

USA SOFTBALL™
of Alaska
2026

PROCEDURAL CODE
and
CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

USA Softball of Alaska Procedural Code and
Classification Guidelines

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ARTICLE 1- GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.01 NAME:

- A. The name of the organization shall be USA Softball of Alaska, hereinafter referred to as the Association. The principal office of the Association shall be the hometown of the State Commissioner.
- B. The Association shall be incorporated as a non-profit corporation, under laws of the State of Alaska.
- C. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, the remaining accumulated assets of the corporation shall be disbursed to another charitable organization as defined at AS 05.15.690(5).
- D. Upon the dissolution of the Association the disposition of net proceeds from charitable gaming conducted under AS 05.15 will go to a permittee, other than a multiple- beneficiary permittee.

1.02 OBJECTIVES:

- A. The purpose of the Association shall be:
 - 1. To promote amateur softball within the boundaries of the State of Alaska at all skill levels.
 - 2. To promote all phases of amateur softball in industry, youth, church, fraternal, civic and commercial organizations.
 - 3. To conduct well organized and planned invitational, district, state, regional, area and national tournaments.
 - 4. To be represented in all divisions on a state, regional, area and national level.
 - 5. To define districts in a manner that will benefit member teams in regard to amount of travel required; to promote the formation of teams into suitable leagues and under uniform rules and regulations.
 - 6. To promote clean, wholesome sportsmanship; to foster this game as a non- professional sport, engaged in without profit to the members.
 - 7. To promote USA Softball of Alaska Social Media Policy posted on the State Website.

1.03 RULES:

- A. THE OFFICIAL RULES OF SOFTBALL AND THE ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS adopted by USA Softball shall be and hereby are made a part of the Bylaws of the Association and with like force and effect as if they were herein set forth in full. These Bylaws shall presently and at all times hereafter be deemed to be as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended by USA Softball.

1.04 JURISDICTION:

- A. The Association is the governing body of amateur softball in the State of Alaska and is so recognized by USA Softball.

1.05 DEFINITIONS

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

1. AMATEUR - An amateur softball player who engages in the sport solely for the pleasure and physical, mental, or social benefits derived there from, and to whom softball is nothing more than an avocation.
2. ASSOCIATION - USA Softball of Alaska, the state organization.
3. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY – Tournament play leading to a state, regional or national tournament, which includes qualifying tournaments.
4. CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES - The Northwest Classification Guidelines as adopted by the Northwest Council at their meeting of March 1985, and by the Association at their meeting on March 30, 1985.
5. CODE - The Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.
6. DISTRICT - A geographical area encompassing specific boroughs or cities within the Association’s area, meeting established requirements for teams, umpires, and facilities.
7. INELIGIBLE PLAYER - A player who is not eligible to participate in USA Softball of Alaska championship competition. A disqualified player is included in this definition of an ineligible player.
8. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT - A tournament that does not lead to a championship tournament.
9. LEAGUE - More than three teams that compete regularly in a specific division of play, i.e., men’s, women’s, coed; and could include A, B, C, D, or E; with each playing a minimum of six (6) games. A published league schedule will be provided to the State Commissioner for verification.
10. RECLASSIFICATION - A change in classification either upward or downward.
11. STATE OFFICE - The State headquarters of the Association is located in the hometown of the State Commissioner.

1.06 AMENDMENTS:

A. This code may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the State Board of Directors present at an annual or special meeting.

ARTICLE 2- MEMBERSHIP

2.01 Teams:

- A. All teams must register with their District Commissioner or local association by July 15 of the current year.
- B. Teams that register with the State Association will be assessed a \$500 fee and pay the local association membership fee per player that 75% of the members reside in. These teams will be eligible for State and Invitational Tournaments and the roster will be kept with the State Association. These teams are not eligible for local play, and players may not be eligible as pickup players for local league.

2.02 PLAYERS:

- A. Players may register with any local association in Alaska.
- B. Players must register with their District Commissioner or local association by July 15 of the current year.
 - a. Any player requesting an exemption for registration after the July 15 deadline will be assessed \$200 fee which will be imposed by the State Association along with local registration fees in the city that the player resides. The State fee will distribute fees to the JO Scholarship fund and local fees dispersed to the local association, these fees can be appealed to the State Commissioner.
- C. Players who register in multiple associations must inform all associations that they are registered in multiple associations and notify them what level they are registered in.
- D. All Players in Adult Slow pitch teams must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age. A seventeen (17) year old can be listed on a team roster but are not eligible to play until following his / her birthday. Men participating in the Men's 50+ league must be 48 years of age on or before the first game in which they play.

2.03 UMPIRES:

- A. All umpires registered with the Association during the current year.

2.04 TERM:

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

2.05 FEES:

- A. Adult teams shall pay a registration fee to the District Commissioner or local association at the time they submit their completed registration form. All fees and forms will be forwarded to the State Commissioner.
 - 1. Adult Team Fee Schedule:
 - \$50 per team if received by the State Commissioner on or before June 9.
 - \$55 per team if received by the State Commissioner on or before July 7.
 - \$60 per team if received by the State Commissioner after July 14.
- B. Youth teams shall pay a registration fee to the District Commissioner or local association at the time they submit their completed registration form. All forms and fees will be forwarded to the State Commissioner.
 - 1. Youth Team Fee Schedule:
 - \$20 per team if received by the State Commissioner on or before June 9.
 - \$25 per team if received by the State Commissioner on or before July 7.

\$30 per team if received by the State Commissioner after July 14.
\$19 per player and coach for individual registration and insurance.

- C. Umpires shall pay a registration fee to the District Umpire in Chief or local association at the time they submit their completed registration form. All fees and forms will be forwarded to the State Commissioner.

- 1. Umpire Fee Schedule:

\$75 per umpire if received by the State Commissioner on or before June 9.
\$80 per umpire if received by the State Commissioner on or before June 16.
\$85 per umpire if received by the State Commissioner after June 23.

ARTICLE 3- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.01 POWERS:

- A. SOFTBALL RULES - The Board shall promulgate all the necessary rules and regulations, including play rules, not contrary to the Rules of the USA Softball.
- B. All appointed, selected, and elected positions to the Executive Board and the Board of Directors will be members in good standing of local organizations affiliated with the Association and USA Softball of Alaska

3.02 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

- A. The Alaska State Commissioner
- B. The Alaska State Umpire in Chief
- C. The Alaska State Jr. Olympic Commissioner
- D. The Alaska State Player Representative
- E. The President of USA Softball of Alaska
- F. The Vice President of USA Softball of Alaska
- G. The Commissioner Emeritus

3.03 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- A. Members of the Executive Board
- B. All District Commissioners, District Player Representatives, At-Large Player Representatives, and District Umpires in Chiefs
- C. Board of Directors Emeritus
- D. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have one (1) vote at all State Meetings.

3.04 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS:

- 4 The State Commissioner will appoint a State Umpire in Chief at the conclusion of the annual meeting.
- 5 The State Commissioner will appoint a Jr. Olympic Commissioner at the conclusion of the annual meeting.
- 6 The State Commissioner will appoint a State Player Representative at the conclusion of the annual meeting
- 7 The State Commissioner will make all District Commissioner appointments at the conclusion of the annual meeting.
- 8 All the above appointments shall be for one (1) year commencing on January 1 of each year.
- 9 Board of Directors members upon retirement and with twenty (20) or more consecutive years of service may be nominated by a current member of the Board of Directors for the position of Director Emeritus. The Board of Directors, at the annual meeting, will approve or disapprove the nomination. If approved, the Director Emeritus will become a life member of this Board with all rights and privileges accorded to the current members of the Board of Directors.

