

2009 ASA Code Changes and Comments – December 5, 2008

<u>Article Number</u>	<u>Change</u>																								
Article 106 02	<p>New</p> <p><u>Additional Player</u> is a player that has been added to a team's championship roster and meets all the requirements set forth in Article 501 and 502 of this code.</p> <p>Comments: Adds the definition of Additional Player.</p>																								
Article 106 29	<p>Delete the definition of Regular Season Roster and renumber.</p> <p>Comments: Definition is no longer needed for Championship play.</p>																								
Article 106 35	<p>New</p> <p><u>Team Personnel</u> is defined as all coaches, managers, scorekeepers and other on field assistants that are required to meet the eligibility requirements of the ASA.</p> <p>Comments: Define who is considered a part of a team.</p>																								
Article 201 A 03 a, b, c, d and f Dues.	<p>Each local association shall pay the following dues:</p> <table><tbody><tr><td>a.</td><td>Each Adult Team</td><td>\$</td><td>8.00</td></tr><tr><td>b.</td><td>Each Junior Olympic Team</td><td>\$</td><td>8.00</td></tr><tr><td>c.</td><td>Each Adult Umpire</td><td>\$</td><td>18.00</td></tr><tr><td>d.</td><td>Each Junior Olympic Umpire</td><td>\$</td><td>18.00</td></tr><tr><td>e.</td><td>Each Scorekeeper</td><td>\$</td><td>8.50</td></tr><tr><td>f.</td><td colspan="3">Individual registrations fees will be approved by the council.</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Each local association may individually register Junior Olympic and or Adult players, coaches or team officials, Every 10 persons registered individually shall be counted as one team. Each JO team must include one adult registration.</p> <p>Comments: Changes the Adult and JO Team registration fee to \$8.00, changes umpire fee to \$18.00 and adds individual registration fees to the code.</p>	a.	Each Adult Team	\$	8.00	b.	Each Junior Olympic Team	\$	8.00	c.	Each Adult Umpire	\$	18.00	d.	Each Junior Olympic Umpire	\$	18.00	e.	Each Scorekeeper	\$	8.50	f.	Individual registrations fees will be approved by the council.		
a.	Each Adult Team	\$	8.00																						
b.	Each Junior Olympic Team	\$	8.00																						
c.	Each Adult Umpire	\$	18.00																						
d.	Each Junior Olympic Umpire	\$	18.00																						
e.	Each Scorekeeper	\$	8.50																						
f.	Individual registrations fees will be approved by the council.																								
Article 201 A 07	<p><u>Tax-Exempt. Each local association corporate entity shall be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a "tax-exempt" organization.</u></p> <p>Comments: Adds Tax-Exempt status as a requirement for each local association. EFFECTIVE 2010.</p>																								
Article 202 09 10	<p>09. East Central. Ohio, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Dayton. 10. Midwest. Illinois, Chicago, Indiana, and Kentucky</p> <p>Comments: Moves Cincinnati from Region 10 to Region 9. EFFECTIVE 2010.</p>																								

Article Number
Article 301 C 01

Change
New

Candidates for Territorial Vice President. They shall submit their names to the National Office no later than 30 days prior to the National Council Meeting. Territorial Vice President Candidates must have and maintain National Council Member Status.

Comments: Adds deadlines and requirements for council members to become Territorial Vice Presidents.

Article 306 A

New

A. Council Emeritus. Upon completion of 15 years of service, any council member with 15 or more years of service on the council may be recommended by their commissioner for the status of Emeritus.

01. Approval. The BOD shall consider all recommendations and a two-thirds vote of approval is required.

02. Entitlement. A person who is approved as Emeritus is entitled to attend the annual council meeting and shall have one vote on all matters before the council. No financial reimbursement will be considered for a person of Emeritus status.

Comments: Adds Council Emeritus to the code.

Article 311 D 03 c

Fast Pitch

c. All other Fast Pitch National Championships. Shall use a minimum of **three** outside (at-large) umpires to be selected from within the respective region hosting the entries.

