

USA SOFTBALL™

2018 USA Softball Code Changes with Comments as of October 27th, 2017

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2018 unless otherwise noted.

Article Number

Change

Article 206 A

A. **Membership**

01. An umpire may become a **member** by placing his/her membership with the local association where they reside or work either as an umpire or in their regular occupation.
02. Umpires become **members** of USA Softball on a voluntary basis and agree to be governed by the Code, rules and regulations of the USA Softball. The placement of umpire membership with USA Softball does not establish an employer/employee relationship and no umpire is considered an employee of USA Softball or the local association, but is instead acting as an independent contractor.
03. **Membership** is on an annual basis and shall expire December 31 of each year
04. A member of the armed forces may become a 'military' member umpire only while stationed overseas, by placing his/her membership through their military base athletic office.
05. Umpire membership may be declined or revoked for unethical, immoral or unprofessional conduct. Before declining or revoking membership, the umpire must be given the same hearing procedure afforded a team or team member as set forth in Article 305, Suspension of this Code.

B. Championship Play

01. Only USA Softball-**member** umpires may be used in championship play.

Comments: Clarifies an umpire's membership with the USA Softball Local Association.

Article 301 C 02 c 02

c. Fast Pitch

02. In all adult Fast Pitch, no USA **Men's** National Team member may participate below the **Major** level.

Comments: Clarifies where USA Men's National Team members can participate in National Championship play.

Article 301 D 01 c

01. Player Participation

- c. **Major Plus teams can get their players anywhere in the East Section for the East National or the West Section for the West National.**

Comments: Increases the area where Men's Senior Slow Pitch Major Plus teams can select for their roster.

Article 306 A 06

DIVISIONS

CLASSIFICATIONS

05. Men's 21-Under Slow Pitch

06. Men's 19-Under Slow Pitch

Comments: Adds Men's 19-Under as a new classification of Men's Slow Pitch.

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Article Number
Article 306 A 12

Change
DIVISIONS
12. Co-ed Slow Pitch

CLASSIFICATIONS
Open
C
D
E

Comments: Adds Class E as a new classification of Co-ed Slow Pitch and also adds a National Championship.

Article 307 G 02

Duties. The duty of the board is to uphold the national team and player classification strategy. The board, in concert with the National Office staff, will oversee a National Player Classification Registry. The Board, in concert with the National Office staff, will communicate with tournament directors of National Championships to ensure all teams participating in USA Softball Slow Pitch events are within the procedures. The board will also seek out further information by contacting local commissioners, player representatives, district commissioners, league directors, and tournament directors to acquire the best and most recent information on teams and players. **The board will also review rosters from other associations on an annual basis and adjust player ratings or add the players to the database.**

Comments: Allows the Men's Slow Pitch National Classification Board to review available rosters from other softball associations and make adjustments to individual player ratings.

Article 307 H 02

02. Mandatory Team Reclassification

EXCEPTION: Coed Class C and Class D teams must finish in the top ten percent (10%) of National Championships in two (2) consecutive years before they will be required to play in the next higher classification in USA Softball Championship Play.

Comments: **Removes Men's Class B** Slow Pitch from the exception, making it a requirement that the top ten (10%) of National Championships move to the next higher classification for the next season.

Article 308 F

Delete USA Softball Men's Championship Series

Comments: Removes the Men's Slow Pitch National Championship Series as a USA Softball event.

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<u>Article Number</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>Article 309 C 01 e, f, g, k.</u>	<p>e. Men's 35-Over Masters Slow Pitch. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.</p> <p>f. Men's 40-Over Slow Pitch. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.</p> <p>g. Men's 45-Over Slow Pitch. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.</p> <p>k. Women's 35-Over Slow Pitch. This National Championship Final shall have dates established and approved by the Executive Director.</p> <p>Comments: Gives the Executive Director the flexibility to approve dates for Men's SP 35+, 40+, 45+ and Women's SP 35+.</p>
<u>Article 309 C 01 a</u>	<p>Men's Class A and Women's Open Slow Pitch. These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled as per approval of the Executive Director.</p> <p>Comments: Gives the Executive Director ability to approve when the tournaments can be held.</p>
<u>Article 309 C 01 b</u>	<p>Men's Class B Slow Pitch. This National Championship Finals shall be scheduled as per approval of the Executive Director.</p> <p>Comments: Gives the Executive Director ability to approve when the tournaments can be held.</p>

