

2022

Code & Rule Book



TM

of Nebraska

www.nebraskasoftball.org

402-462-7100

Softball1@playasaball.com

Table of Contents

2022 JO/Youth State Dates	page 2
2023 JO/Youth State Dates	page 3
2022 Adult State Dates	page 4
District Boundaries	page 5
Trustees/Staff	page 7
District Commissioners	page 8
Registration fees JO/Adult	page 12 (2.09)
Insurance/background check/ACE	page 12-13 (2.10 & 2.11)
Deadlines (state & districts)	page 17 (7.01 c)
JO Roster player eligibility	page 17-18 (7.02)
Pickup Players	page 18-19 (7.04)
District/State Entry Fees	page 20 (8.04)
Team Uniforms	page 20-21 (9.01)
District & State Awards	page 21 (10.01)
Run Ahead Rule Slow & Fast Pitch	page 21 (11.02)
Time Limits JO	page 22 (11.03)
JO Pitching Distance/Official Softballs	page 22 (11.04)
8U Coach Pitch Rules	page 22-24 (11.06)
10-Under Class C & D Rules	page 24 (11.07)
Start Game Times for State	page 24 (11.08)
Slow Pitch Home Run Rule Limits	page 25 (11.17)
Adult Slow Pitch	page 26 (11.18-11.22)
Coed Slow Pitch	page 26-27 (11.23)
Senior Rules Slow Pitch 50, 60-Over	page 27 (11.25)
Adult Team Mandatory Reclassification	page 29 (12.06)
Junior Olympic Classification	page 29 (12.07)
Umpire Game Fees	page 30 (13.04)
Umpire Registration Fee	page 32 (15.04)
Hall of Fame/Awards	page 34-37 (16.01-16.09)

2022 USA Softball of Nebraska Girls FP State Dates

Districts – June 10-12

Class A – June 17-19

10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U – Doris Bair, Lincoln

Class B – June 17-19

14U, 16U, 18U – Hastings

Class B – June 24-26

8U, 10U, 12U & 8U Class C – Hastings

Class C – July 1-3

10U, 12U - Hastings

Class C – July 8-10

14U & 16/18U – Hastings

Class D – July 15-17

10U, 12U, 14U, 16U/18U – Hastings

2023 USA Softball of Nebraska Girls FP State Dates

Districts – June 9-11

Class A – June 16-18

10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U – Doris Bair, Lincoln

Class B – June 16-18

14U, 16U, 18U – Hastings

Class B – June 23-25

8U, 10U, 12U & 8U Class C – Hastings

Class C – June 30-July 2

10U, 12U - Hastings

Class C – July 7-9

14U & 16/18U – Hastings

Class D – July 14-16

10U, 12U, 14U, 16U/18U – Hastings

2022 ADULT SLOW AND FAST PITCH STATE DATES

MFP & MSP Master and Seniors– July 22-24

MFP C, D1, D2 – Hastings

MSP Open, 35, 50, 60 – Hastings

Church – Norfolk – July 23

MSP – July 29-31

MSP E, E1/WSP C, D, E - Hastings

MSP/WSP– August 5-7

MSP C, D, F – Hastings

Coed – August 12-14

Coed C, D, E, F - Hastings

USA Softball of Nebraska District County Boundaries

- District 1** Adult Slow Pitch **Kelley Klemptner** – kklemptner@gmail.com
 JO Youth – **Geni Karre** – rgkarre@hotmail.com
 UIC **John Hales** – jhales74@hotmail.com
 Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Scottsbluff, Banner, Kimball, Morrill, Cheyenne, Duel, Garden, Box Butte
- Counties**
- District 2/6** JO Youth **Andrew Severance** – usafpdistrict2.6@gmail.com
 Adult Slow Pitch **Dave Fauss** – tammymcginnis68@gmail.com
 UIC **Terry Hall** – teebob21@gmail.com
- Counties** **Dist 2** Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Brown, Keya Paha, Rock, Boyd, Holt **Dist 6** Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Antelope, Pierce, Wayne, Thurston, Boone, Madison, Stanton
- District 3** JO Youth - **Geni Karre** – rgkarre@hotmail.com
 Adult Slow Pitch **Kelley Klemptner** – kklemptner@gmail.com
 UIC **John Hales** – jhales74@hotmail.com
- Counties** Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Keith, Hayes, Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Lincoln, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Dawson, Frontier
- District 4** Adult Slow Pitch – **Jade Brown** – jbrown@kearneygov.org
 JO Youth **Bill Leach** – usanedistrict5@gmail.com – Buffalo, Dawson
 JO Youth **Kurk Wiedel** – kurk.wiedel@thayercentral.net
 Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin
 UIC **Eddie Walters** – ewalters78@charter.net
- Counties** Dawson, Buffalo, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin
- District 5** JO Youth **Bill Leach** – usanedistrict5@gmail.com
 Adult Slow Pitch **Jeff Hassenstab** - jhassenstab@cityofhastings.org
 UIC **Bill Leach** – usanedistrict5uic@gmail.com
- Counties** Hall, Howard, Sherman, Valley, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Polk
- District 7** JO Youth **Kurk Wiedel** – kurk.wiedel@thayercentral.net
 Adult Slow Pitch **Jeff Hassenstab** - jhassenstab@cityofhastings.org
 UIC **Carl Sandoval** – csandoval@neb.rr.com
- Counties** Adams, Webster, Hamilton, Seward, Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Nickolls, Thayer, Jefferson, York
- District 8** JO Youth **Roni Wobken** – roniwobken@hotmail.com
 Adult Slow Pitch **Ryan Hanson** – rynohansen@hotmail.com
 UIC **Mark Groth** – 440southash@gmail.com
- Counties** Cuming, Burt, Colfax, Dodge, Washington, Butler, Saunders
- District 9** JO **Aly Gottula** – ago2ula3@gmail.com
 Adult Slow Pitch **Tim Watts** – twatts@allophone.com
 UIC **Bob Tlustos** – btlust@windstream.net
- Counties** Gage, Johnson, Otoe, Pawnee, Nemaha, Richardson, Cass, Lancaster
- District 9a** JO **Michele Selvage** – asasb9a@gmail.com
 Adult Slow Pitch **Tim Watts** – twatts@allophone.com

County UIC – **Brian Bruggeman** – medman6032@aol.com
Lancaster - City of Lincoln

District 10 JO Youth **Roni Wobken** – roniwobken@hotmail.com
Adult Slow Pitch **Ryan Hansen** – rynohansen@hotmail.com
UIC **Paul Teaford** – pteaford@yahoo.com

Counties Sarpy, Douglas, City of Omaha, Bellevue

5

USA Softball of Nebraska MISSION STATEMENT

To work together cooperatively and efficiently for and with all participants to provide a quality competitive softball program for the citizens of Nebraska and visiting states.

GOALS

1. To establish a democratically selected Board of Directors to determine rules, regulations, establish policy and oversee the administration of competitive softball in Nebraska.
2. Encourage active involvement from leagues and teams throughout Nebraska to serve as board and committee members.
3. Establish a program of umpire recruitment and training so as to provide the very best officiating possible for sanctioned leagues and qualifying tournaments.
4. To work with the Nebraska Softball Foundation and their fundraising efforts to ensure the financial support of the USA Softball of Nebraska Program into the Future.
5. To recognize those individuals, through the USA Softball of Nebraska and N.S.F. award programs, which have made a major contribution to the game of softball in the State of Nebraska.

USA Softball of Nebraska Officials

4103 Osborne Drive East, Hastings NE 68901
 Phone: 402-462-7100 FAX: 402-461-3297
 Web: www.nebraskasoftball.org

State Commissioner	Joe Patterson 1037 Highland Dr, Hastings NE 68901	402-462-7100
USA Softball President	Dwaine Ladwig 200 3 rd Ave, Shelby NE 68662	402-366-0206
Deputy State Commissioner	Jeff Hassenstab 2015 West 3 rd , Hastings NE 68901	402-730-7480
State Umpire-In Chief	Tim Watts 3430 N 74 th , Lincoln NE 68507	402-432-0396
Deputy Umpire-In-Chief	Eddie Walters 4403 Linden Drive, Kearney NE 68847	308-627-3136
State JO Commissioner	Roni Wobken 1665 County Road A, Scribner NE 68057	402-679-7578
Office Manager	Teresa Podany 4103 Osborne Drive East Hastings NE 68901	402-462-7100
Accounting Manager	Allison Petr 4103 Osborne Drive East Hastings NE 68901	402-462-7100
	Nebraska Softball Foundation Trustees	
President Jeff Hansen	20760 Ames Ave, Elkhorn NE 68022	402-490-6215
Vice Pres Dan McElravy	1111 Ivy Ave, Crete NE 68333	402-418-2404
Treasurer Ric Ferguson	1110 Lakeridge Drive, Hastings NE 68901	402-984-5129
Secretary Joe Patterson	4103 Osborne Drive East, Hastings NE 68901	402-462-7100
Trustee Brian Bruggeman	9649 Saint Matthew Dr, Lincoln NE 68526	402-314-0809

Trustee	Jeff Hassenstab	2015 West 3rd, Hastings NE 68901	402-730-7480
Trustee	Kelley Klemptner	1921 W 16th, North Platte NE 69101	308-520-3054
Trustee	Michael Krings	1330 Heritage Dr., Hastings NE 68901	402-469-3203
Trustee	Dave Fauss	2305 Skyline Drive, Norfolk NE 68701	402-860-3681
Trustee	Eddie Walters	4403 Linden Drive, Kearney NE 68847	402-627-3136
Trustee	Chris Ladwig	1704 Summerfield Ave, Grand Island NE 68803	402-984-4632
Trustee	Neal Lewis	2236 N 160 th Road, Concordia KS 66901	308-244-4001

