

Missouri ASA Board of Directors Minutes

October 12, 2016 • Parks and Recreation Offices
Jefferson City, MO

State Commissioner called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed the Board members to the meeting. Board members in attendance: Joey Rich, Kristy Rich, Ken Kwantes, Mark Nelson, David Carroll, Tim Glascock, Chuck Kempf, Bobby Chick, Rick Petty and Terry Beas. Absent: Bob Garner and Jack Mc Cracken. Guests in attendance were Chuck Florea, Don Stubblefield, George Sutphin and Dave Cavin.

Overall Year Report – State Commissioner Joey Rich

Registrations were up a little a little across the board and at the state tournament level. Several districts were up in adult registrations. This year's budget will be in the black but not as much as in 2015. There will be some new things we will do in 2017 with the biggest change being the name change to USA Softball.

Umpire Report – State UIC Rick Petty

We need to continue working together and understand everyone's needs. If we have state or national tournaments we need to do a better job selecting umpires for these events. We need to be sure host cities get the umpire information they need. We are getting multiple calls from KC and St. Louis to help with umpires when they have larger tournaments and it is leaving us in a bind. Other comments included:

- Columbia's state tournament umpires were organized.
- George Sutphin selected to work the Men's B National in OKC. Melvin Respress was selected but released at the last minute due to a lower number of teams than expected.
- Umpires were up but we need more training. Rick would like to host a one-day state clinic.
- We need to work on meeting the May 1 deadline for National tournament contracts. The umpires are supposed to fill them out and sign them themselves.

JO Commissioner Report – State JO Commissioner Kristy Rich

Kristy reviewed individual registration, weekend only and tournaments. She submitted a 3-year review showing numbers have increased each year.

Commissioner's Comments

Bob Garner should be home from the hospital today. Mark Himebrook lost his apartment and most of his belongings by flood. Jack Mc Cracken's wife Cindy is in the hospital.

UIC Clinic – February 2017

With the situation with the umpires and the need to help improve, we have a total of eight people going to the UIC Clinic in Oklahoma City. Three of those going have not attended a clinic before. This year's budget is \$1,400 but Commissioner Rich feels strongly the extra money should be spent to support umpire training. Three umpires that went in 2015 will pay their own registration fee.

New USA Softball Logo

Commissioner Rich does not want staff to wear apparel with the new logo to the national meeting in Shreveport. We will have the new MASA logo and the new USA Softball logo our all of our information. We have used our current MASA logo for 25 years. The actual USA Softball name change won't take place until 1-1-2017 and the Missouri name change will be phased in over the year.

Proposed Code Changes & Other Proposals

- **ASA to USA Transition Timeline Proposal**

State Commissioner Joey Rich submitted a timeline proposal for Missouri ASA to transition to

USA Softball. The transition would start January 1, 2017.

