



**USA Softball**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**INTERNATIONAL PLAY**  
**POLICIES**  
**AND**  
**PROCEDURES**

**USA SOFTBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INTERNATIONAL PLAY POLICY  
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**USA Softball Board Policy**  
**October 2016 (Amended September 2022)**

**INTERNATIONAL PLAY**

**Article 101 NATIONAL TEAM / COACH SELECTION COMMITTEE.**

- A. Committees. There shall be a Junior and Adult Selection committee for both the Men's and Women's Programs. The Junior committees shall be responsible for any teams that represent the age groups U18 or younger. The Adult committees will be responsible for any teams that represent age groups U19 and older as well as the Adult National Teams. For 12U Coed both the Men's and Women's Junior Committees will submit an equal number of names for the Team.
- B. **Committee Members.** There shall be two Men's National Team Selection Committees (Junior and Adult) and two Women's National Team Selection Committees (Junior and Adult). Each committee shall each be comprised of a minimum of **six ( 6 )** members consisting of at least **two ( 2 )** athlete representative who meets the requirements of the United States Olympic Paralympic Committee (USOPC), the head coach of the National Team being selected and three ( 3 ) members who are either members of USA Softball or an affiliated members of the USA Softball. The chair person of each National Team Selection Committee shall be elected by the members of such committee. Each member shall have one vote at all meetings, with the exception of the athlete representative who will always make up at least **thirty-three percent ( 33 % )** of the vote. The committee shall act by majority vote.
- C. **Committee Selection.** The respective members of each Selection Committee, other than the athlete representative(s), shall be appointed by a selection panel ( the ' Selection Panel ' ). The athlete representative member(s) of the respective Selection Committees shall be elected by a majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors who are Elite Athlete Representative. The Selection Panel shall consist of the USA Softball President (or their designee), two persons selected by the Board of Directors and two athlete representatives who meets the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee. The athlete representative members of the Selection Panel shall be elected by majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors who are athlete representatives. All members of the selection panel shall be free from conflicts of interest. Appointments and elections of members of each National Team Selection Committee shall take place as soon as reasonably practical after the conclusion of each Summer Olympic Games. Persons appointed or elected as members of a National Team Selection Committee shall serve as members of such Committee until the conclusion of the next Summer Olympic Games or until such person resigns, dies or is removed. Committee members may serve on both committees if they can show that they have the time available for the commitment and are selected to serve on both committees. With the exception of the Head Coach, during the Olympic quadrennium in which a person is elected or appointed as a member of a selection panel or a National Team Selection Committee, that person shall not be eligible to be selected as a member of a National Team or as a member of the Coaching Staff for a National Team.
- D. **Committee Replacements.** If a vacancy occurs on a National Team Selection Committee, the replacement shall be selected from the same category and in the same manner as the member whose resignation, death or removal resulted in such vacancy.

- E. **Removal.** A National Team Selection Committee Member, including an athlete representative, may be removed with or without cause by a seventy-five percent ( 75% ) vote of the Board of Directors; provided, however, that the seventy-five percent ( 75% ) vote approval of the Board of Directors to remove an athlete representative shall include approval by a majority of those members of the Board of Directors who are athlete representatives.
- F. **Budget and Procedures.** The budget for each National Team shall be established by the Board of Directors. All policies and procedures employed and all expenditures of funds by a National Team must comply with the budget established by the Board of Directors and must be approved by the USA Softball Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or their designee before such policies or procedures are employed or such funds are expended.
- G. **Meetings.** The USA Softball CEO, or their designee, and the USA Softball President shall have the right to attend, whether in person or by telephone, all meetings of a National Team Selection Committee.

**Article 102 NATIONAL COACHES AND PLAYER POOLS.** Each National Coaches Pool shall consist of no less than eight candidates.

- A. **National Coaches Pool.** There shall be a National Coaches Pool for the **Junior Men's and Adult Men's** National Teams program and the **Junior Women's and Adult Women's** National Teams program. Each National Coaches Pool shall consist of no less than eight candidates. This pool shall be chosen by the applicable National Team Selection Committees from the qualified people who are involved in softball in the United States. The selection process shall be determined by the individual National Team Selection Committees. A coach selected as a member of the pool serves at the discretion of the respective National Team Selection Committee and can be removed from the pool by such a committee. A coach may be a candidate in both the Junior and Adult Pools. A coach selected as a member of the pool may at any time voluntarily remove their name from the pool. Selection of a coach as a member of the pool does not guarantee that such coach will be selected as a member of the Coaching Staff for any of the National Teams under the specific committee.
- B. **National Player Pool.** There shall be a separate National Player Pool for each division within the National Teams program, e.g. Men's National Team, U23 Men's National Team, and U18 Men's National Teams, as well as Women's National Team, U18 Women's National Team, U15 Women's National Team and U12 Coed. The members of the National Player Pools shall be chosen from individuals who are citizens of the United States at the time of selection and eligible under applicable eligibility rules for participation in a 'protected competition' as defined in the Bylaws of the USOPC. The National Player Pools for the U18/23 Men's National Teams, U15/18 Women's and for the U12 Coed National Teams shall consist of individuals who satisfy all applicable eligibility rules for participation in the competitions that are part of these programs. The members of each National Player Pool shall be determined by the applicable National Team Selection Committee and shall include open tryouts. The final decision regarding selection to the pool shall be made by the applicable National Team Selection Committee. Selection as a member of the pool in any given year does not guarantee selection to the pool in other years and does not guarantee that such athlete will be selected as a member or alternate of a National Team. Any individual may be a member of more than one National Player Pool as long as such individual meets all of the eligibility criteria for each such National Player Pool.

**Article 103 TEAM AND COACH SELECTION FOR PROTECTED COMPETITION.** As the National Governing Body for the sport of softball, it is the USA Softball's duty to select National Teams to participate in certain protected competitions as defined by the **USOPC** Bylaws, as amended from time to time. The coaches and players will be selected to participate in such protected competitions in accordance with the following sections.

- A. **Coaching Staff.** There shall be a Coaching Staff for each National Team consisting of a Head Coach and a number of assistant coaches to be determined on a case by case basis by the applicable National Team Selection Committee. The Coaching Staff shall be selected by the respective National Team Selection Committee from the respective National Coaches Pool in accordance with the plan for selection developed by the National Team Selection Committee and, if applicable, approved by the **USOPC**.
- C. **Players.** The appropriate number of athletes will be selected using the applicable guidelines for team size in each protected competition. The respective National Team Selection Committee shall select players and alternate players from the National Players Pool in accordance with selection procedures developed by the National Team Selection Committee and, if applicable, approved by the **USOPC**.
- D. **Replacement Players.** In the event a replacement player is required, the respective National Team Selection Committee will select players from the National Players Pool in accordance with selection procedures developed by the national Team Selection Committee and, if applicable, approved by the **USOPC**.
- E. **Final Approval of Committee Selections.** The selection decisions made by each National Team Selection Committee and, if applicable approved by the USA Softball Board of Directors.

**Article 104 TEAM SELECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OTHER THAN PROTECTED COMPETITION.**

- A. **International Invitational Tournament.**
  - 01. For any international invitational tournament which is not a 'protected competition' as defined by the **USOPC Bylaws**, the following procedure shall be used in selecting the teams(s) which will participate:
    - a. The **CEO or designee** shall determine which class of USA Softball **Invitational or** Championship Play most closely resembles the level of competition expected to compete in such International Invitational Tournament.
    - b. The **CEO or designee** shall send a written notice to each team which competed in the most recent USA Softball National Championship Final in the class of USA Softball Championship Play determined by the **CEO or designee** in accordance with paragraph a. above, advising such teams of the International Invitational Tournament. The notice shall request each team to provide written notice to the **CEO or designee** within a time fixed by the **CEO or designee** stating whether they would accept an invitation to participate in such tournament if an invitation were awarded.
    - c. The **CEO or designee** shall award the invitation(s) to those teams

which provided written notice to the **CEO or designee** agreeing to accept an invitation based upon their relative order of finish at the most recent applicable USA Softball National Championship Final.

**Article 105 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.** Please see Section 16 of the USA Softball Bylaws found online at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/about-usa-sb/governance> (page 53)

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