



of Utah

# USA SOFTBALL™ of Utah



## STATE CODE

Revised November 2023

*Any Red language indicates a change for 2024*

### ARTICLE 1: Name

The name of the association shall be the Utah State Amateur Softball Association, Inc. and shall also be known as USA Softball of Utah.

### ARTICLE 2: Purpose

The purpose of the association shall be to foster, develop, promote, and regulate amateur softball; to provide proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship; to encourage the unification of all softball teams and umpires to cause the advance of amateur softball; to promote and conduct softball tournaments and to promote the qualified teaching of softball to the residents of Utah.

### ARTICLE 3: Jurisdiction

The USA Softball of Utah is an affiliated member of the Amateur Softball Association of America /USA Softball, which is recognized through the 1978 Congressional Amateur Sports Act by the United States Olympic Committee and the International Softball Federation, as the national governing body of amateur softball in the United States of America. The Code of USA SOFTBALL is adopted by this association and is incorporated herein by reference.

### ARTICLE 4: Territory

The association shall be limited to include all of the state of Utah.

### ARTICLE 5: Officers

The State President, Vice President and Player Representative of the association shall be elected at the Commissioner's Council annual meeting to serve a one-year term. Candidates for the State Player Representative must be recommended by the State or an Area Commissioner before they are eligible to be elected as the State Player Representative. The State President, Vice President or Player Representative of the association can be removed for just cause by a two-thirds vote of the Commissioner's Council or Executive Committee, providing notice is mailed to each member at least ten days prior to the vote on removal. Officer vacancies may be filled at a regular meeting of the Commissioner's Council or Executive Committee, providing notice is mailed to each member not less than ten days prior to the meeting at which the vacancy is to be filled. In addition to the elected officers, the State Commissioner shall appoint annually, a Secretary, State

Umpire In Chief, a State Junior Olympic Commissioner, and as many Area, Deputy and District Commissioners, Deputy Umpire In Chief(s) and Deputy Junior Olympic Commissioners as deemed necessary for the conduct of business of the association. Duties of the president shall be to preside at all sessions of the Commissioner's Council meeting. The President shall help to promote USA SOFTBALL and try to recruit new team and umpire registrations. Shall perform such duties as may be required (i.e. attend tournaments, hand out awards, and other assignments requested by the State Commissioner). The Vice President shall assist the President and perform such duties as may be requested by the State Commissioner. State Player Representative and Junior Olympic Commissioner shall help to promote USA SOFTBALL programs and help to increase team registrations. They shall assist in providing player and coaches' clinics, attend all meetings and perform other duties as requested by the State Commissioner.

#### ARTICLE 6: Commissioner's Council

The Commissioner's Council shall be composed of State, Area, State JO Staff, State Umpire Staff, State Player Representative Staff, and District Commissioners. State personnel shall consist of all elected members, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State JO Commissioner, State JO Representative and the State UIC. Area personnel shall consist of Area Commissioners and any appointed Assistant Area Commissioners. Other members of the Commissioner's Council shall include one representative for each Recreation Department/League that registers 100% of their softball teams/players with USA Softball of Utah. Each member of the Commissioner's Council shall have one vote at the annual meeting. Vacancies shall be filled by the appropriate State/Area/JO Commissioner, State Player Representative or State UIC with approval by the State Commissioner. Proxies will not be allowed for Council meetings.

#### ARTICLE 7: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the State and Area Commissioners, the State Umpire In Chief, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner, and the State Player Representative. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote at all meetings. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the affairs of the association between council meetings. Proxies will not be allowed for meetings of the Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE 8: Meetings

The Commissioner's Council will meet annually following the USA SOFTBALL National Council meeting. The purpose of the annual Commissioners Council meeting is to elect state officers, vote on properly submitted Code changes, approve the list of sanctioned tournaments, train council members in job responsibilities, and conduct any other business that may properly come before the council. The Commissioner's Council can only be attended by voting members. The USA Softball of Utah General Association meetings will be held at a date following the Commissioner's Council meeting and is open to everyone. The purpose of the General Association meeting is to communicate to the association members the information pertinent for the upcoming season.

