

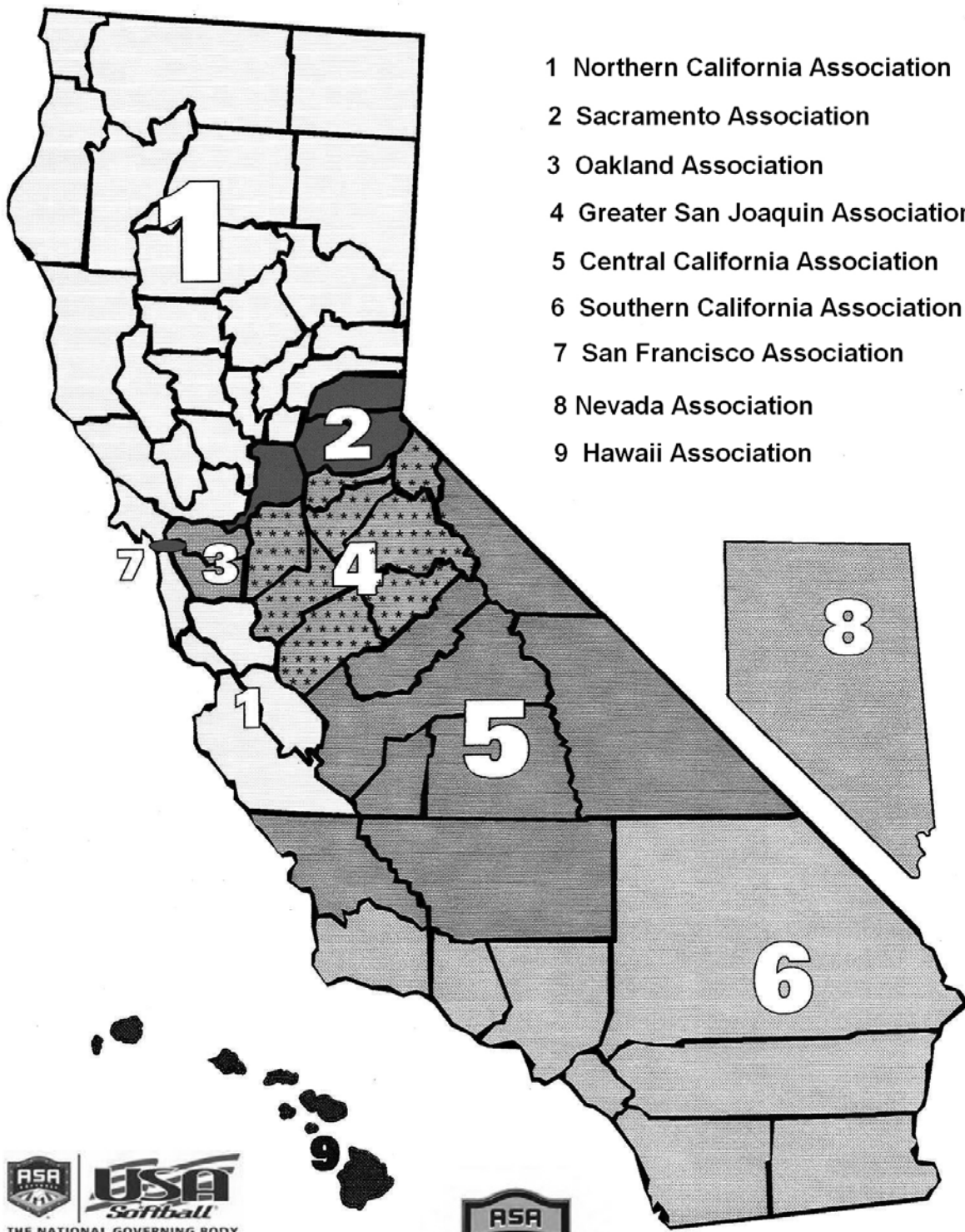


Pacific Coast Region 2008 Junior Olympic Handbook

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Pacific Coast Region Map



- 1 Northern California Association
- 2 Sacramento Association
- 3 Oakland Association
- 4 Greater San Joaquin Association
- 5 Central California Association
- 6 Southern California Association
- 7 San Francisco Association
- 8 Nevada Association
- 9 Hawaii Association



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National Office	www.softball.org or www.asasoftball.com
Pacific Coast Region 14 ASA	www.region14.com
Central California Association	www.ccmsasa.org
Greater San Joaquin Association	www.gsjsa.org or www.gsjm.com (JO Only)
Hawaii	www.asahawaii.com
Nevada	www.nvasa.com
Northern California Association	www.norcalasa.org
Oakland Association	www.oaklandasa.com
Sacramento Association	www.sacramentoasa.org
San Francisco Association	www.sanfranciscoasa.com
Southern California Association	www.socal-asa.com

**Any corrections/changes to the 2008 JO Handbook will be posted
at the Pacific Coast Region 14 web site – www.Region14.com**

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WHAT IS THE ASA?

The Amateur Softball Association of America is an independent and unique organization. It is one of the largest and fastest growing amateur sports associations in America today. Its membership is comprised of men, women, girls and boys who are dedicated to amateur sports. More than 40 million adults and youngsters play annually in the United States some form of competitive and recreational softball and the majority of them play ASA softball. Softball is the largest team participation sport in the U.S.A.

To paint a picture of the ASA and its activities, imagine a colorful progression of dedication, effort and growth. To understand its uniqueness and its strength, you will realize that the ASA is not only improving the status of its members and the game, but it is also developing and sharing with softball players everywhere a program to develop strong minds and bodies. To clearly understand its accomplishments you must first realize what the ASA is, what it does, and the goals it seeks.

The ASA is a non-government, non-partisan and a non-profit organization, accepting all that qualify as amateurs, regardless of sex, color, creed or national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry. It is an organization of men and women who voluntarily associate themselves in the interest of amateur sports, particularly softball.

The ASA is affiliated with other national amateur organizations, but in no way dependent upon any other organization for policy or administration. Its finances are expended only to the improvement or expansion of the ASA and its membership.

Since 1933, the ASA has developed, provided and promoted softball on an organized basis. Softball, once a sport that was played under no less than 12 different sets of rules on a national basis, today is played under one set of rules in more than 120 countries. The standardization and uniformity of the playing rules that the ASA has brought to softball are primarily the reason why softball today is played the world over on such an organized basis. It is interesting to note that many other amateur sports have followed softball's lead.

Those who play softball come from many different walks of life; that is what makes the sport so unique, interesting and exciting. It is not uncommon to find a doctor, school teacher, factory worker or store owner all playing on the same team or against each other, and all with an equal desire to participate and be part of a sport that, although it does not capture headlines or TV spotlight, is still exciting and interests participants and spectators.

The ASA takes great pride in the part it has played to develop and promote softball. It is proud of the role it has been given to further support and help in the development of the game as an international sport. Through the dedicated efforts of its thousands of member teams, umpires and administrators, the ASA is part of an organized sport where today 50 million youngsters and adults play the game in more than 120 countries.

For over 60 years the ASA has developed and promoted organized Championship Play softball in the United States. As governing body for the sport in the United States it carries an important responsibility to the participating teams, players, officials and sponsors to regulate the competition and to assure fairness and equal opportunity to all who participate under the ASA banner.

ASA OBJECTIVES

- To promote amateur softball for all persons regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry.
- To establish uniform softball rules and regulations.
- To provide proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship and establish principles for ethical behavior and matters relating to conflict of interest as provided by the ASA Council and Board of Directors.
- To encourage the union of all eligible teams, organizations or groups into such separate associations with active membership in the ASA as may, from time to time, be deemed best adapted to advance the cause of amateur softball.
- To establish and maintain by allied membership, alliances with non-profit associations or organizations devoted wholly or partially to the promotion and development of the game of softball on a state, regional or national level.
- To promote and conduct annual amateur softball Championship Play events.
- To educate and train with the proper skills of amateur softball play and rules of the game through promoting, organizing, and conducting clinics, seminars and training courses.

