

# **THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA**

As amended at the  
Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Council Meeting  
March, 2005 and the 2005 Amateur Softball Association National Council Meeting

## **ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1.01 NAME**

The name of the organization shall be The Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania. The headquarters of the Association shall be located in Columbia, Pennsylvania with offices at 3955 Columbia Avenue, Columbia, Pennsylvania 17512.

The Association shall be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### **1.02 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- (a) To promote amateur softball, within the boundaries assigned to the Association by the Amateur Softball Association of America, for all persons regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, or ancestry.
- (b) To promote all phases of amateur softball including Men's, Women's, Youth, Industrial, Church, Fraternal and Civic.
- (c) To establish uniform softball rules and regulations that can be observed by all its members.
- (d) To provide the game of softball with the proper safeguards, in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship, so that the game will be fostered as a non professional sport, engaged in by its members as a recreational activity.
- (e) To encourage the union of all eligible teams, organizations, or groups, into such separate divisions of play, with active membership in the Association, as is deemed necessary to advance the cause of amateur softball.
- (f) To establish and maintain, by allied and affiliated membership, alliances with other organizations devoted to the promotion of amateur softball.
- (g) To conduct well organized and planned Qualifying, District, Area, State, Regional and National Tournaments, in all divisions of play where possible.
- (h) To be represented in all divisions of play in Regional and/or National Area and National Championship Tournaments.
- (i) To define areas and districts in a manner that will benefit member teams.
- (j) To educate and train, in the proper skills of amateur softball play and rules, through promoting, organizing and conducting clinics, seminars and training course.

### **1.03 RULES**

The official Rules of Softball and the Code of the Amateur Softball Association of America/USA Softball shall be, and hereby are made a part of, the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association, and with like force and effect as if they were herein set forth. Where a conflict occurs, the rules and regulations as they are specifically written within this Association's Constitution and By-laws shall have precedence unless specifically involved with teams advancing to National Championship Play.

### **1.04 JURISDICTION**

The Association is the governing body of amateur softball played within the state of Pennsylvania, except for softball played in the county of Philadelphia and is so recognized as such by the Amateur Softball Association of America/USA Softball.

### **1.05 DEFINITIONS**

Whenever used in this Code, unless otherwise specifically mentioned, the following words, terms, and phrases are defined to mean:

1. "Amateur" – An Amateur Softball Player who engages in the sport solely for the pleasure, physical, mental, or social benefits he or she derives there from, and to whom softball is no more than an avocation.
2. "Area" – A group of three or more Districts.
3. "A.S.A." or ASA/USA Softball – Amateur Softball Association of America, the National Organization
4. "A.S.A. of PA" – Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania – the State Organization.
5. "Association" – Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.
6. "Bonified Resident" – A person actually residing within the ASA of PA Area.
7. "Borderline Resident" – Is one who resides at a location that is near the borderline between two or more states or metro association, ie. The Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania and another state or metro association bordering it.
8. "Championship Tournament" – A tournament from which the winner and/or other selected teams may advance to a higher level of play toward a State, Regional, National, or National Championship Final.
9. "Code" – The Constitution and By-Laws of the ASA of PA.
10. "Council" – The Governing Body of the Association.
11. "District" – A geographical area, encompassing a specific county or counties within the territory of the A.S.A. of PA.
12. "Host Team" – A team selected to represent the sponsoring organization of a Championship Tournament.
13. "Ineligible Player" – A player who is not eligible to participate in ASA competition.
14. "Invitational Tournament" – A Tournament that does not lead to a Championship Tournament, and that is sanctioned by the ASA of PA.
15. "Pickup Player" – Any individual not participating as a regular season roster member of the same particular team in the same league. In order to be eligible as a Pickup Player that individual

must meet all of the requirements as stated in the Code of The Amateur Softball Association of America. Pickup Players must have played for an ASA registered team during the current season and must have played in the same division of play and at the same or lower classification as the team for which they are being picked up.

16. "State Office" – The headquarters of the ASA of PA.

17. "Suspension of the Rules" – While in regular session and with the consent of ¾ of the council members voting, the council may vote to consider any provision of the ASA of PA.

## **1.06 AMENDMENTS**

A. This code may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council Members voting at the Annual Spring Meeting, providing the proposed amendment was presented to the Secretary of the Association by one member of the Council, in writing, at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

(1) The State Office will make all proposed amendments available to each member of the Council in attendance at the Annual Spring Council Meeting.

(2) A change may be made to a proposed amendment that is being considered by the Council with the permission of the presenter. A change may also be made in any proposed amendment by consent of ¾ majority of all Council Members voting on the proposed change. However, any proposed amendment that has been changed must receive a ¾ vote of the Council Members voting in order to be approved.

(3) While in regular session and with consent of ¾ of the Council Members voting, the Council may vote to consider any provision of the ASA of PA.

B. All amendments approved at the Annual Spring Meeting shall go into effect on the first day of January of the next year unless an earlier date is specified in the proposed amendment.

## **ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP**

### **2.01 TEAMS**

(a) Adult – The membership of the ASA of PA is open to any team, providing they play in a league where all of the teams are registered with the ASA of PA, and they are able to abide by this Code, and who pay the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Note: A league is defined as a group of four (4) or more teams, playing a minimum of eight (8) games, scheduled over no less than a thirty (30) day period, with no more than two (2) games being played in one (1) day. This shall include both Adult and Youth play.

(b) Independent Adult – The membership of the ASA of PA is open to the independent team unable to play in an available organized ASA sanctioned league providing they are able to abide by this Code, and who pay the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Note: An Independent Adult Team will only be eligible to compete in Championship Play Tournaments that lead to National Championships in either the Adult Class "A" Major or Super Divisions of play. To be eligible to compete in these Tournaments, the team must have the written approval of the District Commissioner and State Commissioner.

(c) Youth – Youth membership is open to teams of local athletic associations or organizations where all teams within that athletic association or organization are registered members of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.

Note: With the various benefits the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania offers its members, it is our policy to accept only those teams from associations where all teams within their program are registered with the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.

(d) Independent Youth – The membership of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania is open to the independent team unable to play in an available organized Amateur Softball Association sanctioned league providing they are able to abide by this Code, and who pay the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Note: Unless approved by the State commissioner or State Junior Olympic Commissioner, an independent youth team will be eligible to compete only in Championship Play Tournaments that lead to a National Championship at the highest level of play available in their respective age group. (Junior Olympic Gold Level for 18 and Under Girls' Fast Pitch and the Class "A" Level Tournaments for all other age groups.) To be eligible to compete in these Tournaments, the team must have the approval of the District commissioner, State Junior Olympic Commissioner and the State Commissioner.

### **2.02 PLAYERS**

(a) Players may sign only one (1) Championship roster per type or division of play each year for advance play.

### **2.03 UMPIRES**

(a) Adult – The membership of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania is open to all umpires that are members of a local umpiring association that holds an Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Charter, are able to abide by this Code, and who pay the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

(b) Youth – The membership of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania is open to umpires who will not reach their eighteenth birthday prior to September 1 of the current year, after receiving the recommendation of their District Umpire-in-Chief and paying the required dues as set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

### **2.04 ALLIED MEMBERS**

Allied members are such associations as may enter into alliances with the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania, to further the promotion of amateur softball. Allied members shall pay dues of fifty dollars (\$50) annually unless waived by unanimous vote of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

## **2.05 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

- (a) Players, managers, and coaches, automatically acquire membership in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania upon payment of the team registration fee by their team.
- (b) Associate members are those individuals who desire to aid in the promotion of Amateur Softball and who have previously served as members of the Council. Associate members shall pay an annual membership fee and shall be entitled to attend the Annual Spring Meeting of this Association without voice, and to receive the official publications of the Amateur Softball Association and the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.
- (c) Trade members are those companies who desire to aid in the promotion of amateur softball. Trade members shall pay an annual fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) and meet all requirements established by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and shall be entitled to receive the official publications of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania. The privilege of exhibiting at the Annual Spring Meeting shall be extended to those meeting the requirements for such as established by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

## **2.06 TERM OF MEMBERSHIP**

All memberships are annual and expire on December 31 of the current year.

# **ARTICLE 3 – OFFICERS, PLAYER REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER OFFICIALS**

## **3.01 TITLES**

- (a) The titles of the elected officers of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania are President and Vice Presidents.
- (b) The Chief Advisor of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania shall be the State Commissioner who is appointed by the Amateur Softball Association.
- (c) The officers of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania shall include the President, Vice Presidents and all members of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

## **3.02 DISTRICT COMMISSIONER**

- (a) Nomination – A new District Commissioner should be recommended by the Area Vice President.
- (b) Appointment – After reviewing the recommendation of the Vice President, the State Commissioner will make the appointment.
- (c) Term of Office – A District Commissioner shall serve until he or she resigns or is removed from office.
- (d) Removal – A District Commissioner may be removed at any time for just cause by the State Commissioner.
  - (1) A decision to remove may be appealed by the District Commissioner, in writing, to the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
  - (2) The BOARD OF DIRECTORS may sustain the removal action taken by the State Commissioner by a majority vote.
  - (3) The decision of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS is final.
- (e) Duties – The duties of a District Commissioner are those duties promulgated by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and State Commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to the following:
  - (1) Being responsible for all monies and dues owed to the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.
  - (2) Promote Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania in the counties and areas assigned.
  - (3) Appoint a District Umpire-In-Chief.
  - (4) Appoint all District Deputy Commissioners, County Commissioners and Area Directors and approve their appointees.
  - (5) Send all registrations to the State Office no later than one (1) week after receiving same.
  - (6) Police all sanctioned tournaments within the District.
  - (7) Administer all Championship Tournaments within the District and file all tournament results with the State Office within three (3) days of the completion of the Tournament.
  - (8) Classify each Fast Pitch pitcher and all teams in the District not previously classified by the State, Regional or National Classification Committee or the Code of the Amateur Softball Association of America.
  - (9) Attend the Annual Spring and Fall Meeting of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.
  - (10) Attend all meetings of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Commissioners Council.

## **3.03 VICE PRESIDENTS**

- (a) Election – A Vice President from the eligible Council Members of each area shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Area Meeting.
- (b) Term of Office – Vice Presidents shall serve a term of one (1) year and be eligible for reelection.
- (c) Removal – A Vice President may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

- (d) Duties – The Vice President's duties shall include but not be limited to the following:
  - (1) Represents his area on the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
  - (2) Conduct an area meeting prior to March 1.
  - (3) May appoint an Area Umpire-In-Chief.
  - (4) Assist the President in the performance of his duties. The Senior Vice President shall act in the absence or inability of the President to perform.
  - (5) Appoint an Area Junior Olympic Youth Commissioner.
- (e) Vacancies – If the Vice President for any reason dies, resigns, is unable to act, or is removed from Office, then a New Vice President shall be appointed by the State Commissioner with the ultimate approval of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS until such time as a new Vice President is elected at the next meeting.