Comments: Sets the number of at large umpires to three for all fast pitch events not specifically mentioned.

Article 311 D 04 a

Modified Pitch. The National Director of Umpires shall make the following assignments to the respective national championship finals:

- a. Men's (09) Man Modified: **Seven (7)** at-large umpires.
- b. Men's (10) Man Modified: **Seven (7)** at-large umpires.

NOTE: Of the fourteen (14) umpires assigned, six (6) shall be selected by the previous year's National Championship Final Umpires-in-Chief as follows:

- 01. Three (3) from the Men's (09) Man.
- 02. Three (3) from the Men's (10) Man.

Comments: Sets the number of at large umpires for Men's 9 and 10 Man Modified to seven.

Article 311 D 05 b Delete Men's Industrial and Women's Class C from the Slow Pitch umpire rotation selection

Comments: Remove Men's Industrial and Women's Class C from the rotational selection process of umpires to be used at these nationals.

Article Number

Article 311 D 05 c

Change

In all other divisions of slow pitch, including 16-Inch, Church, Masters, Seniors and Junior Olympic. A minimum of **three (3)** outside umpires shall be selected from within the respective region hosting the tournament. The tournament host is responsible for housing and game fees. All outside umpires are to be selected from within the region hosting the tournament. Should there be deficiency in the number of team entries, the tournament chairman, in cooperation with the host commissioner, may contact the regional director who shall have the authority to reduce the number of assigned outside umpires to no less than three.

Comments: Sets the number of outside umpires to be selected.

Article 401 A

Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall begin no earlier than **October 15** and conclude no later than November 20.

Comments: Sets the time frame of when the Annual Meeting can be held.

Article 402 D.

Compliance and Ethics. This committee shall consist of at least one member from each ASA territory and shall review commissioners and Council members' actions that involve conduct detrimental to the purposes and objectives of ASA including but not limited to:

01. A conflict of interest.
02. Unethical behavior.
03. Non-performance of duties as set forth in this Code.

This Committee shall have the authority to conduct hearings and impose discipline including reprimand, probation or removal. Persons disciplined by the Ethics Committee shall have the right of appeal to the Board of Directors whose decision will be final.

Comments: Renames the Ethics committee to Compliance and Ethics.

Article 402 E

Hall of Fame. This committee shall provide and publicize the ASA Hall of Fame. Its duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

04. Committee members. The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of 12 Council members appointed by the president for a term of four years. **Members of this committee may be removed by the President for just cause. The President may appoint proxies for members unable to attend the current year's meeting.**

Comments: Allows the President to remove members of the Hall of Fame Committee

Article Number

Article 501 B 01

Change

Team Eligibility.

01. Team Registration. A team must register with the local association in which the greatest number of its' players reside, and this number must be retained for the remainder of the season.

EXCEPTION: Teams in an adjoining county to a State and Metro association may register with either the State or Metro Association by mutual consent of the State/Metro Commissioner's involved.

Comments: Establishes where a team must register and sets limitations on how many players they must retain to keep that registration.

Article 501 C 02 c

Rostered Player

02. Rostered Player.

- c. Adult Player Classification. Individual adult players may not play more than one (1) classification below the classification level of their most recent team.

Comments: To assist associations with classification of individual players.

Article 501 C 04 a 01 Player Identification.

- a. Providing Proper Identification.

01. Upon demand by league or tournament officials including national championship finals, a player must produce proper identification (which shall include a current photograph of the player and the player's signature) or the player shall be declared ineligible and the team subject to suspension. For the purpose of this section, driver's licenses or comparable identification is acceptable.
02. At all national championship finals every player must sign in prior to playing. Failure will result in disqualification from the tournament unless the player has not played, in which case they will be allowed to sign in.

Comments: To establish a specific penalty if players do not sign in prior to competing.

Article 502

ROSTERS. A team's roster becomes official when a commissioner or designee signs it for championship play. Each team is permitted pick up players according to Article 503 of this code.

Comments: Defines when a Team's Roster becomes official.

