

USA Softball of Iowa Code

Revised – February 25th, 2018
2018 Code Changes and Points of Emphasis in **Red Bold Type**

Part 1. Organization

Article 101 Name.

The name of the organization shall be the **USA Softball of Iowa** hereinafter referred to as the Association or **USA Softball-Iowa**.

Article 102 Mission Statement

Develop, direct and promote the sport of softball to ensure maximum participation, optimal performance and educational excellence within the state of Iowa.

Objectives.

The objectives of USA Softball - Iowa shall be:

- A. To promote amateur softball for all persons regardless of age, sex, race, religion, national origin or ancestry.
- B. To promote and conduct annual amateur softball championships.
- C. To educate and train in the proper skills of amateur softball play and rules of the game through promoting, organizing and conducting clinics, seminars and training courses.

Article 103 Jurisdiction.

USA Softball of Iowa is an affiliated association of the USA Softball, hereinafter referred to as USA Softball. The United States Olympic Committee and the International Softball Federation recognize USA Softball as the governing body of softball in the United States. The Constitution and the by-laws of the USA Softball are adopted by the USA Softball of Iowa and are incorporated herein by reference. The USA Softball of Iowa territory shall include the State of Iowa.

Article 104 Regulations.

The operating regulations of the USA Softball of Iowa are defined in this document, hereinafter referred to as the USA Softball of Iowa Code. If not addressed herein, the USA Softball Code shall be used as operating regulations for the state level.

Article 105 Amendments and Rule Changes.

- A. Amendments to the USA Softball of Iowa Code.
 1. Changes to the USA Softball of Iowa Code may be acted upon only at USA Softball of Iowa annual meetings.
 2. A proposed amendment to the USA Softball of Iowa Code must be in writing, and in the USA Softball of Iowa office a minimum of 7 days before the annual meeting date.

3. The State Commissioner, or his designee shall prepare and mail to each member of the USA Softball of Iowa Council all properly submitted proposed Amendments at least 7 days prior to the annual meeting.
4. A 60 % approval of the members of the USA Softball of Iowa Council who are present and voting on the proposed amendment shall be required for the change to be adopted.
5. An amendment approved by the USA Softball of Iowa Council shall be effective on the date of passing the amendment unless otherwise specified in the amendment.
6. Any amendment approved by the USA Softball of Iowa Council shall automatically become a part of the USA Softball of Iowa Code.

B. Playing Rule Changes.

1. A proposed rule change must be in writing by an USA Softball of Iowa Council member and sent to the USA Softball of Iowa office at least 7 days prior to the annual meeting of the USA Softball of Iowa Council.
2. The State Commissioner, or his designee, shall prepare and mail to each member of the USA Softball of Iowa Council all properly submitted rule changes at least 7 days prior to the USA Softball of Iowa annual meeting.
3. A 60% vote of those USA Softball of Iowa Council members present and voting at the annual meeting is required for the approval of changes in the official playing rules.
4. Any rule change that is approved by the USA Softball of Iowa Council shall automatically become a rule change for play in all USA Softball of Iowa tournaments.
5. Rules approved shall be effective on the date of passage of the change in the rule unless otherwise specified.

C. Emergency Procedure

Between annual meetings of the USA Softball of Iowa Council, any Council member may submit a proposed amendment to Iowa ASA Playing Rules or Code to the State Commissioner and ask that an emergency be declared, and the proposed amendment submitted for a vote of the Council in the manner outlined in Article 105 A & B. If the State Commissioner believes that the proposed amendment is of sufficient importance that it should be acted upon by the Council prior to their next scheduled meeting, the State Commissioner shall forward the proposed amendment to the USA Softball of Iowa President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. If the Elected Officer agrees with the Commissioner that the proposed amendment is of sufficient importance and that it should be acted upon by the Council prior to their next scheduled meeting, then an emergency shall be declared, and the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the

members of the USA Softball of Iowa Council for a vote in the manner outlined in this Article. The proposed amendment shall be mailed either by U.S. Mail or electronic mail to each member of the Council with a ballot asking each member to vote to accept or to reject the proposed amendment. The deadline for returning ballots shall be not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (14) days after the date on which such amendment and ballot are mailed. Each ballot must be signed or electronically signed by a Council member and received by the State Commissioner prior to the deadline in order to be counted. If valid ballots are received from less than or exactly one-half (1/2) of the members of the Council by the deadline, then the proposed amendment shall be deemed rejected. If valid ballots are received from more than one-half (1/2) of the members of the Council by the deadline, then the proposed amendment shall be deemed rejected unless two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots received vote to accept the proposed amendment.

Article 106 Membership.

Teams, leagues and umpires may become members of USA Softball of Iowa by paying the appropriate membership fees. The USA Softball of Iowa Executive Committee shall set the membership fees. Teams, leagues and umpires that are members of the USA Softball of Iowa are also members of USA Softball of Iowa. Membership is valid from the date the dues are received in the USA Softball of Iowa office, until December 31 of the year the dues are received in the USA Softball of Iowa office.

Article 107 Elected Officers.

A. President

1. Nominations. Presidential candidates shall be nominated at the USA Softball of Iowa annual meeting.
2. Election. The president shall be elected by a majority vote of those USA Softball of Iowa Council members present and voting at the annual meeting.
3. Term of Office. The president shall serve a term of one year and is eligible for re-election.
4. Vacancy. If the president for any reason resigns, is unable to act, is removed from office, or dies, then the Vice-President shall act as president until the next USA Softball of Iowa annual meeting.
5. Removal. A president may be removed for just cause by a majority vote of the USA Softball of Iowa Council or two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.
6. Duties.
 - (1) Preside at all sessions of the Executive Committee and USA Softball of Iowa Council.
 - (2) Perform such duties as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of USA Softball of Iowa.

B. Vice-President.

1. Nominations. Vice-Presidential candidates shall be nominated at the annual meeting.
2. Election. The Vice-President shall be elected by majority vote of those USA Softball of Iowa Council members present and voting at the annual meeting.
3. Term of Office. The Vice-President shall serve a one-year term and is eligible for re-election.
4. Vacancy. If the Vice-President for any reason resigns, is unable to act, is removed from office or dies, then a special election must be held by the USA Softball of Iowa Executive Committee. The nominations and election may take place by mail. The newly elected Vice-President shall serve until the next annual meeting.
5. Removal. A Vice-President may be removed for just cause by a majority vote of the USA Softball of Iowa Council or by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.
6. Duties. The Vice President shall preside at all Executive Committee meetings and USA Softball of Iowa annual meetings in the absence of the President.

