



Adult, JO state tournament participation also show increase during year **JO individual, team registrations up in 2011**

EVEN WITH A DOWN ECONOMY, the Tennessee ASA had an up year, according to James Ellis, who starts his seventh year as commissioner in 2012.

“2011 proved to be a great year despite a slight reduction in adult teams and umpires,” said Ellis. “Our adult totals decreased by 72 teams and the umpire numbers were 18 less than 2010. However, we had an increase in both JO individual registrations (188) and team registrations. We were able to increase our JO numbers by about 531 teams and also increased our state tournament participation in both the JO and adult programs. In addition, we had an increase in the number of umpires selected for national championships.”

Ellis was especially pleased with the work of his staff at the association’s annual meeting in December in Hendersonville. Ellis said he acted in more of a bystander role because the people (umpire-in-chief Phillip Davidson, deputy state commissioner Dave LeMarbre and Chattanooga JO commissioner Kim Swafford) handled their responsibilities in a professional, upbeat manner and made the meeting a success. The meeting concluded with the induction of nine new people into the Tennessee ASA Hall of Fame.

In 2011, Tennessee registered 811 adult



Team Watley, sponsored by former USA Olympian Natasha Watley, won the ASA Girls’ 10-under Fast Pitch National Championship in a 31-team field in Johnson City. The championship was one of the highlights of the Tennessee ASA in 2011. (Photo by Mike Carmo).

teams, 2,572 JO teams, which was an increase of 531, and 424 umpires, which was a decrease of 18. Tennessee also had an increase of 188 in individual registrations totaling 1,278.

In 2011, ASA registered 100,571 adult teams (2,573 decrease), 80,232 JO teams (3,730 increase) and 31,195 umpires (decrease of 1,303). Individual registrations totaled 373,016, an increase of 10,883 from 2010. □



2011 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES. L to R Front: Heather Jennings accepting for James “Skip” Evans (Manager), Mrs. Buck Brown accepting for Buck Brown (Player), Derwin Helton accepting for Lawrence “LA” Tucker (Meritorious Service), Back Row: Paul Potter (Player), Billy Green (Player), Joe Lockhart (Player), Tommy Everette (Player), Mal Stalcup (Player), Jack Armstrong (Meritorious Service), and Commissioner Ellis. (Please see story pg. 2)

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Comments From the Commish

James Ellis,
Tennessee ASA Commissioner

Thanks to Tennessee ASA staff, smooth ceremony gave 2011 inductees their due

THERE ARE TIMES AS AN ASA commissioner that you smile with pride about the work and effort of your staff.

You count on them throughout the year because no one person can run the Tennessee ASA. I was extremely pleased with the efforts of three members of our staff during the fall meeting in December.

It was a busy time as expected, but Dave LeMarbre, Phillip Davidson and Kim

Swafford all stepped up and handled their responsibilities in a professional manner to ensure that we had one of our best fall meetings since I was named commissioner seven years ago.

It makes a commissioner feel good to know he has people he can count on, and I certainly felt good knowing they had everything under control and were taking care of business.

I am a fortunate person with people I work with who care about the services we provide to the teams and umpires. We all are looking forward to another season of softball—the Tennessee ASA way.

The meeting was capped off by our annual Hall of Fame induction, and again we had a splendid induction with nine people enshrined. In the future, past Hall of Famers will be able to submit nominations to the Tennessee ASA Hall of Fame.

We had a turnout of around 120 people for the ceremonies at the beautiful, new Hendersonville Library—a \$13 million facility that opened in October 2008 with 38,000 square feet of space. The facility represents a joint effort by the City of Hendersonville, Sumner County, and private donors.

I was pleased with the induction, as I would imagine so were the inductees and their family members. The people honored deserved their recognition, and the Tennessee ASA was glad to give them their due.

Just as it takes teamwork on the field to have a winning season, it takes teamwork off the field to have an association that provides services to the thousands of people who look to the Tennessee ASA for leadership.

I am a fortunate person with people I work with who care about the services we provide to the teams and umpires. We all are looking forward to another season of softball—the Tennessee ASA way.

Stalcup, Everette headline 2011 Hall inductees

THE TENNESSEE AMATEUR Softball Association hosted its 6th Annual Hall of Fame Induction on Dec. 3 at the new Hendersonville Public Library. An estimated 120 attendees were on hand as a total of nine individuals were inducted into an elite class.

