

KANSAS CITY METRO - JUNIOR OLYMPIC CODE

1.00 GENERAL

1. The USA Softball Code has been adopted by KC Metro USA Softball. All registered teams and players shall be governed by this code. The KC Metro Commissioner & Junior Olympic Commissioner reserve the right to create additional rules and regulations not specifically covered in the USA National code or the Mid America Region Code.
2. The KC Metro Commissioner and the JO Commissioner have the right to award Regional and National Championship berths at their discretion.
3. Age qualifications: a player's age as of December 31 determines the age classification in which the player is eligible to play the following year - Per USA code. Players of younger age classification may play in older age classifications, but an older age classification player may not play in the younger age classification.
4. Teams who wish to participate in a USA Softball National Qualifier, Metro, Regional or National Championship must have at least 1 Coach who is ACE / Safesport Certified. In addition, all dugout & base coaches must pass a Background Check. No Exceptions!

1.01 CODE OF ETHICS

1. Fair play, good sportsmanship & a commitment to the USA Softball codes & policies is required of all USA Softball teams.
2. A player's commitment to play on a particular team should be a commitment for the entire season. Certain situations do arise, when it is in the best interest of all, for a player to change teams. In the case of a player leaving a team, all property of the team (helmets, uniforms, bats, etc) and fees owed to the team must be returned to the team manager before the player is eligible to play for another team.
3. Discourteous remarks and or actions by players, coaches, parents, and fans will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, remarks to players, coaches, umpires, and tournament directors. It is the coach's responsibility to remind players, parents, & fans of this policy and comply with it.
4. Anyone ejected from a game for violent behavior will be subject to a formal hearing by the KC Metro Commissioner, the JO Commissioner, and any other parties involved in the situation.
5. Teams may not accept travel money for participating in a "local" tournament.
Players forfeit their amateur status if a team accepts travel money when not eligible to do so.
6. Scorekeepers are a part of the umpire crew and are to remain totally unbiased.
7. The use of tobacco products within the dugout or the playing field is strictly prohibited. The use of alcoholic beverages within the confines of the complex, including the parking lot is prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in ejection from the tournament.

1.02 GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES

1. All teams must be registered USA Softball. Teams participating in Championship play must individually register their players / coaches.
2. Time limit on most tournaments = 1 hour 10 minutes.
3. International tie-breaker rule will go in effect in the top of the eighth inning or at the time limit, whichever occurs first.
4. Run ahead rule--8 runs after 5 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings & 15 runs after 3 innings.
5. No protests on judgment calls.
6. Good sportsmanship is REQUIRED by coaches, players, parents, and fans. Failing to comply will result in forfeiture of the game or removal of said party from the complex. USA Softball hearings will be held accordingly, by the KC Metro State Commissioner, the JO Commissioner, and all parties involved.
7. Zero Tolerance Policy > Any coach, player or parent ejected from the game will sit out the remainder of the current game and the following game as well and may be removed from the tournament. Failure to comply will result in the teams forfeiture from the event.
8. The tournament director shall reserve the right to change the tournament format & schedule as is necessary to comply with developing weather situations.
9. Regional tournaments, Qualifying tournaments, and National championships will use the time limit and run ahead rule as is stated in the USA Softball National & Regional codes.

1.03 CLASSIFICATION OF PLAYERS & TEAMS

1. Gold > these teams are at the highest level of classification. Players / teams competing in this division are not eligible to participate at a lower level of play.
2. Class A > these teams are well established, competitive and well coached. Teams are skilled offensively & defensively. Players have good athletic ability & experience. They generally have good team speed and power. They have more than one good pitcher or one who can dominate the game.
3. Class B > these teams lack consistency in their players and pitchers. B teams play mostly in leagues and invitational tournaments.
4. Class C > Recreational teams only. These teams play primarily in leagues. They are not allowed to participate in any USA Softball National qualifier without being reclassified to another division.

Note > Teams or players may elect to play at a higher classification in leagues or invitational tournaments. This applies to non-championship level play only!

Exception: teams may participate in a higher classification at a National Qualifier & then return to their regular division. However, depending upon how they do, they may be subject to reclassification.

5. Teams can play no more than 1 level above their current classification. Teams who play 2 or more levels above their current classification may be reclassified after notification by the KC Metro JO Commissioner and/or their designee.

2.00 REGISTRATION

1. All teams must be USA Softball registered to participate in any tournament. The Individual Player method of registration is required for any team wishing to play in a National Qualifier or National Tournament. For “invitational” tournaments – teams may request a “team” only registration but must have some other form of team insurance that is acceptable to KC Metro USA Softball in order to be able to participate.