C. Secretary-Treasurer.

1. Nominations. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be nominated at the annual meeting.
2. Election. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of those USA Softball of Iowa Council members present and voting at the annual meeting.
3. Term of Office. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve a one-year term and is eligible for re-election.
4. Vacancy. If the Secretary-Treasurer for any reason resigns, is unable to act, is removed from office, or dies, then the Executive Committee may nominate and elect a new Secretary-Treasurer to fill the remainder of the term. The nomination process and election may take place by mail.
5. Removal. A Secretary-Treasurer may be removed for just cause by a majority vote of the USA Softball of Iowa Council or by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.
6. Duties.
 - (1) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and depositing all monies received by IASA.
 - (2) The Secretary-Treasurer shall pay all bills owed by USA Softball of Iowa, with the approval of the State Commissioner.

- (3) The Secretary-Treasurer shall give a written financial report to each member of the Executive Committee and the USA Softball of Iowa Council within 30 days of the conclusion of the fiscal year.
- (4) The Secretary-Treasurer shall take minutes of all meetings of the USA Softball of Iowa and mail them to all members of the Executive Committee and/or the USA Softball of Iowa Council.

Article 108 State Commissioner.

The State Commissioner shall be nominated, chosen, serve and perform the duties in accordance with the USA Softball Code, Article 305.

Article 109 State Junior Olympic Commissioner.

The State Junior Olympic Commissioner position shall be governed by Article 308A of the USA Softball Code.

Article 110 State Umpire-In-Chief.

The State Umpire-In-Chief position shall be governed by Article 310A of the USA Softball Code.

Article 111 Player Representatives.

- A. The At-Large Player Representative positions and the State Player Representative position shall be governed by Article 309A and Article 309C of the USA Softball Code.
- B. District Player Representatives.
 1. Appointment. The District Commissioner shall appoint district Player Representatives. Each District Commissioner may appoint one District Player Representative for each division of play and may add one player representative for each 200 teams registered based on the registrations or the preceding year. The State Commissioner shall appoint Women's Player Representatives, as deemed necessary, to represent registered teams in women's slow pitch and co-ed slow pitch divisions of play.
 2. Term of Office. The District Player Representative shall serve a one-year term and is eligible for re-appointment.
 3. Vacancy. If a District Player Representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the District Commissioner.
 4. Removal. The District Commissioner may remove a District Player Representative for just cause.
 5. Duties. The District Player Representative shall represent their district at the annual player representative meeting, which will be held at the annual meeting of the USA Softball of Iowa Council.

Article 112 District Commissioners.

A. Adult District Commissioners

1. Appointment. Adult District Commissioners for Men's Slow Pitch, Men's Fast Pitch, Men's 14" Slow Pitch and Men's 16" Slow Pitch shall be appointed by the State Commissioner. The State Junior Olympic Commissioner shall appoint a JO District Commissioner for each JO District.
2. Term of Office. A District Commissioner shall serve a term of one year and is eligible for re-appointment.
3. Vacancy. If a District Commissioner resigns, is removed from the position, is unable to perform the duties of the position or dies, the State Commissioner shall appoint a new District Commissioner to fill the remainder of the term of office.
4. Removal. The District Commissioner may be removed from office by the State Commissioner for just cause.
5. Duties.
 - a. The District Commissioner is responsible for recruiting and registering teams and umpires in their district.
 - b. The District Commissioner is responsible for collecting team and umpire registration fees and forwarding them to the USA Softball of Iowa office within 30 days of receipt of the fees.
 - c. The District Commissioner is responsible for organizing and operating a District Tournament for each division and classification of play in their district, as assigned.
 - d. The District Commissioner is responsible for filing a financial report for their District Tournament within 5 working days upon the completion of their District Tournament.
 - e. The District Commissioner is responsible for sanctioning tournaments in their district with the IASA and filing a sanction form complete with the tournament sanction fee a minimum of one week prior to the start of the tournament to be sanctioned.
 - f. The District Commissioner is responsible for promoting the USA Softball of Iowa program in his district. To help promote the USA Softball of Iowa program, while not working for or in cooperation with a competing softball organization(s). (Competing softball organization is termed as those organizations that provide the same or similar softball services and are not members or affiliate members of the USA Softball of Iowa

- g. The District Commissioner is responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations of the USA Softball of Iowa and USA Softball.
- h. The District Commissioner will serve as a tournament director for USA Softball of Iowa State, Mid-America Regional or National Qualifying Tournaments as assigned by the State Commissioner.

B. Junior Olympic District Commissioners

1. Appointment. Junior Olympic District Commissioners shall be appointed by the State Junior Olympic Commissioner for each Junior Olympic District.
2. Term of Office. A Junior Olympic District Commissioner shall serve a term of one year and is eligible for reappointment.
3. Vacancy. If a District Commissioner resigns, is removed from the position, is unable to perform the duties of the position or dies, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner shall appoint a new Junior Olympic District Commissioner to fill the remainder of the term of office.
4. Removal. The Junior Olympic District Commissioner may be removed from office by the State Commissioner for just cause.
5. Duties.
 - a. Help promote USA Softball of Iowa to their local teams, leagues and tournaments.
 - b. Answer questions and help teams get registered; encourage tournaments to sanction their events with USA Softball of Iowa.
 - c. Evaluate teams as to their skill level to be sure they are playing in the correct classification.
 - d. Encourage recreational programs in their district to register their teams with USA Softball of Iowa.
 - e. Act as the tournament directors for our various state tournaments.
 - f. Attend the State Council Meeting on a Saturday in late February every year.
 - g. Not actively provide administrative assistance for any competing softball organizations.

Article 113 Deputy State Commissioners.

- A. Appointment. The Deputy State Commissioners shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
- B. Term of Office. The Deputy State Commissioners shall serve a one-year term and are eligible for re-appointment.
- C. Removal. A Deputy State Commissioner may be removed for just cause by the State Commissioner.
- D. Vacancy. If a Deputy State Commissioner resigns, dies, is unable to perform the duties as assigned or is removed from the position, the State Commissioner, may, at his discretion appoint a new Deputy State Commissioner.
- E. Duties.
 - 1. Shall serve on the tournament site selection committee to determine sites for state and regional tournaments.
 - 2. Shall serve as a tournament director for state, regional, or national qualifying tournaments as assigned by the State Commissioner.
 - 3. To help promote the USA Softball of Iowa program, while not working for or in cooperation with a competing softball organization(s). (Competing softball organization is termed as those organizations that provide the same or similar softball services and are not members or affiliate members of the USA Softball of Iowa.)

