

USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA



TM

of North Dakota

Code/Rules Guide

4/14/2023

USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA GUIDE

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CONSTITUTION OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

- I. **NAME:** The name of this not-for-profit organization shall be known as USA Softball of North Dakota.
- II. **OBJECTIVE:** The objectives of USA Softball of North Dakota shall be:
 - a) To promote and regulate amateur softball for all persons regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry.
 - b) To establish uniform softball rules and regulations.
 - c) To provide it with proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship.
 - d) To encourage the union of all eligible teams, organizations, or groups into such separate associations with active membership and representation in USASND as may from time to time be deemed best adapted to advance the cause of amateur softball.
 - e) To establish and maintain by allied membership, alliances with associations devoted wholly or partially to the promotion of the game of amateur softball.
 - f) To promote and conduct annual amateur softball championships.
 - g) To educate and train in the proper skills of amateur softball play and rules of the game through promoting, organizing, and conducting clinics, seminars, and training courses.
- III. **MEMBERSHIP:** Membership in USA Softball of North Dakota is open to all cities and leagues in the State of North Dakota who are responsible for softball teams and league organizations and who shall agree to be governed by the rules and regulations of USASND and any national organization with which USASND elects to participate and who are paid up members in USASND.
- IV. **GOVERNMENT:** The affairs of USASND shall be administered by the Officers and commissioners as prescribed in the By-Laws of this Constitution and USA Softball Code.
- V. **AMENDMENTS:** This constitution may be amended at a general or special meeting by a three-fourths vote of those attending or by a three-fourths vote of the Advisory Board with at least a quorum of the Advisory Board present, or by unanimous vote of the State Executive Committee. Either group must have at least seven (7) days prior notice of the meeting by mail for an officially called meeting as stipulated in the By-Laws.
- VI. **INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DISSOLUTION**
 - a) The affairs of the corporation shall be conducted in conformity with public policy applicable to tax exempt charitable organizations.
 - b) In the event of dissolution, such assets shall be disposed of exclusively for charitable purposes.
- VII. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, USA Softball of North Dakota will not engage in any activity outside of the activities permitted by Section 501c (3) of Internal Revenue code. (11/84)

**CONSTITUTION OF
USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.**

BY-LAWS OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

ARTICLE I

OFFICES, OFFICERS, AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION I – OFFICERS

The officers of the corporation shall be the President, Secretary/Treasurer and Vice-President who shall be elected in the manner provided by these By-Laws. Such other offices, officers, and assistant officers as may be deemed necessary may be elected or appointed as may be deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee. Any two or more offices may be held by the same individual.

SECTION II – ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

The following officers of the corporation shall be elected by a majority vote of those eligible to vote and present at the annual State Meeting. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected for three-year terms by a majority vote of the eligible voting members present at the annual State Meeting. At the annual State Meeting held in 1989, the Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected for a three-year term. At the annual State Meeting held in 1990, the Vice-President shall be elected for a three-year term. At the annual State Meeting held in 1991, the President shall be elected for a three-year term. Those individuals holding the office of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer at the time of the adoption of this By-Law shall continue to hold office until that office is scheduled for election as herein provided. Any additional officer or officers shall serve for such terms as shall be established at the time of the creation of such office by the Executive Committee. If the election of officers shall not be held at such annual State Meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as may conveniently be arranged. Each officer shall hold office until his successor shall have been duly elected. Any vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, or disqualification or otherwise, may be filled by appointment by the President, with approval of the Executive Committee, for the unexpired portion of the term. In the case of a vacancy in the office of President, the position may be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION III – REMOVAL

Any state official may be removed from office for just cause by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.

SECTION IV – PRESIDENT

The President shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation and shall in general, supervise the business and affairs of the corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the Advisory Board, Executive Committee, and State Meeting. He may sign any documents and contractual agreements as authorized by the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, or state general membership meeting and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee from time to time.

SECTION V – VICE PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President or in the event of his death, inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President and when so acting, shall have all of the powers of and be subject to all of the restrictions upon the President. The Vice-President shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the President or by the Executive Committee.

BY-LAWS OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

SECTION VI – SECRETARY/TREASURER

The Secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings of all official association meetings; see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws or as required by law; be custodian of all corporate records; keep a register of the post office address of each voting member as defined at Article II, Section I, D, E, and F which shall be furnished to the Secretary by such members; to sign such documents as may be necessary and authorized by the Executive Committee; and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the Secretary by the President or the Executive Committee.

In addition to the duties of Secretary, the individual so selected shall also serve as Treasurer. As Treasurer that individual shall have charge and be responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation and in general perform all of the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President or the Executive Committee. If required by the Executive Committee, the Secretary/Treasurer shall be bonded for the faithful discharge of duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Executive Committee shall determine.

SECTION VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, State Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and eight (8) other members to be appointed by the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and State Commissioner. The three (3) present member terms will serve as previously appointed. The four (4) new members shall be appointed as follows: one for a one-year term, two for two-year terms, and one for a three-year term, effective at the 1996 annual meeting. Thereafter appointments will be made for three-year terms resulting in staggered terms. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to determine the number of persons to be on that committee. In addition to the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, State Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, there shall be either three (3), five (5), or eight (8) members appointed. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to decide all matters except those given to the State Commissioner, between annual state meetings of the Association.

SECTION VIII – ADVISORY BOARD

There shall be created an Advisory Board to provide advice and counsel to the Executive Committee on matters pertaining to the well-being, policies, procedures, and activities of USA Softball of North Dakota, Inc., and its members.

The Executive Committee shall participate in all Advisory Board meetings which shall be chaired by the President. The Advisory Board shall consist of the following:

- A. One representative from each division of the State Association: Men's Fast Pitch, Women's Fast Pitch, Men's Slow Pitch, Women's Slow Pitch, Umpires, Masters divisions, Junior Olympic and Coed and such other divisions as may be recognized and created by USA Softball of North Dakota. The representatives from each division shall be selected from their group at the annual State Meeting.
- B. The Assistant State Commissioners.
- C. The Deputy/Area Commissioners.
- D. At least ten (10) District Commissioners to be designated by the State Commissioner.
- E. Tournament Coordinator
- F. Director of Operations

BY-LAWS OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

SECTION IX – STATE COMMISSIONER

The State Commissioner is selected by the National USA Softball, Inc. The State Commissioner may be recommended for selection or removal by two-thirds vote of the Advisory Board. The general membership shall, at an officially called general membership meeting, approve or disapprove the Advisory Board's action by a two-thirds vote of the eligible voters in attendance. The above action is a recommendation to the National USA Softball, Inc.

The State Commissioner shall, with the approval of the President, Vice-President and State Secretary/Treasurer, appoint or remove the necessary Assistant Commissioners.

The State Commissioner shall have the right to appoint or remove the Deputy/Area Commissioners, the District and Assistant District Commissioners, and league and player representatives.

The State Commissioner shall be responsible for the effective administration of USA Softball of North Dakota rules and regulations and of any organization with which USA Softball of North Dakota is affiliated and any other directives enacted by USA Softball of North Dakota or its Executive Committee. The State Commissioner after reviewing and/or consultation with members of the Executive Committee shall be empowered to make any and all decisions relative to the operation of USA Softball of North Dakota not explicitly defined by the By-Laws or by Executive Committee action.

SECTION X – COMMITTEES

The USASND Commissioner shall appoint or designate any special committees he deems necessary. There shall be specifically created a Finance Committee consisting of the State Association President, State Association Secretary-Treasurer, State Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner. They shall oversee the finances of the State Association and make decisions concerning any financial matters of the Association between annual State Meetings. They shall be empowered to contract for all necessary services. The State Association President and State Commissioner shall be ex officio members of all State Association committees except where they are voting members at which committee meetings they shall be official members.

BY-LAWS OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS

SECTION I – ANNUAL STATE MEETING OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

- A. The general membership meeting of USA Softball of North Dakota shall be held between the close of the previous year's playing season and the beginning of the new playing season. If possible, the meeting will be held on or about April 20 of each year. The meeting date will be determined by the State Commissioner.
- B. A special general membership meeting may be called by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Committee.
- C. Notice of the annual state general membership meeting or a special general membership meeting shall be made at least seven (7) days before the scheduled meeting. This notice shall be sent initially by email, with subsequent notifications sent as necessary by email, text message, and/or postal mail.
- D. The eligible voters at the annual state general membership meeting or any special general membership meeting shall be as follows:
 - 1. The members of the Executive Committee.
 - 2. The league or local association representatives or District Commissioners, if acting as league or local association representatives.
 - 3. The other District Commissioners.
 - 4. The State and Assistant State Commissioners.
 - 5. The Deputy State Commissioners.
 - 6. Four duly elected officers of each division as may be officially recognized by USA Softball of North Dakota, In., including but not limited to Men's Fast Pitch, Women's Fast Pitch, Men's Slow Pitch, Women's Slow Pitch, Umpires, Old Pro divisions, Junior Olympic and Coed Divisions
 - 7. The State Umpire-in-Chief and the Deputy State Umpires-in-Chief.
 - 8. Tournament Coordinator
 - 9. Director of Operations
- E. Men's Slow Pitch division shall be allowed one vote for each district commissioner, each deputy commissioner, and each league representative. In addition, leagues with more than 25 teams shall be entitled to an additional vote for each additional 25 teams or portion thereof registered by a local association the previous year.
- F. With respect to all other divisions, voting in the individual division meetings will be with each team, league representative, district commissioner, deputy commissioner, assistant state commissioner, and elected state officer of each division having one vote.
- G. No person shall be entitled to more than one vote even though otherwise qualified by representation.

SECTION II – ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Advisory Board shall meet at the call of a majority of the Executive Committee and notice of such meeting shall be at least seven (7) days before the scheduled meeting.

SECTION III – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the State President or State Commissioner. On special matters, the Executive Committee may be polled by telephone or by e-mail with such vote subsequently confirmed in writing.

BY-LAWS OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

SECTION IV – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee shall meet at the call of any one of the members of the Committee. Special decisions shall be made by telephone or by e-mail with subsequent ratification in writing.

SECTION V – VOTING

With regard to voting at any and all meetings, except as may be otherwise provided herein, a majority vote of those present and voting shall decide all matters.

SECTION VI – AGENDA ITEMS

Except as may be otherwise provided for in these By-Laws, and except for such items as may be submitted by the Executive Committee, any item of business to be presented at a general or special meeting of the general membership shall be submitted, in writing, and received by the state office 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting at which said item of business is to be acted upon. Such item, in writing, shall specifically set forth the nature and purpose of such agenda item.

BY-LAWS OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

ARTICLE III STATE UMPIRES

SECTION I – UMPIRES-IN-CHIEF

The State Umpire-in-Chief shall be appointed by the State Commissioner with approval of the Executive Committee. The State Umpire-in-Chief may be removed for just cause by the State Commissioner with approval of a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. Deputy Umpires-in-Chief shall be appointed by the State Umpire-in-Chief after approval of the State Commissioner. They may be removed, for just cause, by the State commissioner after consultation with the State Umpire-in-Chief. Such removal shall be subject to appeal by the removed individual to the Executive Committee.

SECTION II – DUTIES

The duties of the State Umpire-in-Chief shall consist of arranging for and conducting umpire clinics to improve and standardize umpiring in North Dakota softball. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall recommend the appointments of Deputy State Umpires-in-Chief and assign duties to each deputy. The State Umpire-in-Chief shall select umpires for state tournaments with approval of the State Commissioner and shall keep Deputy Umpires-in-Chief informed of all matters pertinent to the fulfillment of the duties of their office.

BY-LAWS OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION FEES

SECTION I – TEAMS

Each team shall pay registration fees to USA Softball of North Dakota, Inc. as shall be determined at the annual state general membership meeting. These fees will remain the same unless changed at the annual state general membership meeting or by the Executive Committee.

SECTION II – UMPIRES

Umpire registration fees shall be determined by the Executive Committee after consultation with the State Umpire-in-Chief.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMBERSHIP PROVISIONS

- A. Teams and umpires may become members of USA Softball of North Dakota by paying the required annual registration fees. Teams must be registered by complete leagues. The Executive Committee may waive this league requirement under special circumstances.
- B. Membership is open to all teams of North Dakota and such other teams located in immediate contiguous areas or cities in other states where special circumstances may deem it necessary as may be determined under the procedures set forth in Part A above.
- C. State team registration fees must be paid to the local commissioner before league schedules are drawn. (It is recommended that all leagues make each team pay local fees also before league schedules are drawn.)
- D. Player rosters and changes of rosters must be submitted as determined by the Executive Committee.
- E. All umpires and all players listed on a USA Softball of North Dakota team roster must observe all rules of USA Softball of North Dakota and any organization with which USA Softball of North Dakota affiliates. Violations of these rules by any member of USA Softball of North Dakota will subject such member to possible suspension.

BY-LAWS OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

ARTICLE V TOURNAMENTS

SECTION I – STATE TOURNAMENTS

- A. Divisions of play shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
- B. Methods of qualifying for state tournaments shall be determined by the Executive Committee or committees they designate for that purpose.
- C. State tournament fees shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
- D. Final state tournament dates and sites shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
- E. Umpire fees for state tournaments shall be determined at the annual meeting of the general membership subject to change by the Executive Committee.
- F. Tournament directors and umpires-in-chief for state tournaments shall be approved by the State Commissioner.
- G. All cities, leagues and persons hosting state tournaments must agree to abide by all rules and regulations set forth by these By-Laws and USA Softball of North Dakota's Official Guide.

SECTION II – INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- A. Invitational tournaments conducted with member teams of USA Softball of North Dakota must have the written approval of the State Commissioner or his Assistant State Commissioner on the form required by the State Association.
- B. All management of or participation in any tournaments approved by the Association must comply with the rules set forth in USA Softball of North Dakota Official Guide. Any violations of these rules may result in the suspension of individual or individuals.

ARTICLE VI SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION I – INJURY AND ACCIDENT

USA Softball of North Dakota shall not be responsible for any injury or accident to any member, player, official, spectator, or umpire.

SECTION II – RULES

The rules of USA Softball of North Dakota, as adopted, will govern play of any league or city affiliated with USA Softball of North Dakota unless local rules are specifically adopted by those leagues for local league play only before the season begins.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new By-Laws may be adopted at a general or special State Meeting of the Association by a three-quarters vote of eligible voters in attendance or by a unanimous vote of the state Executive Committee. Except as may be otherwise provided herein and except for such By-Laws changes made by the Executive Committee by unanimous vote, such proposed By-Law changes shall be specifically set forth in writing and submitted to the state office by February 1 prior to the annual State Meeting to be eligible for consideration at said annual State Meeting. Any proposed By-Law change to be acted upon at a special meeting shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee prior to any special meeting being called as provided by in Article II, Section I, Paragraph B. The specific change contemplated and notice of meeting shall be mailed to the general membership seven (7) days prior to the date upon which any official action may be taken relative to such amendment or adoption of By-Laws.

BY-LAWS OF USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.

USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA PROCEDURAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

These Procedural Rules and Regulations are a supplement to the USASND Constitution and By-Laws and to its affiliation with USA Softball.

USA Softball Codes shall govern except where changes have been made in these USASND Procedural Rules and Regulations

These Procedural Rules and Regulations may be amended by a 3/4 vote of the voting members attending a general membership meeting or by a 2/3 vote of those in attendance at an USASND Executive Committee Meeting.

In the case of an emergency, the Executive Committee can be polled by phone with a follow-up vote by mail.

These Procedural Rules and Regulations cannot cover every possible situation or contingency. However, these Procedural Rules should assist you in administering your duties as League Representative, Commissioner, or official of this Association.

DEFINITIONS

1. **“Amateur”** means an amateur softball player who engages in the sport solely for the pleasure and physical, mental or social benefits he derives therefrom and to whom softball is nothing more than an avocation.
2. **“A.S.A.” (also ASA)** means Amateur Softball Association, now known as USA Softball, the National Governing Body of Softball.
3. **“Annual Meeting”** means the meeting as stated in the USASND Constitution.
4. **“Association”** means USA Softball of North Dakota.
5. **“Bonafide Resident”** means that the person is domiciled and is actually physically residing within the state. For the purpose of this definition: state statutes or local ordinances shall not be binding in determining residency and a person establishing a residency for the principal purpose of participating with an USASND registered team is not a “Bonafide Resident.”
6. **“Borderline Resident”** is defined to cover a person who is a bonafide resident residing within a location that is close to or adjacent to another state or metro area.
7. **“Cash prizes”** means prizes in cash or in merchandise that is easily converted into cash which are awarded to players, teams, or sponsors based on the final standings of a tournament or other competition.
8. **“Championship Tournament”** or **“Championship Competition”**: means a tournament or competition that leads to a national championship of this Association.
9. **“Church Member”** is one who regularly attends the religious services of the sponsoring church congregation. If a church member attends the services of two or more churches and is on the “bonafide” membership roll of one of the churches, then this player is ruled a member of the church where his name appears on the membership roll.
10. **“Commissioner”** refers to the USASND State Commissioner unless otherwise specified.
11. **“Committees”** refers to those committees identified in the By-Laws of USASND.
12. **“Deputy Commissioner”** is a person appointed to serve a larger area and to assist District Commissioners and League Representatives.
13. **“Disqualified Player”** means a team member, manager or team official who has been disqualified from play in events promoted and conducted by this Association.
14. **“Disqualified Team”** means a team which will be denied further participation the remainder of the tournament.
15. **“District Commissioner”** is a person appointed to oversee a larger entity and represent them at the State Meeting and to assist League Representatives in a given area.
16. **“Division of Play”** means the different types of championship competition conducted by the Association.
17. **“Entity”** is a separate geographical unit of USASND made up of one league or an association of leagues within a city.
18. **“Foreign Player”** is a citizen of a country other than the United States.
19. **“Full-Time Employee”** means a person who works at least the minimum number of hours normally worked by a full-time employee in that particular job or industry.
20. **“Full-Time Student”** is determined by the educational institution’s registration requirements.

DEFINITIONS

21. **“Guide”** is defined as the USASND Constitution, By-Laws and Procedural Rules and Regulations.
22. **“His”** (i.e. he,him) means also to include the female gender.
23. **“Host Team”** means a team selected by the local association to represent it in a state, regional or national tournament that the local association is hosting.
24. **“Illegal Player”** means an ineligible player who participated in an event for which they were not eligible.
25. **“Ineligible Player”** means a team member, manager or team official that is not eligible to participate in USASND competition. A disqualified player is included in this definition as an ineligible player.
26. **“Invitational Tournament”** means a tournament that does not lead to a championship tournament.
27. **“Junior Olympic”** and **“Youth”** are synonymous.
28. **“League Representative”** is the person appointed to oversee operations of a local entity and to represent them at the Spring Meeting.
29. **“Member”** means those individual, teams and organizations that come under USASND.
30. **“National Organization”** means an organization, national in structure, that organizes, conducts and administers an amateur sports program.
31. **“Procedural Rules and Regulations”** mans the rules and regulations set forth in that section of the USASND Guide.
32. **“Region”** is defined as a geographical area encompassing a specific number of state and metro areas.
33. **“Regular Season Roster”** means that roster which a team uses to identify the members of a specific softball team from the time it is first organized until the time of championship play.
34. **“Replacement Team”** means a team eligible to replace a qualifying team in the next level of championship play when the qualifying team is unable to advance. The replacement team must be the next highest finishing eligible team from the qualifying tournament.
35. **“Resident Student”** means a full-time student that is living away from his home for the purpose of attending elementary, high school, college or graduate school. Summer school students are not considered “resident students”, unless they are attending the same school that they attended during the entire preceding school year.
36. **“Sanctioned Tournament”** means a tournament approved by USASND.
37. **“Team”** shall include but not be limited to the following: players, coaches, managers, trainers, scorekeepers and sponsors.
38. **“Unsportsmanlike Conduct”** means conduct that is detrimental or unbecoming to the purposes and objectives of USASND or any organization with which it affiliates.
39. **“USASND”** means USA Softball of North Dakota
40. **“Youth”** and **“Junior Olympic”** are synonymous.

DEFINITIONS

I. LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES AND COMMISSIONERS

1. General

- 1.1 League Reps shall be appointed by State Commissioner. The State Commissioner will review problem areas and appointments with the State Executive Committee Members.
- 1.2 League Commissioners' or Representatives' Duties:
 - a) Act as an intermediary between the State Office and League.
 - b) Insure that all submissions to the State Office are prompt and correct.
 - c) Report all violations to the properly designated official.
 - d) Respond to league inquiries and comments and, if unsure, forward on to the State Office.
 - e) Attend state and league meetings and attend one umpire clinic per year.
 - f) Review the LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE/COMMISSIONER GUIDE.
- 1.3 It is recommended that leagues do not change representatives or commissioners each year. It takes from three to five years to develop and train league representatives or commissioners and changes will only hurt your league.

2. League Representatives / Commissioner's Duties

- A. Act as Liaison between the State and the League.
- B. Guide the league officers in fulfilling their duties.
- C. Enforce all USASND rules and regulations and promote the game of softball.
- D. Attend the State Meeting.
- E. Distribute books and other materials from the State to the teams.
- F. Keep League informed on all Code and Rule changes.
- G. Submit team fees and rosters properly completed to the State as designated in the USASND Official Guide.
- H. **Provide classification for each team when registering the league.**
- I. Determine team classifications.
- J. Advise the State Office of any change in team classifications.
- K. Submit roster changes until deadline date.
- L. Forward a list of state tournament entrants and the corresponding state tournament entry fees to the State Office immediately.
- M. Urge the league to hold at least a spring and a fall meeting and committees should be appointed for various duties. The more persons involved, the more solid the league will be. Losing one out of two or three active members can create a lot more problems than losing one out of ten or 12. Officers should be elected at the fall meeting so they may lay the groundwork early for the next year.
- N. Assist local groups if they wish to schedule invitational tournaments. Information in the USASND Official Guide.
- O. Assist local association in bidding for and hosting State, Regional, and National Tournaments.
- P. Review player eligibility. If there are questions on eligibility, contact the State Commissioner. We want to give everyone an opportunity to play.
- Q. For information on fees, deadlines, policies, etc., please refer to your USASND Official Guide, especially the Procedural Rules and Regulations Section.

I. LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES AND COMMISSIONERS

2.2 SPECIAL NOTE: The League Representative is not required to pass out rosters, pick up rosters, or collect dues from individual teams. These are the responsibilities of the duly elected league officers.

- a. Team registration fees should be paid directly to the League Secretary or Treasurer by the teams. He will then give the League Representative a list of the teams, managers, and other necessary information to fill out the Team Registration Sheet which he will forward along with a check from the League Secretary or Treasurer to cover the registration fees. All teams must be registered with the State. **NO TEAM SHOULD BE DRAWN INTO THE LEAGUE SCHEDULE UNLESS THEIR DUES ARE PAID.**
- b. League officers will pass out and collect the Official Roster from the team managers. After they have verified that all player fees have been paid, they will turn the roster over to the League Representative who will then fill out the required section and forward to the State Commissioner.
- c. Roster changes should be handled through the League Secretary or Treasurer. Teams will notify that person **in writing** and pay proper fees after which the League Secretary or Treasurer will give the roster change **in writing** to the League Representative who will then send it in to the State Office.

The Official Guide will assist you in above duties. **DEADLINES MUST BE OBSERVED**

3. Deputy Commissioners

- 3.1 Appointed by State Commissioner.
- 3.2 Oversees all leagues and District Commissioners in his or her area.
 - A. Be familiar with the District Commissioner and League Representative guidelines.
 - B. Follow up on deadlines required of District Commissioner.
- 3.3 Attend as many league meetings in assigned area as possible.
 - A. Promote the establishment of new leagues.
- 3.4 Receive questions from League Representatives or District Commissioner.
 - A. Rule on obvious situations.
 - B. Relay other questions to State Commissioner or Assistant State Commissioner.
- 3.5 Attend all State Meetings.
- 3.6 Attend softball tournaments, clinics and all other USASND sponsored functions in your area, if possible.
- 3.7 Observe teams of your assigned area during league and tournament play to evaluate classifications, changing where necessary.
 - A. Delegate representatives to observe teams within your assigned area.
- 3.8 Advise the State Office immediately of any violation of USASND rules and regulations.

4. District Commissioners

- 4.1 Appointed by State Commissioner.
- 4.2 Duties
 - A. The Commissioner's responsibility shall be to carry out and enforce all USASND rules and regulations and to promote the game of softball.
 - B. Where there is no League Representative, the District Commissioner shall have the same duties as the League Representative.
 - C. When there are League Representatives under his jurisdiction, he shall assist them with their duties in addition to handling his own league.
 - D. Advise State Office immediately of misclassification of teams.

Advise State Office immediately of any violation of USASND rules and regulations.

I. LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES AND COMMISSIONERS

II. ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. General

- 1.1 League Entry Fees including the State Registration Fee must be paid to the league treasurer before the league schedule is drawn. The State Registration Fee is to be sent in to the State Treasurer no later than five (5) days after the scheduling meeting.
- 1.2 Rosters are to be turned in to local commissioners or league representatives on the first night of scheduled play. These are to be forwarded, when instructed, to the State Office.
- Rosters carry a disclaimer above the list of players. Players playing on more than one team must show the classification of the other teams in a column on the front of the roster.
 - Roster Revision Forms must carry the classification of the teams on which a player participates and also must carry his signature, if not on another team.
 - Suspensions: If a player's suspension concludes during a season, and after the roster change deadline, and this player is going to play after that date, at the beginning of the year the player must be placed on the roster and the date when suspension ends must be noted on the roster. The team manager and League Rep are responsible.
- 1.3 Roster changes must be submitted to local league representatives or Commissioners no later than Tuesday noon. Commissioners or representatives must have roster changes in the mail Tuesday if they are to be accepted by USASND during the week. Added players may not compete until their team manager has a revised roster from USASND. The final date of all roster changes will be determined by the executive committee.
- 1.4 In adult divisions only, someone living out of state can play in North Dakota. Players can play in more than one state/metro association, but cannot participate in championship play (state tournaments) in more than one state.
- 1.5 All personnel on a team will become members of USASND when the team advises the local league or USASND rep they will have a team participating in the league or when the team has its first practice, whichever comes first.
- 1.6 Roster Limits
- | <u>Division</u> | <u>Minimum</u> | <u>Maximum</u> |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Youth Slow Pitch | 12 | 18 |
| Youth Fast Pitch | 12 | 18 |
| Adult Fast Pitch | 12 | 18 |
| Adult Slow Pitch | 12 | 20 |
| Coed | 12 | 20 |
- 1.7 Players are allowed to play both slow pitch and fast pitch. They must be sure to follow the rules regarding rosters and to complete the forms required to participate on more than one team. (4/90) (Players may play in only one state – USA Softball Rule)
- 1.8 A player will be allowed to be on a Fast Pitch or Modified Fast Pitch roster, and a Slow Pitch roster.
- 1.9 If a player plays both Fast and Slow Pitch, there must be a special notation made on both team rosters to so designate those players. Team manager will sign a letter stating that the team manager understands the situation for the player or players.
- 1.10 Men's and Women's Slow Pitch and Fast Pitch players will be allowed to play on more than one team within their league or association.
- 1.11 Players may play in any association within the state without playing in their local association.
- 1.12 If a player is on more than one team, all teams must be registered with USASND.

II. ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 1.13 Slow Pitch players may play in more than one classification in state tournaments. If there is a conflict in dates, the player must play with their highest classified team. Once the player has played in a state tournament, they may not revert to another team which played on overlapping dates. This refers to championship play only.
- 1.14 Slow Pitch pickup players that participate on more than one team must use their highest classification of any teams with which they play or their classification on the national player database (if applicable) - whichever is higher - when being picked up by another team for invitational tournaments.
- 1.15 Military service callups can be replaced on a roster when there are less than 15 players on the roster. Service returnees are eligible to be added to a roster as soon as they return from the service.
- 1.16 USASND is aware of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 and will continue to allow play to start with nine players in exception of the National rule which reads team and continue with eight instead of nine if the ADA cannot continue.
- 1.17 All ADA players must be so designated on the roster.
- 1.18 Men's Fast Pitch are allowed to play on more than one team. Players will be allowed to play in more than one state tournament if the state tournaments are on different weekends. If two state tournaments are on the same weekend, players must play on team with the highest classification. Team managers must be aware that:
 - a) Their team will be classified according to their rosters players, including the dual roster players.
 - b) The dual roster players may not be available for invitational or state tournaments because they are playing with another team.
 - c) It will be the manager's responsibility to deal with the player availability problems that could occur due to dual rostering.
- 1.19 Each player must carry a picture ID with signature and present when requested. If a player is not in possession or cannot obtain the picture ID with signature, they must contact the State Office prior to a tournament to obtain the right to play.
- 1.20 If the player does not have ID on hand, he may be given five (5) minutes to present it (example: in car at parking area). Player is ineligible until ID presented. Player in violation will be ejected from the game if no ID available; game not forfeited. Team can replace player if they have substitutes. If the team is down to 9, they will be allowed to continue with an out in the batting position - same as injury rule. Alternatively, the manager can opt to complete and sign an affidavit confirming that a player (or players) without an ID is a legal player on that team's roster. The player(s) must send an image of a photo ID to the State Office within 7 days of the end of the tournament. Signing such an affidavit with fraudulent information will result in a suspension of at least one year for all involved. If the player turns out to be illegal, present rules for use of illegal players would be in effect (Section II, rule 1.22, page 17).
- 1.21 Individuals under the age of 18 may participate in the adult program only if their parent or legal guardian signs the appropriate roster or roster revision form unless otherwise prohibited by the local association.
- 1.22 A team proven to have been using an illegal player forfeits their current game, if still being played. If this occurs before or after a game, the team will forfeit their most recent game and their opponent will be awarded a 7-0 victory (unless they have also failed a roster check). In either case, the offending team is eliminated from the tournament. The team & player will be placed on probation for the remainder of that season and the next unless already on probation, in which case a suspension for the player/manager/team will be applicable.

II. ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 Eligibility will be based on affiliated National Codes, unless otherwise specified. Each local association or intercity league shall be considered as a separate entity regarding residency.
 - a) Player Identification - Each player must carry a picture ID with signature and present when requested. If a player is not in possession or cannot obtain the picture ID with signature, they must contact the State Office prior to a tournament to obtain the right to play.
 - b) When questioned, if the player does not have ID on hand, they may be given five (5) minutes to present it (Example: in car at parking area). Player is ineligible until ID presented. Player in violation will be ejected from game if no ID available; game not forfeited. Team can replace player if they have substitutes. If the team is down to 9, they will be allowed to continue with an out in the batting position - same as injury rule. Alternatively, the manager can opt to complete and sign an affidavit confirming that a player (or players) without an ID is a legal player on that team's roster. The player(s) must send an image of a photo ID to the State Office within 7 days of the end of the tournament. Signing such an affidavit with fraudulent information will result in a suspension of at least one year for all involved. If the player turns out to be illegal, present rules for use of illegal players would be in effect (Section II, rule 1.22, page 17).
- 2.2 A player may play in any association within the state without playing in their local association.
- 2.3 To be eligible for any competition, teams must carry a roster copy certified by the State Office.
- 2.4 Alleged violations of eligibility rules will be heard by the State Commissioner or a committee or person appointed by him. Penalties shall be set according to the degree of violation, with violators having the right of appeal
- 2.5 Final decision regarding eligibility will be made by the State Commissioner.

II. ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

3. Pickup Rules – Invitational / State Tournaments - All Divisions

- 3.1 State Tournament pickup rules.
 - a) Teams may pickup a maximum of three players.
 - b) Cannot have more than 12 players total, including pickups.
 - c) Pickup players must be from the same classification or lower than team picking them up. Pickup players must wear the uniform of the highest classified team with which they are rostered.
 - d) Pickup players must be on tournament-eligible USASND rosters (no player solely on a "league only" roster is eligible to participate as a pickup player).
 - e) State tournament pickup player form must be turned in to tournament director prior to playing first game. Pickup form must be signed by team's local league rep or a state official. A \$20 fee must be paid at the tournament if the pickup form is not properly approved before arriving and must be processed by tournament official. An unapproved pickup player may not participate in any game until their eligibility is verified.
 - f) Team managers and pickup players are responsible for knowing pickup players classification and eligibility.
 - g) Pickup players may come from any division of play.
- 3.2 A player's eligibility is limited to the player's highest class team on which he/she is rostered or their national player database classification, whichever is higher.
- 3.3 A player is responsible for his/her pickup eligibility as to classification.
- 3.4 Managers are responsible to use only pickup players according to their highest classification.
- 3.5 Player must wear the team uniform from their highest class team.
- 3.6 Players can be picked up for tournaments from anywhere in the state.
- 3.7 A player may not be picked up if one of the player's teams is entered in any other tournament.
- 3.8 Once a tournament starts, a team is not allowed to add any pickups or additional pickups. They must play with the players they had intended to use during the tournament. (There has been a question on this. This means that if a team has picked up one player and another player should get hurt, they are not allowed to add an additional pickup once the tournament starts. If they have picked up two players to start the tournament giving them a total of 12 players, the team may not bring in an additional member of their team later in the tournament.) EXCEPTION : TWO DAY TOURNAMENT PICKUP RULE
- 3.9 No person may play with more than one team in any tournament. Once a team has been eliminated from a tournament, the players are not eligible to play as pickup players in any other tournament. If a team has been defeated in this tournament, no other team may use one of their members as a pickup player as this would be an addition during the tournament. The same thing occurs if a team using a pickup player is eliminated from the tournament; the pickup players are not eligible to compete with another team as they did not start the tournament with that team.

II. ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

4. Pickup Rules - Invitational - Slow Pitch

- 4.1 Teams may pick up players in invitational tournaments up to the highest class of the division in which they are playing. Example : Class C/D tournament – D team can pick up C players, Rec 2 below tournament – Rec 4 team could pick up Rec 2 players.
- 4.2 Slow Pitch Pickup Rule is:
All Slow Pitch: Teams may pick up a maximum of 3 players for a total of no more than 12 players.
Teams must follow Pickup Rules for one and two day events.
- 4.3 Player must wear the team uniform of the highest class team he plays with.
 - a) A player may not be picked up by any team playing in a lower class tournament than the pickup player's highest class team.
 - b) The player is responsible for his pickup eligibility as to classification.
 - c) Managers are responsible to use only pickup players according to their highest classification.
 - d) A player's pickup eligibility is limited to the player's highest class team on which he/she is rostered or their national player database classification, whichever is higher.
- 4.4 Players, including pickup players, on teams entered in a two-day tournament may not compete in another tournament on that same weekend. A player could participate in a tournament scheduled for Saturday only and another scheduled for Sunday only.
- 4.5 The pickup rule is intended to be used when you are short of players for a tournament and might have to cancel out of the event. It is not intended to be used to strengthen a team.
- 4.6 Once a tournament starts, a team is not allowed to add any additional pickups unless it conforms to the Pick-up Rule for two-day tournament.
- 4.7 A player may not be picked up if the player's team is entered in any other tournament.
EXCEPTION: Master's Men's Fast Pitch.
- 4.8 No person may play with more than one team in any tournament. EXCEPTION: At a tournament's discretion, a player may be allowed to play with a maximum of two teams if one or both participate in a Masters division
- 4.9 Two-Day Pickup Rule - Teams may pick up players to play for them on Saturday; if the team's regular players are available for Sunday, the regular members may play for the team but the pick-ups cannot play on Sunday. Likewise, teams may pick up players to play for them on Sunday. If the team's regular players are available for Saturday, the regular members may play for the team but the pick-ups cannot play on Saturday.
 - a) Team manager must report all pick-up players to the Tournament Director before playing first game. In a two-day tournament, the Team Manager must report all pick-ups before their first game on the first day and any changes planned for Sunday.
 - b) When the Team Manager reports to the Tournament Director, the Team Manager must tell the Tournament Director if regular team members will play on Sunday and which pick-ups will be dropped to conform to the 12 total rules.
- 4.10 Pickup players must be on tournament-eligible USASND rosters (no player solely on a "league only" roster is eligible to participate as a pickup player).

II. ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

5. Pickup Rules - Men's Masters 35/40/50/60

- 5.1 Masters 35/40 teams may pick up a maximum 3 players for state tournaments. Total number of players cannot exceed 12 players, including pickups. Pickups must meet age qualifications and be USASND rostered players.
- 5.2 Masters 35 Div 1 can pick up any players up to the highest classified team in the division (though the team limit of no more than 3 C or above players includes pickup players), Div 2 pickups Rec 1 or lower, Div 3 may pickup Rec 3/Rec 4 players only.
- 5.3 Masters 40 Div 1 can pick up any players up to the highest classified team in the division (though the team limit of no more than 3 C or above players includes pickup players), Div 2 pickups Rec 2 or lower.
- 5.4 Masters 50/60 teams may pick up a maximum of 3 players, 20 players total, including pickups. Pickup players must meet age qualifications and be USASND rostered players.

6. Pickup Rules – Special – Men’s Fast Pitch

- 6.1 Pickup players must have approval of their rostered team manager. Two (2) pickup players are allowed. When the tournament is classified as OPEN, All-Star teams (state rostered players only) are allowed and the pickup rule is waived.
- 6.2 Pickup players may not be chosen from teams classified higher than the class of the tournament.
- 6.3 A player may not be picked up if the player’s team is entered in any other tournament.
- 6.4 No person may play with more than one team in any tournament. Once a team has been eliminated from a tournament, the players are not eligible to play as pickup players in any other tournaments.

II. ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

III. SCHEDULE OF FEES AND DUE DATES

1. USA Softball of North Dakota Fees

- 1.1 Team Registration
 - a) LEAGUE - (Registered through Leagues)

	WFP	MFP	WSP	MSP	Church & Coed	Youth Paid by State
	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$20.00	
 - Fall Leagues: \$20.00 Rec. Leagues: \$20.00
 - b) SPECIAL - (for Closed and Coed Tournaments)
 - Coed Closed events (Example-Fraternal, Company, etc.)
 - \$20.00 \$20.00
 - Special Celebrations, anniversaries, reunion teams, etc.* \$20.00
 - * Must have a prior approval of State Commissioner
- 1.2 USASND Team Registration Fees are to be collected from the team before schedules are drawn.
- 1.3 This should also be the deadline for collecting local league dues.

2. Insurance

- 2.1 Each team is urged to purchase team accident insurance. Liability insurance is included with a team's registration courtesy RPS Bollinger.
- 2.2 Each city will have field liability insurance courtesy RPS Bollinger so long as all teams and umpires are properly registered.

3. Umpire Registrations

- 3.1 Fees – Adults \$72, Youth (under 18) \$42
- 3.2 Umpires attending a mandatory makeup rules clinic must pay a \$5 fee.
- 3.3 The State Commissioner or State Secretary has the right to refuse any registration if it is not submitted by the due date.

4. Tournament Sanction Contracts (Established Tournaments have priority)

- 4.1 \$5.00 per entry - Due by date established by State Office or priority lost.

5. State Tournament Fees

- 5.1 Amount of fees and due dates will be set by the Executive Committee.

III. SCHEDULE OF FEES AND DUE DATES

6. Rosters

- 6.1 All rosters are due the 1st night of league play and must be submitted to USA Softball of North Dakota within seven (7) days or the time set by State Office.
- 6.2 Final roster change date will be determined by the executive committee.
- 6.3 All local player fees must be paid before rosters can be accepted by the local representative or commissioner.
- 6.4 Military service callups can be replaced on a roster when there are less than 15 players on the roster. Service returnees are eligible to be added to a roster as soon as they return from the service. After the classification meeting, any service returnee will have to be cleared by the MSP or WSP Commissioner and the State Commissioner.

III. SCHEDULE OF FEES AND DUE DATES

IV. PLAYING RULES

1. General Association Rules

- 1.1 In adult divisions only, someone living out of state can play in North Dakota. Players can play in more than one state or metro association. Players are limited to championship play (state tournaments) in only one state or metro association.
- 1.2 If the league or association has not adopted special rules before the start of their season, state and national rules or procedures will govern at all times.
- 1.3 Each league should hold a fall meeting for election of officers with notification to the State Association of those officers.
- 1.4 Unsportsmanlike conduct - Any person guilty of an unsportsmanlike act will be subject to a penalty equal to the seriousness of the violation.
- 1.5 All players must adhere to the Uniform Dress Code.
- 1.6 Players and coaches in USA Softball play cannot wear the logo of any other softball association on their uniforms. USA Softball Rule.
- 1.7 No metal spikes are allowed in any division of slow pitch, Coed, or Junior Olympic play. No hard plastic or polyurethane spikes similar to metal sole and heel plate are allowed in any division of slow pitch, Coed, or Junior Olympic play. No shoes with detachable cleats that screw ON are allowed; however shoes with detachable cleats that screw INTO the shoe are allowed. The same rule applies in Women's Fast Pitch with the exception that pitchers in A and B can wear them for pitching only. They must change for batting purposes.
- 1.8 All player equipment not being used in the game shall be confined to out-of-play areas. Non-player equipment shall be confined to out-of-play areas. This includes wheel chairs, crutches, leg casts, and other similar items.
- 1.9 It is recommended that all leagues, for their league play, adopt the special rule pertaining to number of players required to start a game and special injury clause allowing team to finish with fewer than the number of players that started a game.
- 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.
- 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. Approved bats that pass compression testing may have a USA Softball sticker applied, if available
- 1.12 All associations and tournaments will use the .52 /300 USA Softball approved softball.
- 1.13 Batters will begin with 1-1 count, no courtesy foul.
- 1.14 Pitching arc 6' to 10'. Masters 50/60 is 6' to 12'.
- 1.15 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.
- 1.16 USASND Casual Profanity rule is in effect for all invitational and state tournaments. Use of casual profanity will result in the NEXT batter being called out.

IV. PLAYING RULES

V. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

All persons, whether a fan or a participant at an USA Softball / USASND event, shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and shall not engage in any conduct that will discredit this Association or be contrary to the objectives and purposes of this Association. Violators will be subject to penalties and disqualifications.

The State Commissioner has the authority to hold hearings and determine penalties that are to be invoked for violation of USA Softball / USASND Codes and Rules or violations of any association's Code and Rules with which USASND is affiliated.

1. Acts of Suspension

- 1.1 Any member of the USA Softball / USASND, be it a team, team member, manager, team official, administrator, volunteer or umpire may be suspended for any of the following:
 - a) Unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - b) Physical violence, such as an attack on an umpire, tournament official or participant immediately preceding, during or immediately following a game.
 - c) Commission of Fraud, such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster or giving false information to league or tournament officials.
 - d) Participating when they do not meet the eligibility requirements of the USA Softball / USASND.
 - e) Knowingly competing with or against individuals or teams which are suspended from USA Softball / USASND play.
 - f) Commission of any act while participating in USA Softball / USASND activities such as failure to pay indebtedness, destruction of property, violation of state or local laws or any other acts that are contrary to the objectives and purpose of the USA Softball / USASND.
 - g) Violation of USA Softball substance abuse policies and procedures.
 - h) Forfeiting a game in championship play.
 - i) Bullying, hazing, harassment (including sexual harassment), emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and sexual misconduct (including child sexual abuse) as defined by the USOC SafeSport program at www.safesporttrained.org.
 - j) Interference with any USA Softball / USASND Hearing Process as cited in the USA Softball Code.
- 1.2 **Effects of Suspension:** A team, team member, manager, team official, administrator, volunteer or umpire shall cease to be eligible to participate in USA Softball/ USASND activities, league play, tournaments or any other events conducted or sanctioned by the USA Softball / USASND while suspended by the USA Softball / USASND or any local association. Persons suspended in one local association shall be deemed suspended and ineligible for purposes of all activities of all USA Softball / USASND local associations. Any attempt to participate in any local association's activities while suspended shall constitute grounds for additional potential discipline and suspension.

V. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

- 1.3 **Penalties:** A team, team member, manager, team official, administrator, volunteer or umpire may be suspended for a period of time for violations of the USA Softball / USASND code at the sole discretion of the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee (s), subject only to any right of appeal to the Executive Director. However, the following acts of suspension require a minimum of loss of eligibility as follows:
- a) Physical violence – one (1) year minimum.
 - b) Commission of fraud – one (1) year minimum.
 - c) Competing knowingly with or against suspended players –one (1) year minimum.
 - d) Competing with a team that is discovered to have within its possession or control an altered bat – two (2) year minimum.
 - e) Player found in possession of an altered bat and found guilty according to Article 305 of the USA Softball Code shall be suspended for five (5) years minimum.
 - f) Team discovered to have within its possession or control of an altered bat may be suspended for a two (2) year minimum.
 - g) Bullying, hazing, harassment (including sexual harassment), two (2) year minimum.
 - h) Physical misconduct – five (5) year minimum.
 - i) Sexual misconduct (including child sexual abuse) – ten (10) year minimum.
- 1.4 **USASND Suspension Procedures:** USASND will follow Sections 15 & 16 of the USA Softball By-Laws for any and all Acts of Suspension, Hearing Process, Right of Appeals and penalty phase, including the process specifically outlined for (Tournament Play).

