



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INTERNATIONAL PLAY POLICIES  
AND PROCEDURES

USA SOFTBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
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## Article 101. NATIONAL TEAM COACHES

- A. **Coaching Staff.** The head coach and assistant coaches are not publicly solicited; they are hired and put on contract by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of USA Softball to fulfill a specific role with a USA Softball National Team. The coaching staff must possess a high level of specific technical and tactical knowledge of softball, and the ability to devise and implement a program of training and competition that leads to sustained competitive excellence.
01. Review Process
    - a. The Selection Review Panel, comprised of four (4) members: the CEO, Chief of Sport Development/Performance Officer (CSDPO), and one duly selected athlete representative per gender, will review, interview, and make a recommendation for a candidate to be chosen as the head coach and assistant coaches.
    - b. The final candidate will be reviewed by the USAS AAC before submitted to the BOD for approval.

## Article 102. SELECTION COMMITTEE.

- A. **Committees.** There shall be a Junior and Adult Selection committee for both the Men's and Women's Programs.
01. The Junior committees shall be responsible for any teams that represent the age groups U18 or younger. For 12U Coed both the Men's and Women's Junior Committees will submit and equal number of names for the Team.
  02. The Adult committees will be responsible for any teams that represent age groups U19 and older as well as the Adult National Teams.
- B. **Committee Members.** Each committee shall each be comprised of a minimum of five (5) and no more than seven (7) members.
01. Members
    - a. At least two (2) and no more than three (3) athlete representatives who meet the requirements of the United States Olympic Paralympic Committee (USOPC)
    - b. The head coach of the National Team being selected
    - c. At least two (2), but no more than three (3) at large members.
  02. Chair. The chair person of each National Team Selection Committee shall be elected by the members of such committee.
  03. Voting. 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 representatives(s), shall be appointed by the Selection Review Panel. The athlete representative member(s) of the respective Selection

Committees shall be elected by a majority vote of those members of the Athletes Advisory Council. All members of the selection committee 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. **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 103. NATIONAL PLAYER POOLS.**

- A. **National Player Pool.** Athletes are selected to the National Player Pool (“the Pool”) by the Men’s or Women’s National Team Head Coach (in consultation with the National Teams coaching staffs and identified National Team scouts/consultants). Staff will evaluate and will collect information about an athlete’s performance throughout the 2025 - 2028 quadrennium for placement in the Pool. Once a part of the Pool, athletes are then eligible for selection to a National Team.
  - 01. Athletes who are members of the Pool may include the following:
    - a. Athletes selected as a member of a USA Softball Women’s or Men’s National Team or National Training Team.
    - b. Athletes included on the roster of any of the following international events:
      - i. 2020 (2021) Olympic Team

- ii. 2018- 2024 Pan Americas Qualifying Teams
  - iii. 2019 & 2023 Pan Am Team
  - iv. 2018 – 2024 World Cup Stage Team
  - v. 2018 – 2024 World Cup Team
  - vi. 2018 – 2024 Roster from International Event
- c. Athletes identified through USA Softball Camp and Tryout/Open programs.
  - d. Athletes identified through performance in domestic and/or international professional softball leagues.
  - e. Athletes identified through collegiate softball programs.
  - f. Athletes identified through club and/or high school softball programs, including USA Softball’s High Performance Program (HPP).
  - g. Athletes identified by submitting videos or other relevant data to the National Team Staff.

**Article 104. 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 according to the budget established for the event. The Coaching Staff shall be hired by USA Softball and go through the approval process, if applicable, approved by the USOPC.
- B. **Players.** The appropriate number of athletes will be selected using the applicable guidelines for team size in each protected competition. The respective Selection Review Committee shall review the selected players and alternate players from the National Team Coaches in accordance with selection procedures developed by the Chief Sport Development/Performance Officer of USA Softball with input from the Coaches and approved by the USA Softball Internal AAC and, if applicable, approved by the USOPC.
- C. **Replacement Players.** In the event a replacement player is required, the respective National Team Head Coach will select players from the National Players Pool in accordance with selection procedures developed by the Chief Sport Development/Performance Officer of USA Softball with input from the Coaches and approved by the USA Softball Internal AAC and, if applicable, approved by the USOPC.

**Article 105. 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 106. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.**

Please see Section 16 of the USA Softball Bylaws.