

Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

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

SoCal ASA is a non-government, non-political and not-for-profit corporation staffed by experienced and knowledgeable volunteers who are dedicated to the advancement of the game of softball at all levels of play. SoCal ASA accepts all persons that qualify as an amateur, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, color of skin, creed or national origin. Through the dedicated efforts of the Commissioner and the Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner Staff, SoCal ASA has one of the best, certainly the largest, Junior Olympic Program in the United States.

The SoCal ASA Junior Olympic Program exists to help develop the softball interest, skills and desires of the younger generation of softball players. The program offers several classifications of fast pitch play, 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 a positive softball experience. This goal can best be accomplished through the continuing education of volunteer coaches and other volunteers 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. The ACE Certification is available at the SoCal ASA coaching clinics as well as online through the ASA/USA Softball National Office.

The youth who participate in our program receive the best overall softball experience possible as our program offers 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.

SoCal ASA appreciates your support and participation in our Junior Olympic Program. We look forward to another great year of ASA/USA Softball in 2016!

Best Regards,



Phil Gutierrez
Commissioner

This copy of the ASA of Southern California 2016 Junior Olympic Rules and Regulations (Yellow Book) is effective January 1, 2016. SoCal ASA will, from time to time, make necessary changes as required to this publication; therefore, you are highly encouraged to regularly review the official copy of the Yellow Book which can be found online at the SoCal ASA website: www.socalasa.org. In the event a conflict in language between this printed version of the Yellow Book and the version online at our website, the official copy of the Yellow Book found at the SoCal ASA website 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 website 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 a standardized, quality program that is consistent with the Amateur Softball Association of America/USA Softball (ASA/USA Softball).

Program

The specific purposes of the SoCal ASA Junior Olympic Program are:

Promote the game of amateur softball for all persons throughout Southern California regardless of race, color of skin, creed, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or ancestry.

Provide proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship.

Establish and publish standardized rules, regulations and guidelines that all may follow.

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

Schedule, promote and conduct well-organized annual softball championships and other tournaments.

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

Provide grants and other forms of assistance to promote the growth of softball.

Provide scholarships which present more young persons the opportunity for advanced education.

Provide assistance to international softball teams when requested by the ASA/USA National Office.

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Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

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

Governing Body of Softball. ASA/USA Softball 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 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). AS the NGB, ASA/USA Softball represents the United States of America in the sport of softball.

Standardized Eligibility and Playing Rules. All ASA/USA Softball 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 further defined by this document.

Tournament Certified Umpires. SoCal ASA Certified Umpires, used in all Championship Play, attend annual rules seminars and mechanics clinics, must pass the ASA rules exam and also meet other region and national requirements to 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 to keep them from playing in lower classifications. Teams and players may request reclassification to become eligible to compete in a lower classification.

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

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

18 & 16 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 one of our USA National Teams. Qualifying teams at this level advance to the 18 and 16 Under Gold ASA/USA National Championships.

"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 ASA/USA "A" National Championship or to the Western Territory ASA "A" National Championships in their respective Age Classification.

"B" Classification/League All-Stars/Select. This level of play is for recreation league only. Either league teams, league All-Star Teams or Select 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 advance to the Western Territory "B" ASA National Championships in their respective 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 purpose of the "C" Classification is to establish meaningful competition for teams and leagues that cannot compete in the "B" Classification because of the size of their league and/or their level of play. Either league teams or league All-Stars 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 to the Pacific Coast Region (14) "C" Championships. This classification does not advance beyond the State or Region.

Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

Standards of Conduct are part of the National ASA Code and the SoCal ASA Rules and Regulations. All ASA/USA Softball 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/USA Softball 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 the ASA/USA Softball.
6. All managers/coaches/team parents entering the field of play or dugout must be individually registered with ASA/USA Softball and background checked through the SoCal ASA mandatory registration system. Identification cards must be displayed at all times.
7. Playing under an assumed name or falsifying an official ASA/USA Softball document.
8. Writing checks with "Non Sufficient Funds" or an "Account Closed" to an ASA/USA official, ASA/USA team, individual or business.
9. Commission of fraud perpetrated against an ASA/USA official, team or individual.
10. Commission of larceny perpetrated against an ASA/USA Official, team or individual.
11. Use of any ASA/USA logos or trademarks without express permission.
12. Commission of any act that is contrary to the objectives and purposes of ASA/USA.
13. Forfeit a scheduled game in Championship Play.
14. Competing with or against individuals or teams who are suspended from ASA/USA 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. No player, coach or manager shall consume 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.

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/or 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 there is basis 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 website (www.socalasa.org). The form may also be obtained by contacting any member of the SoCal ASA Junior Olympic Commissioner Staff. At a minimum, the complaint must contain 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 cashiers 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 by the State Commissioner only.
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 each 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 there is sufficient basis for a hearing, 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 to 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 required and granted, a new hearing date will be scheduled and all parties shall be 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/USA Softball 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.
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/USA Softball manager, coach, player or umpire to anyone affiliated with ASA/USA Softball.
 - B. Practicing, managing, coaching, umpiring or participating at any time with anyone affiliated with ASA/USA Softball.
 - C. Recruiting for an ASA/USA Softball team.
 - D. Competing with or against any ASA/USA Softball 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 is suspension, the individual has the right to appeal as outlined in the National ASA Code.

