



2021 Code USA SOFTBALL MISSOURI

These regulations affect only those under the direct jurisdiction of USA Softball Missouri and do not include the Metro areas of St. Louis or Kansas City. Board approved October 2020

ARTICLE 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.01 - NAME The name of the organization shall be the "USA Softball Missouri" and shall operate in strict accordance with all rules and regulations USA Softball, the National Governing Body of amateur softball in the United States. Should any provision of this state code be in opposition to any portion of the USA Softball National Code, the National Code shall take precedence.

1.02 - PURPOSE The purpose and objectives of USA Softball Missouri include, but are not limited to:

- a) to promote the sport of amateur softball in Missouri for all persons, regardless of race, color, age, religion, sex, or national origin, and to establish an atmosphere of fair competition by thoughtful organization and administration and/or sanctioning of state and other qualifying and invitational tournaments;
- b) to educate and coordinate a state-wide network of personnel to assist in all phases of the operations of this state organization and to conduct an Annual Meeting each spring to assist in the training of those personnel;
- c) to provide for and ensure the safety of all participants, coaches, umpires, and spectators by promoting good sportsmanship on all levels, and by establishing safety guidelines to be used at all USA Softball sanctioned tournaments;
- d) to educate and train coaches and players on proper skills of softball play and rules through promoting, organizing, and conducting clinics, seminars, and training courses;
- f) to educate and train umpires through organized clinics, attendance at national clinics, and by hosting state, regional, and national schools;

ARTICLE 2 - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

2.01 – STRUCTURE USA Softball Missouri shall be structured in accordance with USA Softball standards including but not limited to:

- a) The Missouri State Commissioner shall be ultimately responsible for all areas of operation of USA Softball Missouri. In addition, an Executive Director position may be utilized by the Board of Directors to oversee the operations of the association. This Executive Director may be, but is not required to be, the State Commissioner.
- b) The USA Softball Missouri **President** shall assist the State Commissioner in the overall operation of the organization. The President shall serve as Chairperson of the Board of Directors. The President will serve a two-year term.
- c) The USA Softball Missouri **Vice-President** shall assist the State Commissioner and the President in the overall operation of the organization as needed, and may be called to serve as President if the current President becomes incapacitated. The Vice-President will serve a two-year term.
- d) The USA Softball Missouri **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. The Secretary will serve a two-year term.
- e) The USA Softball Missouri **Junior Olympic Commissioner** shall oversee, assist, and be made available to state office personnel, district commissioners, umpires, and for other requests for assistance within the state of Missouri pertaining to all Junior Olympic softball programs;
- f) The USA Softball Missouri **Umpire-In-Chief** shall be responsible to oversee the umpire training programs, confirm berths for umpires to state, regional and national tournaments, and attempt to secure National Umpire Schools, or other training programs, for/to the state of Missouri. A staff of Deputy State UIC and/or Associate State UIC's will aid the State UIC in the performance of his duties.
- g) The USA Softball Missouri **State Player Representative** shall be appointed by the State Commissioner and shall represent USA Softball Missouri at state and regional meetings;
- h) **District Commissioners** shall be appointed by and serve under the direction of the State Commissioner and shall oversee the operations in each respective district. District Commissioners must follow all national, regional, and Missouri State codes, and all other regulations made by the Board of Directors and approved by the State Commissioner, or those made solely by the State Commissioner;

i) District Personnel shall be assigned at the discretion of the District Commissioner and may include, but are not limited to Deputy District Commissioner (s), District J. O. Commissioner, and a District Umpire-In-Chief. The District Commissioner is responsible for actions taken by his/her assigns;

2.02 – COMMITTEES: The USA Softball Missouri **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will be composed of the State Commissioner, President, Vice-President, J.O. State Commissioner, State Umpire-in-Chief, Deputy State Commissioner, State Player Representative, any National Council Allied Member Representative, and all District Commissioners. The Board of Directors may meet during the Annual Convention to consider changes to operations. The Board of Directors will generally conduct a Fall Business Meeting to consider additional Code changes and to approve state tournament sites for the following year and other business that shall come before the Board. All recommendations must be sent to the State Commissioner for final approval.

2.03 - ANNUAL MEETING USA Softball Missouri will conduct an annual meeting, normally referred to as the "USA Softball Missouri Annual Convention." The Convention will be held early in the calendar year at a site selected by the State Commissioner. The State Commissioner will determine registration and hotel fees, generally with input and approval of the Board of Directors. Travel expenses, additional meals, and other incidental expenses are the responsibility of the individual.

2.04 - SERVICE AWARDS USA Softball Missouri will provide award plaques for all state or district level positions based on years of service for each 5-year service increment.