7

District Commissioners

District 1 SP	Kelley Klemptner , 1921 W 16th North Platte 69101	308-520-3054
	JO Geni Karre , 1009 East D St, North Platte NE 69101	308-530-6001
	UIC John Hales , 905 William Ave, North Platte NE 69101	308-530-5060
District 2 SP	Dave Fauss , 2305 Skyline Drive, Norfolk 68701	402-860-3681
	JO Andrew Severance , 56067 Broadway Blvd, Hoskins 68740	402-992-9375
	UIC Terry Hall , 2500 W Eisenhower Ave, Norfolk NE 68701	402-649-9453
District 3 SP	Kelley Klemptner , 1921 W 16th North Platte 69101	308-520-3054
	JO Geni Karre , 1009 East D St, North Platte NE 69101	308-530-6001
	UIC John Hales , 905 William Ave, North Platte NE 69101	308-530-5060
District 4 SP	Jade Brown , 2005 1 st Ave Kearney NE 68845	308-233-3229
	JO Bill Leach , 3204 Dixie Square, Grand Island NE 68803	308-391-0345
	JO Kurk Wiedel , 1030 Barger, Hebron 68370	402-768-3539
	UIC Eddie Walters , 4403 Linden Drive, Kearney 68847	308-627-3136
District 5 SP	Jeff Hassenstab , 2015 West 3rd, Hastings 68901	402-730-7480
	JO Bill Leach , 3204 Dixie Square, Grand Island NE 68803	308-391-0345
	UIC Bill Leach , 3204 Dixie Square, Grand Island NE 68803	308-391-0345
District 6 SP	Dave Fauss , 2305 Skyline Drive, Norfolk 68701	402-860-3681
	JO Andrew Severance , 56067 Broadway Blvd, Hoskins 68740	402-992-9375
	UIC Terry Hall , 2500 W Eisenhower Ave, Norfolk NE 68701	402-649-9453
District 7 SP	Jeff Hassenstab , 2015 West 3rd, Hastings 68901	402-730-7480
	JO Kurk Wiedel , 1030 Barger, Hebron 68370	402-768-3539
	UIC Carlos Sandoval , 622 East 13, Crete NE 68333	402-418-1726
District 8 SP	Ryan Hansen , 908 Martin Drive, Bellevue NE 68133	402-459-0993
	JO Roni Wobken , 1665 County Road A, Scribner 68507	402-679-7578
	UIC Mark Groth , 136 Klote St #2, West Point 68788	402-380-2775

District 9 SP	Tim Watts , 3430 N 74 th , Lincoln 68507	402-432-0396
JO	Aly Gottula , 346 Jefferson Street, Elk Creek NE 68348	402-335-7340
UIC	Bob Tlustos , 8729 Orchard Ave, Ralston NE 68127	402-949-0013
District 9A SP	Tim Watts , 3430 N 74 th , Lincoln 68507	402-432-0396
JO	Michele Selvage , 4211 Greenwood Street Lincoln 68504	402-465-0277
UIC	Tim Watts , 3430 N 74 th , Lincoln 68507	402-432-0396
District 10SP	Ryan Hansen , 908 Martin Drive, Bellevue NE 68133	402-459-0993
JO	Roni Wobken , 1665 County Road A, Scribner 68507	402-679-7578
UIC	Paul Teaford , 8729 Orchard Ave, Ralston NE 68127	402-949-0013

8

State Divisional Player Representatives

At-Large Player Representative	Jeff Hassenstab 2015 W 3 rd , Hastings 68901	402-730-7480
Adult Fast Pitch Representative	Rose Marcoe 11141 N 137 th Street #32, Waverly 68462	402-540-5735
MSP Representative	Ric Ferguson 1110 Lakeridge Drive, Hastings 68901	402-984-5129
JO Representative	Dan McElravy 1111 Ivy Ave, Crete 68333	402-826-5337

NOTICE

Each of the following is a trademark and/or service mark of the USA SOFTBALL:

*USA Softball of Nebraska

*USA Softball

No use of any of these trademarks is permitted without the expressed written consent of USA Softball, who will take appropriate legal action against any unauthorized use of its marks.

**BYLAWS
USA SOFTBALL OF NEBRASKA**

New rules and/or changes are bold and italicized in each section. These changes were made at the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors meeting held on December 4, 2021. Check with your District Commissioner for any changes to these bylaws.

ARTICLE I - General Provisions

1.01 Name - The name of the association shall be the USA Softball of Nebraska.

1.02 Organization - The USA Softball of Nebraska is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1972 under the Nebraska State Non-Profit Corporation Act.

(a) The USA Softball of Nebraska recognizes all amateur sports and claims jurisdiction and is the sole governing body over all forms of the game of softball in the State of Nebraska.

(b) The USA Softball of Nebraska shall include all areas as designated by the USA Softball.

1.03 Objective - The objective of the USA Softball of Nebraska shall be to promote amateur softball for all persons, to establish uniform rules and regulations, to conduct annual Championship Tournaments, and to educate and train in the proper skills of amateur softball play and in the rules through clinics and seminars.

1.04 Coordination of Activity - The USA Softball of Nebraska shall work with and coordinate its work with any and all civic, service, and religious organizations within the State of Nebraska.

1.05 Affiliation - The USA Softball of Nebraska shall pay, through the State Commissioner, all dues required to affiliate the USA Softball of Nebraska with the USA Softball. The official playing rules and the USA Softball Codes as adopted by the USA Softball shall be, and hereby are made a part of the Bylaws and Codes of the USA Softball of Nebraska, and with like force and effect, except in an instance in which the USA Softball code conflicts with enforceable Federal, State, or Local laws and regulations.

When a conflict occurs, the bylaws and codes of the USA Softball shall have precedence. The USA Softball codes as adopted by the USA Softball and as amended from time to time shall be attached to these bylaws as an exhibit hereto.

1.06 Definitions - Whenever used in the USA Softball of Nebraska Code, unless otherwise specifically mentioned, the definitions listed in the USA Softball Code will be accepted.

1.07 Amendments - A proposed amendment to these Bylaws or Procedural Code must be in writing, signed by a member of the Board of Directors and sent to the State Commissioner at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Board of Directors meeting. Amendments will only be considered at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

EXCEPTION: See Section (c)

(a) The State Commissioner shall prepare and mail to each member of the Board of Directors all properly submitted proposed amendments at least ten (10) days prior to the time the amendment will be voted on.

10

(b) Amendments for Procedural Code changes may be rescinded by a 2/3 vote at the annual USA Softball of Nebraska meeting.

EXCEPTION: Legislative proposals for the Chairman of a standing committee may submit changes in the Bylaws or Procedural Codes provided such proposals are in writing and receive majority approval of the members of that committee.

(c) It will require an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors present and voting to approve an amendment.

(d) Emergency change in the Bylaws or Procedural Codes may be made by two-thirds (2/3) approval of the Board of Directors voting on the proposed amendment. Such votes may be made by mail ballot. Emergency changes adopted by USA Softball will be made a part of the playing rules by the State Commissioner.

ARTICLE II - Membership and Dues

2.01 Types of Membership - Registered leagues, independent teams, individual players, non-competing members, umpires, USA Softball of Nebraska officers, NSF officers and Life members.

2.02 Competing Members - All players automatically acquire membership in the association when their team pays its annual registration fee in accordance with established eligibility rules.

2.03 Registered Leagues - Are defined as a group of four or more USA Softball of Nebraska registered teams, playing a minimum of eight games, scheduled over no less than a 45-day period. Local leagues retain the right to administer their programs with more or less restrictive playing and eligibility rules. Deviations from USA Softball of Nebraska rules must be clearly specified in writing with a copy going to each team in the league.

2.04 Independent Team - Is a team that plays an independent schedule and does not play in league play.

2.05 Umpires - All umpires registered with USA Softball of Nebraska in the State of Nebraska will automatically acquire membership in this association.

2.06 USA Softball of Nebraska Officers - All appointed and elected officers of this Association shall automatically acquire membership in this association.

2.07 NSF Officers - All appointed and elected officers of this Foundation shall automatically acquire membership in this association.

2.08 Life Members - The Board of Directors of this association shall have the discretion to elect to a position of Life Member any person whom they desire to confer special distinction for outstanding service. This member shall be entitled to the privilege of attending all meetings.

11

2.09 Registration - Team fees should be sent to your District Commissioner and *umpires must also register online*. (JO Only) Teams must register on line and select the District Commissioner where they play their league games, unless they have made prior arrangements with their District Commissioner. Individual JO fee includes USA Softball registration as well as secondary insurance policy, and it is mandatory for one (1) adult coach to register with each JO team. **NOTE: Registration period will run from September 1 through August 30 of each year.**

Team Fees:

Adult \$30.00
Junior Olympic \$27.00
Individual J.O. ***\$25.00 - \$500 Deductible***

Umpire Fees:

Adult (18-over/background check) \$55.00 + 4.95 card fee
Youth (17-under) \$45.00 + \$4.95 card fee

Individual Registration - All JO Teams that participate in USA Softball Championship play (districts, state) must register using the individual RegisterUSASoftball online registration program. Any JO team who does not participate in Championship play will have an option to register either as a team or individually.

