



**Northwest Mountain  
Region 9  
Procedural Code,  
Classification Rules &  
Guidelines**

# Procedural Code Table of Contents

<b>Article 1 General Provisions</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<i>Name</i>	
<i>Objectives</i>	
<i>Jurisdiction</i>	
<i>Amendments</i>	
<i>Proxies</i>	
<b>Article 2 Northwest Mountain Voting Council</b>	<b>Page 5-8</b>
<i>Regional Meeting</i>	
<b>Article 3 Championship Play Junior Olympic</b>	<b>Page 8-13</b>
<i>Tournament Rotation System</i>	
<i>Tournament Dates</i>	
<i>Tournament Rotations</i>	
<i>Tournament Data</i>	
<i>Tournament Draw</i>	
<i>Tournament Logistics</i>	
<i>Awarding of Championship Tournament Berths</i>	
<i>Umpires</i>	
<b>Article 4 Championship Play Rules</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>Article 5 Umpires</b>	<b>Page 13-16</b>
<i>Regional Umpire-in-Chief</i>	
<i>Budget</i>	
<i>USA Softball Umpire School Clinics</i>	
<i>Tournament</i>	
<b>Article 6 Awards</b>	<b>Page 16-18</b>
<i>NWM Hall of Fame</i>	
<b>Article 7 NWM Regional Code</b>	<b>Page 18-19</b>
<i>Amendments to the Code</i>	
<i>Reprinting of the Code</i>	
<i>Dates of Revisions</i>	

# USA Softball NWM Region Classification Rules and Guidelines

<b>Article 1 General</b>	<b>Page 20</b>
<i>Purpose</i>	
<i>Objectives</i>	
<i>Administration</i>	
<b>Article 2 Classification Board</b>	<b>Page 20-21</b>
<i>Formation of Boards</i>	
<i>Authority of Boards</i>	
<b>Article 3 Team Roster</b>	<b>Page 21</b>
<i>Submission of team Roster</i>	
<b>Article 4 Classification of Teams</b>	<b>Page 21-22</b>
<i>General Information</i>	
<b>Article 5 Adult Classifications</b>	<b>Page 22</b>
<i>Adult Slow-Pitch</i>	
<i>Adult Fast- Pitch</i>	
<b>Article 6 Reclassification of Adult Teams</b>	<b>Page 22-24</b>
<i>General Information</i>	
<i>Adult Slow-Pitch</i>	
<i>Adult Fastpitch</i>	
<b>Article 7 Classification Appeals Process for Adult Teams</b>	<b>Page 24</b>
<i>General information</i>	
<i>Adult Fastpitch/Adult Slow-Pitch</i>	
<b>Article 8 Types of Adult Team Classifications</b>	<b>Page 24-28</b>
<i>Men's Slow-Pitch</i>	
<i>Women's Slow-Pitch</i>	
<i>Coed Slow-Pitch</i>	
<i>Mandatory Player Classification</i>	
<i>Men's and Women's Fastpitch</i>	
<b>Article 9 Junior Olympic Classification</b>	<b>Page 28-29</b>
<i>18U/16U Gold Fastpitch</i>	
<i>Class A</i>	
<i>Class B</i>	
<i>Class C</i>	
<i>Reclassification</i>	
<i>Date of Revisions</i>	

# Procedural Code

Revised 1/31/22

The USA Softball of Northwest Mountain Region # 09 shall follow the USA Softball Code for the operation of the region with the following exceptions and changes

## ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. Name:

- A. The name of this association will be the Northwest Mountain Region (9) of USA Softball sometimes referred to as the "Association" or "ASA."

### 2. Objectives:

- A. To promote the game of softball within the Northwest Mountain Region in accordance with the National USA Softball Code.
- B. To generate more communications between the Associations which make up the Northwest Mountain Region.

### 3. Jurisdiction:

- A. Anything defined herein, pertains to this region only for the purpose of clarification only, and does not supersede those written in the National ASA Code.

### 4. Amendments:

- A. Any amendment(s) to this procedural code must be in written form, signed by one (1) voting members of the Northwest Mountain Region.
- B. All code changes must be submitted to the Regional Director, in writing, and must be received no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- C. The Annual Regional Meeting is the only meeting that amendments to this procedural code can be voted on.
- D. The Local Association Commissioners have the authority to amend this procedural code between Annual Council Meetings. The Region Council Members at the next Annual Council meeting of the Northwest Mountain Region must ratify such amendments.
- E. Amendments requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the NW Council members present.
- F. An amendment approved by the NW Council shall be effective on March 1 following the annual meeting unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

### 5. Proxies:

- A. Authorization for representation of a council member, who is an active member of said local association to vote for that council member at the

scheduled Regional Meeting, will represent that Council Member for the entire meeting, no partial meeting proxies. It will be made known at the beginning of the meeting who will be proxies and for whom.

B. Proxies are not eligible for election to Regional and/or National positions.

## **Article 2 Northwest Mountain Voting Council**

### **1. Regional Meeting**

A. All meetings are to be rotated on a schedule. The host association shall be responsible for meeting arrangements and providing a secretary. The host commissioner shall mail/email the minutes within 20 days following the annual meeting to the Regional Director for approval. The Regional Director shall then mail/email a copy to the voting members of the NWM Regional Council.