“This banquet was undoubtedly the best yet,” stated commissioner Ellis. “To be able to host this prestigious event in such a beautiful new \$13-million facility and to have 120 attendees was perfect as the Tennessee ASA Annual Meeting came to a close. I would like to thank our sponsor, Top Prospect Network, the Hall of Fame Committee, Hendersonville Parks Director Dave LeMarbre, and the City of Hendersonville for allowing us to pay tribute to these well-deserving individuals in such a remarkable setting.”

Teammates Mac Stalcup and Tommy Everette from Lebanon-based men’s slow-pitch powerhouse Le-Al-Co entered the Hall together. The categories and inductees were: Slowpitch James “Skip” Evans (Manager), Tommy Everette, Mac Stalcup,

and Buck Brown (Player), Fastpitch Paul Potter, Billy Green, Joe Lockhart (Player),

and Meritorious Service Lawrence “LA” Tucker and Jack Armstrong. □

E. Mac Stalcup, Jr.

Mac’s playing career spanned 32 years, from 1965-1996. He played slow pitch softball with Trailways, Rudder Construction, and Grassy Valley out of Knoxville, Maryville-based Rule & Lee, Kobax, Golden Gallon and Thurman-Bryant from Chattanooga, and Starpath from Kentucky. During his career, Mac played on 14 ASA State Championship teams, nine ASA Regional Championship teams, and played in 18 ASA Major and Super Division National Tournaments. Mac was named All-Tournament in numerous ASA State Tournaments, Smoky Mountain Classic, Pic-O-Dixie, Conway Twitty Classic, the Stroh’s Invitational, and numerous other National Tournaments. He was selected to the All-American or All-Tournament teams at least once in four decades, from the 1960s to the 1990s. In 1990 Mac won the batting title (30-35) with (.857) and the home run title with eight.

Tommy Everette

Tommy’s playing career started in 1966 and ended in 1989. During his 24-year career, he played with Trailways and Rudder Construction from Knoxville, Le-Al-Co from Lebanon, and Thurman-Bryant from Chattanooga. Tommy also played basketball for Carson-Newman from 1966-1969. He won a total of 14 ASA State championships, eight ASA Region championships, and played in 10 ASA National Championship Tournaments. He was named to the ASA National Tournament All-American team twice, including 1983 when he was named to the first team. He received All-Tournament awards in Tennessee ASA State Tournaments, Pic-O-Dixie, ASA Region Tournaments, Stroh’s Invitational, Conway Twitty Classic, Smoky Mountain Classic, and ASA National Tournaments.

Chattanooga hosts largest tournament in ASA history

172 teams compete in 16-Under ASA National

THE 2011 ASA 16-U National Fast Pitch Championship was hosted in Chattanooga, Tenn., July 31-Aug. 7. The 172-team event was the largest ASA National Championship ever and, with Chattanooga's rich ASA softball history, there could not have been a more appropriate venue.

The tournament boasted teams from 38 states and as far away as Seattle and Honolulu. More than 200 college coaches also attended to view potential recruits. The tournament needed all 516 games as The Next Level from Temecula, CA took the Georgia Impact to the "if" game and earned the much coveted ASA National Champion banner.

"Congratulations to The Next Level from Temecula, Calif.," Kim Swafford, director of the tourney, said following the event. "A true national champion has been crowned. Thank you to all of the teams, parents and fans for joining us this year. Along with the great city of Chattanooga, our goal was to provide great entertainment and the perfect atmosphere for competitive softball. We think we succeeded

(Please see **ASA NATIONAL** pg. 7)



The Next Level from Temecula, Calif., persevered over 172 teams to take the top spot in the ASA 16-U Fast Pitch National Championship, July 31-Aug. 7 in Chattanooga. Teams from 38 states competed in the largest national in ASA history. (Photo by Mike Carmo)

Tennessee ASA Briefs

2011 was historic year for the Tennessee ASA

2011 WAS A HISTORIC YEAR for the Tennessee Amateur Softball Association in two ways. It was the first year that the Tennessee ASA hosted two of the most prized Girls Class A Fast-Pitch National Tournaments. The tournaments were the USA/ASA Girls 10-under Championship, held at Johnson City, TN with 31 teams participating, and the Girls 16-under Nationals with a record 172 teams competing at Chattanooga.