2.10 Individual Registration Insurance - Each individual registrant will receive the following benefits:

1. Registers you with USA Softball as well as provides you with *accident* insurance.
2. \$5,000,000 per occurrence limit of Liability Insurance, plus \$250,000 Excess Accidental Medical Insurance.
3. Coverage follows the individual throughout the calendar year, even if you change to another USA Softball team.
4. Coverage extends to the team as an insured entity if all team members register individually.
5. Coverage extends to the leagues as an insured entity, as well as to league officers, if all league members register individually.
6. *The policy has a \$500 deductible with a 90/10 copay.*

7. Coverage will follow the player through the current High School Softball season. *If the player registers for the next season after September 1st.*

2.11 Championship Play Requirements (JO Teams Only) – All JO Team Coaches assisting in USA Softball Championship play (districts, state, regional, national) must obtain the below requirements to be within the field of play/dugout. Be sure to check your Home Plate page on your Member Profile for your status. Please complete in order listed.

A. USA Softball Background Check – All JO team coaches (18 & over) assisting within the field of play/dugout must have a USA Softball background check (current year) and it must be visually displayed when within the field of play/dugout.

1. Fee: USA Softball Background Check \$12.00 with ID card

B. SafeSport – All JO team coaches assisting within the field of play/dugout must be SafeSport Trained. The SafeSport training is composed of 3 individual lessons; all lessons must be completed in full before you are considered Safe Sport Trained.

EXCEPTION: The Yearly Refresher Course is only required in the season(s) following the completion of the initial SafeSport Training.

NOTE: All 3 lessons or the Yearly Refresher Course must be completed before you will be allowed to begin ACE.

12

NOTE: Lessons or refresher course will appear GREEN on your Member Profile Home Plate page when completed.

1. FEE: Free

C. ACE Education: Each JO Championship Play team must have one (1) coach within the field of play/dugout be ACE Educated (current year) which includes a background check, in order to participate in championship play. It is highly recommended that all coaches associated with JO teams complete the ACE Education program (current year) which includes a background check.

NOTE: You will not be allowed to start your ACE Education until your background check has been cleared and SafeSport is completed. Only one (1) level is required per year.

1. FEE: 1st year ACE - \$29.00 (includes USA Softball background check).

2. 2nd year ACE & Beyond - \$28.00 (includes USA Softball background check)

D. Completion Requirements – Please log into your own Member Profile on www.RegisterUSASoftball.com

1. **For Background Check** – Scroll down to the Background Check Tab and click on the Blue Purchase Button and submit payment via a credit card. It will ask you to select if you want background check only OR background and ACE.

2. **For SafeSport** – Scroll down to the ACE Education Tab and click the SafeSport Click Here to Start Now link.

3. **For ACE Education** – Must complete SafeSport first. After completion of SafeSport, scroll down further on page in the ACE Purchase Status Box and click on the Blue Purchase Button if you did not previously purchase during the background check and submit payment via a credit card.

NOTE: Please be advised that background checks can take anywhere from 2 hours to 2 weeks to complete.

ARTICLE III - Officers

3.01 Board of Directors - The Board shall govern the activities of the USA Softball of Nebraska under the guidance of the USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska Bylaws and Codes. The Board shall consist of the President, Immediate Past President, State Commissioner, Deputy State Commissioners, State Junior Olympic Commissioner, State Umpire-In-Chief, At-Large Representative, State Player Representative, State Divisional Representatives and a maximum of twenty (20) District Commissioners as appointed by the State Commissioner. The State Commissioner, with approval of the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors, may appoint and dismiss past USA Softball of Nebraska officers to serve as members of the Board.

a) All JO Board of Directors must have an annual USA Softball background check completed by January 31.

3.02 State Commissioner - Shall be selected by the National USA Softball Board of Directors. His/her duties shall be: serve as ex-officio member of all committees; responsible for the enforcement of rules and regulations of the USA Softball of Nebraska and USA Softball; shall award and supervise all tournaments in the State of Nebraska; serve as Treasurer of the USA Softball of Nebraska and collect all moneys due; shall file a financial report annually with the USA Softball of Nebraska Finance Committee and the USA Softball; shall appoint the Deputy State Commissioner, State Junior Olympic Commissioner, State Umpire-In-Chief, State Player Representative, At-Large Representatives, District Commissioners, and such other aides as may be required, by the USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors. The State Commissioner may appoint committees as needed. These committees shall convene at the call of the Committee Chairman.

13

3.03 President - Shall be elected at the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors meeting for a term of two years. The President shall preside over all meetings, appoint committees, and perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors, and shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees. President may appoint committees as needed. These committees shall convene at the call of the Committee Chairman.

3.04 Secretary - The secretary shall keep the minutes of the directors and executive committee meeting see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws and the laws of the State of Nebraska, be custodian of the corporate records, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

3.05 Chief Deputy State Commissioner - Shall perform the duties of the State Commissioner in his temporary absence or inability to act and shall perform other duties as assigned by the State Commissioner.

3.06 State Junior Olympic Commissioner - Shall be responsible for the development of the Junior Olympic youth division in the State of Nebraska and shall perform other duties as assigned by the State Commissioner.

3.07 Deputy State Fast Pitch Commissioner - Shall be responsible for the development and operation of all adult fast pitch divisions and shall perform other duties as assigned by the State Commissioner.

3.08 State Umpire-In-Chief - Shall be responsible for umpire activities in the State of Nebraska. He shall initiate an extensive program of recruiting and training of umpires in the state, and shall be responsible for the appointment of umpires for all Championship tournaments in the state.

3.09 District Commissioners - Adult district commissioners are appointed by the State Commissioner. The State Junior Olympic Commissioner, with the approval of the State Commissioner, appoints Junior Olympic district commissioners.

3.10 Commissioner Emeritus – There shall be added to the Board of Directors a position of “Commissioner Emeritus” commissioners that have served a minimum of twenty five years upon retirement may be appointed to remain on the Board of Directors following their nomination and majority vote of the current Board.

3.11 Advisor Representatives - Each Local Association and Local League may appoint one (1) member of that association to serve as a representative on each of the State Advisory Committees in which they have competition as listed below:

Junior Olympic Youth	Men’s Fast Pitch
Adult Slow Pitch	

(a) **Advisory Committee** The Advisory committee shall advise and convey to the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors and the general membership, recommendations for programming, playing and eligibility rule changes, and tournament playing conditions and facilities, umpiring, etc.

1. Advisory committee voting delegates must be approved by their District Commissioner or the State Commissioner.

14

(b) **Election** At the USA Softball of Nebraska meeting, each Advisory Committee shall elect one of its members to be the USA Softball of Nebraska State Divisional Representative for that committee and will serve as a voting member on the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors.

(c) **At-Large Representative** - will be appointed by the State Commissioner for each 2000 teams registered the preceding year.

(d) The USA Softball of Nebraska State Player Representative and At-Large Player Representative will represent the USA Softball of Nebraska at all USA Softball meetings as listed in the USA Softball Code.

3.12 Suspension and Removal - Appointed officials may be removed from office for just cause by the State Commissioner. The Board of Directors of the USA Softball of Nebraska may remove elected officials for just cause. Such action shall require two-thirds majority of those present. The Board of Directors shall fill vacancies in elected state offices. Such action shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting.

3.13 Appointed Positions - All appointed positions are made for the current year, unless otherwise designated.

3.14 Executive Committee - There shall be an executive committee consisting of the President, State Commissioner, Past President, Secretary, and a Board Member who is a player representative selected by the remainder of the Executive Committee, who shall exercise all of the powers of the Board of Directors when the Board is not in session. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. At any time the President or majority of the Executive Committee may request a vote by telephone or mail of the Executive Committee members on any question, matter, or resolution. If the vote is by mail,

notice of the vote, along with such information as may be helpful or necessary in understanding the question shall be mailed at least two weeks before the time fixed for depositing the written votes with the Secretary. Action taken will be reported at the next board meeting. This committee shall also evaluate the State Commissioner in regard to his performance and offer suggestions in areas they feel will make USA Softball of Nebraska a better organization.

ARTICLE IV - Meetings

4.01 Board of Directors Meetings - May be held at the discretion of the State Commissioner, State President, or by request of two-thirds of the membership of the Board of Directors.

4.02 Proxy - Authorization for representation of a member by proxy for any official meeting may be obtained by submitting a request in writing for same to the State Commissioner for approval by the Board at said meeting. All proxies must be current USA Softball of Nebraska members.

4.03 Quorum (all meetings) - Shall consist of two-third of the Board members.

ARTICLE V - Assets

5.01 Dissolution of Assets - Dissolution of assets in final liquidation of this corporation shall be provided by Nebraska State Law Section 21--19,134 RRS NEB, and if applicable, without preference among members.

15

ARTICLE VI

Championship Tournament Procedural Code

6.01 General Rule - In order to participate in the USA Softball of Nebraska programs, a person must meet eligibility requirements of the USA Softball of Nebraska Bylaws and Procedural Codes and USA Softball eligibility rules.

6.02 Borderline Players - Borderline players are not allowed in the Girl's Fast Pitch 18-under Gold level.

6.03 Illegal Players - Any team found using an illegal player may be dropped immediately from the tournament. Penalties other than removal from the tournament may be considered by the tournament protest committee. The illegal player must be removed from the tournament.

