an opportunity for a hearing.
 - a. The State Commissioner shall annually appoint standing Region Hearing Panels. These standing Region Hearing Panels shall be staffed by at-least three (3) District Commissioners from the Region. The standing Region Hearing Panels shall handle all hearings that are the result of actions, and that involve only individuals from within the region. In the event that a member of the standing Region Hearing Panels has a direct interest in the matter, the State Commissioner shall appoint an alternate panel member.
 - b. The State Commissioner shall annually appoint Hearing Panels to conduct hearings as necessary at the annual USA Softball of Indiana Spring Commissioners Convention / Hall of Fame Banquet. Any hearings necessary because of actions at a State Tournament, or that involve individuals from more than one region, shall be conducted at the State Meeting if at all possible. Any District Commissioner or any other disinterested party may serve on one of these hearing panels. Should the State Commissioner deem it necessary to do so, he/she may schedule the hearing at a different time and/or place.
 - 2. The individual must be notified in writing of the time, place and date of the hearing. The individual is entitled to an alternative date if, for good cause, the original date is not acceptable. Should the individual not attend the hearing, the person conducting the hearing may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance.
 - 3. After hearing the evidence, the person presiding shall render a written decision within fourteen (14) days.
 - 4. Following the decision of the person presiding over the hearing, the individual may appeal the decision in writing within fourteen (14) days to the Executive Director of the Amateur Softball Association of America, whose decision shall be final. The Executive Director must render a decision on any appeal within fourteen (14) days.

- C. Any individual who threatens or who commits any act of physical violence on any umpire, league, tournament or game official, either before, during or after a Championship Tournament game shall be subject to the following:
1. The individual shall be given a fair notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the tournament protest committee, whose decision shall be final.
 2. The State Commissioner shall give the individual an opportunity for a hearing.
 - a. The State Commissioner shall annually appoint standing Region Hearing Panels.

These standing Region Hearing Panels shall be staffed by at-least three (3) District Commissioners from the Region. The standing Region Hearing Panels shall handle all hearings that are the result of actions, and that involve only individuals from within the region. In the event that a member of the standing Region Hearing Panels has a direct interest in the matter, the State Commissioner shall appoint an alternate panel member.
 - b. The State Commissioner shall annually appoint Hearing Panels to conduct hearings as necessary at the annual USA Softball of Indiana Spring Commissioners Convention / Hall of Fame Banquet. Any hearings necessary because of actions at a State Tournament, or that involve individuals from more than one region, shall be conducted at the State Meeting if at all possible. Any District Commissioner or any other disinterested party may serve on one of these hearing panels. Should the State Commissioner deem it necessary to do so, he/she may schedule the hearing at a different time and/or place.
 3. The individual must be notified in writing of the time, place and date of the hearing. The individual is entitled to an alternative date if, for good cause, the original date is not acceptable. Should the individual not attend the hearing, the person conducting the hearing may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance.
 4. After hearing the evidence, the person presiding shall render a written decision within fourteen (14) days.
 5. Following the decision of the person presiding over the hearing, the individual may appeal the decision in writing within fourteen (14) days to the Executive Director of the Amateur Softball Association of America, whose decision shall be final. The Executive Director must render a decision on any appeal within fourteen (14) days.

Article V. Conditions of Membership.

In consideration of being permitted to become members of this association, teams and players agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Indiana Amateur Softball Association, Inc./USA Softball of Indiana; the Code of USA SOFTBALL; and the USA Softball of Indiana method of classifying teams and players.

Article VI. Team Divisions and Classifications.

(The classifications in **bold** are not recognized by the National USA SOFTBALL Office.)

<u>Divisions</u>	<u>Classifications</u>
A. Men's Fast Pitch	Major, A, B, C, and
D	
B. Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch	
C. Women's Fast Pitch	Major, A, and B
D. Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch	
E. Men's Slow Pitch	A, B, C, D, E and
Recreational	
F. Women's Slow Pitch	Open, C, D
G. Men's (09) Man Modified Pitch	Major and A
H. Men's (10) Man Modified Pitch	
I. Men's Industrial Slow Pitch	Open and Novice
(D/E)	
J. Men's 16-Inch Slow Pitch	Major and A
K. Men's Church Slow Pitch	Open and Novice
(D/E)	
L. Coed Slow Pitch	Open, C, D, E Novice
(D/E)	
M. Men's Masters 40-Over Fast Pitch	
N. Men's Masters 45-Over Fast Pitch	
O. Men's Seniors 50-Over Fast Pitch	
P. Men's Masters 35-Over Slow Pitch	Open and (D/E)
Q. Men's Masters 40-Over Slow Pitch	
R. Men's Masters 45-Over Slow Pitch	
S. Men's Seniors 50-Over Slow Pitch	Major Plus, Major, AAA, and A T.
Men's Seniors 55-Over Slow Pitch	Major Plus, Major, AAA, and A U.
Men's Seniors 60-Over Slow Pitch	Major Plus, Major, AAA, and A V.
Men's Seniors 65-Over Slow Pitch	Major Plus, Major, AAA, and A W.
Men's Seniors 70-Over Slow Pitch	Major and AAA
X. Men's Seniors 75-Over Slow Pitch	Major and AAA
Y. Women's Masters 35-Over Slow Pitch	
Z. Boy's Fast Pitch	18-Under, 16-Under, 14-Under, 12-Under, 10- Under
AA. Boy's Slow Pitch	18-Under, 16-Under, 14-Under, 12-Under, and 10- Under
	18-Under GOLD, Class A 18-Under, 16-Under GOLD, Class
BB. Girl's Fast Pitch	A 16-Under, Class A 14-Under, Class A 12-Under,

Class A 10-Under,

Class B 12-Under, Class B 10-Under,

Class B 18-Under, Class B 16-Under,

Class C 14-Under,

Class B 14-Under,

Class C 12-Under, and Class C 10-Under

CC. Girl's Slow Pitch

18-Under, 16-Under, 14-Under, 12-Under, and 10- Under

DD. Girl's Coach Pitch

8-Under

Note: ADULT ONLY: USA Softball of Indiana classifies teams based upon the classification of individuals.

Article VII. State Tournament Entries and Classification of Teams for Championship Play.

The final decision on requiring a team or player to play a higher classification rests with the District Commissioner, with the approval of the Region Vice-President, Junior Olympic State Commissioner and/or State Commissioner.

Note #1: All references in this article to “consecutive competing season”, “next competing season”, or “from the previous season” indicate that a team carries any restrictions with them, whether it is the next season or several seasons later. A team cannot circumvent the rule by “lying out” of USA Softball of Indiana Championship play.

Note #2: For Adult Men’s and Women’s Slow Pitch ONLY : After the USA Softball of Indiana State Championships are completed, Men’s and Women’s Slow Pitch teams may enter the National Tournament in the same class of the State Tournament in which they competed. Players must adhere to their national and state classification. USA Softball of Indiana players requesting reclassification must go to the USA SOFTBALL national website www.teamusa.org and complete a reclassification request online. Reclassification requests are due by March 1 of each season. To check your national classification go to www.teamusa.org For advancement purposes, the USA Softball of Indiana State Commissioner shall notify each State Tournament Director of the number of teams that may advance to national tournament play. Teams must indicate the tournament to which they wish to advance **as soon as possible upon their team/s completion of State Tournament play.**

A. **Adult Slow Pitch.**

1. **Women’s Open.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Women’s Open Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- c. Any team that plays in the National Championship Finals Tournament must remain at their classification their next competing season except:
 - i. Any team that compiles a 0-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Class A for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
- d. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team’s record.

2. **Men’s Class A.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. Teams may pick up Three (3) players from the USA SOFTBALL Restricted Player’s List.
- c. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- d. Any team that plays in the National Championship Finals Tournament must remain at this classification their next competing season except:
 - i. Any team that compiles a 0-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Class B for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
- e. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team’s record.

3. **Men's Class B.**

- a. This State Tournament shall be an invitational tournament, open to any Men's Slow Pitch team below Class A that would like to enter.
- b. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- c. Teams may add Three (3) A classified players and no players from Class A+ or the USA SOFTBALL Restricted Player's List.
- d. All other teams must remain in this classification or advance to a higher classification their next competing season, except:
 - i. Any team that compiles a 0-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Class C for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
- e. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.

4. **Men's Class C.**

- a. This State Tournament shall be an invitational tournament, open to any Men's Slow Pitch team below Class B that would like to enter.
- b. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- c. Teams may add Three (3) B classified players and no players from Class A, Class B+ or the USA SOFTBALL Restricted Player's List.
- d. Players must advance to a higher classification if they meet the following criteria:
 - i. Any player that is on a state championship team in Two (2) consecutive competing seasons must advance to a higher classification their next competing season. A player competes on a team when they are signed in on the state sign-in form at the state tournament. (This rule takes effect starting with the 2014 State Tournament)
- e. All other teams must remain in this classification or advance to a higher classification their next competing season, except:
 - i. Any team that compiles a 0-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Class D for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
- f. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.
- g. Any team that earns a berth to a National Tournament and does not participate in the USA Softball of Indiana State Tournament series the same year must advance to Class B for the next competing season.