2. Game Disqualifications and Ejections:

- 2.1 An official ejection form **must** be filled out by a league official, a tournament director, or an umpire for **all** game ejections. The ejection form states: "As the manager of the above named team, I fully understand that if the ejection occurred in league play that the above named player/manager/coach or team representative is suspended for the rest of the night. In addition, the player is also suspended for the next four (4) games played by the player, whether it is a tournament game(s) or league game(s). During this suspension, the above named player cannot be a pick-up player for any league or tournament games before the suspension has been fulfilled. If the ejection occurs during tournament play, the player/manager/coach or team representative is suspended from the game the ejection took place plus the next four (4) games played in the tournament if it applies, or for their next four (4) games whether it is a tournament game(s) or league game(s). If the player is a pick-up player they must sit out the next four (4) games played by this team in the tournament if it applies. If not, they must sit out their next four (4) games whether it is a tournament game(s) or league game(s) for the team being represented as a pick-up player.
- 2.2 As manager, it is also my responsibility to inform my local league representative or officer of this ejection and again when the suspension has been fulfilled. Failure to comply with the suspension will result in forfeiture of any games played and additional penalties for the player, myself, and/or the team. Failure to sign this form will also be grounds for suspension." In the absence of the team manager, a team representative must sign the ejection report.
- 2.3 If an individual is ejected in league play, the league must turn in an ejection report to the appointed state official. If an ejection occurs in tournament play, it is the responsibility of the tournament director to submit the ejection report to the appropriate state official.
- 2.4 Team managers will be notified of the individual's penalty(s).
- 2.5 The penalty must be served in the same division of play in which the ejection occurred.
- 2.6 A person's first ejection will require a four-game suspension.
- 2.7 A second (2) ejection or violation will require an additional 4 game suspension.

V. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

- 2.8 A total of (3) ejections in a season will prevent that individual from any further competition during that year. Any ejection whether in league or tournament play, will be counted towards the total of three (3).
- 2.9 Flagrant ejection could be counted as more than one violation, even the complete loss of further eligibility, as determined by the State Commissioner or a committee appointed by the Commissioner.
- 2.10 Names of individuals under suspension will be published on the USASND website.
- 2.11 Casual Profanity Rule is in effect. Flagrant violations will result in ejection while minor infractions will result in outs being called against an offensive or defensive team.

VI. CLASSIFICATIONS

General

- 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. 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)
- 1.2 The local league representative/commissioner should immediately notify the State if they see a team is misclassified.
- 1.3 The State Commissioner has the privilege/authority to change any team's classification at any time for the best interest of softball.
- 1.4 Teams forced to move up as a result of their national, state or invitational tournament finish must stay in that classification for at least one year unless they have been lowered by the State Office by letter petition through their League Representative before July 1.
- 1.5 If a Slow Pitch team (Men's or Women's) challenges up a class for a state tournament, they will be automatically reclassified to that classification the following season should they defeat at least 2 teams.
- 1.6 Men's Slow Pitch Classifications shall be AA, A, B, C, D, Rec 1, Rec 2, Rec 3, and Rec 4.
- 1.7 Women's Slow Pitch Classifications will be Open, C, D, Rec 1, Rec 2, Rec 3, & Rec 4.
- 1.8 USA Softball mandates the following classification limitations for teams based on individual players' classifications:
 1. Men's AA = No more than five (5) Players from the USA Softball Restricted Players List
 2. Men's A = No more than two (2) Players from the USA Softball Restricted Players List
 3. Men's B = No more than three (3) A Rated players and no players Class A+ or from the USA Softball Restricted Player List
 4. Men's C = No more than three (3) B classified players and no players from Class A, Class B+, or the USA Softball Restricted Player's List
 5. Men's D = No more than three (3) C classified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C+, or the USA Softball Restricted Player's List
 6. Men's E/Rec 1 = No more than three (3) D classified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D+ or the USA Softball Restricted Player's List
 7. Women's Open = Any Female Player
 8. Women's C = No more than three (3) Open classified players
 9. Women's D = No more than three (3) C classified players and no Open classified players

VI. CLASSIFICATIONS

Additionally, USASND requires the following guidelines:

- a) Men's Rec 2 = no more than three (3) Rec 1 rated players, but no RPL, AA, A, B, C, or D rated players
 - b) Men's Rec 3 = no more than three (3) Rec 2 rated players, but no RPL, AA, A, B, C, D, or Rec 1 rated players
 - c) Men's Rec 4 = no more than three (3) Rec 3 rated players, but no RPL, AA, A, B, C, D, Rec 1, or Rec 2 rated players
 - d) Women's Rec 1 = no more than three (3) D classified players and no players from Open or C rated players
 - e) Women's Rec 2 = no more than three (3) Rec 1 rated players, but no Open, C, or D rated players
 - f) Women's Rec 3 = no more than three (3) Rec 2 rated players, but no Open, C, D, or Rec 1 rated players
 - g) Women's Rec 4 = no more than three (3) Rec 3 rated players, but no Open, C, D, Rec 1, or Rec 2 rated players
- 1.9 Each league shall classify ALL of their teams and submit their recommendations to the League Representative/Commissioner for his/her review. The League Representative/Commissioner shall submit his/her final league classifications on or before the required submission date to the State Classification Committee. EXCEPTION: Classification for Coed and Women's Masters may be done using a point system.
- 1.10 The table below will be used to reclassify adult teams the following season to the next higher class based on their state tournament finish and the number of teams entered in the event. NOTE: The Slow Pitch Task Force may review any team's automatic reclassification during the offseason and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee that it be rescinded.
- * 0-9 teams = 0 teams
 - * 10-19 teams = 1 team
 - * 20-29 teams = 2 teams
 - * 30-39 teams = 3 teams
 - * 40-49 teams = 4 teams
 - * 50-69 teams = 6 teams
 - * 70+ teams = 8 teams
- 1.11 A team may appeal their reclassification but this must be done IN WRITING to the local league representative or commissioner. This must be in detail and include strong reasons to support their request. If the league representative or commissioner is in agreement, the request will be forwarded to the State Office for final action. This request cannot be appealed at the time of the State Classification Meeting as it will not be accepted at that time.
- 1.12 All communications from teams relative to classification must be forwarded through the League Rep.
- 1.13 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.
- 1.14 Teams will automatically be reclassified in the following season based upon the following results & criteria from the McQuades invitational tournament:
Men's Rec 1 or minimum 32 teams - Champion

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Men's Rec 2 or minimum 48 teams - Champion & Runner Up

Men's Rec 3 or minimum 64 teams - Champion, Runner-Up, & 3rd Place

Men's Rec 4 or minimum 48 teams - Champion & Runner Up

NOTE: This does not prohibit a team from being reclassified in the same season if deemed appropriate.

2. Classification Procedures

- 2.1 Classification meeting dates will be determined by the State Commissioner and approved by the Executive Committee.
- 2.2 Final classification for all Slow Pitch shall include all of the following:
 - a) Classification for all registered teams, not just those entering state tournaments.
 - b) League standings up to the week preceding classification meeting.
 - c) A comparison of each league team to a team from another league, where possible.
 - d) A list of teams paid, with their classification, of the teams from the league wishing to go to a state tournament.
 - e) ONE CHECK per league for the entry fees due for the state tournaments. Money orders and cashier checks are acceptable.
- 2.3 All teams not paid for prior to the start of the Classification Meeting will be placed on a replacement list, after their fees are received. State tournament pairings will be made from those teams that have paid before the start of the Classification Meeting. There is no change from the six-day dropout period. (100% of the money)

All classification information required in Items 1 through 5 above must be complete or the materials will be returned for further processing. If not returned to the State Tournament Coordinator prior to the start of the Classification Meeting, all teams will be placed on the replacement list.
- 2.4 Fast Pitch league representatives from each city must have proposed classification of teams and state tournament entry fees in the hands of the Fast Pitch State Commissioner by July 1. Proposed classifications will be reviewed at the Fast Pitch Classification Meeting. If classification recommendations and entry fees are not received by the due date, those teams will not be eligible for state tournaments.
- 2.5 The State Classification Committees will be selected by the State Commissioner with approval of the State President
- 2.6 The local classification boards will not release their final recommendations as they are subject to change by the State Board.
- 2.7 The final classifications will be sent to each League Representative/Commissioner upon completion of the State Classification Committee meeting. The Leagues shall notify all teams of their classification immediately.
- 2.8 The State Classification Committees may establish another division of play if deemed necessary. This must be approved by the Executive Committee.

3. Slow Pitch - Coed

- 3.1 Coed Classification will be done by the State Coed Classification Committee appointed by the State Commissioner with approval of the State President.
- 3.2 Divisions of play and eligibility will be set by the State Coed Classification Committee with the approval of the State Commissioner and the State President.

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4. Men's Slow Pitch - Masters

- 4.1 Men's Masters Classification will be done by the State Master Classification Committee appointed by the State Commissioner with approval of the State President.
- 4.2 Divisions of play and eligibility will be set by the State Masters Classification Committee with the approval of the State Commissioner and State President.

5. Women's Slow Pitch

- 5.1 Because we have limited resources to determine women's team and individual classifications, the classification committee will look at the following references we DO have available to us:
 1. State Tournament Finishes
 2. North Dakota women's player database
 3. ANY USA Softball rosters from other states made available (MN, SD, etc.)
 4. USA Softball national player database
 5. Tournament records from current year and previous year, including, but not limited to McQuades, King of the Hill, Fireman's, other USA Softball of North Dakota invitational tournaments
 6. Teams playing up for an invitational tournament will follow the 2-win rule. If you win 2 games in an upper division invitational tournament, you cannot play down a division in the state tournament that same year.
 7. Classifications with other softball organizations

VII. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

1. Contracts

- 1.1 All adult & youth invitational tournaments must be sanctioned by the Tournament Coordinator. Sanction forms are obtained from the State Office and are available on our website.
- 1.2 No tournament can be played without USA Softball of North Dakota sanction. Snowball tournaments will be sanctioned, if requested, so that they may use USA Softball umpires. Fee will be determined by the State. Dome tournaments must be sanctioned. This is again for umpire and liability protection.
- 1.3 A contract must be approved by the State Commissioner or his designee before the event can be advertised.
- 1.4 Established tournaments will hold preferred dates from previous years providing contracts are received by the Tournament Coordinator by the deadline date set.
- 1.5 Invitational tournament directors will not be allowed to increase the number of teams listed on their tournament contract without calling the Invitational Tournament Coordinator requesting permission to do so.
- 1.6 If Invitational Tournament Directors do not honor contracts with regard to the number of teams requested, they may lose that tournament the following year at the discretion of the Invitational Tournament Coordinator and the Executive Committee.
- 1.7 All tournaments must abide by the tournament contract regulations.
- 1.8 Financial statements, fees, tournament pairings, and results must be filed within five (5) days of the tournament. If not received by the Tournament Coordinator in a timely manner, that city may not be allowed to host a tournament the next year.
- 1.9 If an invitational tournament is canceled two years in a row due to lack of teams, that tournament will not be sanctioned in future years.
- 1.10 Tournament using non-sanctioned umpires will face a one year suspension in North Dakota.

2. General Tournament Guidelines

- 2.1 Tournament directors and USASND officials shall not consume any alcoholic beverages while the tournament is in progress.
- 2.2 One-time tournament teams may be made up to participate in a single tournament with a roster fee of \$25 per team (\$20 for coed) to be submitted with their entry fee and their roster. Players must wear like jerseys with numbers.
- 2.3 Each tournament must place a notation on their tournament listing stating any exceptions to the regular rules that will be played at that tournament. This must be noted on the tournament contract also.
- 2.4 Entry fees for tournaments will be money only. No other type of entry is allowable (such as 1 ball).
- 2.5 Invitational tournament directors must get the entry fee checks before the tournament draw is made. If a team is accepted at a late date and state they will bring the money and then withdraw or do not show up after the draw has been made and sent to them, they will have to pay that entry fee.

CLARIFICATION: If a team withdraws from an invitational tournament after the draw, there is no entry fee refund. If a team withdraws after the draw and enters another tournament, they lose the entry fee plus a minimum two-week suspension from USA Softball participation.

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CLARIFICATION: Teams that enter a tournament but withdraw after the tournament draw is made may not enter another tournament that same weekend.

- 2.6 Awards must be the same as stated in the contract. The State Commissioner will require verification of awards if any doubt arises.
- 2.7 All 64-team tournaments that charge the maximum allowable entry fee must guarantee each team three (3) games.
- 2.8 Slow pitch teams may participate in fast pitch tournaments. This may help expand the fast pitch program.
- 2.9 Any team entered into State or Invitational Tournaments and not presenting themselves will forfeit entry fees unless previous special arrangements have been made.
- 2.10 In all round robin tournaments, it shall be a full game after six and one-half innings if the team coming to bat is leading. NO EXCEPTIONS. It shall also be a complete game if the run-ahead rule is used and obtained. If the time limit is in effect, it shall supersede the above rule. In figuring run totals for tiebreakers, the maximum allowable in one game will be the run-ahead rule. Slow Pitch - 10; Fast Pitch - 8. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.
- 2.11 NUMBER OF PLAYERS TO START OR FINISH INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT
- a) A game may begin with nine (9) players, but when and if another player arrives, that player must be inserted into the lineup at the tenth batting position. Whenever a team is playing with only nine players, an out will be taken when the tenth position in the batting order appears. USA Softball rule
 - b) Injured Player in Invitational Tournament - In invitational tournaments, in case of injuries during the game, a Fast Pitch team may compete with no less than eight (8) players and a Slow Pitch team may compete with no less than nine (9) players. The injured player's position in the batting order will be declared an out each time that player is to appear at bat. It is the manager's responsibility to report the injured player's position in the batting order each time it comes up. Failure to comply with this rule will mean the loss of that game, not a forfeit.
 - c) In an invitational tournament, at any time during a game a team cannot field the original required number of players due to an ejection, the game will be forfeited.
 - d) Coed Rule. Refer to Section X. Coed In above Sections a, b, and c, loss of a game due to injured player will not forfeit a team out of a tournament.
 - e) A Coed team cannot start shorthanded with eleven players. One EP cannot be used.
- 2.12 Forfeiture Rule:
- a) Teams that forfeit as a result of other than ineligible players or acts of suspension under **Article 305 (A)** of the USA Softball Code shall be allowed to continue in the tournament unless the forfeit was their eliminating loss. All forfeits count as a team loss.
 - b) Game time will be forfeit time.
EXCEPTION: Injured player rule applies.
 - c) Any time during a game a team cannot field the original required number of players due to an ejection, the game will be forfeited.
- 2.13 Uniform Dress Code
- a) UNIFORMS – AA, A, B and C - Full Uniforms
D and Rec 1, 2, 3, 4 - Shirts with numbers (If team has uniforms, use them) If a team has a problem meeting the Dress Code, they should contact the State Commissioner before going to a tournament.
Many Rec 1, 2, 3, & 4 teams have full uniforms and they are urged to wear them at all tournaments.
 - b) Headwear – Ball caps and visors are optional for players. If worn, they may be mixed but must be worn properly. They must all be of the same color. Handkerchiefs do not count as headwear and cannot be worn around the head or neck.