3.05 MEETINGS:

- A. ANNUAL - The Executive Board shall meet as needed and the Board of Directors shall meet on the first Saturday of December, effective 2013.
- B. SPECIAL - Special meetings may be called by the President and the State Commissioner upon written notice to all members of the Board of Directors. At least ten (10) days' written notice shall be given of the time and place of such meeting, with notice of the business to be transacted.
- C. EMAIL OR TELEPHONE VOTE - An email or telephone vote on any action that might lawfully be taken at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken. If and when an email or telephone vote is taken, the State Commissioner or President shall:
 - 1. Email or telephone each member of the Board of Directors with a clear statement of the question to be decided.
 - 2. Request that the vote be returned at a given date.
 - 3. Close the vote on the date given.
 - 4. Notify all Board of Director members of the results of the vote immediately.
 - 5. File and upon request make available to Board of Director members copies of the email or telephone vote.
- D. QUORUM - Two-thirds of the total membership shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors.
- E. PROXIES - Proxies will be recognized at any meeting of the Board of Directors upon notification to the State Commissioner prior to the meeting.
- F. REIMBURSEMENTS - Each member of the Board of Directors traveling over sixty (60) miles one way shall be reimbursed for travel and lodging upon presentation of proper receipts subject to the ability of the Association to pay such allowances from current receipts.

3.06 ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- A. The Board of Directors at the annual meeting shall elect, from its membership, a President and Vice President. These officers shall serve for a period of two (2) years beginning January 1 of the current year. Elections to be held on even years.

3.07 VACANCIES:

- A. Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment of the State Commissioner.

ARTICLE 4- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

4.01 PRESIDENT, VICE - PRESIDENT & TREASURER

- A. The duties of the offices of President and Vice President shall be duties usual to such offices.
- B. The duties of the Treasurer, assigned to the State Commissioner, shall include receipt and disbursement of all monies belonging to the Association and/or monies paid for disbursement to any Association member. The Treasurer shall keep proper accounting of all receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer shall furnish the Board of Directors with statements of any and all such accounts upon demand. The Treasurer shall be signer on the Association bank account which will require two (2) signatures.
- C. The State President shall appoint an audit chairperson and committee for an annual review of the financial reports submitted by the State Commissioner.

4.02 STATE COMMISSIONER:

- A. Manage the State Office of the Association and perform such duties and exercise such authority as provided herein.
- B. Negotiate and execute all contracts and agreements on behalf of the Association.
- C. Make the final decision on any interpretation of the Code.
- D. Act on behalf of the Association in all matters of emergency not covered in the Code.
- E. The State Commissioner will assume the duties of Secretary for the Association.
- F. Shall provide the Board of Directors with a proposed budget for the following year. To be approved at the annual meeting.

4.03 SUCCESSION:

- A. In the event the State Commissioner resigns, is unable to act, dies or is removed from office, the following succession shall be followed, Deputy State Commissioner, State President, State Vice President and State Player Representative. If the successor is unwilling or unable to assume the responsibilities of the Commissioner, the next in line will assume these responsibilities. This assumption of duties will continue until a new Commissioner can be appointed.

ARTICLE 5- PROTEST BOARD

5.01 MEMBERSHIP:

- A. A District or local association Protest Board will have three (3) members and shall have the original jurisdiction in all protest hearings. The District Commissioner shall serve as chair of the District Protest Board. The other two (2) members shall be the local or District Umpire in Chief and one (1) member from the local association.

5.02 AUTHORITY:

- A. Each District or local association Protest Board will rule on all protests submitted from their areas in accordance with this Code and the Rules and Regulations of USA Softball.

5.03 PROCEDURE:

- A. In preferring charges under 5.02 of this Article, the complainant shall submit their protest in writing to the District Commissioner or local association. All charges shall be dealt with according to the rules of USA Softball.

5.04 APPEALS:

- A. All decisions made by a District or local association Protest Board may be appealed in writing to the State Commissioner

ARTICLE 6- DIVISIONS OF PLAY

6.01 ADULT:

A. SLOWPITCH:

1. Coed B, C, D, E, Faith, and Masters
2. Men's C Tiered,
 - Tier A - 0 Spot
 - Tier B - 3 Spot
 - Tier C - 6 Spot
 - ~~Tier D - 9 Spot~~
 - ~~Tier E - 12 Spot~~
 - Committee to meet once a week to determine Men's program placement in the Tier system.
 - D, E, and Seniors
3. Women's C, D and Masters

6.02 JUNIOR OLYMPIC: A.

FAST PITCH

1. 8U Girls
2. 10U Girls
3. 12U Girls
4. 14U Girls
5. 16U Girls
6. 18U Girls

Note: Other divisions of play will be added as the need arises.

To qualify for the National tournaments (10,12,14,16,18 Western Nationals Class A&B and 10,12,14,16,18 USA Class A Nationals) you must register your team to play in the USA Softball of Alaska state tournament.

6.03 REGISTRATION:

- A. All teams registering with the Association may designate a classification, with the local associations' or District Commissioner's approvals absent from a local association. The local association has the authority to reclassify any team at any time prior to July 1 of the current season, within the framework of the approved guidelines, pursuant to Article 7.
- B. All teams must declare their USA Softball of Alaska classification by May 1 of the current year, or as quickly thereafter as possible. No changes will be made except as provided by 6.03 A. or by a decision of the local association classification board.
- C. All teams returning with four (4) or more players from the previous year's roster must register at the same classification as the previous year, unless they have been reclassified by the local association classification board, pursuant to Art. 7. Effective 2010 season the number five (5) changes to four (4).
- D. Local associations using USA Softball umpires for league play or tournaments must register all teams in their association.

6.04 ROSTERS:

- A. The team roster shall be submitted prior to participating in league or tournament play.

- B. There shall be no transfer or addition of players to adult team rosters for championship play after July 15 of the current year. Rosters shall be official, and any modification will be considered only in emergency situations and must be approved by the State Commissioner.
- C. If a Player transfers to a lower classified team, said player will maintain their original classification level going into the following season.
- D. Roster changes may be cause for reclassification. Rosters of teams that have qualified for championship play prior to July 15 shall be official and modification will be considered only in emergency situations.
- E. Transfers are considered on the new roster on the date they are eligible to play.
- F. Rosters must be submitted to the State Commissioner by the District Commissioner or local association not later than seven (7) days after the roster deadline. No exceptions.
- G. Male rosters shall include only male players, and female rosters shall include only female players.

ARTICLE 7- CLASSIFICATION

7.01 PURPOSE:

- A. The Association will designate a Classification Boards to evaluate, classify and review team competitive levels according to the classification guidelines.

7.02 MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Northern and Central: The Board will be made up of one (1) representative each from Fairbanks, Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula, Anchor Town and Mat-Su, and an at-large member appointed by USA Softball of Alaska State Commissioner with the State Player Representative serving as chairperson.
- B. Southern: The Board will be made up of one (1) representative, each from Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan, with the Deputy Player Representative serving as the chairperson.
- C. Local Association Classification Boards will be made up of the District Commissioner, District Player Representative, and a representative from the local association with additional members as necessary to create an odd number.