#### **3.04 PRESIDENT**

- (a) Nominations – Presidential candidates shall be nominated at the Annual Spring Meeting.
- (b) Election – The President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council.
- (c) Term of Office – The President shall serve a term of one (1) year and is eligible for reelection.
- (d) Vacancy – If the President is absent or unable to perform, the Senior Vice President in terms of service as a Commissioner, shall act as President. If a President resigns or is removed from office, a new President shall be elected by a majority vote of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS from among its members until a new President is elected at the Annual Spring Meeting.
- (e) Removal – A President may be removed for just cause by a two-thirds majority vote of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- (f) Duties – The duties of the President shall include but not be limited to the following:
  - (1) Preside at all sessions of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and the Council.
  - (2) Direct the policies of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.
  - (3) Perform such duties as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.

#### **3.05 STATE COMMISSIONER**

- (a) Appointment – The State Commissioner shall be appointed by the Amateur Softball Association and will be the Chief Advisor of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.
- (b) Removal – The State Commissioner may only be removed by the Amateur Softball Association.
- (c) Duties – The State Commissioner's duties are as follows:
  - (1) Advise the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania in all affairs concerning Amateur Softball in its territory.
  - (2) Appoint and remove District Commissioners in accordance with Article 3.02.
  - (3) Manage the State Office including the Hall Of Fame, and perform such duties as delegated herein and as designated by the Amateur Softball Association.
  - (4) Negotiate and execute all contracts and agreements on behalf of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.
  - (5) Make the decisions on any request to interpret the Code.
  - (6) Act on behalf of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania in all matters of emergency that are not directly covered by the code.
  - (7) Appoint the Secretary and Treasurer of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania, subject to the approval of the Council.
  - (8) Appoint all Committees except the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
  - (9) Fill all vacancies as specified in this Code.

#### **3.06 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- (a) Appointment – The Executive Director shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
- (b) Term of Office – At the pleasure of the State Commissioner
- (c) Duties – The duties of the Executive Director are as follows:
  - (1) Supervise the day-to-day operations and administrative duties of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Office.
  - (2) Interpret the Code of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania in the absence of the State Commissioner.
  - (3) Process all paperwork, rosters and necessary forms and forward to the location of advance tournaments.
  - (4) Must be available to attend and/or administer any Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania meeting as directed by the State commissioner or BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
  - (5) And ALL other special projects and duties as assigned by the State Commissioner or the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

#### **3.07 TREASURER**

- (a) Appointment – The Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Treasurer shall be appointed by the State Commissioner subject to the approval of a majority vote of the Council.
- (b) Removal – The Treasurer may be removed by the State Commissioner.
- (c) Duties – The Treasurer's duties are as follows:
  - (1) Prepare the budget for the fiscal year subject to approval by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and a majority vote of the council.
  - (2) Prepare the year-end financial report.
  - (3) Attend all meetings of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
  - (4) Pay the bills incurred by the Association and record all the transactions of the Association in a timely manner.

### **3.08 SECRETARY**

- (a) Appointment – The Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Secretary shall be appointed by the State Commissioner subject to the approval of a majority vote of the Council.
- (b) Removal – The Secretary may be removed by the State Commissioner.
- (c) Duties – The Secretary will be assigned duties as they arise and will record the minutes of all meetings.

### **3.09 PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE**

- (a) District
  - (1) Three Player Representatives shall be appointed by the District Commissioner.
  - (2) Term of Office – District Players Representatives shall serve a term of one (1) Year and are eligible for reappointment.
  - (3) Vacancy – If a District Player Representative position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the District Commissioner.
  - (4) Removal – The District Player Representatives may be removed for just cause by the District Commissioner.
  - (5) Duties – The District Player Representatives should advise and convey to the District Commissioners of the Area, suggestions, recommendations, and criticisms of Programming, Rule Changes (Player and Eligibility), Tournament playing conditions and facilities, umpiring and any other pertinent matters.
  - (6) Voting – The District Player Representatives should attend and be a voting member of the Area and State Meeting.
- (b) Area
  - (1) Election – Three Player Representatives, of which one must represent the Women's program, shall be elected from each area.
  - (2) Term of Office – Area Player Representatives shall serve a term of one (1) year and are eligible for reelection.
  - (3) Vacancy – If an Area Player Representative's position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment of the Area Vice President.
  - (4) Removal – Area Player Representatives may be removed for just cause by the Area Vice President.
  - (5) Duties - The District Player Representatives should advise and convey to the District Commissioners of the Area, suggestions, recommendations, and criticisms of Programming, Rule Changes (Player and Eligibility), Tournament playing conditions and facilities, umpiring and any other pertinent matters.
  - (6) Area Player Representatives shall attend and be a voting member of the Council of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania at the Annual Spring Meeting.
- (c) State
  - (1) Election – A State Player Representative shall be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania by a majority vote of the Area Player Representatives.
  - (2) Term of Office – The State Player Representative shall serve a term of one (1) year and is eligible for reelection.
  - (3) Vacancy – If the State Player Representative's position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment of the State Commissioner.
  - (4) Removal – The State Representatives may be removed for just cause by the State Commissioner.
  - (5) Duties – The State Player Representative should advise Representatives should advise and convey to the Central Atlantic Regional Council recommendations, suggestions, and criticisms of Programming, Rule Changes (Player and Eligibility), Tournament playing conditions and facilities, umpiring and any other pertinent matters.
  - (6) The State Player Representative shall attend and be a voting member of the Central Atlantic Regional Council.

### **3.10 UMPIRE IN CHIEF**

- (a) State
  - (1) Appointment – The State Umpire-In-Chief will be appointed by the State Commissioner.
  - (2) Term of Office – At the pleasure of the State Commissioner.
  - (3) Duties – The State Umpire-In-Chief duties are as follows:
    - Promote and organize Umpire's Associations statewide.
    - Arrange, conduct and approve rules interpretation and Umpire Clinics throughout the State.
    - Preside at all meetings of the Umpire's Committee.
    - Other duties as assigned by the State Commissioner.
- (b) State Deputy –
  - (1) Appointment – The State Deputy Umpire-In-Chief will be appointed by the State Umpire-In-Chief.
  - (2) Term of Office – At the pleasure of the State Umpire-In-Chief.
  - (3) Duties – The State Deputy Umpire-In-Chief duties are as follows:
    - Promote and organize Umpire's Associations where needed throughout the State.
    - Conduct Umpire Clinics where assigned.
    - Attend all meetings of the State Umpire's Committee as called by the State Umpire-In-Chief.
    - Other duties as assigned by the State Umpire-In-Chief.
- (c) District –
  - (1) Appointment – The District Umpire-In-Chief will be appointed by the District Commissioner.
  - (2) Term of Office – At the pleasure of the District Commissioner.
  - (3) Duties: The District Umpire-In-Chief duties are as follows:

Promote and organize Umpire Associations throughout the District.  
Conduct Umpire Clinics where needed.  
Other duties as assigned by the District Commissioner.  
Attend all other meetings of the Umpire's Committee as called by the State Umpire-In-Chief.

### **3.11 JUNIOR OLYMPIC COMMISSIONER**

- (1) Appointment – A Junior Olympic Commissioner shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.
- (2) Term of Office – At the pleasure of the State Commissioner.
- (3) Duties – To promote the Junior Olympic Softball program of the State, attend and represent the State Junior Olympic Program at the State and Central Atlantic Regional Meetings, and other activities that relate to the Junior Olympic Program as may be delegated by the State Commissioner, BOARD OF DIRECTORS or EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

### **3.12 DEPUTY STATE COMMISSIONER**

- (1) Appointment – Deputy State Commissioners shall be appointed by the State Commissioner as required.
- (2) Term of Office – At the pleasure of the State Commissioner.
- (3) Duties – To promote softball statewide and perform such duties as may be delegated by the State Commissioner.

### **3.13 AREA JUNIOR OLYMPIC COMMISSIONERS**

- (1) Appointment – An Area Junior Olympic Commissioner shall be appointed by the Area Vice President.
- (2) Term of Office – At the pleasure of the Area Vice President but not to exceed the term of the Area Vice President.
- (3) Duties – To promote the Junior Olympic Softball Program of the area, and other activities that relate to the Junior Olympic Program as may be delegated by the Area Vice President.

### **3.14 COMMISSIONER EMERITUS**

- (1) Upon completion of twelve (12) years of service, any Commissioner that has reached sixty (60) years of age may be recommended by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS or his Area Vice President for the status of Commissioner Emeritus upon his retirement as an Active Commissioner.
- (2) The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall consider all such recommendations and a 2/3 vote of approval is required to confirm a person for this position.
- (3) A person that has been named Commissioner Emeritus is entitled to attend the Annual Spring Meeting of the Association and shall have one (1) vote on all matters.

### **3.15 AREA UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF**

- (1) Appointment when deemed necessary shall be made by the Area Vice President.
- (2) Term of Office – At the pleasure of the Area Vice President.
- (3) Duties – To promote and organize the development of Umpires and their development within the Area by arranging, conducting and approving Rules Interpretation Clinics and Mechanics Schools within the Area. Preside at the Umpires Committee Meeting at the Area Meeting. Other duties as directed by the Area Vice President.

### **3.16 UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF EMERITUS**

- (1) Upon completion of twelve (12) years of service, any District Umpire-In-Chief that has reached sixty (60) years of age may be recommended by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS or his Area Vice President for the status of Umpire-In-Chief Emeritus upon his retirement as an Active Umpire-In-Chief.
- (2) The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall consider all such recommendations and a 2/3 vote of approval is required to confirm a person for this position.
- (3) A person that has been named Umpire-In-Chief Emeritus is entitled to attend the Annual Spring Meeting of the Association and shall have one vote on all matters.

## **ARTICLE 4 – COMMITTEES**

### **4.01 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- (1) Members – The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall consist of the President, the Executive Director, the Vice Presidents, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the State Commissioner, and the immediate Past State Commissioner.
- (2) Duties – The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall oversee the finances of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania and fix the salary, if any, of the State Commissioner, the Executive Director, Treasurer, Secretary and State Umpire-In-Chief. It shall also be responsible for the general affairs of the Association in the interval between meetings.

