

2024 USA Softball Procedural Code Changes w/ Comments as of November 20, 2023

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2024 unless otherwise noted.

ARTICLE NUMBER

CHANGE

Article 303 A

Pick-Up Players

DELETE 07. No player may be picked up for Gold Qualifying Tournaments.

Comments: Allows for less restrictions for Gold Qualifying Tournaments.

Article 307 H

Classifications of Championship Play

Coed Class C

Two Open classified female players and two male B classified players, no male players from Class A, or the USA Softball Restricted Player's List.

Comments: To allow upper level men's players who want to play Coed the opportunity to do so.

Article 308

Levels of Championship Play

DELETE the Exception only A. Local Association Championships 02. Bracket Options **EXCEPTION: This does not include any 16-Under Gold and 18-Under Gold Fast Pitch Qualifying Play.**

Comments: This allows USAS to open the Gold Qualifiers to be part of already existing tournaments and showcases that have at minimum a single elimination component.

Article 310 L 04

General Regulations of Championship Play

DELETE Unsportsmanlike: Managers are to report any unsportsmanlike or derogatory acts by players or spectators to the tournament director.

ADD Any participant or team personnel ejected from a game will be required to sit their next game. The time frame can be extended by the Championship committee. They cannot sit in the stands, dugout, or general locality of the next game. If they want to appeal the sitting out of the next game, it may be done with the Championship Protest Committee.

Comments: Allows the possibility of appeal or extension.

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Article 313 F 03

USA Softball Gold Qualifying Tournaments

03. Tournament Bracket Gold Qualifying Tournaments must provide teams with a minimum of 2 games. These events may use the following formats: Single Elimination, Double Elimination, or 3-game Bracket. Sites hosting Single Elimination must include pool play games prior to the beginning of Single Elimination.

Comments: To allow showcase events which are mostly single elimination, the opportunity to award a berth to the Gold Nationals.

Article 314 K

National Championship Finals

Returning Teams (Champion, Runner-Up, 3rd Place)- 3

National Office- 5

Regional Berths- 4 per Region = 40

Maximum Number of Teams = 48

DELETE 01. Renumber remaining items

02. Change to: Berths allocated to the National Office may be awarded to teams who have played in Gold Qualifying tournaments and/or teams who have not participated in Gold Qualifying tournaments. Teams receiving a berth from the National Office must meet the necessary requirements for all teams that participate in a National Tournament. The Director of Membership Services shall be responsible for distribution of the berths allocated to the National Office.

03. Unused berths will be returned to the National Office Director of Membership Services for immediate distribution to the current year's tournaments with the largest number of gold teams participating.

04. Change last sentence to read: Extension of the deadline must be approved by the CEO and/or their signee.

Comments: Retooling the berths to award more directly back to the regions to allow more opportunities for additional qualifiers within the region.

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Article 408 (New)

Local Association Athlete Representatives

01. Selection. A local association athlete representative shall be appointed by each local commissioner. **The appointee must meet the eligibility requirement in accordance with Bylaw 9.3 E.**

02. Term of Office. **Local association athlete representatives shall serve a term of one year and may be re-appointed only if they continue to meet the eligibility requirement in accordance with Bylaw 9.3 E.**

03. Vacancy. If a local association athlete representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the local association commissioner. **The appointee must meet the eligibility requirement in accordance with Bylaw 9.3 E.**

04. Removal. A local association athlete representative may be removed by their respective local commissioner.

05. Duties. Local association athlete representatives shall represent his/her local association in all local, regional, territorial, and national meetings and be eligible for appointment to committees, forums, and panels.

Comments: This new council position was established last year and put into Bylaw (9.3 E). This legislation establishes and defines the protocols for selection, term, vacancy, removal, and duties for the position.

Article 502 F

Panels and Forums

F. Player and Local Association Athlete Representatives

This forum shall review proposed amendments to the USAS Playing Rules and Procedural Code; and send **members to other committee, forum, and panel meetings** to express the interest of the athlete/player representatives **regarding competition, legislation, tournament structure, and ideas to increase registration and participation with USAS.**

Comments: Adds Local Association Athletes to this forum and changes the name.

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Article 602 V

Bidding for National Championship Finals

DELETE V. Tournament Software. All National Championship Finals will use www.tournamentUSAsoftball.com

Comments: The TournamentUSASoftball software no longer exists.

Article 603 B 01

Fast Pitch, Modified Pitch, and Slow Pitch Bids

Game fees for Adult Fast Pitch, Junior Olympic Fast Pitch, and Modified Pitch shall be a minimum of **\$50.00** per game.

Comments: As umpire fees across the country have increased a higher minimum is appropriate.