PROMOTING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND FUN

"An investment for softball's future". That is the byword of the Amateur Softball Association's Junior Olympic Program, one of the largest youth programs in the United States.

Through this program, youngsters 10 to 18 years of age are introduced to the great game of softball ... the game for everyone and the No. 1 team participant sport in the United States.

In playing softball, youngsters learn sportsmanship, the benefits of keeping physically fit and esprit de corps while, at the same time, developing their own abilities and personalities to the fullest.

And, most of all, this is a program that is fun. The element that makes youth sports "fun" is participation. And each year more than one million youngsters participate in ASA Junior Olympic Softball. This participation helps lead to a positive attitude toward sports.

Youngsters compete in league play, ASA sanctioned invitational and Championship Play tournaments in both fast pitch and slow pitch. The ASA conducts 51 prestigious Junior Olympic National Championships each year.

ASA commissioners appoint youth commissioners to run individual Junior Olympic programs in cities and towns across the United States. Properly organized and planned programs can provide an enjoyable atmosphere and healthy attitude for youngsters wanting to play softball.

Once involved with the ASA Junior Olympic Program, youngsters will experience the thrill and excitement of competition that will last a lifetime.

PACIFIC COAST REGION 14 AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Organizing and affiliating your league as a member of the Amateur Softball Association makes you a vital part of the finest softball organization in the world. Your teams will enjoy the following benefits:

1. **Unified and Uniform Eligibility Rules** - all Pacific Coast Region 14 ASA teams are governed by the same eligibility rules, thus insuring your team and league fair competition with teams outside your league. The Pacific Coast Region 14 of the ASA serves softball teams the same as the C.I.F. (California Inter-Scholastic Federation) and the N.C.A.A. (National Collegiate Athletic Association) provide standard eligibility for high school and college teams.

2. **Uniform Playing Rules** - All ASA teams compete under the official softball rules as adopted by the Amateur Softball Association. Members are invited to contribute to the development of softball by submitting to their local commissioner any rules, changes or policy suggestions they may have.

3. **Qualified Umpires** - All ASA umpires must pass an annual written examination before receiving ASA tournament assignments. It is also recommended that all umpires attend either a National or Regional School in order to be eligible for assignment to regional or national tournaments. By using ASA registered umpires exclusively in your league, you will assure it of having the best!

4. **Guaranteed Amateur Eligibility** - The ASA is an allied member of the A.A.U. and member of the U.S. Olympic Committee. The association adheres to regulations that will guarantee the amateur status of its players. This is extremely important to young players who have high school and college eligibility remaining.

5. **Protest Arbitration** - The Pacific Coast Region 14 will assist in the settlement of any protests between members upon request. The Regional Director, Regional JO Commissioner or Regional Umpire in Chief will make rulings.

6. **Invitational Tournaments** - The ASA sanctions invitational tournaments which are open to all ASA registered teams. These tournaments are conducted under ASA playing and eligibility rules to insure fair standards for all competing teams.

7. **Publications** - Each registered team's manager will receive the official ASA Rule Book. Training videos, booklets, and manuals are available through the National Office. Please contact your local Junior Olympic Commissioner for details.

8. **Insurance** - Insurance can be obtained easily. Your local association will provide details upon request. Tournament/clinic, officers' and directors', and equipment insurance is also available upon request. Contact your local Junior Olympic Commissioner. (see page 21 for more information)

By joining the ASA your league/team is helping our association improve and promote the game. The future of softball for you and your league/team is dependent upon growth.

HELP US HELP YOU! Registration can be obtained through your Junior Olympic Commissioner.

9. **Championship Competition** - The ASA Pacific Coast Region 14 Olympic Program conducts tournament competition in four different classifications.

- The "Gold" program will qualify teams for advancement from Regional and Territorial tournaments to the USA/ASA National Championships.
- The "A" program will qualify teams for advancement to Regional, ASA Western National, or USA/ASA National Championships.
- The "B" program qualifies teams for advancement to Regional and Western National Championships.

“Gold”, “A”, “B” and “C” Classifications

GOLD

Girl's Fast Pitch 18 & Under Gold

Class “A”

Girl's Fast Pitch “A” 18 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “A” 16 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “A” 14 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “A” 12 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “A” 10 & Under

Girl's Slow Pitch “A” 18 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “A” 16 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “A” 14 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “A” 12 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “A” 10 & Under

Boy's Fast Pitch “A” 18 & Under
Boy's Fast Pitch “A” 15 & Under
Boy's Fast Pitch “A” 12 & Under

Class “B”

Girl's Fast Pitch “B” 18 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “B” 16 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “B” 14 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “B” 12 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “B” 10 & Under

Girl's Slow Pitch “B” 18 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “B” 16 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “B” 14 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “B” 12 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “B” 10 & Under

Class “C”

Girl's Fast Pitch “C” 18 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “C” 16 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “C” 14 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “C” 12 & Under
Girl's Fast Pitch “C” 10 & Under

Girl's Slow Pitch “C” 18 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “C” 16 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “C” 14 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “C” 12 & Under
Girl's Slow Pitch “C” 10 & Under

WHAT IS AN ASSOCIATION?

The geographical area of the United States is divided into 15 regions. The Pacific Coast Region is made up of the states of California, Nevada and Hawaii, which is divided into nine Associations. Eligibility rules start with the ASA National Codes. These are listed in the Official ASA Rule Book. The National rules that govern Championship Tournaments are very broad in scope; therefore the Pacific Coast Region clarifies these rules as they pertain to our Region. Regional rules may not conflict with National Codes. Associations, in turn, clarify Regional rules to better suit our situations. The Association rules may not conflict with Pacific Coast Regional Rules. It's very similar to our Federal, State, and Local system of government.

Each Association is represented by a Commissioner who acts as a liaison between their Association and the National Office of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA).

The nine Associations in the Pacific Coast Region are:

- Central California Association
- Greater San Joaquin Association
- Hawaii Association
- Nevada Association
- Northern California Association
- Oakland Association
- Sacramento Association
- San Francisco Association
- Southern California Association

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Junior Olympic Commissioners:

- a. The local Junior Olympic Commissioner has ultimate responsibility to verify the classification and eligibility of all teams wishing to participate in any A.S.A. event.
- b. The local Junior Olympic Commissioner retains the right to reclassify any of their teams based upon that team's performance in any tournament (s).

2. Team Manager:

- a. The manager is the team representative that must have control of their team at all times on and off the field.
- b. The manager is responsible to verify the team and player's eligibility to the best of their knowledge.
- c. The manager shall be prepared to provide proof of registration, insurance and age with photo identification at every tournament for each and every rostered player.
- d. The manager of any team found to be in violation of these policies may be disqualified from participation in ASA play for one full year.

3. Recreational League President (or Chief Softball Administrator):

- a. The president/chief administrator is responsible to verify the league's player/team eligibility to the best of his/her ability.
- b. The president/chief administrator shall notify the local J.O. Commissioner or his/her representative of any possible infractions.

REGIONAL QUALIFYING

Each one of the nine Associations within the Pacific Coast Region 14 are required to conduct Association tournaments to determine who will represent the Association at the next level of Championship Play. This requirement is established to insure a fair representation of our Region from every association.

In the "A" Program, each Association is permitted to send at least two teams to the Regional Championship Tournament. Region 14 has established a Fill-In procedure for the remaining openings. The top two teams from the Regional Tournament qualify for the USA/ASA National Championships.

