

2011 ASA CODE CHANGES WITH COMMENTS

<u>Article Number</u>	<u>Change</u>
Article: 201 D 07 d	<p>New <u>Allied Member Review.</u> An annual review will be conducted by the membership committee and all renewals will be approved by the Board of Directors.</p> <p>Comments: Creates a review and renewal process for Allied Members.</p>
Article: 201 E 04 d	<p>New <u>Affiliated Member Review.</u> An annual review will be conducted by the membership committee and all renewals will be approved by the Board of Directors.</p> <p>Comments: Creates a review and renewal process for Affiliated Members.</p>
Article: 303 d 17	<p>New Executive Director Duties. 17. Prepare and send to all commissioners a complete set of all minutes of all matters addressed and actions taken by the Board of Directors and the Equipment Testing Committee within fifteen days of the meetings of the respective groups.</p> <p>Comments: Adds duty to the Executive Director.</p>
Article: 305 A	<p>Association Review and Nomination. If a commissioner position should become vacated for any reason, a panel consisting of the President, or their designee, the respective Regional Director, or their designee and the ASA Executive Director, or their designee and the Director of Membership Services shall:</p> <p>Comments: Adds Director of Membership as one of the individuals to conduct Commissioner Interviews.</p>
Article 310 C 02 a b	<p>Delete additional words and add 02. Use of Assistant Umpires-in-Chief. The use of an Assistant Umpire-in-Chief shall be governed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. If a National Championship Final has 40 or more teams.b. If a National Championship Final plays on more than four (4) fields. <p>Comments: To assist the National Championship UIC in administering the umpire program.</p>
Article 403 A 01 c	<p>Amendments to the ASA Code</p> <p>c. At least fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the annual meeting, the Executive Director shall mail and/or electronically mail, to each member of the council written notice of all properly submitted proposed amendments.</p> <p>Comments: Gives the option to email the code proposals out to the council.</p>

Article Number
Article 403 B 01 c

Change
Amendments to the ASA Playing Rules

c. At least fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the Annual Meeting, the Executive Director shall mail **and/or electronically mail**, to each member of the Council written notice of all properly submitted proposed amendments.

Comments: Gives the option to email the rule proposals out to the council.

Article: 501 D 06

Industrial Qualifications. The ASA shall conduct championship tournaments for industrial or all-employee teams. **Industrial team rosters must have the eligibility form attached that verifies employment requirements.**

Comments: Adds a verification form for Industrial teams.

Article: 501 D 07

Church Qualifications. The ASA shall conduct championship tournaments for Church Membership teams. **Church team rosters must have the eligibility form attached that verifies Church Membership requirements.**

Comments: Adds a verification form for Church teams.

Article: 503 A 01

New EXCEPTION.

EXCEPTION: (Adult Only) If two local associations combine berths and/or championship play, pick-up players may come from either local association with the approval of both commissioners.

Comments: Allows adult pick-up players from associations who combine berths or tournaments to award berths.

Article: 505 B 01

Time Limitations. Suspension complaints must be filed with the Commissioner in whose association the offense is alleged to have occurred or the commissioner in whose association registered the player or team, **within at least one of the following time restrictions: within six (6) months of the date of the alleged violation; or within six (6) months of the complaint's discovery of the alleged violation, so long as the complaint was not unreasonable in failing to discover the alleged violation.**

Comments: Changes the time limitations

Article Number
Article: 505 B 02

Change

Hearing. Prior to suspension, the accused must be given an opportunity for a hearing by the commissioner in whose jurisdiction the violation took place. The commissioner may appoint a deputy or district commissioner, an officer or an official of the local association or any other disinterested party to conduct the hearing in their place. **Notwithstanding the prior sentence or other provisions of Article 505 of this Code, for purpose of addressing extenuating circumstances, ASA Executive Director and or any ASA Commissioner shall have the authority to issue an interim suspension pending a hearing. In cases of an interim suspension, an initial hearing on the matter must be scheduled within fifteen (15) days from the first day of the interim suspension. An interim suspension shall have the same effect as a suspension.**

Comments: Allows the Executive Director / Commissioner to immediately suspend a player / team on an interim basis.