1) Rotation Schedule

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>
2023	Idaho	2026	Wyoming
2024	Portland	2027	Alaska
2025	Utah	2028	Seattle
		2029	Washington

B. Regional meetings held in conjunction with the National Council Meeting will be for the purpose of awarding championship tournaments and/or to caucus members for information relative to National Council.

C. The annual meeting is to begin on Friday before the last completed weekend in January.

D. Regional agenda items and code changes for the annual meeting must be submitted to Regional Director no later than January 1<sup>st</sup> or by a date set by the Regional Director.

E. Regional Fund

1) Each local association shall be assessed \$50 annually to defray the expenses of the Regional Director, Regional Jr. Olympic Commissioner and the Regional Player Representative.

a) From each \$50 assessment, the Regional Director shall receive \$25, the Regional JO \$12.50 and the Regional Player Rep \$12.50.

b) Each Local Association shall be assessed \$150.00 per year plus .50 cents per registered umpire.

- c) The Regional Director upon proper submittal of expense receipts shall dispense all monies from the Regional Fund. The assessment is due and payable to the regional Director by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

F. Northwest Mountain Voting Council

- 1) The Northwest Mountain Voting Council shall be made up of the local association Commissioners, Player Representatives, At-Large Player Representatives, Junior Olympic Commissioners, Regional JO, Umpire-In-Chiefs, Regional UIC for Region #09, Commissioner(s) Emeritus, Council Member Emeritus and National recognized Allied/Affiliated Members (Per USA Code for membership). The members must have their Background Check cleared for the current year.
  - a) To be considered for a regional position of Northwest Mountain region 9, a candidate must be a voting member of this council.
  - b) If a member is physically present at the regional meeting that member cannot be proxied.
  - c) If a regional board member (i.e., Regional JO, UIC, or Player Rep.) is unable to perform their duties during the year, the Commissioners of the region would select a temporary replacement until the regional meeting is held.
- d) The Regional Director election will be conducted at the annual Regional Meeting in the “odd” year. The elected Director will serve a term of two (2) years commencing **January of that year at the end of the regional meeting**
- 2) A Regional Director may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the regional voting council members.
- 3) Duties of Regional Director and the Regional Vice President
  - a) Regional Director or the Regional Vice President shall represent their region on the Western Territory Oversight Committee.
  - b) Insure that a Regional Junior Olympic Commissioner is elected in accordance with USA Softball Code.
  - c) Ensure that a Regional Player Representative is elected in accordance with USA Softball Code.
  - d) Insure that a Regional Umpire-in-Chief is elected in accordance in accordance with USA Softball Code.
  - e) Notify Council Members of:
    - Regional meeting date / time / place and agenda.
    - Regional tournament bids and hosts sites awarded by the region.
    - Western Territory Nationals

- f) Following up with appropriate Commissioners concerning deficiencies reported to the National Office or problems involving an Association Commissioner (i.e. missing Annual Financial Reports, Membership Production Reports, serious complaints, etc.)
- g) Insuring all championship tournament bids and reports are signed and forwarded to the National Office.
- h) Insuring all USA Softball tournaments held within the region, which were awarded by the National Council, file proper reports and pay the USA Softball guarantee and assessment fees following completion of the tournament.
- i) Providing assistance to all Association Commissioners when requested.
- j) Promoting USA Softball in the region through exhibit booths at meetings involving more than one association within the region.
- k) Notifying the National Office of any problems within the region.

5) Regional Vice President

The Regional Vice President shall be elected every **even** year at the National meeting. The Vice President will take office on the first Board of Directors meeting of the next year. The regional Vice President roles is in accordance with the (USA Softball Procedural Manual Article 101 D).

6) Commissioner Committee

The Commissioner Committee shall consist of the nine (9) local association Commissioners and “Commissioner(s)” Emeritus. This committee shall make recommendations to the USA Softball of Northwest Mountain Region and must be approved by the Council before becoming official. The Regional Director “shall chair the meetings.”

7) Junior Olympic Committee

- a) The Junior Olympic Committee shall consist of the nine (9) local association Junior Olympic Commissioners. This committee shall make recommendations to the USA Softball of NWM Council and must be approved by the Council before becoming official. The Regional JO Commissioner shall chair their meetings.
- b) The Regional Junior Olympic Commissioner shall be elected by the NWM Council members at the annual meeting in the even years for a term of two years and is eligible for re-election in accordance with the USA Procedural Code 109. A newly elected Regional JO Commissioner shall take office **January of that year at the end of the regional meeting**

8) Player Representative Committee

- a) The Player Representative Committee shall consist of the nine (9) local association Player Representatives. This committee shall make recommendations to the USA Softball NWM Council and must be approved by the Council before becoming official. The Regional Player Representative shall chair their meetings.
- c) The Regional Player Representative shall be elected by the USA Softball NWM Council members at the annual meeting in the even years for a term of two years and is eligible for re-election in accordance with USA Procedural Code 109. A newly elected Regional Player Representative shall take office **January of that year at the end of the regional meeting**