Article Number

Change

Article 502 B

Number of Players. A **championship roster can only have a maximum of 20 players, including pick up players. A manager or coach shall not count as a player unless listed as one; names cannot be removed or replaced once the roster is used in championship play.**

Comments: Defines the number of players that can be listed on a championship roster

Article 505 B 02

Suspension Procedures.

01. Time Limitations. Suspension complaints must be filed with the commissioner in whose association the offense is alleged to have occurred **or the commissioner in whose association registered the player or team**, not more than six (6) months from the alleged date of violation.

Comments: To establish who can hold a suspension hearing.

Article 506 A 05 DIVISIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY DEFINED.

A. The ASA recognizes the following divisions and classifications of championship play. Each local association shall establish a classification code to determine team and/or player classification for championship play in the following divisions:

05. Men's Slow Pitch

A
B
C
D

E/Rec

Comments: Establishes E/Rec Classification for Men's Slow Pitch.

Article 506 A 09 Delete Women's Modified Pitch

Comments: Removes Women's Modified Pitch from list of Championship play list.

Article 506 A 13 Delete Coed Major Slow Pitch

Comments: Removes Coed Major Slow Pitch from list of Championship play list.

Article 506 A 13

DIVISIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY DEFINED.

13. Co-ed Slow Pitch

Open
C
D

NOTE: EFFECTIVE 2011 Co-ed Open is eliminated.

Comments: Changes names of Coed Classifications. EFFECTIVE 2011 Co-ed Open is removed.

Article Number

Article 507 F 01

Change

Mandatory Classification.

01. Mandatory Reclassification. An adult team that has four or more players on a roster, including pick-up players, from a team or teams that finished in the following divisions and classifications in the same National Championship Final must participate in the next higher classification in championship play for their next ASA playing season unless they played in the highest classification:

NOTE: If a team fails to participate in Championship play the next calendar year this restriction will remain in effect until the team participates at the higher classification.

EXCEPTION: In all Adult national Championships, the top finishing 10% (plus ties) will be reclassified to the next higher classification. Fractions will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Comments: To establish consistency in the number of teams moved up.

Article Number

Article 507 F 01

Change

Player Classification. Starting January 1 each year will start a player appeal process where each player can submit an appeal to have their player rating dropped. This process ends June 30 and at that time appeals will not be accepted until January. We have taken our team guidelines and based it on the ASA Code in which a team could have 3 Mandatory players from the next higher division on their roster. We consider our list equal to Mandatory rated players. With the player rating system that we have in place helps create a fair and level playing field for all of our teams not only at a local but also at a national level. Below are the guidelines that we use on how to classify a team. Players on the ASA Restricted List can only participate in the Men's A or Coed Open Programs.

a. Men's Slow Pitch

Men's A = 2 Player's from the ASA Restricted Players List.

Men's B = 3 A Rated players and no players from the Restricted Player List.

Men's C = 3 B Rated players and no players from the Restricted Player List.

Men's D = 3 C Rated players and no players from the Restricted Player List.

Men's E = 3 D Rated and no players from the Restricted Player List, no A rated players, no B rated players, or no C rated players.

Note: No A Rated players may participate in the D Level or/and no C and above Rated Players may participate in the E Level.

b. Women's Slow Pitch

Women's Open = Any Female Player

Women's C = 3 Open Rated Players

Women's D = 3 C Rated Players

c. Co-ed

Co-ed Open = Any Female Player and 2 Men from the ASA Restricted Player's List.

Article Number

Change

Co-ed C = No Male player rated B or above and No Open Rated Women.

Co-ed D = 2 C Rated Men and 2 C Rated Women.

NOTE: Players that have no ASA playing history should be handled in the following manner. If a track record of a player can be verified in another National Association that player can be rated at that level or higher.

Comments: Establishes guidelines for establishing teams with individual player classification.

Article 507 F 02 a

Restricted Classification Rule.

