

USA SOFTBALL™

2020 USA Softball Code Changes with Comments as of December 11, 2019

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2020 unless otherwise noted.

<u>Article Number</u>	<u>Change</u>														
<u>Article 301 C 03</u>	<p>Eligibility.</p> <p>03. Junior Olympic</p> <p>a. Any Junior Olympic team participating in championship play must have at least one ACE certified coach (current year) on the field/dugout during championship play games.</p> <p>b. All adults (on the field/dugout) must have a background check and be Safe Sport certified for the current year.</p> <p>c. All Junior Olympic team personnel adults assisting on the field/dugout must visually display proof of a USA Softball background check (current year).</p> <p>Comments: Requires all adults on the field or in dugouts to be SafeSport certified and background checked for the current year</p>														
<u>Article 301 D 06 d</u>	<p>d. Men's Masters 40-over Fast Pitch. Teams may have up to three players who are three years below the minimum age requirement.</p> <p>Comments: Adds language that allows Men's Masters 40-over to have up to three players who are three years below the minimum age requirement on the roster</p>														
<u>Article 301 D 06 e</u>	<p>e. Men's Masters 50-over Fast Pitch. Teams may have up to three players who are three years below the minimum age requirement. These players are ineligible to pitch.</p> <p>Comments: Adds language that allows Men's Masters 50-over to have up to three players who are three years below the minimum age requirement on the roster</p>														
<u>Article 301 D 06 f</u>	<p>f. Men's Masters 60-over Fast Pitch. Teams may have up to three players who are three years below the minimum age requirement. These players are ineligible to pitch.</p> <p>Comments: Adds language that allows Men's Masters 60-over to have up to three players who are three years below the minimum age requirement on the roster</p>														
<u>Article 306 A</u>	<p>DIVISIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY DEFINED</p> <p>A. USA Softball recognizes the following divisions and classifications of championship play. Each local association shall establish a classification code to determine team and/or player classification for championship play in the following divisions:</p> <p>1-26. As is</p> <table><tbody><tr><td>27. Women's Seniors 50-Over Slow Pitch</td><td>Major, AAA</td></tr><tr><td>28. Women's Seniors 55-Over Slow Pitch</td><td>Major, AAA</td></tr><tr><td>29. Women's Seniors 60-Over Slow Pitch</td><td>Major, AAA</td></tr><tr><td>30. Women's Seniors 65-Over Slow Pitch</td><td>Major, AAA</td></tr><tr><td>31. Women's Seniors 70-Over Slow Pitch</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>32. Women's Seniors 75-Over Slow Pitch</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>33-36 Renumber as needed</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Comments: Adds women's senior Slow Pitch divisions</p>	27. Women's Seniors 50-Over Slow Pitch	Major, AAA	28. Women's Seniors 55-Over Slow Pitch	Major, AAA	29. Women's Seniors 60-Over Slow Pitch	Major, AAA	30. Women's Seniors 65-Over Slow Pitch	Major, AAA	31. Women's Seniors 70-Over Slow Pitch		32. Women's Seniors 75-Over Slow Pitch		33-36 Renumber as needed	
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<u>Article 301 D 06 f</u>	<p>04. Men's Slow Pitch</p> <p>Super A AA B C D</p>														