9) Umpire-In-Chief Committee

- a) Local Association Umpires-in-Chief shall make up the committee. This committee shall make recommendations to the NWM Council and must be approved by the Council before becoming official. The Regional UIC will chair their meetings.
- d) The Regional Umpire-In-Chief shall be elected by the NWM Council members at the annual meeting in the odd years for a term of two years and is eligible for re-election in accordance with the USA Procedural Code 111B. A newly elected Regional UIC shall take office **January of that year at the end of the regional meeting.**

10) Team Information

- a) Team Registrations shall be figured by division (i.e. men, women, coed, JO and by fast pitch, modified pitch and slow pitch).
- b) Team Classifications
  - i. All Local Associations must do a final classification of their adult teams by July 15, in accordance with the classification guidelines as approved by the NWM Council. (Refer to the NWM Region # 09 Classification Rules and Guidelines for detailed information)
  - ii. All Local Associations must do a final classification of their Junior Olympic teams by July 1 and/or prior to Championship Play, and in accordance with the classification guidelines as approved by the NWM Council.



## **Article 3**

### **Championship Play Junior Olympic**

USA Softball (Part 3 Eligibility, Competition and Tournaments - Articles 301–316) and NWM Regional Codes shall govern all qualifying tournaments with the following additions:

#### **1. Tournament Rotation System**

- A. Tournament rotation schedule for the Junior Olympic Class A and Class B USA Western National Championship Finals will be established each year (Region 9 & 10) for tournaments 2 years out and will be approved by each region at the Territorial Meeting held at the current year National Council Meeting.  
Local Region 9 Associations interested in hosting a Class A or Class B Western National Championship Finals, as outlined in the rotation schedule, must submit a bid by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year per USA Procedural Code 302F of the USA Code.
- B. Region 09 Associations submitting Territorial bids must notify the Regional Director of their intent to bid and the tournament(s) they are bidding on by January 1st of each year. These bid presentations shall be made and tournaments awarded at the January Regional meeting each year. The bids shall be for two years out. The Territorial voting council at the National Meeting shall give final award approval.
- C. USA Western National Championship Finals sites and dates must be finalized at the National Council Meeting two years in advance.
- D. 18/16 Gold Territory Tournaments shall be on a rotation basis and run in accordance with Article 315 of the USA Softball Code. Rotation will be set up between those associations that have registered Gold teams. New Associations that register Gold teams will be placed at the end of the current rotation

#### **2. Tournament Dates**

- A. Junior Olympic GTQ
  - 1) Junior Olympic 16 and 18 Gold Territory Qualifiers shall be held in accordance with USA Code Article 315.

#### **3. Tournament Rotations**

- A. Western National Championships:

a) See attached Addendum

B. 18/16 Gold Territory Qualifiers

Year	Region 09
2020	Seattle
2021	Oregon
2022	Washington
2023	Seattle

- 1) Gold Territory Tournaments shall be awarded to the associations that registered gold teams in the previous year. Associations must host the tournament according to USA Code Article 313.
- 2) The site of the tournament must be the first week of October. The tournament Location with a minimum of four (4) fields.
- 3) An Association may not be awarded the Gold Territory in two consecutive years unless no other bids are submitted.

**4. Tournament Data**

A) Pre-Tournament Information

- 1) Information shall be sent to all local Association Commissioners no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) Tournament information should include the following:
  - tournament host
  - tournament draw info
  - site of managers meeting
  - awards
  - hotel/motel info
  - gate admission fees
  - tournament director/staff
  - entry deadline
  - tournament dates and start time
  - time limit/tie breaker (if used)
  - type of ball to be used
  - misc. information

B) Post-Tournament Information

- 1) Results shall be sent within one week of the tournament to the Regional JO Commissioner, local association commissioners and the appropriate national tournament directors for all advancing teams
- 2) Gold National Qualifiers and National Tournament information must be completed and posted on [www.tournamentusasoftball.com](http://www.tournamentusasoftball.com) within 10 days of the tournament. Reports shall include all game scores, completed bracket, order of finish and team home area. Notification that information has been completed and is available on the Tournament USA Website needs to be send to each Local Association Commissioner and Junior Olympic Commissioners.
- 3) USA "A" and "B" Western National Championship Finals information

must be completed and posted on [www.tournamentusasoftball.com](http://www.tournamentusasoftball.com) within 10 days of the tournament and notification sent to all Local Association Commissioners and Regional Junior Olympic Commissioners in the Western Territory (Regions 9 & 10). Information shall include all game scores, completed bracket, order of finish and team home area.

a) The Regional Jr. Olympic Commissioner shall be responsible for the tabulation of all youth regional/national tournament results, champions, runner-ups, association, and tournament sites and shall include all NSF check, handling fees accumulated.

C) Local Associations shall be responsible for uncollectible checks paid by their teams. Payment is due within 60 days of the tournament, and shall include the Bank NSF check handling fee. Failure to comply shall result in teams from that Local Association not being allowed to participate in any Championship Play until full payment has been made.