ARTICLE 9: Leagues

Leagues or districts retain the right to administer their programs with more or less restrictive playing and eligibility rules. Any deviation from USA SOFTBALL rules must be clearly specified for those teams and players involved. It is understood that deviations from USA SOFTBALL rules may render players not eligible for USA SOFTBALL championship play. In the case of USA SOFTBALL suspended or disqualified teams, players, coaches, managers, leagues are advised that if they allow these people to participate, the USA SOFTBALL of Utah will not provide umpires. A league is defined as: a specific group of teams that play at a specific location. Teams playing in accelerated leagues are considered accelerated teams and, therefore cannot enter the Recreation State Championship tournament. The State Commissioner will determine leagues and their players' classification/level of play.

League tournaments may only include registered, regular season USA SOFTBALL teams from within each league, not all-star teams. Recreation JO league tournaments held between Memorial Day and Labor Day must be held Monday through Thursday and may not include Friday through Sunday play.

Umpire Fast Pitch Game Fees based on 2 Umpires per game: (Effective 2020)

<u>Time Limit Maximum (Minutes)*</u>	<u>Game Time (Minutes)**</u>	<u>Youth Game Fee</u>	<u>Adult Game Fee</u>
60	70	\$32.00	\$37.00
65	75	\$34.00	\$39.00
70	80	\$36.00	\$41.00
75	85	\$38.00	\$43.00
80	90	\$40.00	\$45.00

Umpire Fast Pitch Game Fee based on 1 Umpire per game = 1 ½ times referenced 2 umpire game fees.

Umpire Slow Pitch Game Fees based on 1 Umpire per game: (Effective 2020)

<u>Time Limit Maximum (Minutes)*</u>	<u>Game Time (Minutes)**</u>	<u>Adult Game Fee</u>
55	60	\$27.00
60	65	\$29.00
65	70	\$31.00
70	75	\$33.00

\* = (A new inning will not start after referenced time)

\*\* = (Scheduled time between games)

Game Assigner fee will be \$2.00 per umpire per game (Effective 2020)

- NOTE: - Any exceptions, (submitted in writing), to this article must be approved by the

State Commissioner!

ARTICLE 10: Classification

The State Commissioner shall have the responsibility of classifying teams, players and leagues. Classification will be based on invitational tournament results as well as the previous year state and regional tournament results. Any team winning the state, regional, or national qualifier two years in a row will automatically be moved up to the next higher level of play. Any team winning the national championship will automatically be moved up to the next higher level of play. Teams and/or players participating in any non USA SOFTBALL sanctioned tournament, in a higher classification will be moved to the higher classification. Junior Olympic teams and or players participating in non-sanctioned tournaments need to understand that these tournaments will affect their Accelerated/Recreation status. Appeals on player and/or team classification shall be in writing, addressed and sent to the State Commissioner by March 1 of the current playing season to be considered for re-classification. An appeal on a player's re-classification must be made by the player. To be eligible for review, all appeals must include statistics (to be supplied by the player) from USA SOFTBALL tournaments only. League information will not be considered. The State Commissioner shall meet with the classification board to review the appeal and make a decision, whose decision shall be final.

ARTICLE 11: Divisions/Classifications of Play

The following are recognized by USA Softball of Utah.

**DIVISIONS**

Men's and Women's Fast Pitch  
Men's and Women's Slow Pitch  
Girls Fast and Slow Pitch  
Boys Fast and Slow Pitch

**CLASSIFICATIONS**

Major, A, B, C, 23 under, 18 Over  
Major, A, B, C, D, Coed, Industrial  
Gold-18-16-14-12-10-(8 Recreation)  
18-16-14-12-10

NOTE ONE: Two separate state tournaments, for accelerated and recreational teams, will be conducted. Only teams playing in the accelerated state tournament may advance in the A or B level of championship play. Possibility of 16/18 GFP recreational state tournaments will be determined by the State Commissioner.

NOTE TWO: Each calendar year, any team or player that plays in any non-USA Softball of Utah sanctioned tournament or plays in any USA Softball of Utah sanctioned Accelerated Tournament, will be classified as an Accelerated Team/Player and will be eligible for Accelerated Tournaments only. Teams that play in accelerated leagues may be classified as an accelerated team/player. Such teams and players must play in the accelerated state tournament.