### **4.02 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- (1) Members – The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall consist of the State Commissioner, the District Commissioners, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner, the immediate Past State Commissioner and others that may be appointed by The BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- (2) Duties – To meet at the Annual Spring Meeting and such other times as deemed necessary by The BOARD OF DIRECTORS to determine policies in the administration and enforcement of the programs and articles of the Code of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.

#### **4.03 CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE**

(1) Members – The Classification Committee shall consist of the Classification director and at least three members representing Fast Pitch, at least three members representing Slow Pitch, and at least three members representing Modified Pitch. One of the members representing each Division of play shall act as the Chairman of that Division. All Committee Members shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.

(2) Duties – The Classification Committee shall be responsible for the observation and evaluation of the performance and potential ability as displayed in any regular season or Championship Tournament play, whether or not Amateur Softball Association sanctioned, to determine classification for Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania purposes.

#### **Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Classification Guidelines**

The following classification guidelines and policies will be reviewed and followed in classifying teams:

The level of achievement or place of finish in any regular season or Championship Tournament play, whether or not Amateur Softball Association sanctioned, shall be considered in the determination of classification for Amateur Softball Association play.

The results of teams that willingly participate in Tournaments with home run limits unlike those of the Official Amateur Softball Association Rules for that level of classification will be considered in determining the future classification of those teams. Teams that demonstrate an ability to compete with a particular home run limit will be considered for classification at the level commensurate with that home run limit in Amateur Softball Association play.

#### **POWER HITTER**

For the purpose of classification, a power hitter shall be defined as an individual capable of hitting a home run over fence distances as specified in the official guide and for whom the outfielders play deeper in their defensive positioning than they normally play for other offensive batters.

Any current season's roster containing four (4) or more members in Fast or Slow Pitch, or two (2) or more members in Modified Pitch, or any roster from any previous season which was reclassified by either the State, Regional or National Classification committee must carry at least the new level of classification of the roster reclassified by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committee.

The Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania classifies teams, not individual players or leagues. Teams do not receive a level of classification simply by playing in a particular league. Admittedly, some leagues are better than others, but it also must be recognized that all teams within a league do not possess the same ability or potential.

#### **MEN'S SLOW PITCH**

Amateur Softball Association Championship Play Home Run rules shall apply in all classes of play.

#### **CLASSIFICATION POLICIES**

##### **CLASS 'D' SLOW PITCH**

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Wins the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
2. Wins any of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Divisional or Sectional State Championship Tournaments (beginning in 2003).
3. Finishes in the top eight (8) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals two (2) consecutive years (as defined and accepted by the Amateur Softball Association National Code and policies).
4. Finishes in the tournament three (3) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Labor Day National.
5. Finishes in the top two (2) places in any NIT Tournament.
6. Wins three (3) tournaments or finishes first or second in four (4) tournaments and finishes in the top two (2) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
7. Wins a District Championship or represents the District as its Champion advancing directly to the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals and finishes in the top two (2) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
8. Finishes in the top two (2) places in the Central Atlantic Regional Championship Tournament.

**MUST** play at the next higher classification level in the next year.

##### **CLASS 'C' SLOW PITCH**

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Wins the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals two (2) consecutive years (as defined and accepted by the Amateur Softball Association National Code and policies).
3. Wins a National Qualifying Tournament and finishes in the top two (2) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Finals.
4. Wins a National Qualifying Tournament and finishes in the top two (2) places in the Central Atlantic Regional Championship Tournament.
5. Wins a National Qualifying Tournament and finishes in the top three (3) places in the Amateur Softball Association National Labor Day Tournament.
6. Wins the Regional Championship Tournament.
7. Wins the National Labor Tournament.
8. Finishes first or second in any NIT Tournament.

**MUST** play at the next higher classification level in the next year.

### **CLASS 'B' SLOW PITCH**

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Wins the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "B" State Championship Finals and finishes in the top four (4) places in two (2) consecutive years.
2. Finishes First or Second in the Central Atlantic Regional Tournament.
3. Finishes First or Second in the National Tournament (Labor Day).
4. Finishes First or Second in any NIT Tournament.
5. Wins a National or Regional Qualifying Tournament and finishes in the top four (4) places in State, Regional, or National Tournament or NIT Tournament.
6. Wins or finishes second in four (4) Tournaments.

**MUST** play at the next higher classification level in the next year.

Teams classified in accordance with these policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Official Classification appeal form and submitted to the State Classification Director with the approval of the District Commissioner. The State Classification committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the State Classification Committee will be final. If the appeal is granted, the team's roster will be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to the next higher classification level.

### **CLASS "D"**

This level of Slow Pitch competition is basically for those teams incapable of maintaining a winning percentage (record above 500) in any competition rated Class "C" or above.

A Class "D" team has virtually NO power and does not score any great sum of runs with any regularity. Home runs hit over any fence 275 foot distance or greater must be a rarity, "D" teams have NO great hitters or real finesse in their defense.

With NO power and very little ability to score regularly, "D" teams do not win consistently in any level of competition, showing a winning percentage only against "XYZ" teams (very poor caliber teams).

Amateur Softball Association Championship Play Home Run Rules restrict "D teams to **NO** home runs hit over the fence.

### **CLASS "C"**

A Class "C" Men's Slow Pitch team is capable of winning without scoring any great sum of runs with power hitting or home runs.

A "C" team is one which is inconsistent both defensively and offensively. They have no more than one power hitter. They are not a team that wins consistently by scoring a large sum of runs in any particular game. They rely upon the base hit to score thus they must bunch many hits in any inning to score a large number of runs. A "C" team is a singles hitting team. They hit very few home runs and many of their extra base hits are the result of hustle, speed and good base running.

It must be remembered that even though some teams have very little power they continue to score large number of run consistently, making them more than a "C" team.

Classification is based on a team's ability to score runs and their defensive soundness, especially through the middle (2<sup>nd</sup> base, shortstop, right centerfield and left centerfield).

### **CLASS "B"**

A Class "B" Men's Slow Pitch team is capable of scoring regularly without a great deal of power. A "B" team is strong defensively and capable of turning the double play with ease and consistency. They run bases well and field the ball with finesse.

Even though capable of scoring large sums of runs, Class "B" teams are not what would be considered a power hitting team. They may have more than one long ball hitter but the team is not built around power.

### **CLASS "A"/OPEN**

A Class "A"/OPEN Men's Slow Pitch team is capable of scoring runs regularly, some as the direct result of power. They are a strong team both offensively and defensively and can rely on their power to win. Defensively they are capable of taking games away from their opponents with strong, clean fielding.

### **MEN'S MASTERS**

35 and Over is for teams interested in or capable of advancing to and competing in National Championship Tournament play in this division.

35 and Over Class "D" must play together as a team in an Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania League and be classified "D" by the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Masters and Seniors Classification Committee. These teams are not capable of better than a "D" level of classification within the Open Slow Pitch division of play.

### **RECREATIONAL MEN'S SLOW PITCH**

This level of play will be for Class "D" Men's Slow Pitch teams who:

- \*have never won more than one (1) game in any Class "D" Championship Competition
- \*have a verifiable record below 500 and
- \*have not won more than two (2) games in any Tournament throughout the season (exception: under 500 Tournaments)

The Class "D" Home Run Rule will be in effect.

In order to participate in Championship play at this level the team must be approved and recommended by

their District commissioner with a verifiable record below .500. Teams which are questionable or have borderline ability or potential will not be permitted to participate at this level of Championship play. Teams discovered participating at this level of State Championship competition with unquestioned winning records will be subject to immediate disqualification with NO refund of entry or expense fee.

#### **NEW TEAM**

To be considered a new team for classification purposes the team must have more than three (3) members of any roster from the previous year. A team that has four (4) or more members from a previous year's roster must carry at least the level of classification of that team. Their classification could be higher if their ability dictates such, but in no case is a lower classification permitted.

In the classification of teams and their personnel, potential is an important factor along with ability. Many times, for various reasons, teams do not play well early in the season yet seem to come together or develop as the season progresses. Classifications must be made early in the season, many times before the team reaches its true potential. Commissioners must consider many variables in making their classification of teams in the early season.

#### **WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH**

##### **CLASS "D"**

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
2. Participates in the Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament Finals.
3. Finishes in the top four (4) in the Eastern National Championship Finals.

##### **CLASS "C"**

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes in the top two (2) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) in the Eastern National Championship Finals.
3. Wins three (3) Tournaments or finishes First or Second in any four (4) Tournaments.

##### **OPEN**

Any team with four (4) or more roster members from any team that:

1. Finishes first or second in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals in two (2) consecutive seasons of play at the Class "C" level.

An OPEN team can have good power and team speed. They are capable of making things happen on offense and solid defensively in the critical middle positions. They may turn the double play with ease and consistency. They are capable of scoring large sums of runs in any given game, but do not require large leads to win. Their defense is capable of winning without any great number of runs.

It has excellent talent and is strong both offensively and defensively. They too are capable of scoring many runs in any given game but do not require large numbers of runs to win. They are capable of winning with excellent defense. Their overall ability is unquestioned.

Team speed plays an important part in the classification of Women's softball, much more so than in the Men's game. Power is important as the ability to score runs is a determining factor in the classification of any Women's team. Defense plays a much more important role in this classification, also, simply because there are not nearly as many runs scored per game in the upper classifications of Women's softball, thus making team speed that much more important.

#### **CO-ED OR CO-REC**

##### **MAJOR**

Major teams may be formed from other Amateur Softball Association registered teams. Teams that contain players from rosters classified Major. These teams represent top quality Co-Ed teams with quality players.

##### **CLASS "A"**

A Class "A" team is capable of scoring runs regularly, some as the direct result of power. They are a strong team both offensively and defensively and can rely on their power to win. Defensively they are capable of winning with strong and clean fielding. (This team is capable of competing at the National level).

##### **CLASS "B"**

A Class "B" team is capable of scoring regularly without a great deal of power. A "B" team is strong defensively and capable of turning a double play with ease and consistency. They run bases well and field the ball with finesse. They may have more than one long ball hitter, but the team is not built around power. This team should be at best a recreational team and capable of competing at the National "B" Level.

Home Run Rule : According to National Code.

##### **CLASS "C"**

A Class "C" team is inconsistent both defensively and offensively. They are not a team that wins by scoring a large sum of runs in any particular game. A Class "C" team is a singles hitting team. (This should be an average Co-Rec team).

Home Run Rule: 1<sup>st</sup> – Out; 2<sup>nd</sup> and any in excess – Out and Disqualification.

##### **CLASS "D"**

A Class "D" team has virtually no power and does not score any great sum of runs with any regularity. Class "D" teams have no great hitters or real finesse in their defense. Class "D" teams do not win consistently in any level of competition; show a winning percentage only against very poor caliber teams.

Home Run Rule: 1<sup>st</sup>. Out; 2<sup>nd</sup> and any in excess – Out plus disqualification.

### **MEN'S MODIFIED PITCH**

#### **CLASSIFICATION POLICIES**

##### **CLASS "B"**

Any team with two or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes First or Second in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "B" State Championship Tournament.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) in the Class "B" Amateur Softball Association National or NIT Tournament.
3. Wins at least one (1) Tournament and finishes in the top four (4) in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "B" State Championship Tournament.
4. Wins at least one (1) Tournament and finishes First or Second in three (3) Tournaments **MUST** play at the next higher classification level the next year.

##### **CLASS "C"**

Any team with two (2) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes First or Second in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "C" State Championship tournament.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Class "C" Amateur Softball Association National or NIT Tournament.
3. Wins at least one (1) Tournament and finishes in the top four (4) in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "C" State Championship Tournament.
4. Wins at least one (1) Tournament and finishes First or Second in three (3) Tournaments **MUST** play at the next higher classification level the next year.

##### **CLASS "D"**

Any team with two (2) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "D" State Championship Tournament.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Class "D" Amateur Softball Association National or NIT Tournament.
3. Wins at least one (1) Class "D" Tournament and finishes in the top six (6) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "D" State Championship Tournament.
4. Wins at least one (1) tournament and finishes first or second in two (2) tournaments. **MUST** play at the next higher classification level the next year.

Teams classified in accordance with the above policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Official Classification Appeal Form and submitted to the State Classification Committee chairperson with the approval of the District Commissioner. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the State Classification Committee will be final. If the appeal is granted, the team's roster will be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to the next higher classification level.

#### **CLASS "D" MODIFIED PITCH**

This level of Modified Pitch is for teams unable to maintain a definite winning percentage (record of 500) in any competition rated Class "C" or lower due to pitching problems and the inability of its members to execute the basic offensive and defensive fundamentals of softball with any regularity. These teams usually score few runs due to a lack of power and an inability to "bunch" base hits. Defensive weaknesses often allow unearned runs. The pitching is usually very weak due to poor location and a lack of speed which results in many "fat" pitches being offered.

In order to participate in Championship Play at this level the team must be approved and recommended by their District Commissioner with a definite verifiable record below .500. Teams which are questionable or have borderline ability or potential will not be permitted to participate at this level of Championship Play. Teams discovered participating in this level of State Championship competition with unquestioned winning records will be subject to immediate disqualification with NO refund of entry or expense fee. NOTE: Teams should clarify any questions concerning their classification with their District Commissioner prior to participating in Championship Play.

##### **CLASS "C"**

A Class "C" team is inconsistent both offensively and defensively. They are not a team that wins repeatedly by scoring a large sum of runs in any particular game. They rely upon the base hit to score, they must bunch many hits in an inning to score a large number of runs. They hit few home runs and many of their extra base hits are the result of hustle, speed, and aggressive base running. Their pitching is inconsistent often resulting in base runners due to walks. They have difficulty making the offensive team put the ball in play through their inability to throw strikes.

##### **CLASS "B"**

A Class "B" team is capable of scoring regularly, without a great deal of power. They are strong defensively and able to turn the double play in most instances. They run the bases well and field the ball with finesse. Even though they are capable of scoring large sums of runs, they are not considered a power hitting team. Pitching doesn't handicap the defense by providing unnecessary base runners through a lack of control.

## **OPEN**

An Open team is strong both offensively and defensively. Although capable of scoring regularly, they do not require large leads to win. Defensively, they are capable of defeating their opponents with strong, clean fielding. An Open team is the top of the line and reflects that in all of its play.

## **WOMEN'S MODIFIED PITCH**

### **OPEN**

An Open team is strong both offensively and defensively. Although capable of scoring regularly, they do not require a large lead to win. Defensively, they are fundamentally sound and make few errors, often winning games on the strength of their defensive plays. Strong pitching is an unquestioned characteristic. An Open team is capable of scoring regularly without a great deal of power. Pitching, although not over-powering, doesn't handicap the defense by providing unnecessary base runners through their lack of control. These teams are capable of winning regularly.

### **CLASS "B"**

A "B" team is offensively and defensively inconsistent. They commit many errors and their pitching provides the offensive team with numerous base runners due to walks. This team does not score any great sum of runs with regularity and has no true power hitters.

## **MEN AND WOMEN FAST PITCH**

### **CLASSIFICATION**

#### **CLASS "C"**

Any team with four (4) or more players on their roster or any player transferring from any team:

Teams classified in accordance with the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Classification Appeal Form and submitted to the State Classification Committee Chairperson. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the committee will be final. Any classification changes will be filed with the State Office.

If the appeal is granted, the team's roster shall be frozen for the remainder of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal will be nullified and team reclassified to the next higher classification level. Any team not falling into any of the above guidelines will be dealt with by the District Classification Committee. Any classification changes must be filed with the State Office by March first of the current year.

The National Classification Code requires any Men's Class "C" team that finishes in the top six (6) positions at the National Championship Tournament to be moved to Class "B" for the immediate following season. Other Amateur Association of Pennsylvania teams that win regional or area championships will be subject to reclassification based upon meeting further criteria established by the State Classification Committee.

#### **CLASS "B" FAST PITCH**

Any team with four (4) or more players on their roster or any player transferring from any team:

1. Winning the State Championship
2. Winning or finishing second in the Regional Championship Tournament.
3. Winning a National Qualifying Tournament in two (2) successive years must play at the next higher classification level the following year.

The National Classification code requires any Men's Class "B" team that finishes in the top six (6) positions at the National Championship Tournament to be moved to Class "A" for the immediate following season. Other Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania teams that win regional or area championships will be subject to reclassification based upon meeting further criteria established by the State classification Committee.

Teams classified in accordance with the above policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Classification Appeal Form and submitted to the State Classification Committee chairperson. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the committee will be final. Any classification changes will be filed with the State Office.

If the appeal is granted, the team's roster shall be frozen for the remainder of that year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal will be nullified and the team reclassified to the next higher classification level. Any team not falling into any of the above guidelines will be dealt with by the District Classification Committee. Any classification changes must be filed with the State Office by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

## **40 & OVER MEN'S**

No Major pitchers are permitted. Former Class "A" pitchers must be out of the game three years in order to be eligible for participation. Current Class "B" and Class "C" pitchers will be eligible. Any Pick Ups for Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Championship Tournament Play must be made from within the district of the team.

- (a) Appeals – All classifications made by the State Classification Committee (teams and roster)

members thereof) shall remain the exclusive responsibility of the State Classification Committee. Appeals must be properly submitted in writing to the Classification director whose decision, with the ultimate approval of the committee will be final.

(b) Any current season's roster containing four (4) or more members in Fast and Slow Pitch or two

(2) or more members in modified pitch, of any roster from any previous season which was reclassified by either the State, Regional, or National Classification committee must carry at least the new level of classification of the roster reclassified by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committee.

(c) District Classification Committee Slow – Fast -Modified Pitch

(1) Members – District Classification Committees shall consist of the District Commissioner or his designee and any number of members as deemed necessary by the District Commissioner or his designee. Membership is not restricted and all committee members shall be appointed by the District Commissioner or his designee.

(2) Duties – The District Classification Committee shall be responsible for the observation and evaluation of the performance and potential ability as displayed in any regular season, Invitational Tournament, and/or Championship Tournament Play, whether or not Amateur Softball Association sanctioned, to determine classification for District purposes, which shall be consistent with Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Classification guidelines as defined by the State Classification Committee.

(3) Appeals – All classifications proposed by the District Classification Committee shall be presented to the District Commissioner for approval. All teams reclassified shall be notified promptly, and shall have the right of appeal. Appeals shall be submitted in writing to the Committee whose decision, with the approval of the District Commissioner, will be final. Any team may formally apply in writing to the District Classification committee for reclassification, with formal action being taken by the Committee. All appeals for classification in which the appealing team was classified by either the State, Regional, or National Classification committee may be considered by the District Committee for further action. The District Classification Committee is not permitted to revise any classification adjustment or realignment made by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committees.

(4) Roster – Any team whose current season's roster conforms with Article 4.03 (d) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania must carry at least the new level of classification of the roster reclassified or adjusted by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committee.

(5) Roster Personnel – Any team whose current season's roster contains two (2) or more members of any roster from any previous season whose classification was higher must be reviewed by the Committee to determine evaluation of the performance and potential ability of that team. All teams will be responsible to report any such players who fall into the above category to the Committee.

Failure of teams to report any such players will, upon discovery by the District of State Classification Committee, result in immediate reclassification to the higher level as represented by those players. Failure to review any affected team, when known by the Committee, will result in automatic and immediate reclassification to that higher level by the State Classification Committee when a formal appeal in writing is received and reviewed for validity.

(d) Any team that wins two (2) or more games (excluding forfeits) in a State Tournament (including Area of Divisional State Tournaments in Men's Class "C" and "D" Slow Pitch) may not participate in a lower classification in the same Division of Championship Play during the following season. A team which has five (5) or more players on a roster from such a team shall be considered the same team.

(e) An Adult team which has four (4) or more players on a roster from a team that has won an Amateur Softball Association Fast Pitch or Slow Pitch State Championship Tournament, two (2) or more players on a roster from a team that has won a Modified Pitch State Championship Tournament, as a Class "B", "C", or "D" classification levels must play at the next higher classification for the following season unless they played in the Coed division.

(f) Teams classified in accordance with 4.04 (e) have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Official Classification Appeal form and submitted to the proper State Classification Director. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. If the appeal is granted, the team's roster shall be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to the next higher classification level.

#### **4.03**

The standings of all Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State championship Tournament Finals shall be posted on the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Web Page in a timely fashion upon the conclusion of the Tournament. The classification of all teams will be adjusted by their finish in the Tournament as specified by the Amateur Softball Association National or the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Code or by the Classification Committee of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania, Central Atlantic Region or the Amateur Softball Association Nationally will be indicated on the standings as posted. This shall include all teams with Mandatory Classification because of their finish in the Tournament or Restricted Classification due to winning two (2) or more games in the Tournament as per code of the Amateur Softball Association Nationally or Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.

#### **4.04 UMPIRES**

(a) Members – The Umpire's Committee shall consist of the State Umpire-In-Chief, the State Deputy Umpire-In-Chief, the Area Umpire-In-Chiefs and all District Umpire-In-Chiefs.

(b) Duties – To meet annually at the Spring Meeting of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania and at other times as deemed necessary by the State Umpire-In-Chief to determine policies relating to umpiring and the enforcement of the playing rules.