6.04 (JO ONLY) USA Softball Championships

- A. Teams must register/insure individually via www.RegisterUSA Softball.com and submit payment via Pay Pal or Credit Card.
- B. Rosters complete with proper signatures **MUST** be turned into your local District JO Commissioner.
- C. Fulfill all the requirements of 2.11

6.05 (JO ONLY) USA Softball of Nebraska National Tournament Berth Requirements

- A. Play in a minimum of (4) USA Sanctioned Tournaments.

EXCEPTION: Gold Teams

B. Play in the USA Softball of Nebraska State Championship. This includes teams winning a berth from another USA Softball Association.

EXCEPTION: Gold Teams

C. Two (2) of the USA Softball Sanctioned Tournament must be in Nebraska to include the State Championship.

D. Berths – The team may accept the berth in the team’s current or succeeding year’s age classification provided the team has five (5) participating players from the previous year’s roster on the current year’s roster and physically present at the current championship tournament site prior to the start of their first game.

a. Teams that select the succeeding year’s berth must still adhere to A, B & C above.

E. Must meet the requirements of 6.04.

F. Paperwork – The team must work with the USA Softball of Nebraska State Office in securing the required paperwork and making the proper payment.

ARTICLE VII Team Rosters and Championship Tournament Deadlines

7.01 Rosters - Teams (Adult and Junior Olympic) must compete with same roster in championship play as used during the regular season, except teams are allowed to pick up three (3) players when advancing in championship play.

(a) **Number of Players** A maximum of twenty (20) players, including pickup players will be permitted on a team roster. A manager or coach will not count as a player unless listed as one; names cannot be removed or replaced once the roster is used in championship play.

16

(b) **Roster/Affidavit** Roster/Affidavit forms will be provided by the USA Softball of Nebraska programs and are the only official rosters for USA Softball of Nebraska programs championship play. JO ONLY – online roster will be the ONLY roster accepted for championship play.

(c) **Roster Deadline** To be eligible for championship play, the team manager must fill out the official championship tournament roster/affidavit completely. It must be signed by the player and his/her guardian (if necessary). Parent signatures are not required for players over 18 years of age. Men’s Slow Pitch Masters cutoff date is December 31. A player whose birthday (35, 40, 45, 50) is on or before December 31 of the current year is eligible. A red line must be drawn on the line beneath the last player’s name listed on the roster.

1. Submit one (1) *copy* of the roster to your District Commissioner no later than the dates listed as follows:

Junior Olympic Class A, B, C & D.....	May 25
Men’s Fast Pitch.....	<i>Two weeks before state tournament</i>
Adult Slow Pitch.....	<i>Two weeks before state tournament</i>
Masters Slow Pitch	<i>Two weeks before state tournament</i>
COED.....	<i>Two weeks before state tournament</i>

2. In the event championship play should begin earlier than these dates, the roster change deadline would be one (1) day earlier than the start of championship play.

3. The District Commissioner must approve and sign the rosters. A clean legible copy of the team roster is to be retained by the team manager and made available for inspection at all times by any USA Softball commissioner or tournament director.

4. Receipt and acceptance of an official USA Softball affidavit roster shall not be considered as a determination of the eligibility of a player or team.

7.02 Eligibility - Eligibility of players or teams shall be governed as provided in the USA Softball Competition Procedures Code.

(a) **Junior Olympic Rosters** All JO teams must have been members of and participated in regular/season play or played an independent schedule and be a USA Softball registered.

1. Players may participate in more than one (1) Junior Olympic division (example GFP or GSP) of play, but are limited to only one (1) age classification (this includes the age of the team as well as the Class A, B, C, D) example 16B classification within a division.

2. Junior Olympic Teams that have competed in championship play are not eligible to compete in adult championship play in the same year.

3. A player's age as of December 31 determines the age in which the player is eligible to play the following year.

4. Junior Olympic college players that meet the age requirement may play in the USA Softball of Nebraska State Championship. EXCEPTION: Junior Olympic college players that meet the age requirement are ONLY allowed to play in Class A or Gold in any other championship play events.

17

5. All Junior Olympic teams must qualify for the USA Softball National Tournaments through a USA Nebraska State Tournament.

6. All Junior Olympic team personnel assisting in the dugout must visually display proof of an USA Softball background check (current year).

7.03 Entry Forms - Official USA Softball tournament entry forms for area, national or qualifier tournaments must be signed by the state commissioner or his designee and accompany the roster/affidavit form.

7.04 Pickup Players – All teams are permitted to pick-up three (3) players as follows:

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

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

(c) (JO ONLY) Pick-up players who have competed in any Junior Olympic State Championship is not an eligible pick-up player for any other Junior Olympic State Championship.

(d) (JO ONLY) Pick-up players must be registered during the current season. Players must be registered seven (7) days prior to the start of a National Championship Final.

(e) Pick-up players must be selected only from USA Softball registered teams no longer eligible for championship play.

EXCEPTION: A player that has been released from a team's championship roster prior in accordance with the Player Release form.

(f) Pick-up players must be from the team's same division (MFP, MSP, WFP, WSP, GFP) and the same or lower age classification (JO this does not include the actual Class A, B, C, D). (Adult Slow Pitch Only) A player who is individually classified may be picked up by a team with the same classification. Said classified players may only play one class lower than their current team's classification. For those players who are not individually classified, their current team's classification applies.

EXCEPTION: Players who are age eligible may be picked up by a lower age classification team.

CLARIFICATION: A player who has competed in any Junior Olympic Girls Fast Pitch National Championship Finals is an eligible pick-up player in a higher classification. Therefore as an example, a player who participates in a Western Championship Final is an eligible pick-up player for any team at the USA Softball National Championship Final.

(g) Players (Adult and Junior Olympics) whose teams have qualified to compete in the highest level tournaments within a classification shall not be eligible pick-up players.

CLARIFICATION: A player who has competed in any Junior Olympic Girls' Fast Pitch National Championship Finals is not an eligible pick-up player for any other Junior Olympic Girls' National Championship Finals.

(h) No player may be picked up for National Gold Qualifying tournaments.

(i) In adult divisions of play, a pick-up player may be substituted for after participation.

(j) In Junior Olympic divisions of play, a pick-up player may not be substituted for after participation.

18

(k) A player may play as a pick-up player with only one team other than their rostered USA Softball registered team within a division in a season.

(l) Teams adding pick-up players must submit a completed official USA Softball pick-up player form attached to the official roster before the team plays in the tournament.

(m) If additions are made prior to USA Softball of Nebraska programs DISTRICT play, they must be from the teams' own district. Pick-up players are not allowed for Junior Olympic district tournaments.

(n) Junior Olympic Class C & D teams are allowed to pick-up three players including the pitching position.

ARTICLE VIII

Divisions, Deadlines and Fees for Championship Play

The USA Softball of Nebraska programs may conduct Championship tournaments leading to State, National, and World Tournaments in divisions approved by the State Commissioner.

8.01 District Qualifying Tournaments - May be held in divisions and classifications as approved by the District Commissioner.

8.02 Division of Play - Will be the same as listed in the USA Softball Code with the following additions:

<u>Divisions</u>	<u>Classifications</u>
Girl's Fast Pitch	8-Under B & C
Girl's Fast Pitch	Class D 10, 12, 14, 16/18-Under
Men's Fast Pitch	Class D1, D2
Men's Slow Pitch	Class E1, F
Coed Slow Pitch	Class E, F
Women's Slow Pitch	Class E

8.03 Maximum Number of Teams

Number of Teams The number of teams that will advance from district competition to state tournaments will be set by the State Junior Olympic Commissioner for Junior Olympic with the approval from the State Commissioner based on the number of championship team registrations received from each district. Each district will receive (1) one tournament spot in each JO division. Mandatory reclassified teams, per USA Softball of Nebraska programs Code, 12.05.

(b) **Fill-In Procedure** The State and/or Junior Olympic Commissioner will use a fill-in procedure to fill vacant berths in state tournaments.

(e) Teams will qualify to advance to regional and national competition as specified in the USA Softball Code.

8.04 Championship Tournament Entry Fees:

DISTRICTS

Junior Olympic \$275.00

STATE TOURNAMENT

8-Under (*one umpire*) \$250.00

GFP 10-18 Class C & D \$300.00

GFP 10-18 Class A & B \$325.00

ADULT STATE TOURNAMENT

Adult Fast Pitch \$400.00 No Gate

Adult Slow Pitch (3 game guarantee bracket) \$350.00 No Gate

NOTE: All Junior Olympic, Adult Slow Pitch and Adult Fast Pitch will use the three (3) game guarantee format for state. There will be NO GATE admission for spectators or players for adult slow & adult fast

pitch state tournaments. There are NO district tournaments for Adult Slow Pitch. ALL slow pitch teams will be classified by their district commissioner and sent to the state tournament.

(a) Once championship tournament brackets have been drawn the entry fees are non-refundable.

8.05 Championship Tournament Brackets – The official USA Softball championship bracket will be used in all USA Softball of Nebraska district and state tournaments.

(a) **District Tournaments** – District tournament brackets will be drawn by the District Commissioner. All game times and field assignments will be included with the bracket.

(b) **State Tournaments** – Tournament brackets will be drawn so that teams shall be protected, where possible, from playing a team from their own district in the first round of the tournament. District tournament champions shall be seeded with a first round bye if possible.