ARTICLE 3 - ELIGIBILITY

3.01 - TEAMS All teams properly registered with USA Softball Missouri will be entitled to compete in their respective division and classification of championship play, and otherwise be entitled to all benefits afforded by USA Softball. Team registration fees will be approved annually by the Board of Directors. Currently, the fees are: Adult teams \$25; Youth teams \$20; fall team registration \$5 discount for league play that starts after August 1. The District Commissioner will receive a \$2.00 rebate for each team registration to assist with district expenses.

3.02 – INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

a) USA Softball Missouri will offer individual registration for Junior Olympic softball and baseball teams and adult softball teams. Fees will be approved annually by the Board of Directors. The District Commissioner will receive a .50 cent rebate for each individual registration to assist with district expenses.

b) Fees for registering on-line may include any administrative fees or costs, including credit card charges.

3.03 - ROSTERS All roster and related eligibility requirements including, but not limited to age, sex, suspension due to misbehavior, and classification will follow National guidelines, unless additional requirements are set forth in the USA Softball Missouri Code. Teams must register and be a part of the championship play process based on the district in which the highest number of players resides. All roster requirements, including rules regarding pick-up players, will follow the national USA Softball Code. ROSTER FREEZE DATE is the same date as the state tournament entry deadline. If no state tournament is held, roster deadline will be the same date as the respective national tournament entry deadline or a date determined by the State Commissioner.

3.04 - TEAM MANAGERS or their assignee(s) shall be responsible for payment of all fees for championship play. Returned checks or other non-payment problems must be totally corrected before a team can continue in championship play. A \$40.00 return check charge is levied, except for checks written for \$40.00 or less, the return check charge is \$15.00. Entry fees to national tournaments must be submitted in certified funds, except when the tournament hosts accept credit cards. Payment(s) by a team representative will be made directly to the hosting organization and must be completed by the respective tournament entry deadline.

3.05 - CLASSIFICATION Teams must play in the proper classification within their division of play in accordance with national, regional, and state classification guidelines.

a) A "D" player who participates on a team that finishes as a "top team" will be reclassified to D+. Players rated D+ and finish as part of a "top team" will be reclassified to C. The "top teams" will be determined by the state commissioner, UIC, or other Board of Directors members involved in the tournament and the tournament director. The number of top teams may be 1, 2, 3 or 4 based on game scores, input from those listed above and another pertinent available information. "Top teams" in E will be reclassified to D for the following year.

NOTE: A men's slow pitch team that has not played USA Softball in the past five years must participate in Class D or higher. The team may be allowed to play E by appealing to their district commissioner and show just

cause to be allowed to play E based on league and tournament play and the classification of any players on the classification list. USA Softball Missouri Classification Guidelines are published separately and updated periodically as approved by the Board of Directors. The state classification listing is now a part of the National Classification List.

- b) In women's slow pitch, ALL teams will advance directly to the state tournament.
- c) In co-ed play, the top TWO "D" teams will be reclassified as Class "C" the following season of participation.
- d) In ALL divisions and classifications of play, a team that wins ONE game in the current year state tournament WILL NOT be reclassified in a lower class the following season of participation if they have FOUR or more returning players. Only teams that are 0-3 may move to the lower classification the following participating season, with permission of their district commissioner.
- e) In Junior Olympic fast pitch, all teams will advance directly to the Junior Olympic state championship.
- f) Reclassified teams must pay their entry fee to the higher-level state tournament the following season of participation.
- g) All teams must have the District Commissioner approval to ensure proper classification.

ARTICLE 4 - CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

4.01 - All registered USA Softball Missouri teams may advance directly to the state tournament. Team managers are responsible to ensure their team follows the Missouri Code requirements as to classification.

4.02 - **NATIONAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENTS** shall be conducted in strict accordance with all USA Softball Code regulations. The State Commissioner, based on site determinations at the Mid-America Region Annual Meeting, will award National Qualifiers.

4.03 - **STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS** - will be conducted for adult and youth fast and slow pitch, as determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the State Commissioner. Format and entry fees will be determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the State Commissioner.