- a. Teams. A team that wins two or more games in a double elimination bracket, or three or more games in a three game bracket, excluding forfeits, in a National Championship Final may not participate in a lower classification in the same division of championship play during their next ASA playing season unless they played in the highest classification. A team that has four or more players on a roster, including pick-ups, from such a team shall be considered the same team.

EXCEPTION: Men's Major Fast Pitch. Any team that has not competed in the Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship Tournament for two consecutive years shall be allowed to participate in a lower classification regardless of the number games won at the national tournament, provided they have received permission from their Local Commissioner, to compete at a lower classification for the following season.

EXCEPTION: Men's Class A Slow Pitch

Comments: Allows for an exception to be made to Men's Class A Slow Pitch for restricted classification.

Article 507 G

Classification Appeal. Teams/**Players** classified in accordance with this article have the right to appeal their classification after participating at the higher classification. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the team's local commissioner and should include game results and reason for the appeal. The local commissioner shall evaluate the information presented and forward the appeal with their recommendation to the Chair of the Tournament Programs Committee. The Tournament Programs Committee shall review the information presented. If the appeal is granted, the team's roster/**player** shall be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, except Pick-Up Players pursuant to Article 503, the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to at least the next higher classification.

Comments: Allows players to appeal their classification.

Article Number

Article 507 G

Change

National Softball Player Classification Board

- a.** Responsibilities. The NSPC (National Softball Player Classification) Board will oversee all aspects of the adult slow pitch classification. The Board will create guidelines and procedures regarding classification.
- b.** The NSPC Board will consist of five people, one representative from each territory plus one At-Large member, as shown:
 - Eastern Territory
 - Northern Territory
 - Southern Territory
 - Western Territory
 - At large member to be assigned by ASA President.
- c.** Each territory representative shall name a territorial subcommittee comprised of no less than five and no more than 9 people from their territory. Local association representatives will be assigned in conjunction with the Association Commissioner.
- d.** Duties. The duty of the board is to uphold the national team and player classification strategy. The board, in concert with the National ASA Office staff, will oversee a National Player Classification Registry. The Board, in concert with National ASA staff, will communicate with tournament directors of National Championships to ensure all teams participating in ASA Slow Pitch events are within the guidelines. The board will also seek out further information by contacting local commissioners, player representatives, district commissioners, league directors, and tournament directors to acquire the best and most recent information on teams and players.

Comments: To establish an Adult Slow Pitch player classification process to improve the classification across the country.

Article Number

Article 508 A

Change

LEVELS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY. The following are levels of championship play:

- A. Local Association Championships. Local associations may not conduct championship play tournaments in locations outside of their association's boundaries without permission from that local association's commissioner. Local associations may conduct sub district, district or county championships for the purpose of qualifying teams for local association championships. These tournaments are open to registered member teams in accordance with the rules and regulations of the local association, provided such rules and regulations are not in conflict or inconsistent with this Code or the established policies of the ASA.

Comments: To establish where Associations may conduct championship play.

Article 508 B 02

LEVELS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY. The following are levels of championship play:

- 01. Adult Slow Pitch National Qualifiers may be held in Adult Slow Pitch. The association hosting the tournament must use their local association berths. Teams that accept the berths must abide by the rules set forth by their local association to advance in championship play.

Comments: To establish Adult Slow Pitch National Qualifiers.

Article 509 B 01 b

DATES OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

- B. National Championship Finals. The Executive Director has the authority to change dates of National Championship Finals for extenuating circumstances.
 - b. Men's Class B, C, D, and E/Rec Slow Pitch. These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled on Labor Day weekend and shall commence no earlier than Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and concluding no later than Monday.

Comments: Adds Men's E/Rec Slow Pitch to Labor Day weekend.

Article 509 B 02 b c

DATES OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

- 01. Adult Fast Pitch. All adult fast pitch National Championship Finals shall be scheduled as follows:
 - b. Men's Class A, B and C Fast Pitch. This National Championship will be scheduled on Labor Day weekend commencing no earlier than 6:00 pm Thursday and concluding no later than Labor Day.