#### **4.05 PLAYER REPRESENTATIVES**

The Player Representatives Committee shall be composed of the District and Area Player Representatives.

(a) Duties – It's duties shall include but not be limited to electing the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Player Representative as directed by the Code, and hear and review all information concerning legislative proposals and Championship Play Tournaments and make their findings known to the Council.

#### **4.06 HALL OF FAME**

The Hall of Fame Committee shall be appointed by the State Commissioner.

(a) Duties – To gather and review all material and information for selection of individuals into the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Hall of Fame.

#### **4.07 TOURNAMENT ORGANIZING AND EVALUATIONS**

(a) Members – to be appointed by the State Commissioner.

(b) Duties - To gather information from and concerning State Championship Tournaments and their sites in an effort to improve and promote more effective and professional Championship Tournaments.

#### **4.08 ADULT WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

- (a) Members – The Adult Women's Committee shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the State Commissioner and a representative from each District, appointed by their District Commissioner.
- (b) Duties – To meet at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania and at any other time deemed necessary by the State Commissioner, Chairperson or Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS**

#### **5.01 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**

- (a) Date and Site: The date and site of the Annual Spring Meeting of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania will be set and determined by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- (b) Notice – Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to all District Commissioners at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the District Commissioner to contact each of their representatives.
- (c) Voting – Each Council Member shall have one (1) vote on all items at the Annual Spring Meeting.
- (d) Council – The Council of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania shall be composed of the President, the State Commissioner, the State Director, the State Umpire-In-Chief, the duly appointed District Commissioners, the District Umpire-In-Chiefs, the District Junior Olympic Commissioners, all Player Representatives, Deputy Commissioners, Area Directors, League Officers, and a Representative of each Allied Member.
- (e) Removal of Council Members – Any elected member of the Council may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Council providing notice has been given to each member of the Council at least ten (10) days prior to the vote on removal. An appointed member of the Council may be removed from office for just cause deemed detrimental to this Association by the State commissioner.
- (f) Quorum – A quorum shall consist of a majority of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE plus a minimum of twenty-five (25) additional eligible voting members.
- (g) Proxy – Authorization or representation by proxy at a meeting may be obtained from the State Commissioner and/or President prior to the meeting.
- (h) A Roll Call – A roll call of all eligible Council members shall be taken at each session of the Council or Committee Meeting to verify attendance and those eligible to vote.

#### **5.02 FALL MEETING**

- (a) Date and Site – The date and site of the Fall Meeting shall be set by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

#### **5.03 REIMBURSEMENTS**

- (a) Each officer, member of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, member of the Executive Committee, Player Representative, Junior Olympic Commissioner, District Umpire-In-Chief, and such District Deputy, County and Area Directors, and additional personnel invited by the District commissioner and approved by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS attending the Annual Spring Meeting and fulfilling their obligation of attendance at Committee Meetings and Council Sessions verified by a roll call be reimbursed an amount as directed and approved by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

No reimbursement shall be made unless assigned duties have been met and attendance verified by roll call.

### **ARTICLE 6 – DISTRICTS AND AREAS**

#### **6.01 DISTRICTS**

- (a) District 1 Counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Upper Luzerne, and Wyoming
- (b) District 2 Counties of Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon
- (c) District 3 Counties of Berks, Lehigh, Lower Schuylkill, and Northampton
- (d) District 4 Counties of Clinton, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Tioga, Union
- (e) District 5 County of York
- (f) District 6 Counties of Chester, Delaware
- (g) District 7 Counties of Fayette, Green, and Washington
- (h) District 8 Counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Center, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Somerset
- (i) District 9 Counties of Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango
- (j) District 10 Counties of Allegheny, City of Pittsburgh, Westmoreland
- (k) District 11 Counties of Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Perry
- (l) District 12 Counties of Carbon, Columbia, Lower Luzerne, Monroe, and Upper Schuylkill
- (m) District 13 Counties of Cameron, City of DuBois, Elk, Forrest, McKeam, Potter, Warren
- (n) District 14 County of Montgomery
- (o) District 15 County of Bucks
- (p) District 16 Counties of Lackawanna, Pike, Wayne

(1) Upon a District Commissioner leaving Office for any reason, the BOARD OF DIRECTORS will review all pertinent information concerning the Area and its past performance as a District to determine the feasibility of its continuation as a District or the possibility of merging the Area with another District.

#### **6.02 AREA**

- (a) Southeastern Districts - 2, 6, 14, 15
- (b) Northeastern Districts - 1, 3, 12, 16
- (c) Central Districts - 4, 5, 8, 11
- (d) Western Districts - 7, 9, 10, 13

### **ARTICLE 7 – ELIGIBILITY**

#### **7.1 FOREIGN PLAYERS**

NO Foreign Players are eligible to compete in Adult Fast Pitch, (exception Men's Major), Adult Slow Pitch, or Junior Olympic Gold 18 and Under Fast Pitch. Foreign Players are eligible to compete in Men's Major Fast Pitch, Modified Pitch, and Junior Olympic Class "A" and Class "B" Fast Pitch or Slow Pitch.

## **7.02 IDENTIFICATION**

At all State Championship Areas and Finals, in order to be eligible, a player must provide proper identification (which shall include a current photograph of the player and the player's signature) to the Tournament Director or Designee before the start of the competition. The Tournament Director or Designee shall compare the identification with a name and signature appearing on the team's Championship roster.

## **ARTICLE 8 – DISQUALIFICATIONS**

### **8.01 ACTS OF DISQUALIFICATION**

An individual or team may be disqualified for any of the following:

- (a) Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (b) Physically assaulting an Umpire or an Official of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania or for violation of the rules of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania. (This applies to any Player, Manager, Coach, Sponsor, or anyone connected with a team, or an umpire registered with the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania). Bumping, pushing or shoving shall be considered physical violence in terms of enforcing this article.
- (c) Commission of fraud, such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or Roster, or giving false information to Tournament Officials.
- (d) Participating while not meeting the eligibility requirements of the Amateur Softball Association or the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.
- (e) Competing on a team or against a team that has failed to obtain a travel permit when one is required.
- (f) Competing on a professional softball program without the approval of his Commissioner.
- (g) Knowingly competing with or against players that are disqualified from or ineligible to participate in either the Amateur Softball Association or Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.
- (h) Engaging in any act which results in the destruction of property belonging to others or is in violation of State or Local law, or is contrary to the purposes and objectives of the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania, while participating in Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania activities.
- (i) Issuing a bad check or failure to pay rightful indebtedness owed to any Officer or Official of the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.
- (j) Competing with ineligible players in Championship Play of the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.
- (k) Failing to produce valid identification upon request for such by a Tournament Official in Championship Play.
- (l) Qualifying for and failing to advance to the next level of Championship Play, unless due to circumstances beyond the control of the team.
- (m) Forfeiting a Championship Play Tournament Game.
- (n) Failing to meet substance abuse standards.
- (o) Competing while ineligible.

### **8.02 DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES**

- (a) The person(s) subject to suspension shall be entitled to a hearing before the State Commissioner, the State Junior Olympic Commissioner, or a Deputy or District Commissioner in whose jurisdiction the violation took place.
- (b) The person must be notified in writing of the time, place, and date of hearing. He/she/they/is/are entitled to an alternate date, if, for a good case, the original date is not acceptable. Should the accused fail to attend the hearing, the person conducting the hearing may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance.
- (c) After hearing all of the evidence, the person presiding at the hearing may take whatever action he deems appropriate in accordance with this Code. The person(s) involved should be advised, in writing, of the action taken, by the person presiding at the hearing. A copy of such must be sent to the State Office. The State Office shall send notice of all suspensions to all District Commissioners who in turn will notify the District Umpire-In-Chief.
- (d) Any person(s) suspended from Amateur Softball Association or Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania play may appeal the decision to the State President. The decision of the State President may be appealed further according to the Amateur Softball Association Code. Those wishing to appeal must notify the State Commissioner in writing, of such intention to appeal within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of the notice of disqualification.
- (e) Under NO circumstances will any individual involved be permitted to participate in Amateur Softball Association activity until he has either been found not guilty or has completed his term of suspension and has formally filed a written reinstatement request with his District Commissioner.

### **8.03 JURISDICTION**

Any individual or team shall cease to be eligible to compete in all Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania sanctioned activities while disqualified by either the Amateur Softball Association or the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania. These activities include Championship Tournament, Invitation Tournaments, League Games, Exhibition Games and All-Star Games.

### **8.04 PENALTIES**

An individual or team must be disqualified for a period of time at the discretion of the person responsible for holding the hearing, for violations outlined in 8.01 of this Code, with the exception that the following acts of disqualification require a minimum of one (1) year loss of eligibility.

- (a) Physical violence.
- (b) Commission of fraud.
- (c) Competing knowingly with or against disqualified players.
- (d) Issuing a bad check or stopping payment on a check or failing to pay rightful indebtedness to any Officer or Official of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.
- (e) Competing with ineligible players in Championship Play of the Amateur Softball Association or Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.
- (f) Competing with ineligible players in Championship Play of the Amateur Softball Association or Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.
- (g) Competing while ineligible.

## **ARTICLE 9 – REINSTATEMENT PROFESSIONAL**

### **9.01 APPLICATION**

See Amateur Softball Association Code.

### **9.02 PROCEDURE**

See Amateur Softball Association Code.

**9.03 ELIGIBILITY CODE**

See Amateur Softball Association Code.

**ARTICLE 10 – CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY**

**10.01 DIVISION AND LEVELS**

The Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania recognizes the following division and levels of Championship Play.