(c) *Teams wishing to advance to a National Tournament must have played in the USA Softball of Nebraska state tournament in that class. Teams may go direct if there is not state tournament in their class.*

(d) If a district only has one team in Class C for state they will receive an automatic berth at the discretion of the State Commissioner.

(e) If a district has only two teams wanting to participate in Class C or D state they will be allowed to play a best of three game to determine which tournament they qualify for. The district fee will be adjusted for the two teams to pay game fees.

ARTICLE IX – Team Uniforms & Equipment

9.01 Uniforms – Teams competing in Championship tournaments in all divisions must wear shirts alike in color, trim and style with a number of contrasting color, at least 6 inches high on the back of the shirt.

(a) **Headwear** Caps, visors, and headbands are optional. All players are not required to wear headwear, but if worn, caps and visors may be mixed and must be the same color(s) as the team

20

uniform. Caps and visors do not have to be the same color for each individual just the same colors as the team uniform. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headbands and cannot be worn, either around the head or around the neck. Plastic visors may not be worn.

(b) Shoes with metal cleats may be used in adult fast pitch and JO divisions of 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under ONLY.

(c) **Face Masks:** All Junior Olympic fast pitch batting helmets shall be equipped with a NOCSAE approved face mask/guard.

(d) *Analytic Swing Sensor will be allowed as an attachment on the knob of the bat starting 2022.*

ARTICLE X

Championship Tournament Awards

10.01 Tournament Awards - Will be provided by the tournament sponsor for all championship tournaments. The USA Softball of Nebraska will designate the type of awards.

(a) All State Tournaments & National Championship Qualifier sponsors will furnish: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team awards if 8 or more teams are in the tournament or 1st and 2nd place team awards if 7 or less teams are in the tournament. If there are 10 or more teams in state tournament there will be fourth place medals handed out to teams. **NOTE:** The tournament sponsor will provide all individual awards for JO teams.

(b) USA Softball of Nebraska will provide all State Champions with a State Championship t-shirt. Only members present will receive shirts and not to exceed 20 shirts per team.

(c) District Tournament sponsors shall furnish: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team awards if 8 or more teams in tournament, 1st and 2nd place team awards if tournament has 4-7 teams and 1st place team award if less than 4 teams.

(d) Each player on a state 8-Under & 10-under team will receive a participation award selected by the State Junior Olympic Commissioner.

10.02 Additional Awards - Tournaments sponsors may furnish additional awards that have been approved by the State Commissioner.

ARTICLE XI - General Regulations

11.01 Codes - All Championship tournaments shall be conducted according to the USA Softball Championship Tournament Code and the USA Softball of Nebraska Procedural Codes.

11.02 Run Ahead Rule - Will be used in all Championship Tournaments.

Fast Pitch (MFP)	Seven (7) runs after Five (5) innings
Fast Pitch (JO)	Eight (8) runs after Five (5) innings
Fast Pitch -	Ten (10) runs after four (4) innings
Fast Pitch -	Twelve (12) runs after Three (3) innings
Slow Pitch -	Ten (10) runs after Five (5) innings
Slow Pitch -	Fifteen (15) after four (4) innings
Slow Pitch -	Twenty (20) runs after three (3) innings

EXCEPTION: Equalizer Rule: Slow pitch 20 runs after 4 innings 15 runs after 5 innings

11.03 Time Limits (JO) – State & District USA Softball of Nebraska Championships

10-Under & 12-Under	75 minutes
14-Under, 16-Under & 18-Under	90 minutes

11.04 Junior Olympic Pitching Distances:

8-Under Coach Pitch	35'
10-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	35'
12-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	40'
14-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	43'
16-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	43'
18-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	43'

Official Softball Size/Color (Junior Olympic)

<i>8-Under</i>	<i>11 inch – optic yellow</i>
10-Under (Class A, B, C, D)	11 inch – optic yellow
12, 14, 16, 18-Under (Gold, A, B, C, D)	12 inch – optic yellow

JO Fast Pitch Softballs – All Junior Olympic Championship Tournament sponsors must provide tournament game balls for their respective tournaments unless stated differently in the tournament bid. All balls will have a real leather cover (JO Only) be optic yellow with red-stitch, have a COR of .47, .375 compression and meet the standards set in USA Softball Rule 3, Sect. 3.

11.05 Tie Breakers - (All Adult Slow Pitch, Adult Fast Pitch, Women and Junior Olympic Girl's Fast Pitch, Men's Senior Slow Pitch) If, after the completion of seven (7) innings of play, or time, and the score is tied, the tie-breaker rule will be played to determine a winning team. **NOTE:** A new inning is defined as beginning immediately after the third out of a completed inning.

11.06 8-UNDER COACH PITCH ONLY RULES - Teams will utilize all USA Softball of Nebraska J.O. rules and regulations with the following exceptions:

Flip-Flop Rule: When visitors are ahead by 6 or more runs with less than 10 minutes to play we will clear the bases and the home team will continue to bat in a new inning for 3 outs or 5 runs whichever is first, the flip-flop is mandatory.

Ball: 11" optic yellow with red stitch COR .47 375 compression

Playing Field: Pitching 35 ft, pitching circle eight (8) ft radius around the pitching plate. Outfield: an area behind a line from the back side of each base from first to second, and from second to third base shall be designed as the outfield.

The Game: Five (5) innings or sixty (60) minutes.

Umpires - There will be one (1) umpire used during the state.

Team: Each team shall use ten (10) players on defense.

Batting Order/Lineup: All players present must bat using a continuous batting order. Players shall be listed by their first and last name in the order in which they will bat.

Base runner: Each base runner may lead off when pitched ball crosses home plate.

Courtesy Runner: *A courtesy runner may be put in for the catcher to run. It can be any player on the bench and it is not considered a substitution. But if the courtesy runner is caught on base and it is their turn to bat they will be called out and removed from the base to come to bat no other runner can replace the courtesy runner once on the base.*

Defensive Positions: Six (6) infielders and four (4) outfielders. At the start of each pitch, all outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield, and the player-pitcher shall take a position within the eight (8) ft pitcher's circle and shall not take a position directly in front of the coach/pitcher.

Outfield: an area 15 feet behind a line from the back side of each base, from first to second, and from second to third base shall be designated as the outfield.

Defensive Position: At the start of each pitch, all outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield.

Coach-Pitcher: Shall be a member of the team's coaching staff, and shall pitch the ball in an underhand motion to each batter of his/her team. At the umpire's discretion he/she may allow the coach/pitcher to move forward from the pitching rubber to a position that will allow them to deliver a hittable ball to the batter.

Player-Pitcher: Shall be an 8-Under playing member of the team, and shall not pitch to the batters.

Coach-Pitcher Interference: The coach-pitcher shall be considered part of the playing field. Exception: In the judgment of the umpire, coach-pitcher interference occurs, the ball will be declared dead. Effect: All runners will return to the last base occupied. Placement of the base runners occupying the same base or base line will be passed on the lead runner unless forced to advance by the batter-runner. The umpire may remove the coach-pitcher from the game for repeated offenses after a warning.

Inning: Each team on offense will be allowed five (5) runs or three (3) outs at which time the teams will alternate offense and defense. Balls and Strikes will not be kept or called.

Run Ahead Rule: The game will be called at the end of four innings if one team is ahead by six (6) or more runs.

23

Tie-Breaker: The Tie Breaker Rule will be used to break ties after five innings or time has expired.

Batter: Each batter will be allowed five pitches to bat the ball in play. A batted foul ball on the fifth, sixth or seventh pitch will give another pitch to batter. Each batter will be allowed a total of eight pitches to bat the ball in play. Each batter that fails to bat the ball in play will be counted as an out, and the next batter in the batting order will take her place at bat.

NOTE:

-A caught foul fly ball will be an out whenever it occurs, including the fifth pitch or any subsequent pitch.

-No Bunting allowed.

-The Designated Player (DP) Rule will NOT be used.

-Infield fly rule: Not in effect.

-Dropped Third Strike: Not in effect.

-Base Stealing: Not allowed including home.

NOTE: Time will be called by the umpire when any infielder including the pitcher has the ball in the infield area (dirt or any other surface).

Over Throw: Batter runner or runners may take more than 1 base in the B & C division on an overthrow with home plate being closed.

***1. B & C Division Rule: A runner attempting to advance to any base they are allowed to advance
EFFECT: May be put out while between bases if they advance past home plate, they will be placed back at 3rd base.***

2. If a batter strikes out and the ball is dropped by the catcher:

EFFECT: The batter is out and the ball is dead.

3. Runners can only score on:

a. A batted ball.

11.07 (10-UNDER CLASS C & D) – The 10-under Class C & D division the dropped third strike would be an out. There is a maximum of 5 runs per half inning.

Outfield Defensive Position: At the start of each pitch, all the outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield. The outfield is an area 15 feet behind a line from the back side of each base, from first to second, and from second to third base shall be designated as the outfield. Defensive Position: At the start of each pitch, all outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield.

Flip-Flop Rule: When visitors are ahead by 6 or more runs with less than 10 minutes to play we will clear the bases and the home team will continue to bat in a new inning for 3 outs or 5 runs whichever is first, the flip-flop is mandatory.

11.08 First GAME TIMES for State Tournaments

(a) **JO state tournament first games** – State tournaments games can begin as early as 9:00 am on Friday.

(b) **Adult Slow Pitch first games** – State tournaments may not begin prior to 7:30 pm on Friday.

24

(c) **Adult Fast Pitch first games** – State tournaments may not begin prior to 6:30 pm on Friday.

