

USA SOFTBALL™

2017 USA Softball Procedural Manual Changes with Comments as of November 18, 2016

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2017 unless otherwise noted.

Article Number Article 101 D

Change

D. **Regional** Vice Presidents.

01. Nominations. Candidates for **Regional** Vice President shall submit their name to the National Office no later than 30 days prior to the National Council Meeting. **Regional** Vice President Candidates must have and maintain National Council Member Status and reside within their respective **regional** boundaries.
02. Election. **One Regional** Vice President shall be elected in each region. The **Regional** Vice Presidents shall come from the Council members of their respective **region** and shall be elected by a majority vote of these same Council members. **Five (5)** representatives will be elected each year. This election will take place at the Annual Council Meeting.
03. Term of Office. **Regional** Vice Presidents shall serve a term of two years that shall begin at the end of the last Board of Directors Meeting following the conclusion of the Council meeting.
04. Removal. A **Regional** Vice President may be removed for just cause by a two – thirds (2 / 3) vote of the **regional** National Council members or a two – thirds (2 / 3) vote of the Board of Directors.
05. Vacancy. If a **Regional** Vice President resigns, dies, retires or is otherwise unable to continue, then the vacancy will be filled by a vote of the National Council members of their respective **region** or by the Board of Directors until the next **Regional** election.
06. Duties.
 - a. **A Regional Vice President shall represent their Region on the Board of Directors and shall chair their Regional meetings.**
 - b. **Regional Vice Presidents will verify that all National Championship Finals and National Qualifiers in their Region are listed on TournamentASA.com.**
 - c. **Regional Vice Presidents will file a quarterly report form with the President that addresses any production, compliance and/or ethics issues, or any other issues of the associations in their region.**
 - d. **Regional Vice Presidents will communicate with the Commissioners in their region on a regular basis.**
 - e. **May share the duties of the Regional Director.**

Comments: Creates Regional Vice Presidents to serve on the Board of Directors and establishes duties for them.

Article 102 A

Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be selected regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status, national origin or ancestry except as may be required by the United States Olympic Committee to ensure adequate athlete representation and female representation of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows: President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, **three female** athlete representatives **and one male athlete representative** elected by the athletes, one at-large member elected annually by the Board of Directors.

Comments: Establishes who will serve on the Board of Directors.

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Article Number Article 102 B 03

Change

Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of all eligible voting members of the Board of Directors. Approval of any business before the Board of Directors shall take a minimum of **ten (10)** affirmative votes.

Comments: Establishes a requirement of ten votes for the Board of Directors to take action.

Article 102 B 04

Proxy. Authorization for representation of a **Regional** Vice President by proxy may be obtained by submitting a request for same in writing to the Executive Director at least one week prior to the date of any Board of Directors meeting. **Any proxy request must be approved by a majority of the commissioners within their represented region.**

Comments: Establishes an approval process for Proxies of a Regional Vice President.

Article 105 H

Right to Appeal. **A commissioner may appeal their removal to a committee composed as listed below. The ruling of this committee shall be final.**

01. **USA Softball Executive Director or their designee, a member of the National Office Staff.**

02. **One (1) USA Softball Council Member appointed by the President, may not be a member or the Board of Directors.**

03. **One (1) USA Softball Council Member chosen by the removed commissioner may not be a member of the Board of Directors nor a member of the removed commissioner's region.**

04. **The President or their designee, a member of the Board of Directors, shall represent the Board of Directors with no vote in the appeal.**

Comments: Establishes who will serve on an appeal committee for a commissioner if they are removed by the Board of Directors.

Article 113 B 01 a 03

NOTE: ~~If a player has any combination of five all star teams, they shall be eligible for consideration.~~ National Championship Final averages and statistics plus number of times competing in a National Championship Final shall be used. Any special recognition at a National Championship Final shall be considered, such as leading hitter, defensive leader, stolen base leader, home run leader or Most Valuable Player (MVP).

