

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - Umpire Fees

Increase umpire registration fees, slow pitch state tournament umpire fees, state tournament entry fees

III. SCHEDULE OF FEES AND DUE DATES

3.1 Fees – Adults \$67, Youth (under 18) \$42

pg 29 **Proposed rule change**

Fees – Adults **\$72**, Youth (under 18) \$42

Reasoning

A \$5 increase in the umpire registration fee was necessitated by a similar increase in the national registration fee.

VIII. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

3.2a The state entry fees for the state tournaments (all classifications of Men's and Women's Slow Pitch) are due at
pg 51 or before the State Classification Meeting with a six-day grace period following the State Classification Meeting to allow teams to drop out of the State Tournaments.

Classification & State Tournament Fee

MSP – Open, B, C & D \$275

MSP – Rec 1 \$215

MSP & WSP – Masters/Rec 2-4 \$200

WSP Class C & D \$235

Coed \$200

Junior Olympics Fast Pitch \$240

Proposed rule change

The state entry fees for the state tournaments (all classifications of Men's and Women's Slow Pitch) are due at or before the State Classification Meeting with a six-day grace period following the State Classification Meeting to allow teams to drop out of the State Tournaments.

Classification & State Tournament Fee

MSP – Open, B, C & D **\$305**

MSP – Rec 1 **\$245**

MSP & WSP – Masters/Rec 2-4 **\$230**

WSP Class C & D **\$265**

Coed **\$230**

Junior Olympics Fast Pitch \$240

Reasoning

All adult slow pitch state tournament entry fees need to be increased by \$30 to account, in part, for the increase in the amount paid to umpires working each game (as well as fees resulting from use of an online tournament platform and online payment of entry fees).

XII. UMPIRES

3.1 Registration fees for umpires are 67 for adults and \$42 for individuals under 18 years old at the time of
pg 70 registration.

Proposed rule change

Registration fees for umpires are **\$72** for adults and \$42 for individuals under 18 years old at the time of registration.

Reasoning

A \$5 increase in the umpire registration fee was necessitated by a similar increase in the national registration fee.

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - Bat stickers

Increase umpire registration fees, slow pitch state tournament umpire fees, state tournament entry fees

IV. PLAYING RULES

1.10 Only bats which bear an USA Softball approved certification mark and not on the USA Softball non-approved list will be allowed for use in USASND play. Local UIC's shall be responsible for marking approved bats with orange stickers.
pg 32

Proposed rule change

Only bats which bear an USA Softball approved certification mark and not on the USA Softball non-approved list will be allowed for use in USASND play

Reasoning

Orange bat stickers will no longer be placed on approved bats. Umpires should be verifying based upon the certification mark and the non-approved list. A USA Softball sticker may instead be placed on approved bats that pass compression testing.

1.11 Bats may be compression tested prior to or during league, invitational or State tournament play. Any bat failing compression test will be confiscated until the team is eliminated from the tournament. When the failed bat is returned to its owner an USASND failed bat form should be signed by the player and local official. Completed forms will be mailed to the State Office with the tournament financial report. Failed bats will be marked with green stickers and are ineligible for further USASND play
pg 32

Proposed rule change

*Bats may be compression tested prior to or during league, invitational or State tournament play. Any bat failing compression test will be confiscated until the team is eliminated from the tournament. When the failed bat is returned to its owner an USASND failed bat form should be signed by the player and local official. Completed forms will be mailed to the State Office with the tournament financial report. Failed bats will be marked with green stickers and are ineligible for further USASND play. **Approved bats that pass compression testing may have a USA Softball sticker applied, if available.***

Reasoning

Orange bat stickers will no longer be placed on approved bats. Umpires should be verifying based upon the certification mark and the non-approved list. A USA Softball sticker may instead be placed on approved bats that pass compression testing.

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - Courtesy Runners

Increase umpire registration fees, slow pitch state tournament umpire fees, state tournament entry fees

IV. PLAYING RULES

1.15 One courtesy runner per inning is allowed. USA Softball rules in regard to courtesy runners apply. EXCEPTIONS:
pg 32 Masters 50/60 unlimited courtesy runners allowed. Coed is allowed one male and one female courtesy runner per inning.

Proposed rule change

*One courtesy runner per inning is allowed **plus one specifically for the pitcher of record**. USA Softball rules in regard to courtesy runners apply. EXCEPTIONS: Masters 50/60 unlimited courtesy runners allowed. Coed is allowed one male and one female courtesy runner per inning.*

Reasoning

USA Softball has passed a rule allowing a courtesy runner for the pitcher in addition to the one courtesy runner already allowed in hopes of speeding up the game by affording the pitcher extra time to put on protective gear.