D) Entry Fees

- 1) Gold Territory Qualifiers shall include the national assessment fee.
- 2) Junior Olympic USA National Championship Finals entry fee shall include the National Assessment fee established by the Board of Directors of the USA Softball LLC.

E) Breakdown of Championship Tournament Entries

- 1) Any "A" team is qualified for the USA Girls' "A" Western National Championship Finals provided they participated in their respective Local Association Tournament (if held).
  - a) Refer to USA National Code Article 316G.
- 2) Any "B" team is qualified for the USA Girls' "B" Western National Championship Finals provided they participated in the respective Local Association Tournament (if held)
  - a) Refer to USA National Code Article 316H.

F) Awards

- 1) 6 teams and under shall receive: 1 team award; 1<sup>st</sup> place individual trophies. Appropriate memorabilia to 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- 2) 7-16 teams shall receive: 3 team awards; individual awards for 1<sup>st</sup> place team.
- 3) 17-24 teams shall receive: 4 team awards; individual awards for 1<sup>st</sup> place team.
- 4) 25 or more teams shall receive: 6 team awards; individual awards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams.

## 5. Tournament Format

A) Regional Gold Qualifiers

- 1) Minimum number of teams required for qualifying tournaments to award berths is six (6).
- 2) Bracketing shall be determined by a draw according to the USA Code Article 311.
  - 1) All tournaments must utilize an approved USA format.
  - 2) Must use TournamentUSA as your tournament hardware Per USA Code

**6. Tournament Draw**

- A) All draws shall be public with all team managers or representatives given the opportunity to be present.
- B) The draw for all Championship tournaments cannot be held earlier than 5 p.m. on the Monday preceding the opening day of the tournament.
- C) The draw shall be conducted using the format outlined in the USA National Code.
  - 1) The Local Association with the most teams shall draw first, then the Local Association with the second most teams will draw second, etc.
  - 2) In case of ties between Local Associations, the lowest Local Association number will draw first.

Association numbers are:

Alaska	09111	Idaho	09112	Montana	09113
Oregon	09114	Portland	09115	Utah	09116
Wash	09117	Seattle	09118	Wyoming	09119

- 3) When more than one team within a Local Association must draw, position to draw shall be based on alphabetical order according to the team name listed on the roster.
- 4) Exceptions:
  - a) Tournament hosts and defending champion may be seeded into the bracket, but must play in the first round or sub-round.
  - b) Two teams from the same association shall not play each other in their first game if possible.

**7. Tournament Logistics**

- A) Tournament Staff
- B) Team Rosters; Refer to USA Softball Code Article 302
- C) Player Identification; Refer to USA Softball Code Article 301

- D) Playing Fields; Refer to USA Softball Playing Rules
- E) Player Admission; Refer to USA Softball Playing Rules
- F) Run Ahead Rule; Refer to USA Softball Playing Rules
- G) Time Limits; Refer to USA Softball Code 310 O
- H) Tie Breaker; Refer to USA Softball Code Article 310 P
- I) Tournament Rules; Refer to USA Code Article 310

## **8. Awarding of Championship Tournament Berths**

- A. Fast Pitch Tournaments are awarded berths per USA Code

## **9. Umpires**

- A) Per USA Softball Code

### **Article 4 Championship Playing Rules**

- 1. Casual Profanity/Unsportsmanlike Conduct Rule (Refer to USA Code)**
- 2. Uniforms; (Refer to USA Softball Code)**
- 3. Home Run Rule (Refer to USA Softball Code)**

### **Article 5 Umpires**

#### **1. Regional Umpire-in-Chief**

- A) Duties
  - 1) Organize and conduct meetings with Local Association UIC's in North West MT. Region 09
  - 2) Conduct Local Association clinics upon request of these organizations.
  - 3) Conduct regional clinics in cooperation with the Regional Director and with his/her approval.
  - 4) Answer requests for rule interpretations under guidelines of the National Rules Interpreter.

- 5) Serve as Regional Tournament UIC when requested.
- 6) Observe and evaluate umpires in the region upon request.
- 7) Assist umpire associations in the region upon request.
- 8) Complete projects as assigned by the Regional Director.
- 9) Attend Regional Council meetings and provide an annual report and budget proposal.
- 10) Coordinate assignment of umpires for rotation to Tournaments.
- 11) Recommend umpires to the National Supervisor of Umpires for National Major Tournaments, Olympic Sports Festival, International competition, National Modified Fast Pitch Tournaments and Inter-Service Championships.

## **2. Budget**

- A) The NW Council at the annual meeting shall approve the UIC budget.
  - 1) Annual budget will include a breakdown of travel expenses, printing and postage, NW Regional umpire awards, etc.
- B) The Local Association shall be responsible for the expenses of the National Deputy UIC to travel within the region, provided the National Office does not make reimbursement.
- C) The Regional Director upon proper application from the UIC shall disperse all money from the UIC fund.
- D) Expense vouchers with receipts must be submitted no more than 30 days after date of occurrence. Reimbursement to be made by the Regional Director within 15 days after receipt of a proper request.