7.03 MEETING:

- A. The State Classification board will meet prior to the State meeting to confirm classification of all teams for commencement of play for the next season. Changes of classification will be submitted to the board and voted on for approval at the annual State meeting and team classification will be set for the season.
- B. The Board will meet following the offering of two sanctioned coed and two sanctioned men's / women's tournaments to consider reclassification of teams based on the current league and tournament results for that year. The board shall also meet at the call of the State Commissioner if needed. Teams affected must be notified no later than July 7th of each year.

7.04 AUTHORITY:

- A. Local Association Classification Boards, in determining proper athletic proficiency for teams, shall be limited to an overall comparison of all teams within the state or regional area, except for teams that regularly compete in championship tournaments. Teams that regularly compete in championship tournaments shall be evaluated on an overall comparison of all teams within the state or regional area with reasonable consideration of teams on a regional or national level.
 - 1. Local Association Classification Boards shall have the authority and the responsibility to act on the following:
 - (a) Classify players and teams prior to the beginning of regular season play based on past performance and current season roster.
 - (b) Review players and teams during season play for possible reclassification by July 7.
 - (c) Hear properly filed appeals of players and teams on their classification status by the appropriate USA Softball of Alaska deadline.
 - (d) Develop additional guidelines and regulations as the need arises.
 - (e) All team classification decisions made by the local association or District Classification Board absent from a local association, shall be subject to the approval of the State Commissioner.

7.05 APPEAL:

- A. A team shall adhere to the following steps in appealing the decision of the local association classification board:
 - 1. Appeal in writing, after competing in two (2) sanctioned USA Softball of Alaska tournaments, to the local association or District Classification Board.
 - 2. A team may appeal the final decision of the Local Association Classification Board to the State Commissioner. This appeal must be in writing and submitted within fourteen (14) days after the Local Association Classification Board final decision. The State Commissioner shall render a final decision within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the appeal.

ARTICLE 8- CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

8.01 PURPOSE:

- A. To establish rules and guidelines for the classification of teams and players for tournament and championship competition.

8.02 OBJECTIVES:

- A. To attain in an equitable manner, classification of teams at their respective level of athletic proficiency for the various levels of tournaments and championship play conducted by USA Softball of Alaska, local, state and metro associations.
- B. It is the goal of the classification system to promote teams to the level of play where the team is reasonably competitive.

8.03 AUTHORITY:

- A. The classification guidelines as approved by USA Softball Northwest Council shall be the basic structure for team classification. Each local association shall properly administer the resulting procedural code. They may establish additional procedures and rules locally in keeping with the above purposes and objectives as long as they are not inconsistent with or in variance with these guidelines.

8.04 GENERAL CLASSIFICATION PROVISIONS:

- A. NEW TEAMS - It is the responsibility of the local association to classify new teams to the appropriate level of play.
- B. RE-FORMED TEAMS - Teams that re-form, in order to avoid upward reclassification, must have fewer than four (4) players from the previous year's roster or a combination of fewer than four (4) players from any reclassified teams of the same level in order to be considered as a new team. Addition of players from higher classified teams will be counted as one (1) player for each level they drop. For example, a "B" player dropping to a "D" team will count as two (2) players for the fewer than four (4) rules.
- C. Men's players may only drop one (1) classification on their Coed current or previous team or the highest level or the highest level in the local association. Appeals may be directed to local classification board and must be approved by the State Commissioner.
- D. A team reclassified for the upcoming season must participate in at least two (2) tournaments in that season prior to July 29 before they can request declassification.
- E. Teams may apply in writing to the local association classification board for declassification, but not before June 20.
- F. All teams may be considered for reclassification at the end of the season relative to available programs.
- G. Teams traveling to post season play after State Tournament competition will have their classification reviewed by the State Commissioner before travel.

8.05 TOURNAMENT TEAMS:

- A. Any coed, men's or women's slow pitch team residing in a community or area that does not have that same classification of play, must register no lower than Coed D, Men's C or Women's C respectively for all tournament play. The District Commissioner, or Deputy Commissioner absent a District Commissioner, may classify tournament teams at a higher classification, but not lower. Such teams must play at least two (2) USA Softball of Alaska sanctioned invitational tournaments to support their application to the Local Association Classification Board for reclassification to a lower class. Teams residing in communities or areas with the requested classification of play may not register as tournament teams.
- B. Any player(s) that elects to play up in classification on a Tournament Team shall retain the player classification of their corresponding League Team.
- C. Teams choosing to use pick-up players for tournament play must report those players to their local association by the established deadline for that tournament. Team roster with pick-up player must adhere to the provision of Article 08.04.B for RE-FORMED Teams and have no more than Three (3) players originally placed at a higher classification.

ARTICLE 9 – RESTRICTED PLAYER LIST

9.01 PURPOSE:

- A. To establish rules and guidelines for the classification of restricted players.
- B. The Association will designate a Restricted Player Board to evaluate, classify and review players for inclusion onto the Restricted player list.

9.02 GUIDELINES:

- A. USA Softball of Alaska Restricted Players may only play at the highest level of classification offered.
- B. Coed rosters may have no more than one (1) restricted player from the USA Softball of Alaska Restricted Player List, they will spot four (4) runs for each additional restricted player.
- C. No player may be added to the USA Softball of Alaska Restricted Player List unless they arrive in Alaska with a National Ranking of B or above.
- D. Men's rosters that contain more than four (4) players from the USA Softball of Alaska Restricted Player List will sport an additional 2 runs per player.

9.03 TOURNAMENT PLAY:

- A. If a team chooses to pick up a player from the USA Softball of Alaska Restricted Player List that player will be added to their tournament roster.
- B. A team manager may choose to remove an RPL player from his weekend tournament roster on a day-to-day basis. If this is done the RPL player will be ineligible for the day, or days identified during the weekend tournament and be placed back on the roster the next business day. The team manager must notify their home association or State Association of this roster change by the association's tournament or the State's pick-up player deadline depending on whether it's an Invitational Tournament or State Tournament.
- C. An RPL player can be removed from a tournament roster due to an injury. If removed due to injury the run spot will be removed starting the following game. The RPL player must be verbally reported to the tournament director as injured, and the director shall remove them from play. If an RPL player is removed from the roster due to injury, they will not be allowed to participate in any additional games for that tournament nor can they be added back to the roster for the remainder.

9.04 APPEAL PROCESS:

- A. Starting January 1st of each year, USA Softball of Alaska will start a player appeal process where players can submit an appeal to have their player rating dropped. This process will end February 28th and at that time appeals will not be accepted until January of the following year. USA Softball of Alaska has drafted these guidelines based on the USA Softball Code, National addition, USA Softball of Alaska has met with local jurisdictions and coaches to seek opinions to make the upper Men's leagues the best they can be.

ARTICLE 10- DISTRICTS

10.01 DEFINITION:

- A. For the purpose of registration, tournament play, etc., the Association shall have eight (8) Districts, each under the administrative control of a Deputy/District Commissioner. Other areas may be designated as Districts upon establishment of criteria as outlined in 10.02 of this Code.

Defined Districts are:

1. District 1 - Municipality of Anchorage
2. District 2 - Fairbanks North Star Borough
3. District 3 - City and Borough of Juneau
4. District 4 - Kenai Peninsula Borough
5. District 5 - City of Homer
6. District 6 - Matanuska Susitna Borough
7. District 7 - City and Borough of Sitka
8. District 8 - Ketchikan Gateway Borough including Petersburg.
9. District 9 - All other cities and Boroughs in the State.

