

2026 USA Softball Procedural Code Changes w/ Comments as of November 20, 2025

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2026 unless otherwise noted.

ARTICLE NUMBER

CHANGE

Article 303 A 01-02

Pick-Up Players

01. The team adding pick-up players must select eligible roster members from USA Softball registered teams.

Exception: **Adult Slow Pitch**, Senior Slow Pitch, and Junior Olympic Fast Pitch.

02. Pick-up players must have played for a USA Softball registered team during the current season.

Comments: Allows teams to have a greater pool of players to choose from for championship play.

Article 303 A 05

Pick-Up Players

05. Pick-up Players must be from the same or lower classification **as the tournament.** (Adult Slow Pitch Only) **This requirement applies to both a Player's current team and, if applicable, individual classification.**

Exception: A Player one classification higher than the tournament—based on current team and individual classifications—may only be a pickup player for a team that has not reached their maximum number of higher classified players eligible to play at the tournament's classification based upon the Slow Pitch Classification Restrictions (Article 307, Paragraph H.01, Page 29). All of a team's rostered and pick-up players must be considered with regard to that restriction.

Comments: Helps clarify the national pick-up player rule. This changes the classification requirement to be based on the event rather than the team to allow lower classified teams to have access to the same pool of pick-up players as all other teams in the tournament.

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Article 307 H 01

Classifications of Championship Play

Men's Class C: **Four** B classified players and no players from Class A, Class B+ or the USA Softball Restricted Player's List

Men's Class D: **Four** C classified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C+, or the USA Softball Restricted Player's List

Men's Class E/Rec: **Four** D classified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D+, or the USA Softball Restricted Player's List.

Women's Class C: **Four Open classified players.**

Women's D: **Four** C Classified players and no Open classified players.

Women's E/Rec: **Four** D classified players and no players from Open or Class C.

Comments: This will encourage more players at the C and D level to participate.

Article 310 N 01-03

General Regulations of Championship Play

01. **DELETE 310 N 01 in its entirety and re-number 02, 03, & 04 to 01, 02, & 03.**
01. In all Junior Olympic **10-Under**, 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under, 18-Under Class A and Class B Fast Pitch pool play and elimination play, the time limit will be *one hour and thirty minutes* and/or *one hour forty minutes* and finish the inning. **(This determination must be made at the time National Championship bid packet is submitted.)** If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tie breaker shall be in effect at the start of the next inning. **EXCEPTION: The Championship game and "IF" game will be one hour and forty minutes.**
02. In Junior Olympic Gold Fast Pitch pool play; the time limit will be *one hour and forty minutes* and finish the inning. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tie breaker shall be in effect at the start of the next inning.
03. In National Championship Finals (One True Nationals) pool play and elimination play; the time limit will be one

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ARTICLE

CHANGE

Article 310 N
01-03 (cont.)

hour and forty minutes and finish the inning. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tie breaker shall be in effect at the start of the next inning. EXCEPTION: The Championship game and "IF" game will be 7 innings.

Comments: Cuts down game time to protect young players playing multiple games per day.

Article 311 A 04
-06

Championship Draw

Deletion: Removal of Men's Major Fast Pitch from 311.A.04

Addition in 311.A.06, **Men's Major Fast Pitch**. All teams are placed in a double elimination bracket. After a team has a win-loss record of 0-2 or 1-2, that team is placed into a new single elimination (Silver) bracket. Both bracket winners will be awarded a National Champions.

Comments: Many teams have requested this change because of the small number of teams that participate.

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