## **3. USA Softball Umpire School Clinics**

## **4. Tournament**

- A) Tournament UIC

- 1) Will be the Local Association UIC from the Local Association hosting the tournament(s) or the designee of the Local Association Commissioner.
- 2) Cannot be an active participant as a player or coach in that Regional Tournament.
- 3) Shall not officiate games in that tournament except in case of an emergency.
- 4) Umpire evaluations must be filed with the National Deputy UIC by September 15. Failure to file a report will result in forfeiture of umpire rotation for the following year.

#### B) Selection of Assigned Umpires

- 1) Due to the fluctuating number of teams in individual tournaments it is not possible to pre-determine which tournament each Local Association will have. The Regional UIC is to insure that Local Associations rotate as much as possible to different tournaments.
- 2) The umpire's Local Association Commissioner and Local Association UIC must approve umpires selected for ~~Regional~~ Tournaments.

#### C) Payment of Game Fees, Transportation, Housing

- 1) Fees shall be the same as a national tournament per USA Code. Effective 2012 all game fees are to be paid immediately after completion of his/her final assignment.
- 2) The host association is responsible for providing the following to assigned umpires.
  - a) Transportation to and from the playing fields upon request to the local Commissioner or UIC prior to the tournament.
  - b) Housing with two umpires per room if one-way travel is more than 30 miles. Umpires with guest will be responsible for ½ room rate.
  - c) Umpires shall inform the local Tournament UIC of their room requirements no later than Sunday preceding the tournament
  - d) When umpire clinics are held on the day prior to the tournament, then an additional room night shall be furnished. If the clinic is held before noon and an umpire has to drive over 75 miles to the meeting a nights lodging shall be furnished.
  - e) If an umpire is assigned to a game that begins after 4pm, he/she shall receive an additional room night.

#### D) Umpire Awards

- 1) NWM Region award shall be given to each umpire working in a NWM Championship Tournament. The Regional UIC shall obtain and distribute these awards.

## **5. Umpire Rotation**

- A) Umpires will be assigned by the Regional Umpire Staff

## **Article 6 Awards**

### **1. NWM Hall of Fame**

#### **A) Committee Members**

1. The NWM Hall of Fame Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of ten (10) individuals appointed by the NWM Regional Director and Committee Chair. The Regional Director will appoint the chairman.
2. A minimum of 3 Commissioners, JO Rep, UIC, Player Rep and 1 at Allied/ At-large members. The Committee Chair shall strive to include all State and Metro members from the Region.
  - a. Note: Regional Director, Committee Chair and Regional VP, sit on Committee alone as non-voting members.
  - b. No proxies will be allowed without the current NW Region 9 Board President and Committee chair approval.

#### **B) Purpose of Committee**

- 1) Receive nominations to the Hall of Fame and recommend to the Council, people who have been nominated and who meet the approved criteria for selection to the NWMM Regional Hall of Fame.
- 2) Shall meet at the annual meeting of the NWM Council.
- 3) A maximum of the 4 best candidates submitted each year may be inducted into the Hall of Fame with a 75% vote or more.

#### **C) Funding of Awards**

- 1) Each Local Association shall be assessed \$100 annually or as needed to defray the expenses of the committee. This levy must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the NW Council.

#### **D) Submission of Nominees**



- 1) January 4<sup>th</sup> of each year shall be the deadline for submitting nominations. Deadline may be extended by the Hall of Fame Chairperson if deemed necessary.
  - 2) Nominations must be submitted electronically on the NW Hall of Fame application and accompanied by two letters of recommendation.
  - 3) All nominations must be accompanied by detailed information and documentation submitted electronically.
  - 4) Any Region 09 member on the ASA Council may nominate individuals for the NWM Region Hall of Fame.
- E) Review of Candidates:
- a) The committee will be emailed all candidate's application and information for review a minimum of two weeks prior to the Regional Meeting. The committee will meet at the annual NWM Region Meeting to finalize selection for the following year.
- F) Presentation of Awards
- a) Presentation of Hall of Fame awards shall be made at the annual Northwest Mt Regional meeting banquet. The Local Association commissioner whose candidate is being inducted is responsible for notification of induction and all information relating to the awards presentation.
- G) Categories and Criteria
- a) Player (three points needed for selection)
    - a) All Star Team
    - b) MVP Award
    - c) Recognition Award
    - d) Home run, batting or defense award
    - e) Regional participant (5 years equals one point)
    - f) National Championship participant (2 years equal one point)
  - b) Umpire (thirty points needed for selection)
    - (a) 10 years local association membership (2 points)
    - (b) Each Regional Tournament worked (2 points)
    - (c) Each Regional Tournament worked as UIC (3 points)
    - (d) Each National Championship Tournament worked (3 points)
    - (e) Each National Championship Tournament worked as UIC (5 points)
    - (f) Assistant UIC at Regional or National Tournament (4 points)

**Note:** Requirements: Must have umpired 15 years.
  - c) Manager or Sponsor (five points needed for selection)
    - a) 20 or more local seasons (5 points)