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EXCEPTION: Ball caps and visors may be mixed in color as long as they are the color of the team uniform.

- c) Pants/Sliding Pants – All players' pants may be long, short or mixed in style, as long as they are like in color. Players may wear a solid-colored pair of sliding pants. It is not mandatory that all players wear sliding pants, but if more than one player wears them, they must be like in color and style. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit legs on exposed sliding pants.
- d) Numbers - An Arabic number of contrasting color, at least 6 inches high, must be worn on the back of the uniform shirt. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers. ("3" and "03" are examples of identical numbers. If duplicate numbers exist, one of the players will not be permitted to participate in the game.
- e) Pickups - Must wear their own uniform of highest classified team they are picked up from.
- f) Helmets - All J. O. play and adult Fast Pitch including on-deck batters must wear helmets. Helmets must be the same color with double ear flaps and must have a non-glare (not mirror-like) surface. J.O. must wear helmets in coaches box.
- g) Jewelry - Exposed jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets, any type of earrings, neck chains, or any other item judged dangerous by the umpire, may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry, but if worn, they must be taped to the body. NOTE: Players must be asked to remove jewelry and if they fail to do so, will be ejected from the game.

Coaches and managers in coaches boxes (1st and 3rd base) must like colored shirts as the team or wear a shirt carrying the team designation.

Players and Coaches may not wear the logo of any other softball association on their uniforms. USA Softball Rule.

The Tournament Umpire-in-Chief will instruct the umpires to warn players before play begins to correct any uniform infractions before any further action is taken by the umpire. The Tournament Director must also enforce this rule and issue warnings.

Penalties for Violation of Uniform Dress Code

1. THE PLAYER MAY NOT PARTICIPATE UNLESS HE FOLLOWS THE UNIFORM DRESS CODE.
2. The first violation will result in the ejection of the offending player and his team manager and also result in a one-game plus a one-game suspension.
3. A second violation by the same player or team manager during the same year will result in a three-game suspension for the player and manager. (Ejection from that game and a two-game suspension.
4. A third violation by the same player or team manager during the same year will result in a 365-day suspension.

The penalty for an umpire not enforcing the uniform dress code will be forfeiture of the umpire's fee for that game.

The penalty for a tournament director not enforcing the uniform dress code will be the forfeiture of one-half of the tournament director's fee and possible loss of the city's or sponsoring organization's future tournaments.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THESE RULES - THE PLAYER MAY NOT PARTICIPATE UNLESS HE FOLLOWS THE UNIFORM DRESS CODE.

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- 2.15 No Tournament Director in any invitational tournament can deviate from the above-stated rules in Sections 2.11, 2.12, or 2.13. If he does, he will be called before the USASND Executive Committee and face the possibility that the organization or association hosting the tournament will be prohibited from hosting future tournaments.
- 2.16 If any team or group leaves an area in disarray, it shall be reported to the State Office and proper action will be taken against the group.
- 2.17 Any USASND official, from State Commissioner to Local Commissioners, must notify tournament officials if they observe any violations of rules or policies of the State Association.
- 2.18 A player must carry a picture ID with signature and present when requested. If a player is not in possession or cannot obtain the picture ID with signature, he must contact the State Office prior to a tournament to obtain the right to play. When questioned, if a player does not have ID on hand, they may be given five (5) minutes to present. (Example: in car at parking area). Player is ineligible until ID presented. Player in violation will be ejected from game if no ID available; game not forfeited. Team can replace player if they have substitutes. If the team is down to 9, they will be allowed to continue with an out in the batting position - same as injury rule. Alternatively, the manager can opt to complete and sign an affidavit confirming that a player (or players) without an ID is a legal player on that team's roster. The player(s) must send an image of a photo ID to the State Office within 7 days of the end of the tournament. Signing such an affidavit with fraudulent information will result in a suspension of at least one year for all involved. If the player turns out to be illegal, present rules for use of illegal players would be in effect (Section II, rule 1.22, page 17).
- 2.19 Tournament directors may request the ability to charge an additional fee to be donated to a charity of their choice in order to implement special rules such as teams purchasing extra home runs or utilizing a designated home run hitter. However, the request must accompany the sanction contract with details regarding the special rule(s) to be implemented and the charity benefitting from them and it must be approved by the Executive Council and/or the State Commissioner.

3. Division Tournament Guidelines

- 3.1 Men's Fast Pitch
**Additional specific Pick-Up Rules - Check Section II, ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY, Item 6.
- a) The use of courtesy runners for pitchers at invitational tournaments must be pre-stated with the initial tournament information sent to the teams.
 - b) The Travel Permit rule will be strictly enforced.
 - c) No "Major" team can participate in any classified invitational tournament.
 - d) High School and Youth Fast Pitch Teams will be allowed to play in Class C invitational tournaments.
 - e) Pickup players must be from the same entity and must be of a classification no higher than the classification of the tournament.
 - f) Pickup players for Major Tournaments may be from anywhere in North Dakota. Pickup players' team managers must okay.
 - g) Pickup players must wear their own team uniform.
 - h) Tournament sanctioned "Roster Only" will allow no pickup players.
 - i) The Tiebreaker rule will be used starting in the 8th inning. The last batter completing his time at bat in the previous inning shall be placed at 2nd base to start each new inning.
 - j) MASTERS DIVISION
A Masters team would have the opportunity to pick up a 40 and over player for tournament play even if that player's team is entered in the same tournament (courtesy rule for those players 40 and over). The tournament director must be notified before the date of the tournament.

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- 3.2 Men's Slow Pitch
- a) Pickup players in Men's Slow Pitch must wear the team uniform from the highest class team they are rostered with. .
 - b) Pickup players may come from anywhere in the state.
 - c) The player is responsible for his pickup eligibility as to classification.
 - d) Managers are responsible to use only pickup players according to their highest classification.
 - e) A player's pickup eligibility is limited to the player's highest class team on which he/she is rostered or his/her classification on the national player database, whichever is higher.
 - f) Players, including pickup players, on teams entered in a two-day tournament, may not complete in another tournament on that same weekend. A player could participate in a tournament scheduled for Saturday only and another scheduled for Sunday only.
 - g) Teams will be classified by how they perform in invitational tournaments and league play regardless of the use of pickup players.
 - h) As many as 3 pickup players are allowed for a maximum total of 12 players.
 - i) Pickup players must be USASND rostered players. Teams may pick up to highest classification of tournament they are playing. Ex: C/D tourney, D team can pick up C player, Rec 2 below tourney, Rec 4 could pick up Rec 2 player.
 - j) In invitational events, USASND reserves the right to classify out-of-state teams.
 - k) The homerun rule for Men's Slow Pitch Divisions are as follows: Class AA – 12; A – 10; Class B – 7; Class C – 5; Class D – 3; Rec 1 – 2; Rec 2 – 2; Rec 3 – 1; Rec 4 – 1; Masters 35/40, Division 1 – 5; Masters 35/40, Division 2 – 2, Masters 35/40, Division 3 – 1, Masters 50/60 – 3. Additional homeruns will be classified as outs. In tournaments of more than one class, the homerun rule applying to the highest classification will be used. Inside-the-park homeruns do not count. Any ball going over the fence after hitting a fielder's glove shall not count in home run totals (4 base award).
 - l) The run ahead rule will be used in all invitational tournaments: Men's Class A/B: 20 runs after four innings and 15 runs after five innings; all other divisions: 20 runs after three innings, 15 runs after four innings and 10 runs after five innings. This includes the championship game.
 - m) Use of charitable home run rules must be approved by Executive Committee.
 - n) Stealing may be permitted in an invitational tournament in accordance with USA Softball rules, but only if explicitly stated via posted rules (on site and/or online) that it is allowed.
- 3.3 Women's Slow Pitch
- ** Additional specific Pick-Up Rules - Check Section II, ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY, Items 3 and 4.
- a) It is recommended that all Women's Slow Pitch invitational tournament games in Class D and below are to be held to a 1 1/2 hour time limit but they must complete the inning.
 - b) Pickup players in Women's Slow Pitch playing in invitational tournaments must wear the team uniform from the league from which they are picked up.
 - c) A player may not be picked up by any team carrying a lower classification than the pickup player's highest classified team.
 - d) The player is responsible for her pickup eligibility as to classification.
 - e) Managers are responsible to use only pickup players according to their highest classification.
 - f) A player's pickup eligibility is limited to the player's highest class team on which she is rostered.
 - g) Players, including pickup players, on teams entered in a two-day tournament may not compete in another tournament on that same

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weekend. A player could participate in a tournament scheduled for Saturday only and another scheduled for Sunday only.

- h) Teams will be classified by how they perform in invitational tournaments and their league play regardless of the use of pickup players.
- i) Maximum three (3) pickup players.
- j) The homerun rule for Women's Slow Pitch on fields of less than 265 feet is as follows: Open – unlimited; Class C – 5; Class D – 3; Rec 1 – 2; Rec 2 – 2; Rec 3 – 1; Rec 4 – 1.

3.4 Women's Fast Pitch

- a) Youth teams may play in C tournaments. However, if they decide to play in adult state tournaments, they must register as adult teams.
- b) No spikes will be allowed in any part of the Women's Fast Pitch program with the exception that pitchers in A and B can wear them for pitching only. They must change for batting purposes.
- c) Any person violating the spike rule will be suspended from any further play in that tournament.
- d) Pickup players in Women's Fast Pitch playing in invitational tournaments must be in their team uniform.
- e) A player may not be picked up by any team carrying a lower classification than the pickup players' highest classified team.
- f) Pickup players must come from their local association or league only.
- g) Teams will be classified by how they perform in invitational tournaments and league play regardless of the use of pickup players.
- h) More than two (2) pickup players must be approved by the team's League Rep.
- i) The Tiebreaker Rule will be used starting in the 8th inning. The last batter completing his time at bat in the previous inning shall be placed at 2nd base to start each new inning.

3.5 Masters

- a) Men's Masters - refer to Section IX. Masters for further information
- b) Women's Masters - refer to Section IX. Masters for further information.

3.6 Coed

- a) All teams playing in Coed Tournaments will be charged a USASND registration fee.
- b) Rosters must be submitted to the tournament director before their first scheduled game time.
- c) Players may not play for more than one team in the same tournament.
- d) The homerun rule for Coed divisions in Invitational and State Tournaments are as follows: Division 1 – 4; Divisions 2 & 3 – 2; Division 4 – 0. Additional homeruns will be classified as outs. In tournaments of more than one class, the homerun rule applying to the highest classification will be used. Inside-the-park homeruns do not count. Any ball going over the fence after hitting a fielder's glove shall not count in home run totals (4 base award).

3.7 Special events

- a) All teams playing in special tournaments will be charged a USASND registration fee.

4. Minimum Guidelines for Hosting Invitational Tournaments

- 4.1 Must use USASND rules unless teams previously notified of changes.
- 4.2 Recommend diamonds be chalked - batters' boxes and baselines - before the tournament starts.
- 4.3 Fields will be dragged before the tournament starts and each day as often as needed thereafter.
- 4.4 Bases must be on the field, and in place, at the beginning of each day.

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- 4.5 The tournament director or an assistant(s) to the director must be available at all times at the tournament headquarters.
- 4.6 Must use USA Softball-approved softballs per USASND guidelines.
- 4.7 Tournament scheduling boards, diamonds and times must be posted at each tournament location.
- a) If a tournament director makes a change on the schedule affecting a team, the team is to be notified. Do not just expect them to check the board. (1/98)
- 4.8 Must have sufficient umpires available for the tournament. Tournament directors are responsible for securing the tournament's UIC and all umpires.
- 4.9 If the minimum requirements are not met, that tournament will not be sanctioned the next year. These requirements will be sent out with the Invitational Tournament Contracts.
- 4.10 The tournament director must be notified no later than seven (7) days prior to the start of the tournament if a team must drop out of the tournament.
- 4.11 If a team will not be playing their next game, they must notify the tournament director or assistant(s). If they do not notify of their intent not to play, a penalty will be assessed.
- 4.12 Tournament Rules:
- a) All tournaments must be sanctioned utilizing registered USA Softball of North Dakota (USASND) umpires.
- b) All participating teams must be USA Softball sanctioned.
- c) **The tournament will abide by the rules and regulations of USA Softball and USASND.**
- d) Within five days of the tournament's completion, a Tournament Fact Sheet must be completed and forwarded to the Tournament Coordinator along with the appropriate fees. The Tournament Fact Sheet will be mailed to the tournament directors 1-2 weeks prior to the tournament.
- e) Tournament results will be sent to the Tournament Coordinator within five days of the tournament's completion.
- f) The tournament must be properly policed. All unsportsmanlike behavior must be reported to USASND.
- g) Tournament officials are responsible for players and spectators conduct during play and after being eliminated from the field. Any person refusing to comply with a request to cease bad conduct should be evicted from the area and a report submitted to USASND.
- h) Adults: Participants may not use alcoholic beverages inside or directly behind the dugout or on the playing field. However, participants may be subject to more restrictive policies implemented by local leagues, park departments, or city ordinances.
- i) JO Only: The use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products is prohibited at all Junior Olympic play.
- Effect-Section 4.12/h-l. The first offense is a team warning. Any repeat offense shall result in the ejection of team member/members, or forfeiture of game. Non-participants violating the JO policy may be asked to leave the complex.