Article 114 IASA Council

- A. The USA Softball of Iowa Council shall be composed of the following members, each of whom shall have one vote.
 - 1. The State Commissioner
 - 2. The Junior Olympic Commissioner
 - 3. Each Deputy State Commissioner
 - 4. The State Player Representative
 - 5. All At-Large Player Representatives
 - 6. Each District Commissioner
 - 7. The State Umpire-In-Chief
 - 8. Each District Player Representative
 - 9. Each Deputy State Umpire-In-Chief

- B. **Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the USA Softball of Iowa shall take place as scheduled by the State Commissioner.
1. Site. The site of the meeting shall be determined by the State Commissioner.
 2. Notice. Notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed to all members of the USA Softball of Iowa Council at least **7** days prior to the annual meeting.
 3. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of those members of the USA Softball of Iowa Council present and voting.
 4. Travel. Each voting member of the USA Softball of Iowa Council shall be reimbursed for their mileage to the annual meeting at a rate determined by the State Commissioner.

Article 115 Executive Committee.

- A. **Members.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the State Commissioner, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner, The State Player Representative, each At-Large Player Representative, the State Umpire-In-Chief, the top three District Commissioners in team registrations, top three Junior Olympic District Commissioners in team registrations and the Deputy State Commissioners.
- B. **Duties.** The Executive Committee shall make recommendations to the State Commissioner on the operation of the USA Softball of Iowa program. The Executive Committee shall approve the operating budget of the USA Softball of Iowa as presented by the State Commissioner.
- C. **Meetings.** The Executive Committee shall meet as scheduled by the State Commissioner. Additional meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the State Commissioner as needed.
1. Site. The meeting site shall be determined by the State Commissioner.
 2. Notice. Notice of the meetings shall be sent to all voting members of the Executive Committee at least **7** days prior to the meeting date.
 3. Quorum. A quorum shall be those members of the Executive Committee present and voting at the meeting.

Article 116 Committees

- A. **District Commissioners.** The District Commissioners Committee shall meet at the annual meeting to discuss registration procedures and district, state and regional tournament duties and responsibilities. The committee shall consist of the District Commissioners (Adult and Junior Olympic), Deputy State Commissioners and the State Commissioner.
- B. **Umpires.** The umpires committee shall meet at the annual meeting to discuss rule

changes, changes in umpire mechanics and state and regional tournament responsibilities. The committee shall consist of the State Umpire-In-Chief and the Deputy Umpires-In-Chief as assigned by the State Umpire-In-Chief.

- C. **Player Representatives.** The player representatives committee shall meet at the annual meeting to discuss new rules and state and national legislation that affects the game. The player representatives committee shall consist of the District Player Representatives as assigned by the District Commissioner and the State Player Representative and all At-Large Player Representatives.

Article 117 Umpires.

A. **Staff.**

1. State Umpire-In-Chief. The USA Softball of Iowa Umpire-In-Chief (UIC) position shall be governed by Article 310A of the USA Softball Code. The State Commissioner shall also appoint the Junior Olympic UIC and Adult Program UIC.
2. The State UIC shall appoint a District UIC for each District (based on the Men's Slow Pitch District geographical areas) to help in the recruitment, registration and training of umpires, as well as other duties as outlined in the State UIC Manual.

B. **Duties.** The UIC and DUIC's shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Recruit umpires in his area.
2. Attend the UIC clinic in Oklahoma City (UIC only) at the expense of the USA Softball of Iowa state office.
3. The UIC shall train the DUIC's to conduct clinics throughout the state and shall assign DUIC's to train umpires at these clinics.
4. The UIC and the DUIC's shall interpret rules as necessary.
5. Serve as UIC for state and regional tournaments as assigned by the State UIC.
6. The state UIC shall recommend umpires for assignments to state, regional and national tournaments.
7. To help promote the USA Softball of Iowa program, while not working for or in cooperation with a competing softball organization(s). (Competing softball organization is termed as those organizations that provide the same or similar softball services and are not members or affiliate members of the USA Softball.)

C. **Registration.**

1. An umpire must register through the local association where they reside or work either as an umpire or in their regular occupation.

2. An umpire shall not be considered registered until he has paid the appropriate registration fee to the USA Softball of Iowa office. Registration shall be valid until December 31 of the year the umpire has registered with the USA Softball of Iowa office. Umpires shall not be allowed to umpire in district, state, regional or national tournaments until they have taken the exam and received a passing score on the exam. An umpire's membership may be declined or revoked for unethical, immoral or unprofessional conduct.
 - a. Registered umpires become members of USA Softball of Iowa on a voluntary basis and agree to be governed by the Code, rules and regulations of USA Softball of Iowa. Registration by an umpire does not establish an employer/employee relationship and no umpire is considered an employee of the USA Softball of Iowa or the local association, but is instead acting as an independent contractor.
3. Uniform. To work in a state, regional or national tournament, the umpire must be attired in the official USA Softball uniform. The USA Softball uniform shall be that as described in the official playing rules. The UIC shall determine the uniform color combinations for his/her tournament.

Part 2 Competition.

Article 201 Eligibility.

A. General Rule.

1. A player may play in any state/metro association during the current season.
2. Once electing to participate in championship play on a team registered in a state/metro association, the player may not play in the same division in any other state/metro association during the current season. EXCEPTION: Transfer of Employment and Pick-Up players. EXCEPTION: In Master's and Senior divisions, a player may play in the same division in another state/metro association, but not in the same classification.
3. A player may participate as a regular rostered player on only one team within a division in championship play during a season. EXCEPTION: Girls 8 & Under Coach Fast Pitch, Masters and Senior Divisions – a player may participate in all age classifications for which he/she is eligible. Pick-up players as provided in this code may compete in their class or above, but not below it.

B. Team Registration.

1. A team must register with the USA Softball of Iowa if the greatest number of players on the roster reside or are employed full time in the state of Iowa. A team registering to play in Iowa must do so with the district commissioner where the greatest number of players on the roster reside.
2. Junior Olympic Registration - USA Softball Membership Cards: Each Junior Olympic Player that participates in state championship play must be Individually Registered and have an USA Softball of Iowa membership card prior to playing in the tournament.

This membership card is verification that the player has registered with USA Softball of Iowa for the current season. Failure to produce the card will make the player ineligible to compete in the tournament.

3. All Junior Olympic teams playing in any USA Softball of Iowa sanctioned Tournament shall have at least one adult coach who is ACE certified. In addition, all other adult team personnel on the field or in the dugout shall have an USA Softball Background Check.
- C. **International Eligibility Standards.** - The USA Softball of Iowa shall not adopt an eligibility standard that is more restrictive than that of the applicable international sports federation, the International Softball Federation.
 - D. All other eligibility requirements shall be according to Article 501 of the USA Softball Code.

Article 202 Rosters.