- b) 2-5 Regional Tournaments (2 points)
  - c) 1-2 National Championship Tournaments (2 points).
- d) Commissioner
- a) 10 years of service
  - b) Nominee shall have served in some of the following areas:
    - Regional Director
    - Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a National Committee
    - Host a National or Regional Tournament classified 'Major' or 'A'
    - Special Recognition
- e) Meritorious Service
- a) This category includes Individuals or organizations which offer any combination of the above categories. Candidates can be an organizer, bidder, years of service, financial contributor etc. Non player candidates may still be an active participant.
- f) National USA Softball Hall of Fame members will automatically be inducted into the NWM Region Hall of Fame
- g) Team Criteria
- a) Athletic performance and achievement in USA/ASA Softball competition as evidenced by exceptional accomplishments at or above the regional level including multiple advancements to national competition, regional or national titles, and regional records. Have won an USA/ASA Championship (National or Regional) and/or won at least eighty percent of their games in multiple National or Regional Championship games. Exemplary seasons in terms of win/loss record and team statistics. Evidence of USA/ASA Softball regional and /or national recognition of team. Demonstrated sense of extraordinary team cohesiveness and individual sacrifice for sake of the team effort over a period of time. Majority of team members played with the team for a five-year period. Team category allows for statistical data and media coverage to verify the on-field accomplishments of the team.
  - b) There is a five (5) year waiting period, after said team's participation, for that team to enter the Hall of Fame.

## **Article 7**

### **NWM Regional Code**

#### **1. Amendments to the Code**

- A) All code changes must be submitted to the Regional Director, in writing, and must be received no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

B) Amendments may be made at any meeting and requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the NW Mt. Council members present.

C) An amendment NW Mt. Code must be approved by the Council by March following the annual meeting unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

## **2. Reprinting of the Code**

A) Updating and reprinting of this code shall be done at the conclusion of each annual meeting of the NW Mt. Council.

## **3. Dates of Revisions**

1/31/2017

1/30/2018

12/2019

1/25/2020

1/31/2022

# **USA Softball**

## **NW Mountain Region # 09**

### **Classification Rules & Guidelines**

#### **Article 1-General**

##### **1. Purpose**

- A) To establish rules and guidelines for the classification of teams and players for tournament and championship competition.

##### **2. Objectives**

- A) To attain, in an equitable manner, classification of teams at their respective level of athletic proficiency for the various levels of tournaments and championship play conducted by Local Associations.

##### **3. Administration**

- A) A NWM Regional Committee shall consist of each Local Association's player representative with a Local Association Commissioner as chair of the committee.
- B) Each Local Association shall properly administer the resulting procedural code. Additional procedures and /or rules may be established by the Local Association, but in keeping with the above purposes and objectives as long as they are not inconsistent or in variance with the guidelines.

#### **Article 2- Classification Boards**

##### **1. Formation of Boards**

- A) Each Local Associations shall designate a Classification Board to evaluate, classify and review team competitive levels according to the classification guidelines.
  - 1) The Board shall consist of 3 or more members, one of which should be the Local Association Player Representative.

- 2) The Local Association subject to approval by the Local Association Commissioner shall determine the method of selection to the Classification Board.
- B) Regional Classification Boards, one for adult and one for Junior Olympics shall be appointed by the Regional Director.

## **2. Authority of Boards**

- A) Classify players and teams prior to the beginning of regular season play based on past performance and current season roster.
- B) Review players and teams during season play for reclassification prior to the appropriate USA deadline.
- C) Hear properly filed appeals from players and teams on their classification status by the appropriate USA deadline.
- D) Develop additional guidelines and regulations as the need arise.
- E) Promote teams to level of play where the team is reasonably competitive.

## **Article 3- Team Roster**

### **1. Submission of Team Roster**

- E) The team roster shall be submitted prior to participating in leagues or tournament play.
  - 1) There shall be no transfers or additions of players to team roster after a date that has been established by the National USA or Local Associations.
  - 2) Teams must retain at least ~~four~~ (4 five 5) players from their qualifying tournament roster to be eligible for their National ~~Regional~~ or Western National Berth.

## **Article 4- Classification of Teams**

### **1. General Information**

- A) Team classifications are described to differentiate between levels of competition.
- B) Basic classification definitions shall be used by Classification Boards as guidelines when evaluating teams.

- 1) In determining proper athletic proficiency for teams, shall be limited to an overall comparison of all teams within the Regional area.
    - a) **EXCEPTION:** Teams that regularly compete in championship tournaments. Championship tournaments are those leading to District, Local Associations championship, Regional or National tournaments. This includes qualifying tournaments)
  - 2) Teams that regularly compete in championship tournaments shall be evaluated on an overall comparison of all teams within the Regional area with reasonable consideration of teams on a National level.
- C) Home Run Hitter (Men's and Coed Classification)
- 1) A Player who, while playing on a standard field, has the potential, under normal game and weather conditions, of hitting a home run in any game.
- D) Field Dimensions (Men's and Coed Classification)
- 1) The USA Official Guide requires that a slow-pitch game be played on a fenced field which has fences established at a minimum distance of 275 feet (300 feet preferred) using an USA approved restricted flight ball.
    - a) Deficit field dimensions are not to be construed as to preventing USA slow-pitch from being played, however special ground rules might be required.
  - 2) Field dimensions and softball types are established so that the definition of a home run hitter can be established.
    - a) A batter who averages one or more homeruns in every three (3) games.