5. **Men's Class D.**

- a. The Men's Slow Pitch Class D State Tournament shall consist of a **North** State Championship and a **South** State Championship
- b. These tournaments are Invitational Tournaments, and teams may participate in either or both the North or the South State Championship, regardless of their location.
- c. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- d. **Any player participating in an Indiana State Championship must live in Indiana or a contiguous state. They must have a valid ID from Indiana or a contiguous state.**
- e. Teams may add Three (3) C classified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C+ or the USA SOFTBALL Restricted Player's List.
- f. Any team that enters a Class D or E National tournament that does not participate in the USA Softball of Indiana State tournament must play Class C in the next competing season.
- g. Players must advance to a higher classification if their team meets the following

criteria:

- i. Any player that is on a D State Championship team in Two (2) consecutive competing seasons must advance to a C classification their next competing season. Players participating on one D State Championship team will be classified as D+ in their next competing season. (This rule takes effect starting with the results of the 2017 State Tournaments.)
- ii. If a team wins both the North and South D State Championships in the same year, all players must advance to a C classification and any players that are already classified as C will be classified as C+ in their next competing season. (This rule takes effect starting with the results of the 2017 State Tournaments.)
- h. All other teams must remain in this classification or advance to a higher classification their next competing season, except:
 - i. Any team that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Class E for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
 - i. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.

6. **Women's**

- a. This State Tournament shall be an invitational tournament, open to any Women's Slow Pitch team Class D or below that would like to enter.
- b. **Any player participating in an Indiana State Championship must live in Indiana or a contiguous state. They must have a valid ID from Indiana or a contiguous state.**
- c. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification. d. Teams may add Three (3) C classified players and no Open classified players.

7. **Men's Class E.**

- a. The Men's Slow Pitch Class E State Tournament shall consist of a **North** State Championship and a **South** State Championship.
- b. These tournaments are Invitational Tournaments, and teams may participate in either or both the North or the South State Championship, regardless of their location.
- c. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- d. **Any player participating in an Indiana State Championship must live in Indiana or a contiguous state. They must have a valid ID from Indiana or a contiguous state.**
- e. Teams may add Three (3) D classified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D+ or the USA SOFTBALL Restricted Player's List.
- f. Any team that enters an E National tournament that does not participate in the USA Softball of Indiana State tournament must play Class D in the next competing season.
- g. Players must advance to a higher classification if their team meets the following criteria: A team's highest finish in either the North or South State Championship will determine their classification as described below.
 - i. If the tournament has 1-8 teams, the winning team must advance to Class D the next competing season.
 - ii. If the tournament has 9-16 teams, the top two (2) teams must advance to Class D the next competing season.
 - iii. If the tournament has 17-24 teams, the top three (3) teams must advance to Class D the next competing season.
 - iv. If the tournament has 25 or more teams, the top four (4) teams must advance to Class D the next competing season
- h. All other teams must remain in this classification or advance to a higher classification their next competing season.

- i. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.
8. **Men's 16-Inch Major.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's 16-Inch Major Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
9. **Men's 16-Inch Class A.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's 16-Inch Class A Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
10. **Men's Church Open.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Church Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. Any team with Men's Slow Pitch players classified Class A, Class B or Class C must compete in this classification / tournament.
 - c. Any team that participates in the Men's Church Novice (D/E) State Tournament may also compete at this level.
 - d. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
 - e. Any team that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Men's Church Novice (D/E) for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
 - f. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.
11. **Men's Church Novice (D/E).**
- a. This State Tournament shall be an invitational tournament, open to any team below the Men's Slow Pitch Church Open class that would like to enter.
 - b. No Men's Class A, Class B or Class C Slow Pitch players may participate in this tournament. c. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification. d. No teams shall advance to a National Tournament from this classification.
 - e. Any team that wins this State Tournament in two consecutive competing seasons must move up to Men's Church Open the next competing season.
12. **Men's Industrial Open.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Industrial Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. Any team with Men's Slow Pitch players classified Class A, Class B or Class C must compete in this classification / tournament.
 - c. Any team that participates in the Men's Industrial Novice (D/E) State Tournament may also compete at this level.
 - d. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
 - e. Any team that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Men's Industrial Novice (D/E) for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
 - f. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.
13. **Men's Industrial Novice (D/E).**
- a. This State Tournament shall be an invitational tournament, open to any team below the Men's Industrial Open class that would like to enter.
 - b. No Men's Class A, Class B or Class C Slow Pitch players may participate in this tournament. c. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification. d. No teams shall advance to a National Tournament from this classification.
 - e. Any team that wins this State Tournament in two consecutive competing seasons must move up to Men's Industrial Open the next competing season.

14. **Coed Open.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Coed Open Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. Any team with Slow Pitch players classified Class A or Class B must compete in this classification / tournament.
- c. Any team that participates in the Coed Novice (D/E) State Tournament may also compete at this level.
- d. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- e. Teams may add any female classified player and Two (2) male players from the USA SOFTBALL Restricted Player's List.
- f. Any team that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Coed Class C for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
- g. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.

15. **Coed Class C.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Coed Class C Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. Any team with Slow Pitch players classified Class C must compete in this classification / tournament.
- c. Any team that participates in the Coed Novice (D/E) State Tournament may also compete at this level.
- d. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- e. Teams may add Two (2) Open Classified Female players and no male players from Class A, Class B or the Restricted Player's List.
- f. Any team that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Coed Class D for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
- g. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.

16. **Coed Class D.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Coed Class D Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. Any team with Slow Pitch players classified Class D must compete in this classification / tournament.
- c. Any team that participates in the Coed Novice (D/E) State Tournament may also compete at this level.
- d. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- e. Teams may add Two (2) female C classified players and Two (2) male C classified players. No Open classified female players or male players from Class A, Class B, or the USA SOFTBALL Restricted Player's List.
- f. Any team that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Coed Novice (D/E) for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
- g. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.

17. **Coed Novice (D/E).**

- a. This State Tournament shall be an invitational tournament, open to any team below the Coed Open class that would like to enter.

- b. No Class A, Class B or Class C Slow Pitch players may participate in this tournament.
 - c. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
 - d. Any player participating in an Indiana State Championship must live in Indiana or a contiguous state. They must have a valid ID from Indiana or a contiguous state.
 - e. No teams shall advance to a National Tournament from this classification.
 - f. Any team that wins this State Tournament in two consecutive competing seasons, or wins both the North and South Coed States in the same season, it's players must move up to Class C in the USA Softball of Indiana state or national tournament program the next competing season.
18. **Men's Masters 35-Over Open.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Masters 35-Over Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose thirty-fifth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.
 - c. Any team with Men's Slow Pitch players classified Class A, Class B or Class C must compete in this classification/tournament.
 - d. Any team that participates in the Men's Masters 35-Over Novice (D/E) State Tournament may also compete at this level.
 - e. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
 - f. Any team that compiles an 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play is eligible to drop to Men's Masters 35-Over Novice (D/E) for their next competing season with the permission of their District Commissioner and Region Vice-President, pending the approval of the State Reclassification Committee.
 - g. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.
19. **Men's Masters 35-Over (D/E).**
- a. This State Tournament shall be an invitational tournament, open to any team with players Class D and below that would like to enter.
 - b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose thirty-fifth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.
 - c. Teams may add Three (3) C classified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C+ or the USA SOFTBALL Restricted Player's List
 - d. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
20. **Men's Masters 40-Over.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Masters 40-Over Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose fortieth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.
21. **Men's Masters 45-Over.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Masters 45-Over Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose forty-fifth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.
22. **Men's Seniors 50-Over.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Seniors 50-Over Slow Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose fiftieth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.
- B. **Adult Fast Pitch.**
- 1. **Men's Major.**
 - a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
 - c. All pitchers shall remain in this classification their next competing season, except:

- i. Any pitcher that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play may apply to the Adult Fast Pitch Player Reclassification Committee to drop to Class A for their next competing season.
 - d. All Men's Fast Pitch players and/or teams are eligible to participate in the Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship and retain their eligibility for their original classification in Championship play.
 - e. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.
2. **Women's Major.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Women's Major Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
3. **Men's Class A.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Class A Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
 - c. All pitchers shall remain in this classification their next competing season, except:
 - i. Any pitcher that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play may apply to the Adult Fast Pitch Player Reclassification Committee to drop to Class B for their next competing season.
 - d. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.
4. **Women's Class A.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Women's Class A Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
5. **Men's Class B.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Class B Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
 - c. All pitchers shall remain in this classification their next competing season, except:
 - i. Any pitcher that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play may apply to the Adult Fast Pitch Player Reclassification Committee to drop to Class C for their next competing season.
 - d. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.
6. **Women's Class B.**
- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Women's Class B Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - b. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
7. **Men's Class C.**
- a. This state tournament is an invitational tournament open to Men's Fast Pitch teams classified C or lower.
 - b. If this tournament has less than 7 teams, games will not start on Friday night.
 - c. This tournament shall be used to determine the teams that shall represent USA Softball of Indiana in the Men's Fast Pitch Class C National Championship Finals Tournament.
 - d. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
 - e. All pitchers shall remain in this classification their next competing season, except:
 - i. Any pitcher that compiles a 0-2 or 1-2 record at their first level of championship play may apply to the Adult Fast Pitch Player Reclassification Committee to drop to Class D for their next competing season.
 - f. Forfeit wins and losses do not count in a team's record.

8. **Men's Class D.**

- a. This State Tournament shall be an invitational tournament, open to any Adult Fast Pitch team whose pitchers are Class D or below.
 1. Women 18 years of age and older are eligible to participate in this state tournament.
- b. Teams who enter this tournament may also enter the Men's Class C tournament provided:
 - i. Register with USA Softball of Indiana in both classifications.
 - ii. Use the identical roster in each tournament.
 - iii. Female players ineligible to participate in the Men's Class C State Tournament.
- c. Any team classified by the USA SOFTBALL National Code must abide by that classification.
- d. Any team, all players included, that wins this tournament shall advance to Class C their next competing season.

Note: Female players do not move up to Class C.
- e. If this tournament has less than 7 teams, games will not start on Friday night.

9. **Men's Masters 40-Over.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Masters 40-Over Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose fortieth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.

10. **Men's Masters 45-Over.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Masters 45-Over Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose forty-fifth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.

11. **Men's Seniors 50-Over.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's Seniors 50-Over Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose fiftieth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.

12. **Men's 23-Under.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose twenty-fourth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.

13. **Women's 23-Under.**

- a. Teams competing at this level may advance directly to the Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch National Championship Finals Tournament.
- b. The age deadline is December 31st of the current year. Any player whose twenty-fourth birthday is on or before December 31st is eligible.

C. **Junior Olympic Slow Pitch.**

1. All Junior Olympic Slow Pitch State Tournaments are invitational tournaments open to any registered USA Softball of Indiana Junior Olympic team that meets the age qualifications. Annually State Tournaments shall be offered in the following divisions/classifications of championship play:
 - a. Girl's 18-Under
 - b. Girl's 16-Under
 - c. Girl's 14-Under
 - d. Girl's 12-Under
 - e. Girl's 10-Under

D. **Junior Olympic Fast Pitch.**

1. All Junior Olympic Fast Pitch State Tournaments are invitational tournaments open to any registered USA Softball of Indiana Junior Olympic team that meets the age qualifications. Annually tournaments are offered in the following divisions/classifications of championship play:
 - a. **Gold.**

- i. This Junior Olympic classification pertains to Girl's Fast Pitch 18-Under and 16-Under only. Any team or player, who participates in this classification, may not participate in any other level of Junior Olympic championship play.
 - ii. All Junior Olympic Gold teams must register as individuals, with a minimum of **two adults** individually registered per team.
- b. **Class A.**
- i. Annually State Tournaments shall be offered in the following divisions/classifications of championship play:

- (01). Girls' 18-Under
 - (02). Girls' 16-Under
 - (03). Girls' 14-Under
 - (04). Girls' 12-Under
 - (05). Girls' 10-Under
- ii. Teams who compete in USA SOFTBALL National Qualifiers must play Class A or Class B.
 - iii. Players who compete with Class A teams may also compete with Class C teams.
 - iv. Teams participating in USA Softball of Indiana State Tournaments where the entire league is not registered with USA Softball of Indiana must play Class A.
 - v. All Junior Olympic Class A teams must register as individuals, with a minimum of one adult individually registered per team.
 - vi. The Junior Olympic State Commissioner, whose decision shall be final, shall address any exceptions.
- c. **Class B.**
- i. Annually, if interest, State Tournaments are offered in the following divisions/classifications of championship play:
 - (01). Girls' 18-Under
 - (02). Girls' 16-Under
 - (03). Girls' 14-Under
 - (04). Girls' 12-Under
 - (05). Girls' 10-Under
 - ii. Teams who compete in USA SOFTBALL National Qualifiers must play Class A or Class B.
 - iii. Players who compete with Class B teams may also compete with Class C teams.
 - iv. All players shall reside in contiguous counties.
 - v. A high school team comprised completely of players from the **same** high school, may play Class B, as long as, all players have high school eligibility remaining.
 - vi. Class B teams competing in the USA Softball of Indiana State Tournament may also compete in Class C, so long as the tournament is not at the same tournament site.
- d. **Class C.**
- i. Annually, if interest, tournaments are offered in the following divisions/classifications of play:
 - (01). Girls' 14-under
 - (02). Girls' 12-Under
 - (03). Girls' 10-Under
 - ii. Class C teams shall not compete in USA SOFTBALL National Qualifiers
 - iii. Teams shall be sponsored by their local (city, town, township) league. They may be a league all-star team. All players must play in the same local league.
 - iv. Players and/or teams playing in leagues in USA Softball of Indiana jurisdiction are eligible to compete in USA Softball of Indiana Class C tournaments.
 - v. Class C teams competing in the USA Softball of Indiana State Tournament may also compete in Class A or Class B, so long as the tournament is not at the same tournament site.

Article VIII. Classification of Players for Championship Play. The final decision on requiring a team or players to compete in a higher classification rests with the District Commissioner, with the approval of the Region Vice-President, Fast or Slow Pitch Classification Committee, Junior Olympic State Commissioner, and/or State Commissioner.

Note: All references in this article to “consecutive competing season,” “next competing season”, or “from the previous season” indicate that a team carries any restrictions with them, whether it is the next season or several seasons later. A team cannot circumvent the rule by not participating in USA Softball of Indiana Championship play.

- A. The classification of all players is determined by:
1. Their last participation in an USA Softball of Indiana Championship Tournament (this participation also includes having their signature affixed to their team's USA SOFTBALL Tournament Sign-in Form, even if they do not participate in the tournament).
 2. The performance of that team during USA Softball of Indiana Championship Play, according to the classification and advancement rules.
 3. The performance of that team during USA SOFTBALL National Championship play, according to the classification and advancement rules of USA SOFTBALL.
- B. In Adult Fast Pitch, only pitchers shall be classified. Then, each team shall participate in the classification of their highest-classified pitcher.
- C. An Adult Fast Pitch pitcher may compete in a lower classification than their classification as a pitcher, but **are not eligible to pitch** in the lower classification. The Official Championship Roster shall contain a notation that this player is **not legal to pitch in this classification under any circumstances, based upon USA Softball of Indiana classification rules.**
- D. Any player that does not participate in USA Softball of Indiana competition for a period of two (2) years may return at no lower than one classification below their previous classification, with the approval of their District Commissioner, Region Vice-President and Slow Pitch Classification Committee. Reclassification must be completed by the Annual Spring Commissioner's Meeting to be held **March 4, 2021**.
- E. Any player that does not participate in USA Softball of Indiana competition for a period of four (4) years may return any classification, with the approval of their District Commissioner, Region Vice-President and Slow Pitch Classification Committee. Reclassification must be completed by the Annual Spring Commissioner's Meeting. (Typically held in March)
- F. Any time player's change teams from one year to the next, the players shall compete at the same or higher classification as described above. This may mean that the team will have to compete in a higher classification because of the classification restrictions of one or more players.
- G. Players participating in more than one division of USA Softball of Indiana play shall retain their original classification in their first division of play. The District Commissioner shall then classify each player when the player crosses over to another division; fast pitch, slow pitch, industrial, church, 16-inch, coed, and/or masters play.
- H. A Fast Pitch Classification Committee, appointed by the President of the Executive Board, shall meet at the Executive Board meetings in the spring and winter of each year. At the winter meeting, the committee shall review results from the previous season, including all team and individual accomplishments. The committee shall then classify all pitchers. These pitchers shall then be required to compete in the assigned classification (or higher) in the following season.
1. Should a player decide that he/she would like to pitch, or if a pitcher wishes to be considered for a lower classification, the player may apply for reclassification at either the spring or winter meeting.
 2. Should a player decide after the spring meeting that he/she would like to pitch, or if a pitcher wishes to be considered for a lower classification, the Chair of the Fast Pitch Reclassification Committee shall have the option to poll all committee members by telephone or email and render a decision on the player's classification.
- I. In addition to the provisions cited above, any Slow Pitch player may apply for reclassification, meaning permission to compete in a lower classification, by following the steps outlined below.
1. Players interested in applying for re-classification should immediately check the ASA National website www.teamusa.org to find the appropriate player re-classification online process to

complete by March 1, 2021. When accessing the national website, click on the 3 horizontal bars at the top left of the page and then click on the Adult/Slow Pitch Player Info link on the drop down menu. Then click on Players or Teams and follow instructions from there. All re-class requests will be submitted to the USA Softball of Indiana Reclassification Committee and will be acted upon no later than March 9 at the USA Softball of Indiana Spring Meeting. The National Classification Committee will make the final decision on requests after the Indiana Committee forwards its recommendation to the National Player Classification Committee. Players/Teams will be notified sometime after the March 9 meeting concludes. No reclassification requests will be honored after the March 1 deadline.