ARTICLE 12: Team and Player Registration

A team may register only once in a division of play. An adult player may appear on the roster of more than one team in one division of play, but is eligible to play in USA SOFTBALL invitational and championship tournaments for only the team with the highest classification. JO

players may participate in a higher classification USA SOFTBALL invitational sanctioned tournament without affecting their own classification. They would be eligible to play for the higher classified team for that tournament only. Notwithstanding the above, a player may appeal the decision of limiting their play to the higher classification to the Area Commissioner of jurisdiction. The appeal must be in writing and sent to the Area Commissioner who will then meet with the State Commissioner on the appeal for consideration. Such appeals must be made prior to the player signing any roster.

#### ARTICLE 13: Team/Individual Registration Fees

Teams may become members of the association by paying the annual registration fee. All teams registering with the state association will be registered with USA Softball. All adult teams and JO Recreation teams shall pay a registration fee of \$25.00 per team and each team in the league must join and pay the fee. Independent teams, without USA SOFTBALL league affiliation or because all league members did not register, shall pay a registration fee of \$100.00. Fall teams and league registration fee is \$20.00. Accelerated JO player registration fee shall not exceed \$30.00 per player on the team's roster. Any adult working with a JO team or player must pay a registration fee not exceeding \$30.00 and submit to a background check. This includes any adult managing, coaching, and scorekeeping or otherwise involved with a JO player or team. One Coach per team must also stay current each season with the ACE certification program.

#### ARTICLE 14: Team Rosters

All players must compete in accordance with the rules and regulations of USA Softball. All Junior Olympic players under 18 years of age must have their legal parent/guardian sign the USA Softball of Utah Parent Consent Form before they are allowed to play for the referenced team in USA Softball of Utah play. Eligible players that are 18 years or older, must sign the form to play on a USA Softball of Utah Team. Junior Olympic players can participate with any number of teams prior to May 20th of each year but must comply with Article 18 after that. The maximum number of players permitted on a roster is 20, which includes all transfer players and pick up players. No Junior Olympic player may transfer to another team from 48 hours prior to the start of the State Accelerated Championship through August 17th of the current year. Beginning August 18, players may try out for different teams and can migrate from their current team's roster. All players should have picture identification with them at all USA SOFTBALL events. Once a player and/or parent have signed the official roster form, the only person who can release the player is the Head Coach/Team Administrator.

#### ARTICLE 15: Championship Entry Forms

Teams that compete in Championship Tournaments, other than the State Accelerated Tournament, will need to contact their Area Commissioner at least two weeks in advance of the tournament to obtain a special tournament entry form. Travel permits are not used anymore.

#### ARTICLE 16: Junior Olympic Eligibility

Once electing to participate, a player must be properly listed on a roster of only one USA SOFTBALL registered team at any given time during the current season, to be eligible to compete in any tournament play in the current season. A player cannot be listed on a Team and a League Roster at the same time. Players/Teams that register as Accelerated will remain Accelerated for the current season. Appeals to the previous sentence only, must be submitted in writing to the State Commissioner whose decision will be final. A USA SOFTBALL registered team roster is defined as a minimum of 8 Individually Registered Players Fast Pitch, and 9 Individually Registered Players Slow Pitch as approved by an authorized USA Softball of Utah Administrator.

#### ARTICLE 17: Pick-Up/Add-On Players

Teams are allowed to pick-up a maximum of three players for championship tournament competition. Add-on players (maximum of three) are used for invitational tournament play. Pick-up/add-on players must come from the same or lower classification and cannot be from a team entered at the same or advanced level of competition. Pick-up players added after the State tournament must come from teams that competed in the State tournament, but their teams are not still eligible for championship tournament play. Slow pitch teams are allowed to pick-up a maximum of three players, providing the pick-ups are made after the State tournament and that they come from the same or lower classification and from within the State of Utah.