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VIII. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

1. General

- 1.1 A special committee will be appointed to recommend state tournament schedules. The Executive Committee, in consultation with the State Commissioner, will finalize these schedules and will set dates and locations.
- 1.2 Each League will collect and remit to the State Association the State Tournament Entry Fee.
 - a) Any team that cancels out of a State Tournament within 14 days of its start date will forfeit their entry fee. EXCEPTION: WITHIN THAT 14 DAY PERIOD, ANY TEAM CANCELING WILL RECEIVE 50% OF THEIR ENTRY FEE BACK IF THEIR POSITION CAN BE FILLED.
 - b) Teams that cannot participate in state tournaments for which they have entered must notify the State Tournament Coordinator by Thursday noon of the week of the tournament. Failure to do this will result in the team manager and players being placed on probation for the next softball year. A letter will be sent to the league representative informing them of such action.
- 1.3 Entry fees for the state tournaments are due at the State Classification Meeting with a six-day grace period to allow teams to add or drop out. After the six-day grace period, teams that wish to enter a state tournament will be assessed a \$25 late fee and placed on a waiting list. EXCEPTION: The six-day grace period does not apply to Men's Masters state tournaments drawn at the classification meeting. All such entries after that meeting are assessed a \$25 late fee and placed on a waiting list and teams that drop forfeit their entire entry fee unless a replacement team is available, in which case they will receive a 50% refund.
- 1.4 Teams withdrawing from state tournaments must go through their League Rep who will then report to the State Tournament Coordinator.
- 1.5 No-shows without notification at state tournaments:

The entire team will be placed on probation for one year. This would be considered the first ejection. The team manager is to receive a special reprimand and the sponsor is to be notified by letter that his team did not show at the state tournament. A list of these teams is to be published on our website. A No-Show is defined as any team without sufficient players to field a team. (4/95)

The special reprimand for the team manager will be a second ejection.
- 1.6 A state tournament can be redrawn if a significant number of teams drop out with the approval of the Men's or Women's Slow Pitch Commissioner and the State Commissioner. With such approval, the Tournament Coordinator may adjust a bracket as necessary at any time after it is drawn - i.e. remove games and/or move teams - if a team dropping out creates an inherent unfairness within the bracket, such as a team benefitting from a drop by effectively having two byes. Teams are strongly encouraged to check the brackets at the tournament for the most up-to-date information.
- 1.7 Number of players to start or finish a state tournament
 - a) Number of Players to Start State Tournament:

A game may begin with nine (9) players (Slow Pitch) but when and if another Player arrives, that player must be inserted into the lineup at the tenth batting position. Whenever a team is playing with only nine players, an out will be taken when the 10th position in the batting order appears. USA Softball rule.
 - b) Injured Player in State Tournament:

In state tournaments, in case of injuries during the, a Fast Pitch team may compete with no less than eight (8) players and a Slow Pitch team may compete with no less than nine (9) players. The injured player's position in the batting order will be declared an out each time that player is to appear at bat. It is the manager's responsibility to report the injured player's position in the batting order each time it

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comes up. Failure to comply with this rule will mean the loss of that game, not a forfeit.

- 1.8 All Slow Pitch divisions must use the present uniform rule.
- 1.9 Teams that forfeit as a result of other than ineligible players or acts of suspension under **Article 305 (A)** of the USA Softball Code shall be allowed to continue in the tournament unless the forfeit was their eliminating loss. All forfeits count as a team loss.
- 1.10 A forfeit is counted as a game played in State Tournament play.
- 1.11 Each player must carry a picture ID with signature and present when requested. If a player is not in possession of or cannot obtain the picture ID with signature, he must contact the State Office prior to a tournament to obtain the right to play.
 - a) A player must provide proof of identification when requested to do so by the Tournament Director. If a player does not have the ID on hand, he may be given five (5) minutes to present it. (Example: in car at parking area). Player is ineligible until ID presented. Player in violation will be ejected from game if no ID available; game not forfeited. Team can replace player if they have substitutes. If the team is down to 9, they will be allowed to continue with an out in the batting position - same as injury rule. Alternatively, the manager can opt to complete and sign an affidavit confirming that a player (or players) without an ID is a legal player on that team's roster. The player(s) must send an image of a photo ID to the State Office within 7 days of the end of the tournament. Signing such an affidavit with fraudulent information will result in a suspension of at least one year for all involved. If the player turns out to be illegal, present rules for use of illegal players would be in effect (Section II, rule 1.22, page 17).
 - b) All teams still competing for a state tournament championship at the start of the final day will be roster checked before proceeding in the tournament.
- 1.12 The State Commissioner or the Executive Council have authority to determine the format of all state tournaments based upon division, classification, and number of teams entered. All state tournaments will have a 3-game guarantee.
- 1.13 Teams advancing to national play must have participated in at least one state tournament that season.
- 1.14 In all Women's Slow Pitch and Rec 3 and 4 of the Men's Slow Pitch division, there will be a 75 minute time limit. JO Fast Pitch 12 & Under and 10 & Under will have a time limit of 80 minutes plus one inning.
- 1.15 The state tie-breaker formula will be used in all round robin state tournaments.
- 1.16 If a tournament rains out, flip a coin. If the rainout occurs when the tournament is down to two teams, declare co-champions. Give the trophy to one team, the banner to the other. The patches will not be given out. If a national tournament berth is at stake, flip a coin for that berth.
- 1.17 The USA Softball run ahead rule will be in effect in state and invitational men's tournaments:

Men's Class A/B: 20 runs after four innings and 15 runs after five innings; all other divisions: 20 runs after three innings, 15 runs after four innings and 10 runs after five innings. This includes the championship game. Local leagues are urged to adopt this policy.
- 1.18 The run-ahead and time limit rules must be enforced at all state tournaments including the championship game.
- 1.19 Commissioners and Tournament Directors may not consume any alcoholic beverages while a tournament is in progress.
- 1.20 Any official attending a tournament must notify a tournament official if he observes any

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violation of the rules of the tournament or State Association rules or policies.

- 1.21 State Tournament dates will be determined and approved by the State Executive Committee and State Commissioner.
- 1.22 National Tournament dates are found in the USA Softball Official Guide and Rule Book and on USA Softball's website.
- 1.23 If the USASND's national tournament survey is not returned by the participating team by the date specified, they will lose their refund of the entry fee or, if none due, other penalties will be applied, such as ineligibility for the next year's state tournament.
- 1.24 The State Association will withhold 25% of State Entry Fees due the host city. If paperwork is received on time, the remainder of the funds will be sent to state host cities. If State Tournament Directors do not return paperwork within seven days, a ten per cent penalty will be assessed. At that time, the State Office will write a letter to the local league rep advising that in fourteen days (seven days from date of letter) the remaining fifteen per cent will be forfeited.
- 1.25 Cities awarded state contracts will agree to abide by all items set forth in requirements for hosting State Tournaments as set forth in Item 7 of this Section.
- 1.26 The State Commissioner, with advice of the Executive Committee, will have final determination on how teams are selected for state and national play.
- 1.27 Entry fee to national tournaments will be paid only for the highest finisher in the state tournament going on to the nationals that has not already qualified.
- 1.28 The Executive Committee will make the final decision relative to North Dakota cities bidding for national tournament.

2. State Tournaments

- 2.1 Umpire remuneration and team entry fees for the state tournaments will be set by the Executive Committee.
- 2.2 STATE TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES
 - a) 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
 - b) Any team that cancels out of a State Tournament within 14 days of its start date will forfeit their entry fee. Exception: Any team canceling in that time period will receive fifty percent of their entry fee back if their position can be filled.
 - c) Teams withdrawing from state tournaments must go through their League Reps who will then report to the State Tournament Coordinator.
- 2.2 All teams playing in State Tournaments must adhere to the USASND Uniform Dress Code.
- 2.3 Coaches and managers in coaches boxes (1st base and 3rd base) must have like colored shirts as the team or wear a shirt carrying the team designation.
- 2.4 Players and coaches may not wear the logo of any other softball association on Uniforms. USA Softball Rule.

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- 2.5 Awards for the state tournament places will be furnished by USASND.
- 2.6 Championship patches will be awarded to the State tournament winners.
- 2.7 If the state championship team is disqualified for any reason after the tournament, the spot will be left open and the championship trophy and patches will not be presented to another team.
- 2.8 Rainout policy for state tournaments
 - a) If a team plays no games, it receives a full refund;
 - b) If a team plays one game, it receives a 50% refund;
 - c) If a team plays at least 2 games, it receives no refund.
- 2.9 Alcohol & tobacco policy
 - a) Adults: Participants may not use alcoholic beverages inside or directly behind the dugout or on the playing field. However, participants may be subject to more restrictive policies implemented by local leagues, park departments, or city ordinances.
 - b) JO Only: The use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products is prohibited at all Junior Olympic play.

Effect-Section 2.9/a-b. The first offense is a team warning. Any repeat offense shall result in the ejection of team member/members, or forfeiture of game. Non-participants violating the JO policy may be asked to leave the complex.

3. Divisions

- 3.1 Men's Slow Pitch
 - a) All Slow Pitch Rec 2, 3, and 4 State Tournaments are two-day tournaments with a 3-game guarantee.
 - b) State tournaments will employ two (2) umpires in Open, B, C & D. One umpire will be used in non-advancing tournaments except in the championship & semifinal games, which will require two (2) umpires.
 - c) The Rec 2, 3, and 4 divisions will be split into Eastern and Western State Tournaments.
 - d) Teams advancing to national play must have participated in at least one state tournament that season.
 - e) Home run rule for State and Invitational Tournaments:
Open/A – 10; B – 7; C – 5; D – 3; Rec 1 and 2 – 2; Rec 3 – 1; and Rec 4 – 1; Masters 35/40, Division 1 – 5; Masters 35/40, Division 2 – 2; Masters 35/40, Division 3 – 1; Masters 50/60 – 3. Additional homeruns will be classified as outs. In tournaments of more than one class, the homerun rule applying to the highest classification will be used. Inside-the-park homeruns do not count.
 - f) In Men's Rec 3 and 4 and all Women's Slow Pitch, there will be a 75 minute time limit.
 - g) Class B will go to the B national tournament; C to C; D to D. Rec teams to E/Rec. However, teams may elect to play in a higher classified national tournament.
 - h) Teams may pick-up a maximum of 3 players not to exceed 12 total players. Pick-ups must come from same classification or below. State Pick-up Form must be signed by league rep or state official and submitted to Tournament Director prior to first game. Pick-up players must wear their own uniform of highest classified team they are picked up from.
 - i) Stealing is permitted only at Men's Rec 1 and above state tournaments in accordance with USA Softball rules.
- 3.2 Women's Slow Pitch
 - a) The Rec 3 Division will be split into Eastern and Western State Tournaments.
 - b) State tournaments will employ two (2) umpires in Classes C and D. One umpire will be used in non-advancing tournaments except in the championship & semifinal

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- games, which will require two (2) umpires.
- c) All games will be limited (time kept by the umpire) to 75 minutes up to the trophy qualifying round. The inning in progress must be completed.
 - d) Run ahead rule will be 20 after three innings, 15 after four innings and 10 after five innings for all state and invitational tournament.
 - e) All Slow Pitch Rec 2, 3, & 4 State Tournaments are two-day tournaments with a 3-game guarantee.
 - f) Teams can pick-up a maximum of 3 players. Maximum number of players including pick-up players is 12. Pick-up players must come from the same classification or lower, and from teams not drawn into the state tournament brackets. The pick-up player classification is from their highest team classification or player database, whichever classification is greater. Pick-up player form must be signed by league rep and submitted to tournament director prior to first game. If form is not signed by league rep, form is not valid. Pick-up players must wear their own team uniform.

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- 3.3 Men's Masters Slow Pitch
- a) State Tournament dates and locations to be determined by Masters Committee with approval of the State Commissioner and the Executive Committee.
 - b) Masters teams must declare their intentions to play in the Masters state tournament by July 1. (Includes payment of fees.), though late entries for tournaments starting in August will be allowed in accordance with the late entry policy in place for other adult slow pitch state tournaments.
 - c) Tournament format to be determined by Masters Committee.
 - d) State entry fees will be determined by the State Executive Committee or the State Commissioner's Office.
 - e) The run ahead rule for all Masters divisions is 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings, including championship games.
 - f) Masters Divisions for State Tournament play:
 1. Masters 35 – split into three divisions of play by classifications to be determined the Masters Committee.
 2. Masters 40 – split into two divisions of play by classifications to be determined the Masters Committee.
 3. Masters 50/60 – State tournaments will be played using senior rules. Teams may be made up but must pay \$25 state registration fee.
 - g) Teams can pick-up a maximum of two players. Maximum number of players including pick-up players is 12. Pick-up players must be age qualified and rostered USASND. Pick-up player form must be signed by league rep and submitted to tournament director prior to first game. If form is not signed by league rep, form is not valid. Pick-up players must wear their own team uniform. The following restrictions also apply:
 1. Masters 35/40 Div 1 – Pickup players must be the same classification as the highest classified team in the bracket or lower; however, the limit of no more than 3 C or above players on a team includes pickup players.
 2. Masters 35 Div 2 – Pickup players must be Rec 1 or lower; Masters 40 Div 2 – Pickup players must be Rec 2 or lower
 3. Masters 35 Div 3 – Pickup players must be Rec 3 or Rec 4 only
 - h) Any Masters team participating in State Tournament may play in nationals.
- 3.4 Women's Masters Slow Pitch
- a) Classifications may be done by using a special point system.
 - b) Rosters must be correctly completed and received at the State office ten (10) days in advance of the state tournament.
 - c) Women's Masters state tournament formats will be determined by the Tournament Coordinator and State Office and based upon the number of teams in each division. All formats will provide teams with a three game guarantee since no teams advance to national play from these tournaments.
- 3.5 Coed
- a) Rosters are to be received at the State Office ten (10) days prior to the State Tournament. Rosters must include players' regular USASND team name and classification.
 - b) Coed state tournament formats will be determined by the Tournament Coordinator and State Office and based upon the number of teams in each division. All formats will provide teams with a three game guarantee.
 - c) Classification may be done by using a special point system.
 - d) State entry fee will include a \$20 registration fee.

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5. State Tournament Host City Requirements

The host city must abide by all USASND rules and regulations in the operation of a state tournament.

- 5.1 Field Care:
 - a) Dragging of fields - every third game if necessary and possible.
 - b) Pitcher's rubber - Fast Pitch - Fill in after each game, if possible.
 - c) Foul lines - chalk before start of tournament and the start of each succeeding tournament day. This should be done more often, if possible. Chalking lines is more important than chalking the batters' boxes.
 - d) Batters' boxes - Chalk before the start of tournament and start of each succeeding tournament day. This should be done more often if possible.
- 5.2 All tournament sites must have maintenance crews.
- 5.3 Foul poles must be installed on all fields.
- 5.4 At least one large board (Master) will be displayed at Tournament Headquarters with copies posted at other tournament sites.
 - a) Game results should be posted on board first before doing anything else with them. If there are second round losers, they should immediately be placed on the extra division boards. Board should show titles such as Roughrider, Pioneer, Cactus, or Tumbleweed. Consolation and championship board should be extended both ways, not new boards.
 - b) If a tournament director makes a change on the schedule affecting a team, the team must be notified. Do not just rely on them to check the board.
- 5.5 Men's Fast Pitch must have scoreboards and use them.
- 5.6 The use of scorekeepers will be left to the discretion of the host city.
- 5.7 The Tournament Headquarters must have a working phone at the site.
- 5.8 The host city must furnish suitable housing for the designated Umpire-in-Chief for the tournament if he is from another city.
- 5.9 Where refreshments are provided for umpires and workers, they should be from the tournament sponsor's product. If beverages are sold, they should be the tournament sponsor brands. If host cities do not comply, they will be charged for the trophies and banners and may be refused future tournaments.
- 5.10 The host city agrees that the State Umpire-in-Chief will select or approve all umpires for the tournament. He will consult with the local UIC and Tournament Director.
- 5.11 If out of town umpires are required, the State pays only mileage at the rate of 50 cents per mile. Umpires must ride together, four to a car. State only pays for one car.
- 5.12 Umpires will be assigned as per schedule below:
 - a) Men's Slow Pitch – Two umpires will be used in Classes B, C, and D. One umpire will be used in non-advancing tournaments except in the championship & semifinal games, which will require two (2) umpires.
 - b) Women's Slow Pitch – Two umpires will be used in Classes C and D. One umpire will be used in non-advancing tournaments except in the championship & semifinal games, which will require two (2) umpires.
 - c) Women's Fast Pitch - one in Class C and below.
 - d) Coed - one umpire. If possible, two should be used.
 - e) Junior Olympic - one umpire.