2. A player non-USA SOFTBALL commissioned representative may attend the USA Softball of Indiana annual spring meeting to present their request to the USA Softball of Indiana State Slow Pitch Reclassification Committee. The USA Softball of Indiana State Slow Pitch Reclassification Committee shall review these recommendations and make the final decision on the request for reclassification.
3. The USA Softball of Indiana Reclassification Committees shall review all reclassification results for teams and/or players at the annual spring meeting. No reclassification shall be final until approved by the appropriate committee.
4. A Slow Pitch player is eligible to drop more than one classification in a given year only under the following conditions:
 - a. The reclassification process must be followed completely.
 - b. Extreme cases, such as debilitating injury or illness, make such a move necessary.
5. If a Slow Pitch player or team is approved for reclassification, no players on the team may apply again for reclassification (*for the purpose of dropping **another** class*) for a period of two (2) years. Example: If a **team** is approved for reclassification to Class C in 2019, no **player** from that team may individually apply for reclassification to Class D until the 2021 season.
6. No official of USA Softball of Indiana, from the State Commissioner through District Commissioner, has the authority to reclassify an individual player on his/her own.
 - a. The District Commissioner has both the right and the obligation to determine and recommend whether a team should be allowed to drop in classification, only if they are eligible under guidelines herein. Note that this may also require the approval of the Region Vice- President and will require the approval of the Slow Pitch Reclassification Committee.
 - b. The District Commissioner also has the right and the obligation to move a team up in classification, should the District Commissioner feel this is their correct classification.
- J. The classification of all pick-up players shall be determined by the performance of their original team, not the performance of the team that picks them up as they advance in the tournament series.
- K. Any player who violates the provisions of this article and illegally participates in a lower classification shall be subject to disqualification as outlined in the USA SOFTBALL Code competition procedures.

L. Player Releases

Adult/Youth Player Release option is for a player that has been released from a team prior to the Local Association (State) Championship Roster deadline and has written approval from the Coach and Player/Parent Guardian (if player is under 18 years of age). If the Coach and Player/Parent Guardian are one and the same, there needs to be an additional signature. All signatures must be on a Player Release Form and approved by the State Commissioner or State JO Commissioner in the case of a Youth Team to be valid. Forms are available at www.usasoftballindiana.org

Article IX. Championship Rosters.

- A. **Roster Deadlines:** The **Official Championship Roster** must be completed online on

Tournament USA Softball www.tournamentusasoftball.com and submitted to your District Commissioner for inspection **and his/her signature**. **Exception: JO rosters are exempt from being placed online at www.tournamentusasoftball.com**

1. Any team that submits an entry fee certified check or cashier's check and is drawn into an USA Softball of Indiana State Tournament bracket shall not, under any circumstances, receive a refund or be dropped from the tournament bracket.
2. **Junior Olympic:** Official **Tournament Entry Forms** and **Entry Fee** certified check, cashier's check, cash or money order must be in the hands of the Tournament Director by the annually established deadline.

Rosters, birth certificates, photo ID's, and proof of insurance are to be presented at the tournament site at least one hour prior to the teams' first scheduled game.

3. All Adult division or level of play where a team may advance directly to a National Championship Tournament the **Official USA Softball of Indiana Championship Tournament Entry Form** completely filled out and signed, the **USA SOFTBALL Official Waiver & Release of Liability & Indemnification Form/USA SOFTBALL Official National Championship Roster** both sides completely filled out, initialed and signed, and the **Entry Fee** certified check, cashiers check, cash or money order must be submitted to the District Commissioner for his/her signature, then forwarded to the State Commissioner for his/her signature, then be in the hands of the Tournament Director before the published deadline.
4. The **Official USA Softball of Indiana Championship Tournament Entry Form** completed online on Tournament USA Softball (www.tournamentusasoftball.com) and the **Entry Fee** certified check, cashiers check, cash or money order or PayPal payment must be submitted to the local District Commissioner for his/her signature, then be forwarded to Tournament Director so that it is in his/her hands **by Wednesday at 5pm** before the scheduled start of the tournament. All participants will be required report **en mass** to the check-in table at least thirty (30) minutes before their first scheduled starting time to show photo identification and sign-in on the **USA SOFTBALL Official Championship Tournament Sign-in Form**.
5. The State Commissioner and/or District Commissioners may make common sense rulings in case of mailing problems that are beyond the control of the _____ teams.

B. Eligibility of Players.

1. All players must meet all classification requirements listed in the By-Laws.
2. All players must meet all eligibility requirements listed in the Amateur Softball Association Code (i.e., Church and Industrial team requirements; residency requirements, affidavit requirements for Major players; age requirements).
3. If a player's eligibility is in doubt, their name may be listed on the roster anyway. Then, if they are found to be ineligible for play, their name should be removed before championship play begins for that division.
4. For USA Softball of Indiana Novice tournaments, a player's classification is determined by his classification as of April 1st of the current year.

C. Roster Limits.

1. **Slow Pitch Divisions.**
 - a. No more than twenty (20) players may be listed on a championship roster.
 - b. A maximum of three (3) pick-up players may be enlisted, with these restrictions:
 - i. They must have played for an USA SOFTBALL registered team during the current season.
 - ii. They may be picked up at any level of advancement.
 - iii. They may be added to the team as a pick-up player, if there are open spots, or substituted for players already on the roster.

- iv. They must be listed on an Official Pick-Up Player Form, which is then attached to the roster.
- v. The player's name must be on the form before the tournament starts.
- vi. The player must sign the form before they participate.
- vii. All pick-up players may return to their original team and/or classification for their next competing season.

Note: Refer to the article titled "Pick-Up Players" in the USA SOFTBALL Code for more complete information.

2. **Fast Pitch Divisions.**

- a. No more than twenty (20) players may be listed on a championship roster.
- b. A maximum of three (3) pick-up players may be enlisted, with these restrictions:
 - i. They must have played for an USA SOFTBALL registered team during the current season in the division for which they are being picked up. (**Exception:** Men's and Women's Major Fast Pitch teams may pick up from the region, not just the State).
 - ii. They may be picked up at any level of advancement.
 - iii. They may be added to the team as a pick-up player, if there are open spots, or substituted for players already on the roster.
 - iv. They must be listed on an Official Pick-Up Player Form, which is then attached to the roster.
 - v. The player's name must be on the form before the tournament starts.
 - vi. The player's parent or guardian must sign the form before they participate.
 - vii. All pick-up players may return to their original team and/or classification for their next competing season.

Note: Refer to the article titled "Pick-Up Players" in the USA SOFTBALL Code for more complete information.

D. **Divisions of Play** - Players may compete in all different divisions of play, but may only compete in one classification in each division. **Exceptions:** (1) Masters Divisions; a player may participate in as many age classifications for which he/she is eligible. (2) Slow Pitch Novice Divisions; a player may also participate in the Open tournament of that division.

- 1. These divisions are:
 - a. Men's and Women's Fast Pitch
 - b. Men's and Women's Slow Pitch
 - c. Men's Church Slow Pitch
 - d. Men's Industrial Slow Pitch
 - e. Men's 16-Inch Slow Pitch
 - f. Men's and Women's Masters Slow Pitch
 - g. Men's Masters Fast Pitch
 - h. Coed Slow Pitch
 - i. Modified Pitch
- 2. Players who wish to participate in more than one division of USA SOFTBALL Championship play shall have the responsibility, in conjunction with the team managers of the teams on which such players wish to participate, to select the various divisions of play in accordance with the dates of the tournaments. The State Tournament dates shall be set so as to enable players to participate in as many divisions as possible.
- 3. All Official Championship Rosters shall be forwarded to the State Commissioner. The State Commissioner shall have these rosters entered into a computer database for the purpose of generating a list of players who participated in each classification.

E. **Competing Organizations** - Teams may compete in another organization's tournament series as long as they fulfill all their obligations to the USA SOFTBALL tournaments. Failure to fulfill these obligations could result in a one- year suspension from USA SOFTBALL participation.

Article X. Championship Tournament Play.