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Article 310

General Regulations of Championship Play. All championship play must be conducted in accordance with this Code and the playing rules as adopted by USA Softball. In case of a conflict between the playing rules, USA Softball Code and Procedural Manual, the **USA Procedural Manual shall take precedence.**

Comments: Establishes that the USA Softball Procedural Manual shall take precedence over the USA Softball Code.

Article 310 R

Umpires. Three (3) umpires per game shall be used for all games at National Championship Finals in Adult Fast Pitch, Men's Class A Slow Pitch, Men's Class B Slow Pitch, **Men's Class C Slow Pitch**, Men's 16" Slow Pitch, Men's Modified Pitch and Girls' USA Softball 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under, 18-Under and 16-Under Gold and 18-Under Gold Fast Pitch. All other National Championship Finals will utilize a minimum of two (2) umpires per game. In all divisions where there are pool play games, a minimum of two (2) umpires per game will be utilized.

Comments: Adds Men's Class C Slow Pitch to require three (3) umpires per game.

Article 310 R

Exception: In **Men's Open Fast Pitch**, Master's 50-Over Fast Pitch and Men's Senior 60-Over Fast Pitch a minimum of two (2) umpires per game will be used.

Comments: Adds Men's Open Fast Pitch as an exception – requiring a minimum of two (2) umpires per game

Article 311 A 04 b

Delete

- a. Men's Major Fast Pitch
- ~~b. Men's Open Fast Pitch~~
- c. Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch

Comments: Removes Men's Open Fast Pitch from the required 3 Game Guarantee Bracket.

Article 311 A 05 a

(New) 05. 2 Tiered Bracket. Men's Open Fast Pitch – all teams are placed into a double elimination (Gold) bracket. After a team is 0-2 or 1-2, that team is placed in to a new double elimination (Silver) bracket. Both bracket winners will be awarded as National Champions

Comments: Establishes that the Men's Open Fast Pitch uses the 2-Tiered Bracket

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Article 311 B 05

(NEW) 05. 2 Tiered Bracket for Men's Open Fast Pitch.

a. Bracket Protection. The USA Softball Official Double Elimination Bracket for both GOLD and SILVER shall be used. Teams qualifying from the same region shall be protected, where possible, from playing each other in the first two rounds of the winner's bracket. When the number of teams entered in the tournament from a region is greater than the number of sections on the bracket, the final alignment shall be determined by the USA Softball Representative.

01. Teams will represent the Region where they are registered

b. Territorial Tournaments. The association with the most teams will draw first, the association with the second most teams shall draw second, etc. In case of ties between associations, the tie will be determined alphabetically. When more than one team within an association must draw, positions to draw shall be determined based on alphabetical order according to the team name listed on the roster.

c. Seeding (Adults) Previous Year's Finish and Host Teams...

01. Seeded Teams. Only teams that shall be seeded are the previous year's defending champions, second place teams in both the GOLD and SILVER brackets and the current year's host teams.

02. Multiple Seeds and Hosts(s) Teams. In all classes, the defending champion, second place and host teams shall draw for opposite brackets and shall play the first day and the first round of the tournament with times being assigned by the tournament committee for the best gate.

Comments: Establishes the bracket draw procedures for the 2-Tiered Bracket for Men's Open Fast Pitch

Article 316 A 06 c 03 Delete

c. Slow Pitch

01. Men's Class A Slow Pitch

02. Men's Industrial Slow Pitch

03. ~~Men's Church Slow Pitch~~

04. Men's Major 16-Inch

Comments: Removes Men's Church Slow Pitch as a National Championship Final.