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- 5.13 Tournament Directors are responsible for colored photographs (with proper identifications) of State Champions.
- 5.14 Tournament Directors will forward required reports within specified time limits. **(Within seven (7) days of completion of tournament)**
- 5.15 The State Association will withhold 25% of the state entry fees due the host city. If the paperwork is received on time, the remainder of the funds will be sent to the state host city. If state tournament directors do not return paperwork within seven days, a ten per cent penalty will be assessed. At that time the State Office will notify the local league rep advising that in fourteen days (seven days from date of letter); the remaining fifteen per cent will be forfeited.
- a) Documents to be submitted:
1. USASND Tournament Financial Statement
 2. Colored picture of winning team with identification.
 3. Tournament results including pairing sheets with all scores.
- 5.16 Cities hosting state tournaments must meet the following diamond requirements:
- a) Diamonds
- | | |
|--|--|
| <u>Men's Slow Pitch</u> | |
| Open, C, D | Minimum distance – 300' |
| Rec 1, 2, 3, 4 | Minimum distance – 275' |
| <u>Women's Slow Pitch</u> | |
| All Divisions | Minimum distance – 230' |
| Masters – | Minimum distance - 235'-80% of field area must exceed 250' |
| With permission, smaller fields may be used in special consolation events. | |

6. Regional and Area Tournament Host City Requirements

- 6.1 Select Tournament Director with approval of USASND
- 6.2 Furnish the following items:
- a) Pre-Tournament Breakfast Meeting
 - b) Pre-Tournament Welcoming Party (Tournament eve)
 - c) Housing
 1. Umpires (2 to a room)
 2. Umpire-in-Chief (1 room)
 3. USA Softball Representative (1 room)
 - d) Game Fees
 - e) Trophies - USASND approved
 - f) Balls - USA Softball approved
 - g) Public Address facility
 - h) Required Field Maintenance
 - i) Security
 - j) Medical services
 - k) Passes (Players, Tournament officials, and others.)
 - l) Special publicity for companies sponsoring major cost items.
- 6.3 If refreshments are provided for umpires and workers, they should be from the tournament sponsor's product. If beverages are sold, they should be the tournament sponsor brands. If host cities do not comply, they will be charged from the trophies and banners and may be refused future tournaments.

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- 6.4 Recommended Committees
 - a) Housing
 - b) Tournament Operations
 - c) Registration (includes handling rosters)
 - d) Tickets and Gates
 - e) Publicity
 - f) Special events (welcoming party, breakfast)
 - g) Field Maintenance
- 6.5 Site Requirements
 - a) Men's Slow Pitch (3 classes of play)
 - 1. Lighted Diamond (at least 1)
 - 2. 4 - 275' fenced diamonds
 - b) Women's Slow Pitch (3 classes of play)
 - 1. Lighted Diamond (at least 1)
 - 2. 1 - 250' fenced diamond
 - 3 - 225' fenced diamonds
 - c) Men's Fast Pitch (3 classes of play)
 - 1. Lighted Diamond (at least 1)
 - 2. 4 - 225' fenced diamonds
 - d) Women's Fast Pitch (2 classes of play)
 - 1. Lighted Diamond (at least 1)
 - 2. 3 - 200' fenced diamonds
- 6.6 Request form and submit bid to State.
- 6.7 If more than one North Dakota city wants to host the same regional tournament, the State Executive Committee will decide which city will host the event.

7. National Tournament Host City Requirements

- 7.1 Must be able to meet all USA Softball requirements listed in the USA Softball Official Guide and Rule Book.
- 7.2 Must be able to meet all USASND requirements as outlined in the USASND Bid Form.
- 7.3 Request National and State Bid Forms and other information from the USASND State Office.
- 7.4 Bids must be in the hands of the State Commissioner by June 15 of the year the bid is being placed.
- 7.5 If more than one North Dakota city wants to host the same national tournament, the State Executive Committee will determine which city may place the final bid for that event.
- 7.6 City awarded right to bid must assist in presenting the bid at the National USA Softball Convention. This includes pre-convention activities.
- 7.7 The host city will furnish suitable room accommodations and transportation for the State President, State Commissioner, and Umpire Coordinator. If other persons are necessary for tournament operation, host city will furnish room and expenses unless other arrangements are made with the State before the event.
- 7.8 If refreshments are provided for umpires and workers or they should be from the tournament sponsor's product. Host cities not complying, will be charged for the trophies and for the trophies and banners and may be refused future tournaments.
- 7.9 The delegation from any city bidding for national tournaments will adhere to the following policy: They should attend hospitality rooms and committee meetings and take part, if possible. Members of the delegation shall be visible at all times and should be easily recognizable as being from their city. They must meet any and all other requirements set forth by the State.

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IX. MASTERS

1. General

- 1.1 Masters 35 must turn 35 during calendar year to be eligible
Masters 40 must turn 40 during calendar year.
Masters 45 must turn 45 during calendar year.
Masters 50 must turn 50 during calendar year.
Masters 60 must turn 60 during calendar year
- 1.2 All teams must be classified for play in regular Invitational Tournaments. Example: C/D/Rec 1 etc.
- 1.3 Masters teams may play in regular invitational tournaments. Pickup players need not be Masters players. All regular pickup rules apply.

2. Masters Invitationals

- 2.1 Pickup Players must meet age qualification of tournament.
- 2.2 Pickup players must be on tournament-eligible USASND rosters (no player solely on a "league only" roster is eligible to participate as a pickup player). Cannot be a higher classification than the highest classified team in tournament.
- 2.3 All other USASND invitational pickup rules apply.
- 2.4 Masters 50/60 players may play both Masters 50 and 60 if age qualified, even if on same day. Masters 50/60 players may also play in ONE additional classification of play, even if on same day or weekend. Example: Masters 50 player could play Masters 50 and Masters 35, OR Masters 50 and Rec 3, etc., includes both invitational and state tournaments.

3. State Tournaments

- 3.1 Make-up teams are allowed for Masters State Tournaments. Out-of-state teams will be permitted to play in North Dakota Men's Masters state tournament with approval of both commissioners.
 - 3.2 Make-up team rosters are due no later than 3 days prior to the classification meeting. Teams submitting their roster after the deadline will be placed on a waiting list. Masters 35/40 sanction fee \$65. Masters 45/50/60 sanction fee \$25.
 - 3.3 Make-up teams in Masters 35/40 may have non-USASND rostered players.
 - 3.4 Masters 45/50/60 players must only meet age qualifications.
 - 3.5 Masters 35/40 Pickup Players.
 - a) May pickup 3 players, maximum 12 players total, including pickups.
 - b) Pickup players must be on tournament-eligible USASND rosters (no player solely on a "league only" roster is eligible to participate as a pickup player).
 - c) Must meet age requirements.
 - d) Masters 35
Div 1 – Pickup players must be the same classification as the highest classified team in the bracket or lower; however, the limit of no more than 3 C or above players on a team includes pickup players.
Div 2 – Pickups must be Rec 1 or lower
Div 3 – Must be Rec 3 or lower.
- Masters 40
Div 1 – Pickup players must be the same classification as the highest classified team in the bracket or lower; however, the limit of no more than 3 C or above players on a team includes pickup players.
Div 2 – Pickups must be Rec 2 or lower

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- 3.6 Masters 45/50/60 Pickup Players
 - a) Maximum pickup 3 players , maximum 20 players, including pickups
 - b) Pickup players must be on tournament-eligible USASND rosters (no player solely on a “league only” roster is eligible to participate as a pickup player).
 - c) Must meet age requirements, can be any classification.
- 3.7 Out-of-state teams will be permitted to play in North Dakota Men’s Masters state tournament with approval of both commissioners.
- 3.8 POOL PLAY/ROUND ROBIN TIEBREAKERS: If after a team is removed from the tie and at least 2 teams remain 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.*

4. Classifications Guidelines

- 4.1 Masters 35 – Three divisions of play.
 - Div 1 – Class D and above teams, though players C & above are limited to 3 per roster (including pickup players)
 - Div 2 – Rec 1-2 teams
 - Div 3 – Rec 3-4 teams
- 4.2 Masters 40 – Two divisions of play
 - Div 1 – Rec 1 and above teams, though players C & above are limited to 3 per roster (including pickup players)
 - Div 2 – Rec 2 and below teams
- 4.3 Masters 45/50/60 - Any player meeting age requirements, regardless of classification.
- 4.4 Divisions 2 & 3 that win the same division 2 times in 3 years will be moved up to at least the next highest division the following season.

These are only guidelines; Masters Committee has discretion to move any team to any division, regardless of player classifications on rosters.

Masters Committee determines classifications, divisions of play and tournament format.

5. Playing rules

- 5.1 Masters 35/40/45
 - a) Home Run limit

Men’s Masters 35 & 40 Div 1	5
Men’s Masters 35 & 40 Div 2	2
Men’s Masters 35 & 40 Div 3	1
Men’s Masters 45	3
Women’s Masters (all divisions)	4
 - b) Do not run bases on home runs.
 - c) Batter starts with 1-1 count.
 - d) Arc limit 6’-10’
 - e) One courtesy runner per inning plus one specifically for the pitcher of record. All other USASND/ USA Softball playing rules in effect.

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5.2 PLAYING RULES FOR MASTERS 50 & 60 USASND STATE TOURNAMENTS

- 1) Teams have the option to bat all players in the opening line-up. Team managers must inform umpires at pre-game conference how many players will be in batting order. Teams have the option to make substitutions, pinch-hit, etc., per USA Softball rules, if substitute players are available. USA Softball re-entry rules and shorthanded rules also apply. When batting everyone, in the event of an ejection, an out is declared each time the ejected players spot in the batting order is scheduled to hit. Should a player leave the game due to injury, the FIRST TIME the injured player is scheduled to bat, an out will be declared. Thereafter, the spot in the order will be skipped without penalty. The injured player may not return for the remainder of the game.
- 2) Unlimited courtesy runners. The same player cannot be used as a courtesy runner more than one time per inning. A courtesy runner may not be replaced by another courtesy runner or pinch-runner. If a courtesy runner's turn at bat, he is removed from the base, an out is declared and the player takes his turn at bat. A courtesy runner may be replaced due to injury, however, the injured player may not return for the remainder of the game. If batting everyone, the injured player's next at bat is an out, per rule #1.
- 3) No sliding or diving by base runners. Any base runner sliding or diving will be called out. What constitutes a slide or dive on a particular play shall be at the judgment of the umpire.
- 4) Runners must avoid contact with fielders. In the event of contact, the runner shall be called out. Exception: Should a throw take a defensive player into the path of the base runner, no out will be declared. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
- 5) Base runners may run either inside or outside but within three feet of second or third base to avoid contact with a fielder. The base runner shall be called safe if he crosses the parallel plane of the base prior to the fielder catching the ball and touching the base. The base belongs to the fielder. A path three feet inside or outside the base belongs to the base runner, to avoid contact. The baserunner's foot must be on the ground to be called safe.
- 6) Base runners may overrun second or third bases. If overrunning a base, the runner must return to touch that base, prior to advancing to the next base. This is an appeal play, similar to missing a base.
- 7) All defensive plays are force-outs. A defensive player may step on the base or tag the base runner, except at home plate. At home plate the defensive player must possess the ball and touch home plate prior to the runner crossing the scoring line. A defensive player cannot tag a runner on a play at home.
- 8) The base runner must use the scoring line. Any base runner touching home plate or entering the right handed batter's box shall be called out. This is not an appeal play; the umpire makes this call when it occurs.
- 9) The scoring line shall be an extension of the first baseline, beginning at the back corner of the right handed batter's box.
- 10) A commitment line shall be drawn on the third baseline, halfway between third base and home plate. If a base runner passes the commitment line he may not return to third base.
- 11) Wood bats must be constructed completely of wood. No composite or metal handles, no composite wood. The barrel of the bat may not exceed 2.25 inches in diameter.
- 12) Home run rule 3 per game. Bases will not be run on over the fence homeruns.
- 13) Extra Innings: The USA Softball tie-breaker rule will be used for extra-inning games. The last player to bat in the previous inning will be placed on second base at the beginning of all extra innings. A courtesy runner may not be used in this instance.

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- 14) Pitchers box: Two lines will be extended from the ends of the pitching rubber, backward 6' toward 2nd base. The pitcher may release the pitch from any distance, as long as at least one foot is in contact with the rubber or inside the pitching box.
- 15) If a team begins the game with 9 players, they will NOT be required to take an out in the 10th spot in the batting order. A 10th player may be added at any time.
- 16) Per USA Softball Senior rules, the pitching arc will be 6' to 12'. A senior strike mat (19" x 34½" rectangle) will be placed with a short edge along the front of home plate and extending behind the plate. Only legal pitches landing on the mat would be called strikes.
- 17) At all USASND Masters 50 State Tournaments, the host city is required to have available at the softball complex, an automated electronic defibrillator.
- 18) Teams may score a maximum number of 5 runs per inning except for the 7th inning, the last inning of a time limit game or any extra inning. There shall be a run ahead rule of 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5.
- 19) A substitute player may be inserted in the lineup in place of a "tie-breaker runner" who starts an extra inning on second base.
- 20) If the 5-run limit prohibits the home team from getting within the run ahead rule for that inning, then the game shall be declared final with the visiting team winning by the score of the game at that time.

6. Women's Masters

- 6.1 Must be 30 or older during calendar year.
- 6.2 Rosters must be received at the State Office ten (10 days prior to tournament.
- 6.3 Players can be rostered on an existing USASND women's league-only or coed team or may be a non-rostered bonafide ND resident.
- 6.4 Classifications may be done using the following point system.

Class C	6 pts
League-only, Coed only, or non-rostered ND resident	5 pts
Class D	5 pts
Rec 1	4 pts
Rec 2	3 pts
Rec 3	2 pts
Rec 4	1 pt

Teams will be assigned to the following divisions based upon the point totals of the top 10 players on the roster: Division 1 = 32 pts & over, Division 2 = 31 pts to 21 pts, Division 3 = 20 pts to 10 pts. However, the tournament host has the authority to move teams as necessary to have enough teams to fill divisions.

- 6.5 Additional rules may be set by the Executive Committee.