"This speaks volumes for our association," said James Ellis, state commissioner. "Both Johnson City and Chattanooga have proven track records in hosting great ASA Nationals. The year 2011 was no different with both cities receiving the James Farrell Award of Excellence. It takes a tremendous amount of dedication by literally hundreds of

volunteers to ensure that we shine when teams visit from as far away as Hawaii and all across America and these cities have stepped to the forefront. In return, both cities realize millions of dollars in the economic impacts that these events produce."

Johnson City will host the USA/ASA Girls 18-under Class A Nationals in 2012 and the ASA Girls 14-under Class B Southern Nationals in 2013 while Chattanooga will host the USA/ASA Girls 12-under Nationals in 2013.

For information on how your city can host an ASA National Championship, contact James Ellis.

State emphasizing Class B and Class C/rec tourneys

WITH MORE AND MORE GIRLS playing Class B and Class C/Rec, the Tennessee ASA has placed a greater emphasis on

offering more Class B and Class C/Rec tournaments as well as additional invitational and qualifying tournaments for adults.

"We have established very attractive and competitive entry fees for our Girls Class B Fast-Pitch State Tournaments (\$150.00 per team for a three game format) and the Girls Class C Fast-Pitch (\$100.00 per team for double elimination)," said James Ellis, Tennessee commissioner, who said the format for B and C are East and West thus making it more affordable for teams to participate.

The East boundaries are all areas from and including Chattanooga to Johnson City and will make up the East State and all areas west of Chattanooga will make up the West State. Johnson City was successful in attracting the ASA Girls Class B Fast-Pitch Southern

(Please see **ASA BRIEFS** pg. 8)

ASA offers many benefits at reasonable cost

IN TODAY'S ECONOMIC TIMES, local Recreation Departments are challenged with budget constraints more so than ever before. There are many options when trying to choose which softball organization can provide your program with the most benefits at a reasonable cost. When you review all the offerings, the clear choice is the ASA.

The Amateur Softball Association is a non-profit organization recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as "The National Governing Body of Softball." Through its 76 local associations, the ASA has a membership of more than 1.2 million girls, 1.8 million adult players, and more than 35,000 umpires. Whether it is a six-year-old or a 75-year-old, slow-pitch, fast-pitch, or modified pitch player, the ASA program truly has something for everyone. Examples of this include:

INSURANCE

Competitively priced plans for municipalities, field owners, teams, tournament and clinic insurance. These plans assist cities in reducing their liability exposure when hosting league and tournament play. For more than 50 years, Bollinger Insurance and ASA have partnered to provide excellent insurance plans to their players, teams, umpires, tournaments, and cities.

BG CHECKS

We offer background checks for all volunteer coaches and umpires. These checks are mandatory for championship play and they are made available through ASA at a fraction of the cost of most background checks due to the quantity conducted.

UMPIRES

The umpire training program is one of the finest in any sport. Clinics and



Whether it is a six-year-old or a 75-year-old, slow-pitch, fast-pitch, or modified-pitch player, the Tennessee ASA program truly has something for everyone.

Schools are provided to all registered umpires on a Local, District, State, and National level. ASA has released an animated DVD to better assist umpires in developing and enhancing their skills. All ASA umpires are required to complete/ pass the ASA National Umpire Exam and their insurance is provided with their registration.

PLAYERS AND COACHES TRAINING

ASA offers clinics, camps, videos, and publications to assist coaches and players of all ages to advance their skills. ASA offers the ACE Certification program for its volunteer coaches and this program can be administered on-site or online. Some of softball's greatest coaches and players have assisted ASA in producing these educational materials.

MATERIALS

Every team who registers with ASA receives a copy of the ASA rules of Softball, a team scorebook, *Balls & Strikes* online publication, and other softball related materials. These materials are a benefit

to our registered teams and umpires and are not for sale.

EQUIPMENT

Participant safety is one of our priorities and ASA maintains the highest level of equipment standards ensuring the utmost safety to all its participants. This is an important factor when considering which organization you should register your rec league with.