Non-compliance Penalty. A minimum of 12 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 infraction.
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/USA Softball policy may be suspended from participation in ASA/USA Softball for one year.
 - D. Teams participating in Championship Play shall abide by all rules and regulations of the National ASA Code and SoCal ASA.
 - E. The manager must sign the "Official Championship Roster" confirming the eligibility of their players before entering any Championship Play.

"B" Classification Program (Recreation Leagues)

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 Classification 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 Classification, 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 may be formed in an area where recreation league play is or is not being offered in their respective Age Classification. **NOTE:** High School district boundaries shall not be used to determine eligibility.

II. **Eligibility Policy 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/USA Softball before **April 1** of the current year.
 2. Each team staff member, e.g., manager/coach/team parent, shall be individually registered and have proof of a background check that has been conducted through the SoCal ASA mandatory registration system, prior to the league's opening day.
 3. Each All-Star manager shall be ACE Certified.
 4. A team shall participate **ONLY** with other leagues and teams that are registered with ASA/USA Softball.
 5. A league shall use only the Age Classifications approved by the National ASA Code and SoCal ASA. The approved Age Classifications are 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U.
- B. League Team Eligibility.
1. Team roster may include up to 20 players.
 2. A team may be a single league team, an All-Star Team or a Select Team as 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. **EXCEPTION: Select Division.**
- 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 II.A above.

NOTE: A team selected in pre-season or mid-season for tournament play is not eligible. **EFFECTIVE 2016: Such team will be classified as a Select Team.**

- 3. A team shall not have any players who participated on a **travel type team** after **March 31**.
- 4. A team that participates in a ASA/USA Softball "A", Gold or **any non-ASA/USA travel ball type event** is not eligible for participation in "B" Classification Championship Play.

NOTE: Leagues may not select All-Star managers before **April 24** of the current year. **EXCEPTION: Select Division.**

C. Player Eligibility.

- 1. A player must play in 50 percent of the current season's league games. **EXCEPTION:** High school students 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 less than 30 14U players. The 14U All-Star Team shall not include more than four players who attended High School. 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.

NOTE: A player may appeal the 50 percent minimum rule in cases of documented injury to the appropriate District Commissioner.

- 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 high 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/USA Softball recreation league must declare by **April 15** in writing to both the League Player Agent and the All-Star Administrator in which league they wish to be eligible for All-Star selection. The league is required to provide a copy of the player's declaration to their respective District Commissioner.
- 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 II.B.3 above. For example, a player shall not participate on any , All-Star Team or travel type team after March 31.
- 5. 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 **or team** taking part in a tryout, practice game, scheduled game or tournament.

6. A player shall not participate with more than one team in ASA/USA Softball Championship Play during the same season, except as a Pick-Up Player.
7. 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 requirements in this section.
2. A player can be a Pick-Up Player only once per season.
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 ASA National 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 only from their own league. After the All-Star State Championships a Pick-Up Player may be picked up within the appropriate Age Classification from anywhere in SoCal ASA.
6. Pick-Up Players must be approved by the league Board of Directors.

E. Interleague All-Star Teams. Leagues that combine to participate in interleague play may select a combined All-Star Team providing that all the above and the below listed requirements are met.

1. A league that combines with another league may not have more than one Registered Team within the Age Classification that will be combined.
2. No more than two leagues may combine to form an All-Star Team.
3. All players from both leagues are eligible for selection to the combined All-Star Team.
4. No high school player may be added to a combined All-Star Team.
5. “B” and “C” Leagues that combine to form an All-Star Team will be classified “B”. Two or more “C” leagues that combine will be classified by the District Commissioner.
6. Combined Teams must be approved by the Board of Directors of each league that combined.

F. “B” Classification Select Teams. The Select Program has been established to provide an additional opportunity for a select group of league players who wish to improve their softball skills beyond the regular league season but who have not yet reached the Junior Olympic “A” Classification skill level. This program is for 10 and Under through 14 and Under players who wish to improve their softball skills and thereby benefit themselves as well as their league.

1. Select Player Eligibility
 - A) Select players must be individually registered with a recreational league, as required in I.A and II.A above.

- B) Select players must be drafted on to an active recreation league team roster in the current season.
- C) Select players must play in a minimum of 50 percent of the current season's league games.
- D) Select team players may not participate with a travel type team after **February 1**.
- E) Select players must have been registered with an ASA recreational league during the prior year.

2. Select Team Eligibility

- A) Select teams may be established in the 10 and Under, 12 and Under and 14 and Under Divisions ONLY. Each Age Division may have one select team ONLY.
- B) The team roster may include up to 20 players.
- C) Select Teams may begin participation only after their league draft is completed. Participation is limited to one day per week.
- D) Select Team participation may not interfere with any regular season participation.
- E) Select Teams may not have any players who participated on a travel type team after **February 1**.
- F) Select Teams are "B" Classification teams. All players on Select Teams are "B" Classification players.
- G) Select Teams may become the primary or "Gold" league All-Star Team, or may be re-drafted after **May 1**.

NOTE: Leagues may create additional All-Star Teams per the SoCal ASA Rules and Regulations, this document. The second and subsequent tournament teams may request "C" Classification through their District Commissioner. If approved, these teams may participate in "C" Championship Play if eligibility requirements are met.

- H) A Select Team that participates in an ASA/USA Softball "A", Gold or ANY non-ASA/USA Softball travel ball qualifying event shall not be eligible for participation in the "B" Classification Championship play.

G. "B" Classification 16U and 18U Teams. These Age Classifications provide competition and Championship Play for players 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.

1. "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 requirements.
- D) A team may be a single team or an All-Star Team as selected and certified by a league.
- E) A team shall not have any players who participated on a **travel type team** after **March 31**.
- F) A team represented by more than five high school players requires approval by the Junior Olympic State Commissioner-Recreation.
- G) 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.
- H) A team that participates in an ASA/USA Softball “A” or ASA/USA Softball 18U Gold qualifying tournament shall not be eligible to participate in “B” Classification 16U and 18U Championship Play.
- I) A team participating in ASA/USA Softball Championship Play shall abide by all ASA/USA Softball codes pertaining to Championship Play and the policies outlined in the back of the Official “B” Championship Roster.
- J) A player who pitched at the high school varsity level may pitch in these classifications unless they are classified above the “B” Classification level of play by their respective 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 may not be on an ASA/USA Softball “B” 16U/18U Classification Team and an ASA/USA Softball “A” Classification Team during the same season.
- D) A player is eligible to become a Pick-Up Player for an ASA/USA Softball “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 requirements in this section.
- B) A player shall be a Pick-Up Player only once per season.
- C) A “B” Classification Player whose team is eliminated from Championship Play is eligible to be a Pick-Up Player for either an “A” or “B” Classification Team in the same or higher Age Classification.
- D) A Pick-Up Player must have participated with an ASA/USA Softball registered team during the current season.

E) All Pick-Up Player requirements 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 Tournament 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
Los Angeles/South Bay District	South San Diego District
North/East District	Western District

B. Each District Commissioner shall conduct a District Championship Tournament. Each ASA/USA Softball 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 Junior Olympic Staff shall administer all District Championships.

D. District Championships shall be conducted on the date published.

E. Player proof of age and photo identification are required.

F. The first, second, third and fourth place teams in Age Classifications 10U, 12U and 14U in each District Championship shall advance to the SoCal ASA State “B” Classification All-Star Championships. Additional berths shall be awarded to Districts which have a higher number of teams participating in any of the above mentioned age groups. (Example: 11-13 teams, one additional berth; 14-17 teams, one more additional berth)

G. The first, second, third and fourth place teams in the 8U Age Classification in each District Championship shall advance to the SoCal ASA State “B” Classification All-Star Championships.

H. The “B” Classification State All-Star Championships top finishers in the 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U Age Classifications shall advance to the Western Territory “B” Classification ASA National Championships. The number of teams advancing is 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 Leagues)

Southern California ASA Player Eligibility 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, 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.
 - 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 or team. At a minimum, the criteria used to evaluate the request shall include the skill level of the players and the league history in Championship Play. The District Commissioner shall notify the League President of their decision as soon as practical. Based on performance, a “C” Classified team may be reclassified at any time by their respective District Commissioner. The reclassification 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 in two consecutive years, excluding the 14U Classification, is not eligible for “C” Classification during the following year.
 - 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 Championships before applying for reclassification to the “C” Classification.
- II. **Eligibility Policy 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/USA Softball before **April 1** of the current year.
 2. Each team adult staff member, e.g., manager/coach/team parent and all Board Members shall be individually registered and have proof that a background check has been conducted through the SoCal ASA mandatory registration system, prior to the league’s opening day.
 3. Each All-Star manager shall be ACE Certified.
 4. A team may participate ONLY with other leagues or teams that are registered with ASA/USA Softball.

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 II.A above.
- NOTE:** A team selected in preseason or midseason for tournament play is not eligible.
3. A team shall not have any players who participated on a **travel type team** after **March 31**.
 4. A team that participates in an ASA/USA Softball "A", 18U Gold or **any non-ASA/USA travel ball type event** is not eligible for participation in "C" Classification Championship Play.

C. Player Eligibility.

1. A player must play a minimum of 50 percent of the current season's leagues games. (EXCEPTION: High school students 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 two or less 14U teams. The 14UAll Star team shall not include more than four players who attended High School. A player returning to the 14U Age Classification must be registered with the league before May 15 Of the current year. All returning high school players must be approved by the leagues Board of Directors.
- NOTE:** A player may appeal the 50 percent minimum playing rule in cases of documented injury to the appropriate District Commissioner
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 high 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/USA Softball recreation league must declare by **April 15** in writing to both the League Player Agent and the All-Star Administrator in which league they wish to be eligible for All-Star selection. The league is required to provide a copy of the player's declaration to their respective District Commissioner.
 4. A player who 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 II.B.3 above. For example, a player shall not participate on any **non ASA/USA Softball team**, All-Star Team or travel type team after **March 31**.

NOTE. “Participate”, above, is defined as a player **or team** taking part in a tryout, practice, practice game, scheduled game or tournament.

5. A player shall not participate with more than one team in ASA/USA Softball 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 “C” Classification All-Star Pick-Up Player shall meet all player eligibility requirements in this section.
2. A player can 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 ASA National Code.
4. A Pick-Up Player must have played on a SoCal ASA registered “C” Team during the current season.
5. A Pick-Up Player, after District Championships but prior to the State All-Star Championships, may be a picked up from their own league only.

E. Interleague All-Star Teams. Leagues that combine to participate in interleague play may select a combined All-Star Team providing all the above and below listed eligibility requirements are met.

1. A league that combines with another league may not have more than one Registered Team within the age classification that will be combined.
2. No more than two leagues may combine to form an All-Star Team.
3. All players from both leagues must be placed on the combined All-Star Team.

EXCEPTION. A player that declines to participate in Championship Play.

4. No high school player may be added to a combined All-Star Team.
5. “B” and “C” Leagues that combine to form an All-Star Team will be classified “B”. Two “C” leagues combining will be classified by the District Commissioner.
6. Combined Teams must be approved by the Board of Directors of each league that combines.

III. **Championship Tournament Procedures.** The All-Star Tournament procedures are:

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

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

- B. Each District Commissioner may conduct a “C” District Championship Tournament. Each “C” League may enter a minimum of one team per Age Classification. The District Commissioner is authorized to permit additional entries based on registrations.
 - C. A District Championship should be hosted by a league in the District and will be sanctioned by SoCal ASA. SoCal ASA Junior Olympic Staff shall administer all District Championships.
 - D. District Championships shall be conducted on the date published.
 - E. Player proof of age and photo identification are required.
 - F. The first, second, third and fourth place teams in Age Classifications 10U, 12U and 14U in each District Championship shall advance to the SoCal ASA State “C” Classification All-Star Championships. The fourth place team shall advance to the Pacific Coast Region “C” Classification Championships. Additional berths shall be awarded to Districts which have a higher number of teams participating in any of the above mentioned age groups. (Example: 11-13 teams, one additional berth; 14-17 teams, one more additional berth)
 - G. The first, second, third and fourth place teams in the 8U Age Classification in each District Championship shall advance to the SoCal ASA State “B” Classification 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.

2016 "B" and "C" Classification (Recreation Leagues) Championship Play

Southern California ASA

"B" Classification (Recreation Leagues) All-Star Championship Play

June 24-26	"B" All-Star District Championships (8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U)
July 8-10	"B" All-Star State Championships (8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U)
July 31-August 7	"B" Western Territory ASA National Championships (10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U)

Southern California ASA

"C" Classification (Recreation Leagues) All-Star Championship Play

June 17-19	"C" All-Star District Championships (10U, 12U and 14U)
July 1-3	"C" All-Star State Championships (10U, 12U and 14U)
July 15-17	"C" Pacific Coast Region Championships (California State Games) (10U, 12U and 14U)

The above "B" and "C" Classifications Championships are open to eligible teams from:

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

2016 "B" Classification Western Territory ASA National Championships

10U	August 1-7	Medford, OR
12U	July 27-31	Kingman, AZ
14U	August 1-7	La Habra, CA
16U	August 3-7	Salinas, CA
18U	August 3-7	Salinas, CA

The above listed ASA 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

2016 Calendar for "B" and "C" Classifications (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.
- Player Eligibility Declared.** For information see League/Player Eligibility above.
- "C" Classification League Designation.** A league or team requesting "C" League designation shall submit a "C" Eligibility Request Form to their respective 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 respective District Commissioner **before June 1** of the current year to participate in Championship Play. The Registration Form is available at the SoCal ASA website.
- "B" 16U/18U Team Registration Deadline.** Team shall be ASA/ASA Softball "B" registered **before June 1** of current year to participate in Championship Play. The Registration Form is available at the SoCal ASA website.
- June 26-28 **"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 the Team Manager, players and parents/guardians when required.
- June 19-21 **"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 the Team Manager, players and parents/guardians when required.

"B" Classification (Recreation) Team Advances to "B" State All-Star Champions

- June 28 **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. If advancing, the team must provide payment of the "B" State All-Star Championship Entry Fee before leaving the District Championship site.
- July 19-12 **"B" Classification State All-Star Championships.** Teams shall check in not later than one hour prior to their 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.

**“B” Classification (Recreation) All-Star Teams that Advance to the “B” Classification
ASA National Championship (Western Territory)**

- July 12 **Berth to ASA National Championship Accepted.** A team that qualifies to advance to the “B” Western Territory ASA National Championship and elects not to advance must notify their District Commissioner.
- July (TBD) **“B” Western Territory ASA National Championship.** Payment of Entry Fee must be received not later than this date. The Championship Entry Form and Entry Fee may be provided to the “B” All-Star Championship Tournament Director or may be mailed directly to the address that appears on the Entry Form.
- July 27 August 2 **“B” Western Territory ASA National Championship.** Team shall check in at least one hour before their first scheduled game. Photo identification and player Pick-Up Forms, when applicable, shall be turned in at check in.

Championship Roster. A Championship Roster Form will be mailed to each team that enters the SoCal ASA District Championships.

Pick-Up Players. A maximum of three Pick-Up Players from a league may be added to the Championship Roster after the District Championships. A Pick-Up Player shall meet all eligibility requirements contained in these Rules and Regulations. Pick-Up Player Forms will be in the packets that each team receives when they qualify for the “B” Classification State All-Star Championships and the “B” Classification Western Territory ASA National Championship.

Recreation Leagues 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 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 situation. The SoCal ASA expanded rules may not conflict with the 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. 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 another 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 team?**
- A. Yes, providing the player meets all other eligibility requirements.
- Q. May an 11 years old player who participated with a 14U travel team be selected for a 12U All-Star Team?**
- A. Yes, providing the player has not participated with 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 to all All-Star teams entering ASA/USA Softball Championship Play and other tournaments sanctioned by ASA/USA Softball. 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 travel organizations are “A” Classification and may participate in “A” Classification Championship Play only. Independent recreation leagues are designated as “B” or “C” Classifications and may participate in “B” and “C” Championship Play only. Primarily, but not completely, the skill level of the players determines the classification.

Q. Why is a player not permitted to play both “A” and “B” or “C” Classifications?

A. This is not permitted by the 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 primarily for recreation purposes. The “B” and “C” player’s primary goal is to have fun. The ASA/USA Softball offers programs for everyone and it is up to the individual, or their parents, to choose the program that best suits them.

Q. What is the “C” League Automatic Reclassification?

A. “Leagues that qualify three or more teams to the State All-Star Championships 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 by the following examples: 1) In 2012 a “C” League qualifies one team for the “C” State All-Star Championships. In 2013 the same league qualifies two teams for the “C” State All-Star Championships. In the two-year period, 2012-2013, the league qualified three teams for the “C” Championships and is therefore not eligible for “C” Classification in 2014.

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

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

Q. Can the SoCal ASA eligibility rules be changes?

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 of 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 was developed and adopted by SoCal ASA to establish sanctioning procedures for softball tournaments. Sanctioning a tournament protects the ASA/USA Softball 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/USA Softball Insurance Programs offered by Bollinger Insurance.
- Access to ASA/USA registered umpires.
- Ability to use the ASA/USA Softball name in promoting the tournament or event.
- SoCal ASA assistance in enforcing standards of conduct by players, coaches, managers and umpires.
- SoCal ASA assistance in recovering bad debts of participating teams.

Objectives. This sanctioning policy is in effect to fulfill the following:

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

Authorization. The SoCal ASA Commissioner and their designees have the authority to issue sanctioning for any adult or youth tournament that is deemed to meet the objectives of the Association. The Commissioner and their designees have the responsibility to ensure that the requirements for sanctioning a tournament or other event are met by the 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 designee along with the required fee. The request shall be reviewed and if the event is deemed to meet the objectives of SoCal ASA a sanction shall be awarded to that event. A copy of the Sanction Request Form can be found at the SoCal ASA web site (www.socalasa.org) or a copy can be obtained from any member of the SoCal ASA Junior Olympic Staff.

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

- Obtain and maintain at least a \$1,00,000 General Liability Insurance for the event. Said policy shall include SoCal ASA as additionally insured.
- All paid umpires used for the event shall be currently registered and in good standing with ASA/USA Softball.
- All teams participating in the event shall be currently registered and in good standing with ASA/USA Softball.

"A" Classification Program (Travel)

A. 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 Players and players properly released from previous team. (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.

B. Manager/Coach/Player Agreements.

1. All sports organizations must have rules and regulations to ensure fair and equitable competition. The ASA/USA Softball Championship Softball Program publishes regulations, known as the National ASA Code, which shall be followed by all ASA/USA Softball 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, this document, serve to protect members in circumstances particular to Southern California and to define further the National ASA Code.
2. 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. Continued cooperation at adhering to these rules and regulations will ensure our success for the future. To preserve high standards, any infraction of the following agreements should be reported to the appropriate Age Classification Commissioner, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner-Travel or the SoCal ASA Commissioner.
3. **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:
 - A) 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 system. They must have a SoCal ASA authorized identification card visible on their person at all times.
 - B) The manager of a team participating in Championship Play shall be ACE Certified and have proof of such on their person.
 - C) Shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times and act in accordance with the objectives and purposes of ASA/USA Softball.
 - D) Shall individually register each player on their team. Player individual registration includes Accident/Liability Insurance.

- E) Refrain from and discourage all team members from recruiting or enticing a player/parent who has signed an ASA/USA Softball Agreement Form to change teams, including any player who is registered and participating in the SoCal ASA Junior Olympic "B" and "C" Classification Program (Recreation Leagues). This remains in effect until July 1 of the current year or when a team is no longer eligible for Championship Play, whichever occurs first.
- F) Shall not compete with or against a suspended player, manager/coach or team after having been notified of such a suspension.
- G) Shall not use or permit team personnel to use any ASA/USA logo or trade mark item without express permission from SoCal ASA.
- H) Shall have control of all team personnel and fans while participating in any ASA/USA Softball event.
- I) 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.
- J) 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.
- K) Must understand that all players of a team are released as soon as that team decides not to enter ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.
- L) Shall inform all players on the team that they are automatically released from the team when:
 - 1) Decision is made not to enter ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.
 - 2) Decision is made not to enter any remaining ASA/USA Softball Championship Play tournaments; for example, Regional National Qualifier, Western Territory ASA National Championship or the ASA/USA National Championship finals.
 - 3) Team is eliminated from further participation in ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.
 - 4) A player is released by a team with the written approval of the manager/coach and the player's parents/guardians when the player is under 18 years old.

NOTE: A team manager/coach shall notify the appropriate Age Classification Commissioner or the Junior Olympic State Commissioner-Travel when any of the above occurs.
- M) Shall refrain from attempting 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/USA Softball "B" and "C" Classification (Recreation Leagues) All-Star Championship Play.
- N) Shall advance to the next level of play in ASA/USA Softball 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.
- O) Shall not permit team personnel or fans to abuse team players, opposing teams, spectators, umpires and/or ASA/USA Softball Staff members.

P) Managers who have a player participating simultaneously in an ASA/USA Softball "B" or "C" Classification Program (Recreation Leagues) 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 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 Leagues) player.

Q) Shall not permit their team to compete in non-championship tournaments which award cash prizes to individual players.

R) A team shall not forfeit a scheduled game in ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.

Non-Compliance Penalty. Any violation of the above could result in suspension, disqualification and/or other penalty.

C. 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 situations when recruiting players for their teams.

D. Manager/Coach Commitment to ASA/USA Softball, Umpires and Other Coaches

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

E. Player Agreement

1. Players should understand that participation in ASA/USA Softball Championship Play is permitted with one team only during the current season. If a player leaves that team without written permission from the coach, parent and SoCal ASA, they become ineligible to compete with another ASA/USA Softball team, including as a Pick-Up Player.
2. A player that leaves a team for just cause without a release may appeal their non-release to the Junior Olympic State Commissioner-Travel. Per the National ASA Code, such an appeal shall not be considered once the player's team enters ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.
3. All players are automatically released from their team when the team is no longer participating in ASA/USA Softball 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 regulations, available from the team manager or through membership in the SoCal ASA Players' Association, including but not limited to the following:

- A) A player shall not be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct or any other act that is contrary to the objectives and purposes of ASA/USA Softball.
- B) A player shall refrain from recruiting or enticing any player who is listed on a roster of another ASA/USA Softball team to leave that team to play for another ASA/USA Softball team.
- C) A player shall respect and accept a manager's decision and/or changes concerning positions and playing time in any game or tournament.
- D) A player shall return all team uniform items and equipment in good condition, except for normal wear, to the manager within 15 days of being released from the team. Failure to return such items could result in the player becoming ineligible for participation in ASA/USA Softball until all items are returned or the manager is reimbursed.
- E) A player should understand that they have until July 1 or the start of ASA/USA Softball Championship Play, whichever occurs first, to be released from a travel team to be eligible to compete in ASA/USA Softball Championship Play with another ASA/USA Softball team during the current year. **EXCEPTION.** A player who receives a release in writing signed by both the manager/coach and parent.
- F) A player should 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/coach should provide each player and parent/ guardian a preseason budget and a final itemized and accurate financial statement at the end of ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.

F. Team Management Guidelines

1. Player Added or Released from Team

- A) A player may be added to or released from a team roster until **July 1** of the current year or when the team first enters ASA/USA Softball Championship Play, whichever occurs first. **EXCEPTION.** A player who receives a release in writing signed by both the manager/coach and the player's parents.
- B) Prior to entering ASA/USA Softball Championship Play:
 - 1) To add a player prior to the roster change deadline or before entering ASA/USA Softball Championship Play, the team adds the player to their roster on RegisterASA.
 - 2) To release a player the team manager/coach must contact their Age Classification Commissioner prior to the roster change deadline or before entering Championship Play, whichever occurs first.
- C) After entering ASA/USA Softball Championship Play: To add a player the Pick-Up Player rule applies.

2. 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 their first ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.

3. **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.