## **Article 5- Adult Classifications**

### **1. Adult Slow-pitch**

- A) A team that has 4 or more players on their roster from teams that finished in the top 30% of the Regional Tournament or Qualifying Tournaments held the year before shall qualify as a returning team.

### **2. Adult Fast pitch**

- A) Each Local Association Commissioner shall classify teams at the time of registration for the current year.
- B) Any four returning players from a team constitutes a returning team for the purpose of classification.

- 1) The intent of the procedure is to keep teams from disbanding to re-form under another sponsor name with the key players from the previous year's team

## **Article 6- Reclassification of Adult Teams**

### **1. General Information**

#### A) Roster changes may be cause for reclassification

- 1) If a team loses up to 70% of their team, they must be considered for reclassification.
- 2) If a team has 4 or more players that have played on a reclassified team, that team will be reviewed for reclassification.
- 3) If a team ends up with 4 or more returning players by way of the pick-up rule prior to any level of championship play, that team will automatically be reclassified and must play at the next highest level available to them. **REASON:** teams may try to get around the returning players rule and then have the potential of having 7 players that played with them the year before by using the pick-up rule that is available to them.

### **2. Adult Slow-pitch**

#### A) Teams being reviewed and possibly reclassified up one classification will be awarded a berth in the following years (Championship) Tournament.

- 1) MSP B and WSP Open- teams must finish either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> two years in a row before they are reviewed for reclassification.
- 2) MSP C and WSP C- The top 30% of finishers in ~~Regional~~ (Championship) play will be reviewed for reclassification the following year. This includes State Tournaments, National Qualifiers and Regional Tournaments, if held.
- 3) MSP D and WSP D- The top 30% of finishers in (Championship) play will be reviewed for reclassification the following year. This includes State tournaments, National Qualifiers and Regional Tournaments, if held.
- 4) MSP E- The top 35% of finishers in the Championship play will be reviewed for re-classification the following year. This includes State Tournaments, National Qualifiers and Regional Tournaments, if held.
- 5) Teams that win qualifiers and advance to a Western National Tournament and did not play in the NW Regional Tournament may automatically be reclassified the following year if they have 4 or more

returning players. Reasons why they did not play in Regionals may be submitted by their State/metro Commissioner or by the manager. The decision of reclassification by the regional committee would be final.

- 6) If a team has four (4) or more players on teams that finished in the top 30%, they would be reviewed for reclassification as well.

### **3. Adult Fastpitch**

- A) National Adult Fastpitch Pitchers Classification Board – Refer to USA Code

## **Article 7- Classification Appeals Process for Adult Teams**

### **1. General Information**

- A) Local Association Commissioners in each area shall hear the appeal regarding reclassification and make recommendations to the classification committee by the last Wednesday in June.

### **2. Adult Fastpitch/Adult Slow-pitch**

Refer to USA Softball Code 307 F 1,2,3,4s

- A) Teams must allow up to fourteen (14) days for an appeal to be processed. The roster shall be marked with the applicable classification as determined by the classification committee and forwarded to the appropriate Championship Tournament Director. Copies shall be kept on file and made available if a team wishes to enter a qualifying tournament.
- B) If an appeal is granted and the team is allowed to play at the same level as in the previous year, the team's roster will be frozen.
  - 1) Any player addition will automatically move the team back to the higher classification.
    - a) The intent of this procedure is to inhibit teams from losing two events with an intentionally weaker team, be classified down and then add players who become even more competitive.

## **Article 8- Types of Adult Team Classifications**

### **1. Men's Slow Pitch**

**Class 'AA'**



- 1) Teams are skilled offensively and defensively with players that have good skills, athletic abilities and experience.
- 2) Defensively, they are capable of taking games away from their opponents with strong, clean fielding.
- 3) Teams will generally finish in the upper half of tournaments they enter.
- 4) Teams may not compete in 'B' or lower tournaments unless approved by the Tournament Director and their State or Metro Commissioner.
- 5) Teams may follow the 'A' homerun rule (10) unless they are playing down in which case, they may follow the 'B' homerun rule (6).
  - a) Teams that have 3 or more run hitters will generally be classified 'A'.
- 6) Teams may not have more than three (2) players from the restricted player list on their roster

#### **Class 'B'**

- 1) Teams may be registered as a Tournament team only, or they will play in their local association top level of league play.
- 2) Teams may have highly skilled players, but highly skilled or experienced players will fill not all defensive positions. Team speed is above average.
- 3) Teams may win one or two games in championship tournaments, but are competitive with teams in this classification.
- 4) Teams may compete in 'B' or higher-level tournaments.
- 5) Teams may not compete in 'C' or lower classifications unless approved by the Tournament Director and their State or Metro Commissioner.
- 6) Any team which establishes itself as a strong 'B' team, or which has improved through addition of higher caliber players will be considered for reclassification.
- 7) This classification will follow the 'B' homerun rule.