- A. **General.** Teams must compete with the same roster in championship play as used during the regular season, except teams are allowed to pick up (3) three players when advancing in championship play.
- B. **Number of Players.** A maximum of 20 players, including pick-ups, a manager, and a coach are allowed in fast pitch, slow pitch and modified pitch on a team roster. A manager or coach shall not count as a player unless he is an active player.
- C. **Roster Deadline.** In all Adult Divisions of play the Official Championship Roster must first be submitted to your District Commissioner for inspection and his/her signature. No Official Championship Roster is legal until it is signed by the teams USA Softball of Iowa District Commissioner prior to the entry deadline of the participating team's tournament. Rosters for Men's Class A, B, C and D Slow Pitch are required to be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the start of championship play or July 1st, whichever is earlier. Rosters for Men's Class E Slow Pitch are due two weeks prior to the start of championship play. Rosters may not be changed following the roster submission deadline other than under the provisions for pick-up players, as set under Article 503 of the USA Softball National Code.

Note: In order to verify a team's classification the district commissioner must know: 1) Number of players returning from the teams last year in USA Softball Championship Play? 2) Class of teams last year in USA Softball? 3) How many games (excluding forfeits) did that the team win in their last state tournament? 4) How many new players does the team have in the present year? 5) What class do these new players come from?

*In all Junior Olympic (Youth) Divisions of play the Official Championship Play Roster must be handed-in to the Tournament Director prior to the team's first game. All registration, identification and age requirement information must also be met before a team's participation in the tournament.

*1. Any team that submits an entry fee and is drawn into an USA Softball of Iowa State Tournament bracket shall not, under any circumstances, receive a refund or be dropped from the tournament bracket unless another team can be found to take that teams place.

- a. The Official Championship Roster must be submitted to the Tournament Director before the team's first game.
- D. **Roster Change Deadline:** If championship play begins (i.e. National Qualifier) prior to the team participating in an USA Softball of Iowa District or State Tournament (whichever occurs first) that team must use the same roster it competed with in championship play, but may make roster changes up until 24 hours prior to the start of the National Championship Tournament in the same division of play. Once a team has qualified for a National Championship, that team shall not be permitted to change their roster. (Exception: Pick-Up Players and Player Release).
- E. **Roster Form.** The official USA Softball Championship play roster form must be used by all teams competing in championship play. The roster must be signed by the player, the player's parent or guardian (if under 18 years of age) and must include the player's bonafide residence.
- F. **Roster Eligibility.** Receipt and acceptance of an official USA Softball affidavit roster shall not be considered as a determination of the eligibility of a player or team. Eligibility of players or teams shall be governed as provided in the USA Softball of Iowa and USA Softball Code.

Article 203 Pick-Up Players.

- A. Pick-Up players may be used as provided for in **Article 503** of the USA Softball Code.

Article 204 Divisions and Classifications of Championship Play. The USA Softball of Iowa Executive Committee shall determine which divisions and classifications of play shall be offered by the USA Softball of Iowa.

Article 205 Levels of Championship Play. The following levels of championship play shall be recognized at the local and state level:

- A. District Championships. District tournaments are to be held in Men's Fast Pitch, Men's 12" Slow Pitch Class D, Men's 14" Slow Pitch, and Men's 16" Slow Pitch. To compete in a district tournament, the team must be registered for the current season with USA Softball of Iowa. The team must compete in the district tournament where the greatest number of players on their roster reside. Exception: If a team wishes to compete in a district other than the one where the greatest number of players on their roster reside, the team must complete a district release form, which must be signed by both district commissioners. This form must be on file in the USA Softball of Iowa office prior to the beginning of the district tournament. A team may only compete in one district tournament per division of play.
- B. State Championships. State tournaments will be held in any division that there is district tournament. In addition, the USA Softball of Iowa Executive Committee may determine which divisions and classifications will hold open state tournaments. The open state tournaments shall be open to any team registered with USA Softball of Iowa during the current season. Effective 2009 - Men's 12" Slow Pitch Class D and E Slow Pitch: Each classification will be divided into an East and West (using district boundaries) State Tournaments with the top teams meeting in a Tournament Championship Series to

determine an overall State Champion. The number of teams selected from each area and the tournament format will be determined by the state commissioner. (Eastern Districts 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 and Western Districts – 1, 2 8, 9, 10, 11).

- C. To compete in an USA Softball of Iowa state tournament, a majority of the players on the team roster must reside or be employed full time within the state of Iowa during the current season. Teams may play in only one state tournament per year per division of play. Exception: Girl's Fast Pitch 8 & Under Coach Fast Pitch Players may also play in Girl's 10 & Under Fast Pitch.
- D. Previously qualified youth teams that have qualified for a National Tournament may play in State or Mid-America Regional Tournaments. Adult teams that have qualified for a National Tournament berth MUST play in USA Softball of Iowa State Tournament in the division of play and classification of that team to be eligible for receive the National Tournament berth. The national berth from the tournament shall be awarded to the highest finishing team not previously qualified.
- E. All USA Softball of Iowa Junior Olympic Fast Pitch teams that would like to participate in the USA Softball Northern National Tournaments must participate in at least one Iowa ASA Sanctioned Invitational Tournament in addition to participating in the USA Softball of Iowa State Tournament in that division and classification of play.
- F. Sanctioned Tournaments - Tournaments that are not part of Championship Play may be sanctioned by USA Softball of Iowa. The tournament host will agree to all requirements as listed on the "Invitational Tournament Sanction Form" which must be completed and agreed to in order to receive the sanction. Teams and coaches participating in a sanctioned tournament must comply with all rules and regulations of USA Softball, USA Softball of Iowa and the local tournament. The tournament host has the right to use any playing rules adaptations as they may desire. All sanctioned tournaments must be listed on the tournamentUSA.com web site.

Article 206 **Rules of Championship Play.** The rules of championship play shall be governed by the USA Softball Code, Article 510 with the EXCEPTION OF:

- A. Uniforms. In state tournament play, team members are required to wear the same (like) colored shirt with **at least** a six-inch Arabic numeral and must be visible on the back of the uniform shirt. Players on the same team shall not wear identical numbers and players without numbers will not be permitted to play.
- E. **Time Limits: Junior Olympic Fast Pitch:** 10 and 12 & Under Time Limit: A one hour and twelve (72) minute time limit will be used with no new inning started after time expires. 14, 16 and 18 & Under Time Limit: A one hour and thirty (1:30) minute time limit will be used with no new inning started after time expires.
- F. **Run Ahead Rule:** Junior Olympic Fast Pitch: A 12 run ahead rule will be used after three 10 run ahead after 4 innings and an 8 run ahead rule will be used after the fifth inning.
- G. **Tie-Breaker Rule: Junior Olympic Fast Pitch** At the top of the eighth inning, if the score remains tied, the tie-breaker rule will be used. If the game is tied at the end of the time limit, the Tie-Breaker rule will go into effect in the top half of the next inning. The

last batter due up in the inning will be placed on second base to start the inning. **Men's Fast Pitch Tie-Breaker:** If the game is tied after 8 complete innings, the Tie-Breaker rule will be used. The last batter due up in the inning will be placed on second base to start the inning.