- A. **Bid Procedures** - For Championship Tournaments, only bids submitted as outlined by USA Softball of Indiana shall be considered. No changes to tournament format that would affect the bidding organization, not including the dates of the tournament, can be made after the tournaments are awarded without the permission of the bidding organization.
- B. **Awarding Tournaments** - The Executive Board, per the USA Softball of Indiana By-Laws, shall award all USA Softball of Indiana State Tournaments at the Spring Commissioner's meeting each year. Tournaments will be awarded for the following calendar year. The following procedures shall be followed:
1. A preset bid is determined and advertised to bidding organizations.
 2. A sealed USA Softball of Indiana bid form, containing **all** necessary information, must be completed either mailed or hand delivered to the State Commissioner by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, on the due date indicated on bid forms.
 3. All tournament bids shall be in the hands of the State Commissioner within seven (7) days of the completion of the tournament.
 4. Bids may be withdrawn prior to the final vote on tournament bids.
 5. Bid fees shall be:
 - a. **Adult.**
 - i. Fast Pitch - \$ 80 per team – includes \$15 team tournament sanction fee
 - ii. Slow Pitch- \$ 80 per team – includes \$15 team tournament sanction fee
 - iii. 16-inch Slow Pitch - \$ 60 per team
 - iv. Tournament USA fee - \$ 10 per team
 - b. **Junior Olympic.**
 - i. Fast Pitch, Class A - \$ 25 per team
 - ii. Fast Pitch, Class B - \$ 25 per team
 - iii. Fast Pitch, Class C - \$ 25 per team
 - iv. Slow Pitch - \$ 25 per team
 - v. Coach Pitch - \$ 25 per team
 - c. **Junior Olympic Regional's and National Qualifiers** (including those only open to Indiana teams).
 - i. Fast Pitch - \$ 25 per team
 7. Bids shall be reviewed and tournaments awarded with the following considerations:
 - a. The State Commissioner and the Tournament Organizing Committee shall initially review all bids for acceptance.
 - b. All bidding organizations shall be allowed to make a brief presentation to the Tournament Awards Committee about their site and/or organization before bids are reviewed.
 - c. The Executive Board shall meet in executive (closed) session. The Executive Board shall review past season's tournament reports as they relate to bidding associations/sites. The Executive Board shall consider:
 - i. The number, proximity, and condition of lighted playing facilities meeting USA SOFTBALL standards for the level of play (i.e. lighting standards, fence distance, pitching and base distance, turf/infield quality, availability of water, etc.).
 - ii. The location shall be easily accessible with an abundance of parking, clean hotels, and quality restaurants.
 - iii. The local staff shall be competent, courteous, and available for the entire tournament. Including tournament staff, umpires, scorekeepers, groundskeepers, and ball chasers.
 - iv. The bidding association shall support USA Softball of Indiana by registering all local

teams, umpires, and tournaments with USA Softball of Indiana.

- v. The bidding associations/sites ability to supply:
 - (01). Softballs, which are USA SOFTBALL, approved for this level of play.
 - (02). USA SOFTBALL approved lineup cards.
 - (03). Public address system for all fields, for all games.
 - (04). Scoreboards (and qualified operators) for all fields, for all games.
 - (05). Restroom facilities, which are hygienic and close to the playing fields.
 - (06). A concession stand close to the playing fields.
 - (07). Tournament souvenirs available for purchase and/or order.
 - (08). A proper tournament awards package (as outlined later in this article).

- 8. The State Commissioner shall have the final authority to accept or reject any or all tournaments awarded by the Tournament Awards Committee.
- 9. The State Commissioner shall have the authority to award tournament(s) prior to the Tournament Awards Committee meeting if all standards are met and he/she believes this to be in the best interest of the USA Softball of Indiana program.

D. Bidding organization Requirements

- 1. Lighted playing facilities that meet USA SOFTBALL standards for the level of play.
- 2. Facilities meeting USA SOFTBALL standards for the level of play including fence distance, pitching and base distance.
- 3. Qualified and competent scorekeepers for all fields, for all games.
- 4. Professional groundskeepers on-site to rake and/or drag, water and re-line after:
 - a. Fast Pitch – every game.
 - b. Slow Pitch – every three (3) games.
- 5. Softballs, USA SOFTBALL approved, for the appropriate level of play.
- 6. USA SOFTBALL approved lineup cards.
- 7. Use Tournament USA Softball www.tournamentusasoftball.com to register teams for the state tournament and use Tournament USA Softball features to manage the event.

E. Bidding Organization Recommendations

- 1. The location should be easily accessible with an abundance of parking, clean hotels, and quality restaurants.
- 2. Public address system for all fields, for all games.
- 3. Restroom facilities, which are hygienic and close to the playing fields.
- 4. A concession stand close to the playing fields.
- 5. Support staff.
- 6. Local media coverage (i.e. website, newspaper, radio, television, etc.).
- 7. The ability to cooperate with various other media throughout the state when their teams are involved in your tournaments.

F. Tournament Awards Packages.

- 1. **Adult.**
 - a. **Minimum** tournament awards packages shall meet the following criteria:
 - i. Two (2) to seven (7) teams entered – 1st place sponsor and individual awards; 2nd place sponsor award.
 - ii. Eight (8) to twelve (15) teams entered – 1st place sponsor and individual awards; 2nd place sponsor award and individual awards.
 - iii. Sixteen (16) or more teams – 1st place sponsor and individual awards; 2nd place sponsor award and individual awards; and 3rd place sponsor award.
 - b. A minimum cash award, in lieu of the listed awards, may be substituted to the first and second place teams. The amount shall be equal to their entry fee paid.
 - c. The State Commissioner may substitute or supplement additional awards based on sponsorship

packages.

2. **Junior Olympic.**

- a. **Minimum** tournament awards packages shall meet the following criteria:
 - i. Two (2) to twelve (12) teams entered – 1st place sponsor and individual awards; 2nd place sponsor award and individual awards.
 - ii. Thirteen (13) or more teams – 1st place sponsor and individual awards; 2nd place sponsor award and individual awards; and 3rd place sponsor award.

G. **Tournament Scheduling Considerations.**

1. The **Official USA Softball of Indiana Championship Tournament Entry Form completed online on Tournament USA Softball (www.tournamentusasoftball.com)** and the **Entry Fee** certified check, cashier check, cash, money order or PayPal payment must be submitted per instructions on Tournament USA Softball **by Wednesday at 5pm** before the scheduled start of the tournament. All participants will be required report **en mass** to the check-in table at least thirty (30) minutes before their first scheduled starting time to show photo identification and sign-in on the **USA SOFTBALL Official Championship Tournament Sign-in Form**.
2. **Bracket.** The USA SOFTBALL Official Double Elimination Bracket or the USA SOFTBALL Official Three (3) Game Guarantee Bracket shall be used in all USA Softball of Indiana Championship Play. All game time and field assignments are to be listed on the official bracket prior to the tournament draw.

3. **Filling the Bracket.**

- a. The region with the most teams shall be placed first, the region with the second most teams shall be placed second, etc. In case of ties between regions, the lowest region number shall be placed first.
- b. Teams shall be placed in the bracket as seeded by their Region Vice-President.
- c. Any of the top four (4) teams returning from the previous year's tournament shall be placed in opposite quads of the bracket.

4. **Bracket Protection.**

- a. Teams entered from the same region shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in the first two rounds.
- b. Host team(s) shall be placed in opposite halves of the bracket and must play the first day, first round of the tournament.
- c. For the purpose of bracket protection, the first round of a tournament is completed when each team has won or lost a game.

5. **Review.**

- a. **Adult.** All Adult Championship Tournament Play Brackets must be approved by the State Commissioner or his/her designee before being distributed to the teams entered.
- b. **Junior Olympic.** All Junior Olympic Championship Tournament Play Brackets must be approved by the Junior Olympic State Commissioner or his/her designee before being distributed to the teams entered.

6. **Bracket Distribution** – The tournament Director shall distribute to the State Commissioner, the State Umpire-in-Chief, the Region Umpire-in-Chief, the assigned USA SOFTBALL Rep and Umpire-in-Chief, and to the managers listed on the rosters for all entered teams, **no later than the Thursday before the starting day of the tournament.** (This communication may take place using

any form of media best suited to getting information out as expeditiously as possible.)

- a. A completed bracket with all game match-ups (including team name and city), game times, and field assignments.
- b. Tournament playing rules and local rules (*if any*).
- c. A detailed map of the community, including directions to the playing fields, location of area hotels, hospitals and med-centers, sporting goods stores, shopping malls, and restaurants.

- d. Complete information concerning advancement to the next level of competition.
- 7. **Adult Game Scheduling Criteria** - Games scheduled Monday through Friday, (Except: Memorial

and Labor Day) shall not be scheduled to begin before 6 p.m. Eastern Time.