TOURNAMENTS

ASA has Championship Play beginning at the local level and continuing to the District, State, and National Championships for teams of all ages. In addition, cities that register their teams and umpires are eligible to host such events, thus realizing a large economic impact for their community.

SUPPORT

Tennessee ASA is divided into Districts with each having a District Commissioner, JO Commissioner, and an Umpire-In-Chief. These individuals are available to you when you need them. Whether it pertains to questions concerning registration, rule interpretations, playing equipment, fundraising programs, etc., we are here to assist you in ensuring a successful season.

For more information about Tennessee ASA or to register, please visit our website at:

www.tennesseeasa@clubspaces.com

Tennessee ASA INSIDER/FEB. 2012

Anaconda Trump again official ball of TN ASA

TENNESSEE STATE COMMISSIONER James Ellis announced that Anaconda Trump will again be the official softball of the Tennessee ASA in the season ahead. "We are certainly pleased with the arrangement we have with Anaconda Trump," said Ellis. "We enjoy working with Bill Plummer, the Anaconda Trump representative. He has given our people excellent service and fair prices in getting the Trump ball and products to the members of the Tennessee ASA."

2012 Tennessee ASA Staff



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(continued from previous page)

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TENNESSEE



For more information on
Tennessee ASA, go to:

<http://tennesseesa.clubspaces.com>

Former Tennessee pitcher Abbott in new book

DURING HER FOUR YEARS at the University of Tennessee, southpaw pitcher Monica Abbott put the softball program on the map, with the Vols finishing third twice and second once in the NCAA Women's College World Series. During her four-year career, Tennessee played 297 games and Monica pitched in 253 of them.

Now Monica, who in 2011 hurled her team to the National Pro FastPitch Championship, is one of 19 people profiled in softball's newest book, *Best of the Best—Women's Fast Pitch Softball*, published by Clear Vision Publishing, Inc. of Manalapan, N. J.

Co-authored by Bill Plummer, former manager of the ASA Hall of Fame, and Dr. Steven Clarfield, a former fast pitch hurler for more than three decades, the book highlights 19 people who were difference makers in softball. Three consistent themes ran through the book: Growing Smarter, Grace Under Pressure, and Doing Good by Being Good.

Besides Abbott, also profiled in the book are Debbie Doom, Lisa Fernandez, Stacey Nuveman, Natasha Watley, Carol Spanks, Judi Garman, Margie Wright, Dot Richardson, Shawn Andaya, Mike Candrea, Ralph Raymond, Michele Smith, Jennie Finch, Cat Osterman, Sue Enquist, Sharron Backus, Cindy Bristow and Joan Joyce.

This is the second time Plummer and

Clarfield have combined on a book. In 2004, Clarfield wrote a book on legendary pitcher Ty Stofflet, ("Softball's Lefty Legend") with Plummer contributing an 11-page piece on Stofflet's 20-inning, no-hitter in the 1976 ISF World Championship in Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

Plummer retired from the ASA in 2009 after a 30-plus-year career and is a member of five Halls of Fame, including the ASA National Softball Hall of Fame (inducted in 1999). He is still involved in the sport, serving as a columnist for the Lowe's CLASS Award and a member of the Selection Committee to pick college softball's top player each year.

Clarfield has been a practicing clinical and community psychologist since 1972. He started his softball career as a pitcher at age 15. During the period 1964-1972, he took a break from playing to earn a Ph.D. before returning to play top-level fast pitch from 1974 to 1989.

The book has a 16-page color section with an additional 39 black and white photos scattered throughout the book. In addition to the 19 people profiled, another 58 people are recognized in chapter 20 for being difference makers in the sport. The book is available now and sells for \$16.95. The book can be purchased at www.Plummersoftball.com or www.CVPublishing.com. □



Monica Abbott, who in 2011 hurled her team to the National Pro FastPitch Championship, is one of 19 people profiled in softball's newest book, *Best of the Best—Women's Fast Pitch Softball*.

ASA NATIONAL (from pg. 3)

and hope many will come back for more softball in Chattanooga."

The Greater Chattanooga Sports and Events Committee estimated that the tournament had a \$3.6 million economic impact on the Chattanooga area. The tournament festivities kicked off on the July 31 weekend with team registration and a managers' lunch at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel. Opening ceremonies were held nearby at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's McKenzie Arena.