#### **Class 'C'**

- 7) Team play a competitive schedule. They generally play at least six (6) tournaments.
- 8) Teams may have skilled players, but skilled players will fill not all defensive positions.

- 9) Team speed is average.
- 10) Teams may be moved to 'B' with the addition of higher caliber skilled players.
- 11) This classification will follow the 'C' homerun rule.

#### **Class 'D'**

- 1) Teams play a less competitive schedule than 'C' teams, and participate in less than six (6) tournaments.
- 2) Teams may have a few skilled players but are usually lacking in making the defensive plays on a consistent basis. Teams speed is average.
- 3) Teams will be asked to play in a 'C' tournament if they finish in the top three (3) positions of three (3) 'D' tournaments.
- 4) Teams will follow the 'D' home run rule.

#### **Class 'E/Rec'**

- 1) Teams play less competitive schedule than D teams.
- 2) Teams may have a few skilled players but are usually lacking in making the defensive plays on a consistent basis.
- 3) E/Rec teams generally are USA Softball League teams that play in few tournaments.
- 4) Teams will be asked to play in a D tournament if they finished 1<sup>st</sup> in any tournaments.
- 5) Teams will follow the E/Rec home run rule.

Men's Masters 35 & over, 45 & over – Refer to USA Softball Code

## **2. Women's Slow Pitch**

#### **Class 'Open'**

- 1) Teams are skilled offensively and defensively with players that have good skills, athletic ability and experience.
- 2) Defensively, they are capable of taking games away from their opponent with strong, clean fielding. They turn the double play easily.

- 3) Offensively, teams have better than average power and better than average team speed.
- 4) Teams may win one or two games, in championship play and are competitive with other teams in this classification.
- 5) Teams may not compete in 'C' or lower classification tournaments unless approved by the local Tournament Director or their Association Commissioner.

#### **Class 'C'**

- 1) Teams play a competitive schedule. They generally play in 4 to 6 tournaments.
- 2) Teams may have skilled players but not all defensive positions will be filled by skilled players.
- 3) Teams may be moved to open with the addition of higher caliber skilled players.
- 4) Teams may not compete in 'D' classification tournaments unless approved by the local tournament director and their State or Metro Commissioner.

#### **Class 'D'**

- 1) Teams play less competitive schedule than 'C' teams, and participate in less than 4 to 6 tournaments.
- 2) Teams may have a few skilled players but are usually lacking in making the defensive plays on a consistent basis.
- 3) Teams will be asked to play in 'C' tournaments if they finish in the top three (3) positions of (3) 'D' tournaments.

### **3. Coed Slow Pitch**

- A) Class 'Open' Refer to USA Softball Code
- B) Class 'C' Refer to USA Softball Code
- C) Class 'D' Refer to USA Softball Code

### **4. Mandatory Player Classification**

- A) Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> each year, an appeal process will start wherein a player can submit an appeal to have their player rating dropped. This process ends August 1, and at that time no appeals will be accepted

until the following January. Our team procedures are now based on the USA Code in which a team could have 3 mandatory players from the next higher division on their roster. We consider our list equal to mandatory classified players. With the player classification system we have in place, it helps create a fair and level playing field for all teams not only at a local but also at a national level.

- B) Players on the USA Restricted list can only participate in the Men's A or Coed Open Programs. Players with a + designation may play in their class or higher.

#### Men's Slow Pitch

Men's AA Refer to USA Softball Code

Men's A Refer to USA Softball Code

Men's B Refer to USA Softball Code

Men's C Refer to USA Softball Code

Men's D Refer to USA Softball Code

Men's E Refer to USA Softball Code

#### Women's Slow Pitch

Women's Open, Class C and Class D Refer to USA Softball Code

- C) Any player selected, as an All-Tournament player in any National Tournament will be classified to the next highest level for the next 2 seasons.

### **5. Men's and Women's Fast Pitch Refer to USA Softball Code**

## **Article 9 - Junior Olympic Classification**

### **1. 18U/16U Gold Fast pitch**

- A) Open to all players within the region, and in accordance with the Regional and National USA Softball Codes.
- B) Teams shall register with the Association where the majority of players reside or attend school.
- C) Teams are not classified as Gold teams until the teams accepts a berth to the 18U or 16U Gold National Tournament.

### **2. Class 'A'**

- A) Teams are competitive and travel.

- B) Teams are select, hand-picked or self-declared.
- C) Teams may participate in Class Gold and 'A' invitational tournaments.

### **3. Class 'B'**

- A) Involves some travel.
- B) Teams come from local districts players not form out of local association
- C) Teams may participate in Class 'A' and 'B' invitational tournaments.

### **4. Class 'C'**

- A) Non Travel teams (Allow one or two invitational tournaments)
- B) Teams play in local Rec programs
- C) Players come from local Districts or rec programs
- D) Teams may participate in Class 'A' and 'B' invitational tournaments.

### **5. Reclassification**

- A) The local association may reclassify teams. Based on tournament performance at any time.

### **Dates of Revisions**

01/31/2017  
01/30/2018  
12/01/2019  
01/25/2020  
01/31/2022