Teams that participate in their Local Association "A" Championships, but do not qualify for Regionals or the USA/ASA National Championships, are eligible for the ASA Western "A" National Championships. However, those teams must notify their respective Association JO Commissioner immediately after the conclusion of their final game of their Associations Championships, of their intention to advance to the ASA Western National Championships or the team will be deemed no longer in Championship Play, releasing the players to be pick-up players on teams still in Championship Play.

In the "B" Program, the top 2 placements of each Association Tournament qualify directly for the Western "B" National Championship. Several Associations have additional direct berths. Please check with your Association's J.O. Commissioner.

In the "C" Program, the top 2 finishers of each Association Tournament qualify directly for the "C" Regional Championship. The 3 largest Associations receive 3 berths. Southern California ASA distributes their berths through their District Championships.

2008 Championship Play Events

Check Region14.com for additional information and changes/updates		
National Qualifiers		
Girl's 18U "Gold" Fastpitch	July 11 - 13	Oklahoma City
Girl's 18U "A" Fastpitch	July 4 - 6	Hayward
Girl's 16U "A" Fastpitch	July 4 - 6	Roseville
Girl's 14U "A" Fastpitch	July 4 - 6	Menifee
Girl's 12U "A" Fastpitch	July 4 - 6	Tracy
Gold Territorial Events		
Girl's 18U "Gold" Fastpitch	June 27 - 29	Stockton
Girl's 18U "Gold" Fastpitch	July 11 - 13	Seattle, WA
Fastpitch Regional Championships		
Girl's 18U "Gold" Fastpitch	June 21 - 22	Lancaster
Girl's 18U "A" Fastpitch	July 11 - 13	Roseville
Girl's 16U "A" Fastpitch	July 11 - 13	Las Vegas
Girl's 14U "A" Fastpitch	July 11 - 13	Clovis
Girl's 12U "A" Fastpitch	July 11 - 13	Fairfield
Girl's 10U "A" Fastpitch	July 11 - 13	Fairfield
Girl's 10U, 12U & 14U "C" Fastpitch	July 11 - 13	San Diego
J.O. Hall of Fame Qualifiers		
Girl's 18U "A" Fastpitch	June 7 - 8	So Cal
Girl's 16U "A" Fastpitch	June 7 - 8	Turlock
Girl's 14U "A" Fastpitch	May 25 - 27	Sacramento
Girl's 12U "A" Fastpitch	May 17 - 18	Clovis
Girls "A" Fastpitch Western National Championships		
Girl's 18U "A" Fastpitch	July 28 – Aug 3	Seattle, WA
Girl's 16U "A" Fastpitch	July 28 – Aug 3	Portland, OR
Girl's 14U "A" Fastpitch	July 28 – Aug 3	Clovis, CA
Girl's 10U & 12U "A" Fastpitch	July 28 – Aug 3	Phoenix, AZ
Girls "B" Fastpitch Western National Championships		
Girl's 18U "B" Fastpitch	July 28 – Aug 3	Aurora, CO
Girl's 16U "B" Fastpitch	July 28 – Aug 3	Rock Springs, WY
Girl's 14U "B" Fastpitch	July 28 – Aug 3	Salem, OR
Girl's 10U & 12U "B" Fastpitch	July 28 – Aug 3	Las Vegas, NV

CODE OF CONDUCT

In any sports organization, there must be rules and regulations to insure fair and equitable competition. The National ASA Championship Softball Program provides regulations, known as "Codes", that will be respected and followed by all members. In addition to the National Codes, Pacific Coast Region 14 and the local Associations may establish rules and regulations. These rules and regulations shall supplement the National Codes. They shall serve and protect member teams and players in situations that are unique to our area and further define the codes where necessary. Standards of conduct are part of the National Codes and Pacific Coast Region 14 Rules and Regulations. As a member of ASA, every member shall respect these standards. No manager, coach, player, or other individual (s) affiliated with the team shall commit any of the following:

1. **Unsportsmanlike conduct** or any derogatory acts on or off the playing field.
2. **Verbal or physical attack** or threat upon an ASA official or umpire.
3. **Recruitment of a player** while he/she is a member of another ASA team during the season. No coach, manager, player, or other individual (s) affiliated with the team shall entice a player to change teams until that player's team has completed Championship Play.
4. **Destruction of property** belonging to another. If an infraction occurs during a Championship Tournament, the team may be ineligible for further championship play.
Penalty: Suspension from ASA tournament competition and payment for damages must be made before team is eligible. If flagrant, a minimum of one (1) year disqualification may be imposed.
5. **Debts owed:** Non-payment of team incurred debts owed to the Associations or the Pacific Coast Region. Any other indebtedness is governed by local association.
6. **Failure** to provide an itemized and accurate financial statement to players or parent.
7. **Non-sufficient funds:** Writing checks with non-sufficient funds or account closed checks to an ASA official, umpire, member team or individual. **Penalty:** Restitution plus any additional charges. If payment is not made, responsible party is suspended until restitution is made.
8. **Commission of fraud or larceny** perpetrated against an ASA official or member team/individual.
9. **Falsifying an official ASA document:** Playing under an assumed name or falsifying an official ASA document. **Penalty:** If discovered while participating in a Championship Tournament, forfeiture of game (s), possible team or player removal from tournament and/or suspension of individual at fault.
10. **ASA logos or trademarks:** Use of any ASA logos or trademarks without expressed permission.
11. **Commission of any acts** that are contrary to the objectives and purposes of ASA.
12. **Acts of disqualification:** Any other acts of disqualification as listed in ASA Code Article 505. Penalties for violation of the Pacific Coast Region "Code of Conduct" or any other ASA Code violation (s) listed in the ASA Code will be determined by the Association Commissioner or his/her designee. A hearing will follow the procedures outlined in ASA Code Article 505C., 505D., and/or 505E.

JUNIOR OLYMPIC AGE QUALIFICATIONS

A player's age as of December 31 determines the age in which the player is eligible to play the following year.

10-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 1996 is ELIGIBLE.

12-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 1994 is ELIGIBLE.

14-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 1992 is ELIGIBLE.

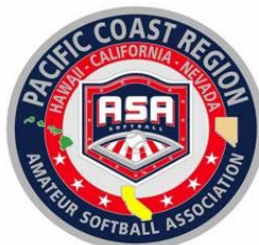
16-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 1990 is ELIGIBLE.

18-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 1988 is ELIGIBLE (Includes Junior Olympic GOLD).

Players of younger age classification may play in older age classifications, but an older age classification player may not play in the younger age classification.

For the 2008 Junior Olympic playing season, use the chart below to determine Junior Olympic Age Qualifications. "E" indicates the player is eligible for the respective age group (s).

AGE GROUP	18	16	14	12	10
YEAR OF BIRTH					
1989	E				
1990	E				
1991	E	E			
1992	E	E			
1993	E	E	E		
1994	E	E	E		
1995	E	E	E	E	
1996	E	E	E	E	
1997	E	E	E	E	E
1998 - 2008	E	E	E	E	E



CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

Championship Play is a tournament or competition from which the winner or the winner and other selected teams may advance to higher levels of play of ASA (See Article 508, Levels of Championship Play). The following events are considered Championship Play:

- a. Local Association Championships (including District or County Championships)
- b. Regional Championships
- c. Area Championships
- d. National Qualifiers
- e. Territorial Qualifying Tournaments
- f. Hall of Fame Qualifying Tournaments
- g. Hall Of Fame Tournaments
- h. National Tournaments
- i. National Championship Finals

ROSTERS

Teams must compete with the same roster in all Championship Play, except teams are allowed to pick up three players when advancing in Championship Play.

1. Number of Players

A maximum of 20 players including pick-up players, in fast pitch and slow pitch will be permitted on a team roster.

