

USA SOFTBALL™

2017 USA Softball Code Changes with Comments as of November 18, 2016

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2017 unless otherwise noted.

Article Number
Article 301 C 02 a

Change

All Divisions of Play. ~~In National Championship Finals,~~ Teams can play in a higher classification than their current classification. Participation in a higher classification could affect the team in their next USA Softball playing season.

Clarification: This would allow teams to play up in level classification (example Class B to Class A) and age classification (example 12-Under to 14-Under).

Comments: Gives the flexibility for teams to play up in both level and age classifications.

Article 301 D 02 d.

Junior Olympic Classification. ~~d. Once a player participates in an intercollegiate softball program for a university or college, including junior or community college, the player is ineligible to play below the Class A level.~~

Comments: Defines where college players can participate in the Junior Olympic program.

Article 302 G

~~Adult Slow Pitch Only. The Commissioner or designee signing the roster must verify the players ranking in the USA Softball Slow Pitch Player Information system and write the players classification next to them on the roster. If said person signing the roster has knowledge or can verify that a player's classification in another National Association they must also note that ranking as well. Refer to 307 H 01, NOTE: for rating classification of players.~~

Comments: Establishes requirements for commissioners when approving Adult Slow Pitch rosters

Article 303 A 02

2. Pick-up players must have played for an USA Softball registered team during the current season.

EXCEPTION: Senior Slow Pitch and Junior Olympic Fast Pitch

~~New 03. (JO ONLY) Pick-up players must be registered during the current season. Players must be registered seven (7) days prior to the start of the National Championship Final.~~

Comments: Establishes requirements for Junior Olympic Players when becoming pick up players.

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Article Number
Article 303 A 05

Change

CLARIFICATION: A player who has competed in any Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch National Championship Finals is an eligible pick up player in a higher National Championship Final.

Example: If a player participates in a Western National Championship Final she could then become a pick-up player at the USA Softball Championship Final.

Comments: Allows for a player who has played in a National Championships Finals to be an eligible pick up player at a higher National Championship Final.

Article 305 A 02

02. Physical violence, such as an attack on an umpire, tournament official or participant immediately preceding, during or immediately following a game or arising out of USA Softball Activities.

Comments: Adds additional language to Physical violence under Acts of Suspension.

Article 305 A 06

06. 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 ASA or arising out of USA Softball activities.

Comments: Adds additional language to any act while participating at USA Softball activities under Acts of Suspension.

Article 305 A 11

New 11. Other misconduct that reasonably calls into question the participant's suitability to participate in the applicable activity.

Comments: Adds an additional item under Acts of Suspension.

Article 307 B 04

Men's Seniors Slow Pitch will be classified by a three member National Seniors Classification Board to be appointed by the Executive Director.

Comments: Establishes who appoints the committee for the classification of Senior Slow Pitch teams.

Article 307 H 02

EXCEPTION: Coed Class C and Class D; and Men's Class B Slow Pitch teams must finish in the top ten percent (10%) of National Championships in two (2) consecutive years before they will be required to play in the next higher classification in ASA Championship Play.

Comments: Establishes guidelines for mandatory classification of Men's B Slow teams.

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Article Number
Article 309 C 04 c

Change

Girls' USA Softball Class A Fast Pitch (all ages) These National Championships Finals shall be scheduled and completed on the weekend that includes the last Saturday in July and commence no earlier than 6:00 PM on Sunday. Opening ceremonies may be held on a Sunday afternoon. These Championships are scheduled for a maximum of seven (7) days.

Comments: Establishes dates for the Girls USA Softball Class A Fast Pitch National Championships.

Article 309 C 04 d

Girls' USA Softball Class A and B Fast Pitch Territorial (all ages) These Territorial Championship Finals shall be scheduled by the territory in which the tournament takes place. These tournaments must be scheduled for either the third week of July or the fourth week of July but must conclude no later than the last Saturday in July. Opening ceremonies may be held that Monday. These championships are scheduled for a maximum of six (6) days.

Comments: Establishes dates for the Girls USA Softball Class A and B Fast Pitch Territorial Championship Finals.

Article 310 C

The barrel compression testing shall be coordinated by the Tournament Director and shall be conducted under the direction of the umpire staff or their designees.

Comments: Establishes who will coordinate the bat testing at National Championship Finals.

Article 310 G 01

Delete Use of Alcohol Beverages

Comments: Allows complexes who abide by local laws the ability to serve alcohol.

Article 310 N 02

Restricted Activity. At no time shall any players, coaches or managers be allowed to drink alcoholic beverages or smoke on the field or in the dugout. At no time may a person knowingly possess or have under his/her control a weapon or explosive device on the playing field or in the dugout. For purposes of this subsection, a "weapon" means any firearm or any weapon of the kind usually known as slung shot, sand club, or metal knuckles, or any knife, dagger, dirk, or other similar weapon that is capable of causing death or bodily injury and is commonly used with the intent to cause death or bodily injury, but the definition of weapon shall specifically exclude an ordinary pocket knife or any softball-related equipment.

Comments: Adds additional items that are restricted on the field or in the dugout.

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Article Number

Change

Article 316 F

USA Softball East / West National Championship Finals

New 03. Girls' USA Softball Class A National Championship Finals 10-Under

a. These championship locations will be selected by the Executive Director.

Comments: Establishes a second Girls' USA Softball Class A National Championship Finals in 10-Under and gives the Executive Director the ability to select the location.

Article 316 G 02 a

Berths. Deletes Adult Berths.

Comments: Allows local associations the ability to award multiple berths without restrictions to Adult Slow Pitch teams who earn that right through their local association.

Article 316 H

USA Softball Girls' Class A National Championship Finals

Host Teams	2
National Qualifiers (2 per region)	20
East National Qualifier	2
Central National Qualifier	2
West National Qualifier	2
Hall of Fame Berths	8
Regional Berths (4 per region)	40
Territory National Championships Berths	0 - 16
Returning Teams from previous year (10%)	6 - 36
Association Berths	70
Association Berths - one for every 500 teams	113
Geographical Hardships	3
Maximum Possible Number of Teams	281

Comments: Establishes berth allocations berths for the Girls USA Softball Class A Championship Finals will come from.

Article 316 I

Girls' Class A USA Softball National Championship Finals (Territory)

Delete 10-Under Class A

Comments: Removes the 10-Under Class A from Territory National Championship Finals

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Article Number
Article 316 K

Change

K.USA Softball Girls' GOLD Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.

18-Under

The berths will be allocated as follows:

Returning teams 2 (18U Gold Champion and Runner-up). 4

Returning teams 2 (16U Gold Champion and Runner-up).

Territorial Berths based on previous Year's Gold Participation
in Territorial Play:

Territory with the highest participation	16	
Territory with the second highest participation	16	
Territory with the third highest participation	12	
Territory with the fourth highest participation	12	56

National Office 4

Maximum Possible Number of Teams 64

Any unused berths will be returned to the National Office for immediate distribution to the current years tournaments with the largest number of Gold teams participating.

NOTE: Berths allocated to the National Office are to be used for distribution to the current years tournaments with the largest number of participating teams.

Comments: Establishes how berths will be distributed for the 18-Under Gold National Championship Finals.

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Article Number

Change

Article 316 L

USA Softball Girls' Gold Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.
16-Under

The berths will be allocated as follows:

Returning teams 2 (Champion and Runner-up). 2

Regional Berths 10

Territorial Berths based on previous Year's Gold Participation
in Territorial Play:

Territory with the highest participation 12

Territory with the second highest participation 12

Territory with the third highest participation 6

Territory with the fourth highest participation 6

Maximum Possible Number of Teams 48

Any unused berths will be returned to the National Office for immediate distribution to the current year's tournaments with the largest number of Gold teams participating.

Comments: Establishes how berths will be distributed for the 16-Under Gold National Championship Finals.

Article 316 M

New Girls Class C Fast Pitch Regional Championship Final

USA Softball shall conduct one Regional Championship Final in ages 10U, 12U and 14U of Junior Olympic Girls' Class C Fast Pitch in each of the 10 Regions.

01. Eligible Teams. All teams within an Regional Championship Finals Region are age eligible to qualify for their Regional Championship Finals through their local association. Teams may play in the Regional Championship Finals of their choice.

02. Format. Each Girls' Class C Fast Pitch Regional Championship Final shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) games - two pool games and a seeded double elimination bracket.

03. Each Regional Championship Final shall have a pre-tournament draw luncheon for managers and opening ceremonies.

04. Eligible Players - A Class C team must be comprised of players that come from the same league and have not participated at the Class A level with any other team in any organization.

Comments: Establishes the Girls' Class C Regional Championship Finals for 10, 12, and 14-Under to be held in each region.

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Article Number
Article 316 N

Change

New Girls' 8-Under Regional Championship Finals

USA Softball shall conduct one Regional Championship Final in 8-Under of Junior Olympic Girls' in each of the following Regions, in accordance with Article 202, Regions of this Code.

01. Eligible Teams. All teams within a Regional Championship Finals region are age eligible to qualify for their Regional Championship Finals through their local associations. Teams may play in the Championship of their choice.
02. Format. Each Girls' 8-Under Regional Championship Finals shall be structured so that each team is scheduled to play a minimum of four (4) games - two games of pool play and a seeded double elimination bracket.
03. Opening Ceremonies. Each Regional Championship Finals shall have a pre-tournament draw luncheon for the managers and opening ceremonies.
04. Rules. Each region will determine the playing rules and qualification procedures for this classification.

Comments: Establishes the Girls' Class 8-Under Championship Finals to be held in each region.