Comments: Moves the Men's Class A, B, and C Fast Pitch to Labor Day weekend.

Article Number

Article 510 M 08

Change

Team Conduct

08. Property Damage: Any property damage reported by officials of the hosting facility in championship play.

Comments: Add property damage to facilities as regulations for teams to abide by at championship play.

Article 510 N

Tie Breaker Rule. A region may, by majority vote, establish procedures for a tie-breaker in qualifiers and regional tournaments. In all Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch National Qualifiers and National Championship Finals: Women's Fast Pitch National Championship Finals: and Men's Masters Fast Pitch National Championship Finals the tie breaker shall be in effect.

Comments: Add Men's Masters Fast Pitch to the list of tournaments the tie breaker rule can be used.

Article 511 A 01 CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW.

A. Local Association Protection: When qualifying pool play is used in Junior Olympic, Women's Major Fast Pitch, Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch, and Men's Seniors Slow Pitch Championships, teams qualifying from the same local association shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in qualifying pool play. When the number of teams entered in the tournament from a local association is greater than the number of pools, the final alignment in pool play shall be determined by the ASA Representative.

EXCEPTIONS:

01. Junior Olympic Pool Play.

- a. In all Junior Olympic GOLD, Class A and Class B National Championship Finals, qualifying pool play (providing each team with two games) shall be used to draw teams onto the ASA Official Double Elimination Bracket.

NOTE: Teams must participate in pool play to be eligible for the double elimination bracket.

Comments: To create protection in pool play for local associations and to show pool play will be used to draw teams into the double elimination bracket.

Article Number **Change**

Article 511 A 03 i, q, r & s CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW.

03. Three Game Format. In lieu of pool play, the respective Tournament Directors shall utilize an ASA official approved three (3) game guaranteed format for the following:

a.Boy's	18-Under Fast Pitch.
b.Boy's	16-Under Fast Pitch.
c.Boy's	14-Under Fast Pitch.
d.Boy's	12-Under Fast Pitch.
e.Boy's	10-Under Fast Pitch.
f.Men's	Major Fast Pitch.
g.Men's	Class A Fast Pitch.
h.Men's	Class B Fast Pitch.
i. Men's	Class C Fast Pitch.
j.Men's Masters	40-Over Fast Pitch.
k.Men's Masters	45-Over Fast Pitch.
l.Men's Seniors	50-Over Fast Pitch.
m.Men's	23-Under Fast Pitch.
n.Women's	Class A Fast Pitch.
o.Women's	Class B Fast Pitch.
p.Women's Masters	35-Over Slow Pitch.
q. Men's Masters	35-Over Slow Pitch.
r. Men's Masters	40-Over Slow Pitch.
s. Men's Masters	45-Over Slow Pitch.

Comments: To add the Men's Class C Fast Pitch and Masters Slow Pitch to the tournaments who use the three game guarantee format.

Article 511 B 02 Drawing onto the ASA Official Double Elimination Bracket. In all Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch Class A, Class B and Junior Olympic 18-Under Gold National Championship Finals:

NOTE: The double elimination bracket draw shall be done at the completion of the pool play games, with each team drawing their position onto the double elimination bracket.

Comments: To establish a procedure of when the bracket draw will be done and who must be present.

Article 511 D Seeding (Adults). Added exception to 02 and delete the exceptions in 05 and 06.

02. Seeded Teams. Only teams that shall be seeded are the previous year's defending champions and first runner-up teams and the current year's host teams. Seeding of the Men's A Slow Pitch National Championship. This will be seeded by the ASA 2K Series point standings with the assistance of the National Softball Player Classification Board.

Comments: To create a balanced bracket based on performance during the ASA 2K Series and to clarify what is already stated in Article 511 A 02.

Article Number

Article 511 D 03

Change

Delete 03 Seeding for Men's Major Fast Pitch

Comments: To give everyone an opportunity to be drawn into a bye.

Article 512 G

Delete Entry fee for Hall of Fame Tournaments

Comments: No other entry fees were set by code.