Comments: Eliminates five all star teams as an option for consideration for the Hall of Fame. All-Star teams are no longer selected.

Article 113 B 01 a

Prerequisites **Minimum requirements for consideration include multiple All-American first or second team selections or national team experience for a minimum of three years.**

Delete Current a, b, c, and d sections.

Comments: Establishes new guidelines for players to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

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Article Number

Change

Article 113 B 01 b

Umpires. In order to be selected as an umpire, an umpire must meet the following criteria:

01. Umpired for a period of fifteen (15) years.
02. Umpired in three (3) national championships, preferably at the higher classification.
03. Must have been retired at least three (3) years from major competition.
04. Contributions to the National Umpire Program
05. Contributions to the success of the Umpire-in-Chief clinic.
06. Effective as a clinician of the National or International level or for the military level.
07. Effective as an instructor at National Umpire Schools.

Comments: Establishes new guidelines for umpires to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

Article 113 C 04

Selections. A Maximum of ten (10) individuals selected to the Hall of Fame on an annual basis, there will not be any limits on the number of selections per category type.

Comments: Establishes a maximum number that can be selected to the Hall of Fame each year and eliminates category restrictions.

Article 113 C 08

Removal. The Hall of Fame committee, by three – fourths (3 / 4) vote, may with just cause, recommend removal of an individual elected to the Hall of Fame. Such recommendations, when approved by a three – fourths (3 / 4) vote of the Board of Directors, shall remove said individual from the Hall of Fame.

Comments: Changes procedure for removing a Hall of Fame member.

Article 202 C

New and re-letter. Commissioner Appointment. This Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding commissioner's interim status to include but not limited to review of meeting the requirements outlined in Article 105 (D) (Duties and Penalties) of this Procedural Manual as well as the following:

1. Interview commissioner to determine status.
2. Review association business plan.
3. Review items that association has implemented for growth.
4. Review staff appointments made by commissioner.

Comments: Establishes the Commissioner Appointment Committee as a standing committee.

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Article Number Article 202 M 05

Change

Tournament Programs and Awards Committee. Delete 05.

~~05. Accept bids and award tournaments in the categories listed in Article 318, of the ASA Code.~~

Comments: Removes the responsibility of awarding championships from the Tournament Programs and Awards Committee.

Article 302 H

New 13. The following Championships will be placed and approved by the Executive Director.

- a. Men's Modified Pitch
- b. Fast Pitch National Invitational Tournaments (NIT)
- c. Men's Senior East / West Slow Pitch
- d. Women's Masters 35-Over Slow Pitch
- e. Girls' Slow Pitch
- f. Boy's Slow Pitch
- g. Men's Major and Class A 16-Inch Slow Pitch
- h. Slow Pitch National Invitational Tournaments (NIT)
- i. All Boy's and Men's Fast Pitch
- j. Women's Slow Pitch
- k. Coed Slow Pitch

Comments: Establishes events to be placed by the Executive Director.

Article 302 H 08

08. The Junior Olympic USA Softball Girls 16-Under Gold and 18-Under Gold Fast Pitch National Championship Finals site will be determined by the Executive Director.

Comments: Gives the Executive Director more flexibility when placing the Gold National Championship Finals.

Article 303 A

Assessment Fee. An assessment fee of \$100.00 per team shall be paid to USA Softball (\$25.00 for Slow Pitch and Adult Fast Pitch).

Comments: Changes the assessment fee for Adult Fast Pitch National Championship Finals.

Article 306 B 02 b

b. Category II (17 - 48 Teams)
Adult Team Awards - First, Second and Third Place
Adult Individual Awards - First, and Second Medallion on Ribbon

c. Category III (49 - above Teams)
Adult Teams Awards, First, Second, Third and Fourth Place
Adult Individual Awards - First, Second and Third Place Medallion on Ribbon

Comments: Establishes what type of awards will be awarded to adult individuals at National Championship Finals.