IX. MASTERS

5.1e One courtesy runner per inning

pg 58 **Proposed rule change**

*One courtesy runner per inning **plus one specifically for the pitcher of record**.*

Reasoning

Men's Masters 35/40 will adopt the updated national rule regarding allowing a courtesy runner for the pitcher.

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - Returning Players

Increase umpire registration fees, slow pitch state tournament umpire fees, state tournament entry fees

VI. CLASSIFICATIONS

- 1.1** Team classifications from the end of one season are carried over to the beginning of the next season. The League Representative/Commissioner can change the classification at the beginning of the year if there is a considerable change in team personnel. The classification of any team can be raised or lowered at any time of the year by the League Representative/Commissioner, the State Commissioner, or the State Office. The League Representative/Commissioner shall, in writing, submit the reason(s) for the change to the State Commissioner. (EXCEPTIONS: See 1.4 and 1.5 below)

Proposed rule change

Team classifications from the end of one season are carried over to the beginning of the next season. The League Representative/Commissioner can change the classification at the beginning of the year if there is a considerable change in team personnel. A team returning at least 6 players or a new/different team acquiring 6 players from a previous season's team must remain at least the same classification (though it may be adjusted upon review by their local and/or state association). The classification of any team can be raised or lowered at any time of the year by the League Representative/Commissioner, the State Commissioner, or the State Office. The League Representative/Commissioner shall, in writing, submit the reason(s) for the change to the State Commissioner. (EXCEPTIONS: See 1.4 and 1.5 below)

Reasoning

Adds a guideline commonly used for years regulating the classification of teams returning or adding a specific number of players from a previous year's team (and increases that number from 4 in the unwritten rule to 6 at the recommendation of the Men's Slow Pitch Task Force).

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - WSP Rec 4

Increase umpire registration fees, slow pitch state tournament umpire fees, state tournament entry fees

VII. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

3.2a The Rec 3 & 4 Divisions will be split into Eastern and Western State Tournaments.

pg 52 **Proposed rule change**

The Rec 3 Division will be split into Eastern and Western State Tournaments.

Reasoning

The Women's Slow Pitch Task Force recommended the elimination of the East & West split in Rec 4 due to the low number of entries in each.

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - MSP Masters

Increase umpire registration fees, slow pitch state tournament umpire fees, state tournament entry fees

IX. MASTERS

3.8 POOL PLAY/ROUND ROBIN TIEBREAKERS: If after a team is removed from the tie and at least 2 teams remain
pg 60 tied, then the tiebreaker process restarts at step 1 for the remaining teams. "Head-to-head" requires that all teams involved in a tie have played each other the same number of times. "Common opponents" are any teams that all those involved in the tie have played the same number of times.

1. Head-to-head
 2. Head-to-head run differential
 3. Head-to-head runs scored
 4. Run differential vs common opponents
 5. Runs scored vs common opponents
- If still tied, use coin flip/card draw to determine advancement in the tournament or split awards (if applicable) when determining final placement.

Proposed rule change

New rule.

Reasoning

Clarifies the tiebreakers to be used in state tournaments that utilize a pool play or round robin format.

5.2.19 A substitute player may be inserted in the lineup in place of a "tie-breaker runner" who starts an extra inning
pg 62 on second base.

Proposed rule change

New rule.

Reasoning

Reinforces the national rule allowing for a substitution to be made for the tie-breaker used in extra innings of Masters 50/60 competition.

5.2.20 If the 5-run limit prohibits the home team from getting within the run ahead rule for that inning, then the game
pg 62 shall be declared final with the visiting team winning by the score of the game at that time.

Proposed rule change

New rule.

Reasoning

Clarifies the outcome of a Masters 50/60 game where the visiting team reaches such a lead that the home team would be unable to get within the run ahead rule in the bottom half of the inning due to the 5-run limit.

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - Coed

Increase umpire registration fees, slow pitch state tournament umpire fees, state tournament entry fees

X. COED

3.7 Teams within 3 points of another division are subject to being moved in order to get the nearest division to a minimum number of 4 teams. Teams with the closest point value are moved first. Additional teams will be moved only if needed. Player classification limits (if approved) still apply. If a team is moved down and later changes the roster resulting in them adding points, they may be subject to moving back up to the higher division or the roster change may be denied. If a team is moved up and another team in their previous division changes their roster resulting in them having the same or higher point value as the team that was moved, they may be subject to being moved up as well or the roster change may be denied.