10.02 REQUIREMENTS:

- A. TEAMS - Local association established as a legal entity with two (2) or more divisions of play with combined total of ten (10) or more teams.
- B. FACILITIES - Minimum of two (2) fields which meet USA Softball specifications.
- C. UMPIRES - Minimum of two (2) certified local association officials per field. Quality of umpires registered must be approved by State Umpire in Chief.
- D. Areas seeking District status must submit a written petition to the Board of Directors. Petition must include proposed geographic area and approval of area Deputy Commissioner.

10.03 DISTRICT REPRESENTATION:

- A. Areas fulfilling all of the above requirements shall have representation to USA Softball of Alaska Board of Directors by a District Commissioner, District Player Representative, and District Umpire in Chief.
- B. Additional District representation shall be achieved by the following:
1. District JO Commissioner when twelve (12) or more JO teams are registered.
 2. One (1) additional Player Representative for each one hundred (100) teams registered from a District in the preceding year.
- D. Districts will forfeit their representation at the annual meeting if all fees, forms, and reports are not received by the State Commissioner by September 15.

10.04 PENALTY:

- A. Districts falling below any minimums as outlined in 10.02 A.- D. will be placed in a probationary status the following year, forfeiting assigned rotation for State Tournaments and/or Regional Qualifying Tournaments for the probationary year. This notice shall be issued, in writing, by the State Commissioner.
- B. Any District that falls below the minimum requirements and is placed on probation will have three (3) years to meet the requirements. Districts failing to meet the requirements after three (3) years will forfeit their District status and representation on USA Softball of Alaska Board of Directors.

10.05 RIGHT OF APPEAL:

- A. A District placed on probation may present a written appeal or personal appearance to the Board of Directors at their annual meeting.
- B. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final

ARTICLE 11- ELIGIBILITY

11.01 GENERAL RULE:

- A. A player may play in any State or Metro Association during the current year.
- B. A player who is rostered in more than one (1) association may participate with only one (1) team during an Invitational Tournament **and State Tournament**.
- C. A player may transfer only one time from their original team. A second transfer will require a two (2) week waiting period, a \$100 transfer fee, and a written request to the State Commissioner for approval to transfer again.

ARTICLE 12- DISQUALIFICATION

12.01 ACTS OF DISQUALIFICATION:

- A. A player, coach manager, umpire, team, or a member of a local association may be disqualified up to one (1) year for any of the following:
 - 1. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - 2. Commission of fraud, such as knowingly playing under an assumed name, a coach or manager playing a player under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to tournament officials.
 - 3. Participating while knowing he does not meet the eligibility requirements of USA Softball or the Association.
 - 4. Competing with or against players that he knows are disqualified from either USA Softball or the Association.
 - 5. Commission of any act while participating in USA Softball activities such as: failure to pay indebtedness, destruction of property, violation of state or local laws, or any other acts that are contrary to the objectives and purposes of USA Softball of Alaska.
- B. A player, manager, coach, umpire, team, or a member of a local association shall be disqualified a minimum of one (1) year for any of the following:
 - 1. Physically assaulting an umpire, game participant, or an official of the association. This applies to any player, manager, coach, sponsor, or anyone connected with a USA Softball team; also includes any umpire registered with the Association.
- C. A player, manager, coach, team, will be disqualified for a minimum of two (2) years for any of the following:
 - 1. Use of an altered bat as defined by the Official USA Softball Rule Book
- D. Prohibited Behavior
 - ~~1. Any form of violence (physical altercations, aggressive behavior, or threats of harm) is strictly prohibited.~~
 - 1. Use of bad language or unsportsmanlike conduct (e.g., offensive remarks, insults, inappropriate gestures, or verbal abuse) directed at players, officials or spectators is not tolerated.
 - i. Penalty Structure for Violations:
 - 1. First Offense:

- a. Suspension: The player will be suspended for one game
 - i. Fine: A \$150 fine will be assessed in order to play again.
 - 2. Second Offense:
 - a. Suspension: The player will be suspended for two games.
 - i. Fine: A \$250 fine will be assessed in order to play again.
 - 3. Third Offense:
 - a. Suspension: The player will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- ii. Fine Allocation:
 - 1. All fines to be collected from violations will be donated to the Alaska JO Fastpitch Program to support youth softball development and opportunities in the State.
- iii. Appeal Process:
 - 1. Players may appeal the fine penalty by submitting a written appeal to the **local** league office within 48 hours of the incident.
 - 2. The league's disciplinary committee will review the appeal and make a final decision. The decision of the committee is final.
- iv. General Conduct Expectations:
 - 1. Players are expected to demonstrate sportsmanship and respect toward all participants, including teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators.
 - 2. Disrespectful behavior or language toward umpires, players or league officials will result in immediate disciplinary action.
 - 3. Maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all participants is paramount to the leagues.

A.02 DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES:

- A. HEARING - The person(s) subject to suspension shall be entitled to a hearing before a Deputy or District Commissioner and a committee of three (3) persons appointed by the Deputy or District Commissioner in whose area the violation took place.
- B. NOTIFICATION - The individual(s) must be notified, in writing, of the time, place, and date of the hearing. Individual(s) is entitled to an alternate date if, for good cause, the original date is not acceptable. Should the accused party fail to attend the hearing, the person conducting the hearing may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance.
- C. RULING - After hearing the evidence, the person presiding at the hearing shall render a written decision within fourteen (14) days. The person(s) involved shall be advised, in writing, by the District Commissioner of the action taken. A copy of the ruling must be sent to the State Office. (and all associations shall be notified of the negative ruling of the individual should a suspension be involved).
- D. RIGHT OF APPEAL - Any person(s) suspended from USA Softball or Association play may appeal to the State Commissioner. The decision of the State Commissioner may further be appealed according to the USA Softball Code. Anyone wishing to appeal must notify the State Commissioner, in writing, within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of the notice of disqualification. However, any person(s) suspended from USA Softball of Alaska or local Association play shall remain in a suspended status pending appeal.
 - 1. An appeal filed by an individual shall be accompanied by a \$100.00 filing fee. The fee will be dispersed to the JO Scholarship Fund.

12.03 JURISDICTION:

- A. An individual shall cease to be eligible for all play conducted or sanctioned by USA Softball or the Association while disqualified by either USA Softball or the Association.

12.04 PENALTIES:

- A. Individual(s) may be disqualified for period of time at the discretion of his/her District Commissioner for violations outline in 12.01 of this Code, with the exception of the following acts of disqualification which require a minimum of one (1) year loss of eligibility:
 - 1. Physical misconduct / Physical violence
 - 2. Commission of fraud

12.05 DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES (CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY)

- A. In addition to disqualification procedures under 12.02, there shall be a tournament protest committee for each USA Softball of Alaska Championship Tournament, which shall have jurisdiction to decide questions of disqualification from that tournament or to which a decision (except one (1) of an umpire's judgment) in tournament play be appealed. The decision of such committee shall be final.
- B. The selection of the committee shall be made by the tournament director.
- C. Hearing. Upon the discovery of an ineligible player or acts of disqualification under 12.01, the individual(s) shall be provided a fair notice and opportunity for a hearing before the Tournament Protest Committee whose decision shall be final.
- D. Disqualification. A team that is disqualified under this rule shall forfeit the game being played or the game last played and shall be disqualified 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 disqualified and shall be placed last in the finish order.
- E. Forfeits, teams that forfeit as a result of other than ineligible players or acts of disqualification under 12.01 shall be allowed to continue in tournament play unless the forfeit was their second loss.
- E. A player that is ejected from a local, state, or invitational play must also sit out the team's next scheduled game of a tournament or league game. If the team has been eliminated from tournament play, they shall sit out the team's next available league game. If the team is not from the tournament host association, then the host association will notify the team's association within forty-eight (48) hours of completion of the tournament and that association must enforce the one (1) game suspension. A player may be ejected for unsporting conduct after the conclusion of the game and will still serve the one (1) game suspension as noted above. If the offense is deemed extreme, then the tournament committee may suspend the player beyond the one (1) additional game.