Motion was made by Ken Kwantes and Mark Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Proposal #1 – Discussion item only**
- **Proposal #2 – Change to Cash Awards at Adult State Tournament**
State Commissioner Joey Rich proposed to change the travel fund for adult state tournaments to cash awards, which would be paid the week following the state tournament. The cash awards would be \$25/team (less than 12 teams); 1st place \$250 & 2nd place \$150 (13-20 teams); 1st place \$300; 2nd place \$150 & 3rd place \$100 (20 teams or more). Men's C would be \$300 for 1st place only regardless of number of teams entered.
Motion was made by Ken Kwantes and Terry Beas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Proposal #3 – Change the 2017 MASA Convention to an Awards Luncheon**
State Commissioner Joey Rich proposed starting the MASA Convention at 9:00 AM and have an awards luncheon. The 2017 convention will be held in Rolla February 18.
Motion was made by Chuck Kempf and Rick Petty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Code Change #1**
The Missouri ASA Secretary and Treasurer shall assist with the preparation of annual financial reports of the association. The State Commissioner shall appoint both positions and may serve as the Treasurer.
Motion was made by Tim Glascock and Mark Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Code Change #2**
TOP TEAMS. Add sentence: The top teams will be determined by the state commissioner, UIC, other Board of Directors involved in the tournament and the Tournament Director. The number of "top teams" to be reclassified maybe 1, 2, 3, or 4 based on game scores, input from those listed above and any other pertinent available information. Only players on these teams that actually played at state will be reclassified. A "D" player who participates on a team that finishes as a top team at state will be reclassified to D+. Players rated D+ and finish as a top team at state will be reclassified to C. Players on top teams in Class E will be reclassified to D the following year. Any team that has not played ASA softball in the last five years will be classified D. The team may be allowed to play in E by appealing through their district commissioner and show just cause to be allowed to play in E based on league and tournament play and the classification of any players on the classification list. The Missouri ASA Classification Guidelines are published separately and updated periodically as approved by the Missouri ASA Board of Directors.
Motion was made by Ken Kwantes and Rick Petty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Code Change #3**
Delete Section 3.06 referring to previous qualifiers as it is no longer needed.
Motion was made by Mark Nelson and David Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Code Change #4**
Delete Section 4.03 H referring to reverting to a one umpire system during an adult state slow pitch tournament in the event of an emergency and the per game fee. NOTE: If we have an emergency, which has never happened, the state commissioner will determine a fee for a single umpire game at adult state tournament.
Motion was made by Mark Nelson and Ken Kwantes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Code Change #5**
Delete Section 4.03 I referring to Men's "C" Fast Pitch since we have not had C Fast

Pitch State tournament for over ten years.

Motion was made by Rick Petty and Terry Beas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Code Change #6**

Replace Article 5 Classification with: The Missouri ASA State Classification Code will be published as a separate document from this Code and will follow all National ASA Code requirements. The Classification Code will be approved by the MASA Board of Directors.

Motion was made by Terry Beas and Tim Glascock seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Code Change #7**

Revise the first paragraph of Article 6.01 to read: State Umpire Staff shall include the State Umpire-In-Chief and a maximum of three Deputy State Umpire in Chiefs. At least one of the Deputy State UIC's will have an emphasis in Slow Pitch and at least one of the Deputy States UIC's will have an emphasis in fast pitch. These positions will be approved by the State UIC and approved by the State Commissioner. The staff will also include a District UIC for each district. Each district can use two UIC's (FP/SP) if desired, with approval of the State Commissioner.

Motion was made by Terry Beas and Mark Nelson seconded.

Discussion – Terry Beas does not think they both should be allowed to come from the same district. State UIC and associates should not come from the same district. This was proposed as an amendment to the item and the amendment was approved.

Change to proposed item – Revise the first paragraph of Article 6.01 to read: State Umpire Staff shall include the State Umpire-In-Chief and a maximum of three Deputy State Umpire in Chiefs. At least one of the Deputy State UIC's will have an emphasis in Slow Pitch and at least one of the Deputy States UIC's will have an emphasis in fast pitch. These positions will be approved by the State UIC and approved by the State Commissioner. The staff will also include a District UIC for each district. Each district can use two UIC's (FP/SP) if desired, with approval of the State Commissioner. Deputies shall not be from the same district or the district as the State UIC.

Motion was made by Mark Nelson and Tim Glascock seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Code Change #8**

Move the item from 6.01.1 to 6.01 (adding it as third paragraph) to make this task the responsibility of the State UIC. Items reads: Develop and maintain a database for the purpose of tracking Missouri ASA umpires who have umpire in state, regional, and national tournaments. This database shall also track the Missouri ASA umpires who have expressed an interest in umpiring in a national tournament.

Motion was made by Chuck Kempf and Terry Beas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Code Change #9**

Delete Article 6.01 E referring to Deputy State UIC's.

Motion was made by Chuck Kempf and Terry Beas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Code Change #10**

Delete 601.2 heading "Associate Deputy State UIC's" and move a-e to Article 6.01 and re-letter as needed.

