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INTERNATIONAL PLAY

Article 101 NATIONAL TEAM / COACH SELECTION COMMITTEE.

A. Committee Members. The Men’s National Team Selection Committee and the Women’s National Team Selection Committee shall each be comprised of at least five (5) members consisting of at least one (1) athlete representative who meets the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee, the head coach of the National Team to be selected and three (3) members who are either members of the ASA or allied members of the ASA. 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 twenty percent (20%) of the vote. The committee shall act by majority vote.

B. Committee Selection. The respective members of each Selection Committee, other than the athlete representatives(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 ASA President, a person selected by the Board of Directors and an athlete representative who meets the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee. The athlete representative member of the Selection Panel shall be elected by majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors who are athlete representatives. Appointments and elections of members of each National Team Selection Committee shall take place as soon as reasonably practical after the conclusion of the ASA annual meeting which next follows 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. 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.

C. 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.

D. 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.
E. **Budget and Procedures.** The budget for each National Team Selection Committee shall be established by the Board of Directors. All policies and procedures employed and all expenditures of funds by a National Team Selection Committee must comply with the budget established by the Board of Directors and must be approved by the ASA Executive Director before such policies or procedures are employed or such funds are expended.

F. **Meetings.** The ASA Executive Director, or their designee, and the ASA President shall have the right to attend, whether in person or by telephone, all meetings of a National Team Selection Committee. Provided, however, neither the ASA Executive Director (or their designee as may be applicable) nor the ASA President shall participate in or be present during any portion of a meeting of a National Team Selection Committee pertaining to selection or evaluation of particular athletes or coaches.

**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 Men’s National Teams program and the 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 Committee from the qualified people who are involved in softball in the United States. The selection process shall be determined by the 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 committee. 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 the National Team.

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 Teams, Women’s National Teams, Junior Men’s National Teams, and Junior Women’s National Teams. The members of the National Player Pools for the Men’s National Team and for the Women’s National Team 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 United States Olympic Committee. The National Player Pools for the Junior Boy’s National Team and for the Junior Girls’ National Team 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 ASA’s duty to select National Teams to participate in certain protected competitions as defined by the United States Olympic Committee 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 United States Olympic Committee.

B. 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 United States Olympic Committee.

C. 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 United States Olympic Committee.

D. Final Approval of Committee Selections. The selection decisions made by each National Team Selection Committee are subject to final approval by the ASA 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 United States Olympic Committee Constitution, the following procedure shall be used in selecting the teams(s) which will participate:

a. The Executive Director shall determine which class of ASA Championship Play most closely resembles the level of competition expected to compete in such International Invitational Tournament.

b. The Executive Director shall send a written notice to each team which competed in the most recent ASA National Championship Final in the class of ASA Championship Play determined by the Executive Director 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 Executive Director within a time fixed by the Executive Director stating whether they would accept an invitation to participate in such tournament if an invitation were awarded.

c. The Executive Director shall award the invitation(s) to those teams which provided written notice to the Executive Director agreeing to accept an invitation based upon their relative order of finish at the most recent applicable ASA National Championship Final.
Article 105 APPEALS REGARDING SELECTION PROCESS.

A. Right to Appeal.

01. Any player or coach adversely affected by a decision of the Men’s or Women’s National Team Selection Committee who believes such decision was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion; or (2) made in violation of the published rules for that particular team selection process, shall have the right to protest.

02. Such protest shall:

a. Include an original and five (5) copies of the complaint that shall be in writing, signed by the complainant and received by the Executive Director within five (5) business days after the announcement of the team selections;

b. Set forth in detail all evidence relied upon by the complainant in support of their claim;

c. Set forth the specific relief requested; and

d. Request a hearing if one is desired.

e. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Executive Director shall forward a copy to each member of the Board of Director’s Sub-Committee. The Board of Director’s Sub-Committee shall then determine whether the complaint satisfies the requirements set forth in this Article 105 (A)(02). If the Board of Director’s Sub-Committee determines the complaint does not satisfy the requirements set forth in this Article 105 (A)(02), the Board of Director’s Sub-Committee may, in its discretion, dismiss the complaint without prejudice to its refiling. The Board of Director’s Sub-Committee shall send written notice of such dismissal and the reasons therefore to the complainant within five (5) business days after the date of receipt of the complaint by the Executive Director.

f. In the event the Board of Director’s Sub-Committee dismisses the complaint without prejudice pursuant to the Article 105 (A)(02)(e), the complainant shall have five (5) business days after receipt of the notice of dismissal to submit an amended complaint which satisfies the requirements set forth in this Article 105 (A)(02). If the Board of Director’s Sub-Committee determines that the amended complaint still fails to meet these requirements, the Board of Director’s Sub-Committee may, in its discretion, dismiss the complaint with prejudice to its refilling.
B. Procedure.