Article 505 B 04

New – re-number

Hearing Process Interference Penalties. No person may interfere with the ASA hearing process under this Article 505 or any other ASA Code article. Any person who harasses, threatens, tampers with, or intimidates any member of any hearing panel, any ASA administrator or official, or any potential hearing witness, or who attempts to do so, shall be subject to discipline under this ASA Code, including suspension for such actions. Any attempts to interfere with ASA's hearing process shall constitute independent grounds for discipline against that person.

Comments: To put penalties in the code for interfering with ASA hearings.

Article 505 B 05

Right of Appeal. Following the decision of the local association commissioner, the accused or any person claiming that an act of suspension was or was not committed may appeal in writing within fourteen (14) days to the Executive Director or their designee, whose decision shall be final. The Executive Director must render a decision on any appeal within fourteen (14) days. **The Executive Director shall have the authority, in extenuating circumstances to issue a stay pending appeal.**

Comments: Gives the Executive Director the authority to issue a stay pending an appeal.

Article Number
Article: 506 A 01

Change
DIVISIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY DEFINED.

A. The ASA recognizes the following divisions and classifications of championship play. Each local association shall establish a classification code to determine team and/or player classification for championship play in the following divisions:

DIVISIONS	CLASSIFICATIONS
01. Men's Fast Pitch	Major A B C

Comments: Changes the Open Classification back to A.

Article: 506 A 07

DIVISIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY DEFINED.

A. The ASA recognizes the following divisions and classifications of championship play. Each local association shall establish a classification code to determine team and/or player classification for championship play in the following divisions:

DIVISIONS	CLASSIFICATIONS
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07. Men's (09) Man Modified Pitch

Comments: Removes the Class A and Major division of the 9 man Modified Pitch.

Article: 507 G NEW National Adult Fast Pitch Pitchers Classification Board.

01. Responsibilities. The National Pitcher Classification Board will oversee all aspects of the adult fast pitch pitcher classification. The Board will create procedures regarding classification.

a. The Board will consist of five people, one representative from each territory plus one at-large member, as shown:

- Eastern Territory**
- Northern Territory**
- Southern Territory**
- Western Territory**
- At large member to be assigned by ASA President.**

Note: If a territory cannot elect a representative, then the president will fill the vacancy by appointment

Article Number Change

- b. Each territory representative shall name a territorial subcommittee comprised of no less than five and no more than 9 people from their territory. Local association representatives will be assigned in conjunction with the Association Commissioner.

02. Duties.

- a. Each territory shall create and maintain a fast pitch pitcher classification.
- b. This board is to uphold the national pitchers list and classification strategy.
- c. This board in concert with the National ASA Office staff will oversee and maintain a national pitchers classification list.
- d. This board in concert with the National ASA National Office staff will communicate with the tournament directors of ASA National Championships to ensure all pitchers participating in ASA Fast Pitch events are within the established procedures.
- e. This board will also seek out further information by contacting local commissioners, player representatives, district commissioners, league directors, and tournament directors to acquire the best and most recent information on fast pitch pitchers.

03. Rules

- a. Male and Female pitchers that are classified Major Fast Pitch by the local association in which they reside must remain in that classification until changed by the same local association.
- b. Any Men's Class B or C Fast Pitch pitcher who earns First Team All Tournament, MVP or outstanding pitcher awards and whose team is reclassified pursuant to Article 507 (G) (02) or Article 507 (G)(03), must pitch at the higher classification their next ASA playing season.
- c. In all adult Fast Pitch, no USA National Team Member may participate below the Class A Classification.
- d. All Men's Fast Pitch players and or teams are eligible to participate in the Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship and retain their eligibility for their original classification in Championship Play.
- e. Men's Major Fast Pitch Players will be classified by a restricted fast pitch players list. The restricted fast pitch players list will be available on the ASA website and this list will be updated, modified and/or revised on a regular and continuous basis, but will be finalized by July 1 each year for the current year's National Championship Finals. The players on this list are ineligible to participate in the Men's Class A, B, and C Fast Pitch classification. Any appeals regarding this list can be made through the ASA National Office to the Fast Pitch Classification Board.