Motion was made by Tim Glascock and Terry Beas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Code Change #11**

Withdrawn by Author

- **Code Change #12**
Change the State Tournament UIC fees to read: a minimum of \$100 for a one-day tournament, \$150 for a two-day tournament and \$200 for a three-day tournament.
Motion made by Chuck Kempf and Tim Glascock seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Code Change #13**
Change Article 6.05 to read: State Tournament UIC's will either be a Deputy State UIC or the District UIC from the hosting district. The State Tournament UIC will be appointed by the State UIC and approved by the State Commissioner.
Motion made by David Carroll and Mark Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Code Change #14**
Change the opening paragraph of Article 6.06 to read: State Tournament UIC. Each State Tournament must have a separate Umpire-in-Chief, not already serving as Tournament Director. The UIC cannot umpire during the event except in case of emergency. State Tournament UIC duties and responsibilities shall include but are not limited to the following:
Motion made by Terry Beas and Ken Kwantes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Code Change #15**
Withdrawn by Author

Classification Code of USA Softball Missouri

The classification document to be removed from the Code and approved periodically by the Board of Directors. See attached classification code, to be effective January 1, 2017.

Motion made by Ken Kwantes and Chuck Kempf seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Award Selection

Discussion and voting was held on nominations for Student Scholarship, Hall of Fame and Slow Pitch Impact. All were approved.

- **Student Scholarship** – Craig Lewis (Winston) and Kelsi McQuinn (Stanberry)
- **Hall of Fame** – Mike Dryer (Blue Springs) and Kerry Shaw (Bates City)
- **Slow Pitch Impact** – Vicki Whelehon (Leadwood); Ken Wallace (Springfield) and George Barnett (Tarkio).

State Tournament Selection

The following sites and dates were proposed for the 2017 Girls State Tournaments:

- Girls "A" - (Rolla) – June 17 & 18
- Girls "B" - (Hannibal) – June 24 & 25
- Girls "B" - (Jefferson City) – June 17 & 18
- Girls "C" North - (Maryville) – June 24 & 25
- Girls "C" North – (Kirksville) – July 1 & 2
- Girls "C" South – (Jefferson City) – June 17 & 18
- 10U Modified (Springfield) – June 24 & 25

Motion was made by David Carroll and Tim Glascock seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The following sites and dates were proposed for the 2017 Adult State Slow Pitch Tournaments:

- Men's Church – July 8 (Springfield)
- Women's – July 8 (Springfield)
- Coed C & D – July 15 & 16 (Rolla)
- Men's Slow Pitch – August 5 & 6

Men's C (Columbia)
Men's D (Columbia)
Men's D South (Cape Girardeau)
Men's E (Jefferson City)

Motion was made by Mark Nelson and Ken Kwantes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- **Slow Pitch Impact Award**

State Commissioner Joey Rich would like to open up the nomination process to allow the public to made nominations.

Motion was made by Terry Beas and Mark Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Dave Epperson Retirement**

State UIC Rick Petty would like for Missouri ASA to present a retirement gift to Regional UIC Dave Epperson to show our appreciation for his service to Missouri ASA. It was suggested to make the presentation during the Mid-America Regional meeting in Shreveport. State Commissioner Joey Rich will ask if other association are going to do a presentation in Shreveport and then will finalize things with Rick.

- Terry Beas would like to see each district be allowed put their umpire registration on a spreadsheet to send to the state office and to the State UIC.
- Tim Glascock asked how Missouri ASA could keep teams registering with Kansas City Metro. State Commissioner Joey Rich and JO State Commissioner Kristy Rich will talk with KC Metro personnel. Mr. Glascock also asked if we were going to allow non-Missouri teams to participate in our C State Tournaments. The overall consensus was "yes."

Presentations by State Commissioner

State Commissioner Joey Rich made a presentation to David Cavin (St. Joseph) as the newcomer of the year for Missouri ASA.

New Region Boundaries

State Commissioner Joey Rich discussed the new regional alignment approved by the National ASA. Mid-America Region has been untouched with the exception of the addition of Colorado. There will still be Territorial tournaments and the Mid-America rotation will not change for at least two years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Tim Glascock and seconded by Kristy Rich for the Board to go into Executive Session at 2:54 PM. Motion approved unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session and approved a one-year extension of the Executive Director's contract.