2. Roster Deadline

- a. The roster deadline for Championship Play is 24 hours prior to the start of Championship Play.
- b. Once a team has competed in any championship event, the **player** is **frozen** to that roster and may not compete with another team until the original team is no longer eligible for Championship Play. If a player leaves a team after Championship Play participation, they may not join another team until the original team is no longer eligible for Championship Play.
- d. **Once a team participates in Championship Play**, that **team's roster** is then **frozen** and the only way additional players can be added to the team is on a Pick-Up Player Form.

3. Junior Olympic Rosters

Players may participate in more than one Junior Olympic Division (Girls Fast or Slow pitch) of play, but are limited to only one classification (A, B or C and 10,12,14,16,18) within a division of play (ASA Code Article 506).

- a. Junior Olympic teams which have competed in Championship Play are not eligible to compete in adult Championship Play in the same year.
- b. Junior Olympic Birth Verification. For each member of a Junior Olympic team, one of the following forms of birth verification or proof of age must be attached to the team's roster/affidavit form: Birth certificate, baptismal certificate, hospital certificate, driver's license, a photo ID, photo ID card issued by a local ASA Commissioner and/or their designated deputy or a valid passport. In the case of a Junior Olympic player whose name has changed from that which appears on his/her birth certificate, baptismal certificate, hospital certificate, driver's license or passport by reason of adoption or a court approved name change, a copy of the court order or decree approving such adoption or change of name shall also be attached to the roster/affidavit form. Photocopies of any of the above are acceptable.
- c. Junior Olympic GOLD Girls 18-Under Girls Fast Pitch. A player may play in any one association in the region in which she resides or is a full-time student. However, once she elects a team (pursuant to Article 501(a)3) she may not play in any other association during the current year regardless of division of play. EXCEPTION: Junior Olympic Gold 18-Under Fast Pitch players may play Women's Major Fast Pitch in another association as a regular rostered player (Article 502 C) or as a pick-up player (Article 503 A 1); Transfer of employment (Article 501G) and pick-up players (Article 503A 1).

General Rules for Pick-up Players

1. Fast pitch and slow pitch teams are permitted to pick-up three players as follows:
 - a. Pick-up players must come from teams which are no longer eligible for Championship Play and from the following areas: Gold from own Region, "A" from own Association, "B" from own League and once qualified for Western Nationals from own Association and "C" from own Association.
 - b. Pick-up players must have played for an ASA registered team during the current season and must have played in the division of play for which they are being picked-up.
 - c. Pick-up players must be from the teams same division (Fast pitch) and the same or lower classification (Gold, A, B or C). EXCEPTION: A player who has competed in Junior Olympic Championship Play is eligible to participate in adult Championship Play during the same season as a pick-up player. Players (Adult and Junior Olympic) whose teams have qualified to compete in the highest-level tournaments in a classification will not be eligible pick-up players.
 - d. No pick-up players may be picked up for National Qualifiers or Territorial Qualifiers.
 - e. A pick-up player may not be substituted for after participation.
 - f. Junior Olympic GOLD players who compete on adult teams as pick-up players are only eligible to be picked up for Major or Class A Women's teams.
 - g. A pick-up player may play with only one team other than her own team within a division in a season.
 - h. Pick-up players must sign an official "Pick-up Player" Form which also must be signed by the team's manager, the Association Commissioner, Junior Olympic Commissioner or his/her designee and the player's parent or legal guardian. The Pick-Up Player Form must be attached to the team's official roster before tournament play begins. Junior Olympic players are eligible to be pick-up players for another Junior Olympic Classification, if all other conditions are met as listed in all of **Article 503**.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. A player may play in any Association during the current year.
2. Once electing to participate in Championship Play on a team registered in an Association, the player may not play in the same division in any other Association during the current year. Exception: Transfer of Employment (Article 501E) and pick-up players (Article 503 A1).
3. A player may participate as a regular rostered player on only one team within a division in Championship Play during a season.
4. Protest of player eligibility can be made or appealed at any time. Eligibility protests cannot be waived by local notice.
5. Player Identification: Proof of Age. A Junior Olympic player must provide proof of age in Junior Olympic divisions. (See ASA Code Article 501 A.5)
6. Junior Olympic Gold 18-Under Fast Pitch teams may not participate in any classification less than 18-Under Gold.
7. Players of younger age classification may play in older age classifications, but an older age classification player may not play in the younger age classification.
8. Teams participating in "B" Championship Play must fulfill all sections of the ASA Code pertaining to Championship Play to the same extent as teams participating in "A" or "Gold" Championship events.
9. Teams participating in "C" Championship Play must fulfill those sections of the Pacific Coast Region 14 Handbook pertaining to Championship Play.

JUNIOR OLYMPIC “B” PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Pacific Coast Region’s Junior Olympic “B” program is to provide a recreational program and championship tournaments for recreational teams registered with A.S.A. It is not necessarily the intent of the “B” program to establish a classification system for teams that do not feel they can compete with the Region’s best teams.

CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBILITY

A team must meet one of the following three criteria (A. RECREATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM, B. 16-u / 18-u HIGH SCHOOL AGE “B” TEAM, or C. RURAL “B” TEAM) to be eligible to participate in the Pacific Coast Regional “B” Championship Tournament Program.

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE TEAMS

1. Recreational League Eligibility

- a. The recreational league must conform to the following definition:

A recreational league is defined as an organized league with defined and approved boundaries where participation is open to any interested youth; where tryouts or demonstration of skills is not required for participation; and where some type of draft, draw, or other acceptable method is utilized to ensure distribution of talent among the league teams.

- b. All youth softball players & team staff in the league shall be ASA registered.
- c. League President (or chief softball administrator) shall testify to all eligibility and responsibility requirements as outline in this document.

2. Recreational Team Eligibility

- a. Definition of a league is 4 teams within the same age classification.
- b. Includes 10, 12, 14, 16, or 18 & under age classifications.
- c. The team must be approved by and represent a recreational league as defined above in (1.a.)
- d. Teams may be a single league team or All-Star team as selected by the individual league.

3. If the league selects an All-Star team, the All-Star team shall NOT tryout, select, announce, practice, and/or play together before May 1st.

4. If the league selects a single league team, or the majority of players from a single team, this team must meet the requirements above in (1.a.) i.e. “where ... draft ... is utilized to ensure distribution of talent”. A pre-season or mid-season selected “tournament team” is NOT eligible.

5. Recreational Player Eligibility: Players rostered on a “B” team must meet the following criteria:

- a. All players participating on a “B” team must have been registered participants from one single recreational league approved by the local Junior Olympic Commissioner.
- b. Players must be active players participating in the recreational league’s current regular season scheduled league games.
- c. Individual players who *participate on an “A” team after the last full weekend in April (April 26-27in 2008) are not eligible to participate in “B” tournaments during the same calendar year.

*NOTE: “participate” in this sentence shall be defined as uniformed and rostered attendance at an umpired game.

6. Junior Olympic Class “B” pick up players must come from ASA registered “B” teams within the teams’ own league for Regional Championship Play. Once qualified for National Championship Play pick-up players may come from within their Association.

GENERAL “B” POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1. Individual players who *participate on an “A” team after the last full weekend in April (April 26-27, 2008) of the current season are not eligible to participate in “B” tournaments.

*NOTE: “participate” in this sentence shall be defined as uniformed and rostered attendance at an umpired game.

2. a. Any player who participates in an ASA "A" National Qualifying event during the current season shall be ineligible to participate in any "B" Championship event during the same season."
- b. Teams shall not have more than five (5) players who have participated with a travel type team at any time after Jan 1st of the current year

*NOTE: travel type team is defined as any team other than an ASA approved recreational league team.

3. Any "B" team may participate in an "A" tournament (except Championship events).
4. Any "B" team may be reclassified to "A" by the local Junior Olympic Commissioner based upon their performance in any tournament.
5. Any non-varsity high school participant is eligible to return to the league that they participated in during the previous calendar year.