- (a) Fast Pitch
  - (1) Men's Major
  - (2) Women's Major
  - (3) Men's Class "A"
  - (4) Women's Class "A"
  - (5) Men's Class "B"
  - (6) Women's Class "B"
  - (7) Men's Class "C"
  - (8) Women's Class "C"
  - (9) Men's 23 & Under
- (b) Church Fast Pitch
  - (1) Men's
- (c) Industrial Fast Pitch
  - (1) Men's
  - (2) Women's
- (d) Master's Fast Pitch
  - (1) Men's 40 & Over
  - (2) Men's 45 and Over
  - (3) Women's 35 and Over
- (e) Junior Olympic Youth Fast Pitch
  - (1) Girl's 18 and Under Gold
  - (2) Girl's 18 and Under Class "A"
  - (3) Girl's 16 and Under Class "A"
  - (4) Girl's 14 and Under Class "A"
  - (5) Girl's 12 and Under Class "A"
  - (6) Girl's 10 and Under Class "A"
  - (7) Boy's 18 and Under
  - (8) Boy's 16 and Under
  - (9) Boy's 14 and Under
  - (10) Boy's 12 and Under
  - (11) Girl's 18 and Under Class "B"
  - (12) Girl's 16 and Under Class "B"
  - (13) Girl's 14 and Under Class "B"
  - (14) Girl's 12 and Under Class "B"
  - (15) Girl's 10 and Under Class "B"
  - (16) Girl's 18 and Under Class "C"
  - (17) Girl's 16 and Under Class "C"
  - (18) Girl's 14 and Under Class "C"
  - (19) Girl's 12 and Under Class "C"
  - (20) Girl's 10 and Under Class "C"
- (f) Modified Pitch
  - (a) Modified 9
    - (1) Men's Open
    - (2) Men's Class "B"
    - (3) Men's Class "C"
    - (4) Women's Open
    - (5) Women's Class "B"
  - (b) Modified 10
    - (1) Men's Open
    - (2) Men's Class "A"
    - (3) Men's Class "B"
    - (4) Men's Class "C"
    - (5) Men's Class "D"
    - (6) Women's Open
    - (7) Women's Class "B"
    - (8) Women's Class "C"
- (g) Modified 10 Church
  - (1) Men's
  - (2) Women's
- (h) Modified 10 Industrial
  - (1) Men's
- (i) Modified 10 Masters
  - (1) Men's 35 and Over
  - (2) Men's 40 and Over
  - (3) Men's 45 and Over
- (j) Modified 10 Senior Masters
  - (1) Modified 10 Senior Modified Pitch
  - (2) Men's 50 and Over
  - (3) Men's 55 and Over
- (k) Modified 10 Junior Olympic Youth
  - (1) Boy's 18 and Under
  - (2) Boy's 16 and Under
  - (3) Boy's 14 and Under
  - (4) Boy's 12 and Under
  - (5) Girl's 18 and Under
  - (6) Girl's 16 and Under
  - (7) Girls 14 and Under
  - (8) Girl's 12 and Under
- (l) Slow Pitch
  - (1) Men's Open
  - (2) Men's Class "A"
  - (3) Men's Class "B"
  - (4) Men's Class "C"
  - (5) Men's Class "D"
  - (6) Women's Open
  - (7) Women's Class "C"
  - (8) Women's Class "D"
  - (9) Men's Recreation
- (m) Church Slow Pitch
  - (1) Men's Major
  - (2) Men's Class "A"
  - (3) Men's Class "B"
  - (4) Men's Class "C"
  - (5) Men's Class "D"
  - (6) Women's Major
  - (7) Women's "A"
  - (8) Women's "B"
  - (9) Women's Class "C"
  - (10) Coed
- (n) Industrial Slow Pitch
  - (1) Men's Major
  - (2) Men's Class "A"
  - (3) Men's Class "B"
  - (4) Men's Class "C"
  - (5) Women's Major
  - (6) Women's "Open"
  - (7) Women's "B"
  - (8) Women's "C"
- (o) 16 Inch Slow Pitch

- |     |                                    |                                    |     |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
|     | (1) Men's Major                    | (2) Men's Class "A"                |     |
|     | (3) Men's Class "B"                | (4) Women's Major                  |     |
| (p) | Master's Slow Pitch                |                                    |     |
|     | (1) 35 and Over Men's              | (2) 35 and Over Men's Class "D"    |     |
|     | (2) 35 and Over Men's Recreation   | (3) 40 and Over Men's Class "D"    | (5) |
|     | 45 and Over Men's (6)              | 35 and Over Women's                |     |
| (q) | Senior Slow Pitch                  |                                    |     |
|     | (1) 50 and Over Men's              | (2) 55 and Over Men's              |     |
|     | (3) 60 and Over Men's              | (4) 65 and Over Men's              |     |
|     | (5) 70 and Over Men's              |                                    |     |
| (r) | Volunteer Fireman Slow Pitch       |                                    |     |
|     | (1) Men's                          | (2) Co-Ed                          |     |
| (s) | Coed Slow Pitch                    |                                    |     |
|     | (1) Major                          | (2) Class "A"                      |     |
|     | (3) Class "B"                      | (4) Church                         |     |
|     | (5) Co-Rec Class "A"               | (6) Co-Rec Class "B"               |     |
|     | (7) Co-Rec Class "C"               | (8) Co-Rec Class "D"               |     |
| (t) | Junior Olympic Youth Slow Pitch    |                                    |     |
|     | (1) Boy's 18 and Under Class "B"   | (2) Boy's 16 and Under Class "B"   |     |
|     | (3) Boy's 14 and Under Class "B"   | (4) Boy's 12 and Under Class "B"   |     |
|     | (5) Boy's 10 and Under Class "B"   | (6) Girl's 18 and Under Class "C"  |     |
|     | (7) Girl's 16 and Under Class "C"  | (8) Girl's 14 and Under Class "C"  |     |
|     | (9) Girl's 12 and Under Class "C"  | (10) Girl's 10 and Under Class "C" |     |
|     | (11) Girl's 18 and Under Class "B" | (12) Girl's 16 and Under Class "B" |     |
|     | (13) Girl's 14 and Under Class "B" | (14) Girl's 12 and Under Class "B" |     |
|     | (15) Girl's 10 and Under Class "B" | (16) Girl's 18 and Under Class "C" |     |
|     | (17) Girl's 16 and Under Class "C" | (18) Girl's 14 and Under Class "C" |     |
|     | (19) Girl's 12 and Under Class "C" | (20) Girl's 10 and Under Class "C" |     |

#### **10.02 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRIES**

- (a) Fast Pitch – All entries and positions will be determined and awarded by the Executive Committee and Commissioner's Council.
- (b) Modified Pitch – All entries and positions will be determined and awarded by the Executive Committee and Commissioner's Council.
- (c) Slow Pitch – All entries and positions will be determined and awarded by the Executive Committee and Commissioner's Council.
- (1) After the draw is made the District Commissioner accepting the position is responsible for the entrance fee.
- (2) If a team drops out for any reason, the District Commissioner sending the team may send a replacement. If that District cannot send a representative, the Host District may send an additional team. If the Host District is unable to send an additional team the position shall be filled by the State Commissioner. Any position unable to be filled will result in the forfeiture of all games scheduled to be played by that team. NO refund of fees will be made unless the vacated position is filled.

#### **10.03 QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS**

- (a) Eligibility  
Any member team that meets the eligibility requirements set forth under Article 2, may compete in a Qualifier Tournament in their division of play.
- (b) Refunds  
A full refund will be given any team that has previously won the right to advance in an earlier Tournament, providing they notify the Tournament Director of the Tournament they are dropping out of within twenty-four (24) hours of their winning another Tournament.  
If a Tournament is postponed because of weather conditions, before any games are played, and the team notifies the Tournament Director immediately upon notification of the Postponement that they cannot return, they will be refunded ninety (90%) of the their entrance fee.  
If a team has played one (1) game when the postponement occurs and the team notifies the Tournament Director immediately upon notification of the postponement that they cannot return, they will be refunded fifty percent (50%) of the entrance fee.  
If a team played two (2) games, or if they do not notify the Director immediately that they cannot return, they will not be entitled to any refund.

#### **10.04 COMPETING IN MORE THAN ONE TOURNAMENT**

A team qualifying in an Advance Play Qualifying Tournament may elect to play in another Qualifying Tournament that advances to a higher Championship Play Tournament than the first or to the State Championship Tournament.

Berths to advance that were won in the first qualifying tournament must be used. If the berths won in the first qualifying tournament becomes available through awarding of berths from the second tournament, that berth will be awarded to the highest place finishing non-qualifying team from the second tournament.

#### **10.05 ROSTERS**

Teams must compete with the same roster as used during regular season league play. Any player appearing on the Championship roster must have played for that team in regular season league games. Exception:  
Adult Super, Major, Class "A" (including Class "A" Co-Ed Slow Pitch), Master's 40 and 45 and Over, Senior's 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and Over teams and Junior Olympic Gold Level Fast Pitch teams. See Amateur Softball Association Code. No individual roster member may participate on more than one (1) roster team in the same league for the purpose of meeting these Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Roster requirements. Teams that play in leagues with Open rosters will minimally be classified Class "B" or higher by the District Commissioner and/or by the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Classification Committee.

#### **NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

- (a) A maximum number of players as indicated in each specific division including pickups will be permitted on a team roster.
- (b) PICKUP PLAYERS - Fast Pitch, Slow Pitch and Modified Pitch teams are permitted to add or substitute three (3) players as follows:
- (1) Added players must be from other Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Teams (except in Major Fast Pitch).
  - (2) Added players must be from the team's same division and the same or lower Classification level.
  - (3) A player may play with only one (1) team other than his own regular season league team within a division in a season.
  - (4) Pickup Players may be selected only from teams which are no longer eligible for Championship Play. Players that have competed in the highest level Tournament in a Classification (i.e. National Championship in Super, Major, "A", "B", "C", and "D") will not be Eligible Pickups.
  - (5) Additions prior to State Championship Play must be made from the team's own District or County.
  - (6) Pickup Players must sign an official "Added Player" form prior to the start of the Tournament. The Pickup Players may enter competition at any time during the Tournament.
  - (7) Pickup Players must have played for an Amateur Softball Association registered team of the same classification or lower during the current season and must have played in the division of play (Slow or Fast), but are limited to only one (1) age classification within a division of play. Individual Players are also eligible to play in the Adult Program as a Pickup Player.
  - (8) Junior Olympic Players may participate in more than one (1) Division of play (Slow or Fast), but are limited to only one (1) age classification within a division of play. Individual players are also eligible to play in the Adult Program as a Pickup Player.
  - (9) Church and Industrial teams may add only those players that meet the eligibility requirements of the division of play and these Advance Play Tournament Rules..
- (1) **SLOW PITCH** – Roster is limited to a maximum of twenty (20) players per team. Teams may add PICKUP PLAYERS in Championship Play according to the rules and regulations of the National Amateur Softball Association code. The team may add or substitute three (3) players from Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania teams in the same division and the same or lower classification.

- (2) **FAST PITCH** – Team rosters are limited to a maximum of twenty (20) players per team, including Pickups. NOTE: ADDED PLAYER RULE Fast Pitch teams are permitted to add or substitute no more than three (3) players.

**Host Team**

Host Fast Pitch teams may add three (3) players to their regular season's roster. The added players cannot be selected from the District Champions or any other team that as qualified or is otherwise eligible to participate in the State Tournament. The Host Team may add its three (3) players from its respective area only after the winning team has had its opportunity to select three (3) players.

**Class "B"**

Fast Pitch teams may add or substitute three (3) players to their regular season's league roster as per the added Player Rule as stated above. The players must be from another Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania team. Rosters are limited to twenty (20) players, including Pickups.