- E. Casual Profanity Rule** - The umpire has the authority to assess ONE OUT per play against the offending team for the use of CASUAL PROFANITY which shall be defined as expletives (Vulgar or Profane Language), which is not appropriate in a recreational sports setting, used by a player, manager/coach or team representative on the field or in the dugout. This may include words not being directed at any one individual, but rather are made out of frustration or loss of self-control. In the opinion of the umpire, if these words are audible to the umpire and surrounding players or spectators to the extent that it detracts from the values of softball competition based on good sporting behavior and fair play, the umpire may assess a Casual Profanity Out. Actions of players and/or coaches during the team's final out of their term at bat and/or prior to them taking the field on defense shall be carried over to that teams next term at bat. Actions of players and/or coaches during pre-game activities, which occur after the umpires have entered the field of play, will be enforced during the team's first term at bat. All outs (charged either while on offense or defense) will be assessed against the offending team during their term at bat. Only ONE "Casual Profanity" out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of vulgar or profane language exceeding these limits will subject the individuals to ejection from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. A player ejected from the game for exceeding these limits will not have a casual profanity out charged to the TEAM. The Casual Profanity penalty "out" will be assessed as a TEAM OUT and will not affect any batter or base runner (all action stands). For scoring purposes, the putout will be credited to the catcher.
- F. Sportsmanship Rule** - The umpire has the authority to assess one out per play against the offending team for excessive protests, arguments, complaints or behavior not appropriate in a recreation sports setting. Throwing a bat, glove, rude gestures, insulting or disparaging remarks, or baiting or taunting opposing players or game officials would be examples of such actions. Such conduct exhibited by a player, coach or team representative will be penalized. Actions of players and/or coaches during the team's final out of their term at bat and/or prior to them taking the field on defense shall be carried over to the teams next term at bat. Actions of players and/or coaches during pre-game activities, which occur after the umpires have entered the field of play, will be enforced during the team's first at term bat. All outs (charged either on offense or defense) will be assessed against the offending TEAM during their term at bat. Only one "unsportsmanlike" out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of continued or excessive unsportsmanlike conduct will subject the individual(s) to ejection from the game. A player/coach/ or team representative ejected from the game will not have a un-sportsmanship out called against them. The Unsportsmanlike penalty "out" will be assessed as a TEAM OUT and will not affect any batter or base runner (all action stands). For scoring purposes, the putout will be credited to the catcher.
- For the purposes of these rules a Play refers to the duration of one players time at-bat and a team's Term at-bat refers to a team's half-inning, which begins when the third out of the previous inning is made and continues until the third out of the team at-bat occurs.

G. 8 & Under Fast Pitch Coach Pitch Rules

The Playing Rules for 8 & Under Fast Pitch Coach Pitch Rules for Junior Olympic State Tournaments shall use the 10-Under Classification playing rules and regulations with the following exceptions:

1. Ball: 11” Softie Softball (Reduced Injury Factor Ball/Safety Ball)
2. Playing Field: Bases 55 ft., Pitching 35 ft., Infield Safety Arch 27 ft. from Home Plate, Pitching Circle eight (8) ft. radius around the pitchers plate. Outfield: An area behind a line from the back side of each base from first to second, and from second to third base shall be designated as the outfield.
3. The Game: Five (5) Innings or Sixty (60) Minutes
4. Team: Girls/Boys, each team may use nine (9) or ten (10) players provided it is made known prior to the start of the game. Coed, shall use ten (10) players.
5. Batting Order/Lineup: All offensive players shall be listed by their first and last name in the order in which they shall bat. The batting order for coed shall alternate sexes.
6. Defensive Positions: Girls/Boys, six (6) infielders and three (3) or four (4) outfielders; Coed, two (2) in the pitching and catching position (one female and one male), four (4) infielders (two females and two males), and four (4) outfielders (two females and two males) shall be used. At the start of each pitch all infielders except the catcher shall be positioned behind the Infield Safety Arch, all outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield, and the player-pitcher shall take a position within the eight (8) ft. pitcher’s circle and shall not take a position directly in front of the coach/pitcher.
7. Coach-Pitcher: Shall be a member of the team’s coaching staff, and shall pitch the ball in a underhand motion to each batter of his/her team. At the umpire’s discretion he/she may allow the coach-pitcher to move forward from the pitching rubber to a position that will allow them to deliver a hittable ball to the batter
8. Player-Pitcher: Shall be an 8-Under playing member of the team, and shall not pitch to the batters.
9. Coach-Pitcher Interference: The coach-pitcher shall be considered part of the playing field. Exception: In the judgment of the umpire, coach-pitcher interference occurs, the ball will be declared dead. Effect: All runners will return to the last base occupied. Placement of base runners occupying the same base or base line will be based on the lead runner, unless forced to advance by the batter-runner. The umpire may remove the coach-pitcher from the game for repeated offenses after a warning.
10. Inning: Each team on offense will be allowed five (5) runs or three (3) outs at which time the teams will alternate offense and defense. Balls and Strikes will not be kept or called.
11. Run Ahead Rule: The game will be called at the end of four innings if one team is ahead by six (6) or more runs.
12. Tie-Breaker: The Tie Breaker Rule will be used to break ties after five innings or time has expired.
13. Batter: Each batter will be allowed five pitches to bat the ball in play. A batted foul ball on the fifth pitch will not count as one of the five pitches. Each batter that fails to bat the

ball in play will be counted as an out, and the next batter in the batting order will take his/her place at bat.

14. The Designated Player (DP) Rule will NOT be used.
15. Infield Fly Rule: Not in effect.
16. Dropped Third Strike: Not in effect.
17. Base Stealing: Not allowed including home.
18. Time Shall Be Called by the umpire and the play is over in the following:
 - a. The advancement of the lead runner has been stopped.
 - b. An overthrow at first and third base involving a play on a base or batter runner, and the ball enters foul or dead ball territory. Effect: All runners, including batter-runner will be awarded one base, and the award will be governed by the positions of the runners when the ball left the fielders hand. Placement of base runners occupying the same base or base line will be based on the lead runner, unless forced to advance by the batter-runner.

H. Girl's Class C Fast Pitch VIP (Very Important Players) Program

The Playing Rules and Regulations for the Girl's Class C Fast Pitch VIP Junior Olympic State Tournaments shall be determined by the USA Softball of Iowa JO Girl's Fast Pitch Committee Members (State and District JO Commissioners) and posted on the Iowa ASA website.

Article 207 **Dates of Championship Play.** Dates for district tournaments shall be established by the district commissioner. The district commissioner shall notify the USA Softball of Iowa office of the dates of their district tournament no later than January 15 of the current year. Dates for state tournaments shall be established by the State Commissioner by January 1st of the current year.