*Exception: may be appealed to the JO Commissioner if there is no Frosh-Soph/JV team.

6. Any team may appeal their reclassification to the Association Junior Olympic Classification Committee.
7. Teams participating in "B" Championship Play must fulfill all sections of the ASA Code pertaining to Championship Play to the same extent as teams participating in "A" or "Gold" Championship events.

RURAL "B" TEAMS (Remotely located teams):

1. Rural Team Eligibility:

- a. Includes 10&U, 12&U, 14&U, 16&U and 18&U age classifications,
- b. Team must be a currently registered with ASA.
- c. Players on the team must be residents of a single community geographical area that is located a minimum of twenty-five (25) miles from the nearest ASA recreational league in which they are eligible to participate.

2. Rural Player Eligibility: (see General "B" Policies and Procedures)

3. Three (3) pick-up players must meet the same criteria that formed the team. Once qualified for National Championship Play pick-up players may come from within their Association. Pick-up players may be selected only from teams that are no longer eligible for Championship Play.

HIGH SCHOOL AGE 16-U, 18-U "B" TEAMS:

The purpose of the High School Division is to provide competition and championship tournaments for players who are not of the Junior Olympic "A" caliber. It provides a post C.I.F. (California Interscholastic Federation) summer program that addresses the needs of players who are of high school age and wish to increase their skill to benefit their league, their high school team, and themselves.

Team Eligibility:

1. Team rosters may include up to 20 players including pickup players.
2. Teams shall be composed of players meeting all player eligibility requirements above.
3. No more than five (5) high schools shall be represented on any one team and must be approved by the JO Commissioner or designee.
4. Players who participate on an intercollegiate softball team at a two or four year college or university are not eligible to participate in the Junior Olympic "B" tournaments.
5. Teams are eligible to participate in "Gold" or "A" level invitational tournaments during the season but may be reclassified by the Jr. Olympic Commissioner or designee based on their performance in these tournaments.
6. Reclassified teams may appeal their reclassification to the Association's Junior Olympic Classification Committee.
7. Teams that participate in "A" National Qualifying events will NOT be eligible to participate in "High School Division" Championship Tournaments.
8. Teams competing in ASA Championship Play shall abide by the sections of the ASA Codes, Pacific Coast Region 14 and local Association guidelines pertaining to Championship Play.
9. Three (3) pick-up players must meet the same criteria that formed the team. Once qualified for National Championship Play, pick-up players may come from within their Association. Pick-up players may be selected only from teams that are no longer eligible for Championship Play.

JUNIOR OLYMPIC “C” PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Pacific Coast Region's Junior Olympic “C” program is to provide a Recreational Program and Championship Tournaments for recreation leagues/teams registered with ASA. It is the intent of the “C” program to establish meaningful competition for teams that are unable to compete in the “B” program due to league size and/or skill level.

CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBILITY

A team must meet one of the following two criteria (A. RECREATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM or B. RURAL TEAM) to be eligible to participate in the Pacific Coast Region's Junior Olympic “C” Championship Tournament Program.

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE TEAMS

1. Recreational League Teams Eligibility:

- a. Teams formed from a league with four or less teams within the same age classification with the Junior Olympic Commissioner's approval.
- b. A second team formed from league with eight or less teams in that age classification may be formed. **The first and second teams are being formed based on tryouts or demonstration of skill with the second team being drafted after the formation of the first team with the Junior Olympic Commissioner's approval.**

GENERAL “C” POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Recreational League President/Chief Administrator of any eligible teams must request to their Junior Olympic Commissioner of their intent to play at this level, by the date established by their local association of their intent to play at the “C” level.
2. Recreational League President/Chief Administrator of a team not eligible must request approval through their Junior Olympic Commissioner to participate at this level. JO Commissioner may forward a team's reclassification request along with the team's tournament results to the classification committee who will approve or deny the team's request based upon their performance.
3. Individual players who participate on an “A” and/or “B” team after the last weekend in April (April 26-27, 2008) of the current season are not eligible to participate in “C” tournaments. Any “C” team or player that participates in any “A” or “B” qualifying tournaments will not be eligible to participate in any Junior Olympic “C” tournaments.
*NOTE: “participate” in this sentence shall be defined as uniformed and rostered attendance at an umpired game.
4. If the league selects an All-Star team, the All-Star team shall NOT tryout, select, announce, practice, and/or play together before May 1st.
5. Any “C” team may participate in a “B” tournament except Championship events.
6. Any “C” team may be reclassified to “B” by their Junior Olympic Commissioner based upon their performances in a “C” or “B” tournament.
7. Any “C” team may appeal their reclassification to their Junior Olympic Commissioner or Classification Committee.
8. Teams participating in “C” Championship Play must fulfill those sections of the Pacific Coast Region 14 Handbook pertaining to Championship Play and shall abide by the sections of the ASA Codes, Pacific Coast Region 14 and local Association guidelines pertaining to Championship Play.
9. Three (3) pick up players from the team's league are allowed AFTER the Association Championships. Once qualified for Regional Championship Play pick-up players may come from within their Association. Pick-up players may be selected only from teams which are no longer eligible for Championship Play.

RURAL “C” TEAMS (Remotely located team)

1. Rural Team Eligibility:

- a. Includes 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 & Under age classifications.
- b. Team must be currently registered with ASA.
- c. Players on the team must be residents of a single community geographical area that is located a minimum of twenty five (25) miles from the nearest ASA recreational league in which they are eligible to participate.

CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT RULES

ASA codes and playing rules will apply as outlined in the current official guide with the following exceptions:

1. Regional championship tournaments shall be a minimum of double elimination.
2. Teams having qualified for nationals may enter regional championships only if they forfeit their berth to nationals.
3. Player uniform requirements shall be enforced as listed in the ASA Code (Class "A" teams) or as allowed by the Pacific Coast Regional Guidelines (Class "B" teams).
4. Teams must check in with an ASA official 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time.
5. Game time is forfeit time. No grace period.
6. If tournament schedule is delayed, it shall be the responsibility of each manager to contact the ASA representative for possible game time and field location changes.
7. The team listed on top of the bracket shall occupy the third base dugout. Exception: A team playing in double header on the same field shall stay in the same dugout.
8. Home team shall be determined by a coin toss, at the time line-up cards are submitted.
9. Game balls will be supplied by the tournament officials and are the only ball allowed in the tournament. If violated, the pitcher and head coach will be disqualified from the game per Rule 1 of Definitions. If the violation occurs again, the team at fault will forfeit the game.
10. Infield practice allowed only as determined by tournament director.
11. Playing rule protests will be settled prior to the next pitch. Player eligibility protests shall be made in a timely manner and according to ASA code and tournament ground rule.
12. A Run Rule shall be in effect according to ASA code and Pacific Coast Region guidelines.
13. The Tie Breaker Rule shall be in effect according to Pacific Coast Region guidelines.
14. Time Limit Rule shall be in effect according to Pacific Coast Region guidelines.
15. Use of tobacco products is prohibited at Junior Olympic Tournaments.
16. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are permitted on or near the fields, including bleachers and spectator areas.
17. Umpires (during games) and/or tournament officials shall have the responsibility of ejecting of coaches, players, or spectators for abusive language or other acts that are contrary to the objectives and purposes of ASA. A warning for the first offense MAY be issued at the umpire's/officials discretion. The second offense by coaches or players shall result in ejection of the responsible individual(s) from the game. Second, and subsequent, offenses by a spectator shall result in ejection of the (1) head coach, (2) coaching staff, (3) players.

The Pacific Coast Region requires that every team obtain medical and liability insurance for the softball season.