#### ARTICLE 18: Junior Olympic Competition

Once a JO player and or parent has signed a team roster, they are allowed one (1) team transfer after May 20th and are not to be approached about changing teams by other coaches, team representatives, and/or parents. If a player wants to be released, she must contact her coach and ask for a written release that will be sent to the Area Commissioner on or before 48 hours prior to the start of the Accelerated State Tournament. A player may not be added on for invitational play if her team is entered in tournament play that same weekend. A player may not be picked up if her team is eligible to play in the same or next level of tournament play. Teams advancing to regional or national tournaments may only pick up players who have played in championship play. All teams entered in State Championship tournaments must be certified eligible and in good standing with the USA Softball of Utah by the Area Commissioner from the area in which they reside. JO teams must submit copies of documents (i.e. birth certificate, baptismal record, USA SOFTBALL registration cards, etc.) to verify age in all tournament play. Coaches are advised to always carry a copy for each player. Players shall carry a photo ID with them at all events.

Note: *See Article 11 Note Two.*

#### ARTICLE 19: Invitational Tournaments

Local organizations with the approval of their Area Commissioner, shall apply for a sanction of their tournaments by mailing the tournament request to the State Commissioner by the date indicated on the sanction request form. Sanction requests received after the deadline will be assessed an additional \$100.00 per classification. **The tournament sanction fee of \$10.00 per**

team will be invoiced with the umpire fees invoice at the conclusion of the tournament. The State Commissioner shall provide a list of sanctioned tournaments to the Commissioners Council for approval. The State Commissioner has full authority to sanction or not sanction any request received after the deadline. Notice of acceptance or rejection shall be provided to the person making the request. If for some reason a tournament is canceled, the fee will be fully refunded provided the USA Softball of Utah State office is contacted in writing, requesting a refund. Any team participating in an USA SOFTBALL sanctioned tournament while not a registered USA SOFTBALL team shall forfeit their right to participate in USA SOFTBALL events in the future and the right to be an USA SOFTBALL registered team. Adult

Teams unable to provide proof of current registration must register with the tournament director by paying a \$100.00 fee which shall be forwarded to the USA SOFTBALL of Utah State Office, along with the team's name, and mailing address. A tournament director allowing non-registered teams to play in a USA SOFTBALL sanctioned tournament could forfeit their right to request and run future USA SOFTBALL tournaments. Any USA SOFTBALL registered team that fails to abide by USA SOFTBALL rules is subject to disqualification from participation in USA SOFTBALL tournaments. No cash prizes will be awarded to any individual, team sponsor, or family member thereof, unless said tournament is run by USA Softball of Utah. No tournament will be conducted that conflicts with championship play in the same division and classification. All registrations and publicity shall include the statement: *Sanctioned by USA Softball of Utah.* No invitational tournaments shall be advertised/publicized as an USA SOFTBALL sanctioned tournament without the approval of the State Commissioner. All sanctioned tournament paperwork and brackets will have the USA SOFTBALL of Utah logo on them. Furthermore, every effort should be made to use only USA Softball approved brackets. Noncompliance may result in Executive Committee action.

Sanction approval requires that the following stipulations are adhered to:

1. Tournament UIC will be assigned by the State UIC with the approval of the State Commissioner.

The fast pitch UIC fee is as follows:

1 - 8	Teams per age group = \$350
9 -14	Teams per age group = \$400
15 -20	Teams per age group = \$450
21 -25	Teams per age group = \$500
26 -30	Teams per age group = \$550
31 plus	Teams per age group = \$600

The slow pitch UIC fee is as follows:

1- 8	Teams per age group = \$200
9 -14	Teams per age group = \$250
15 -20	Teams per age group = \$300
21 -25	Teams per age group = \$375
26 -30	Teams per age group = \$400
31 plus	Teams per age group = \$450

Upper and lower brackets are considered one tournament as far as UIC Fees. Age groups that run two brackets (i.e. consolation bracket and regular bracket) only pay the UIC fees as listed above.

2. Fast pitch tournaments must use a minimum of two umpires per game scheduled up to 90 minutes apart, except in the 8U age groups. Umpire game fees:

Youth tournaments:

- a maximum of \$65.00 per umpire per game using 2 umpires,

- a maximum of \$85.00 per umpire per game using 3 umpires.