Article 208 **District and State Tournament Draw.**

- A. Bracket. The official USA Softball championship double elimination or three-game bracket shall be used for district and state tournament play. All Junior Olympic Fast Pitch and Men's Fast Pitch, Men's Masters 35 & Over Slow Pitch, All Women's Slow Pitch, Men's Class B Slow Pitch and All Co-Ed Slow Pitch will use the Official USA Softball 3-Game Guarantee Bracket for championship play. The State Commissioner and Executive Board shall determine the tournament format to be used in all state tournaments.
- B. State Tournament Seeding. The number and placement of teams seeded into the tournament bracket shall be determined by the State Commissioner and may be based on the results from the District Tournament, previous years state tournament results, team classification or criteria stipulated by the tournament format.
- C. Draw Procedures. The district tournament shall be drawn as determined by the district commissioner. State tournaments shall be drawn by the State Commissioner or his designee. Whenever possible, byes will be awarded to District Champions. The byes will be awarded based on a random draw of the District Champions. All tournaments shall be a blind draw. Teams will be protected from playing a team from their own district for the first round of all state tournament. All open state tournaments shall be

strictly by a blind draw. Teams are required to be available to play any time during the tournament.

Article 209 **Disqualification.** Disqualification of a team, team member, manager or team official shall be in accordance with Article 505 of the USA Softball Code.

Article 301 **State Tournament Awards.**

- A. Team. Team trophies will be provided for each state tournament by the USA Softball of Iowa. The number of trophies awarded at each tournament shall be determined by the State Commissioner.
- B. Individual. The following individual awards will be presented at any Major level state tournament: Most Valuable Player, Team Champions and Most Valuable Pitcher (fast pitch only.) Individual awards will be presented to the Team Champions (16) and Team Runner-Up, of each Junior Olympic State Tournament. These awards will be provided by IASA.

Tournament hosts may present other individual awards for adult tournaments only, and at their cost. The awards must be approved by the State Commissioner.

Article 302 **Softballs.** The USA Softball of Iowa shall provide balls for all youth state tournaments and 14” and 16” Slow Pitch State Tournaments.

Article 303 **Financial Obligation.**

- A. District Fees. The district commissioner is responsible for paying the team and umpire registration fees to the USA Softball of Iowa office. The district commissioner is responsible for paying the tournament sanction fee for any local invitational tournaments that apply for USA Softball of Iowa sanction. The district commissioner is also responsible for all fees for district tournament play.
- B. Failure to Pay Obligation. Any district commissioner who does not pay his financial obligation by September 15 of the current season shall result in the removal of the district commissioner.

Article 304 **Tournament Reports.**

- A. District Reports. The district commissioner shall file a district tournament report with the USA Softball of Iowa office within 5 working days of the completion of the district tournament.
- B. State and Regional Tournaments. The tournament director for all state and regional tournaments held in Iowa shall file a tournament report, including a completed bracket, a listing of all advancing teams, and entry fees for all advancing teams.

Article 305 **Bidding for State, Regional, National Playoff or National Qualifying Tournaments.**

- A. Submitting Bid. The actual bid must be on the official USA Softball of Iowa bid form. The official form will be mailed to all prospective bidders no later than the first Friday of November of the current year.
- B. Sealed Bids. Bids must be filed with the USA Softball of Iowa office by December 1 of the current year. The bids will be opened by the State Commissioner the first business day after December 1 of the current year.
- C. Awarding of Tournaments. The tournament site selection committee shall be responsible for awarding tournament bids. The site selection committee shall consist of the State Commissioner and the Deputy State Commissioners. The site selection committee shall meet no later than December 15 of the current year.
- D. Bid is Awarded. After the bid has been awarded, the successful bidder must deposit 25% of the total bid based on the 5-year bid average for that tournament to the USA Softball of Iowa office not later than the January 31st of the year that the tournament will be held.
- E. Dates of Tournament. The State Commissioner shall establish the dates for all state tournaments. The tournament dates are the only acceptable dates for the tournament.
- F. Obligations of Bidder. By presenting a bid to the USA Softball of Iowa office, the bidder agrees to abide by the obligations as listed in the host responsibilities booklet. This booklet will be distributed with the bid form.

Article 306 Classification

A. General

- 1. USA Softball of Iowa classification philosophy is our mission is best achieved by grouping together teams within our state who are similar in caliber to one another.
- 2. In judging teams we examine their ability to compete within that class and not their ability to win that class in USA Softball Championship play. Teams are to be classified at the highest possible classification level using this standard.
- 3. A teams desire to play in a state tournament or local invitational tournament will have no bearing on USA Softball of Iowa Classification decisions.
- 4. Team classification shall be based on the roster that is submitted.

B. Classification Board

- 1. The Classification Board shall be appointed by the USA Softball of Iowa Commissioner and will consist of three (3) or more members, one of which should be the Player Representative and District Commissioner in which the team registers.

Meetings: The Classification Board will meet at least once a year, or any such time as deemed necessary to hear all appeals, and review all classifications. They shall determine the proper athletic proficiency for teams.

Authority: USA Softball of Iowa will designate a Classification Board to evaluate, classify and review team competitive levels according to the classification guidelines. The Classification Board shall have

the authority to act on the following:

1. Classify players and teams prior to the beginning of the regular season play based on past performance and current season roster.
2. Review players and teams for possible reclassification prior to the appropriate USA Softball deadline.
3. Hear properly filed appeals of players and teams on their classification status by the appropriate USA Softball deadline.
4. Develop additional guidelines and regulations as the need arises.

Appeals: **Teams classified in accordance with this article have the right to appeal their teams classification to the State Classification Board.** The State Classification Board will assist the National Classification Board for Adult Men's, Women's and Co-Ed Slow Pitch by providing information to assist in these decisions. When called upon to make a determination regarding a player classification USA Softball of Iowa officials will examine a variety of factors including but not limited their history in USA Softball championship play, history with other associations, softball skill level and past athletic accomplishments outside of softball and to the National Classification Board for final review. All appeals must be submitted by the team manager and contain the following information on the Appeal Form and include:

1. A copy of the team's current Championship Roster.
2. A brief statement stating the reason for your appeal.
3. Evidence to support the reclassification appeal

Example: Team Names, Game Scores, and Classification of other USA Softball registered teams played in the current softball season.

Board Objectives: To determine proper athletic proficiency for teams, the Classification Board shall be limited to an overall comparison of all teams within the state.

Mandatory Reclassification/Restricted Classification

C. Women's 11" and Co-Ed Slow Pitch Classification

According to Article 507 G 2 of the USA Softball Code any team that has four or more players on a roster, including pick-up players, from a team or team that was reclassified, must play in the next higher classification for the teams next USA Softball season. In all Adult National Championships, the top finishing 10% (plus ties) will be reclassified to the next higher classification. Fractions of .5 or higher will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

NOTE: If a team fails to participate in Championship play the next calendar year this restriction will remain in effect until the team participates at the higher classification.