University of Tennessee co-head coaches Ralph and Karen Weekly were the keynote speakers and reminded the players to "savor the experience of competing in an ASA National Championship." University of Tennessee pitcher Ivy Renfroe threw out the first pitch to officially begin the tournament. The teams and 90-plus umpires were then treated to a pizza and pin-trading party and an ASA-only tour of the Tennessee Aquarium, a tourist attraction located in downtown Chattanooga on the Tennessee River.

Pool play kicked off at 8 a.m. Monday

with games at the eight-field Summit of Softball Complex and the six-field Warner Park Complex. All day Tuesday, as pool

games ended, coaches from each pool were sent to the "command center" to
(Please see **ASA NATIONAL** pg. 8)



ABOVE AND RIGHT: The action was fierce as the August sun as 172 teams vied in the 2011 ASA 16-U Fast Pitch National Championship in Chattanooga. (Photos by Mike Carmo)

Tennessee umpires stay busy with nationals

TENNESSEE'S 424 ASA UMPIRES have been called upon to work more national tournaments per capita than any other umpires in the United States. Since 1992, Tennessee has hosted 16 national tournaments, which is as many or more than all other states. This means that Tennessee's umpires have been required to maintain a high level of proficiency. Each year Tennessee umpires are asked to work national tournaments in other states.

Nearly all Tennessee umpires have attended national umpire and regional umpires' schools. Off season they work in the TSSAA, OVC, SEC and other collegiate conferences. Tennessee has three ISF qualified umpires both in fast-pitch and slow-pitch. Two of Tennessee's umpires, the late Herman Beagles, and present Memphis ASA commissioner Tony Walsh, are members of the ASA

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take their turn drawing for bracket play. The tournament directors purposely chose to conduct the draw in this manner to avoid the usual three-hour draw sessions lasting until midnight. The goal was to get the bracket posted on line as quickly as possible to make sure the players, coaches, parents and college coaches had plenty of notice regarding game times and locations.

The eight tournament directors were able to communicate with umpires, coaches and fans through the tournament website and also through a mass texting system set up to deal with any bracket changes or weather delays. Chattanooga was fortunate to have ASA representative Cindy Inman and tournament co-UICs Gene Hutter and Steve Rizwold, who provided wisdom and guidance throughout the tournament.

The weather fates were on Chattanooga's side as the entire week was dry, albeit hot and humid. The numerous volunteers from Chattanooga Parks and Recreation worked tirelessly in the extreme heat to make sure everyone onsite had plenty of water and bus rides into the parks. All of the tournament directors agreed that without the benefit of dry weather, it would have been a real challenge to complete the 516 games required to name the 2011 ASA 16U National Champion. □

Hall of Fame, which is two out of only 35 from across the entire nation. Tennessee's umpire organization is one of the best in the country. Every district has a UIC who insures that only the best qualified umpires serve the teams that play ASA ball. Training and selection are the keys to a successful umpire program. Tennessee's reputation for superior umpiring and long history of service to ASA speaks for the quality of the entire program.

"We have a great umpire program and Phil Davidson is a tremendous asset to the Tennessee ASA program. His exceptional leadership skills and softball knowledge in his position of State Umpire-In-Chief assures us that our umpires are being trained by the best," says Tennessee state commissioner James Ellis.

Phil has been an ASA umpire since 1990. From 1997 to 2007, Phil served as the Tennessee State UIC. In 2008, he retired only to return again as State UIC in 2009. Phil is a graduate of the ASA National School and has umpired in TSSA, the OVC and the SEC. Phil worked ASA National Championships in the 12U FP, served as the Assistant UIC for the 14U FP, two 18U FP, the 18U Gold Nation-

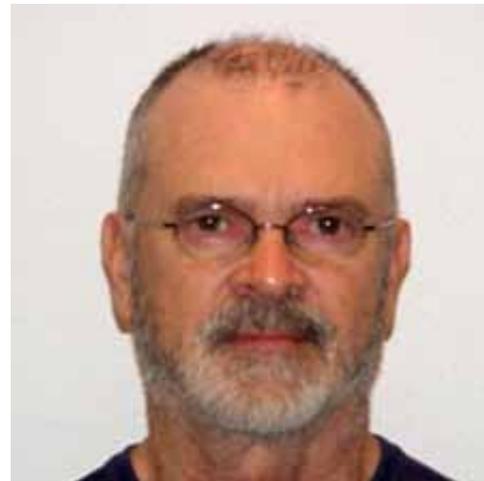
ASA Briefs (from p. 3)

National Championship for 2013. Ellis is optimistic that additional future Class B Nationals will be hosted in Tennessee. "Our Girls Class C program is for rec league teams and currently teams can advance from the local level to the State Tournament."