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04. Classification Appeal. Pitchers classified in accordance with this article have the right to appeal their classification after participating at the higher classification. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the team's local commissioner and should include game results and reason for appeal. The local commissioner shall evaluate the information presented and forward the appeal with their recommendation to the National Adult Fast Pitch Pitcher's Board. The National Adult Fast Pitch Pitchers Board shall review the information presented and make a determination on the appeal.

Comments: Adds a National Fast Pitch Pitchers Classification Board.

Article: 507 G 01

Mandatory Player Classification. Starting January 1 each year will start a player appeal process where each player can submit an appeal to have their player rating dropped. This process ends **August 1** and at that time appeals will not be accepted until January. We have taken our team procedures and based it on the ASA 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 that we have in place helps create a fair and level playing field for all of our teams not only at a local but also at a national level. Below are the procedures that we use on how to classify a team. Players on the ASA Restricted List can only participate in the Men's A or Coed Open Programs. **A Player may have a + designation, this player cannot play down a class.**

Comments: Extends the process for appeals one month and adds a + designation which will not allow players to play down to a lower classification.

Article: 507 G 03 b

Returning Players. A team that has a combination of four or more players on a roster, including pick-ups, from a team or teams subject to mandatory reclassification and/or restricted classification must maintain the classification as assigned by the mandatory classification rule.

EXCEPTION: Players that have successfully appealed and been granted a reclassification shall not be counted towards the four player rule for a returning team.

Comments: Allows players who have been approved for an appeal not to be counted toward the returning team rule.

Article: 507 G 04

New

04. Men's Masters 35-Over, 40-Over, and 45-Over Slow Pitch. Teams playing in Men's Masters 35-Over, 40-Over, and 45-Over Slow Pitch play shall not have more than two (2) players from the ASA Restricted Players List and two (2) Class A rated players, or no players from the Restricted Player List and four class A rated players.

Comments: To put restrictions on the amount of upper level players that can participate in the Masters Division.

Article Number
Article: 508 A

Change

Local Association Championships. Local Associations championship play at the state or metro championship, must follow ASA Code requirements except that Local Associations rules may be enacted for: Run rules, time limits, uniforms (except that a minimum a like shirt with numbers on the back), home run rules, stealing, metal cleats and fence distances. Local associations may not conduct championship play tournaments in locations outside of their association's boundaries without permission from that local association's commissioner. Local Associations may conduct JO qualifying tournaments for the following years championship play. Teams that participate in these tournaments must use age eligible players for the year the championship play will be played and must meet the returning team requirement to maintain their berth.

Comments: Allows Local Associations the opportunity to enact local rules for championship play.

Article: 509

Regional's, National Qualifiers, and Territorial Gold Qualifiers must be scheduled between a Friday and Sunday.

Comments: Requires that these events are played on a weekend.

Article: 509 C 02 g

Women's Major, Class A and B Fast Pitch. These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled on the weekend that includes the **second** Saturday in August and shall be scheduled for a minimum of four days, and shall be held at one site.

Comments: Changes the dates of the Women's Fast Pitch Championships.

Article: 509 C 04 d

Delete 504 C 04 D and re-number

Girls' ASA Class A and B Fast Pitch (all ages). These National Championship Finals shall be scheduled by the territory in which the tournament takes place, but must be scheduled between the weekend that contains the third Saturday of July and the weekend that includes the second Saturday of August and may have the option of commencing no earlier than Monday. Opening ceremonies may be held on that Monday. These championships are scheduled for a maximum of seven days.

Comments: Adds flexibility to the dates of the Girls Class A Fast Pitch National Championships.

Article 509 C 04 f

Girls' ASA Gold 18-Under Fast Pitch. This National Championship Final shall be scheduled and completed on the weekend that includes the **last** Saturday in **July** and not be held more than seven (7) days. This event won't have an opening ceremonies event and the managers meeting can't be scheduled prior to 6:00 PM on the prior Sunday.

Comments: Moves the Gold National Championship up one weekend.

Article: 510 A

A. Assessment Fees. Each team participating in ASA Championship play, not including state/metro championships shall be assessed an ASA fee (See Article 606 (D) Tournament Assessment Fees and Summary of Tournament Assessment Fees) of this Code.