Because they have volunteered their time, many volunteer coaches never stop to think that they may be held legally liable for their actions in coaching. Coaches, even if they are volunteers, are responsible for the safety of the young people in their care. If proven negligent, coaches may be held liable for physical harm incurred by players in their charge.

For a very low premium, ASA Junior Olympic Teams may obtain \$250,000 excess accident insurance and a \$2,000,000 liability insurance policy that would cover each player, manager, coach or sponsor during games, practices, group travel to and from these events and others including tournaments and fund raising events, etc. Additional insured, such as field owners, may also be added to your liability insurance policy at no additional charge. Furthermore, if all teams within a league purchase the liability insurance, the interests of the league and all league officers are automatically covered at no additional cost.

While the ASA does not require each team to obtain insurance as a requirement for membership, any team, organization or community volunteering their softball facilities for an ASA sponsored tournament or event may have their facilities covered by the ASA's liability policy.

See the local Junior Olympic Commissioner for additional details.

ASA TEAM INSURANCE PLANS

THESE APPROVED PLANS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASA REGISTERED TEAMS ONLY.

Team Excess Accident Insurance covers your players, managers, coaches and scorekeepers for medical and hospital expenses if they're injured during a game, practice, and tournament or supervised group travel. This year the ASA is offering its members a wide choice of accident deductibles in order to better meet the varied needs of its membership.

Team liability insurance protects the team against lawsuits, judgments and legal expenses that might result from negligence of team members, managers, coaches and sponsors.

The official ASA plan offers you these important coverages:

1. PLAYER/TEAM ACCIDENT INSURANCE

\$250,000 excess medical expense benefit covers costs like doctor's bills, hospital charges, nursing care, anesthesia, physiotherapy and surgery, which may be incurred as the result of an accident injury for up to 52 weeks.

This Medical Insurance picks up where the insured's other medical coverage's leave off, subject to deductible if any. If no other coverage exists, the ASA program will pay injury related medical expenses up to the policy limits, subject to deductible if any.

Dental Coverage offers protection for all reasonable dental expenses for accidents that result in damage to normal, healthy teeth.

Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits provide \$5,000 for accidental death, 10,000 for accidental dismemberment.

Medical expenses are covered up to 52 weeks following the accident. Thus if treatment is prolonged, you'll be reimbursed within the policy limits for up to one year.

2. PLAYER/TEAM LIABILITY INSURANCE

Under this Primary Liability Plan, \$2,000,000 of protection is provided for your team, league and sponsors from lawsuits brought against you for both bodily injury and property damage claims arising out of your team's ASA activities, including practices, games, exhibitions and tournaments. This policy includes coverage for lawsuits brought against you by participants which is often excluded in other policies.

Additional insured such as playing field owners may be included in your coverage at no additional cost. (Note: The interest of the league and league officials are automatically protected at no cost if all teams within the league purchase this coverage.)

3. OPTIONAL COVERAGES

Also available are Optional Coverages: Director and Officers (Association) Liability, Equipment and Crime Coverages.

Visit www.BollingerASA.com for further details and information on how to purchase the insurance plans.



BENEFITS FROM BELONGING TO THE ASA

1. Standardized playing rules. As governing body of softball in the United States, the ASA is the official rule making body of Softball.
2. Each registered youth team receives a copy of the Official ASA Rule Book and ASA publications.
3. Become eligible to participate in the ASA team accident and liability insurance plans at a very competitive rate.
4. Opportunity to participate in sanctioned invitational and championship tournaments. Currently, competition is held in 36 youth classifications on a national level.
5. Player and team eligibility rules and regulations to insure uniform application throughout the Nation.
6. ASA provides, upon request, excellent youth coaching clinics, video tapes and other instructional material for associations at a very competitive rate.



ACE COACHING CERTIFICATION

ASA/USA Softball is proud to offer the ACE Coaching Certification Program. The ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) Coaching Certification Program is a certification program, developed and designed to provide softball coaches of all levels from beginning to experienced veterans an opportunity to certify as a coach with a national softball organization.

As the National Governing Body of Softball, it is ASA's responsibility to ensure that our coaches achieve a certain level of understanding of what their duties are as a coach of a youth softball team. The ACE Certification Video and the ACE Certification Manual are practical guides to the everyday situations you will encounter as a youth softball coach. After obtaining your ACE certification, you will be well prepared to coach a youth softball team.

Please contact your local Junior Olympic Commissioner for further details.

THE ROLE OF THE ASA YOUTH SOFTBALL COACH

Most people used to think of a coach as someone who taught boys and girls to swing a bat, kick a ball or score a goal. Does a coach's responsibilities stop there? Do they not go much further? More and more people are coming to believe that the responsibilities do go much further. They realize that a coach also embodies strong qualities of leadership.

For too long, anyone who had a passing knowledge of a game was eligible to coach. Teaching game skills was the only end to work towards. But today, LEADERSHIP is even more important. A leader sees skills and games as important tools, as a means to a more lasting end. The coach is concerned with imparting wholesome attitudes and practices which will influence and direct girls and boys after they no longer play a particular sport.

Young people with whom you come in contact are in the most formative period of their lives. Attitudes formed and habits molded now will be lasting. Whether these attitudes and habits will be good or bad rests to a large extent, upon you as a leader.

Sports are a rich medium for influencing character, and its effect on young people will be in direct proportion to the quality of leadership you provide.

There unfortunately are situations when sportsmanship is at low ebb among players, coaches and spectators alike. A “win-at-any-cost” attitude prevails. We have all heard of incidents when visiting players have been threatened, and officials booed and even attacked as they step off the field. How often have you seen the “smart” coach take advantage of a weak rule, or jump screaming from the bench to protest every close decision? You as a coach and leader, more than any other individual, have the responsibility and authority to discourage such conduct. Your good example will do much to assist player and spectator appreciation for sporting ethics.

Of equal concern is the attention given the few athletes with exceptional ability to the neglect of the many that are not as skilled. If we agree to the basic assumption that sports are good for people, then we must make it possible for everyone to participate, irrespective of their skill level. The real leader is just as interested in the average player as in “star” athletes.

And certainly, a major objective for the coach should be to enable every person to play a game from which enjoyment and a feeling of satisfaction can be derived.

In the heat of a close, hard-fought game, a player’s true self is going to show through. Life situations and game situations can be very similar. A leader who is really interested in helping the players will watch for these many incidents and take time to teach a lesson in a subtle manner. These “teachable” moments can be utilized to impart healthy character traits that will stick as indelible memories with each team member.

These added responsibilities may seem to be far removed from the old idea of coaching, they are not. Leadership and coaching cannot be separated. They must go hand in hand.

You, the coach, exert a tremendous influence. Players experience a natural feeling of “hero worship” toward you. They look to you for inspiration and guidance, and will inevitably follow your example. It’s your job to ensure that the example you set is a good one.

How do you measure up as a leader? Can you answer a “yes” to the following:

- Do you insist that your players play fairly?
- Do you encourage and promote good sportsmanship among players?
- Do you employ every available means to promote good sportsmanship among spectators?
- Do you set a good example of sportsmanship for others to follow by your conduct both on and off the field?
- Do you openly applaud a brilliant play of your opponent?
- Do you treat officials with respect?
- Do you lose a game with dignity?
- Do you always try to impart more than just game skills to your players?
- Do you give equal attention to the average players as well as to the stars?
- Do you exploit “teachable moments” to instill sound sporting attitudes and practices?
- Do you analyze yourself, your habits, practices and teaching methods regularly?
- If you had a young relative, would you be the person whom you would choose to lead him or her?

You, as a leader, can render a service to young people. It is not always an easy task. The challenge is great, yet the satisfaction derived is well worth the effort.