Youth games using 1 umpire per game (Not 8U games) will pay 1 ½ times the amount the umpire would normally receive for officiating using two umpires per game.

Adult FP tournaments:

- a maximum of \$70.00 per umpire per game using 2 umpires,
- a maximum of \$90.00 per umpire per game using 3 umpires.

3. All UIC and maximum Umpire game fees shall be received by USA Softball of Utah's state office no later than 7 calendar days following the completion of the Tournament.

4. The Tournament Entry deadline date shall be a minimum of 3 weeks before the start of Tournament play.

5. All umpire game fees for "IF" games will be paid, whether they are played or not, if an entirely different in attendance umpire crew is assigned.

6. All umpire game fees for scheduled games not played will be paid. In the event a Tournament cannot be completed due to circumstances beyond the control of the Tournament Committee, only fees for games up to the point of interruption will be paid. (ie. Weather, disasters, etc.) Any exceptions to the games fees or code as outlined must be approved by the State Commissioner.

7. Slow pitch tournaments may use one umpire. Umpire game fees: \$40.00 per umpire per game scheduled 60 minutes apart and \$50 per umpire per game scheduled 75 minutes apart.

8. Only USA SOFTBALL and/or ASA logo balls may be used, fast pitch balls for fast pitch, slow pitch balls for slow pitch.

9. Tournament must provide at least one new ball per game.

10. Teams from outside the State of Utah must have proof of USA SOFTBALL registration and present them to the tournament director before play begins.

11. Only umpires in good standing with USA Softball may be assigned to sanctioned tournaments.

12. Umpires must wear the official USA SOFTBALL umpire attire as outlined in the USA SOFTBALL Code.

13. At the conclusion of the tournament, the tournament director is responsible for forwarding within five days the following information and paperwork to the State Commissioner:

Completed bracket, tournament report, list of umpires and other necessary paperwork.

14. Failure to comply with the above may forfeit your right to request and run future

tournaments.

## ARTICLE 20: Championship Tournaments

The USA SOFTBALL shall sanction championship tournaments for qualifying teams to play in state, regional, and national tournaments in all recognized classes of competition for which there are registered teams. All championship tournaments will be conducted on facilities whose local league programs are 100% registered with the USA Softball of Utah, including but not limited to all fast pitch and slow pitch programs. Exceptions are at the discretion of the State Commissioner. All championship tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with the USA SOFTBALL Competition Procedural Code, as well as the Northwest Mountain Regional Code and the USA Softball of Utah Code. When the tournament bracket has been established, money for entry fees will not be refunded for any reason. All sales of gate tickets, programs, souvenirs, T-Shirts, etc at championship tournaments will be administered by the USA Softball of Utah State Office without any encumbrances, and any championship tournament received, acknowledges this right whether referenced therein or not. Food and drink items will be negotiated with the championship facility. Teams and players entering championship tournaments must be current members of the USA SOFTBALL with all fees and accounts paid in full. Location of championship tournaments will be determined by the State Commissioner. Adult teams must be registered with the USA Softball of Utah no later than July 1 to be eligible for championship play. JO teams must have played in at least two USA Softball of Utah sanctioned tournaments, or won a USA Softball of Utah sanctioned tournament, in the current playing season to be eligible to participate in the State Tournament. Teams wishing to participate in state championship play must submit the appropriate fee to the Area commissioner in whose area the tournament is to be played one month before the tournament's start date. Decisions to accept late entries for championship play will be made by the Area Commissioner in whose area the tournament is to be held. If a late entry is accepted, the team will be assessed a late fee of \$50.00. Failure to comply with the deadline may cause teams to forfeit their right to play in championship play.

