



## USA Softball Media Policy

Thank you for your interest in USA Softball. Please contact a member of the USA Softball National Office communications staff should you have any questions, concerns or requests.

### **Credentials**

All requests for press and photo credentials should be submitted to the communications department at least seven days in advance of the game or event. Requests should be sent to Morgan Palmer ([mpalmer@usasoftball.com](mailto:mpalmer@usasoftball.com)) and should be submitted by the sports editor or sports director of the media outlet. Priority is given to daily newspapers, television stations and radio stations with sports programming. If approved, credentials will be available for pick up at the National Office the day of the event or at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex front gate prior to the event starting. Credentials will be issued to working media only. Family and friends are not allowed in the press area.

### **Accreditation**

All persons covering USA Softball representing a media organization (print, electronic, etc.) must have completed and passed a Background Check through USA Softball. Once a Background Check has been completed and passed, media members will be added to the official event media credential list. The credential must be displayed at all times by media. Any unauthorized use of the credential will result in the credential being withdrawn.

Credentials for all TV personnel (whether rights holder or non-rights holder) must only be those issued by the USA Softball. Media identification badges will not be allowed for admittance into the venue in place of an official tournament accreditation.

Under no circumstances, throughout the duration of the event may an athlete, coach, official, or any other accredited participant be accredited or act as a journalist or in any other media capacity unless specifically approved as such by the USA Softball.

Accreditation guarantees access to the competition venue, main media center, and other areas of needed access unless restrictions appear necessary. The USA Softball will make every effort to satisfy reasonable requests of the accredited media.

Credentials pick-up will be available at a location determined by the USA Softball National Office communications staff.

### **Player and Team Access**

All media desiring to interview athletes after games – and require further time than allowed in the mixed zone – should send their request to the USA Softball National Office communications staff member and return it to the on-site USA Softball media representative or assigned representative prior to the conclusion of the game. The athletes will be available – after head coach's permission – in the media interview area inside the press center or in a similar designated area off the field of play. The athlete will be taken to the interview area by the on-site USA Softball media representative or, for international events, the press officer of their country.

If a press conference is scheduled, it will take place at the conclusion of each game. All accredited members of the media have access to press conferences.

Media access to the locker rooms is not permitted.

Media access to the athletes housing is restricted. Written authorization must be obtained from the on-site USA Softball media representative.

Media photographers will be restricted at the competition venue to those areas approved by the USA Softball media representative and, as it relates to the field of play, the USA Softball Director of Umpires.

Seating is limited in the press box area. Therefore, we ask your cooperation please in not occupying media seating unless the team you are covering is playing. If that team isn't playing and you desire to watch the game in progress, extra seating may be available upon request.

### **Video**

Any news report that is less than five minutes in length is considered to be a news story and exempt from a television rights fee.

Any story that exceeds the five minutes guideline is subject to a rights fee to be agreed upon in writing no less than ten days prior to the event with the USA Softball.

- Non-rights holders will be limited to bringing only one hand-held camera into the venue.
- When a USA Softball event is taking place at a location where multiple venues are being used, the non-rights holder may bring one hand-held camera into each venue, but may at no time have both units in one venue. Accreditation will be allowed for an individual accompanying the photographer.
- All live reports must be broadcast from an area approved by the USA Softball, in compliance with the national governing body's policy prohibiting live game action from being visible in the background.
- Regarding the location of hand-held cameras during game play, non-rights holder personnel will NOT be allowed on field level. Shooting must be done from the allowed locations within the seating and/or press areas, but in a position so as to not block the view of spectators trying to watch the game.

Televising any part of a game live is not allowed without written permission from the USA Softball.

- Game coverage may be aired only after the game has been completed. The component of the report (news show) containing the USA Softball event footage specifically must not be sponsored.
- The duration of the footage aired in any one news program must not exceed a total of five (5) minutes.

An USA Softball authorized production company may provide a press feed for live video and/or audio of at least the final championship game. The fee for this will be determined by the USA Softball.

The sale of footage or use for non-news reporting purposes by non-rights holders is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, non-rights holders will not make available or provide footage to any third party without the express written consent of the USA Softball.

Use of USA Softball highlight videos is allowed for editorial purposes only. Any other usage is prohibited without express written consent from the USA Softball National Office.

### **Still and Moving Footage**

Selling of still and moving footage is prohibited without express written consent from the USA Softball National Office.

### **Game Scores and Statistics**

The USA Softball website ([www.usasoftball.com](http://www.usasoftball.com)) will house all official communication, including press releases and game statistics. Statistics will also be available in the press room for members of the media.

### **Use of Logo and Images**

Reproduction, distribution, republication and retransmission of USA Softball trademarks, logos, service marks, and images are prohibited unless the prior written permission from the USA Softball has been obtained.

### **Housing and Transportation**

It is the responsibility of the individual media persons to book their own accommodation and transportation.