ARTICLE 13- ASSUMPTION OF INJURIES

13.01 GENERAL:

All players and members assume all the risk of accidents and injuries arising out of or in the course of any and all activities sponsored by the Association. The officers, sponsors, and members of any local, district state, regional or national tournament and of teams, and of the Association, shall not be liable for damages resulting from such accidents or injuries.

ARTICLE 14- TOURNAMENTS

14.01 STATE TOURNAMENTS:

- A. No local association may host a state tournament without having purchased a bat testing machine and have it available for use.
- B. No local association may host a state tournament without having a least two (2) umpires per needed field committed to work that weekend.
- C. The Official Ball for all championship slow pitch tournaments will be the .52 COR or under, a compression of 300 pounds or under.
- D. State Tournaments may be held in the following divisions of play: Coed Comp, C, D, and Masters; Men's Comp, C, and D; Men's Masters and Men's Seniors; and Women's Comp, D and Women's Masters.
- E. The Association will charge a State Tournament sanction fee of \$200 for each Adult State Tournament and \$100 for each Jr. Olympic State Tournament to be submitted to the State Office by July 15 of the current year.
- F. State Tournament entry fees for double elimination or triple elimination format **\$450**. Tournament format with thirteen (13) or more teams for slow pith shall be triple elimination, and with seven (7) or less teams shall be conducted in RR/DE 4GG Format. Round Robin games will be used for seeding the DE bracket. Round Robin pools will be seeded according to 13.01 N. JO State Tournament will adhere to Article 16.01 B ENTRY FEES MUST BE PAID TO THE HOST ASSOCIATION BY 5:00 PM ON THE MONDAY PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT START OR ON THE DAY FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF QUALIFYING PLAY. FAILURE TO COMPETE AFTER OFFICIAL ENTRY WILL RESULT IN FORFEIT OF A TEAM'S ENTRY FEE TO THE TOURNAMENT HOST. NOTE: The above policy extends to State Tournament teams who qualify for participation in regional or national tournament play.
- G. The tournament host is responsible for all tournament expenses, including umpire game fees and per diem/housing for out-of-town umpires and will also retain all tournament profits.
- H. All adult State Tournaments will have twenty-four (24) teams unless the host association elects to increase the number based on field and umpire availability. The State Commissioner will award berths to the State Tournaments based on July 15 registrations with a USA Softball of Alaska sanctioned league or association. Teams not registered by July 15 are not eligible for State Tournaments.
- I. The State Commissioner will establish a standby list of replacement berths (based on July registrations) should any team notify in advance that they will not attend the State Tournament.
- J. All Slow Pitch State Tournament games, until the Championship game, must go the regulation seven (7) innings or one hour time limit, whichever occurs first. Championship and if necessary, games shall go the regulation seven (7) innings. The Official USA Softball run rule will be used on all games.

K. HOME RUN RULE:

USA Softball Official Rules shall apply with the following exceptions:

Coed B	Two (2) Up Home Run Rule (Teams can only be up 2 homeruns over their opponent at any point in a game.) This is a running tally kept throughout the game – Any home run over the 2 up will be an out.
Coed C	Two (2) and Progressive, Matching home runs for men and women
Coed D	One (1) and Progressive, Matching home runs for men and women
Coed E	One (1) and done Matching home runs for men and women.
Men’s C	Two (2) 2-Up Home Run Rule (Teams can only be up 2 homeruns over their opponent at any point in a game.) This is a running tally kept throughout the game – Any home run over the 2 up will be an out.
Men’s D	One (1) and Progressive
Men’s E	One (1)
Women’s C	One (1) and Progressive
Women’s D	One (1) No Stealing

- L. All State Tournaments will use an approved USA Softball bracket, provided by the Association, to include the following sentence, “Sanctioned by USA Softball of Alaska”.
- M. All State Tournaments will be seeded by the host association, using the approved Alaska seeding book, and must be approved by the State Commissioner.
- N. The State Tournament schedule will be approved by majority vote at the annual state meeting.
- O. State Tournament play shall commence not earlier than 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, based on a twenty-four (24) team format.
- P. The championship game may not be scheduled to commence later than 4:00 PM on Sunday, but may be scheduled earlier, based on a twenty-four (24) team format.
- Q. The State Commissioner will ensure that all AK 13-1 to include completed brackets are posted on the USA Softball of Alaska website no later than thirty (30) days after completion of the scheduled tournament.
- R. State Tournament, with fewer than six (6) teams or no traveling teams, may have all competition scheduled for one day.
- S. A tournament report which includes a completed bracket with game scores and a completed tournament report form, AK 13-1, will be sent to each District Commissioner, the State Player Rep and the State Commissioner within fourteen (14) days after completion of the tournament. The top five (5) finishing teams will have any pick-up players noted and the name of the teams from which the pick-up players were selected.
1. Districts will forfeit their State Tournament rotation for the following year if all State Tournament reports and fees are not received by the State Commissioner by September 15.
- T. The Host association will notify teams of their first-round opponents and starting game times by noon on Thursday preceding the tournament.
- U. In order to host a State Tournament, a local association must have the specific division of play, i.e., men’s, women’s or co-ed and must register one (1) or more teams in that classification.
- V. All teams participating in an USA Softball of Alaska State Tournament must submit to the tournament director, an official roster signed by either a Local Association official or their District Commissioner.
- W. Players may play for only one (1) team for championship play in a division per year. Championship play includes state qualifiers and local association playoffs

X. Players from Coed Rec., Coed 5x5, and Coed 7-3 leagues are not eligible for Championship Pla

Y. All teams are permitted to add three (3) players as follows:

1. Pick-up players must be from the Alaska State Association.
2. A pick-up player may not be substituted after participation.
3. Pick-up players must be from the team's same division of play and the same or lower classification. EXCEPTION: A player who has competed in Junior Olympic championship play is eligible to participate in adult championship play during the same season as a pick-up player. Players (Adult and Junior Olympic) whose teams have qualified to compete in the highest-level tournament in a classification will not be eligible to be pick-up players.
4. Pick-up players may be selected only from teams which are no longer eligible for championship play.
5. Pick-up players must be designated on the team's official roster before tournament play begins.
6. Additional individual awards such as, but not limited to, Gold Glove, Most Valuable Player and leading Hitter may be presented.
7. Pick-up players must have played for a USA Softball of Alaska registered team during the current season and must have played in the division of play for which they are being picked up. Church teams may not add any player that does not meet the eligibility requirements of that division of play.
8. Junior Olympic players are eligible to be pick-up players for another Junior Olympic classification if all other conditions are met as listed in this, and other Articles of this code.
9. Pick-up players must wear the uniform of their regular team.
10. Pick-up players that are dual registered, for example on a Men's Comp team and Men's Masters team, must play at their highest registered level.

Z. A pick-up player's previous year's re-classification ranking will be counted towards a reformed team's requirement to have a combination of fewer than four (4) players.