The sanction fee for state and regional tournaments is \$32.50 per team entered. The tournament director is responsible for all additional financial obligations. The State will provide the balls, and awards for all championship play. Tournament directors are financially responsible to the State USA SOFTBALL for these items. Any USA SOFTBALL registered team that fails to abide by USA SOFTBALL rules is subject to disqualification from participation in USA SOFTBALL tournaments. Teams that are eligible to advance in championship play and fail to do so because of participation in other organizational play are subject to suspension/disqualification from USA SOFTBALL of Utah. At the conclusion of the tournament there will be an awards ceremony where awards are handed out properly to the teams. Any team eligible to advance to the next level of play will need to commit immediately and pay the appropriate fees. If a team fails to comply, they will forfeit their berth. At the conclusion of the tournament the tournament director and Area Commissioner must forward within five days all information and paperwork to the State Commissioner. Finalized completed bracket, Official order of finish, All money due the State office, List of working umpires, Financial statement, Rosters.

Tournament awards will be based on the number of teams entered in the championship

tournament.

1 - 4 Teams, 1st place, 5 - 8 Teams, 1st and 2nd place, 9 - or more, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards.

#### ARTICLE 21: Umpire Registration Fees

Umpires must be a member of an USA SOFTBALL state umpiring organization to be eligible for USA Softball of Utah registration. There are four classes of umpire registrations:

USA SOFTBALL REGISTERED UMPIRES The maximum registration fee is \$95.00, and all adults must submit to an USA SOFTBALL background check. He is eligible to officiate in local, district, state, regional and national tournament, and league games. He receives all USA SOFTBALL umpire supplies and publications and is covered by USA SOFTBALL accident and liability insurance. Youth umpires (those 17 years of age & younger) register for a maximum fee of \$75.00 as well.

\$10.00 of the fee is to be deposited into the State Umpire Account. The remaining money is to be sent to the USA Softball of Utah State Commissioner.

USA SOFTBALL LEAGUE UMPIRES The maximum registration fee is \$55.00, and all adults must submit to an USA SOFTBALL background check. He is eligible to officiate in their respective league games only. He receives all USA SOFTBALL umpire supplies and publications and is covered by USA SOFTBALL accident and liability insurance. Clinic attendance and testing is offered but not required. Youth league umpires (those 17 years of age & younger) register for a maximum fee of \$35.00.

USA SOFTBALL LDS CHURCH REGISTERED UMPIRES Registration fee is \$30.00. He receives all USA SOFTBALL umpire supplies and publications and is covered by USA SOFTBALL accident and liability insurance. Clinic attendance and testing is offered but not required. These umpires are not allowed to umpire USA SOFTBALL leagues or tournaments.

USA SOFTBALL AFFILIATED UMPIRES Registration fee is \$30.00, which includes the opportunity to attend a USA Softball of Utah umpire certification clinic, take an open book examination and receive a book/umpire manual. These umpires are not allowed to umpire USA SOFTBALL leagues or tournaments.

#### ARTICLE 22: Protests

All disputes during tournament play pertaining to the interpretation of playing rules must be settled on the playing field by the tournament UIC or his designated representative. All disputes over a rule interpretation in league play must be submitted for ruling in accordance with local league rules. In the absence of such league protest rules, the protests should be submitted to the State UIC or designee. Player eligibility protests should be addressed to the Area Commissioner/State Commissioner.

### ARTICLE 23: Suspensions/Ejections

Any player, team, coach or fan, who assaults an umpire, or any other USA SOFTBALL official in any manner, or who otherwise violates any USA SOFTBALL rule, including eligibility rules, shall be immediately suspended. Any person(s) so suspended shall have a right to a hearing as outlined in the USA SOFTBALL Code. Any player, coach, or fan ejected from a game will be ineligible to participate in that team's next game and is not allowed to participate with any other team until after said next game.

### Article 24: Finances

All funds of the association are to be used for the operation of the Association and shall not inure to the benefit of any one person. The Commissioners Committee appointed by the State Commissioner shall operate under the guidelines established in finance operating procedures, approved by the Executive Committee. The Association shall operate with the closing date of December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### ARTICLE 25: Amendments

This code may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee present and voting, or by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Commissioner's Council present and voting. Any amendment approved by the Executive Committee must be presented to and ratified by the Commissioner's Council at its annual meeting. A proposed amendment to this code must be in writing and signed by a voting member and sent to the State Commissioner at least forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting that the amendment will be voted on. The State Commissioner will then prepare and mail or email all properly submitted proposed amendments to each voting member of the meeting on which the vote will be taken. Such mailings must be at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.