8. **Church Slow Pitch Scheduling Criteria** - All Church Slow Pitch tournaments shall not schedule games before noon on Sunday.
 9. **Junior Olympic Game Scheduling Criteria**
 - a. Games may begin as early as 9 a.m. on Friday with the approval of the State Commissioner, the Junior Olympic State Commissioner, and the State Umpire-in-Chief.
 - b. Monday immediately following a tournament may be used as a rain date.
- H. **Tournament Gate Admission and Parking Charges.**
1. No tournament shall charge for both gate admission and parking.
 2. Parking charges **shall not exceed \$7 per vehicle, per day or \$15 per vehicle, per weekend.**
 3. Gate admission **shall not exceed \$7 per person, per day or \$15 per person, per weekend.** Children under twelve years of age shall be admitted free when accompanied by an admission-paying adult.
 4. Rostered players in adult and JO play, **and up to three adults (manager/coach combination) per team in JO play, shall not be charged** admission.
- I. **Tournament Entry Fees.** The State Commissioner may adjust fees, as necessary, to incorporate any internet, web-based or other service fees.
1. **Adult.**
 - a. Fast Pitch
 - i. Men's Open "Invitational" - \$450, four-game guarantee format.
 - ii. Men's Class C State - \$410, three-game guarantee format.
 - iii. Men's Class D State - \$410, three-game guarantee format.
 - b. Slow Pitch - **\$380**, double-elimination format.
 2. **Junior Olympic.**
 - a. Fast Pitch, Class A - \$450, four-game guarantee format
 - b. Fast Pitch, Class B - \$450, four-game guarantee format
 - c. Fast Pitch, Class C - \$350, double-elimination format
 - d. Slow Pitch - \$300, three-game guarantee format
 - e. Coach Pitch - \$300, three-game guarantee format
- J. **Tournament Umpires.** The State Umpire-in-Chief or his/her staff shall assign umpires to work all USA SOFTBALL Championship Tournament series events. Input from the District Commissioner and/or the District Umpire-in-Chief is a prime source of information and is solicited.
1. For an umpire to be selected by the State Umpire-in-Chief or his/her staff to work USA SOFTBALL Championship Tournament series events, the umpire shall meet "championship" standards as hereafter defined:
 - a. Register as an USA SOFTBALL umpire in the State of Indiana **and**
 - b. Attend a State "Comprehensive" or National Umpire School in the year or previous two (2) years of the tournament **and**
 - c. **If** said school requirement has been met within prior two (2) years, umpire must attend an approved USA Softball of Indiana Rules Clinic in the year of the tournament **and**
 - d. Submit a completed USA SOFTBALL Umpire test answer sheet to the State Umpire-in-Chief prior to the tournament.
 2. Two (2) USA Softball of Indiana registered – "championship" umpires shall be assigned for each tournament game. The tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall hold a pre-tournament meeting with all tournament umpires, where he/she shall explain tournament rules, park ground rules, and explain

tournament game schedules for each umpire. In the absence of a tournament Umpire-in-Chief the tournament umpires shall report to the USA SOFTBALL Representative.

Minimum game fees, per umpire **effective January 1, 2020** shall be:

- a. Adult Fast Pitch - \$40
- b. Adult Slow Pitch - \$30
- c. Junior Olympic Fast Pitch - \$40
- d. Junior Olympic Slow Pitch - \$30
- e. Junior Olympic Coach Pitch - \$30

3. **Umpire Hotel Rooms.**

- i. Any umpire hotel rooms required by the tournament bid process or agreed to in negotiations between the bidding association/site and the State Umpire-in-Chief shall be pre-paid by the tournament bidding association/site.
 - ii. Umpires who are provided hotel rooms shall stay two (2) umpires per room. Should an umpire elect to bring a guest: The umpire shall notify the tournament Umpire-in-Chief at-least ten (10) days prior to the tournament so that rooms might be made available. The umpire shall be responsible for 50% of the room charges.
4. Tournament umpires shall be paid by cash, check or money order at the conclusion of the tournament or when they are released from service by the tournament Umpire-in-Chief, whichever happens first.
5. In the event of unusual or emergency situations by agreement of the Tournament Director, USA SOFTBALL Rep and Tournament Umpire-in-Chief – the USA SOFTBALL Rep and/or the Tournament Umpire- in-Chief shall be allowed to serve as an umpire in the tournament.

K. **Tournament Umpire-in-Chief.** The State Umpire-in-Chief shall, *as necessary*, assign an Umpire-in- Chief to work all USA SOFTBALL Championship Tournament series events.

1. **Requirements** - For an umpire to be selected by the State Umpire-in-Chief to serve as a Tournament Umpire-in-Chief, the umpire shall meet “championship” standards as hereafter defined:

- a. Register as an USA SOFTBALL umpire in the State of Indiana **and**
- b. Attend a State “Comprehensive” of National Umpire School in the year or previous two (2) years of the tournament **and**
- c. **If** said school requirement has been met within prior two (2) years, umpire must attend an approved USA Softball of Indiana Rules Clinic in the year of the tournament **and**
- d. Submit a completed USA SOFTBALL Umpire test answer sheet to the State Umpire-in-Chief prior to the tournament.

2. **Duties and Responsibilities.**

- a. The Tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall report to the Tournament Director and shall be responsible for all umpire game/field assignments.
- b. The Tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall conduct a pre-tournament meeting.
- c. The Tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall during the tournament, provide constructive one-on-one evaluation of and input to all umpires.
- d. Upon conclusion of the tournament, the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall within ten (10) days, submit written evaluations of each umpire to the State Umpire-in-Chief.
- e. The Tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall complete a tournament evaluation form, which he/she shall review – point-by-point with the Tournament Director. At the conclusion of this discussion both parties shall sign and keep copies of the evaluation. The Tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall forward his signed evaluation to the State Commissioner.

3. **Financial Considerations.**

- a. When the State Commissioner has received the signed tournament evaluation form and the State Umpire-in-Chief has received the individual written umpire evaluations a check shall be issued to the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief. The amount of the check shall be between \$50 and \$275 based upon:

- i. Number of teams entered in the tournament.
 - ii. Number of days in the tournament.
 - ii. Number of sites/fields and their proximity to each other.
4. **Hotel Rooms.** The Tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall be provided a pre-paid hotel room by the bidding association/site for all *necessary* days of the tournament.
2. **Junior -Olympic Tournaments** - The State Junior Olympic Commissioner shall, *as necessary*, assign an USA SOFTBALL Rep to work all USA SOFTBALL Championship Tournament series events.
- a. **Duties and Responsibilities.**
 - i. The USA SOFTBALL Rep shall report to the Tournament Director and shall be responsible to see that the standards of USA Softball of Indiana are upheld.
 - ii. The USA SOFTBALL Rep shall serve as a liaison and shall coordinate all advancement paperwork (including advancement forms, official rosters, player pickup forms, official entry forms, etc.) and communication between teams/managers and the Tournament Director at the next level of competition. This process is time sensitive and crucial to a successful program.
 - iii. The USA SOFTBALL Rep shall complete a tournament evaluation form, which he/she shall review – point-by-point with the Tournament Director. At the conclusion of this discussion both parties shall sign and keep copies of the evaluation. The USA SOFTBALL Rep shall forward his signed evaluation to the Junior Olympic State Commissioner.
 - iv. The USA SOFTBALL Rep shall forward all official rosters (or copies of advancing rosters) to the Junior Olympic State Commissioner within ten (10) of the conclusion of the tournament event.
 - v. The USA SOFTBALL Rep shall forward to the Junior Olympic State Commissioner within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the tournament event the Official Order of Finish which shall include:
 - (01). Team place.
 - (02). Team name and city.
 - (03). Team won/loss record
 - (04). Manager’s name.
 - (05). Manager’s mailing address including city, state and zip code.
 - (06). Manager’s telephone number(s).
 - (07). Manager’s email address.
 - (08). Any forfeit wins or losses.
 - (09). Tournament name and site.
 - (10). Tournament Director, USA SOFTBALL Rep, and Umpire-in-Chief
 - b. **Financial Considerations.**
 - vi. When the Junior Olympic State Commissioner has received the signed tournament evaluation form, the tournament rosters, and the Official Order of Finish a check shall be issued to the USA SOFTBALL Rep. The amount of the check shall be between \$50 and \$275 based upon:
 - (01.) Number of teams entered in the tournament.
 - (02.) Number of days in the tournament.
 - (03.) Number of sites/fields and their proximity to each other.
 - c. **Hotel Rooms.** The USA SOFTBALL Rep shall be provided a pre-paid hotel room by the -bidding association/site for all *necessary* days of the tournament.

M. **Tournament Considerations.**

- 1. **Team Dress Code.**

a. **Men's Fast Pitch Class C.**

- i. All players on a team shall properly wear uniforms that are like in color and style.
- ii. All players' pants may be long, short, or mixed in style, as long as they are like in color.
- iii. An Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting color, or outlined in contrasting color, at least six (6) inches high must be worn and visible on the back of all uniform shirts. No player on the same team may wear identical numbers. Players without numbers will not be permitted to play.
- iv. Ball caps are mandatory, must be alike, and worn properly.
- v. Players may wear solid-color pair of sliding pants. It is not mandatory that all players wear sliding pants, but if more than one player wears them, they must be like in color and style. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit legs on exposed sliding pants.
- vi. If a player is requested by the umpire to remove jewelry, illegal shoes or illegal parts of the uniform and they refuse, the player will not be allowed to play.