Mandatory Player Classification- Starting January 1 each year will start a player appeal process where each player can submit an appeal to have their player rating dropped. This process ends June 30 and at that time appeals will not be accepted until January. We have taken our team procedures and based it on the USA Softball Code in which a team could have 3 Mandatory players from the next higher division

on their roster. We consider our list equal to Mandatory classified players. With the player classification system that we have in place helps create a fair and level playing field for all of our teams not only at a local but also at a national level. Below are the procedures that we use on how to classify a team. Players on the USA Softball Restricted List can only participate in the Men's A or Coed Open Programs.

The following teams may have up to the following number of players on their roster:

1. Women's Class Open Any female player.
2. Women's Class C Three (3) Open classified players.
3. Women's Class D Three (3) C classified players.
4. **Co-ed Class C - No male classified players from Class A, Class B or the USA Softball Restricted Players List**
5. **Co-ed Class D - No male classified players from the Class A, Class B, Class C or the USA Softball Restricted Players List**
6. **7. Co-ed Class E = Two (2) male D classified players. No male classified players from the Class A, Class B, Class C or the USA Softball Restricted Players List. (Applies only if a separate and stand-alone Class E State Tournament is held)**

A PLAYER MAY NOT PLAY IN MORE THAN ONE CLASSIFICATION LOWER THAN THEIR CURRENT PLAYER CLASSIFICATION. A PLAYER IS CLASSIFIED TO A SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION, UNTIL RECLASSIFIED BY THE NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION BOARD.

Team Restricted Classification

Returning teams with two or more wins, excluding forfeits, in a state tournament must play in the same or higher classification in their next USA Softball playing season and shall be considered the same team for restricted and/or mandatory reclassification purposes.

D. Men's 12" Slow Pitch (Class A, B, C, and D)

1. New Team

A NEW team is defined as being a team with no more than 4 members from a team's roster in their previous season in USA Softball. A PLAYER MAY NOT PLAY IN MORE THAN ONE CLASSIFICATION LOWER THAN THEIR CURRENT PLAYER CLASSIFICATION. A PLAYER IS CLASSIFIED TO A SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION, UNTIL RECLASSIFIED BY THE NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION BOARD.

- A. A NEW Class B team may not have more than 3 members who are classified as Class A Players.
- B. A NEW Class C team may not have more than 3 members who are classified as Class B Players.
- C. A NEW Class D team may not have more than 3 members who are classified as Class C Players.
- D. A NEW Class E team may not have more than 3 members who are classified as Class D Players.

For purposes of this provision players subject to mandatory reclassification will be treated as though they played their most recent USA Softball season at the level to which their team is being reclassified to.

2. Returning Teams

Returning Teams shall be defined as team that returns with 4 or more players (including pick-ups, players from any other reclassified teams of the same level, and up to three players from one classification higher than their current player classification.

3. Team Restricted Classification

Returning teams with two or more wins, excluding forfeits, in a state tournament must play in the same or higher classification in their next USA Softball playing season and shall be considered the same team for restricted and/or mandatory reclassification purposes. Returning teams with one or fewer wins, excluding forfeits, in a state tournament may not drop to a lower classification without district commissioner and State Classification Committee approval.

4. Player Classification

All men's slow pitch players participating in championship play will be individually classified. The National Softball Player Classification Board will oversee all aspects of adult slow pitch classification including those for both teams and players. USA Softball of Iowa representatives will assist the board by providing information to assist in these decisions. When called upon to make a determination regarding a player classification USA Softball of Iowa officials will examine a variety of factors including but not limited their history in USA Softball championship play, history with other associations, softball skill level and past athletic accomplishments outside of softball.

Player Rosters for championship play may include higher classified players. Players who were members of a team subject to mandatory or restricted reclassification must maintain the same classification as assigned by the mandatory or reclassified rule in their next ASA season. The number of players shall be as follows:

- a. A Class B team may not have more than 3 members who are classified as Class A Players.
- b. A Class C team may not have more than 3 members who are classified as Class B Players.
- c. A Class D team may not have more than 3 members who are classified as Class C Players.
- d. A Class E team may not have more than 3 members who are classified as Class D Players.

NOTE: A PLAYER MAY NOT PLAY IN MORE THAN ONE CLASSIFICATION LOWER THAN THEIR CURRENT PLAYER CLASSIFICATION. A PLAYER IS CLASSIFIED TO A SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION, UNTIL RECLASSIFIED BY THE NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION BOARD.

5. Mandatory Reclassification

Returning Teams and Players must play in the next higher classification of championship play in their next ASA playing season if they finish in the:

1. In all Adult National Championships, the top finishing 10% (plus ties) will be reclassified to the next higher classification.
2. Classes D and E: The top 10% in East and West State and top 10% in the Championship Series will be mandatory reclassified.
3. Class C: The first and second place teams in the Class C State Tournament each year must compete in the USA Softball Class C National Tournament in the current or the next year and shall be governed by a top 20% finish in that National Tournament.

Those teams not playing in the National Tournament in that two-year period will be mandatory reclassified based on the state tournament finish.

Mandatory reclassified teams must play at the next higher classification for one year before appealing to play in another classification level. NOTE: If a team fails to participate in Championship play the next calendar year this restriction will remain in effect until the team participates at the higher classification.

Classification criteria for Men's Slow Pitch

The following factors will be considered when judging a slow pitch team's appropriate classification level:

1. The level of competition roster members have competed at and the success they have experienced at these levels in previous years of USA Softball and non- USA Softball championship play.
2. The level of success team's judged to be of similar or lesser caliber have accomplished in USA Softball championship play.
3. Past athletic accomplishments of roster members outside of 12" slow-pitch softball.
4. Results of invitational tournament play.
5. The number of home runs a team can consistently hit assuming normal weather conditions and a fence distance of 300 feet. Teams will generally be placed at the highest level where they can consistently hit the number of home runs allowable.

The following describes the attributes of teams' in each classification level:

Class B teams: All or nearly all players are high skilled outstanding experienced players with few, in any, mid-caliber players in the lineup. Several players will have competed in inter-collegiate athletics including some who may have competed in NCAA Division I.

Class C teams: There will be a mix of highly skilled and mid-caliber players in the lineup. Very few players will have competed in inter-collegiate athletics and typically at levels below NCAA Division I. The vast majority of team members will have not competed in athletics above the high school level.

Class D teams: Teams will consist of predominately of mid and low-caliber players who have either never played inter-collegiate athletics or if they have they are very inexperienced softball players.