01. If a hearing is not requested, the procedure will be as follows:

a. An Appeal Committee shall be formed consisting of three (3) members. One member of the Appeal Committee shall be appointed by the ASA President from the members of the Board of Directors. The other two (2) members of the Appeals Committee shall be persons elected by majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors who are athlete representatives who meet the United States Olympic Committee definition of an athlete representative. One person elected to the Appeal Committee by the athlete representatives on the Board of Directors shall be a person who meets the United States Olympic Committee definition of an athlete representative. The other person elected to the Appeal Committee by the athlete representatives on the Board of Directors shall be a Council Member. Provided, however, members of the applicable National Coaches Pool, National Player Pool or National Team Selection Committee shall not be eligible to serve on the Appeal Committee.

b. The Appeal Committee will review the protest and determine whether the information contained in the protest, if assumed to be true and uncontested, would be sufficient to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the decision of the applicable National Team Selection Committee was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion, or (2) made in violation of the published rules for the particular team selection process. If the Appeal Committee determines that, even if the information contained in the protest is assumed to be true and uncontested the information, is insufficient to satisfy the complainant’s burden of proof, then the Appeal Committee shall issue a written report to the Board of Directors and the complainant rejecting the protest.

c. If the Appeal Committee determines that if the information contained in the protest is assumed to be true and uncontested, the information contained in the protest is sufficient to satisfy the complainant’s burden of proof, then the Appeal Committee shall direct the Chair of the applicable National Team Selection Committee to provide to the Appeal Committee and to the complainant within five (5) business days a written response to the protest which states whether the Committee believes the complainant’s protest should be rejected and if so stating all of the reasons why the complainant’s protest should be rejected (the ‘Response’). The complainant shall have the right to provide the Appeal Committee, and the Chair of the applicable National Team Selection Committee, with a written reply to the Response (the ‘Reply’) within five (5) business days after the date of the Response.

d. Within five (5) business days after receipt of the Reply or expiration of the time allowed to provide the Appeal Committee with the Reply, the Appeal Committee shall examine all of the written materials submitted in favor of and against the protest and shall issue a written report to the Board of Directors which accepts or rejects the protest, a copy of which will be provided to all interested parties and the Executive Director. The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be the final decision regarding the protest and there shall be no further review of the decision within ASA / USA Softball.
e. If a complainant receives an adverse determination of the protest, their rights to further review of such determination shall be limited to rights authorized by the United States Olympic Committee and the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, as amended from time to time (36 U.S.C. §§ 220501 et seq.).

02. If a hearing is requested, the process will be as follows:

a. An Appeal Committee shall be formed consisting of three (3) members appointed in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 105(B)(01)(a) above.

b. The Appeal Committee will review the protest and determine whether the information contained in the protest, if assumed to be true and uncontested, would be sufficient to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the decision of the applicable National Team Selection Committee was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion, or (2) made in violation of the published rules for that particular team selection process. If the Appeal Committee determines that, even if the information contained in the protest is assumed to be true and uncontested, the information contained in the protest is insufficient to satisfy the complainant’s burden of proof, then the Appeal Committee shall issue a written report to the Board of Directors with a copy to the complainant and the Executive Director, rejecting the protest.

c. If the Appeal Committee determines that if the information contained in the protest is assumed to be true and uncontested, the information contained in the protest is sufficient to satisfy the complainant’s burden of proof, then the Appeal Committee shall direct the Chair of the applicable National Team Selection Committee to provide to the Appeal Committee and to the complainant within five (5) business days a written response to the protest which states whether the Committee believes the complainant’s protest should be rejected and if so stating all of the reasons why the complainant’s protest should be rejected (the ‘Response’). The complainant shall have the right to provide the Appeal Committee, and the Chair of the applicable National Team Selection Committee, with a written reply to the Response (the ‘Reply’) within five (5) business days after the date of the Response.

d. A date, time and place for the hearing which is not unduly burdensome for any of the interested parties or the Appeal Committee will be selected by the ASA Executive Director. The hearing must be conducted no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the Reply or expiration of the time allowed for the Reply; provided, however, that upon agreement of the parties or for good cause as determined by the Appeal Committee, the hearing may be continued for up to an additional ten (10) business days.

e. The hearing will be conducted in a manner consistent with any applicable hearing guidelines established by the United States Olympic Committee. The complainant has the right to be represented at the hearing by an attorney of their choosing, at the expense of the complainant. The complainant has the right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and arguments in support of their position. A representative of the applicable National Team Selection Committee may be present and may call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and arguments in support of the decision of the
National Team Selection Committee.

f. If requested by an interested party, a record of the hearing will be made by a court reporter. The expense of such court reporter shall be borne by the party requesting the record. Each party may obtain a transcript of the hearing, at their expense.

g. The complainant has the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence that the decision of the applicable National Team Selection Committee was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion, or (2) made in violation of the published rules for that particular team selection process.

h. Within five (5) business days after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeal Committee shall render a written report of its decision to the Board of Directors, a copy of which will be provided to all interested parties and the Executive Director. The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be the final decision regarding the protest and there shall be no further review of the decision within ASA / USA Softball.

i. If a complainant receives an adverse determination of the protest, their rights to further review of such determination shall be limited to rights authorized by the Bylaws of the United States Olympic Committee and the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. as amended from time to time.

C. Remedies. If the Appeal Committee determines the complainant has met the applicable burden of proof in showing that the decision of the National Team Selection Committee was: (1) arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion, or (2) made in violation of the published rules for that particular team selection process, the Appeal Committee may fashion a remedy consistent with the Appeal Committee’s purpose and sufficient to remedy the claimed injury. The Appeal Committee is an ad hoc committee formed solely for the purpose of resolving a specific appeal brought pursuant to this Article 105. The Appeal Committee does not have the authority to alter the selection procedures or methods of the National Team Selection Committee, to remove any members of the National Team Selection Committee, or to award monetary relief.
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November 2012, Article 101 – A. NATIONAL TEAM / COACH SELECTON COMMITTEE was changed and approved by the Board of Directors

A. Committee Members. The Men’s National Team Selection Committee and the Women’s National Team Selection Committee shall each be comprised of at least five (5) members consisting of at least one (1) athlete representative who meets the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee, the head coach of the National Team to be selected and three (3) members who are either members of the ASA or allied members of the ASA. 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 twenty percent (20%) of the vote. The committee shall act by majority vote.