PREPARING YOUR TEAM FOR JUNIOR OLYMPIC TOURNAMENT PLAY

Sound defense, smart pitching, timely hitting, aggressive base running, a good draw, and a little luck are all important elements in the formula for winning tournament play. There is one other characteristic that almost without exception is common to all tournament winners; winning teams are mentally prepared both individually and as a team to compete and win at the tournament level.

Some teams that play well in their league never seem to perform as well in tournament play. In league play, teams come to the field, take batting practice, play one game, and then go home. Players know who they are playing, when they are playing, and where they are playing.

Tournament play is entirely different. You play, and then wait. You play again, and then wait again. Sometimes you play back-to-back games; at other times, games are separated by several hours. It is not uncommon to play a game in the morning, again in the afternoon, and then under the lights at night. You don’t know who you are playing, or what field you will be on. Games run late, schedules become disrupted, and then sometimes with only a few minutes notice, you find out your next game is ready to start.

Better teams quickly learn that league and tournament play are quite different. An almost entirely different mental approach is required to be successful in tournaments. Good tournament teams have learned to overcome the distractions and focus in on each game, one game at a time.

Individually, players have learned to concentrate on their own game and to block out all distractions. This individual concentration carries over to the team level. It becomes contagious and infectious. It spreads throughout the team and everyone becomes dedicated to the collective goals of winning the tournament.

The following list of 14 points can help to mentally prepare a team for a Junior Olympic Tournament. It is a basic list of common sense suggestions that have worked successfully for a variety of winning teams. It could also work for your team.

1. Make sure you have all your equipment. Elementary as it sounds, this is a very important point. A simple thing like a batter without his favorite bat can shatter a player's confidence for an entire weekend. Make sure that you check to see that you have all your bats, balls, 1st baseman's gloves, uniforms, jackets, caps, etc. before you leave for the tournament.
2. If traveling, stay in the same hotel. This allows the team to travel together, and get psyched up together. It also allows the coach to keep track of everyone, especially when leaving for the fields in the morning or when doing a bed check at night.
3. If the tournament is local, get a motel room anyway. The cost split among 15-20 players is only a few dollars apiece. You then have a central meeting place, a place to shower, relax, change and generally add to the fun of the weekend.
4. Encourage family and friends to attend and even travel to the tournament. The more cheerleaders you have, the more pumped-up your team generally is. Spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends are less likely to hassle the ballplayer about spending "another" entire weekend playing softball if they feel welcome to participate and party with the team themselves.
5. Scout out the tournament site ahead of time. If the tournament is local, make sure the team knows as much as possible about the fields to be used: good or bad, fence or no fence, skinned or grass infield, etc. If traveling, try to take the team to the tournament site the day before the tournament begins, usually Friday afternoon or evening. If they at least know what type of fields they will be playing on, that means one less distraction the next day.
6. Gather your team 1 - 2 hours before your first game. Maybe even have a light breakfast together. Find a local ballfield near the tournament site and take some light batting practice, 25 - 30 swings each. Don't work too hard, just loosen up.
7. Get everyone to the tournament site 1 hour before your first game is scheduled to start. The last thing your team needs is the distraction of looking for the pitcher, clean-up hitter, or a carload of outfielders minutes before the game is supposed to start.
8. No surprises. Rarely does a team go into a tournament complete. Usually someone can't make it; you pick some up, or both of these. This usually causes a change in batting order or defensive positions for the tournament weekend. Softball players generally have delicate egos and don't like surprises. If they find someone batting in their spot or playing their position, they don't like it. It has a negative effect on their concentration and the last thing a team needs is a player stewing on the bench or complaining to his teammates. If changes are necessary, review them ahead of time with the players involved. Let them know what is happening, why it is happening, and get them to support the change.
9. After your first game is over, gather your team near the centrally posted tournament bracket. Make certain all your players know how to read the bracket. Before anyone leaves, make certain everyone understands the time of the next game, where it is, and, if possible, who you are playing. Everyone should be back at the field one hour before the scheduled starting time. Once again, your team cannot afford the distraction of some players arriving late, or even worse, not arriving at all.
10. Get everyone out of the sun. Warm weather and hot sun can hurt your team, more than injuries to your key players. Needless exposure to the sun can sap a team's strength and weaken their ability to concentrate on their game. If you have minimal time between games, let your players grab a soda and hot dog, and then gather in a shaded area somewhere. If you have several hours between games, go back to the motel, swim in the pool, watch TV, and generally relax.
11. Scout your opponents. Sometimes it is worthwhile for the coach and perhaps a few players to spend some time between games observing those teams you might play over the course of the weekend. Defensive strengths and weaknesses, who hits the ball with power, who has the best arms in the outfield, how they run the bases, and individual player batting tendencies can all provide valuable insights.
12. End of the first day. If you are still playing at the end of the first day, particularly if you are still in the Winner's Bracket, you have cause to celebrate ... but not too much. Sunday is always the toughest day. The teams that are left are the best and, if you get knocked into the Loser's Bracket, it's a tough battle to win in the tournament.

Make sure your team knows where and when Sunday's first game is to be played and what pre-game routine will be followed. Usually it is best to follow what you successfully did on Saturday. Make certain that everyone gets a good night's sleep in preparation for the next day. An 11:00 p.m. curfew should satisfy everyone.

13. One team from the Loser's Bracket goes into the finals it may as well be your team. Don't make the mistake of assuming that because you lost a game the tournament is over. You are not out of it until you have lost 2 games. If you go into the finals and beat the undefeated team, everything is even up. Better yet, you are on a high coming off a win while they are down, coming off a loss. Every weekend, teams come out of the Loser's Bracket to win tournaments.

14. Get pumped-up. Quiet teams don't win tournaments. Teams that yell, hoot and holler, and get their adrenalin up win tournaments. But they do it the right way. They holler encouragement to each other, they get one another psyched-up and pick each other up when they are down. They don't insult the other team, belittle them, or call them names. That has a tendency to get the opposing teams mad and bring out the best in them. Winning teams know how not to bring out the best in an opponent. These 14 points, along with sound softball, a good draw, and a little luck are the keys to winning tournaments. None of these points by themselves are earth-shattering news. However, winning teams follow them, at least most of them, every weekend of the softball season. The mental aspect of tournament preparation is every bit as important as physical execution during a game, and these 14 points could be the difference between a trip to the finals or an early trip home.

ORGANIZING A TEAM

Coach

Unless you have had previous experience, you may have difficulty in appreciating the planning involved in organizing and running a team.

The wise coach will get a responsible manager to help. Choose your manager on the basis of dependability, interest and character.

Manager's Duties

- Work in close cooperation with the coach and assist whenever and wherever possible.
- Don't wait to be told. Anticipate needs.
- Look after eligibility forms.- Get birth certificates when needed
- Be responsible for all equipment. Keep it in good condition. Have it readily available.
- See that the diamond is kept in playing condition-weeded, lined, etc.
- See that the schedule is posted and all players know about practice, and dates, times and places.
- Be sure that players are on time for practice and games.
- Keep club records and charts.
- Post information gathered from charts kept.
- Arrange for transportation when needed.
- Handle team funds on trips.
- Stay in touch with league executives
- At the game, check lineups.
- Find out ground rules, if any.

Assistants

An ex-player may be available. Pick someone who is reliable, enthusiastic, competent and of good character.

- Be sure to take him or her into your confidence.
- Bring the assistant in on your long-range program.
- Meet for a few minutes before each practice to run over the day's program.
- Give encouragement and praise whenever deserved, especially publicly.

COACHING

Putting Across Your Ideas- Stick to fundamentals.

- Plan your practices.
- Have a long-range goal. Keep it in sight as you plan.
- Whenever possible, give individual attention.
- Try to encourage players to practice on their own once you have shown them a skill and corrected their mistakes.