Class E/Rec teams: Teams will consist of almost exclusively low caliber players often with very little softball experience. Players should have little history of success in competitive athletic competition in high school and otherwise.

E. Men's Modified Pitch – Mandatory Reclassification/Restricted Classification

1. The top 2 finishers in the Class B state tournament shall be required to move up to Class A the following season provided they have a minimum of 4 players on their roster (including pick-up players) from the previous season.
2. Any team that wins at least 2 games in the Class A state tournament will not be allowed to compete in the Class B state tournament the following season provided they have a

minimum of 5 players on their roster (including pick-up players) from the previous season.

F. 16 inch and 14 inch Slow Pitch.

Teams must compete in district competition to be able to compete in state tournament play. Teams will advance to the Major, A and B state tournaments based on their finish in the district tournament. The number of teams that advance from district play to state tournament play in each class shall be based on the number of teams competing in their district tournament. The Top 4 teams from Major 16” State tournament automatically qualify for Men’s Major 16” State Tournament the next year. The Top team from the Men’s 16” Class A State Tournament automatically qualifies for the 16” Men’s Major State Tournament the next year.

G. Men’s Fast Pitch.

Teams must compete in district competition to be able to compete in state tournament play. Teams will advance to the A, B and C state tournaments based on their finish in the district tournament. The number of teams that advance from district play to state tournament play in each class shall be based on the number of teams competing in their district tournament. Note: Any Men’s Fast Pitch team may declare that they want to play in the Major classification for the season. If a team declares that they want to play in the Major classification, they are eligible to enter the Major National Tournament without playing in District, State and Regional Tournaments.

H. Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Teams.

Teams may classify themselves to levels of competition, be classified by the JO District Commissioner where they are playing league(s), or be MANDATORY RECLASSIFIED based on the following: Note: Girl’s Class B Teams must be made up of players who participate in the same league. A player may participate as a regular rostered player on only one team within a division in championship play during a season. A team may register and participate in more than one division of play, but is limited to only one classification within national Championship Finals play. Exception: Girl’s Fast Pitch 8 & Under Coach Fast Pitch Players may also play in Girl’s 10 & Under Fast Pitch.

A team that wins two or more games, excluding forfeits, in a state tournament or regional tournament may not participate in a lower classification in their next USA Softball playing season. A team that plays in the same age division that has five or more players on a roster, including pick-ups, from such a team shall be considered the same team.

The top three (3) teams in Class B and Class C from the previous year that plays in the same age division will be classified to the next higher classification in their next USA Softball playing season if that team has five (5) or more players (including pick-ups) that participated with that team.

Example - If a team that plays in 10-Under Class B finishes in the top three places in the state or regional tournament and stays in the 10-Under age division in their next USA Softball playing season they must move up to class A. If the team moves up to the 12-Under age division they may play in either class A or Class B, but are not required to move up to Class A. A team that wins at least two games in a state or regional tournament may not move down a Class provided they stay in the same age division.

Each JO District Commissioner may classify teams in their District according to: a) past performance and current season roster based on a level of play where a team will be competitive b) classification changes made by the District Commissioner will be notified in writing to the affected teams no later than June 1st of the current year. Appeals of classification changes must be made in writing within five

(5) days of notification, to the State Commissioner, whose decision is final. Note: Teams that are mandatory reclassified shall not be allowed to appeal their re-classification.

The following criteria may be used as **guidelines** when evaluating teams. The JO District Commissioner will have the final say as to what class your team will be placed in based on the level where your team will be competitive, unless your team is mandatory reclassified:

Class A Teams: Have numerous skilled players. Pitcher(s) are skilled and show above average control. Players are generally recruited or selected via tryouts. Teams play in five (5) or more Invitational Tournaments, occasionally traveling out of state or more than 60 miles to tournaments. Teams generally place in the upper half of the league or tournaments that they enter, occasionally winning a tournament. Teams may practice in the off-season.

Class B Teams: Have a few skilled players. Offense and Defense is limited in ability and inconsistent although Teams may play in invitational tournaments. Pitcher(s) do not control the game. All players who wish to play are welcome. Teams play in three (3) or more Invitational Tournaments, only traveling 60 miles or less to tournaments. Teams may participate in out-of-state tournaments if the location is within a 60-mile radius of the team's origin. Teams generally place in the upper three-fourths of the league or tournaments that they enter. Teams may hold practices in the off-season. Play is mostly recreational in nature, allowing players to participate in other activities and may not devote a large amount of time to softball.

Class C Teams: This division has no advancement and is set up for teams that are strictly recreational in nature. These tournaments are designed to give teams with little or no tournament experience a chance to participate in a state tournament. All players must be from the same league. Teams play in no more than 2 invitational tournaments. Players are less skilled and not as competitive as class B teams. Teams do not have a desire to advance to further levels of Regional or National play.

I. Appeal Process

State Classification Board

Teams/Players will have a right to appeal their classification after participating at the higher classification. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the State Commissioner on an USA Softball of Iowa appeal form and must be fully and accurately completed. The State Commissioner and the State Classification Committee (SCC) will review and forward the appeal with a recommendation to the National Softball Player Classification Board (NSPC) and the Chair of the Tournament Programs Committee. The SCC will consist of members appointed by the Board by the State Commissioner.

Given the interconnected nature of team and player classifications, all team appeals shall result in a complete review of each team member's classification status. Appeals can be made starting January 1 and will conclude June 30 with no further reviews until the following January. If a team appeal is approved a roster will be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, except Pick-Up Players pursuant to Article 503 of the national code, the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to at least the next higher classification.

1. The primary factor in the decision making process of the state classification board shall be the players on their roster from the previous season and the players on their roster for the current season.

2. The team must compete in the class that the classification board assigns the team during the next season that they compete in USA Softball championship play or an USA Softball sanctioned tournament. If the team skips a season of championship play, they will be required to play in the class that they were assigned for the previous season in USA Softball.
3. Player classification reviews will involve the consideration varied factors. The claim there are certain players, within the classification level being sought, that are superior to the one requesting reclassification will not alone be sufficient grounds for a successful appeal.
4. To successfully appeal for removal from the Restricted Player List a player must demonstrate they have made a bona fide commitment to consistently play throughout the current season with a C level team and they are not involved in playing with a higher classification team regardless of association.

J. Article 307 Conflicts in USA Softball of Iowa Code and USA Softball Code.

If there is any article of the USA Softball of Iowa Code which conflicts with the USA Softball Code, the USA Softball Code shall take precedence. All USA Softball of Iowa members agree to be bound by the USA Softball of Iowa Code and the /USA Softball Code and Playing Rules. Failure to comply with the USA Softball of Iowa Code and/or the USA Softball Code and Playing Rules may result in the suspension of membership of a player, team, manager, umpire or official of the USA Softball of Iowa.