11.09 Casual Profanity Rule - The umpire has the authority to assess ONE OUT against the offending team for the use of CASUAL PROFANITY which shall be defined as expletives (Vulgar or Profane Language) not directed at umpires or opposing players, uttered by a player, manager/coach, on the field

or individual within the dugout involved with the play of the team, frustrated with themselves, a team mate or fan. All outs will be assessed against the offending team during their term at bat. Only ONE “Casual Profanity” out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of vulgar or profane language exceeding these limits will subject the individuals responsible to ejection from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. A player ejected from the game for exceeding these limits will not have a casual profanity out charged to the team. The Casual Profanity penalty “out” will be assessed as a team and will not affect any batter or base runner. For scoring purposes, the putout will be credited to the catcher.

11.10 Sportsmanship Rule – The umpire has the authority to assess one out against the offending team for excessive protests, arguments, complaints or behavior not appropriate in a recreation sports setting, throwing bat, glove, gestures, whining, etc. Such conduct exhibited by a player, coach or team representative will be penalized. All outs will be assessed against the offending team during their term at bat. Only one “unsportsmanlike” out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per team at bat. Incidents of continued or excessive unsportsmanlike conduct will subject the individual(s) responsible to be ejected from the game. A player/coach/team representative ejected from the game will not have an un-sportsmanship out called against them. The un-sportsmanship “out” will be assessed as a team and will not affect any batter or base runner. For scoring purposes, the out will be credited to the catcher.

(a) **Protest Fee** – teams or individuals wishing to protest player eligibility or playing rules will be required to provide the tournament committee \$100 cash. If the protest is upheld the fee will be refunded. If the protest is not upheld the fee will be forwarded to the tournament revenue account.

11.11 Classification If a team is found to be in the wrong classification when participating in a state tournament, the tournament protest committee shall have the authority to remove said team from the tournament, refunding their entry fee.

11.12 Game Delays - In case of delays in scheduled game times, it is the responsibility of the team manager to confirm the new game starting time with the tournament director.

11.13 Districts - The State of Nebraska may be divided into areas and districts at the discretion of the State Commissioner, with approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

11.14 State Invitational Championships - May be conducted when conditions do not permit the playing of normal state tournaments.

11.15 Fees - Teams entering Championship tournaments must be current members of the USA Softball of Nebraska with all registration fees and accounts paid in full.

11.16 Returning Team - is a team that is eligible to return directly to specified championship tournament.

25

11.17 Slow Pitch Home Run Rule Limits - A limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in all Men’s and Coed Slow Pitch Divisions.

- 4..... **MSP 35-O, 40-O, 45-O** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 4..... **MSP C, Coed B, C** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 2..... **MSP D, D1 Coed D, WSP D** The batter is ruled out for any in excess

- 2..... **MSP Church Rec** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 1..... **MSP 50-O, 55-O, 60-O** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 0..... **MSP E, E1, Coed E** The batter is ruled out for any in excess
- 0..... **MSP F, Coed F, F1** The half inning is completed

Adult Slow Pitch

11.18 Softballs – All Men’s and Coed teams will use a 12” optic yellow softball. The ball will be red stitch, 52 COR .300 compression, and be marked with the USA Softball approved stamp. All Women’s teams will use a 11” optic yellow softball. The ball will be red stitch, 52 COR .300 compression and be marked with the USA Softball approved stamp.

11.19 Equalizer Rule – The equalizer rule will be in affect if there are 3 teams in a division. The lower division team will receive an equalizer of 5 runs to start the game and they will play the higher division homerun rule and the higher division team will be the home team. OR the lower division team can play straight up and play lower divisions homerun rule and be the home team.

When equalizer rule is used the run rule ahead will be 20 after 4 and 15 after 5.

11.20 – Slow Pitch Batter Count – One (1) ball and one (1) strike count all adult slow pitch. Each batter comes to the plate with the one (1) and one (1) count.

11.21 MSP C, D, 35-Over, 40-Over, 50-Over, 55-Over, 60-Over – On a fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run or four base award, the batter and all runners are credited with a run. The batter and runners are not required to run the bases.

11.22 MSP F (ONLY) Continuous Batting – In Men’s Slow Pitch Class F State Tournament the team has the option of having all their players in the batting order. NOTE: The shorthanded rule allows the game to continue with one less than is in the batting order.

11.23 Slow Pitch Base Distance – Bases for all MSP, WSP and Coed will be set at 70’.

11.24 When a player is ejected from Adult Slow Pitch or Coed game the tournament committee can use their discretion on how long a player is out of the tournament.

11.25 Adult Slow Pitch Senior and Coed – divisions that have 1, 2 or 3 teams signed up for state will combine with the division closest to them using the equalizer rule. Divisions with 4 or more teams will not combine with other divisions.

11.26 Coed All Division Rules - Playing rules for these divisions shall be the same as USA Softball Championship Tournament rules with the following exceptions:

(a) Coed all classes, a line will be marked in the outfield 200 feet from home plate. Outfielders must remain behind this line until the ball is hit. Violation of this rule will result in the offended team given the option of: the batter being awarded 1st base, or the result of the play. If the first option is exercised, runners may advance only if forced to do so.

- (b) **Coed All Classes Infield Positioning** – Infielders must remain positioned on the skinned infield portion of the field until the ball is hit.
- (c) **Equalizer Rule** - The lower division team will receive an equalizer of 5 runs to start the game and they will play the higher division homerun rule and the higher division team will be the home team. OR the lower division team can play straight up and play lower division homerun rule and be the home team. When equalizer rule is used the run rule ahead will be 20 after 4 and 15 after 5.

11.27 BATS - The official bat for slow pitch must bear either the USA Softball 2000 certification mark, 2004 certification mark, or ASA 2013 certification mark and must not listed on the USA Softball Non-Approved bat list. All bats must be tested prior to use in state championship play.

11.27 MSP Senior Rules - Men’s Slow Pitch 50-over, 55-over and 60-over will use the senior rules set by USA Softball.

- (a) **ARC:** 6 to 12 feet
- (b) **Pitching Count:** 1 ball and 1 strike
- (c) **Pitchers Box:** Pitchers can pitch from anywhere in the box, which is the width of the rubber and extends back 10 feet. (2 by 10 feet). One foot must be touching the box or inside when pitcher starts his delivery. Other USA Softball-type rules apply (no quick pitch, no behind the back)
- (d) **Pitching Mat:** The strike mat will be 34 1/2 inches long & 21 inches wide. The mat will cover up the original home plate up to the front edge of the plate. A legal pitch striking any part of the mat will be a strike.
- (e) **Five-runs-an-inning rule:** Teams can score only five runs per inning until the 7th inning, during which unlimited runs are allowed. When the potential fifth run reaches base, announce that. “Five on one” means fifth run on first base. “Five on two” means fifth run on second.
- (f) **Flip-flop rule:** When visitors are ahead by 10 or more runs at the start of the 7th inning, the home team bats first, flip flop is mandatory.
- (g) **Home Plate:** If they touch original home plate they are out. Catcher’s plate must tag original plate while in possession of the ball to record an out before runner crosses 2nd home plate. Runner may not return to third after crossing the commitment line (20 feet from home). If a catcher tags the runner after he crosses the 2nd home plate the runner automatically is safe.
- (h) **Courtesy Runners:** Unlimited per inning. A player can be a courtesy runner once per inning. If the courtesy runner is on base when his turn to bat comes, he is out on the base and then bats. (Any roster player can be a courtesy runner. No courtesy runner for a courtesy runner except in case of injury that forces the first courtesy runner from the game). Courtesy runners officially are in the game once they touch the base. Announce the runner’s number. (Scorekeepers track this. Umpires should too.
- (i) **Extra Batters:** Teams can bat all players, whether that’s 10, 11, 12 or more
- (j) **Sliding:** No sliding at first base (batter-runner) Except to avoid a collision.
- (k) **Extra-inning rule:** International tie-breaker rule applies. Last batter of previous inning starts at second base. He cannot be lifted for a courtesy runner until he reaches third.
- (l) **Bats:** Nearly every bat made in 2012 or earlier is legal; newer bats need USA Softball certification stamp senior bat don’t need bat testing 2000, 2004, 2014.

- (m) **Home Runs:** Excess ones are outs. When a home run is hit, all offensive players can walk off the field (hit and sit is legal). 2 home runs are allowed per game.
- (n) **Injuries:** If a player has to leave the game for any reason other than ejection, and the team has no sub, an out is recorded the FIRST time the player’s position comes to bat no out after that.

- (o) Anyone may wear mitts.
- (p) Game time starts with coin flip. There will be a 65 minute time limit.
- (q) Equalizer Rule When playing a team that has 6 or more players from an unequal age or skill level. The older or lower still rated team receives an equalizer of 5 runs. 1 run per inning from the 2nd inning thru the 6th inning or an 11th player. Or if the whole team is a division older or lower rated team they will receive both the runs and the 11th player. The team giving the equalizer shall be the home team. When the equalizer rule is used the run rule ahead will be 20 after 4 and 15 after 5.

ARTICLE XII

Classification Procedural Code

12.01 Purpose – To establish rules and guidelines for the classification of teams and players for Invitational and Championship competition.

12.02 Objective – 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 USA Softball of Nebraska.

12.03 Authority - The proposed classification guidelines are adopted by the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors and each local District Commissioner shall properly administer the resulting procedural code.