Article 516 D 01

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS. The following teams are eligible for National Championship Final competition as follows:

D. ASA East / West National Championship Finals. The ASA will conduct two (2) National Championship Tournaments in following divisions and classifications:

01. Men's Senior Slow Pitch.

One championship will be played in each of the two (2) sections in accordance with Article 204, Sections of this Code

EXCEPTION: The major plus division in the 50+, 55+, 60+ and 65+ age classifications will hold one tournament in Oklahoma City on Labor Day weekend (or at another time and/or place approved by the National Championship Finals Tournament Awards Committee).

Comments: To establish that the Major Plus Divisions of Senior Slow Pitch to have their own single National Championship in Oklahoma City.

Article 516 D 02

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS. The following teams are eligible for National Championship Final competition as follows:

D. ASA East / West National Championship Finals. The ASA will conduct two (2) National Championship Tournaments in following divisions and classifications:

One championship will be played in each of the two (2) sections in accordance with Article 204, Sections of this Code

02. The ASA will conduct two (2) National Championship Tournaments in the following division and classification.

Men's 16" Class A Slow Pitch

Comments: To establish an East/West Championships for the Men's 16" Division.

Article Number

Article 516 E F 01 B

Change

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS. The following teams are eligible for National Championship Final competition as follows:

E. ASA East / West National Championship Finals. The ASA will conduct two (2) National Championship Tournaments in following divisions and classifications:

01. Men's Class B Slow Pitch.
02. Women's Class C and D Slow Pitch.

One championship will be played in each of the two (2) sections in accordance with Article 204, Sections of this Code.

- b. Qualifying. Teams will qualify for these National Championship Finals through their local associations. Local Associations shall establish guidelines for the process teams may earn a berth into these National Championships. Local associations and regions may combine berths to qualify teams for these tournaments in accordance with Article 516 (A)(05) of this Code. Teams may play in **the tournament of their choice.**

F. ASA Eastern / Southern / Northern / Western National Championship Finals. The ASA will conduct four (4) National Championships in following divisions and classifications:

01. Men's Class C Slow Pitch.
02. Men's Class D Slow Pitch.

One championship will be played in each of the four (4) territories in accordance with Article 203, Territories of the ASA Code.

- b. Qualifying. Teams will qualify for these National Championship Finals through their local associations. Local Associations shall establish guidelines for the process teams may earn a berth into these National Championships. Local associations and regions may combine berths to qualify teams for these tournaments in accordance with Article 516 (A)(05) of this Code. Teams may play in **the tournament of their choice.**

Comments: Allows teams who participate in choose which tournament they wish to go to.

Article Number

Article 516 G

Change

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS. The following teams are eligible for National Championship Final competition as follows:

F. Girls' Class A USA / ASA Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.

18, 16, 14, 12, 10-Under

All remains the same except Association berths and that change is:

Associations registering 201 – 999 teams receives one (1) berth, for associations above 999 teams, those associations will receive an additional berth for each increment of 500 team registrations. As an example, an association that registers 2900 teams would receive 5 total berths. The best way to determine the berths is to take total registered teams and divide by 500 – the number of berths is the whole number – no rounding up.

Comments: To allow association's berths to be a representation of teams registered.

Article 520 C 06

Levels of Non-Championship Play

C. Non-Championship Invitational Tournament Play. Invitational tournaments may be conducted by the local association and sanctioned by ASA provided the following conditions are met:

06. Sanction and Sanction Fee. Only the local association in whose territory the tournament is conducted may sanction a tournament and shall be entitled to charge a sanction fee.

Comments: To keep Local Associations from sanctioning a tournament in another local association's territory.

Article 607 08

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY AWARDS. Awards shall be made to teams and individuals as follows:

A. National Championship Finals.

08. Batting Champion. A batting champion shall be determined at the National Championship Final on the basis of the highest batting percentage based on appearing at bat at least 15 times in the fast pitch National Championship Final and 15 times in the slow pitch National Championship Final.

Comments: Gives more slow pitch players an opportunity to be the batting champion