AA. Awards

1. All State Tournament awards shall have the name of the tournament, classification, year and finishing position on the plate or garment being awarded. "USA Softball of Alaska" shall be included on the trophies or garments being awarded. All trophies and other awards shall be of a reasonable size to recognize the status of the State Tournaments.
2. Team trophies shall be presented to the top 3 finishers in the divisions.
3. Individual awards shall be presented to the top finishers as follows:

zero (0) twenty-three (23) teams, a plaque, trophy, sweatshirt or another long-sleeved shirt, jacket, or sports bag for each member of the first-place team.
twenty-four (24) or more teams, a plaque, trophy, tee shirt, jacket, or sports bag for each member of the first and second place team
4. A twelve (12) person All-Tournament team shall be selected for all Men's and Women's State Tournaments.

5. A fourteen (14) person All-Tournament team shall be selected for all Coed State Tournaments.
 6. Additional individual awards such as, but not limited to, Gold Glove, Most Valuable Player and Leading Hitter may be presented.
 7. The costs of all awards shall be the responsibility of the host association.
 8. Teams are not required to go to another site, other than the tournament site to receive trophies and/or awards following completion of the tournament.
- BB. A player rostered with a team participating in an USA Softball of Alaska sanctioned tournament cannot be tournament director or serve on the protest committee of the tournament in which their team is participating.
- CC. Players that are dual registered, for example Men's Comp and a military Men's D team, cannot play below their highest registered level. Teams containing dual registered players must play at the level of the highest player playing on that tournament team.

14.02 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS:

- A. Invitational tournaments may be conducted or sanctioned by the Association.
- B. Only teams registered with USA Softball of Alaska are eligible to compete.
- C. The Official Ball of all Invitational slow pitch tournaments will be the .52 COR or under, a compression of 300 pounds or under.
- D. The number of awards to be presented, entry fee and number of umpires must be listed on the tournament information sheet.
- E. No Invitational Tournament may be conducted which conflicts with championship play of the local association or the State Association.
- F. No Invitational Tournament may be added to the USA Softball of Alaska Invitational Tournament schedule after March 1 each year without the approval of the State Commissioner.
- G. All entry blanks and publicity shall include the statement "Sanctioned by USA Softball of Alaska"
- H. A sanction fee of \$25 per division/per class will be charged for any tournament sponsored by the local association or affiliate softball organization. Fees are due to the State Commissioner no later than June 15 of each year. A late fee of \$10 per division/per classification will be assessed after June 15. NOTE: There will be no refunds of sanction fees for any reason.
- I. All teams participating in a USA Softball of Alaska Invitational Tournament must submit, to the tournament director, an official roster signed by either a Local Association official or their District Commissioner.
 1. If the tournament allows pickup players, they must be designated on the team roster, and must play in the same division of play, and the same classification or lower. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - i. Pick up players must wear the uniform of their regular team.
 2. A pick-up player's previous year's re-classification ranking will be counted towards a reformed team's requirement to have a combination of fewer than four (4) players. Effective 2010 the number changes to four.

- J. All Tournament entry fees must be paid to the team's local association. The local association will be responsible for entering the team and payment of the entry fee to the host association where the tournament will be played.
- K. Only USA Softball registered umpires may be used.
- L. A tournament report which includes a completed bracket with game scores and a completed tournament report form, AK 13-1, will be sent to each District Commissioner, the State Player Rep and the State Commissioner within fourteen (14) days after completion of the tournament. The top five (5) finishing teams will have any pick-up players noted and the name of the teams from which the pick-up players were selected. The State Commissioner will ensure that all AK 13-1 are posted on to the USA Softball of Alaska website no later than thirty (30) days after completion of the scheduled tournament.
- M. Home Run rule for invitational tournaments shall be at the discretion of the host association. Note: To speed up the game and allow the opportunity to play all innings, enforce a no touch base rule for all home runs.
- N. Dual class tournaments shall use the home run rule of the lower class. If an equalizer is used, it is recommended that host associations assign a six (6) run equalizer for one class difference and a ten (10) run equalizer for a two (2) class difference.
- O. Junior Olympic teams will be classified by the local District Classification Board, or in the established league of participation for invitational tournaments.
- P. A player rostered with a team participating in an USA Softball of Alaska sanctioned tournament cannot be tournament director or serve on the protest committee of the tournament in which their team is participating.
- Q. Upon completion of the tournament any out-of-town officials will be compensated with ten (10) business days, either by check or cash. Traveling officials will comply with any financial requirements required by the hosting association. (i.e., W2)

14.03 ROSTERS:

- A. Teams must compete in championship play with the same roster as used during the regular season play. See Article 6.04 of this Code.
- B. Players participating in adult USA Softball of Alaska Invitational and State Tournaments must be able to prove their identity, with picture identification, upon request of tournament officials. Failure to comply will result in immediate suspension from that tournament. Junior Olympic players must provide proof of birth prior to State Tournament participation.
- C. NUMBER OF PLAYERS - A maximum of twenty (20) players including pickups shall be permitted on a team's championship roster. A coach or manager shall not count as a player unless he is an active player.

14.04 SOFTBALLS:

- A. The Official Ball for all invitational and championship play slow pitch tournaments will be the .52 COR or under, with a compression of 300 pounds or under.

14.05 TOURNAMENT EXPENSES:

- A. The sponsors of any USA Softball of Alaska sanctioned tournament shall be solely responsible for all expenses for balls, grounds, advertising, officials, awards, and other expenses to the actual conduct of the tournament.

14.06 UNIFORMS:

- A. Uniform rule for teams participating in State Tournaments requires jerseys/shirts of the same color with a number.

ARTICLE 15- UMPIRES

15.01 REGISTRATION:

- A. Umpires must be a member of a local, district, or state umpiring association as provided by Article 2.05 of this Code. Umpires shall be a primary member of only one local or district association. They may become an associate member of a second local or district association by meeting the requirements of the second association. The umpire's primary association will be the one first registered with for the current year.
- B. Testing and Certification:
 - 1. All umpires shall complete the current year USA Softball Umpire Exam. The test will be completed open book and shall be scored by the District UIC prior to the individual umpire being assigned games. District UIC's will forward test results, registration forms and fees to the State Commissioner. The State Commissioner will forward copies of the information to the State UIC.
 - 2. Umpires achieving 75% on the open book test will be classified as "Registered Umpire" and will be eligible to umpire local league games and USA Softball of Alaska sanctioned Invitational Tournaments.
 - 3. All umpires will have a USA Softball approved background check as part of the registration process with USA Softball of Alaska.

15.02 CLINICS:

- A. District UIC's are expected to arrange for rules and mechanics clinics for umpires in their District prior to the start of the season. Coach clinics should also be coordinated when requested.
- B. All Districts are required to hold Umpire rules clinics administered by the Alaska Umpire in Chief or his designee. These clinics will be held on alternate years with even numbered districts in even numbered years and odd numbered districts in odd numbered years. Districts holding clinics will have a minimum attendance of ten (10) or more or the district will be responsible for the travel and lodging for the Alaska Umpire in Chief. Districts or local associations requiring the State UIC to give clinics will provide an honorarium for the clinician.

15.03 DISTRICT UMPIRE IN CHIEF:

- A. Shall be appointed by the State Umpire in Chief.
- B. Serves as liaison between local umpire association and State UIC.
- C. Responsible for submission of properly completed umpire registration forms, fees, and test scores to State Commissioner in a timely manner.
- D. Coordinates umpire materials order and fee payment
- E. Reports to State UIC the attendance and work of umpires selected for Regional Tournaments within seven (7) days after completion of the tournament

15.04 STATE TOURNAMENTS:

- A. Each umpire working at State Tournaments shall receive a minimum of \$25 for slow pitch and \$55 for fast pitch per game. The Alaska UIC will provide for umpires from other areas for State Tournaments using the following formula:

Tournaments with less than twelve (12) teams: zero (0)
Tournaments with thirteen (13) – twenty (20) teams: two (2)
Tournaments with twenty-one (21) or more teams: four (4)

Additional non-local umpires may be provided depending on need. Traveling umpires will receive game fees, lodging and \$50 per day per diem.

- B. The Alaska UIC will be reimbursed by the State Commissioner for travel expenses to/from State Tournaments.
- C. A minimum of two (2) umpires will be used at all games. The tournament UIC shall provide for a minimum of three (3) umpires per field to be used for scheduling purposes. The tournament UIC will not umpire games during the tournament unless absolutely necessary.
- D. Umpires for State Tournaments shall be selected by the State Umpire in Chief and approved by the State Commissioner.
- E. The State Umpire in Chief may assign specific umpires to specific State Tournaments as the need arises.
- F. All State Tournaments having more than six (6) teams will have a Tournament UIC appointed by the State UIC. The Tournament UIC will receive \$150 per day plus per diem, if applicable. USA Softball of Alaska and the host association will split the Tournament UIC fee equally. If there is more than one (1) State Tournament conducted at the same location on the same dates, then the UIC duties will be combined.

15.05 UMPIRE EXCHANGES:

- A. District/Local Umpire Associations are encouraged to conduct umpire exchanges or to invite umpires for invitational tournaments. All requests for umpire exchanges and invitations shall be coordinated through the respective District UIC's.
- B. Traveling officials will receive game fees, (at local rate or negotiated rate), lodging and transportation (if needed), and \$50 per day per diem, at the conclusion of the tournament.

15.06 POST SEASON TOURNAMENT SELECTION:

- A. The State UIC will allocate post season assignments to the districts when received from the Regional UIC. Assignments will be based on District membership, classification of tournament, number of assignments requested and quality of umpires in the district.
- B. The District UIC will recommend a primary and an alternate selection for each Post Season Tournament assignment and will forward the names, addresses and telephone numbers of these umpires to the State UIC by the requested deadline.
- D. The State UIC will make the selection of umpires from the recommendations of the District UIC and will forward the names to the State Commissioner for final approval prior to notifying the Regional UIC of the selections.

15.07 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SELECTION:

- A. All National Tournament umpires will be selected by the State UIC with final approval by the State Commissioner. Umpires must meet the following criteria before being selected by the State UIC for National Tournaments:
 - 1. Must be a Certified Umpire as stated in Article 15.01B.1. of this code.
 - 2. Must have been evaluated by the State UIC and received a rating recommending selection for such a tournament.
 - 3. Must be a member in good standing (active) of the primary local umpire association.

ARTICLE 16 – Junior Olympics

16.01 MEMBERSHIP

- A. Coaches, Volunteers, and Players may register with any local association in Alaska.
- B. Teams must register with their District Commissioner or local association by **July 1** of the current year.
- C. Anyone who registers in multiple associations must inform all associations that they are registered in multiple associations and notify them what level of play they are registered in.
- D. Memberships are annual and expire on August 31 of the current year.

16.02 TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

- A. All teams and players must be registered with the District Commissioner or local association by July 1 of the current year.
 - 1. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of State Tournament berths for the current season.
- B. Youth teams or individual players shall pay a registration fee to the District Commissioner or local association at the time they submit their completed registration form.
 - 1. All forms and fees will be forwarded to the State Commissioner.
- C. JO Team Fees
 - 1. \$20 per team if received by the State Commissioner on or before June 9.
 - 2. \$25 per team if received by the State Commissioner on or before July 7.
 - 3. \$30 per team if received by the State Commissioner after July 14.
- D. JO Individual Player Fee
 - 1. **\$25** per player for individual registration and insurance.
- A. No JO player will be eligible to participate in league play, including invitational tournaments or State tournaments, if any outstanding balance is due to a local club program, including local associations or the State association, until the balance has been satisfied.
- B. Junior Olympic age qualifications.
 - 1. A player's age on August 31 determines the age classification in which the player is eligible to play in the current year.
 - 2. If you are unsure about a player's age classification, contact your local organization or the State JO Commissioner.

16.03 COACH/VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION and BACKGROUND CHECK

- A. All Junior Olympic team coaches and personnel assisting in the dugout or on the field must be registered and have a USA Softball background check for the current year.
- B. The USA Softball registration period (current year) is from Sept 1 to August 31 of the following year.
- C. Fees
 - 1. Background check – ID Card, Non-Photo **\$24.42**
 - 2. Insurance - COACH/VOLUNTEER \$1,000 Ded – ID Card, Non-Photo **\$25.00**
- D. No Coach or Volunteer will be eligible to participate in league play, including invitational tournaments or State tournaments, if any outstanding balance is due to a local club program, including local associations or the State association, until the balance has been satisfied.

16.04 SafeSport and ACE CERTIFICATION

- A. All Junior Olympic team coaches and personnel assisting on the field or in the dugout must have completed SafeSport training for the current year.
- B. The USA Softball registration period (current year) is from Sept 1 to August 31 of the following year.

- C. All Junior Olympic teams must have at least one (1) ACE certified coach, (on the field or in the dugout), which includes a background check (current year) during league and championship play.
- D. Fees

SafeSport Training	Free
ACE Level 1, includes background check	\$38.00
ACE Level 2 includes background check	\$36.00
ACE Level 3 includes background check	\$36.00
ACE Level 4 includes background check	\$36.00
- E. No Coach or Volunteer will be eligible to participate in league play, including invitational tournaments, or State tournaments if any outstanding balance is due to a local club program including local associations or State association, until the balance has been satisfied.

16.05 CLASSIFICATION:

- A. Divisions of play
 - 1. Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch
 - 2. Girls and Boys
 - a. 10U
 - b. 12U
 - c. 14U
 - d. 16U
 - e. 18U

Note: Other divisions of play will be added as the need arises.

To qualify for the National tournaments (10,12,14,16,18 Western Nationals Class A&B and 10,12,14,16,18 USA Class A Nationals) you must register your team to play in the USA Softball of Alaska state tournament. Exceptions are to be allowed by appeal to the State Commissioner.

16.06 TOURNAMENTS

- A. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS
 - 1. Invitational tournaments may be conducted or sanctioned by the Association.
 - 2. Only teams and players registered with USA Softball of Alaska are eligible to compete.
 - 3. The number of awards to be presented, entry fee, and number of umpires must be listed on the tournament profile information sheet.
 - 4. No Invitational Tournament may be conducted which conflicts with championship play of the local association or the State Association.
 - 5. No Invitational Tournament may be added to the USA Softball of Alaska Invitational Tournament schedule after March 1 each year without the approval of the State Commissioner.
 - 6. All entry blanks and publicity shall include the statement “Sanctioned by USA Softball of Alaska”
 - 7. All teams participating in a USA Softball of Alaska Invitational Tournament must submit to the tournament director an official roster signed by either a Local Association official or their District Commissioner.
 - 8. If the tournament allows pickup players, they must be designated on the team roster, and must play in the same division of play, and the same classification or lower. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - 9. Pick up players must wear the uniform of their regular team.

10. Teams and players may compete in one (1) division of championship play each year.
 11. Only USA Softball registered umpires may be used.
 - a. Upon completion of the tournament any out-of-town officials will be compensated within ten (10) business days, either by check or cash.
 - b. Traveling officials will comply with any financial requirements required by the hosting association. (i.e., W2)
- B. Pool Play
1. When pool play is used to determine tournament seeding, the following will be used to break ties:
 - a. Head-to-Head: Won/Loss
 - b. Head-to-Head play versus the common opponent with the next best record
 - c. Fewest runs allowed in tournament games.
- C. JUNIOR OLYMPIC STATE TOURNAMENT
1. Junior Olympic State Tournaments are on an established rotation basis and are subject to review and revision at the Annual State meeting.
 2. Fees
 - a. A State Tournament entry fee, not to exceed \$400 per team for double elimination and \$500 for four (4) game guarantee will be charged in all Junior Olympic divisions. The entry fees will be retained by the host association.
 - b. All entry fees must be paid to the host association by 12:00 AM on the Monday prior to the tournament start or on the day following completion of District Tournament play.
 - c. Failure to compete in the State Tournament after commitment will result in forfeiting a team's tournament entry fee to the host association.
 - d. The foregoing policy extends to teams who qualify for Regional Tournament competition, commit, and fail to show up for the Regional Tournament.
 3. The tournament host is responsible for all tournament expenses and will retain all tournament profits.
 4. JO Fast Pitch State Tournament games must go the regulation seven (7) innings or a one hour and thirty (30) minute time limit, whichever occurs first unless otherwise approved by the State Commissioner and specified in the State Tournament Information Profile.
 - a. The USA Softball run-ahead rule shall be used in all games.
 5. All State Tournaments will be seeded by the host association and must be approved by the Alaska Junior Olympic Commissioner.
 - a. Round Robin/Pool Play
 - 1) When Round Robin or Pool Play is used to determine tournament seeding, the following will be used to break ties:
 - a) Head-to-Head: Won/Loss
 - b) Head-to-Head play versus the common opponent with the next best record
 - c) Fewest runs allowed in tournament games.
 6. The championship game may not be scheduled to commence later than 4:00 PM, Sunday, whenever possible but may be scheduled earlier.
 7. A completed bracket and awards list will be submitted to the Alaska Junior Olympic Commissioner by September 15 of the current year for each State Tournament held.
 - a) Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of next State Tournament rotation.
 8. The Alaska State JO Commissioner will be reimbursed by USA Softball of Alaska for travel expenses to and from State Tournaments.

ARTICLE 17 – USA SOFTBALL OF ALASKA HALL OF FAME

17.01 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- A. USA Softball of Alaska Hall of Fame Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of five (5) individuals appointed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner will appoint the Chairperson and the four (4) other members.

17.02 PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE:

- A. Receive nominations to the Hall of Fame and recommend to the Board people who have been nominated and who meet the approved criteria for selection to USA Softball of Alaska Hall of Fame.
- B. Shall meet at the annual meeting of USA Softball of Alaska Board of Directors.
- C. Hall of Fame selections shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) candidates submitted each year.

17.03 SUBMISSION OF NOMINEES:

- A. The deadline for submitting nominations shall be fourteen (14) days prior to USA Softball of Alaska State Meeting.
- B. Nominations must be submitted on the USA Softball of Alaska Hall of Fame application and accompanied by two (2) letters of recommendations.
- C. It is mandatory that all nominations be accompanied with detailed information.
- D. Any USA Softball of Alaska member on the Board of Directors may nominate individuals for the USA Softball of Alaska Hall of Fame.

17.04 REVIEW OF CANDIDATES:

- A. The committee will receive for review all candidates and information. The committee will meet at the annual USA Softball of Alaska state meeting to finalize selection for the current year.

17.05 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:

- A. Announcement of the USA Softball of Alaska Hall of Fame awards shall be made at the state meeting.

17.06 CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

- A. Player (seven (7) points needed for selection)
 - 1. All Star team (one (1) point)
 - 2. MVP award (one (1) point)
 - 3. Recognition award (one (1) point)
 - 4. State tournament participant (five (5) years equals one (1) point)
 - 5. Regional tournament participant (five (5) years equals one (1) point)
- B. Umpire (thirty points needed for selection)
 - 1. 10 years local association membership (two (2) points)
 - 2. Each Regional Tournament worked (two (2) points)
 - 3. Each Regional Tournament worked as UIC (two (2) points)

4. Each National Championship Tournament worked (three (3) points)
5. Each National Championship Tournament worked as UIC (five (5) points)
6. Assistant UIC at Regional of National Tournament (two (2) points)
7. Elite Umpire status at the national level (three (3) points)

Note: Requirements: Must have Umpired fifteen (15) years.

C. Manager or Sponsor (five (5) points needed)

1. Twenty (20) or more local seasons (five (5) points)
2. Five (5) or more state tournaments (two (2) points)
3. National Championship (one (1) point)

D. Commissioner

1. Ten (10) years of service

E. Meritorious Service

1. This category includes individuals or organizations which offer any combination of the above categories. Candidates can be an organizer, years of service, financial contributor, etc. Non-player candidates may still be an active participant.

F. Automatic Induction

1. NW Region and National USA Softball Hall of Fame members will automatically be inducted into the USA Softball of Alaska Hall of Fame.

ARTICLE 18 – USA Softball of Alaska Scholarship

18.01 COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND SELECTION:

- A. The USA of Alaska Softball Scholarship Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of three (3) individuals appointed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner will appoint the Chairperson and the two (2) other members.
- B. Committee will receive applications for scholarships and recommend to the Board students who have been selected to receive an annual USA Softball of Alaska Scholarship
- C. Committee shall meet at the annual meeting of USA Softball of Alaska Board of Directors and provide to the board recommendations for scholarship.

18.02 SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- A Scholarship eligibility criteria includes the following:
 - 1. Applicant must be planning to graduate or have graduated in the 2024- 2025 school year from an accredited High School in Alaska.
 - 2. Applicant must be a graduating senior in the spring of 2025.
 - 3. Applicant must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
 - 4. Applicant must have had at least two years of participation on an ASAA sanctioned fastpitch softball team, be currently participating in their senior year or have participated on a team in their most recent and final year of eligibility.
 - 5. Applicant must be attending an institution of higher learning, i.e., a vocational school, or a two- or four-year college, or university in the fall of 2022.
 - 6. Applicant must be a member of the softball team at the institution of higher learning.
 - 7. The Scholarship application must include the following:
 - i. A certified transcript, sealed, and submitted with your application.
 - ii. Application must show official verification of acceptance to an institution of higher learning. This would include an acceptance letter from the school you plan to attend, or a written statement from the institution.
 - iii. At least two (2) letters of reference. One should be from your softball coach; the other from an adult associated with the high school softball program. These letters may not be from a relative.
 - iv. A list of awards received, volunteer work, and/or other activities you have accomplished or participated in during your high school career. This could be submitted in the form of a resume if you choose.
 - 8. Provide examples of your positive impacts and leadership role on your team.
 - 9. A written letter stating how softball has impacted your life and how you see yourself being able to be an ambassador for the sport in the future.
 - 10. Please do not include anything not required in your scholarship application.
 - 11. Please include a current address, phone number, and email address where you can be reached.
 - 12. Scholarship awards are weighed heavily on your letters of reference and on your written statements.
 - 13. Scholarship applications will be accepted beginning April 15th.
 - 14. Scholarships received after August 15th will not be considered.
 - 15. Please email scholarship applications to: jocommissioner@usasoftballofalaska.com