**Class "C"**

Fast Pitch is the same as Class "B" Fast Pitch above.

**Master 40 & Over**

Teams may be formed for participation at this level.

- (a) **MODIFIED PITCH (MODIFIED 9)** – Roster is limited to a maximum of twenty (20) players per team, including Pickups.
- (b) **MODIFIED PITCH (MODIFIED 10)** – Roster is limited to a maximum of twenty (20) players. Three (3) Pickup Players are permitted. Players must meet the requirements as stated in the pickup Player rule as stated above.
- (c) **CHURCH FAST PITCH** – A team is permitted to add three (3) players to their regular season league roster, providing the added players played in the same Church League. No pitcher classified "A" or higher may pitch in the Church State Tournament.
- (d) **INDUSTRIAL FAST PITCH** – Intramural Industrial teams may form one or more teams to Participate in the Industrial State Championship Tournament providing all teams in the League are registered Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania teams, and all the players meet the eligibility requirements for an Industrial Team.
- (e) **VOLUNTEER FIREMAN SLOW PITCH** – All players on these teams must be active members of the Fire Department they represent.
- (f) **MASTERS SLOW PITCH** –
  - 35 & Over** – This division is for teams participating as a team of Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Leagues. Teams may advance to National Championship Play from this division. NOTE: There will be no Pickup Players allowed for any team playing in this State Championship Tournament.
  - 35 & Over Class "D"** – This division is open to all Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
  - 40 & Over** – This division is open to all Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
  - 45 & Over** – This division is open to all Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
  - 50 & Over** – This division is open to all Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
  - 55 & Over** – This division is open to all Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
  - 60 & Over** – This division is open to all Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
  - 65 & Over** – This division is open to all Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
  - 70 & Over** – This division is open to all Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania member teams of this age group.
- (i) **COED OR CO-REC SLOW PITCH** –
  - Major – Teams may be formed from individual roster members of Amateur Softball Association sanctioned teams..
  - Class "A" – Teams having been classified "A" or teams utilizing players from Class "A" Rosters and teams not participating as a team in a Coed or Co-Rec League.
  - Class "B" – Teams that have no roster members of Class "A" or Major teams and play together as team in a Coed or Co-Rec League.
  - Class "C" – Teams with no roster members of Major, Class "A" or Class "B" teams and

play together as a team in a Coed or Co-Rec League where they are unable to maintain a winning percentage.

Class "D" – Teams with no roster members of Major, Class "A", Class "B", or Class "C" teams and play together as a team in a Coed or Co-Rec League.

#### **10.06 ROSTER PROCEDURE**

- (a) Each player must sign the current year's three part copy of the Official Amateur Softball Association Championship Roster.
- (b) The County or Deputy Commissioner will sign each roster.
- (c) The Team Manager retains one copy of the roster for verification purposes at any Tournament in which the team participates. The County Commissioner retains the other copies on file.
- (d) When the team qualifies to advance, the County Commissioner sends a copy of the roster to the District Commissioner.
- (e) When the team qualifies to advance past the District level, the District Commissioner signs the roster and forwards it to the Tournament Director of the Tournament for which the team has qualified and a copy to the State Office.

#### **10.07 TOURNAMENT PROTEST COMMITTEE**

- (a) A Tournament Protest Committee shall be appointed, to whom a decision, (except one based on an Umpire's judgment) may be appealed. The decision of such Committee is final. The selection of the Committee will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director.
- (b) Protests pertaining to the interpretation of the playing rules must be ruled on, and made final, by the Protest Committee, prior to the next pitch.
- (c) Protests pertaining to the use of an ineligible player should be made as soon as it is apparent that an ineligible player is being used. This protest can be made by anyone present and not necessarily someone involved in the immediate game. The burden of proof rests with the protesting member.

#### **10.08 ADVANCE PLAY TOURNAMENT RULES**

Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania Advance Play Tournament Rules:

- (a) **RULES** – All State Championship Tournaments shall be decided by Elimination Tournaments conducted in accordance with this Code and that of the Amateur Softball Association of America.
  - (1) No Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania Championship Play Tournament which leads to Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament Play of any type or level may set aside any rule or regulation of the Official Playing Rules or code of the Amateur Softball Association or the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania. (NOTE: This includes excluding the use of any equipment approved by the Amateur Softball Association or The Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania) with the following exceptions:
    - (a) All games must be completed. In the event of rain or any other cause which interrupts the play of a game, the game must be resumed at the exact point of interruption. Exception: In the event the Tournament can not be completed as scheduled, the Tournament Director will ascertain the procedure to determine the final results. NOTE: The following order shall be used by Tournament Officials in order to complete any Championship Play Tournament where weather conditions threaten the ability to conclude the Tournament as scheduled.
      1. Play Winner's Bracket Games first.
      2. 3-2 Count
      3. 5 Inning Games
      4. One Pitch
      5. Single Elimination
    - (b) An approved restricted flight softball shall be used in all Men's Slow Pitch games leading to National Championship Tournament Play.
- (b) **ROSTERS** – Prior to the deadline date each team participating in Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Championship Play must properly complete duplicate copies of the Official Amateur Softball Association Championship roster as per Section 10.06 of this Code.
  - (1) One (1) copy of the roster must be filed with and approved by the team's County or District Amateur Softball Association Commissioner and submitted to the Tournament Director. A copy must be retained by the Manager and made available when requested for various inspections throughout the course of the Tournament.
    - (a) The roster must contain all required information pertaining to each individual player.
    - (b) An individual may participate as a player on only ONE (1) Championship Roster Team per division or type of play during a season in Amateur Softball Association Championship Play, unless otherwise specifically noted in the Bylaws and Constitution Of the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania. No individual player may participate as a roster member for more than one (1) team in the same league.
    - (c) If a participating roster member is a minor, his or her parent or legal guardian must affix his or her signature to the roster in the designated area.
    - (d) Roster personnel in order to be eligible for Championship Play, must meet ALL requirements for the Advance Play Tournament Rules and be an active member of the league roster of the team for whom he/she is competing at the time of the Championship Play.
    - (e) The Advance Play Tournament Rules of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania, permits the use of PICKUP PLAYERS, as specified in the National Code of the Amateur Softball Association.
    - (f) A PICKUP PLAYER is any individual player added to the roster that does not participate with that same particular team in the same league in regular season league play. No individual may participate as a player for more than one (1) team in the same league to meet the roster requirements.
      - (1) Unless a player actually participates as a player with the particular team in regular season league games he or she cannot participate as a regular season roster member with that team in Championship Play. No individual may participate as a player for more than one (1) team in the same league to meet these roster requirements.

- (2) Simply being listed on the roster does not make an individual eligible to play in Championship Play.
- (g) No team is to leave their District without a copy of their roster, properly completed and signed by their District Commissioner and either a Deputy or County Commissioner. BE CERTAIN your District Commissioner has forwarded a second copy of your roster along with the Official Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Tournament Entry Form to the Commissioner or Tournament Director where the Tournament is being held. A copy of all team rosters MUST be in the Tournament Director's possession prior to the start of the first game of the Tournament. Any team not abiding by this procedure will not be eligible for participation in the Tournament and thus will not be permitted to compete.
- (1) The Official Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania State Tournament Entry Form MUST be forwarded with the Official Championship Roster.
- (h) Under no circumstances will any player be permitted to sign a roster at the Tournament.
- (i) Teams must compete with the same roster in Championship Play as used during the regular season league play, except teams that are permitted to add three (3) PICKUP PLAYERS as specified in the National Code of the Amateur Softball Association.
- (j) Teams and players may participate on only ONE (1) team per division of Championship Play leading to a State, Regional, Area or National Championship during any one season. (Exception for Pickup Players as stated earlier).
- (c) **PROTESTS**  
Protest must be filed properly according to the Official Amateur Softball Association Rules. Decisions on protest involving the playing rules must be made prior to the next pitch.
- (d) **HOUSING**  
Each team is responsible for making their own housing arrangements. It will benefit the individual team to do that as soon as possible after qualifying.
- (e) **FIELDS, GAMES AND TIMES**  
It shall be the responsibility of each Team manager to obtain the proper starting time and field for his team's games. He in turn shall be responsible for seeing that his team is available for play at the proper time and field. This shall also hold true in the event of a weather delay. The original starting time and field may be obtained from the team's local District Commissioner prior to the start of the Tournament. All other official times and fields are to be obtained from the Tournament Director or Tournament Committee.
- (a) Directions – Contact the District Commissioner in the area of the Tournament or the Tournament Director to determine directions and when and where the team must report. It is the responsibility of each team to be at the proper field at the proper time for all games.
- (b) Upon arrival at the Tournament site, competing teams must contact the Tournament Director as soon as possible to file information regarding their team representative and where and how that individual may be reached for emergency purposes throughout the play of the Tournament. A meeting of all participating managers may be held prior to the start of the Tournament. A copy of the Tournament rules, ground rules, and Field Directors' names should be given each Manager or Team Representative to be read carefully. Starting times and pairings will be confirmed at this time.
- (f) **UNIFORM**  
All members of each team must be properly dressed on the playing field. This means every player on the field must have the same identical uniform, including hats where applicable. Mixing of shorts and long pants is permitted but must meet the requirements as stated in the Official Amateur Softball Association Playing Rules and the Amateur Softball Association Code. Hats are mandatory for Fast Pitch male players only and must be worn properly. There is NO exception to this rule. All Managers and/or Coaches must be neatly attired, dressed uniformly and in accordance with the color code of the team. (See Amateur Softball Association of America Code for specifics on requirements for head wear and mixing of shorts and long pants). PENALTY – Any Player, Manager or Coach not complying with the uniform code will not be permitted to participate in the Tournament.
- (g) **RAIN OR DELAY**  
In the event of rain or inclement weather which causes a delay in the Tournament, it shall be each Team Manager's responsibility to report to the Tournament Director to obtain his team's proper time and field for the rescheduled contest. He in turn shall be responsible to see that his team is available for play at the proper rescheduled time and field.
- (h) **OFFICIALS**  
Amateur Softball Association Umpires will be assigned to all games. All rulings will be made in accordance with the Official Amateur Softball Association Rule Book and Guide. An Official Scorekeeper will be at each field. However, it is suggested that each team have its own scorekeeper should there be no Official Scorekeeper available in which case, unless otherwise designated, the home team must assume the responsibility of providing a capable and responsible scorekeeper that will be recognized and so designated as the Official Book. Any Player, Coach, Manager, or other member of a team using abusive language, pushing or striking an Umpire or Official of the Tournament or committing any other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct will be immediately removed from the game, playing field, and grounds. Failure of the offender to comply with the above will warrant forfeiture of the game. Since situations vary, all decisions on removal from the entire Tournament must be made by the Tournament Director after the team or team member has been given fair notice for a hearing before the Tournament Committee whose decision shall be final.
- (i) **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
**NO** alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed in the playing area. It will be the responsibility of the team to see that this rule is followed or the game is to be forfeited after the Umpire or Tournament Official has given said team one (1) minute to comply with this rule.
- (j) **DUGOUT LIMITS**  
Maximum allowed is twenty-five (25). The Umpire will request all unauthorized personnel to leave.