- Progress only as fast as the players can absorb it.
- Interject new skills and drills to dress up the fundamentals.
- Keep charts.
- Be patient.
- Follow these steps when teaching:
 - * Explain and demonstrate
 - * Have players perform the skill
 - * Correct faults
 - * Repeat correct form-Getting Players to Practice Fundamentals
- Introduce novel and interesting games, skills and drills when teaching fundamentals.
- Make your drills competitive. Change the drill or fundamental before interest lags.
- Show enthusiasm and genuine interest yourself.
- Have players “buddy up” and work together after practice, correcting and assisting each other. It not only eases your burden, but makes players stop and think about what they are doing. This may be used extensively and successfully from novice to senior level.

Understanding Your Players

- No two are exactly alike. Adjust your methods and techniques to fit their differences.
- Get to know each player as an individual. Your job does not end when you leave the diamond.
- Be patient and sympathetic to a player’s limitation.
- Get the team together occasionally on a social basis.
- Go as a team to see the best softball games possible and discuss them.
- Trips away from the home town can be memorable experiences for players and teams.
- You must gain a player’s confidence before he or she will respond to your teaching and leadership.
- Remember how you felt, thought and acted as a girl or boy.

Creating and Maintaining Team Spirit

Confidence on a large measure determines morale.

- Every player must be in top condition all season.
- Players must strive to master the fundamentals until they become automatic.
- Let the players know that you have confidence in them.
- A sense of humor among players is indispensable.
- Keep the diamond in A-1 condition.
- Try to take some trips, if only to the next town.
- Be sure that the competition is neither far below nor far above the level of team.
- Work towards “crucial games” and “rival games”.
- Build up a natural, healthy rivalry with other teams.
- Play well as a team, regardless of the outcome.

How To Do A Better Job of Coaching

- Enthusiasm, patience and genuine desire to know and to help girls and boys is essential.
- Constant self-analysis of your coaching methods and techniques is necessary.
- Search constantly for new and better methods and techniques.
- Attend coaching refresher courses.- Talk to other coaches and read authoritative material on your sport.

Teaching Game Fundamentals

Whether your team plays “pee-wee” or “senior” softball, the basic skills do not change. The most important factor is to teach the RIGHT TECHNIQUE EARLY. Then constant repetition of the right way will eventually make its execution automatic.

A Few Tips on Teaching Game Fundamentals

- Break down each skill into its parts. It is easier to teach and learn when presented in this manner.
- Use games, skill and competitive drills to put across fundamentals.
- Be patient, praise improvement but don’t be satisfied with anything less than perfection.
- Analyze each fundamental game skill.
- Evaluate your teaching methods and techniques constantly.
- In all drills insist upon good form. Don’t let them get sloppy and careless. Stop to check all errors.
- Time is always too short. Once you have taught the proper techniques, pair the players off, so that they may practice together.

ORGANIZING A TOURNAMENT

After attending an ASA Association, Regional or National Championship Tournament, local organizations may wish to host a similar tournament at a later date. The following has been included to assist local organizations in arranging such events.

ASA Association Commissioners are available for assistance. Please feel free to use their experience in order to have a successful tournament.

Select A Date: The decision to sponsor a tournament should be made several months before the date is chosen. Other tournament dates such as the ASA Association Regional and National Tournaments should be considered as to how many teams this would take from the play of the tournament. Weather is also a factor in selecting a date.

Size of Tournament: The size of the tournament may be decided by the number of fields available for use. If lights are available, then a larger field of teams can be considered. Other important factors are whether to play on Friday evening and the distance visiting teams would be required to travel. Always consider having an extra field in reserve.

ASA Sanction: ASA sanctions for the tournament are available from the Association Commissioner or the Junior Olympic Commissioner.

Tournament Director: Select someone with experience in tournaments to act as the Tournament Director. He/she will be responsible for the complete tournament and arranging for umpires.

Umpires: Immediately after selecting the date for the tournament, contact the local umpire association to confirm the date and the availability of umpires for the tournament.

Tournament Fee: It is customary to charge a tournament entry fee. The cost of umpires, balls, trophies, etc. should be considered when determining the fee to be charged each team.

Motels: Contact local motels and request a special reduced rate for teams traveling any distance. Obtain motel brochures for mailing to the various teams.

Tournament Rules: Rules for the tournament must be decided prior to the tournament and must be strictly adhered to during the play of the tournament. Use the ASA Tournament Rules as a guide and decide what would be best for the particular tournament: Open Roster or closed, single elimination or double, etc. Be sure that all teams are aware of all of the tournament rules prior to the play of the tournament. No teams like to learn of surprise rules after the tournament has begun.

Team Insurance: Team insurance is highly recommended. Teams should carry some form of liability insurance. Accidents happen.

Tournament Awards: Determine the awards to be presented to winners, etc. Here again, be sure to inform the teams prior to the start of the tournament. Teams do not again like to hear of a change of prizes after the tournament has begun.

Rest Rooms: All tournaments should have restroom facilities at the field or nearby. Teams should be advised on the location of these facilities. Proper number of restrooms, particularly female restrooms, should be considered.

Maps, etc.: Each team should be sent a package containing their bracket draw, tournament ground rules, maps of field locations, restaurants, and any other pertinent information.

Tournament Draw: When possible, an open draw should be held to determine positioning within the bracket. Bracket books are available for purchase from the ASA National Office.

Softballs: Purchase two new balls for fast pitch and one for slow pitch for each contest to be played. A used ball from a previous game may be used as a second or third ball. Some tournaments require each team to supply balls as a part of the entry fee. If this is to be the case, be sure to specify the type and brand of balls as balls do differ and will lead to difficulties if the exact type is not specified.

Equipment: Several days prior to the tournament, equipment should be checked: Home plate, pitching rubber and distance, bases, field, base pegs and distance. Remember, regulation equipment must be used in order to avoid arguments.

Emergency Phone Numbers: Post next to available phones the number for the ambulance, police and tournament director. If a packet is given to each manager as recommended earlier, these numbers should be included therein.

Field Help: Several weeks prior to the tournament, arrange for a field crew to work each field. Fields must be relined, etc. between games. Verify their availability a day or two before the tournament.

Refreshment Stand: A well-stocked refreshment stand can prove invaluable as a means of raising funds for the local, sponsoring organization. Let the teams know it will be available.



ASA Individual Registration: What, Why and How?



● **What is Individual Registration?**

As the National Governing Body for the sport of softball, ASA/USA Softball is committed to the goal of providing accident and liability insurance for all participants in the Junior Olympic (youth) program. The only way this can be accomplished is to individually register each participant in the program, including players, managers, coaches, assistant coaches and scorekeepers. Most other National Governing Bodies of youth sport programs individually register their participants, mainly for the insurance benefits individual registration provides. Therefore, to ensure that our youth players receive the insurance protection they need, ASA/USA Softball will be converting to individual registration (as opposed to team registration) for the Junior Olympic Program. Individual Registration is also available to Adult leagues in certain areas.

● **Why do Players, Teams, Leagues and the ASA Benefit from Individual Registration?**

Players:

- Covered with \$2,000,000 Liability Insurance, plus \$250,000 Excess Accident Medical Insurance.
- The coverage follows the player when they play on any ASA registered team.

Teams/Leagues:

- Coverage extends to the team/league as an insured entity if all team members Individually Register. If all teams within a league Individually Register, coverage for claims arising out of bodily injury and property damage is automatically extended to the league officials.

ASA:

- National governing body of softball.
- The goal of the ASA is to make sure every player has insurance.

● **How does my Team/League get started?**

The manager of your team/league should contact your local ASA/USA Softball Commissioner or Junior Olympic Commissioner for instructions on how to individually register. If you do not know who your ASA/USA Commissioner is, visit ASA/USA Softball's web site at www.ASASoftball.com, or contact them at 1-800-851-6117.

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