Comments: Removes the reference of how much assessment fees are because they are listed in Article 606.

Article Number
Article: 510 D

Change

Entry Deadlines. An official team entry form and proper entry fee must be submitted to the tournament director of all National Championship Finals **seven (7) days** prior to commencement of the tournament.

Comments: States that entry form and fee must be submitted 7 days prior to the start of a championship.

Article: 510 M 06

Altered Bat. Any **person** discovered in **possession** of an altered bat **at or near the facility or grounds of a softball competition in which such equipment is not permitted to be used shall be subject to discipline pursuant to Article 505.** ASA shall have the right to take possession of a bat that is, in the sole discretion of the **official**, reasonably suspected to be an altered bat. In the event the suspected altered bat is tested and determined to be an altered bat, then the player shall surrender ownership of the altered bat to ASA; otherwise a bat of equal or greater value, **or a monetary equivalent**, in the sole discretion of ASA, shall be returned to the **owner of the subject bat.** A team that is discovered to have within its possession or control an altered bat may be suspended from further tournament competition.

Comments: Better defines Altered Bat.

Article: 511 A

Deletes references of Bracket protection with Championships that have pool play.

Comments: In tournaments with Pool Play remove all reference to protection in bracket play.

Article: 513 M

Previously Qualified. Junior Olympic Teams which have previously qualified for a National Championship Final may compete in other National Qualifiers. If a previously qualified team wins another berth from a National Qualifier, the highest finishing team without a berth will qualify.

Exception: Gold teams that have qualified for the Gold National Championship cannot play in the Gold National Qualifier.

Comments: Eliminates Gold Qualified teams from participating in the Gold National Qualifier.

Article: 516 G

Girls' Class A USA / ASA Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.

	18, 16, 14, 12, 10-Under
Defending Champion	1
Runner-Up	1
Host Teams	2
Hall of Fame – Not Applicable For 10-Under	8
National Qualifiers	15
East National Qualifier	1
West National Qualifier	1
Regional Berths – Two Teams from Each Region	30
Returning Teams from the previous year's USA / ASA National Championship Finals and ASA National Championship Finals	0 – 16

Article Number

Change

Association Berths based on previous year's Girls' Fast Pitch registrations: Associations registering 201 – 999 teams receives one (1) berth, for associations above 999 teams, those associations will receive an additional berth for each increment of 500 team registrations. As an example, an association that registers 2900 teams would receive 5 total berths. The best way to determine the berths is to take total registered teams and divide by 500 – the number of berths is the whole number – no rounding up.

Comments: Adds an East and West National Qualifier to the USA / ASA National Championships.

Article: 516 J

EFFECTIVE 2012

Junior Olympic GOLD Girls' 18-Under Fast Pitch

Returning Teams from the previous year's

ASA Territorial National Championship Finals

National Qualifier

Regional Champion

4

2

15

Regional Berths based on previous Year's Gold Participation in Regional Play:

Region with the highest participation	5	
Region with the second highest participation	5	
Region with the third highest participation	1	
Region with the fourth highest participation	1	
Region with the fifth highest participation	1	
Region with the sixth highest participation	1	
Region with the seventh highest participation	1	15

Territorial Berths based on previous Year's Gold Participation in Territorial Play:

Territory with the highest participation	12	
Territory with the second highest participation	12	
Territory with the third highest participation	4	
Territory with the fourth highest participation	4	32

Maximum Possible Number of Teams **68**

Comments: Adds 4 berths to the USA/ASA Gold National Championship Finals.

Article: 519 G

Delete second sentence

Comments: Eliminates reference to having the Tournament Report Notarized.

Article: 520 C

Delete 02, 03, 04, 07, 08, and 09; re-number

Comments: Deletes reference to Conflict in Schedule, Notification, Rosters, Suspension, Forfeits, and Player Identification for Non-Championship Invitational Tournament Play.

Article Number

Article: 601 A

Change

New and Re-letter

A. The Executive Director or his designee shall negotiate and secure the contract for the ASA Annual Council Meeting.

Note: If the Executive Director is unable to secure a contract, letter B takes effect.