- (k) **BALLS**  
Balls will be supplied by the Tournament Sponsor, Amateur Softball Association. A 44 Restricted Flight softballs are required for all Men's Slow Pitch Championship Play leading to National Championship Tournament Play. A minimum of one (1) new Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania approved softball must be used to begin the play of each game in State Championship Tournament Play. Bats may be checked for weight, size and legality before each game.
- (l) **BRACKETS**  
Brackets will be posted at a convenient site at the Tournament. An Official Tournament Bracket will be available to the Manager or Team Representative of each participating team during their play in Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania State Championship Play.
- (m) **NO** batting or infield practice of any type will be permitted on the field where the game is scheduled. Check with the Tournament Director for the proper practice area.
- (N) **SMOKING**  
**NO** smoking will be permitted on the playing field. Failure to comply will result in removal from the playing area. The use of tobacco in any form is prohibited in the dugout in Junior Olympic Play.
- (O) **AWARDS**  
Awards approved by the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania will be presented to at least the winner and runner-up team.  
(a) Awards Ceremony – All trophies and awards for Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania State Championship Tournament Play must be presented at an Awards Ceremony commensurate with the Tournament. This ceremony, when possible, should be conducted at or near the field where the Tournament is concluded.
- (P) **HOME TEAM**  
The home team for each game will be decided by a coin flip prior to the start of the game.
- (Q) **ILLEGAL PLAYERS**  
Any team found using illegal or ineligible players will be dropped immediately from the Tournament. Opposing team will be declared the winner. Only the protested game will be considered for the purpose of won/lost records, no previous game will be affected. Any violations to the Amateur Softball Association Advance Play Tournament Rules do not have to be formally protested upon by an opposing team to be considered. It is the responsibility of the  
  
Tournament Director to act upon any alleged violation immediately. Proof of ineligibility must rest with the protesting team. If there is any doubt in respect to the eligibility of any player, the situation should be cleared by the Manager in writing through the District Commissioner or the State Commissioner prior to the Tournament. Illegal, ineligible players are subject to disqualification and/or suspension for a minimum of one (1) year. Any individual in the uniform of the team and occupying a position on the bench or in the dugout or on the list of players or substitutes for the team involved in the play of the contest in question, will subject the team and/or player to the penalties for ineligibility.
- (R) **TOURNAMENT RULES**  
In the event a State Tournament or National Qualifier is curtailed by inclement weather conditions and cannot be continued and more than 40% of the scheduled games have been completed, and a winner must be declared to advance to Regional, Area, or National Competition, the following will prevail:  
(a) The team advancing the furthest in the winner's bracket.  
(b) The teams will be ranked according to the best won/lost record except among undefeated teams.  
(c) If only two (2) teams are tied for a position and have played each other, the winner of that game will be awarded the higher position.  
(d) In the event of a tie in (a) and (b), the teams shall be ranked according to the fewest runs allowed per game played.  
(e) If a tie still exists, the teams shall be ranked according to the most runs scored per game played.  
(f) If there should still be a tie after all of the above, the winner will be decided by a coin toss. Every effort will be made to complete State Tournaments, even if the site and dates must be changed. All decisions on the continuation of the Tournament for both the site and dates will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director.
- (S) **RUN AHEAD RULE**  
A Run Ahead Rule will apply after five (5) innings in ALL Tournament games including the finals. At any time after four (4) or more full innings of play, any team obtaining a point spread of twenty (20) or more runs in Slow Pitch or after five (5) or more innings of play, any team obtaining a point spread of twelve (12) or more runs over the opposing team in Slow Pitch, ten (10) or more runs in Modified Pitch or eight (8) or more runs in Fast Pitch, will be awarded the game without further play. The losing team must have had their opportunity to bat in the inning in question.
- (T) **LINEUP CARDS**  
Lineup Cards listing the first and last name, uniform number and position of each member of the starting lineup and all substitutes available for play in that game must be submitted to the Home Plate Umpire or Official Scorer prior to the start of each game.
- (U) **BAD CHECK**  
Any team issuing a bad check or stopping payment of a check will automatically be suspended from Amateur Softball Association Play for a period of at least one (1) year from the date of the check in question fails to clear the bank. At no time will any member of the team in question be permitted to be reinstated until full restitution has been made. This will also apply for any situation which results in nonpayment of entry fee or rightful indebtedness to any Officer or Official of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania.
- (V) These rules were written for the protection of all involved, and to assure the success of the State Tournament Program, will be strictly enforced at all Tournaments. Action palpably designed to circumvent any part of these rules will not be tolerated and will result in removal from all further play in the Tournament or suspension from future Amateur Softball Association play.

#### **ARTICLE 11 – INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

##### **11.01 AUTHORIZATION**

Invitational Tournaments may be conducted by various members, and sanctioned by the Amateur Softball

Association Of Pennsylvania, providing the following conditions are met:

- (a) Teams – Must be registered with the Amateur Softball Association or the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.
- (b) Conflict – No Tournament will be sanctioned that conflicts with an Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania Qualifier or Championship Play in that division.
- (c) Added Players – Teams may use added players in accordance with the individual tournament rules.
- (d) Umpires – Must be registered with the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.

## **ARTICLE 12 – UMPIRES**

### **12.01 MEMBERSHIP**

An Umpire must be a member of a local Umpire Chapter that is chartered by the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.

### **12.02 REGISTRATION**

An umpire may register only through the District Commissioner in whose territory he resides or is employed. Deadline for registration is June 15.

### **12.03 STATE CHARTER**

Upon recommendation of the District Commissioner, the State Office shall issue a charter, free of charge, signed by the State Commissioner and the State Umpire-in-Chief. A minimum of ten (10) Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania approved Umpires are necessary in order to apply for or maintain a charter.

### **12.04 FEES**

The annual registration fee for each umpire shall be set by the Board of Directors.

### **12.05 GAME FEES AND EXPENSES**

Any requests for adjustments to game fees and expenses for State Tournaments, must be made by the District Umpire-In-Chiefs and the Umpire's Committee through the State Umpire-In-Chief, and acted upon by the Board of Directors at the Annual Spring Meeting. Any adjustment approved by the Board of Directors will go into effect on January 1 of the next year.

### **12.06 UMPIRE ASSIGNMENTS**

Umpires may work only League and Tournament games approved by the State Umpire-In-Chief.

### **12.07 TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

Transfers of membership, between chapters in the same district, may be made before March 1 of the current year. Notification of such transfer must be made in writing with a copy sent to the District Commissioner.

### **12.07 SUSPENSION**

Umpires may be suspended who:

- (a) Are palpably unfair or biased in their decisions in games.
- (b) Conduct themselves, on or off the field of play, in an ethical, immoral or unprofessional manner.
- (c) Does not cooperate with the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania in the promotion of softball.
- (d) Pursues a course of action that is detrimental to the welfare of this organization or the members thereof.
- (e) Fails to abide by or conduct themselves within the provisions and guidelines of the Code of the Amateur Softball Association, Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania, or Local Umpire's Chapter of Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.

### **12.09 RIGHT OF APPEAL**

Any Umpire suspended may appeal the suspension to the Board Of Directors, through the State Secretary. A Hearing will be scheduled by the Sate Office. Note: Suspensions made by and through the Local Chapter must be appealed through the Local Chapter and District prior to being appealed to the Board of Directors of the State Association.

### **12.10 STATE TOURNAMENTS**

Allocation for State Tournament assignments will be made by the State Umpire-In-Chief to each district based on the total number of Umpires registered the previous season where all other requirements and deadline specifications have been met.

### **12.11 STATE TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS**

The District Umpire-In-Chief will recommend Umpires for State Tournament assignments awarded his district to the District Commissioner who must approve the recommendation. The District Umpire-In-Chief will then notify the State Umpire-In-Chief of those individuals being sent to the Tournament from the District.

In order to be eligible for consideration for State, Regional, Area, National, or other Championship Play Tournament Assignments, the individual Umpire must have attended a state approved Rules Interpretation Clinic or Mechanics School in the year of the assignment.

## **ARTICLE 13 – HALL OF FAME PROCEDURES**

### **13.01 PURPOSE**

To honor those men and women who have played a major role in the growth and development of softball in the State of Pennsylvania.

### **13.02 GENERAL INFORMATION**

There are four (4) categories for admittance to the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania Hall of Fame.

- (1) Administrator
- (2) Player
- (3) Umpire
- (4) Manager or Coach

A minimum of fifteen (15) year affiliation with the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania in either of the above categories or a combination of all four (4) is a requirement for consideration.

(A) **ADMINISTRATION**

Must have been a District Commissioner, County Commissioner, League President or an Officer of the Association or a benefactor or company that has made contributions to improve the game of softball in the jurisdiction of the Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania.

(B) **PLAYER**

Must have played softball in Pennsylvania for at least fifteen (15) years and played in at least five (5) State or National Championship Tournaments during their career. To be selected, the person's active playing days must have been terminated for a minimum of three (3) years.

(C) **UMPIRE**

Must have been an active Umpire or Umpire-In-Chief for a period of at least fifteen (15) years. Must have umpired in five (5) State or three (3) Regional Championship Tournaments or served as Tournament Umpire-In-Chief or Tournament Director for any Regional or National Championship Tournament.

(D) **MANAGER OR COACH**

Must have been involved in Amateur Softball Association Of Pennsylvania Play for a period of at least fifteen (15) years. Must have participated as Manager or Coach in five (5) or more State or three (3) or more Regional Championship Tournaments during their career or managed or coached a team that won a State, Regional, Area, or National Championship.

### **13.03 SELECTIONS**

A maximum of four (4) candidates will be inducted each year.

### **13.04 NOMINATIONS TO INCLUDE**

All nominations and applications must include a picture of the nominee to use in any award or program and publicity.

### **13.05 DEADLINE**

Nominations must be submitted to the Selection Committee by November 1 to be considered for induction the following year.

## **DISCLAIMER**

**NOTE: THE OFFICIAL COPY OF THIS CODE IS LOCATED IN THE STATE OFFICE AT 3955 COLUMBIA AVENUE, COLUMBIA, PA 17512.**