

Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

The Amateur Softball Association of Southern California, hereafter referred to as SoCal ASA, is an affiliate of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA), the National Governing Body (NGB) of Softball in the United States. The responsibilities of SoCal ASA include the regulation of competition and the assurance of fairness and equal opportunity to all who participate in ASA softball within the boundaries of SoCal ASA.

SoCal ASA is a non-government, non-partisan and not-for-profit organization that is staffed by volunteers who are dedicated to the advancement of softball at all levels of play. SoCal ASA accepts any person that qualifies as an amateur, regardless of gender, sex orientation, color, creed or national origin. Through the dedicated efforts of the Commissioner and the Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner Staff, SoCal ASA has one of the finest Junior Olympic Programs in the United States.

The SoCal ASA Junior Olympic Program exists to help develop the interest, skills and desires of our ever-growing young generation of softball players. The Program offers various classifications of play in fast pitch, with emphasis on fun and providing a positive, supportive environment for all participants. The Program is committed to building healthy, productive and confident youth through the softball experience, which can best be accomplished through the continuing education of the coaches involved in the program. No other softball organization offers the intensive and informative coaching education experience that our Program provides through the SoCal ASA annual coaching clinics and the ACE Certification Program which is available through SoCal ASA and / or online through the ASA National Office.

The youth that participate in our Program receive the best overall softball experience possible. We offer the best trained umpires, outstanding administration and organization at the local level, excellent insurance coverage, programs for both recreation and competitive play, and much more.

We appreciate your support of and participation in our Junior Olympic Program, and we look forward to another great year of softball in 2010!



Phil Gutierrez
Commissioner

This copy of the ASA of Southern California 2010 Rules and Regulations (Yellow Book) is effective January 1, 2010. SoCal ASA will from time to time make necessary changes as required to this Yellow Book; therefore, it is highly encouraged that you regularly review the official copy of the Yellow Book which can be found online at the SoCal ASA Web site: www.socal-asa.com. In the event a conflict in language between this printed version of the Yellow Book and the version on the Web site, the official copy of the Yellow Book found on the SoCal ASA Web site controls. If incorrect information regarding this published Yellow Book or issued by voice, written, electronic or any other form of communication, whether by SoCal ASA staff members or not, the provisions and intent of the Yellow Book found on the SoCal ASA Web site will always prevail.

Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

Mission

The mission of the Amateur Softball Association of Southern California (SoCal ASA) is to foster, develop, promote and regulate the sport of softball within the boundaries of Southern California through standardized, quality programs consistent with the Amateur Softball Association of America.

Purpose

The specific purposes of SoCal ASA Junior Olympic Program are:

To promote amateur softball for all persons throughout SoCal ASA regardless of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or ancestry.

To provide proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship.

To establish and publish standardized rules, regulations and guidelines for all to follow.

To organize, promote and conduct clinics and seminars for players, teams, leagues, umpires and others on the proper skills of softball play and the rules of the game.

To schedule, promote and conduct well-organized annual softball championships.

To provide a standard and consistent avenue for SoCal ASA teams to qualify to participate in District, State, Region, Territory and National Championships.

To provide grants and other forms of assistance to promote the growth of the sport of Softball.

To provide scholarships and that will present more persons the opportunity for advanced education.

To provide assistance to international softball teams when requested by the ASA National Office.

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Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

Teams affiliated with ASA are a vital part of the National Governing Body of Softball. As such, the teams enjoy the following:

Governing Body of Softball: ASA is the National Governing Body (NGB) of Softball in the United States as approved by the U.S. Congress and accepted by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and the International Softball Federation (ISF). As the NGB, ASA represents the sport of softball for the United States of America.

Standardized Eligibility and Playing Rules: All ASA teams are governed by the same eligibility and playing rules throughout the country, thus ensuring fair competition in championship Play. Player eligibility is governed by the National ASA Code and is further defined by the SoCal ASA Rules and Regulations.

Tournament Certified Umpires: SoCal ASA Certified Umpires, used in all Championship Play, attend annual rules seminars and mechanics clinics, must pass a written rules exam and meet other region and national requirements before they become eligible for assignment to Championship Play.

Team Classification: SoCal ASA has established a classification code to regulate teams and players with dominate softball playing ability and keep them from playing in a lower classification. Teams and players may request to be reclassified before becoming eligible to compete in a lower classification.

Championship Competition: Championship play may be scheduled for the following classifications: Classifications "A", "B" and "C"; Classifications 10 and Under, 12 and Under, 14 and Under, 16 and Under, 18 and Under and 18 and Under Gold.

Junior Olympic Age Classification: The age cutoff date is December 31 of each year.

18 and Under Gold: This classification includes the most advanced Junior Olympic fast pitch players and teams in the nation. Many of these players have the potential to become members of our national teams, including the U.S.A. National Team. Qualifying teams at this level advance to the 18 and Under Gold National Championship.

"A" Classification (Travel): This level of competition is highly competitive with most players having consistent ability and pitchers being capable of controlling a game. Qualifying teams at this level advance to the USA / ASA "A" National Championships or to the Western Territory ASA "A" National Championships in their Age Classification.

"B" Classification / League All-Stars: This level of play is for recreation leagues only. Either league teams or league all-star teams are eligible to participate in these championships. District Championships are scheduled with a predetermined number of teams advancing to the SoCal ASA "B" State Championships (League All-Star Championships). Qualifying teams will advance to the Western Territory "B" ASA National Championships in their Age Classification.

“C” Classification / League All-Stars: This classification is for recreation leagues only, and is specifically for leagues that are not highly competitive. The intent of the “C” Classification is to establish meaningful competition for teams and leagues that cannot compete in the “B” Classification because of their league size and /or skill level of play. Either league teams or league all-star teams are eligible to participate in these championships. District Championships are scheduled with a predetermined number of teams advancing to either the SoCal ASA “C” State Championships or the Pacific Coast Region “C” Championships. This classification does not advance past State or Region.

Publications: Team managers receive the Official Rules of Softball (ASA Rule Book), a membership card and appropriate newsletters.

Insurance: SoCal ASA provides, as a benefit of membership, Accident / Liability Insurance to each individually registered player, team and / or league. Insurance brochures may be obtained from any SoCal ASA Junior Olympic Staff member.

Individual Membership: All Junior Olympic players in SoCal ASA must be individually registered.

Team Staff Membership: All Team / League adult staff members (i.e., manager / coach / team parent, etc.) that enter the field of play, the dugout or may have any single contact with a Junior Olympic player must be individually registered and background checked through the SoCal ASA mandatory registration system. Additionally, the manager and at least one other adult staff member of any team participating in ASA Championship Play, beginning at the District level, must be ACE Certified.

Membership: Membership in SoCal ASA is available to any manager, coach, player, team or umpire who resides within the defined boundaries of SoCal ASA, pays the SoCal ASA specified annual dues, and abides by the SoCal ASA Rules and Regulations, as well as the National ASA Code.

Players’ Association: Membership is open to any Junior Olympic player who participates on a team registered with SoCal ASA.

Championship Play: Any team that is a SoCal ASA member in good standing and meets the eligibility requirements for championship play may participate in scheduled championship play.

NOTE: Junior Olympic Championships may be capped based on field availability.

Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

Code of Conduct

Standards of Conduct are part of the National ASA Code and the SoCal ASA Regulations and Guidelines. All ASA members shall respect these standards. A manager, coach, player or other individual affiliated with a team shall not violate any of the following:

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct or any derogatory action on or off the field of play.
2. Verbal or physical attack or threat upon an umpire or other ASA official.
3. Destruction of property, abusive behavior or violation of local, state or federal law.
4. Non-payment of team incurred debts.
5. All players shall be individually registered with ASA.
6. All managers / coaches / team parents entering the field of play or dugouts shall have been individually registered with ASA and background checked through the SoCal ASA mandatory registration system. Identification cards must be visible at all times.
7. Playing under an assumed name or falsifying an official ASA document.
8. Writing checks with Not Sufficient Funds or Account Closed to an ASA official, ASA umpire, ASA team, individual or business.
9. Commission of fraud perpetrated against an ASA official, team or individual.
10. Commission of larceny perpetrated against an ASA official, team or individual.
11. Use of any ASA logos or trademarks without express permission.
12. Commission of any act that is contrary to the objectives and purposes of ASA.
13. Forfeit a scheduled game in Championship Play.
14. Competing with or against individuals or teams who are suspended from ASA play.
15. Any other act of suspension as listed in the National ASA Code.
16. Team manager / coach shall not contact a National Championship Tournament Director regarding "fill-in" berths.
17. **"A" Travel Teams Only:** Failure to provide an itemized and accurate pre-season team budget and an itemized financial statement of team expenses to players / parents / guardians at the end of the ASA Championship season, not to exceed 60 days from the end of Championship Play.
18. No player, coach or manager shall drink alcoholic beverages or smoke on the field of play, or inside / outside the dugout. The use, possession or sale of alcohol is prohibited at all JUNIOR OLYMPIC events.
19. **Violation of any of the above may result in a team and / or individual suspension or other disciplinary action.**

Complaint Procedure

SoCal ASA is not intent on policing teams, coaches and players. However, when allegations of violations of the National ASA Code and / or the SoCal ASA Rules and Regulations are filed in writing, a SoCal ASA official will conduct an examination of the reported violations to determine if basis exist to schedule a suspension hearing.