4. **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 ASA/USA Softball Championship Play or who has obtained a written release signed by the manager/coach, parent and SoCal ASA. A maximum of three players may be Pick-Up Players on a team, as follows:

- A) A Pick-Up Player shall sign an official Pick-Up Player Form that must be signed by the team manager and the Association Commissioner or their designee. When the player is 17 years old or younger their parent or guardian must sign the form.
- B) A Pick-Up Player must have played on a ASA/USA Softball registered team during the current season.
EXCEPTION. An 18U Gold Pick-Up Player may be picked up from any ASA/USA Softball registered team within the Pacific Coast Region that is no longer eligible for Championship Play.
- C) Pick-Up Players must be selected from ASA/USA Softball Registered Teams no longer eligible for Championship Play.
EXCEPTION: A player that has been released from a team's Championship Roster in accordance with the player release form.
- D) An ASA/USA Softball Junior Olympic player no longer eligible for ASA/USA Softball Junior Olympic Championship Play is eligible to be a Pick-Up Player for an Adult Major or "A" Team. A Junior Olympic player whose team has qualified for a ASA/USA National Championship Finals is eligible to be a Pick-Up Player only if released in writing with the signatures of both the manager/coach and a parent.
- E) A Pick-Up Player who participated in ASA/USA Softball Championship Play with a team that is no longer eligible for Championship Play may be a Pick-Up Player for another ASA/USA Softball team that is still eligible for Championship Play.
- F) A Pick-Up Player may not be replaced on a roster after participating with a team.
- G) Team personnel should refrain from recruiting or enticing any player and/or parent to change teams until July 15 or when the team is no longer eligible for ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.

NOTE. A Pick-Up Player is not allowed to participate in an ASA/USA Softball National Qualifier.

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 ASA/USA Softball Junior Olympic Championship Tournaments for their respective Age Classification, unless otherwise authorized.

Entry Fee. An ASA/USA Softball 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, cashers check or cash shall be 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 reentering ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.

Entry Fee Refund. A refund of an entire Tournament Entry Fee shall be provided to a team only when a refund is requested by the Team Manager prior to the Tournament Entry Deadline or if the team qualifies to participate in an ASA/USA Softball National Championship and elects to participate. A team that disbands after the Tournament Entry Fee Deadline may request a partial refund, however a team that simply elects not to participate shall forfeit their entire Entry Fee.

Advancing in ASA/USA Softball Championship Play. A team that participates in the SoCal ASA "A" State Championship automatically qualifies to participate in the Western Territory ASA National Championship. The team Tournament Entry Form and Fee are due to the Age Classification Commissioner within 72 hours of the completion of the "A" State Championship. If the Tournament Entry Form and Fee are not received by the deadline all players on that team are released and become eligible to be Pick-Up Players. A team that qualifies for and accepts a berth to the Regional Championship Tournament must pay that Tournament 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/USA Softball 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/USA Softball is the sole responsibility of the ASA/USA Softball Tournament Staff.

Tournament Umpires. All umpires selected for ASA/USA Softball Championship Play have attended a SoCal ASA Annual Rules Clinic, a SoCal ASA Mechanics Clinic and have passed the current ASA/USA Softball Umpire Rules Exam. Additionally, 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 umpire 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 and/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 ASA/USA Softball National Championship may enter a Championship Tournament only after forfeiting their existing berth to the National Championship. **EXCEPTION:** An 18U "A" or 16U "A" Team that has qualified for an ASA/USA Softball National Championship may enter a Gold Qualifier in their respective Age Classification without relinquishing their "A" berth.
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 for each game shall be determined by a coin toss at the umpires and coaches pregame plate meeting.
7. Softballs will be provided by SoCal ASA and will be the only softball 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 umpire decision on the field, 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/USA Softball 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/USA Softball Junior Olympic events.

2016 Travel Team Deadlines

10U and 12U

May 15

ASA/USA Softball Registration Deadline. All players, manager and coaches must be ASA/USA Softball individually registered by this date or by the Friday prior to any championship event that takes place before May 15. Regardless, registration must be complete not later than May 15. Any player currently registered with a Recreation League must be added to the team roster and be photo upgraded to be eligible to participate in ASA/USA Softball Championship Play.

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

14U, 16U and 18U

June 1

ASA/USA Softball Registration Deadline. All players, managers and coaches must be ASA/USA Softball individually registered by this date or by the Friday prior to any championship event that takes place before June 1. Regardless, registration must be complete not later than June 1.

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

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 ASA/USA Softball Championship Play, whichever occurs first.

18U Gold

June 1

Players, Managers and Coaches Registration Deadline. All players, managers and coaches must be ASA/USA Softball individually registered by this date or prior to the start of their team's ASA/USA Softball 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

2016 Junior Olympic State Championship Tournaments

10U A Championship	April 30-31	TBD
12U A Championship	April 30-31	TBD
14U A Championship	June 24-26	Fountain Valley, CA
16U A Championship	June 24-26	Fountain Valley, CA
18U A Championship	June 24-26	Fountain Valley, CA

NOTE: The above tournaments are the “official” State Championships. There are opportunities for other age groups to participate on the same weekend for berths in their age group. Check the Travel Tournament Section for the dates of the different age groups and berths available.