12.04 JO ONLY Classification Are described to differentiate between levels of competition. Basic classification definitions will be used as guidelines when evaluating teams. Teams shall be classified by their District Commissioner (JO Only) will be classified by all District Commissioners where they are playing league(s).

12.05 JO & Adult Classification Guidelines

- (a) Classify players/teams based on past performance and current season roster.
- (b) Appeals of classification changes must be made in writing, to the State Commissioner, whose decision is final.
- (c) Team entries received after the entry deadline have no right of appeal.
- (d) Teams achieving a .500 or better record (excluding forfeits) at a state tournament will be classified in the same class or higher the following year provided the team has four (4) or more of the players (including pickup players) that participated the preceding season.
- (e) All teams that are required to move up in classification due to their finish the previous season and are responsible to notify their district commissioner if they change the name of the team or the team manager. Failure to do so may result in their disqualification from competition.

- (f) The State Commissioner may initiate a change in a team's classification, if it is apparent that the District Commissioner has made an error in judgment as to the proper classification of any teams. Teams that wish not to compete at the revised classification may request a refund of the tournament entry fee. Any request must be done prior to the draw date for that tournament.
- (h) The District Commissioner may initiate a change in a team's classification after district tournament, if it is apparent that initial placement was incorrect. Teams that wish not to compete at revised classification may request a refund of the tournament entry fee. Any request must be done prior to the draw date for that tournament.
- (i) **Adult Player Classification** – Individual adult players may not play more than one (1) classification below the classification level of their most recent team.

12.06 Mandatory Reclassification

Adult Team Mandatory Reclassification

Men's Slow Pitch & Coed – if there are 6 or less teams the top (2) tow move up; if there are between (7) seven and 16 teams the top (3) three move up; if there are between 17 and 23 teams the top (4) four move up; if there are 24 or more teams the top (6) six move up in classification.

WSP and MFP *will be classified by their district commissioner.*

NOTE: Teams will be classified in the next highest level the following year if the team has (4) or more of the players (including pickup players) that participated with that team the preceding season.

12.07 Junior Olympic Classification – Each District Commissioner will establish a classification committee in their district. The committee will establish the classification of each team based on the ability of the team. Any District Commissioner who coaches a team or has a child playing on a team may not participate in the determination of their team classification. The District Classification committee will make the decision without bias.

a) Pitcher Classification – Fast Pitch pitchers may be classified by the District Commissioner and such classification may determine the classification of or may change the classification of a fast pitch team.

b) Teams and Players – Teams and players who participate in tournaments that lead to Gold or Class A National Championship Final, including National Qualifiers, will not be eligible to compete in Class B or below. Teams and players, who participate in tournaments that lead to a Class B National Championship Final, will not be eligible to compete in Class C or below.

12.08 Adult Team Classification - Each District Commissioner will classify their district. The classification of each team based on the level of play where the team will be competitive. Exception: The Deputy State Fast Pitch Commissioner shall be responsible for classifying adult fast pitch teams

ARTICLE XIII

Championship Tournament Bid Procedural Code

13.01 Tournament Bids - Persons, organizations, or communities wishing to bid for District or State Championship Tournaments must submit their bids on the Official Bid Form (T10). Communities may bid for more than one championship tournament.

- (a) **District Tournament** - District tournament bids should be sent to the District Commissioner, who will determine the location of all District Tournaments within their district.
- (b) **State Tournament** - State tournament bids should be sent to the State Commissioner prior to December 1. Bids received after that date will receive consideration only if no bid has been received for that tournament. Tournaments not held in Hastings at the Complex will be awarded by the State Commissioner after negotiating a contract that is fair for both parties.
- (c) **State Tournament Separate bids** - Separate bids must be submitted for each yr.
- (d) **State tournaments Not Bid** – Tournaments not bid, shall be awarded by the State Commissioner to an organization that will agree to conduct the tournament.

13.02 Tournament Income - All tournament income is to be retained by the tournament sponsor and will include, but not be limited to:

Ticket sales	Advertising sales	Concession sales	Souvenir sales
Program sales	Photograph sales	%Team Entry Fees	Donations

13.03 Tournament Income – District Tournaments will receive \$215.00 of the district entry fee and State Tournaments \$175.00

13.04 Tournament Expenses - Expenses to be paid by the tournament sponsor will include, but not be limited to:

Field rental	Field maintenance	Scorekeepers	Ticket sellers
Publicity	Misc. Expense	Umpire Fees	Trophies/Awards
Advertising	Softballs	Motel rooms for umpires	2 umpires per room
Motel room for USA Softball Rep		IRS Mileage Rate .56 cents per mile	

(a) **Championship tournament umpire game fees are:**

Game Umpire Fees for 2022

Slow Pitch	\$30.00 per umpire per game
Fast Pitch (adult)	\$43.00 per umpire per game
Junior Olympic (youth)	\$40.00 per umpire per game

NOTE: Umpires that drive to championship tournaments will be given a travel benefit of the following: 20 to 59 miles, \$20.00; 60 to 90 miles, \$30.00 and more than 91 miles, \$40.00. This will only be given to the umpire that drives if more than one travel together.

(b) **State & District tournament USA Softball representative & UIC fee:** (\$75 for slow pitch on Friday JO \$150) (Saturday \$200 and Sunday \$150). Plus mileage rate set by the IRS on **Jan 1 57.5** cents per mile. The State Commissioner will assign all USA Softball representatives.

13.05 Bid must Include - An amount per team to USA Softball of Nebraska.

13.06 State Tournament Brackets - Adult tournaments shall be drawn and scheduled by the USA Softball of Nebraska Office and reviewed by the State Commissioner and Tournament Director prior to team notification. The State Junior Olympic Commissioner shall also review Junior Olympic tournaments.

ARTICLE XIV Invitational Tournament Procedural Code

14.01 Invitational Tournament - Must be sanctioned through your District Commissioner before it will be published on the web site. Tournaments must include proof of sanction when sending information into the State Office for publication or it will not be published. Unsanctioned tournaments are not eligible for USA Softball of Nebraska sponsored liability insurance. Umpires working unsanctioned tournaments are not eligible for USA Softball of Nebraska accident or liability insurance.

14.02 Tournament Sanctions - are issued by the District or State Commissioner who notifies the District Umpire-In-Chief of the tournament dates.

14.03 Sanction Fee - Invitational Tournament sanction fees are \$20.00 that may be waived by the District Commissioner at his option for non-profit events. If the invitational site uses the on-line web update the fee is \$35.00.

14.04 Registration - Team registration ID cards are not necessary for USA Softball of Nebraska Championship play.

14.05 Conflicts of Schedule - No Invitational Tournament may be held that conflicts with championship play of the local association or the USA Softball.

14.06 Notification - All entry forms and publicity shall include the statement “sanctioned by the USA Softball of Nebraska” or “sanctioned by the USA Softball”.

14.07 Rosters - Teams must participate with the same rosters as used in regular season play, with the exception of pickup players (see 7.04)

14.08 Umpires - Only USA Softball registered umpires may be used in USA Softball sanctioned tournaments.

ARTICLE XV Umpire Procedural Code

15.01 Objective - This code shall serve as a guide for Umpires, Commissioners, and Tournament Directors. It cannot cover every situation or contingency; however, the regulations should be followed when possible.

15.02 Organization - The Nebraska State umpires organization shall be under the direction of the State Umpire-In-Chief. The State UIC, Deputy State UIC, and the District UIC’s shall comprise the State Umpire Staff.

15.03 Registered umpires - Registered umpires become members of the USA Softball of Nebraska Office on a voluntary basis and agree to be governed by the Code, rules, and regulations of the USA Softball of Nebraska Office. The State Commissioner is the only one that may approve and register umpires with the national USA Softball office.

15.04 Umpire Registration Fee - *The umpires can register to become a certified USA Softball of Nebraska umpire on registerusasoftball.com.* The registration fee will be **\$55.00** for adult, 18 and older, (Includes background check) and **\$45.00** for youth umpires 17-under. Plus \$4.95 for umpire registration card sent by the USA Softball National Office.

15.05 Registered Umpires - Only USA Softball registered umpires may be used in championship play and they must meet the requirements and guidelines as set by the State UIC.

(a) They must attend a state approved umpire-training clinic annually.

(b) All Championship tournament games will use two (2) umpires per game if available. Tournament games will be assigned by the tournament UIC. 8U will use one umpire for all state tournament games.

(c) No umpire shall be eligible to umpire in a championship tournament in which he/she is a player or coach.

15.06 USA Softball Registered Umpires - USA Softball of Nebraska umpires are encouraged to work events for all USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska allied member organizations when it does not conflict with our championship tournament program. The policy of umpires accepting jobs with other organizations, or invitational tournaments, will be the same as USA Softball National policy on umpire assignments; which is, that such assignments must be cleared through the State Umpire-In-Chief, the State Commissioner, a District Umpire-In-Chief, or a USA Softball of Nebraska registered Umpire Organization Assignor. We do not want our umpires to be confused with different playing rules from different organizations.

15.08 Regulation Uniform - Umpires will wear the USA Softball of Nebraska regulation uniform for all championship tournaments.

(a) **National Tournaments** – All umpires assigned to any USA Softball National Tournament conducted in Nebraska must be approved by the Nebraska State UIC and the USA Softball of Nebraska State Commissioner. All Nebraska umpires assigned to any USA Softball National in Nebraska or out of state must be approved by the Nebraska State UIC and USA Softball of Nebraska

State Commissioner. Nebraska umpires, who are assigned to a national tournament as host exchange outside of the state of Nebraska, will receive \$100 travel expense.