- vii. Coaches, players and team representatives shall not display the names and/or logos of any other softball association on their uniforms.
 - b. **Junior Olympic.**
 - i. All players on a team shall properly wear uniforms that are like in color and style.
 - ii. All players' pants may be long, short, or mixed in style, as long as they are like in color.
 - iii. An Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting color, or outlined in contrasting color, at least six (6) inches high must be worn and visible on the back of all uniform shirts. No player on the same team may wear identical numbers. Players without numbers will not be permitted to play.
 - iv. Ball caps, visors and headbands are optional for players. If worn, they may be mixed, but must be worn properly. If one type or more than one is worn, they must be of the same color. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headbands and cannot be worn around the head or neck. Plastic visors are not allowed.
 - v. Players may wear solid-color pair of sliding pants. It is not mandatory that all players wear sliding pants, but if more than one player wears them, they must be like in color and style. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit legs on exposed sliding pants.
 - vi. If a player is requested by the umpire to remove jewelry, illegal shoes or illegal parts of the uniform and they refuse, the player will not be allowed to play.
 - vii. Coaches, players and team representatives shall not display the names and/or logos of any other softball association on their uniforms.
 - c. **Men's Fast Pitch Class D and All Adult Slow Pitch.**
 - i. All players on a team shall properly wear uniforms that are like in basic color.
 - ii. All players' pants may be long, short, or mixed in style, and **are not** required to be like in color.
 - iii. An Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting color, or outlined in contrasting color, must be worn and visible on the all uniforms. No player on the same team may wear identical numbers. Players without numbers will not be permitted to play.
 - iv. Ball caps **are not** required, if worn must be worn properly.
 - v. Players may wear solid-color pair of sliding pants. It is not mandatory that all players wear sliding pants, and if more than one player wears them, they **are not** required to be like in color and style. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit legs on exposed sliding pants.
 - vi. If a player is requested by the umpire to remove jewelry, illegal shoes or illegal parts of the uniform and they refuse, the player will not be allowed to play.
 - vii. Coaches, players and team representatives shall not display the names and/or logos of any other softball association on their uniforms.
2. **Adult Slow Pitch Home Run Limits.**
- a. A limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in all men's, men's masters, coed, and women's slow pitch divisions. The following limitations are per team, per game:
 - i. MSP Class A and Coed Open - (8) Eight
 - ii. MSP Class B and Industrial - (6) Six
 - iii. MSP Class C, MSP 40-Over, 45-Over, Coed Class C,
and
WSP Class C - (4) Four
 - iv. MSPD, Coed D, Men's 35 Over D and below,
Men's Church and WSPD - (2) Two
 - v. MSP Class E and all Novice Divisions - (0) Zero

EFFECT: For any in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance.

3. **Team Check-in/Player Identification.**

- a. **Adults.** Team managers shall check-in with tournament officials at the check-in table at least one hour before their teams' first scheduled game. Team managers should gather their players, *en mass*, to present individual identification for check-in. Players must provide proper photo identification in order to be eligible to compete in USA SOFTBALL Championship play. Proper identification includes a current photograph of the player and the player's signature. Acceptable forms of identification (including photocopies) shall include:
- i. Driver's licenses or State issued ID cards.
 - ii. Local USA SOFTBALL association photo / ID card.
 - iii. Local USA SOFTBALL associations ID
 - iv. Any court approved document.
 - v. Birth certificate or hospital certificate.
 - vi. Family Bible or baptismal record.
 - vii. School transcripts.

Note: In the event an **adult** player cannot produce proper identification, as outlined above. Tournament staff shall have the player sign their name on a blank sheet of paper. If the signature matches the signature on the **USA SOFTBALL Official Waiver & Release of Liability & Indemnification Form/USA SOFTBALL Official National Championship Roster**, the player shall be allowed to compete.

- b. **Junior Olympic.** Team managers shall present to tournament officials at the check-in table at least one hour before their teams' first scheduled game. Team managers should gather their players, *en mass*, to present individual identification for check-in. Players must provide proper identification in order to be eligible to compete in USA SOFTBALL Championship play. Proper identification includes a current photograph of the player and the player's signature. Acceptable forms of identification (including photocopies) shall include:
- i. USA SOFTBALL Official Waiver & Release of Liability & Indemnification Form/USA SOFTBALL Official National Championship Roster.
 - ii. USA SOFTBALL Team Registration card.
 - iii. Proof of team insurance.
 - iv. Birth certificates.
 - v. Local USA SOFTBALL association photo/ ID card.
 - vi. Local USA SOFTBALL associations ID document.
 - vii. Driver's licenses or State issued ID cards.

4. **Game Time** - Game time shall be forfeit time. No grace period shall be allowed.

5. **Time Limit** - No time limit shall be used in USA SOFTBALL Championship play. **Exception:** In Junior Olympic pool play, a ninety (90) minute time limit shall be used. **Bracket play games have an 80-minute time limit, finish the inning plus one or ½ inning if home team is ahead.** When a time limit is in effect, the time begins with the first pitch, **and** a new inning begins with

- the third out of the preceding inning.
6. In the event that weather or unforeseen circumstances cause the cancellation of the tournament before it can be completed, the tournament committee shall determine the final standings, using the USA SOFTBALL Code.
 7. **Tie-Breaker Procedure** - In the event that two teams finished tied where only one team may advance to the next level of competition, the following tie-breaker procedure shall be used:
 - a. Head to head competition.
 - b. A one game playoff shall be scheduled, as soon as possible after they are eliminated.
 8. **Run Ahead Rule.** Complete innings must be played unless the home team scores the run-ahead team must have their opportunity to bat in the bottom half of the inning.
 - a. **Fast Pitch.**
 - i. **Men's Adult.**
 - (01). Fifteen (15) after three (3) innings.
 - (02). Twelve (12) after four (4) innings.
 - (03). Seven (7) after five (5) innings.
 - ii. **Women's Adult and Junior Olympic.**
 - (01). Fifteen (15) after three (3) innings.
 - (02). Twelve (12) after four (4) innings.
 - (03). Eight (8) after five (5) innings.
 - c. **Slow Pitch.**
 - i. **All (except Men's Class A).**
 - (01). Twenty (20) after three (3) innings.
 - (02). Fifteen (15) after four (4) innings.
 - (03). Ten (10) after five (5) innings.
 - ii. **Men's Class A.**
 - (01). Twenty (20) after four (4) innings.
 - (02). Fifteen (15) after five (5) innings.
 9. **Official Softballs**
 - a. **Fast Pitch**
 - i. **Adult.** 12", .470 max. COR, 375.0 lbs. max. compression, **cork centered**, leather whitecover with white stitch **or** optic yellow cover with red stitch.
 - ii. **Junior Olympic.**
 - (01). **Girl's 18-Under, 16-Under, 14-Under, and 12-Under.** 12" .470 max. COR, 375.0 lbs. max. compression, optic yellow cover with red stitch.
 - (02). **Girl's 10-Under.** 11", .470 max. COR, 375.0 lbs. max. compression, optic yellow cover with red stitch.
 - b. **Slow Pitch.**
 - i. **Adult.**
 - (01). **Men's/Male Coed.** 12", .520 max. COR, 300.0 lbs. max. compression, optic yellow cover with red stitching.
 - (02). **Women's/Female Coed.** 11", .520 max. COR, 300.0 lbs. max. compression, optic yellow cover with red stitching.

N. **Post Tournament Considerations.**

1. **Adult.**

- a. **Tournament Director.** The bidding association/site Tournament Director shall at the conclusion of the tournament, but not more than seven (7) days later forward to

the State Commissioner:

- i. A completed bracket sheet with winning and losing teams and game scores.
 - ii. A check and financial statement settling all bid and assessment fees.
 - iii. A brief report explaining any problems, which may have occurred during the tournament.
- b. **USA SOFTBALL Rep.** The USA SOFTBALL Rep shall serve as a liaison and shall coordinate all advancement paperwork (including advancement forms, official rosters, player pickup forms, official entry forms, etc.) and communication between teams/managers and the Tournament Director at the next level of competition. This process is time sensitive and crucial to a successful program.
- i. As teams are eliminated from the tournament, or before, the USA SOFTBALL Rep shall require the team manager to complete an Advancement Form, indicating whether or not the team intends to advance to the next level of competition.
 - ii. Any team that signs an Advancement Form and indicates that they shall advance that then fails to uphold this commitment, shall be forwarded to the Ethics Committee of investigation in accordance with the USA SOFTBALL Code.
2. **Junior Olympic.**
- a. **Tournament Director.** The bidding association/site Tournament Director shall at the conclusion of the tournament, but not more than seven (7) days later forward to the Junior Olympic State Commissioner:
 - i. A completed bracket sheet with winning and losing teams and game scores.
 - ii. Tournament score sheets / scorebooks.
 - iii. A brief report explaining any problems, which may have occurred during the tournament.
 - b. **USA SOFTBALL Rep.** The USA SOFTBALL Rep shall serve as a liaison and shall coordinate all advancement paperwork (including advancement forms, official rosters, player pickup forms, official entry forms, etc.) and communication between teams/managers and the Tournament Director at the next level of competition. This process is time sensitive and crucial to a successful program.
 - i. Team managers shall receive advancement information with their pre-tournament information.
 - ii. As teams are eliminated from the tournament, or before, the USA SOFTBALL Rep shall require the team manager to complete an Advancement Form, indicating whether or not the team intends to advance to the next level of competition.
 - iii. Any team that signs an Advancement Form and indicates that they shall advance that then fails to uphold this commitment, shall be forwarded to the Ethics Committee of investigation in accordance with the USA SOFTBALL of Indiana Code.