The procedure for filing a written complaint is as follows:

1. A SoCal ASA Complaint Form shall be filed. The form is available at the SoCal ASA Web site (www.socal-asa.com). The form may also be obtained by contacting a District Commissioner, an Age Classification Commissioner or either one of the two State Junior Olympic Commissioners. The complaint must have the following information:
 - a. Name and addresses of all parties.
 - b. The Code article or rule allegedly violated.
 - c. All supporting information, evidence and / or documentation relating to the complaint.
2. A money order or cashier's check in the amount of \$50.00 made payable to SoCal ASA must accompany the complaint form. The \$50.00 fee is non-refundable and may be waived only by the State Commissioner.
3. Evidence substantiating the alleged violation must be listed in the complaint form and included. Examples of such evidence are witness statements, documentation, photos, etc. Witnesses to the alleged violation must be named and their addresses and phone numbers listed in the complaint. Witnesses for or against the accused may testify at a hearing, limited to four per side. Written statements, with appropriate signature, from witnesses who are unable to attend the hearing are acceptable.
4. Receipt of the complaint shall be acknowledged by a SoCal ASA staff member via email or USPS mail within 14 days. If determined that a hearing is necessary, the hearing shall be scheduled within a reasonable time, but not later than 45 days from receipt of the complaint, providing that all required information has been submitted.

Suspension Hearing

A hearing shall be scheduled when it is determined that reasonable cause exists to believe that the complaint may be valid. Violations of specific articles in the National ASA Code require minimum suspension time periods. The penalty for other violations is at the discretion of the hearing panel or the State Commissioner. All testimony shall be considered to determine the validity of or disprove the complaint, and then, if appropriate, impose a proper penalty.

Testimony at a hearing may indicate that although guilty a person deserves leniency because of mitigating circumstances, while in other cases the testimony may show that a harsher penalty is in order. While conducting a hearing the hearing panel shall consider all information available, including the past record of the accused, previous complaints and the testimony provided by witnesses at the hearing.

1. When a hearing date is scheduled, all parties shall be notified in writing.
2. Each party, complainant and accused, may request no more than one postponement. When a postponement is requested and granted, a new hearing date will be scheduled and all parties shall be again notified in writing.
3. Four persons for the accused and four persons for the complainant may testify.
4. If the accused fails to appear at the hearing without notification, the hearing panel shall proceed with the hearing and take the appropriate action.
5. If the complainant fails to appear at the hearing without notification, the complaint may be dismissed.
6. SoCal ASA may conduct any necessary inquiry into allegations brought against an ASA team, coach, player or umpire as a means of proving or disproving the charges. The inquiry may be conducted before, during or after the hearing.
7. Any member of the SoCal ASA Staff who witnesses or has irrefutable evidence of a violation of the National ASA Code at a tournament may immediately remove a player, manager, coach, team or umpire from further competition in that tournament. A suspension hearing may be conducted at the tournament to determine if further action is required from SoCal ASA.
8. A manager, coach, player or umpire suspended by SoCal ASA forfeits all rights and privileges afforded to a member under the National ASA Code, the Pacific Coast Region Rules and Regulations and the SoCal ASA Rules and Regulations. The forfeiture of said rights and privileges shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Representing themselves as an eligible ASA manager, coach, player or umpire to anyone affiliated with ASA.
 - b. Practicing, managing, coaching, umpiring or participating at any time with anyone affiliated with ASA.
 - c. Recruiting for an ASA team.
 - d. Competing with or against any ASA team.
 - e. Suspended individuals shall not be on the field, keep score, be in or around the dugout, relay verbal advice or instruction or signal to a team from any location.
9. When a complaint is upheld and results in suspension, the individual(s) has the right to appeal as outlined in the National ASA Code.

Non-compliance Penalty: A minimum of twelve months added to the original penalty.

Responsibilities for Championship Play Eligibility

1. **District Commissioner.** The District Commissioner is responsible for verifying the classification and eligibility of each team from their District that is participating in Championship Play.

2. **League President or Chief Softball Administrator.**
 - a. The League President / Chief Administrator is responsible for verifying the league's players / teams eligibility to the best of their knowledge.

 - b. The League President / Chief Administrator shall notify the District Commissioner of any possible infractions.

3. **Team Manager Responsibility.**
 - a. The manager is responsible for verifying to the best of their ability their team and player eligibility.

 - b. The manager shall be prepared to provide proof of age and picture identification for each player on the team roster at every Championship Tournament.

 - c. The manager of a team found to be in violation of ASA policy may be suspended from participation in ASA for one year.

 - d. Teams participating in Championship Play shall abide by all rules and regulations of the National ASA Code.

 - e. The manager must sign the "Official Championship Roster" confirming the eligibility of their players before entering any Championship Play.

“B” Classification Program (Recreation League)

Southern California ASA Player Eligibility Rules

I. **Purpose.** To provide a recreational Junior Olympic “B” Program and Championship Tournaments for leagues registered with SoCal ASA.

A. Recreation League Teams. These teams, in the Age Classifications 6U through 18U, shall represent a recreation league. A recreation league is defined as follows:

1. An organized league that is associated with a recognized neighborhood or community.
2. Participation is open to any interested youth.
3. Tryouts or demonstration of skills is not required for participation.
4. Some type of draft, draw or other acceptable method is used to ensure equitable distribution of talent amongst all the league teams.
5. All teams must be approved by the league Board of Directors.

NOTE: Leagues that split their Age Classifications based on skill level must have at least six teams in the advanced Classification, regardless of the method used to create the split Age Classifications; including, but not limited to, player evaluations, league assignments and / or parent requests. Split Classifications shall not be used in Age Classifications below 10U. **All players in a league with split Age Classifications are eligible for all-star selection.**

B. “B” 16U and 18U Teams. These teams, formed in an area where recreation league play is or is not be offered in their respective Age Classification must be comprised of players representing not more than five high schools on any one team. **NOTE:** High School district boundaries shall not be used to determine a high school attendance area.

II. Eligibility Policies and Procedures.

A. Recreation League All-Star Eligibility.

1. Each 6U through 18U player participating in recreation league play shall be individually registered with ASA before **April 1** of the current year.
2. Each team staff member, i.e., manager / coach / team parent, shall be individually registered and have proof of a background check through the SoCal ASA mandatory registration system.
3. Each all-star manager and at least one other adult staff member must be ACE Certified.
4. A team shall NOT participate with any other league or team that is not registered with ASA.

B. League Team Eligibility.

1. Team roster may include up to 20 players.
2. A team may be a single league team or an all-star team selected and certified by the league Board of Directors.

- a. If the league selects an all-star team, the all-star team may not nominate, select, tryout, practice and / or play together before **May 1** of the current year.
 - b. If the league selects a single league team or the majority of the players are from a single team, this team must meet the requirements of paragraph I I.A above. **NOTE:** A team selected in pre-season or mid-season for tournament play is not eligible.
3. A team shall not have any player who participated on a **travel type team** after **March 31**.
 4. A team shall not have more than four players who participated on a **travel type team** at any time after **February 1** of the current year.
 5. A team that participates in an ASA “A” or 18U Gold **qualifying** event is not eligible for participation in “B” Classification Championship Play.

C. Player Eligibility.

1. A player must play a minimum of 50 percent of the current season’s league games. **Exception:** High school players who are age eligible to return to the 14U Age Classification may return to the league in which they participated during the previous calendar year providing the league has three or less 14U teams. The 14U all-star team shall not include more than four players who participated in a high school program. A player returning to the 14U Age Classification must have been registered with the league before **May 15** of the current year. All returning high school players must be approved by the league Board of Directors.
 2. A player who played in a higher Age Classification during the current season is eligible to play in their proper Age Classification.
 3. A player who played on a school team or other recreation league team after **March 31** of the current year is eligible to play if all other eligibility rules are met. A player participating in more than one ASA recreation league must declare by **April 15** in which league they wish to be eligible for all-star selection.
 4. A player who has participated on a team other than a team in their own recreation league after **March 31** of the current year is NOT eligible as provided for in paragraph III.B.4 above; for example, a player shall not participate on any other all-star or travel type team, whether ASA or non-ASA, after **March 31**.
Exception: A league that has more than one post-season team within an Age Classification may elevate a player within the same league from the number two all-star team to the number one all-star team with the approval of the respective District Commissioner. When a player is moved, that player is locked on the team to which they were moved until the team is eliminated from Championship Play.
- NOTE:** “Participate” above is defined as: A player taking part in a try-out, practice, practice game, scheduled game or tournament.
5. A player shall not participate on more than one team in ASA Championship Play during the same season, except as a pick-up player.
 6. A player participating in Championship Play shall have SoCal ASA authorized photo identification.

D. League “Pick-up” Players (see National ASA Code):

1. A “B” Classification all-star pick-up player shall meet all player eligibility rules in this section.
2. A player can be a pick-up player once per season only.
3. A “B” all-star player whose team is no longer eligible for Championship Play is eligible to be a pick-up player as set forth in the National ASA Code.
4. A Pick-up player must have played on a SoCal ASA registered “B” team during the current season.
5. A pick-up player, after District Championships but prior to the State All-Star Championships, may be picked up from within their own league only. After the State All-Star Championships, a pick-up player may be picked up from anywhere in SoCal ASA and within the appropriate Age Classification.
6. Pick up players must be approved by the league Board of Directors.

E. “B” Classification 16U and 18U Teams. These classifications provide competition and Championship Play for players who and teams that have not yet reached the Junior Olympic “A” Classification skill level. It is a program devoted to high school age players who wish to improve their softball skills and thereby benefit their league, their high school and themselves.

I. “B” Classification 16U and 18U Team Eligibility.

- a. A team shall register before **June 1** with a minimum of five players individually registered. Eight players minimum shall be individually registered before **July 1**. Every player on the roster shall be individually registered prior to starting Championship Play.
- b. A team roster may include 20 players, including pick-up players.
- c. A team shall be comprised of players who meet all the 16U and 18U “B” eligibility rules.
- d. A team may be a single team or an all-star team as selected and certified by a league.
 1. The team shall not be selected, practice or play together before **May 1** of the current year.
 2. If a league has one team only during the season, that team shall be the all-star team. The team must meet the requirements of paragraph II.A above.

NOTE: A team selected in pre-season or mid-season for tournament play is NOT eligible.

- e. A team shall not have any players who participated on a **travel type team** after **March 31**.
- f. A team shall not have more than four players who participated with a **travel type team** at any time after **February 1** of the current year.
- g. A team shall not be represented by more than five high schools.
- h. A team may participate in “A” or “B” Classification invitational tournaments after **May 1** but risk being reclassified. Reclassification may be appealed to the State Junior Olympic Commissioner – Recreation.

- i. A team that participates in an ASA “A” or ASA 18U Gold **qualifying** event shall not be eligible to participate in “B” Classification 16U and 18U Championship Play.
- j. A team participating in ASA Championship Play shall abide by the ASA Codes pertaining to Championship Play and the policies outlined in the back of the Official “B” Championship Roster.
- k. A player who pitched at the high school varsity level may pitch in these classifications unless classified above the “B” Classification level of play by the District Commissioner. The decision of a District Commissioner may be appealed to the State Junior Olympic Commissioner – Recreation.

2. “B” 16U and 18U Player Eligibility.

- a. Player age eligibility is in accordance with the National ASA Code.
- b. A player who participates on an intercollegiate softball team at a two or four year college or university is NOT eligible to participate in the Junior Olympic “B” Classification Championship Play.
- c. A player shall not be on two championship rosters during the regular season, for example, a player shall not be on a “B” 16U / 18U Classification – recreation - team and an ASA “A” Classification – travel - team during the same season.
- d. A player is eligible to be a pick-up player for an ASA “A” Classification – travel – team only after their current team is eliminated from Championship Play.

3. “B” 16U and 18U Pick-up Players (see National ASA Code).

- a. A “B” Classification pick-up player shall meet all the player eligibility rules in this section.
- b. A player shall be a pick-up player once per season only.
- c. A “B” Classification player whose team is eliminated from Championship Play is eligible to be picked up as a player by either an “A” or “B” Classification team in the same or higher Age classification.
- d. A pick up player must have participated on an ASA registered team during the current season.
- e. All pick-up player rules contained in the National ASA Code apply.

4. Rural or Remote Location Team Eligibility. Contact the “B” 16U / 18U Age Classification Commissioner for team eligibility policy.

III. Championship Tournament Procedures. The all-star procedures are:

- A. SoCal ASA is divided into eight districts for the purpose of qualifying teams for the State “B” Classification All-Star Championships.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Central District | Northern District |
| Eastern District | North San Diego District |
| LA / South Bay District | South San Diego District |
| North / East District | Western District |

- B. Each District Commissioner shall conduct a District Championship Tournament. Each ASA league within a district may enter a minimum of one team per Age Classification. The District Commissioner is authorized to permit additional entries based on registrations.
- C. District Championships should be hosted by a league in the district and will be sanctioned by SoCal ASA. SoCal ASA Staff shall administer all District Championships.
- D. District Championships shall be conducted on the date published.
- E. Player proof of age and photo identification is required.
- F. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishing teams in the Age Classifications 10U through 14U from each District Championship shall advance to the SoCal ASA State “B” Classification All-Star Championships.
- G. The 1st and 2nd place finishing teams in the 8U Age Classification from each District Championship shall participate in the “Celebration of Champions” at the SoCal ASA State “B” Classification All-Star Championships.
- H. The “B” Classification State All-Star top finishers in the 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U Age Classifications shall advance to the Western “B” National Championships. The number of teams advancing shall be dependent on the number of berths allotted to SoCal ASA.

NOTE: A team that qualifies but fails to advance is subject to suspension the following year. “Qualified” is defined as a team that has earned a berth to the next level of Championship Play.

- I. All SoCal ASA registered “B” 16U and 18U teams are eligible for the SoCal ASA “B” Classification All-Star Championships.

“C” Classification Program (Recreation League)

Southern California ASA Eligibility Player Rules

- I. **Purpose.** To provide a recreational Junior Olympic “C” Program and Championship Tournaments for leagues registered with SoCal ASA.
 - A. Recreation League Teams. These teams, 6U – 18U, shall represent a recreation league. A recreation league is defined as follows:
 1. An organized league that is associated with a recognized neighborhood or community.
 2. Participation is open to any interested youth.
 3. Tryouts or demonstration of skills is not required for participation.
 4. Some type of draft, draw or other acceptable method is used to ensure equitable distribution of talent amongst all the league teams.
 5. Teams must be approved by the league Board of Directors.
 - B. “C” Classification of Leagues. A league shall submit a “C” Eligibility Request Form to their District Commissioner before **April 1** of the current year to be considered for designation as a “C” Classification League. The following criteria, at a minimum, shall be considered when evaluating the request for “C” Classification: skill level of players and the league history at Championship Play. The District Commissioner shall notify the League President of their decision as soon as practical. Based on their performance, a “C” Classified League may be reclassified at any time by the District Commissioner. The reclassification by a District Commissioner may be appealed to the State Junior Olympic Commissioner – Recreation in writing within 10 days of the notification.
 - C. A league that divides Age Classifications into split classifications based on skill or player “impact” is not eligible for “C” Classification.
 - D. 16U and 18U Teams. See “B” Classification 16U and 18U Teams.
 - E. A league that qualifies three or more teams for the SoCal ASA Junior Olympic “C” State Championships or the “Celebration of Champions” in two consecutive years, excluding the 14U Age Classification, is not eligible for “C” Classification for the following season.
 - F. A league that has been reclassified “B” must send at least two teams in the 8U, 10U and 12U Classifications to the “B” District Championship before they can apply for reclassification to the “C” Classification.

II. Eligibility Policies and Procedures.

A. Recreation League All-Star Eligibility.

1. Each 6U through 14U player participating in recreation league play shall be individually registered with ASA before **April 1** of the current year.
2. Each team staff member, i.e., manager / coach / team parent, and all Board Members shall be individually registered and have proof of a background check through the SoCal ASA mandatory registration system.
3. Each all-star manager and a least one other adult member of the team staff shall be ACE Certified.
4. A recreation team shall not participate with any other team or league that is not ASA registered.

B. League Team Eligibility.

1. Team roster may include up to 20 players.
2. A team may be a single league team or an all-star team selected and certified by the league.
 - a. If a league selects an all-star team, that team shall not be nominated, selected, tryout, practice and / or play together before **May 1** of the current year.
 - b. If the league selects a single team, or the majority of players are from a single team, the team must meet the requirements of paragraph II.A above.

NOTE: A team selected in pre-season or mid-season for tournament play is not eligible.

3. A team shall not have any player who participated on a **travel type team** after **March 31**.
4. A team shall not have more than four players who participated with a **travel type team** at any time after **February 1** of the current year.
5. A team that participates in an ASA "A" or ASA 18U Gold **qualifying** event is not eligible for participation in "C" Recreation Championship Play.

C. Player Eligibility.

1. A player must participate in a minimum of 50 percent of the current season's league games.

Exception: High school players who are age eligible to return to the 14U Age Classification may return to the league in which they participated during the previous calendar year provided the league has three or less 14U teams. A 14U all-star team shall not have more than four players who participated in a high school softball program. Any player returning to the 14U Classification must have registered with the league before **May 15** of the current year. All returning high school players must be approved by the league Board of Directors.

2. A player who played in a league higher Age Classification during the current season is eligible to play in their proper Age Classification.
3. A player who played on a school team or other recreation league team after **March 31** of the current year is eligible to participate if all other eligibility requirements are met. A player that participates in two ASA recreation leagues at the same time shall declare by **April 15** in which league they wish to be eligible for all-star selection.
4. A player who participated on a team other than their own league teams after **March 31** of the current year is not eligible except as provided for in paragraph B above, i.e. a player shall not participate with any other all-star or travel type team, including ASA and non-ASA after **March 31**.
NOTE: "Participate" above is defined as a player taking part in a tryout, practice, practice game, scheduled game or tournament.
5. A player shall not participate on more than one team in ASA Championship Play during the same season, except as a pick-up player.
6. A player participating in Championship Play shall have SoCal ASA authorized photo identification.

D. League Pick-up Player: (see National ASA Code)

1. A "C" Classification all-star player shall meet all eligibility requirements in this section.
2. A player may be a pick-up player once per season only.
3. A "C" Classification all-star player whose team is eliminated from Championship Play is eligible to be a pick-up player as set forth in the National ASA Code.
4. A pick-up player shall have played on a SoCal ASA registered team during the current season.
5. A pick-up player, after District Championships and prior to the State "C" Classification All-Star Championships, shall be picked up from their own league only.

III. Championship Tournament Procedures. All-star procedures are as follows:

- A. SoCal ASA is divided into eight districts for the purpose of qualifying teams for the SoCal ASA "B" and "C" State All-Star Championship Play.

Central District
 Eastern District
 LA / South Bay District
 North / East District

Northern District
 North San Diego District
 South San Diego District
 Western District

- B. Each District Commissioner may conduct a “C” Classification District Championship. Each “C” league may enter a minimum of one team in each Age Classification. The District Commissioner is authorized to permit additional entries based on registrations.
- C. A District Championship should be hosted by a league from the district. The District Championship shall be ASA sanctioned and administered by members of the SoCal ASA Staff.
- D. District Championships shall be conducted on the date published.
- E. Proof of age and SoCal ASA authorized photo identification are required.
- F. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishing teams in Age Classifications 10U, 12U and 14U from each District Championship shall advance to the SoCal ASA State Junior Olympic “C” All-Star Championships. The 4th place team shall advance to the Pacific Coast Region “C” Championships.
- G. The 1st and 2nd place finishing teams in the 8U Age Classification from each District Championship shall advance to participate in the “Celebration of Champions” at the SoCal ASA State Junior Olympic “C” All-Star Championships.

NOTE: A team that qualifies but fails to advance is subject to suspension the following year. “Qualifies” is defined as a team that has earned a berth to the next level of Championship Play.

2010 “B” and “C” Classification (Recreation League) Championship Play

Southern California ASA

“B” Classification (Recreation League) All-Star Championship Play

| | |
|--------------|--|
| June 25 – 27 | “B” All-Star District Championships (10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U) |
| July 9 – 11 | “B” All-Star State Championships (10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U) “B” Celebration of Champions (8U) |
| August 2 – 8 | “B” Western Nationals (10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U) |

Southern California ASA

“C” Classification (Recreation League) All-Star Championship Play

| | |
|--------------|--|
| July 2 – 4 | “C” All-Star District Championships (10U, 12U and 14U) |
| July 16 – 18 | “C” All-Star State Championships (10U, 12U and 14U) “C” Celebration of Champions (8U) |
| July 9 – 11 | “C” Pacific Coast Region Championships (California State Games) 10U, 12U and 14U |

The above “B” and “C” Classification Championships are open to eligible teams from:

Central District
Eastern District
LA / South Bay District
North / East District
Northern District
North San Diego District
South San Diego District
Western District

2010 "B" Classification Western National Championships

| | | |
|-----|--------------|----------------|
| 10U | August 2 – 8 | Tucson, AZ |
| 12U | August 2 – 8 | Las Cruces, NM |
| 14U | August 2 – 8 | Roseville, CA |
| 16U | August 2 – 8 | Hillsboro, OR |
| 18U | August 5 – 8 | Yakima, WA |

The above National Championships are open to eligible teams from:

Rocky Mountain Region (13)

Arizona
Colorado
New Mexico
Utah
Wyoming

Pacific Coast Region (14)

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

Northwest Region (15)

Alaska
Idaho
Montana
Oregon
Portland
Seattle-Tacoma
Spokane
Washington

Calendar for “B” and “C” Classification (Recreation Leagues)

- March 31 **Registration Deadline.** Each 10U, 12U and 14U player participating in league play shall be individually registered with SoCal ASA **before April 1** of the current year to be eligible for Championship Play.
- March 31 **Player Eligibility Declared.** A team may not have any player that has participated on a selected type team on **April 1** of the current year. For more detailed information see League / Player Eligibility above.
- March 31 **“C” Classification League Designation.** A league requesting “C” League Designation shall submit a “C” Eligibility Request Form to their District Commissioner **before April 1** of the current year. The form is available at the SoCal ASA Web site.
- May 1 **All-Star Selection.** All-Star selection may begin.
- May 31 **Championship Tournament Entry Deadline.** Championship Play entry form and entry fee must be received by the District Commissioner **before June 1** of the current year to be eligible for participation in SoCal ASA District Championships.
- May 31 **“B” 16/18U Team Registration Deadline.** Team shall be ASA “B” registered **before June 1** of current year to participate in Championship Play. The registration form is available at the SoCal ASA Web site.
- June 25-27 **“B” Classification (Recreation) District Championships.** Championship roster is due prior to the team’s first game in Championship Play. Roster and proof of age for players listed may be turned in at the District Draw or at the championship site. Roster shall be fully completed with signatures of team manager and players and parents / guardians as required.
- July 2 - 4 **“C” Classification (Recreation) District Championships.** Championship roster is due prior to the team’s first game in Championship Play. Roster and proof of age for players listed may be turned in at the District Draw or at the championship site. Roster shall be fully completed with signatures of team manager and players and parents / guardians as required.

“B” Classification (Recreation) Team Advances to “B” State All-Star Championships

June 27 **Advancing to “B” Classification State All-Star Championships.**
A team that qualifies for the “B” State All-Star Championships must notify the District Commissioner of their intent to advance or not to advance in Championship Play prior to the conclusion of the District Championship. If advancing, the team must provide payment of the “B” State All-Star Championships entry fee before leaving the District Championships site.

July 9-11 **“B” Classification State All-Star Championships.** Teams shall check-in not later than one hour prior to the team’s scheduled first game. Proof of age, authorized photo identification and player pick-up forms, when applicable, shall be turned in at check-in.

“C” Classification (Recreation) Team Advances to “C” State All-Star Championships

July 24 **Advancing to “C” Classification State All-Star Championships.**
A team that qualifies for the “C” State All-Star Championships must notify the District Commissioner of their intent to advance or not to advance in Championship Play prior to the conclusion of the District Championship. If advancing, the team must provide payment of the “C” State All-Star Championships entry fee before leaving the District Championships site.

July 16-18 **“C” Classification State All-Star Championships.** Teams shall check-in not later than one hour prior to the team’s scheduled first game. Proof of age, authorized photo identification and player pick-up forms, when applicable, shall be turned in at check-in.

July 16-18 **“C” Classification Pacific Coast Region Championships - California State Games.** Teams that finish in 4th and 5th place in each Age Classification of the District Championships qualify for the Pacific Coast Region Championships – California State Games. A team that qualifies must declare the intent to advance or not advance to the District Commissioner not later than the conclusion of the District Championships. If a team elects to advance, payment of the Championship Entry Fee shall be provided to the District Commissioner prior to leaving the District Championship site.

Recreation League Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: With respect to eligibility, there are SoCal ASA rules, Pacific Coast Region rules and the National ASA Code. Which has priority?**
- A: Eligibility rules begin with the National ASA Code. However, the National ASA Code is sometimes very general and for that reason the Pacific Coast Region, which includes the states of California, Hawaii and Nevada, expands some rules to clarify how they apply to the region. SoCal ASA in turn further expands on those rules to suit our situations. The SoCal ASA expanded rules may not conflict with region rules which may not conflict with the National ASA Code.
- Q: May a player participate on a travel team and then participate on an all-star team?**
- A: A player may participate with a travel team and still be eligible for Recreation All-Star Team selection if that player stops participating with the travel team before April 1 of the current year. Before April 1 the player must decide whether to continue playing with the travel team or participate in a recreation league and become eligible for all-star selection.
- Q: How does SoCal ASA define “participate” or “participation”?**
- A: A player taking part in a tryout, practice, practice game, game or tournament.
- Q: Does a player who signs with an ASA travel team, Player Agreement Form, required to get a release from the travel team manager?**
- A: No, it is the player’s decision even when an agreement has been signed with the travel team.
- Q: What happens to a player who drops from a travel team prior to April 1 and is then not selected for an all-star team?**
- A: The player may re-sign, join or sign with a travel team, as per ASA travel team rules.
- Q: May a player participating in two leagues be selected to an all-star team?**
- A: Yes, but only in one league. The player must, by April 15 of the current year, declare in which league they wish to be considered for all-star selection.
- Q: May an 11 years old player who participated with a 14U team during league play be selected for a 12U all-star team?**
- A: Yes, providing the player has not entered ASA Championship Play in the 14U Age Classification and meets all other eligibility requirements.
- Q: May an 11 years old player who participated on a 14U travel team be selected for 12U all-star team?**
- A: Yes, providing the player has not participated on the travel team after March 31 and they meet all other eligibility requirements.
- Q: May a league team enter championship play without approval of the league?**
- A: No.
- Q: Do these eligibility rules apply to all all-star teams or at invitational tournaments?**
- A: No, these rules apply only to an all-star team entering ASA Championship Play and other tournaments sanctioned by ASA. Invitational tournaments oftentimes use SoCal ASA eligibility rules so check with the Tournament Directors.

Q: What is Championship Play?

A: Competition from which the winner and oftentimes other selected teams advance to higher level of Championship Play. Levels of Championship Play are contained in the National ASA Code.

Q: What are “A”, “B” and “C” Classifications of play?

A: Independent travel teams and independent travel team organizations are “A” Classification and may participate in “A” Championship Play only. Independent recreation leagues are designated as “B” or “C” Classification and may participate in “B” and “C” Championship Play only.

Q: Why is a player not permitted to play in both “A” and “B / C” Classifications?

A: This is not permitted by National ASA Code because the “A” Classification is for players that have as their primary goal the development of competitive softball skills, with much emphasis on competition, while the “B” and “C” Classifications are for players registered with a league for recreation purposes. The “B” and “C” player’s primary goal is to have fun. The ASA offers programs for everyone and it is up to the individual, or their parents, to choose the program best suited for them.

Q: What is the “C” League automatic re-classification?

A: “Leagues that qualify three or more teams to the State All-Star Championships or the “Celebration of Champions” in any two-year period, excluding the 14U Classification, shall no longer be eligible for “C” Classification the following year.” This statement can better be explained with the following examples: 1) in 2007 a “C” League qualifies one team for the “C” State All-Star Championships / Celebration of Champions. In 2008 the same league qualifies two teams for the “C” State All-Star Championships / Celebration of Champions. In the two-year period, 2007-2008, the league qualified three teams for the “C” State All-Star Championships / Celebration of Champions and is, therefore, not eligible for “C” Classification in 2010. 2) In 2007 a “C” League does not qualify any teams for the “C” State All-Star Championship / Celebration of Champions. In 2008 the same league qualifies three teams to the “C” State All-Star Championship / Celebration of Champions. In the two-year period, 2007-2008, the league qualified three teams for the “C” Championships / Celebration of Champions and is therefore not eligible for “C” Classification in 2010.

Q: May a league that has been reclassified “B” reapply for “C” Classification?

A: A league re-classified “B” may submit a “C” Eligibility Request Form only if they have not qualified three teams for the State All-Star Championships / Celebration of Champions in the past two-year period. See Question / Answer above for further clarification.

Q: Can the SoCal ASA eligibility rules be changed?

A: Yes they can, and are year to year. However, be mindful that the SoCal ASA rules may not conflict with either the Pacific Coast Region rules or the National ASA Code. Everyone is encouraged to submit proposed changes in writing to their respective District Commissioner.

Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

Tournament Sanctioning Policy

Purpose. The following policy has been developed and adopted by SoCal ASA to establish sanctioning procedures for softball tournaments. Sanctioning a tournament protects the ASA leagues and teams under the SoCal ASA Rules and Regulations. All recreation league invitational tournaments are required to be sanctioned by SoCal ASA.

Benefits. The sanctioning of a tournament by SoCal ASA affords the following benefits:

- Access to ASA Insurance Programs offered by Bollinger Insurance.
- Access to ASA registered umpires.
- Ability to use the name in promoting the tournament or event.
- SoCal ASA's assistance in enforcing standards of conduct by players, coaches, managers and umpires.
- SoCal ASA's assistance in recovering bad debts of participating teams.

Objectives. This sanctioning policy has been established to fulfill the following:

- Provide a method of processing requests for those parties interested in hosting ASA sanctioned tournaments.
- Enhance the SoCal ASA recreation tournament program.
- Develop a method for monitoring tournaments sanctioned by SoCal ASA.
- Ensure that the requirements for sanctioning a tournament are fulfilled by the host.
- Develop additional tournament opportunities for ASA registered teams.

Authorization. The SoCal ASA State Commissioner or an authorized representative shall have the authority to issue sanctions for any adult or youth tournament that is deemed to meet the objectives of the Association. The Commissioner and their authorized representatives have the responsibility to ensure that the requirements for sanctioning a tournament or other event are met by the event host and that the event host fulfills all responsibilities associated with the event.

Process. An event host that wishes to sanction a tournament with SoCal ASA shall submit a Sanction Request Form to the Commissioner or their authorized representative along with the required fee. The request shall then be reviewed and if the event is deemed to meet the objectives of SoCal ASA a sanction shall be awarded to the tournament.

Requirements. An individual hosting an ASA sanctioned tournament shall declare prior to, and fulfill thereafter, the following responsibilities:

Obtain and maintain at least a \$1,000,000 General Liability Insurance for the event. Said policy or policies shall include SoCal ASA as additionally insured. All paid umpires used for the event shall be currently registered and in good standing with ASA. All teams participating in the event shall be currently registered and in good standing with the ASA.

Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

Tournament Sanction Request

Date of Event: _____ Location: _____

Tournament Director / Host: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Business Phone: (_____) _____

Team Classification / Age Classification / Gender: _____

Anticipated Number of Teams: _____ Number of Fields: _____

Tournament Format (i.e., pool play, double elimination): _____

Field Owner: _____

Sanction Agreement

By signing below, I declare that I am an official of the above named tournament host or that I am an individual tournament director requesting a sanction for the tournament identified above. Further, I declare that I have read this agreement and sanctioning requirements and agree to fulfill the requirements as stated herein. I (we) agree to the following conditions in return for SoCal ASA granting a sanction for this event:

1. To obtain and maintain at least \$1,000,000 in General Liability Insurance for the event. Said policy or policies shall include SoCal ASA as additionally insured. Such insurance is available through Bollinger Insurance Company and is made available to you as a part of this sanctioning agreement.
2. That all paid umpires used for this event are currently registered and in good standing with ASA.
3. To ensure that all teams participating in this event are currently registered and in good standing with ASA.
4. To pay a \$15.00 sanctioning fee plus the cost of the SoCal ASA Tournament Blue Book and Region Tournament Guide with the submittal of this request. The fee is to be included with the cost of an ad in the SoCal ASA Tournament Blue Book and will include an ad in the Pacific Coast Region (14) Tournament Guide.
5. All tournament flyers and distributed documents to teams entered in the event shall mention that this is an ASA sanctioned tournament.
6. The Tournament Director shall notify participating teams if the SoCal ASA Championship Play (Yellow Book) Eligibility Rules do NOT apply at this tournament.

I have read and understand this Sanction Agreement.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Submit this form to: Southern California ASA, PO Box 5028, Oceanside CA 92052

“A” Classification Program (Travel)

SoCal ASA Player Eligibility Rules

1. Each player shall be individually registered.
2. The age qualifications contained in the National ASA Code apply and shall be followed.
3. A player shall be listed on one team roster and participate with that team only during Championship Play in the current season. **EXCEPTION:** Pick-up Player (see National ASA Code).
4. Proper player identification shall be produced when requested by a SoCal ASA staff member or other tournament official. The identification shall include a current photo and appropriate signatures. If proper identification is not produced, the player is ineligible.

Manager / Coach / Player Agreements. All sports organizations must have rules and regulations to ensure fair and equitable competition. The ASA Championship Softball Program publishes regulations, known as the National ASA Code, which shall be followed by all ASA members. In addition to the National ASA Code, SoCal ASA establishes and publishes local rules and regulations which supplement the National ASA Code. The SoCal ASA rules and regulations, published here, serve to protect members in circumstances particular to Southern California and define further the National ASA Code.

SoCal ASA is one of the best softball programs in the nation, and therefore the world, due primarily to the dedication of our coaches, the talent and determination of our players, and the rules and regulations established by SoCal ASA. Everyone’s continued cooperation at adhering to these rules and regulations will ensure our success for the future. To preserve our high standards, any infraction of the following agreements shall be reported to the appropriate Age Classification Commissioner, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner – Travel, or the SoCal ASA Commissioner.

Manager / Coach Agreement. Managers and coaches shall adhere to the SoCal ASA Rules and Regulations and the National ASA Code, as well as abide by the below listed guidelines. Additionally, managers and coaches must understand that they are responsible for all actions of their team, including financial obligations. Each manager and coach shall agree to abide by the National ASA Code, the Official Rules of Softball and these rules and regulations including, but not limited to, the following:

1. A manager, coach or team parent (team staff) that enters the field of play or dugout shall be individually registered and background checked through the SoCal ASA mandatory registration system. They must have a SoCal ASA authorized identification card visible on their person at all times.
2. The manager and at least one additional adult team staff member of a team participating in championship play shall be ACE Certified and have proof of doing so on their person.
3. Shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times and act in accordance with the objectives and purposes of ASA.

4. Shall individually register each player on their team. Player individual registration includes Accident / Liability Insurance.
5. Shall provide to each player and parent a pre-season team budget and an itemized, accurate end of season financial statement within 30 days after completion of ASA Championship Play. When a complaint is filed with respect to a financial dispute between an ASA registered player / parent and an ASA registered team, SoCal ASA shall review the pre-season budget, the post-season financial statement and any other relevant documents to determine whether either party has failed to comply with their responsibility regarding the approved financial plan. Should either party be determined to be noncompliant with the approved financial plan that party is subject to possible suspension until the situation is resolved. ASA guidelines for team financial planning are:
 - a. Each team shall have a proposed financial budget for the current season. It is recommended that each player / parent and the team manager sign the proposed budget and each keep a copy.
 - b. Should the team need to adjust their financial plan during the season, the amended budget should be provided to and signed by all parties. It is recommended that any expense exceeding the budgetary estimate by 10 percent or \$100.00, whichever is greater, should require an amended budget.
 - c. Within 30 days of the completion of Championship Play the team shall provide each player / parent and end of season financial statement detailing the funds collected and how they were expended. The expense report should follow the pre-season budget format and report all expenses against the planned budget.

All financial claims by any party must be addressed by the parties or taken to the appropriate legal process, for example: small claims court, arbitration or other dispute resolution.

6. Shall not, nor permit any other team member to, recruit or entice a player / parent who has signed an ASA Player Agreement Form to change teams, including any player who as of March 31 of the current year is eligible to participate in the SoCal ASA Junior Olympic "B" Classification Program (Recreation League) Championship Play. This remains in effect until July 1 of the current year or when a team is no longer eligible for ASA Championship Play, whichever occurs last.
7. Shall not compete with or against a suspended player, manager / coach or team after having been notified of such a suspension.
8. Shall not use or permit team personnel to use any ASA logo or trademark item without express permission from SoCal ASA.
9. Shall have control of all team personnel and fans while participating in any ASA event.
10. Shall request and receive permission from another team's manager prior to asking a player from that other team to be a pick-up player on a team for an invitational tournament.
11. Shall notify the manager of a team that is no longer eligible for Championship Play prior to asking a player from that team to be a pick-up player, as required by the National ASA Code.

12. Must understand that all players of a team are released as soon as that team decides not to enter ASA Championship Play.
13. Shall inform all players on the team that they are automatically released from the team when:
 - a. The decision is made not to enter Championship Play.
 - b. The decision is made not to enter any remaining Championship Play tournaments, for example: Regional National Qualifier, ASA Western National or USA / ASA National Championship Finals.
 - c. The team is eliminated from further participation in ASA Championship Play.
 - d. A player withdraws from a team.

NOTE: A team manager or coach shall notify the appropriate Age Classification Commissioner or the Junior Olympic State Commissioner – Travel when any of the above occurs.
14. Shall not attempt to recruit or entice a player of another team that is still competing in Championship Play to become a pick-up player for their team during Championship Play, for the fall season or for the following year's team. This applies to all levels of play including teams competing in ASA "B" and / or "C" Classification (Recreation League) All-Star Championship Play.
15. Shall advance to the next level of play in ASA Championship Play when the team qualifies. A team that qualifies is defined as that team which has earned a berth to the next level of Championship Play and accepts the berth.
16. Shall not permit team personnel or fans to abuse team players, opposing teams, spectators, umpires and / or ASA Staff.
17. Managers who have a player simultaneously participating in an ASA "B" Classification Program (Recreation League) shall inform the player and the player's parents that participation with an "A" Classification Team (Travel) after **March 31** of the current year renders that player ineligible for selection to the League's All-Star Championship Team.

NOTE: In accordance with Section III.B.5 above, participation with an "A" Classification Team (Travel) after February 1 of the current year may affect eligibility of a "B" Classification (Recreation League) player.
18. Shall not permit their team to compete in non-championship tournaments which award cash prizes to individual players.
19. A team shall not forfeit a scheduled game in Championship Tournament Play.

Non-Compliance Penalty: Any violation of the above could result in suspension or disqualification.

Manager / Coach Commitment to the Player

1. Will place the welfare of players above all else and will maintain a professional relationship with each of them at all times.
2. Will encourage players to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
3. Will treat players with dignity and respect at all times.
4. Understand that they are role models for players and should therefore always strive to set a good example.
5. Will be truthful regarding playing situations when recruiting players for their team.

Manager / Coach Commitment to ASA, Umpires and Other Coaches

1. By their actions on and off the field, shall always be a credit to their team and ASA.
2. Shall always treat other coaches, umpires and ASA Staff members in a professional and respectful manner, both on and off the field.

Player Agreement

Players must understand that participation in Championship Play is permitted with one team only during the current year. If a player leaves that team they become ineligible to compete with another ASA team or become a pick-up player.

A player that leaves a team for just cause without a release may appeal their non-release to the State Junior Olympic Commissioner – travel. Per National ASA Code, such an appeal shall not be considered once the player's team enters Championship Play.

All players are automatically released from their team when the team is no longer participating in Championship Play after July 15 or the player is no longer Age Qualified. Each player must agree to abide by the National ASA Code and rules, available from the team manager or through membership in the SoCal ASA Players' Association, including but no limited to the following:

1. A player shall not be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct or any other act that is contrary to the objectives and purposes of ASA.
2. A player shall not recruit or entice any player who is listed on a roster of another ASA team to leave that team to play on another ASA team.
3. A player shall respect and accept a manager's decision and / or changes concerning positions and playing time in any game or tournament.
4. A player shall return all team uniforms and equipment in good condition, except for normal wear, to the manager within 15 days of being released from a team. Failure to return such items will result in the player becoming ineligible for participation in ASA until all items are returned or the manager is reimbursed.

5. A player must understand that they have until July 1 or the start of Championship Play, whichever occurs first, to be released from a travel team to be eligible to compete in Championship Play with another ASA team during the current year.
6. A player must understand that unless agreed to in writing, time and money given to a team is of their own free will and becomes the property of the team. The manager shall provide each player and parent / guardian a pre-season budget and a final itemized and accurate financial statement at the end of Championship Play.

Team Management Guidelines

Player Added or Released from Team. A player may be added to or released from a team roster until **July 1** of the current year or when the team enters Championship Play, whichever occurs first.

Prior to entering Championship Play:

1. To add a player prior to the roster change deadline or before entering Championship play, the team adds the player to their roster on Register ASA.
2. To release a player, the team manager must contact their Age Classification Commissioner prior to the roster change deadline or before entering Championship Play, whichever occurs first.

After entering Championship Play: To add a player, the pick-up player rules apply.

Championship Roster. The Championship Roster must be submitted to the Age Classification Commissioner. The team roster is frozen as soon as the team participates in Championship Play.

Returning Team. A team must meet the returning team requirements listed in the National ASA Code to be classified as a returning team. An eligible returning team must provide the Official Tournament Entry Request Form and a completed roster to their Age Classification Commissioner for verification and signature before **July 1** of the current year. **NOTE:** Completed roster is defined as an invoice has been created, approved and payment has been received by SoCal ASA.

Pick-up Player. A pick-up player is a player who has not participated with that team during the current season. A pick-up player may be selected only from a team that is no longer eligible for Championship Play. A maximum of three players may be added, as follows:

1. A pick-up player shall sign an official Pick-up Player Form that must also be signed by the team manager and the Commissioner or their authorized representative. When the player is 17 years old or younger their parent or guardian must also sign the form.
2. A pick-up player must have played on a SoCal ASA registered team during the current season. **EXCEPTION:** An 18U Gold pick-up player may be picked up from any ASA registered team within the Pacific Coast Region that is no longer eligible for Championship Play.
3. A pick-up player may be from the same or lower classification at any level of Championship Play as long as the player's original team is no longer eligible for Championship Play.

4. An ASA Junior Olympic player no longer eligible for ASA Junior Olympic Championship Play is eligible to be a pick-up player for an Adult Major or "A" team. An adult or Junior Olympic player whose team has qualified for a National Championship Final is NOT eligible to be a pick-up player.
5. A pick-up player who participated in Championship Play with a team that is no longer eligible for Championship Play may NOT be a pick-up player for another ASA team that is still eligible for Championship Play.
6. A pick-up player may not be replaced on a roster after participating with a team.
7. A player that leaves a team still in Championship Play is not eligible to be a pick-up player for any other ASA team during the current season.
8. Team personnel shall not recruit or entice any player and / or parent to change teams until after July 15 or when the a team is no longer eligible for Championship Play, whichever occurs last.

NOTE: A pick-up player is not allowed to participate in a National Qualifier.

18U Gold Classification

18U Gold Classification Procedures. A minimum number of 50 18U Gold teams shall be classified as such each year. The criteria for becoming a SoCal ASA 18U Gold classified team is as follows:

1. 18U Gold teams that qualify for the 18U Gold National Championship the previous year receive an automatic classification as 18U Gold.
2. Teams that receive automatic Gold classification must submit a Team Roster prior to the first game of the first scheduled classification tournament. To maintain the Gold classification, the team must return eight players from the submitted roster. Players listed in these rosters may not participate in the classification tournaments.
3. Remaining teams must classify in one of two classification tournaments to be held each year. The number of teams required to classify each year shall be determined by the number of teams that qualify for the 18U Gold National Championship the previous year.
4. Teams shall be entered into the classification tournaments using the following precedence order.
 - a. Teams that participated in the Pacific Coast Region 18U Gold qualifier the previous year.
 - b. Class "A" 18U teams that finished in the top 10 at the SoCal ASA State Championship the previous year. A maximum of 13 teams.
 - c. Class "A" 18U teams that earned a return berth to the current year USA / ASA National Championship. A maximum of two teams.
 - d. Class "A" 18U teams that qualified for the Hall of Fame Tournament at the Pacific Coast Region Hall of Fame Qualifier. A maximum of two teams.

- e. All SoCal ASA teams that registered as an 18U Gold or 18U “A” team the previous year.
- f. Class “A” 16U teams that finished in the top 10 in the SoCal ASA State Championship the previous year. A maximum of 13 teams.
- g. Class “A” 16U teams that earned a return berth to the USA / ASA National Championship the previous year. A maximum of two teams.
- h. Class “A” 16U teams that qualified for the Hall of Fame Tournament at the Pacific Coast Region Hall of Fame Qualifier. A maximum of two teams.
- i. All SoCal ASA teams registered as 16U “A” or newly formed teams.

18U Gold Classification Tournament Rules

1. Double Elimination.
2. SoCal ASA championship rules in effect.
3. Time limit: 1 hour, 30 minutes.
4. Managers of Gold classified teams may not participate in the classification tournaments.
5. Once classified, teams will not continue tournament play.
6. Classification remains with the classified manager who must return a minimum of eight players from the classification tournament roster to maintain the classification.
7. Teams may enter both classification tournaments; however, if a team classifies in the first tournament that team and players cannot participate in the second tournament.
8. All players participating in the classification tournaments must be 2010 age-eligible.
9. All adult team staff that may have contact with the Junior Olympic players on the team on or off the field must be 2010 registered and background checked. Identification cards must be visible at all times while in contact with the team at tournaments.
10. Manager and coaches may participate with one team only.
11. Players may participate with one team only.
12. Refunds for the second classification tournament will be issued to teams that classify in the first tournament and teams that withdraw from either tournament prior to the entry deadline.
13. Tournament draw will be held on the Friday preceding the tournament start date.
14. A team that earns a Gold classification from one of the two classification tournaments and does not accept the classification does so at the risk of having sanctions imposed as provided for by the National ASA Code.
15. A team that forfeits a game in a classification tournament to avoid classification does so at the risk of having sanctions imposed as provided for by the National ASA Code.

Championship Tournament Guidelines

Administration. The SoCal ASA State Commissioner shall determine playing sites, dates, deadlines and entry fees. The Age Classification Commissioner shall conduct the Junior Olympic Championship Tournaments for their respective Age Classification, unless otherwise authorized by the SoCal ASA State Commissioner.

Entry Fee. A Championship Tournament Entry Fee may be paid by check or money order, but must be received by the published deadline. A \$25.00 Returned Check Fee shall be charged for each check returned by the bank for Non Sufficient Funds or for an account being closed. When this occurs, only a money order, cashier's check or cash are acceptable as payment for the amount of the returned check plus the \$25.00 returned check fee. These fees must be paid prior to a team re-entering Championship Play.

Entry Fee Refund. To receive a refund of a Championship Tournament Entry Fee, the Team Manager shall notify their Age Classification Commissioner immediately after qualifying for an ASA National Championship, or if the team disbands. If a team does not inform their Age Classification Commissioner prior to 24 hours before the bracket draw, the team forfeits their entry fee.

NOTE: A team that disbands is no longer eligible for Championship Play; therefore all players on that team are released. The Team Manager must complete and send a Tournament Refund Request Form to the address listed on the form prior to the established deadline to receive a refund.

Advancing in Championship Play. When a team participates in the "A" State Championship it is committed to participate in the Western National Championship. If the Tournament Entry Form and Fee are not received by the respective Age Classification Commissioner within 72 hours of the completion of the "A" State Championship, all players on that team are released and become eligible to be pick-up players. A team that qualifies for the Regional Championship Tournament must pay that Tournament's Entry Fee at the "A" State Championship.

Tournament Director. The SoCal ASA Tournament Director and other SoCal ASA Staff Members are responsible for enforcing all ASA and SoCal ASA Tournament Rules and Regulations. They may remove any manager, coach, player, team and / or spectator from the tournament for a violation of the National ASA Code and / or the SoCal ASA Rules and Regulations. A decision regarding the removal of a manager, coach, player, team or spectator from the tournament and possible suspension from ASA is the sole responsibility of the ASA Tournament Staff.

Tournament Umpires. Each umpire selected for Championship Play has attended a SoCal ASA Annual Rules Clinic, a SoCal ASA Mechanics Clinic and has passed the current ASA Umpire Rules Exam; and most have attended the weekend National Umpire School and / or the 5-day National Umpire Camp for Fast Pitch or Slow Pitch. The Tournament Umpire-in-Chief is responsible for game assignments, protests involving the playing rules and any other activity deemed necessary by the Tournament Director. Game umpires, the UIC and / or the Tournament Director may remove from the game, out of sight and sound, any manager, coach, player or spectator for abusive language, physically charging, bumping, shoving, striking or threatening to strike an umpire, manager, coach or player.

Southern California ASA Championship Tournament Rules

The current National ASA Code and Official Rules of Softball shall apply, augmented by the following clarifications and exceptions.

1. Championship tournaments shall be double-elimination.
2. A team that already has a berth to a National Championship may enter a championship tournament only after forfeiting their existing berth to the National Championship.
3. All teams must check in with the appropriate Tournament Director at least one hour prior to the team's first scheduled game time.
4. The team manager is responsible for checking with the Tournament Staff to verify any possible change in the game schedule or field location.
5. SoCal ASA Official Line-up Cards only shall be used.
6. Home team shall be determined by a coin toss at the umpires and coaches pre-game plate meeting.
7. Softballs will be provided by SoCal ASA and will be the only softballs used.
8. The team listed on the top bracket shall occupy the 3rd base dugout. **EXCEPTION:** A team playing back-to-back games at the same field may remain in the same dugout.
9. When an official scorekeeper is not assigned, the home team shall be designated the official scorer.
10. No batting or infield practice is permitted in fair territory of the game field.
11. In case of a disputed play or decision, the team manager only may consult with the game umpires. Other coaches and players shall remain away from the discussion.
12. The team manager shall have full control of their coaching staff and their players at all times, both on and off the field of play. The team manager is also responsible for the actions of all team followers at the tournament.
13. Artificial noisemakers, regardless of type, are NOT permitted at any ASA Junior Olympic event.
14. The use of tobacco products on the field or inside / outside the dugout by any team personnel is prohibited.
15. The use, possession or sale of alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited at all ASA Junior Olympic events.

Travel Team Deadlines

10U and 12U

May 15

ASA Registration Deadline. Teams must have commenced their registration process. All players, managers and coaches must complete their ASA individual registration process by the Friday prior to their respective State Championship or their first championship event, whichever occurs first.

State Championship Tournament Entry Deadline. Tournament Entry Form and entry fee must be received by the Tournament Director not later than 15 days prior the scheduled start date of the tournament.

June 1

Championship Roster Deadline. The Team Championship Roster must be completed and signed by the Age Classification Commissioner not later than this date or prior to the team's start of Championship Play, whichever occurs first.

14U, 16U and 18U

June 1

ASA Registration Deadline. All players, managers and coaches must be ASA individually registered by this date or the Friday prior to their respective first championship event.

State Championship Tournament Entry Deadline. Tournament Entry Form and entry fee must be received by the Tournament Director not later than 15 days prior the scheduled start date of the tournament.

June 1

Championship Roster Form Deadline. The Team Championship Roster must be received by the appropriate Age Classification Commissioner not later than this date or prior to the team's start of Championship Play, whichever occurs first.

July 1

Roster Changes Deadline (10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U). Teams that have not participated in Championship Play or that have participated in National Qualifiers but have not attained a berth may add and / or release players not later than this date. Changes must be submitted to and received by the appropriate Age Classification Commissioner.

18U Gold

June 1

Players, Managers and Coaches Registration Deadline. All players, managers and coaches must be ASA individually registered by this date or prior to the start of their team's Championship Play, whichever occurs first.

Championship Tournament Entry:

Due as required by the Regional Handbook.

Championship Roster:

Due as required by the National ASA Code.

Roster Changes:

Due as required by the National ASA Code.

2010 Junior Olympic State Championship Tournaments

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 10U Championship | May 29 – 31 | Hemet |
| 12U Championship | May 29 – 31 | Hemet |
| 14U Championship | June 11 - 13 | Lancaster |
| 16U Championship | June 25 - 27 | Beaumont |
| 18U Championship | June 18 – 20 | Riverside |

2010 Junior Olympic Pacific Coast Region Tournaments

Junior Olympic Teams must obtain a National Tournament Entry Form for participation in the below listed tournaments. Submit the National Tournament Entry Form to the appropriate Age Classification Commissioner.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 12U National Qualifier | July 2 – 4 | Redding |
| 14U National Qualifier | July 2 – 4 | Roseville |
| 16U National Qualifier | July 2 – 4 | Hayward |
| 18U National Qualifier | July 2 – 4 | Clovis |
| 18U Gold Regional | June 18-20 | Hemet |
| 18U Gold Territory (Region 14) | June 27-29 | Roseville |
| 18U Gold Territory (Region 15) | TBA | TBD |
| 10U Regional | July 9 – 11 | Burlingame/Foster City |
| 12U Regional | July 9 – 11 | Burlingame/Foster City |
| 14U Regional | July 9 – 11 | Stockton |
| 16U Regional | July 9 – 11 | Clovis |
| 18U Regional | July 9 – 11 | Riverside |

Hall of Fame Tournament Qualifiers

One team from each below listed Age Classification shall qualify to participate in the Hall of Fame Tournament to be held in Oklahoma City. The top eight teams at the Hall of Fame Tournament qualify for the USA / ASA National Championship in their Age Classification.

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 12U Hall of Fame Qualifier | May 22 – 23 | Las Vegas |
| 14U Hall of Fame Qualifier | May 22 – 23 | Las Vegas |
| 16U Hall of Fame Qualifier | June 12 – 13 | Hemet |
| 18U Hall of Fame Qualifier | June 12 – 13 | Hemet |

Hall of Fame Tournament – Oklahoma City

| | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|
| 12U | June 11 – 13 | Oklahoma City |
| 14U | June 18 – 20 | Oklahoma City |
| 16U | June 25 – 27 | Oklahoma City |
| 18U | July 2 – 4 | Oklahoma City |

USA / ASA Girls Class “A” and Gold Fast Pitch National Championships

Teams qualify for this National Championship Play through National Qualifiers, Regional Tournaments, Hall of Fame Tournament and SoCal ASA State Championships. 18U Gold teams qualify through Regional and Territory Tournaments. Teams that do not participate in Regional events are ineligible to be a fill-in team.

2010 USA / ASA Girls Class “A” and Gold Fast Pitch National Championships

| | | |
|----------|--------------|---------------------|
| 10U | August 1 – 8 | Chattanooga, TN |
| 12U | August 1 – 8 | Bloomington, IN |
| 14U | August 1 – 8 | Moline, IL |
| 16U | August 1 – 8 | College Station, TX |
| 18U | August 1 – 8 | Hemet, CA |
| 18U Gold | August 1 – 8 | Murrieta, GA |

2010 ASA Girls Class “A” and Gold Western Territory National Championships

Teams qualify to participate in the ASA Girls Class “A” and Gold Fast Pitch Western Territory National Championships through participation in the SoCal ASA State Championship.

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| 10U | August 5 – 8 | Medford, OR |
| 12U | August 5 – 8 | Spokane, WA |
| 14U | August 5 – 8 | Aurora, CO |
| 16U | August 5 – 8 | Clovis, CA |
| 18U | August 5 – 8 | Hayward, CA |
| 18U Gold | August 1 – 8 | Stockton, CA |

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a National Qualifier?

A: Each of the ASA 15 regions is authorized to hold one National Qualifier per Age Classification. Any team in the respective Age Classification may enter with the winning team advancing to the USA / ASA Nationals of the appropriate Age Classification.

Q: How does a team qualify for the ASA Western Territory National Championship?

A: A team must participate in the current year SoCal ASA State Championship in its Age Classification. If, while participating in the State Championships, the team does not qualify to participate in the Regional Tournament or for the USA / ASA Girls Class A Fast Pitch National Championship, the team is then qualified to participate in the ASA Girls Class A Fast Pitch Western National Championships.

Q: Does a team need a Travel Permit to enter a National Qualifier outside of SoCal?

A: No; however, the team must have an Official Tournament Entry Form signed by the SoCal ASA State Commissioner or an authorized designee. The form is available from the Age Classification Commissioner. A team may need a Travel Permit to participate in an Invitational Tournament outside of SoCal. This requirement depends on the Tournament Director.

Q: Can a manager, coach, player or parent from one team communicate with a player who is committed with another team?

A: Personal communication amongst friends is acceptable as long as recruitment and / or enticement to play on another team are not attempted.

Q: What should a player do when approached by a player from another team, their parents or friend about leaving their team and joining another team?

A: Explain that a player must be released by the team manager before speaking to that player about joining another team.

Q: What if the player states that the manager will not release them?

A: Explain that there are two ways a player can be released, 1) by the team manager, or 2) by filing an appeal with the SoCal ASA State Junior Olympic Commissioner - Travel.

Q: What if the player continues to discuss the situation in which they find themselves?

A: Please see answer directly above.

Q: Is there a list of ASA travel teams in a particular Age Classification?

A: Yes, each ASA team manager has a team listing in their membership packet or the Age Classification Commissioner can be contacted for the most current listing.

Q: Is a manager and a coach one and the same in ASA?

A: No, the team manager is responsible for the team's affairs. This position has the final say in team decisions. Umpires should address questions and problems from only the manager.

Q: What is a Junior Olympic "B" or "C" All-Star Championship Tournament?

A: The Junior Olympic "B" and "C" Classifications are recreation level competition, less competitive than the "A" level. The "B" and "C" leagues select all-star teams to compete in "B" and "C" Championship Play. The recreation program comprises about 85 percent of the SoCal ASA Junior Olympic registrations and is therefore the reason for SoCal ASA's large number of berths to National Championships at all levels.

Q: What is the Players Association?

A: The Players Association is SoCal ASA's agency used to inform players and their parents, as well as to receive valuable feedback from players and parents on ways to improve ASA. It also provides several college scholarships to SoCal ASA Junior Olympic players each year.