(b) **Umpires Working Any USA Softball of Nebraska Tournaments** - All umpires working any USA Softball of Nebraska sanction play are strongly encouraged to wear USA Softball of Nebraska uniforms.

15.09 Umpires Membership - may be declined or revoked for unethical, immoral, or unprofessional action. Before declining or revoking membership, the umpire will be given the same hearing procedure afforded a team or team member.

32

15.10 State Umpire-In-Chief - Is appointed by the State Commissioner. He has the responsibility for all umpire activities in the state. He will represent all USA Softball of Nebraska umpires and carry out and enforce USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska playing rules and regulations. His duties shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (a) He will be responsible for all umpire recruiting, training, discipline, and assignments in the State of Nebraska.
- (b) Appoint and train Deputy State Umpire-In-Chief(s), District Umpire-In-Chiefs for each district, and he may appoint such other aides as required.
- (c) Initiate an extensive program of recruiting and training for all umpires in the state, and assist the District UIC's in conducting and supervising training clinics.
- (d) Act as USA Softball of Nebraska State Rules Interpreter.
- (e) Approve all state tournament umpire assignments and recommend to the State Commissioner umpires for assignment to regional/national tournaments.
- (f) He has the responsibility of distributing umpire packets, information and grading of umpire tests.
- (g) He has the responsibility of organizing a statewide program of local umpire associations.
- (h) He will work very closely with the Junior Olympic umpire program and provide assistance with training and game assignments.

15.11 District Umpire-In-Chief - Is appointed by the State UIC with the approval of the State Commissioner. He has the responsibility for all umpire activities in his/her district. He will represent all USA Softball of Nebraska umpires in his area and carry out and enforce USA Softball and USA Softball of Nebraska playing rules and regulations. His duties shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (a) Appoint and train Deputy Umpire-In-Chiefs for his district and he may appoint other aides as required.
- (b) Initiate an extensive program of recruiting and training for all umpires in his district.
- (c) Assign and approve all umpires for District tournaments and recommend to the State UIC umpires for the assignment to state, regional, area and national tournaments.
- (d) Distribute umpire packets, information and grading of umpire tests in his district.
- (e) Work very closely with the Junior Olympic umpire program and provide assistance with training and game assignments.

ARTICLE XVI

Hall of Fame Procedural Code

16.01 Purpose - To honor those men and women who have played a major role in the growth and development of softball in the State of Nebraska. To help bring to the attention of the public the widespread value of, and interest in, the game of softball by so honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to its success.

16.02 The Hall of Fame - Shall consist of: Players, Umpires, Commissioners, Managers, Sponsors, or individuals with Meritorious Service.

(a) A maximum of *six nominees* will be selected for the Hall of Fame during each review cycle.

16.03 Nomination Requirements - An individual shall be considered for nomination to the Nebraska Softball Hall of Fame based on their contribution to softball in Nebraska. The person so nominated must have been a resident of Nebraska at the time of their contribution to Nebraska softball.

Players -- Must have played or been active in Nebraska softball for a minimum of ten years and have been inactive for at least three years.

(b) **Umpires** – An umpire may be considered for nomination to the Nebraska Softball Hall of Fame by meeting one of the categories listed below:

A. Umpire Performance

1. Nominee must have been assigned to a minimum of three USA National Tournaments, of which selection to one tournament must be an At-Large umpire to a national hosted outside of Nebraska. Nomination should include the name of the tournament UIC's and as much game assignment information available.

2. USA Regional assignments and College affiliations can be used as supplemental information for consideration. Please include any USA Regional tournament assignments, UIC and game assignment information that is available. Please include any college conferences and years on staff for each conference, plus any college regional or national tournament assignments, UIC and game assignment information that is available.

B. Umpire Service

1. Nominee must have (a combined) 10 years of service to USA Softball of Nebraska as a State UIC, Deputy State UIC or District UIC.

2. Supplemental information will be considered if the nominee has served umpires in the capacity as a championship tournament UIC, evaluator assignor or mentor. Please include as much detail as possible.

EXCEPTION: A person over 40 years of age may be eligible for the Hall of Fame if they played over 20 years. If a player competed from 1930-1950 he/she shall be considered on materials available, since records are not complete prior to 1930. All materials shall be considered. No minimum playing time required. Umpires, Managers, Sponsors, Commissioners and Meritorious Service – must have been active in Nebraska Softball for the below number of years.

Umpire.....	Ten years of service to Nebraska Softball
Managers.....	Ten years of service to Nebraska Softball
Sponsors.....	Ten years of service to Nebraska Softball
Commissioners.....	Ten years of service to Nebraska Softball
Meritorious Service.....	At the discretion of the Hall of Fame Committee

16.04 Nominations - May be made by any member of the USA Softball of Nebraska and must be sent to the State Commissioner before October 1 to be considered. All nomination information will be distributed by the USA Softball of Nebraska office staff to all committee members no later than one week prior to the selection committee meeting.

- (a) Nominations must include letters of reference to include factual and detailed information. Scrapbooks, newspapers, photos as well as additional detailed information are helpful to include. A good sharp photograph must accompany all nominations.
- (b) Nominees not selected in the first review cycle shall be held over and reconsidered during the following review cycle. Nominees not selected during the second review shall be notified that they will be held over and reconsidered after a one review cycle layover. For any ‘held over’ nomination applications, the committee recommends that additional information be provided to further support the nomination.
- (c) Hall of Fame applications must be signed by a USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Director of Foundation Board of Director.

16.05 Awards - A specially designed plaque shall be given to those elected to the Hall of Fame, and specially designed plaque shall be displayed in the Hall of Fame in honor of those elected.

- (a) In addition, each Hall of Fame inductee shall receive an identification card, which shall permit the member and spouse to FREE admission to all USA Softball of Nebraska sanctioned events.

16.06 Presentation – The nominees chosen for the Hall of Fame will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a banquet sponsored by the Nebraska Softball Foundation.

16.07 Committee - The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of *six members* appointed by the NSF President.

- (a) Three members are to be appointed each year for a term of two years.
- (b) If a committee member be nominated for an award or the Hall of Fame the committee chair will call and conduct a separate meeting of the committee to determine the merit of the nomination. This could be done by a telephone conference call by a special meeting of the Hall of Fame Committee.

35

- (c) The Committee shall make its selections from those submitted and inform the State Commissioner of their selections at least thirty days prior to the Hall of Fame banquet.
- (d) The Committee shall also be responsible to actively seek and encourage qualified applicants for the Governor's Award, Jim Lewis, Jim Hall and Kenny Znamenacek awards.
- (e) The Committee shall help bring awareness to the public and media of the Hall of Fame and those so honored as members of the Hall of Fame.
- (f) The Committee shall see to the maintenance and care of the Hall of Fame and shall have authority as to what is on display in the Hall of Fame Building.

16.08 Removal - The Hall of Fame Committee may, by a two-thirds vote, with just cause recommend the removal of an individual elected to the Hall of Fame. Such recommendation must then be approved by a two-thirds vote of the USA Softball of Nebraska Board of Directors.

16.09 Hall of Honor – To honor former Nebraska JO Players.
Must have played on a USA Softball of Nebraska registered team.
Must have been a resident of Nebraska during their playing time.
Must have been a contributor on their JO team.
Must have played in the JO program for at least 5 years.

- (a) No more than three (3) selections allowed per year. Nominations not selected shall be reconsidered the following year. After being reconsidered the second year, a one year layover will be required before beginning the process over again.
- (b) A specially designed plaque will be given to those elected to the Hall of Honor as well as a plaque displayed in the Hall of Fame. The award will be presented at the USA Softball of Nebraska and Hall of Fame Banquet.

Other Annual Awards

Jim Lewis Award – The Jim Lewis award is given out to coaches, players, umpires, commissioners and meritorious people for their outstanding contribution and who have played an important role in the growth and development of the game of softball in Nebraska. Deadline October 1

Jim Hall Memorial Award – The Jim Hall Memorial Award is given out to a Nebraska coach of a women's or girl's team who exemplifies excellent coaching ability and the spirit of good sportsmanship both on and off the playing field. Deadline October 1

Kenny Znamenacek Memorial Award – The Kenny Znamenacek award is given to an individual who excels as an umpire in the game of softball, and who has made an impact on his/her local community or area through the promotion of the sport of softball and good citizenship. Deadline October 1

Governor's Award – The Governor's award honors a Nebraska community which has excelled in its commitment and services to the citizens of that community, in sports and recreation programs for people of all ages. It is not limited to softball activities, but includes all forms of recreation. Deadline October 1

36

Nebraska Softball Foundation Scholarships – The Nebraska Softball Scholarship Program was established to award scholarships to USA Softball of Nebraska members who desire to continue their education. The scholarship must be used at a four year college. Deadline before November 1.

Pat Schartz Memorial Scholarship – The Pat Schartz Memorial scholarship goes to the recipient that has a registered official or family member (mother or father) in the sport of baseball, softball or football official. The recipient must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The scholarship must be used at a four year college in the state of Nebraska. Deadline before November 1.

Sportsmanship Award – The Sportsmanship award recognizes the ability of a Junior Olympic (youth) player who both on and off the playing field displays the spirit of good sportsmanship while functioning within the rules. Deadline before November 1.