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E / Rec

- Article 307 H 01 a**
- a. Men's Class A **Two (2)** players from the USA Softball Restricted Player's List
- Comments:** Changes the current Men's Slow Pitch Class A to AA and adds a new Class "A" program
- Comments:** Changes the number of Men's Class A allowed players from the Restricted Player's List from 5 to 2.
- Article 308 A**
- A. **Local Association Championships.** Local Association championship play at the state or metro championship must follow the USA Softball Code.
- EXCEPTION:** All adult slow pitch **and Men's Fast Pitch.**
- Comments:** Allows Fast Pitch players to play in more than one association state tournament.
- Article 309 C 04 c**
- c. **Girls' USA Softball Class A Fast Pitch** (all ages). These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled **to begin with opening ceremonies no earlier than 6:00pm on the weekend that includes the next to last Saturday in July. Games shall begin no earlier than 8:00am on that Sunday and continue for no more than five (5) days.**
- Comments:** Adjusts the dates of JO Class A National Championships. Also limits days to no more than 5.
- Article 309 C 04 e**
- e. **Girls' USA Softball Gold 16-Under and 18-Under Fast Pitch. These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled and approved by the Chief Executive Officer.**
- Comments:** Allows the CEO to schedule and approve National Championship dates and location.
- Article 310 L 03**
03. **Fighting. ~~During regional, territorial, national tournament or National Championship Final play~~** Any time that a player, coach or manager strikes another player, coach, manager **or umpire**, said player, coach or manager is to be ejected from the game and **not be allowed in the dugout for the remainder of the game and/or tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director.**
- Comments:** Adds umpires as protected individuals and requires anyone at fault to vacate the dugout entirely for remainder of game or tournament, at the discretion of the TD.
- Article 311 B 01**
01. **Pool Play Bracket.**
- a. **Four Team Pools. In pools of four (4) teams, each team shall play each other team in the pool once and all games will count towards seeding.**
- ~~b. **Pool Play Procedures.** In pools of four (4) teams, each team shall draw to determine which other team they play in the first game. The winners of each of the first games in a pool shall play each other with the winner being declared the Number 1 seed in the pool and the loser being declared the Number 2 seed. The losers of each of the first games in a pool shall play each other with the winner being declared the Number 3 seed in the pool and the loser being declared the Number 4 seed.~~
- a. **Three Team Pools. In pools of three (3) teams, each team shall play each other team in the pool once and their 3rd game will be scheduled with a cross-pool team. Cross-pool games will not count toward seeding. Cross-team games should be scheduled with another three (3) team pool, if possible.**

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Comments: Adjusts wording for four team pools and clarifies three team pools. With three pool play games, pools of three will play one cross pool that does not count toward seeding.

Article 311 B 01 c

- c. **Seeding from Pool Play.** Teams shall be seeded into the double elimination bracket by:
01. Win-Loss Record
 02. If a tie exists, tied teams shall be ranked according to the fewest runs allowed per game played
 03. If a tie still exists, tied teams shall be ranked according to the most runs scored per game played
 04. If a tie still exists, there shall be a coin toss

Comments: Clarifies how teams are seeded after pool play

Article 311 B 03 b 02

- ~~02. Any of the top two (2) teams from the previous year's Gold National Championship will be placed into the double elimination bracket in opposite quads if they qualify.~~

Comments: Removes the top two teams from previous year's Gold National Championship from being placed into the double elimination bracket in opposite quads

Article 311 B 03 b 03

- ~~03. If the Junior Olympic Gold National Championship Finals is televised in Oklahoma City, OK, the field will be split into two 32 team brackets with the winner of each bracket playing in the final game. The winner of the final game will be declared the official winner of the tournament.~~

Comments: Deletes this item. With the change in maximum number of teams, this eliminates the possibility of having 32-team brackets.

Article 314 K

- K. **Girls' Class GOLD USA Softball Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.**
18-Under and 16-Under

The berths for each division will be allocated as follows:

Returning Teams 8 (Champion, Runner-Up, 3rd Place, 4th Place, the two teams tied for 5th Place and the two teams tied for 7th Place)

Note: Returning teams must enter and pay their entry fee prior to February 1st

National Office	8
Additional Berths	12
Regional Berths = 2	20
Maximum Possible Number of Teams	48

Comments: Increases the Returning berths from top 2 teams to top 8 teams. Decreases the number of Additional Berths from 18 to 12. Overall number of berths is the same, 48 teams.

Article 314 K 02

02. The eight berths allocated to the National Office are intended to be used to draw top competition. Teams do not have to participate in a Gold National Qualifying Tournament to receive one of these berths. Teams awarded a berth by the National Office must meet the necessary requirements for all teams that participate in a National Tournament.

Comments: Defines how the National Office berths are to be distributed