Article XI. Indiana National Qualifier Tournaments.

1. **Adult Slow Pitch.** The following regulations shall govern Men's Class B, C, and D Indiana National Qualifier Tournament events.
 - a. The State Commissioner shall award all tournaments.
 - b. The minimum bid fee to USA Softball of Indiana shall be \$200. At the conclusion of the event the bidding association/site then forwards \$25 per team, less the initial \$200

bid to USA Softball of Indiana.

- c. Teams must be registered USA Softball of Indiana teams.
- d. Teams classified Class B and below may enter Class C Indiana National Qualifiers. e. Teams classified Class C and below may enter Class D Indiana National Qualifiers.
- f. To be considered an Indiana National Qualifier a minimum number of teams must enter. Those numbers shall be:
 - i. Men's Class B - Four (4) teams
 - ii. Men's Class C - Six (6) teams
 - iii. Men's Class D - Eight (8) teams

Amended: December 15, 2019

EXHIBIT 'D'

USA SOFTBALL OF INDIANA HALL OF FAME

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of the USA Softball of Indiana Hall of Fame is to enhance and promote the game of amateur softball by honoring those individuals and teams who have played a major role in the growth and development of the “Hoosier” brand of USA SOFTBALL.
2. **Eligibility.** Anyone who has previously been named to the USA SOFTBALL National Hall of Fame/Hall of Honor automatically qualifies for the USA Softball of Indiana Hall of Fame.
3. **Players/Umpires.** To be nominated for consideration by the committee for selection into the USA Softball of Indiana Hall of Fame a player or umpire must have been an active player or umpire in ASA/USA whose active playing or umpiring days have been concluded for a minimum of two (2) years. (Participating in ASA/USA State or National Tournaments at levels under the age of 55 is considered as active participation.) The player or umpire must also have attained a statewide level of fame over a period of fifteen (15) or more years.
4. **Sponsors/Managers.** To be nominated for consideration by the committee or selection into the USA Softball of Indiana Hall of Fame from this category, the sponsor or manager must have attained a statewide level of fame over a period of fifteen (15) or more years.
5. **Commissioners.** To be nominated for consideration by the committee for selection into the USA Softball of Indiana Hall of Fame from this category, the Commissioner must have performed service for the good of ASA/USA Softball. This service shall have been performed over a minimum of ten (10) years.
6. **Meritorious Service.** To be nominated for consideration by the committee for selection into the USA Softball of Indiana Hall of Fame from this category, the person must have performed service for the good of the ASA/USA Softball above and beyond the normal range of service. This service should have been performed over a period of more than fifteen (15) years and have wide-reaching benefits to the teams and players of USA Softball of Indiana.
7. **Teams.** To be selected to the USA Softball of Indiana Hall of Fame as a team the team must have participated at the state level for a minimum of five (5) years. The team must have distinguished themselves at the state or national level.
8. **Nomination.** Must be submitted on the proper form, which is available through the State Commissioner’s office or on the USA Softball of Indiana website: www.usasoftballindiana.org
 - 8.1. Shall be accompanied by complete mailing, telephone, and email contact information, supporting documentation (in summary form), including championships won, tournaments won, batting, pitching, and fielding statistics, etc.)
 - 8.2. Must be submitted to the State Commissioner’s office by November 1 of the year of consideration, which is before the year of possible induction.
 - 8.3. Shall be signed and submitted by a current Member of the USA Softball of Indiana Executive

Board.

9. **Induction.** Shall take place at the annual spring USA Softball of Indiana Convention, as scheduled by the State Commissioner.
10. **Funding.** The USA Softball of Indiana Hall of Fame is financed by USA Softball of Indiana.

EXHIBIT 'E'

PLAYER REPRESENTATIVES

1.1. Per the USA SOFTBALL National Code, player representatives shall represent each state association. For every two thousand (2,000) teams registered, the state association gains an additional player representative. These individuals shall be accountable to the State Commissioner.

1.2. **Appointment.** The State Commissioner shall appoint all Player Representatives.

1.3. **Duties.** Duties of a Player Representative are those duties assigned by the State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1.4. Player Representatives shall represent USA Softball of Indiana at the annual USA SOFTBALL National Convention. Player Representative shall attend, participate, and vote at various assigned committee meetings, regional, territory, and council sessions.

EXHIBIT 'F'

TOURNAMENT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

This committee shall work with tournament hosts sites to ensure high quality USA Softball of Indiana events.

- 1.1. **Appointment.** All members will be appointed by and report to the Executive Board President.
- 1.2. **Duties.** At (or before) the Winter Executive Board meeting, the committee shall:
 - 1.2.1. Review all tournament evaluations, tournament reports, and any reports of problems/complaints from the preceding season.
 - 1.2.2. The committee may, should they deem necessary, schedule a hearing with any bidding organization to be held on Friday night of the Spring Executive Board meeting to discuss and resolve any problems in their tournaments.
 - 1.2.3. The committee shall then report and scheduled hearings or unresolved problems/issues to the Executive Board before the conclusion of the meeting.
 - 1.2.4. At (or before) the Spring Executive Board meeting, the committee shall:
 - 1.2.4.1. Conduct any scheduled hearings with bidding organizations.
 - 1.2.4.2. Work with bidding organizations to provide support to resolve problems/issues. If the problem/issue is deemed serious enough, the committee shall have the authority to place the bidding organization on one- year “probation”. During this probationary one-year period, the bidding organization may conduct business as usual, but shall be subject to a “follow- up” hearing at the conclusion of the season. This committee shall not have the authority to remove or withhold tournaments from any bidding organization.
 - 1.2.4.3. The committee should make their findings known to members of the Tournament Awards Committee before their annual meeting.

Exhibit ‘H’

Slow Pitch Classification Committee

This committee shall work for teams and players to ensure “fair play” classification of individuals and teams for all USA Softball of Indiana advancement events. The make-up of this committee will consist of seven members with one serving as chair. The members of this committee will be appointed by the USA SOFTBALL President and must be in good standing with USA Softball of Indiana. All members of committee are required to vote during the decision-making process. Consideration of equal representation of members from throughout the state should be considered during the appointment process.

1.1. **Appointment.** All members will be appointed by and report to the Executive Board President.

1.2. **End of Season Duties.** At (or before) the Winter Executive Board meeting, the committee shall:

- 1.2.1. Review and identify all state tournament order of finish reports and verify any teams that are required to move up to the next higher level of play for their next competing season in USA Softball of Indiana.
- 1.2.2. Review and identify any teams for USA Softball of Indiana that competed in National level competition and verify if their performance requires them to move to the next higher level of play for their next competing season in USA Softball of Indiana.
- 1.2.3 Review and identify any individual players, where possible, that played for teams from other organizations, whose performance at National event, may require them to move to the next higher level of play for their next competing season In USA Softball of Indiana.
- 1.2.4. The committee shall then report any unresolved problems/issues to the Executive Board before the conclusion of the meeting.

1.3. **Beginning of New Season Duties.** At (or before) the Spring Executive Board meeting, the committee shall:

- 1.3.1. Review all team and/or player reclassification requests as submitted for current season by the Region Vice Presidents.
- 1.3.2. Committee shall render majority decision on all requests based on sound judgment.
- 1.3.3. Committee Chair shall inform Region Vice Presidents of results so they can inform Teams and/or Players of results.
- 1.3.4. The committee shall then report and scheduled hearings or unresolved problems/issues to the Executive Board before the conclusion of the meeting.

Classification Committee Representation

- Classification Committee will consist of 7 members. Balance of state representation should be considered, but individuals must be qualified to be appointed.
- Majority vote will rule.
- Player or team appeal process will be directly to the State Commissioner and must be submitted within 1 month of reclassification decision to be considered.

2021 Classification Committee Members

- Chair – Jim Bilbee

- North – Kevin Nupnau and Jim Markland
- Central – Bob Cash and Randy Rankert
- South – Gary Dorsett and Donnie Johnson