Proposed rule change

New rule.

Reasoning

Allows for some flexibility in aligning the divisions if teams are needed to reach the minimum number of 4 for a division to be played.

3.8 No pickup players are allowed. Teams may make changes to their roster up to their first game of the tournament so long as their point total does not exceed the limit for their division. (This is the currently applied rule, but it or some variant of it should be added to the Green Book). After the entry deadline, a team may not be dropped to a lower division due to a change in their point total dropping it below their current division's lower limit. This does not prohibit tournament organizers from moving them down if the lower division is in need of entries or there is an opening in the lower bracket.

Proposed rule change

New rule.

Reasoning

Clarifies the ability of teams to make changes to their state tournament rosters eliminating the need for pickup players.

3.9 Completed entries received after the deadline must include a \$25 late fee. Teams that drop out of a state tournament after the deadline will forfeit their entire fee unless a replacement team can be found, in which case they would receive a 50% refund.

Proposed rule change

New rule.

Reasoning

Implements a late fee and refund policy consistent with those in men's & women's state tournaments.

3.10 Teams winning the same division twice within a 3-year period will automatically be moved up to next division (if possible) regardless of points. Teams will be considered the same if they have at least 4 men and 4 women returning from the previous year(s) roster.

Proposed rule change

New rule.

Reasoning

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - Coed

Increase umpire registration fees, slow pitch state tournament umpire fees, state tournament entry fees

Establishes conditions by which teams would be automatically moved up to a higher division of play at a state tournament.

3.11 RATINGS FOR CLASSIFYING FOR COED STATE TOURNAMENTS

pg 65

Men	Women
Class A – 13	Class C – 9
Class B – 11	Class D – 7
Class C – 9	Rec 1 – 6
Class D – 7	Rec 2 – 5
Rec 1 – 6	Coed Only/No Classification – 3
Rec 2 – 5	Rec 3 – 2
Coed Only/No Classification – 3	Rec 4 – 1
Rec 3 – 2	
Rec 4 – 1	

Formula for determining Divisions:

1. Rate every player according to above chart.
2. Top 5 men + top 5 women = total points
3. Use total points to determine division from chart below.

Division 1 – 55 & up

Division 2 – 40 - 54

Division 3 – 25 - 39

Division 4 – 10 - 24

Proposed rule change

RATINGS FOR CLASSIFYING FOR COED STATE TOURNAMENTS

Class A – 8

Class B – 7

Class C – 6

Class D – 5

Rec 1 – 4

Rec 2 – 3

Rec 3 – 2

Rec 4 – 1

Coed Only - 3

Unclassified - 3

Formula for determining Divisions:

1. Rate every player according to above chart.
2. Top 5 men + top 5 women = total points
3. Use total points to determine division from chart below.

Division 1 – 34 - 48

Division 2 – 24 - 33

Division 3 – 10 - 23

4. Rec 1 and above players may not play in Division 3

Reasoning

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - Coed

Increase umpire registration fees, slow pitch state tournament umpire fees, state tournament entry fees

Per recommendations from the Coed Slow Pitch Task Force, streamlined the point system by applying the same points to men's & women's classifications, reduced the difference between classifications to one point for consistency, reduced the state tournaments to 3 divisions based upon the number of recent entries, adjusted the point range for the divisions accordingly, and prohibited higher classified players from participating in the lowest division.

2024 Green Book changes (January).xlsx - Classification

Guideline for determining player classifications, particularly regarding out-of-state teams in invitational tournaments

VI. CLASSIFICATIONS

1.13 A player is considered to be classified either the same as the highest classified team with whom they are rostered that season or their classification on the national player database, if applicable. A player may submit an appeal of their database classification through the USA Softball website, but it must be submitted by June 1st to guarantee consideration in that calendar year's season.

Proposed rule change

Any player participating in a USASND-sanctioned event is considered to be classified either the same as the highest classified team with whom they are rostered that season or their classification on the national player database (if applicable), whichever is higher. If such a player plays for a team in a different USA Softball local association which does not at the time of the event have an official roster submitted, the classification that the team played at in any previous tournament that season would be considered. Furthermore, a player's classification in an organization outside of USA Softball may be considered as well. A player may submit an appeal of their database classification through the USA Softball website, but it must be submitted by June 1st to guarantee consideration in that calendar year's season.

Reasoning

Clarifies that a player's classification will be the higher of the team classification and database classification. Establishes that the classification of a player's team from other USA Softball local associations as well as non-USA Softball organizations may also be considered.