Motion was made by Ken Kwantes and Mark Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The fall meeting of the Missouri ASA Board of Directors was adjourned at 2:55 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Rich, Board Secretary.

CLASSIFICATION CODE OF USA SOFTBALL MISSOURI

Approved by the Board of Directors 10-12-16. Effective January 1, 2017

General

Classification guidelines and procedures for USA Softball MISSOURI will be enforced by the State Commissioner and the local district commissioner and/or assigned personnel. Input as to player classification can sometimes be secured from other players, umpires, district officials and state officials, including but not limited to level of accomplishment at state and invitational tournaments. Appeals of classification must be done by the player wanting the reclass, and must be done on-line at USA Softball national classification web site. The Missouri A.S.A. will also publish the mandatory reclassification list each season, based on national and state code requirements.

Classification Committee

The Classification Committee of USA Softball Missouri will consist of the Board of Directors and additional staff from each district sufficient to make thorough decisions in a fair manner on classification issues and appeals.

Men's Slow Pitch

CLASS B - These teams will be of high quality on both offense and defense, and will include some of the best players Missouri has to offer. These teams will generally have numerous home run hitters and will play a high quality, very consistent brand of softball with ability to take hits away from the opposing team with great defensive plays. The team batting line up will have no weak links and all players will be capable of taking games away from opponents by using their allowed home runs in a manner creating maximum run production. Most players will understand defensive strategies such as a 5-man infield, hitting the cut off, and other situations to allow the best result for their team.

CLASS C - These teams will have very good offense and defense. These teams may have 3-4 home run hitters, and even more that can occasionally hit a home run. Defense will be solid but not without errors. In most areas of Missouri, Class "C" is the highest classification that is played. Most C players will understand game strategy but will not always complete the play to follow that strategy.

CLASS D - These teams will generally play several tournaments during the regular season, will have 0-2 home run hitters, and will have average players at many positions, even though a few above average players may participate. These teams will sometimes be inconsistent but overall will put a good defense and offense on the field. A majority of men's slow pitch teams participate at the D level.

CLASS "E" - These teams play in very few tournaments, and will generally finish in the bottom ½ of those tournaments. Players have an average level of skill development. These teams may show occasional good play on defense, but will also make errors and mental mistakes. While the team may contain 1-2 players that can hit home runs, the players at this level must not be able to consistently hit home runs.

Mandatory Reclassification: Slow Pitch

A "D" player who participates on a team that finishes with as a top team at state tournaments will be reclassified to D+. Players rated D+ and plays as a top team at state will be reclassified to C. Players on top teams in Men's "E" will be reclassified to D. The "top teams" will be determined by the state commissioner, UIC, other Board of Directors involved in the tournament and the Tournament Director. The number of "top teams" to be reclassified may be 1, 2, 3, or 4 based on game scores, input from those listed above and any other pertinent available information including the number of teams playing in the tournament. Only players on these teams that actually played at state will be reclassified.

NOTE: A men's slow pitch team that has not played ASA in the past five years cannot play in Class E. They must participate in Class D or higher. The team may appeal this policy to their district commissioner and then to the state commissioner and must confirm league roster with tournament roster.

Co-ed Slow Pitch

Co-ed teams must follow national classification guidelines, including no more than the maximum allowable players classified one level above their team's classification. The general guideline is the top 2 teams at D state must play in C the following year if they have more than four returning players.

Adult Fast Pitch

USA Softball Missouri no longer conducts state tournaments in women's or men's fast pitch, but teams sometimes advance from local leagues to invitational and national tournaments. Classification of these teams will follow national code and classification guidelines. The USA Softball Missouri Classification Committee will assist with any classification appeals at national level.

Girls Fast Pitch

CLASS A/B/C - Girls fast pitch teams will be classified by their local district commissioner and will be evaluated by the State Classification Committee from year to year as to their proper classification, based on results of invitational and state tournaments.