2. A team must register with the metro or state association in which the greatest number of their players resides. Exception: Teams in adjoining counties to a Metro or State may register in either association by mutual consent of the Commissioners involved.

3. Teams / Players must be able to establish proof of registration & age upon request by a tournament director or assigned USA Softball official. The proof of eligibility shall be of the picture ID type and birth certificate.

2.01 FEES

1. Registration Fees for leagues & tournaments vary based on either the “team” method of registration or Individual Player Method of registration.

2. Anyone who is hosting an invitational tournament in Kansas City will be responsible for all costs incurred by hosting the tournament. This is including but not limited to: umpire fees, facility usage, website usage and prizes promised winning teams.

3. Invitational tournament gate fees will be set at the discretion of the tournament director.

4. **Refund policy:** Will be based upon the number of games guaranteed vs. the actual number of games played minus a \$25.00 administration fee. If a team enters a tournament and withdraws after the tournament deadline, no refund will be allowed.

5. **Special Note** → Teams / coaches / players who participate in USA Softball activities are responsible for fees due to the tournament or league director. Failure to make restitution on bad checks submitted will result in the immediate suspension of the Coach & or Team for which the check was written. Suspension will remain in place until the debt has been paid.

3.00 CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

1. Championship play is defined as any tournament which qualifies teams for USA Softball National tournaments. This includes but is not limited to: National Qualifiers, Regional, State, Metro and National Tournaments.
2. Teams participating in Championship Play must follow the guidelines as set forth in our National, Regional & Local codes.
3. Teams who forfeit a game in championship play may be subject to forfeiture of any berth their team would have received.
4. Acts by any member of a team including but not limited to coaches & players deemed as “unsportsmanlike” conduct may result in forfeiture of any berth the team would have received.

3.01 TEAM ROSTERS

1. Teams must **properly** complete & submit the Official Championship Roster to the JO Commissioner **prior** to participation in Championship play. Roster change deadline is either 1 week prior to the start of championship play or 2 hours prior to a team’s first game in State Championships.
2. Birth certificates and or a photo ID will be used to verify the championship roster. Rosters will not be signed without verification by the JO Commissioner and/or their designee.
3. A red pencil or pen line must be drawn on the line immediately below the last players name appearing on the roster. This is the responsibility of the KC Metro JO Commissioner or their designee.
4. Class A & B teams may play in either or both of the KC Metro Championships & Kansas State Championships. Class C teams may play in the “B” Metro but run the risk of being moved up in classification.
5. Illegal players (tournament play). Any team found using an illegal player will be disqualified immediately from the tournament. The opposing team will be declared the winner.

3.02 PLAYER RELEASE

1. Players may be released from a team after participating in Championship play, but it shall be prior to the roster change deadline and cannot be released without the written approval of the KC Metro JO Commissioner and/or their designee.
2. Player Release Form must be signed by the Coach/Manager of the team releasing the player as well as the Player and/or Parents (if under 18). Only the official USA Softball Player Release form may be used to release a player.
3. Players may only participate as a rostered player on one team within a division in championship play during a season. Meaning – a player can only be released 1 time within a current season. No exceptions to this rule will be permitted.
4. Authority to grant a release is at the sole discretion of the KC Metro JO Commissioner and/or their designee.

3.03 PICK UP PLAYERS

Pick up players will be in compliance with the USA Softball code.
See USA Softball Code – Article 303 for complete details.

3.04 UNIFORMS

Uniforms must be worn as described in the USA Softball Rule Book – rule 3 section 6

3.05 KC METRO & KS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Championship rosters and entry fees must be submitted to and approved by the JO Commissioner prior to participation in the either the KC Metro or KS State Championships.
2. Failure to meet tournament FEES, ROSTER, & ENTRY DEADLINE will prevent a team from participating in the Metro Championship.
3. The KC Metro USA Softball classification committee will have the final say on team classification.

4.00 POLICY VIOLATIONS

4.01 PENALTIES

Anyone participating in USA Softball activities will be required to comply with the Rules / Codes / Policies as set forth each year. Failure to comply may result in the following depending upon the circumstances surrounding the offense committed:

- Ejection from a game, tournament or complex
- Suspension from further activities of person(s) involved in the incident
- Game or tournament forfeiture

4.02 HEARINGS

Anyone suspended from USA Softball activities has the right to appeal the suspension. Hearings will be conducted and will include the KC Metro Commissioner, JO Commissioner & person(s) involved with the incident. All hearings will be conducted in accordance with USA Softball National Code Article 305 – Suspension.

KC METRO USA SOFTBALL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND & UPDATE THIS CODE AT ANY TIME.