2016 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/14U/16U/18U NQ	June 4-5	La Habra, CA
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NOTE: National Qualifier (Sports Authority National Qualifier). One national berth per Age Classification plus additional berths for SoCal ASA teams.

16U Gold Territory	TBD	Region 13
16U Gold Territory	TBD	Region 15
16U Gold Territory	June 17-19	Fontana, CA
16U Gold Territory	TBD	Sacramento, CA
18U Gold Territory	June 17-19	Fontana, CA
18U Gold Regional	TBD	Region 15
18U Gold Territory	TBD	Sacramento, CA

2016 Hall of Fame Tournament-ASA/USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium Complex, Oklahoma City

10U A Hall of Fame Tournament	June 19-20	Oklahoma City
12U A Hall of Fame Tournament	July 1-3	Oklahoma City
14U A Hall of Fame Tournament	June 17-19	Oklahoma City
16U A Hall of Fame Tournament	June 23-25	Oklahoma City
18U A Hall of Fame tournament	June 25-27	Oklahoma City

2016 ASA/USA Girls Class "A" and Gold Fast Pitch National Championships

Teams qualify for this National Championship Play through National Qualifiers, Regional Tournaments, Hall of Fame Tournaments and SoCal ASA State Championships. 18U Gold and 16U Gold teams qualify through Regional and/or Territory Tournaments. Teams that do not participate in Regional events are not eligible to be a fill-in team at ASA/USA National Championship Finals.

2016 ASA/USA Girls Class "A" and Gold Fast Pitch National Championships

10U A	July 31-August 7	Stockton, CA
12U A	July 31-August 7	Salem, VA
14U A	July 30-August 7	Sioux Falls, SD
16U A	August 1-7	College Station, TX
18U A	August 1-7	Bloomington, IN
16U Gold	July 17-24	Broken Arrow, OK
18U Gold	July 17-24	Oklahoma City, OK

2016 ASA Girls Class "A" and Gold ASA National Championship (Western Territory)

10U/12U A	July 25-31	Kent, WA
14U A	July 25-31	Roseville, CA
16U A	July 26-31	Clovis, CA
18U A	July 26-31	Clovis, CA

NOTE: Teams qualify for the ASA Girls "A" Fast Pitch National Championships through participation in the Southern California ASA State Championships.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a National Qualifier?

A. Each of the ASA/USA Softball 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 ASA/USA National Championship of the appropriate Age Classification.

Q. How does a team qualify for the Western Territory ASA 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 ASA/USA Girls Fast Pitch Class A National Championship, the team is then qualified to participate in the Western Territory Girls Fast Pitch Class A ASA National Championship.

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 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, however the recruitment and/or enticement of another player or parent to play on another team is inappropriate and certainly unsportsmanlike. It should not take place.

Q. Is there a list of ASA/USA Softball Travel Teams in a particular Age Classification?

A. Yes, each ASA/USA Softball 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/USA Softball?

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" All-Star Championship Play. The recreation program comprises the largest portion of the SoCal ASA Junior Olympic registrations and is therefore primarily responsible for the many Junior Olympic berths to National Championships that SoCal ASA presently enjoys.

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 regarding suggestions on how the SoCal ASA Junior Olympic Program can be improved. It also provides several college scholarships to SoCal ASA Junior Olympic players each year.

Amateur Softball Association of Southern California

2016 Umpire Program Clinic Schedule

Rules Clinics

January 9

Moorpark HS
4500 Tierra Rejada Road
Moorpark CA 93021

January 23

California School for the Deaf
3044 Horace Avenue
Riverside CA 92506

January 24

TBD
(Location will be posted on
SoCal ASA website)

NOTE: Registration for above clinics is 7:30 - 8:30 am, clinics begin at 8:30 am.

Mechanics Clinics

North/North East District

December 6, 2015

San Dimas HS
800 W. Covina Blvd
San Dimas CA 91773
Contact: Hal Van Ryswyk (909-568-6323)
or JD Lambright (626-715-5506)

Los Angeles/South Bay District

December 13, 2015

Levy School
3420 W. 229th Place
Torrance CA 90505-2612
Contact: James Walker (310-529-4555)
(includes All-Day SP Group)

Eastern District

February 13

California School for the Deaf
3044 Horace Avenue
Riverside CA 92506
Contact: Glenn Waggoner (951-990-1873)

North/South San Diego Districts

February 6

Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base
Paige Field House (11 Area), Building 22161
Camp Pendleton CA 92055
Contact: Rick Hausvik (619-818-0170) or
Mindy Villa (951-551-4574)

Western District

February 7

Moorpark HS
4500 Tierra Rejada Road
Moorpark CA 93021
Contact: Ed Wanick (805-252-2271 or
805-968-5901)

Central District

February 14

Columbus Tustin Park
17952 Beneta Way
Tustin CA 92780
Contact: Fred Mayrhofer (714-251-3796)

NOTE: Registration for the above clinics is 7:30 - 8:30 am, clinics begin at 8:30 am.