IX. MASTERS

X. COED SLOW PITCH

1. General

- 1.1 All divisions of softball will be allowed to play Coed ball.
- 1.2 No metal spikes are allowed in any division of Coed play. No hard plastic or polyurethane spikes similar to metal sole and heel plate are allowed in any division of Coed play. No shoes with detachable cleats that screw ON are allowed; however shoes with detachable cleats that screw INTO the shoe are allowed. (from Official Guide and Rule Book)
- 1.3 Outfield - 2 men and 2 women
Infield - 2 men and 2 women
Pitcher & catcher – 1 man and 1 woman
- 1.4 Alternate batting order by sexes.
- 1.5 If a man is walked, he is awarded two bases. If there are two outs, the next batter (female) has a choice of walking or hitting.
- 1.6 Players on any registered team roster can also play Coed.

2. Invitational Tournaments

- 2.1 All Coed tournaments must be sanctioned by the State Association and all teams must be registered with USASND. Teams not in a registered Coed League will pay a special registration fee to play in USASND Coed tournaments. The fee will be set by the State.
- 2.2 Rosters for Invitational Tournaments: Must be handed in at beginning of tournament and teams must play with those players through entire tournament. No additions may be made to that roster after tournament starts. Players can only play on one team in a tournament.
- 2.3 Injury and Ejection
 - a) In invitational tournaments, the Tournament Director may allow a team to start the game with one less than the required number of players. The missing player's spot will be the tenth batting position in the scorebook. Each time the tenth position is due to bat, it will be listed as an out. It is the manager's responsibility to report to the plate umpire the tenth batting position each time it comes up. A game may begin with nine (9) players, and if another player arrives, that player must be inserted into the ninth or tenth batting position (depending on the vacant spot when alternating sexes.) NOTE: A team cannot start shorthanded in Coed with eleven (11) players. One EP cannot be used to start.
 - b) In invitational tournaments, in the event an injury results in team being unable to continue with maximum number of players, the following rules will prevail:
 1. You must take an out each time the injured player's turn at bat occurs.
 2. You may play with nine but the combination must be 5 and 4 - either male or female. This will not change the maximum number of men or women allowed in the infield or outfield.
 3. At any time during a game a team cannot field the original required number of players due to an ejection, the game will be forfeited.
 - c) No Tournament Director in any invitational tournament can deviate from the above-stated rules in Sections VII, 2.11 and 2.12. If he does, he will be called before the USASND Executive Committee and face the possibility that the organization or association hosting the tournament will be prohibited from hosting future tournaments.

X. COED SLOW PITCH

3. State Tournaments

- 3.1 Rosters are to be received at the State Office (10) days prior to State Tournament. Rosters must include players' regular USASND team name and classification.
- 3.2 Coed state tournament formats will be determined by the Tournament Coordinator and State Office and based upon the number of teams in each division. All formats will provide teams with a three game guarantee.
- 3.3 Classification will be done by using a special point system. (4/86) The State Commissioner will set minimums and maximums for class determination.
- 3.4 State entry fee will include a \$25 registration fee for each team.
- 3.5 The Coed State Tournament will continue to be held in the fall after the Labor Day weekend.
- 3.6 The home run limit in each division of the Coed State Tournament is as follows (with excess HRs being an out): Division 1 = 4, Divisions 2 & 3 = 2, and Division 4 = 0.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

4. Regional, Area, and National Tournaments

- 4.1 The Executive Committee will make the final decision as to which teams will qualify for National events. This will include establishing divisions and team classifications.

X. COED SLOW PITCH

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.

X. COED SLOW PITCH

XI. JUNIOR OLYMPIC (YOUTH)

1. General Junior Olympic

- 1.1 Divisions of Play:
 - 18 and Under - on January 1 of current year.
 - 16 and Under - on January 1 of current year.
 - 14 and Under - on January 1 of current year.
 - 12 and Under - on January 1 of current year.
 - 10 and Under - on January 1 of current year. (National rule.)
- 1.2 Rosters and Fees - are due first night of league play. Teams must register their players and coaches online at RegisterUSASoftball.com.
- 1.3 Birth verification or proof of age can be birth certificate, Baptismal certificate, hospital certificate, driver's license, or court approved documents. Photo copies of any of the above are acceptable. Material for proof of age must be supplied upon request from Junior Olympic Commissioner.
- 1.4 All Junior Olympic players must provide proper photo identification upon demand by league or tournament officials and at national tournaments.
- 1.5 All divisions of Girl's Fast Pitch and Boy's Fast Pitch will be allowed to play in Class C Fast Pitch invitational tournaments.
- 1.6 No metal spikes are allowed in any division of Junior Olympic play. No hard plastic or polyurethane spikes similar to metal sole and heel plate are allowed in any division of Junior Olympic play. No shoes with detachable cleats that screw ON are allowed; however shoes with detachable cleats that screw INTO the shoe are allowed. (From Official Guide and Rule Book).
- 1.7 The rule regarding helmets will be as per USA Softball Guide.
- 1.8 Registration fees for Junior Olympic teams will be set by Executive Committee or State Commissioner's Office.
- 1.9 State Junior Olympic Tournaments will be conducted by state officials whenever possible.
- 1.10 Junior Olympic teams should be given classification ratings equal to adult classifications if they desire to compete in adult tournaments.
- 1.11 Pitching distance for all ages of Junior Olympic teams is 50 feet.

XI. JUNIOR OLYMPIC (YOUTH)

XII. UMPIRES

1. General

- 1.1 Will enforce all playing rules, behavioral codes, and uniform dress code relative to players, coaches and managers. The umpires will follow instructions relative to the uniform dress code.
- 1.2 All tournaments are to be sanctioned by the State USASND. Umpires working a non-sanctioned tournament will not be covered by insurance and will be subject to penalties--the same as those received by a registered player playing in a non-sanctioned tournament. It is the umpire's responsibility to check to see that the tournament is sanctioned.
- 1.3 Umpires working high school and college games will not be covered by USA Softball insurance if the teams are not registered with USA Softball.
- 1.4 Umpires are not responsible for handling eligibility or classification questions except when a roster check is requested. In case of an eligibility question or protest, the umpire must contact the league representative or tournament director immediately to review the protest.

EXCEPTION: If an umpire feels there may be a violation of the Pickup Rule, he must contact the Tournament Director immediately. This does not have to be protested by the other team.
- 1.5 Protests allowed only on rule interpretation violations. Judgment calls are not protestable. Protests must be settled immediately.
- 1.6 Notice of umpire rules clinics should be made a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the clinic being held in the area.
- 1.7 Major cities are required hold at least one umpire workshop at least thirty (30) days after the regularly scheduled rules clinic, preferably after two or three weeks of play.
- 1.8 Deputy Umpires-in-Chief will be appointed in other areas of North Dakota as recommended by the State Umpire-in-Chief and subject to approval of the State Commissioner.
- 1.9 Umpire must have attended a National Umpire School within the past five (5) year to be eligible for Regional or National assignments.

XII. UMPIRES

2. Requirements for Umpiring

- 2.1 Umpires must meet the following general requirements:
- a) Register with USASND annually (insurance is included in registration fee).
 - b) Attend an annual rules clinic.
 - c) All umpires must have a criminal background check and, if working youth games, attending a national umpire school, or working a national tournament, must have completed up-to-date SafeSport training.
 - d) An umpire who does not attend a rules clinic will not be allowed to work any invitational or state tournaments. If an umpire does not attend a clinic annually, he will not be able to register until he has attended a clinic.
 - e) Wear the official uniform as prescribed by USA Softball. All other paraphernalia (i.e. socks, belt, ball bag, and jacket) must be dark navy blue for both male and female umpires. The plate umpire, whether male or female, in fast pitch **MUST** wear a mask with a throat protector. Body protectors are recommended for umpires in fast pitch and are optional in slow pitch.
 1. Black shoes only.
 2. Plate umpire only will wear a ball bag.
 3. Shorts may be worn through state tournaments. If two (2) umpires are used, the uniform of both must be the same.
 4. Gray pants (USA Softball issue only) and gray ball bags (USA Softball issue) are optional through State Tournament play.
 - f) Out of uniform when working an assigned game will result in a \$3.00 penalty for every game worked. (\$1.50 to be kept by local association and \$1.50 to be sent to State with name of violator.)
- 2.2 Umpire Duties:
- a) Are responsible for enforcing the dress code (includes umpires, players, managers and coaches).
 - b) **Will not smoke or chew tobacco while working assigned game.**
 - c) Will not consume alcoholic beverages while working game or until assigned daily tournament schedule is completed. Umpire must be out of uniform.
 - d) Must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to start of first assigned tournament game.
 - e) Must enforce the player pick-up rule.
 - f) Must have access to a printed or online version of the USA Softball Rule Book at all times.
 - g) Must not use the threat of ejection or forfeiture to maintain control of game.
 - h) The penalty for an umpire not enforcing the dress code will be the forfeiture of the umpire's fee for that game.

3. Registration

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

4. Umpire Fees

- 4.1 State umpire tournament fees and expenses (travel, meals, and lodging) will be determined by the State Executive Committee.
- 4.2 Invitational tournament fees should not exceed the schedule set for State Tournaments.
- 4.3 Invitational tournament expenses (travel, meals, lodging) may not exceed schedule set for State Tournaments.

XII. UMPIRES

5. Assignments

- 5.1 Two umpires per game will be used in Slow Pitch Classes B, C, and D. One umpire will be used in non-advancing tournaments except in the championship & semifinal games, which will require two (2) umpires.
- 5.2 Umpires must attend an annual rules clinic to be eligible to work.
- 5.3 The number of umpires assigned to state tournament games will be as follows:
 - a) Women's Fast Pitch - Two (2) for Class A and B - One (1) for Class C and below.
 - b) Men's Fast Pitch - Two (2) for all games in every class.
 - c) All Slow Pitch – Two umpires per game will be used in Slow Pitch Div 1/2/3. One umpire will be used in non-advancing tournaments except in the championship game.
 - d) Youth Girl's Fast and Slow Pitch - One (1) umpire.
 - e) Youth Boy's Fast Pitch - One (1) umpire; two (2) umpires starting when four teams are left.
 - f) Youth Boy's Slow Pitch - One (1) umpire.
 - g) Coed - One (1) umpire and, if possible, two (2) should be used.

XII. UMPIRES

XIII. HALL OF FAME

1. General

- 1.1 The North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame will principally honor players of the game of softball, based on a reputable performance attested to by a personal record of accomplishment in North Dakota Softball.
- 1.2 Such record shall be as complete as logically and practically possible. The record and personal history of the applicant shall be stated in an application form, to which may be attached additional pages containing any historical data that is deemed of pertinent value and information.
- 1.3 Any other prospective candidate who does not have the foregoing qualifications as a player, must be of such extra ordinary character by virtue of a record of past performance and reputation in North Dakota Softball so as to merit the honors of the Hall of Fame with the same respect and dignity that would be attributed to a Hall of Famer.
- 1.4 A prospective candidate eligible to receive the honors of the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame Award must have passed his 40th birthday and have been involved in softball twenty (20) years.
- 1.5 No more than five (5) candidates shall be elected to the North Dakota Hall of Fame in any one (1) year. Exceptions:
 - a) An eligible candidate who has served as a North Dakota State Softball Commissioner (USA Softball) and who has been duly elected to receive the honors of the Hall of Fame, may be in addition to the yearly quota limit of five (5) nominees.
 - b) If, in the normal prescribed election process and by a combination of two (2) or more ballots, the aggregate total of six (6) legally elected candidates shall be the final result.

2. Hall of Fame Council

- 2.1 A group of qualified men and/or women, appointed by the North Dakota Commissioner of Softball (USA Softball) for the purpose of electing members to the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame, shall be known as the HALL OF FAME COUNCIL. The duties of the HALL OF FAME COUNCIL shall be to select inductees to the USASND Hall of Fame and to act as an advisor to the Executive Committee of USASND on other matters pertaining to the USASND Hall of Fame and change in the Council operations.
- 2.2 The HALL OF FAME COUNCIL shall be under the jurisdiction of USA Softball of North Dakota.
- 2.3 New inductees shall receive a plaque with etched picture, certification of election, and Hall of Fame Admission Card which covers the inductee and spouse. A plaque will also be placed in the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame.
- 2.4 The North Dakota Commissioner of Softball (USASND) shall appoint the membership of the HALL OF FAME COUNCIL.
- 2.5 The North Dakota Commissioner of Softball (USASND) shall be an ex-officio member of the HALL OF FAME COUNCIL and shall preside over the meetings of the Council; thereby acting as permanent chairman for his tenure of office. The ex-officio chairman shall not have a vote in the council proceedings.
- 2.6 In the event of the absence of the Ex-Officio officer, the vice chairman will preside in the order of succession as provided. Such chairmanship shall be only temporary. Such temporary chairman shall retain his power to vote in the Hall of Fame Council proceedings.
- 2.7 The Hall of Fame Council shall consist of twelve (12) term members at large. The term members shall each be appointed for a four (4) year term, and three (3) of these shall be appointed each year.

XIII. HALL OF FAME

- 2.8 The term of Hall of Fame Council (term) Members shall expire immediately following the executive session of the final year of the said three (3) year term.
- 2.9 The State Commissioner will announce his appointments to the Hall of Fame Council at least two weeks prior to the Council meeting.

3. Meetings

- 3.1 The annual meeting of the Hall of Fame Council shall be held on the same date and place as the regular annual Spring Meeting of USA Softball of North Dakota, OR a date and place considered more practical by the chairman of the Hall of Fame Council.
- 3.2 Special meetings shall be subject to notification of date, time, and place; and may be called by the order of the presiding officer for a specified purpose.

4. Nomination

- 4.1 A nominee, in order to be eligible for nomination in a current election, must have his application on file in the records of the Secretary by December 1, prior to the date of the Hall of Fame Council Session.
- 4.2 Anyone may nominate a person for the Hall of Fame.
- 4.3 Obtain a Hall of Fame application (available from the State Office or on our website). Fill out completely with all possible information.
- 4.4 Be sure applicant gives best possible listing of his softball history and other items requested.
- 4.5 Attach copies of any news clippings, letters of commendation, and other pertinent information.
- 4.6 Include nominee's person history (family and other information giving background of the nominee).
- 4.7 Submit photos of the nominee including at least one portrait of the individual with a blank, light-colored background. Photos become property of USASND and will not be returned.

XIII. HALL OF FAME

OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

Commissioner	Dick Gulmon
Assistant State Commissioner	Mike Wolf
Secretary-Treasurer	John DeHaan
President/MSP Commissioner	Jack Lukes
WSP Commissioner	Amy Anderson
Vice President	Scott Brahos
Executive Committee At-Large Member	Chris Hutton
Executive Committee At-Large Member	Darin Krueger
Executive Committee At-Large Member	Scott Collins
Executive Committee At-Large Member	Mike Peterson
Executive Committee At-Large Member	Chastity Schafer
Executive Committee At-Large Member	DaLee Wilkinson
Executive Committee At-Large Member	Nick Gulmon
State Umpire In Chief	Mike Wolf
JO Fast Pitch Commissioner	Brian Neuhardt
Tournament Coordinator	Roger Weigel
Director of Operations	RC Courtright

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State Tournament Pickup Player Authorization Form

Ejection Form

Umpire Registration Form (2 pages)

Hall of Fame Nomination Packet

LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS