

IOWA ASA SLOW PITCH PLAYER CLASSIFICATION APPEAL PROCEDURE

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Steps in Player Appeal Process

1. The Player files an appeal using the ASA National ASA website www.asasoftball.com and then by clicking on Adult in the menu bar of the home page and then scrolling down to Slow Pitch Player Classification. The player will click on Players, do a search for their name and click on the link of the player's name. If appeals are being accepted, the Appeal button will appear on the upper right portion of that page.
2. Once an Appeal is completed on the ASA National website, the State Commissioner is sent a confirmation email that an appeal has been applied for and that the National Adult Slow Pitch Player Classification Board is seeking any additional information or feedback on the player.
3. The Iowa ASA State Commissioner will then send the player an request for additional information via email following notice of the appeal being filed nationally.
4. After receiving any additional information from the player on the reasoning or rationale that their appeal should be agree to, the State commissioner will seek comment from ASA district commissioners and all slow pitch district player representatives for additional feedback or opinions that may provide the National Classification Board with more information to base their decisions on.
5. Any additional information obtained from the Iowa ASA representatives are then forwarded to the NASPCB.

Timing

To make well-informed decisions it is important the ASA collect and review as much relevant information as possible from numerous parties. One should anticipate a minimum of two weeks for the appeal process to be completed. It is the responsibility of teams and players to allow sufficient time before championship play before filing an appeal. Appeals filed less than thirty days before the start of championship play may not be decided upon before play is to begin.

Iowa ASA's philosophy regarding the review of player classification appeals:

Appeals should be granted on a limited basis only. If appeals are relatively easy to achieve it undermines the intent of player classification which is to prevent teams and players from "playing down" primarily to position themselves to win a state or national championship. We aim for consistency on our recommendations and our primary focus is on the health of our statewide program. While we certainly want teams to do well in national championship play an even higher priority is in maintaining competitive balance within our classes here in Iowa. Since we can not control decisions made outside our state we will not default to using the most liberal approach taken by one or more states in how they approach classification. No system is perfect, but our goal is to be as fair and consistent as we can with it.

We recognize occasionally dominant teams will form within certain classes. These dominant teams will eventually achieve a level of success that will result in mandatory reclassification. Our philosophy is to allow them to enjoy their dominant status until such time their achievements dictate they are to be mandatorily reclassified. Once they have enjoyed this level of success it is time to move on to a higher level of play and allow others teams to enjoy success at the lower level. This is consistent with our basic belief that appeals should be granted on a limited basis only.

Finally, the burden of proof is on the player to provide sufficient and accurate information regarding why an appeal should be granted. If the evidence provided is limited or found to be inaccurate the appeal will be denied.

The following 12 reasons below will not help you get a successful appeal. Don't bother to try to use them in your Player Statement.

If you enter one of these reasons in your player statement, your appeal will likely be denied.

1. Player can't compete because they are in their late 30s to mid 40s.

Players can be outstanding softball players well past their mid 30s.

2. Player has added weight and is out of shape.

Players can quickly get back into shape.

3. Player lacks power hitting ability.

Power hitting is not a required to be an effective and useful player in any classification. Home runs do not always win games or tournaments.

4. Player claims they are a below average player at the level they are classified at.

Just being below average does not mean your classification is inappropriate. By definition someone needs to be below average.

5. Player claims there are players better than him at the classification level he wants to move to.

No system is perfect so there are bound to be some inconsistencies. Also, if this rationale were accepted it would create a circular problem where nearly all appeals could be justified. There are always better players.

6. Player wants his classification status changed so he can play with his friends.

Teams do not need to reject their friends who happen to be higher classification players. If they want the appealing player on their team then the team needs to enter at a level where the appealing player is eligible to play once the appeal decision is made. Ultimately if classification issues are a problem a team will need to decide whether playing together in championship play is a priority for them. In making fair and

consistent decisions the Appeal Committee cannot allow friendship issues to influence their decisions.

7. Player wants classification changed so he can play on a team that is not required to travel as far to play in various tournaments throughout the year.

In making fair and consistent decisions the Appeals Committee cannot allow one's inability to travel to influence their decisions.

8. Player competes at a lower level in other association's championship play.

Where you play in other associations is of interest to us, it will not dictate the Appeal Committee's decision.

9. Player has suffered an injury or a medical problem.

Unless it can be clearly demonstrated the injury or medical problem has diminished a player's level of play in a manner obvious to all the Appeal Committee will not grant an appeal for this reason. Medical problems can be overcome and injuries can be cured. Surgeries often lead to improved performance following rehabilitation.

10. Player does not play frequently due to conflicts.

Regardless as to how often a player is able to play the Appeal Committee's responsibility is to place the player in the classification appropriate relative to their current skill level.

11. Player has never played at the level of their rating.

While the player may not have played at that rating, they got that rating because of a high level of success at the level below. It's time for you to play at the higher level.

12. Sponsor has been sponsoring teams for many years.

Sponsorship loyalty is not criteria for allowing teams/players to drop in classification. While everyone is thankful sponsors are willing to put money into an amateur sport for basically no return on investment, the committee would be foolish to allow sponsorship duration to dictate classification.