Comments: Allows the Executive Director to secure a cost effective site for the ASA Annual Council Meeting.

Article: 602 F 01

Tournament Review Committee. Two (2) elected by each Territory and the immediate past president. This Committee can accept or reject bids.

Comments: Defines who makes up the Tournament Review Committee.

Article: 602 H 09

The Junior Olympic Girls 18 and Under Gold Fast Pitch will be rotated to Oklahoma City every **other** year and in the off years will be placed in other parts of the country by the Executive Director.

Comments: Rotates Gold into Oklahoma City every other year.

Article: 602 H 12

EFFECTIVE 2013

The Men's Masters Slow Pitch 35-Over and 45-Over will be played at the same site.

Comments: Places The Men's Masters Slow Pitch 35-Over and 45-Over in the same location.

Article: 602 H 13

There will be at least one USA/ASA Junior Olympic National Championship Finals in each Territory.

Comments: New process for awarding USA/ASA Junior Olympic National Championship Finals with at least one championship in each territory.

Article: 602 S

Pre-Tournament Fact Sheet. Host city must supply complete information for pre-tournament fact at **the conclusion of the council meeting in the year prior to the championship.** Failure to do so without a reasonable explanation may result in host city forfeiting right to bid on a National Championship Final for a period of one year and then only with approval of the ASA Executive Director.

Comments: Sets the deadline for when the Pre-tournament fact sheet is due.

Article: 602 U

New: A National Championship cannot be cancelled without prior approval from the Executive Director.

Comments: Establishes a process for canceling a National Championship.

Article Number
Article: 603 B 01

Change
Umpire Expense. Umpire expenses must include the following:

01. Game fees for adult fast pitch shall be **a minimum of \$25.00** per game; game fees for youth fast pitch shall be **a minimum of \$25.00** per game; Men's Major Fast Pitch shall be **a minimum of \$25.00** per game and Junior Olympic GOLD fast pitch game fees shall be **a minimum of \$25.00** per game. The number of umpires to be assigned per game is addressed in

Comments: Sets a minimum game fee for fast umpires.

Article: 603 B 03

03. Housing, local transportation for UIC and \$100.00 per diem/per day for the tournament umpire-in-chief. **The UIC shall arrive one day prior to the scheduled opening day of the Championship.**

Comments: Establishes when a UIC should arrive at a National Championship.

Article: 603 B 05

New

05. The UIC and Assistant UIC (if assigned) may share a room if deemed necessary by the Tournament Host Committee.

Comments: Allows the Tournament host the place the UIC and his Assistant in the same hotel room.

Article: 607 B 02 e

New and Re-letter

CATEGORY V

(49 - **96** Teams)

Teams Awards

First, Second, Third
Fourth and Two (2) Fifth Places
First, Second and Third Place

Individual Awards

Adult Division Only:

All-American Awards

First Team Awards and
Second Team Certificates
Leading Hitter

Batting Champion

Home Run Champion

MVP

Leading Home Run Hitter
Most Valuable Player

CATEGORY VI

(**97** – and above Teams)

Teams Awards

First, Second, Third
Fourth, Two (2) Fifth, and **Two (2) Seventh** Places

Individual Awards

Adult Division Only:

All-American Awards

First Team Awards and
Second Team Certificates
Leading Hitter

Batting Champion

Home Run Champion

MVP

Leading Home Run Hitter
Most Valuable Player

Comments: Establishes a new level of Championship Awards.

Article: 608

Delete Entire Article

Comments: This item is addressed in the Rule Book.

Article Number
Article: 609 E 01

Change

Listing of the official order of finish, **Post Tournament fact sheet, and tournament brackets** within 24 hours after conclusion of championship play.

Comments: Adds additional forms that are required to be submitted to the National Office at the conclusion of a Championship.

Article: 609 E 07

New

The following additional forms are also required to be submitted with in thirty (30) days after the tournament. Evaluations from teams, ASA Tournament Representative, Umpire-In-Chief, and Tournament Director; Souvenir Income Statement; Gate Receipts Report; and National Income State (tournament budget).

Comments: Adds additional forms that are required to be submitted to the National Office at the conclusion of a Championship.

Rev: 11/24/10