The 2012 Class B and Class C/Rec



**Heather Ellis
of East Tennessee Eclipse**



UIC Phil Davidson

als, and umpired the 18U Gold as well as the Women's A and Majors. He was also the UIC of the Women's Church Slow-pitch National Championship.

In addition to his umpiring background, Phil coached travel teams for 12 years and participated in three ASA Nationals. He coached high school softball for Father Ryan for 15 years and led his team to the state championship title in 2006. "We are very fortunate to have Phil lead our umpire program and look forward to a successful year in 2012," Ellis says. □

States are as follows: East (Cleveland) and West (Dyersburg). The dates are June 8-9-10. Teams should contact their District JO Commissioner for more information.

Want to be a part of the Tennessee ASA Family?

THE TENNESSEE ASA is seeking individuals in various parts of the state who are interested in serving as a district or district JO commissioner as well as those persons who might want to serve as the district umpire-in-chief.

"We have a great network of individuals who serve in 17 districts and we are looking to fill a few vacancies," says commissioner James Ellis.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Tennessee ASA family of commissioners or umpire-in-chiefs, you should contact a board member or the state commissioner. □



**TENNESSEE
AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
2012
STATE TOURNAMENTS**



Junior Olympic

Girl's 18-16-14-12-10-8/U Class A FP	Chattanooga	July 13-15
Girl's 18-16-14-12-10-8/U Class B FP East	Cleveland	June 8-10
Girl's 18-16-14-12-10-8/U Class B FP West	Dyersburg	June 8-10
Girl's 18-16-14-12-10-8-6/U Class C/Rec FP East	Cleveland	June 8-10
Girl's 18-16-14-12-10-8-6/U Class C/Rec FP West	Dyersburg	June 8-10
Girl's 18-16-14-12-10/U Slow-pitch	Cleveland	June 8-10

Note: Class A Entry Fee is \$275.00 (three-game guarantee)
 Class B Entry Fee is \$150.00 (three-game guarantee)
 Class C/Rec & Slow-pitch Entry Fee is \$100.00 (double elimination) 8U-6U Free
 Softballs are furnished for all State Tournaments

New for 2012: All teams (including those who have won a qualifier) must participate in the State Tournament in order to advance to the National Championship.

Adult

Men's B Open East	6HRS	Maryville	August 11-12
Men's B Open West	6HRS	Hendersonville	August 11-12
Men's C Open East	4HRS	Maryville	August 11-12
Men's C Open West	4HRS	Hendersonville	August 11-12
Men's D Open East	2HRS	Maryville	August 11-12
Men's D Open West	2HRS	Hendersonville	August 11-12
Men's E/Rec Open East	0HR/IE	Maryville	August 11-12
Men's E/Rec Open West	0HR/IE	Hendersonville	August 11-12
Men's Industrial	6HRS	Chattanooga	July 28-29
Men's Church East	6HRS	Chattanooga	July 28-29
Men's Church West	6HRS	Hendersonville	August 4-5
Women's D Open	2HRS	Maryville	August 11-12
Co-Ed Open-Church-Industrial per ASA		Chattanooga	July 28-29

Note: Entry Fee is \$200.00 (double elimination) Softballs Furnished

To enter a State Tournament:

Contact your Local District Commissioner by going to <http://tennesseeeasa.clubspaces.com> then select District Contacts. Each team must submit to their District Commissioner a completed ASA Championship Roster and Entry Fee. The deadline for submission by your District Commissioner to the State Host is 7 days prior to the start date of the tournament. The District Commissioner will forward the team materials to the tournament host.

For a complete listing of all Tennessee ASA tournaments, please visit our website at
<http://tennesseeeasa.clubspaces.com> and click on the Calendar