- a) Each respective **adult** state tournament, cash prizes for top teams will be determined by the state commissioner, based on a total of \$25 per team. Teams that advance to nationals will pay their own entry fee and expenses. Checks for top adult team(s) at state will be presented on-site at the conclusion of the tournament. The payout formula will be approved by the Board as needed.
- b) In all adult tournaments, a 3-game guarantee will be played with format determined by state staff, based on number of teams in the tournament and number of fields available.
- c) In all youth tournaments, a 3-game guarantee will be played with format determined by state staff, based on number of teams in the tournament and number of fields available. State tournament play may begin no earlier than 6:00 p.m. Friday. For fewer than 8 teams, games will start Saturday morning.
- d) Team managers must upload a roster on TournamentUSASoftball.com. Adult teams will sign an official USA Softball Roster/Affidavit at tournament check-in. Junior Olympic teams advancing to a National Tournament will submit an official USA Softball Roster/Affidavit to the state office for approval.
- e) A church team player is one who regularly attends the services of the sponsoring church congregation and is on the membership rolls by March 1 of the current year. With prior approval of the State Commissioner, two churches may combine for one team and participate at the USA Softball Missouri Church State Tournament.
- f) Playing rules and Code requirements will follow the USA Softball Rule and Code with the following exceptions: Time limits in effect for Junior Olympic State Tournaments:
 - 1. All J.O. Divisions: 1 hour 15 minutes, (Pool play games, all divisions, 1 hour)
 - 2. For all state tournaments, player jerseys must be similar in style and trim. Teams are requested but not required to wear caps and shorts or trousers that are similar in color and style.
 - 3. Rules concerning steel or metal cleats will follow those of the Official USA SB Rule Book.
 - 4. Host organizations are required to have temporary fence distance set at the correct distance according to the USA SB rulebook. NOTE: Facilities hosting Men's or Co-ed state championships must have a minimum of 300' outfield fence distance.
- g) All tournament locations are recommended to use tabs on corners of both batter's boxes to locate the official batters' boxes.
- h) Softballs for all state tournaments will be provided by each participating team with prior approval of the tournament director. Softballs will be marked by the tournament director as to such approval.
- i) The tournament director and/or hosting organization will pay all state tournament workers, and will be reimbursed according to the following schedule of fees listed:

- Scorekeepers All slow pitch \$10.00 per game **UMPIRES: \$35.00 per game**
- 1 hr (Pool Play) All Girls FP \$10.00 per game **\$35.00 per game**
- 1 hr 15 min All Girls FP \$11.00 per game **\$40.00 per game**

i) The hosting organization is responsible for all other expenses associated with the operation of state tournaments. The tournament organizers keep all proceeds from concession operations, including t-shirt sales.

j) State tournament organizers will receive a "Host Guarantee" based on the following formula:

Junior Olympic Tournaments

First 8 teams, each \$80.00 per team to hosts

9-24 teams, each \$60.00 per team to hosts

Over 24 teams, each \$30.00 per team to hosts

Adult Slow Pitch Tournaments

First 8 teams, each \$70.00 per team to hosts

7-20 teams, each \$40.00 per team to hosts

21+ teams, each \$25.00 per team to hosts

l) **OFFICIAL RAIN POLICY** In the event of rain during any state tournament, refunds will be issued as follows:

- If a team has played only one game, a partial refund will be made, limited by the amount of extra expenses provided by the hosting organization. If two or more rain delays occur, expenses soar. If the tournament is a total wash out and no field work is possible, the refund would be more. An administrative fee up to \$50 may be charged if no games are played due to weather.
- If a team has played two or more games, no refund will be made and every attempt will be made to crown a champion of the tournament.

4.04 - REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS will be conducted in accordance with all Mid-America requirements. USA Softball Missouri hosting cities of regional events will work directly with the State Commissioner to ensure all Code requirements are met.

ARTICLE 5 - UMPIRES

5.01 - STATE UMPIRE STAFF shall include the State Umpire-In-Chief and a maximum of three Deputy State Umpire-In-Chiefs. Deputies shall not be from the same district nor from the district of the state UIC. At least one Deputy State UIC will have an emphasis in Slow pitch and at least one Deputy UIC will have an emphasis in Fast Pitch. These positions will be appointed 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 positions (FP/SP) if desired, with approval of the State Commissioner. The State UIC and his staff shall ensure rules clinics are properly conducted throughout the state, and the State UIC will administer a rotating schedule of assignments to state tournaments. While not automatically assigned to conduct clinics, or serve as UIC at state tournaments, the state UIC staff has the responsibility to ensure all rules and regulations are enforced at these tournaments and qualified leadership is at each site.

The State UIC shall develop and maintain a database for tracking USA Softball Missouri umpires who have umpired in state, regional, and national tournaments. This database shall also track umpires who have expressed an interest in umpiring in a national tournament.

5.01.1 - DEPUTY STATE UIC duties and responsibilities shall include but are not limited to the following:

- Fulfill any assignments designated by the State Commissioner and/or the State UIC.
- Assist the State UIC in the instruction at any State Umpire School. The Deputy State shall also help to devise an agenda for a statewide umpire staff meeting (Associate Deputies and District UIC's) for training.
- Help coordinate, as needed, operations of the District UIC's.
- Temporarily fill in for the State UIC if he cannot fulfill his duties.
- Coordinate and assist in the training for the umpires in their area of the state.
- Carry out any assignments given to them by the State Commissioner, State UIC, or the Deputy State UIC.
- Attend any state umpire staff meetings and USA Softball Missouri conferences.
- Be available to UIC any State or Regional Tournament.
- Be available to instruct at the State Umpire School as requested.

5.02 - FEES to become an USA Softball registered umpire in Missouri are payable each year and expire on 12-31 each year. Umpire registration fee is \$50.00 All umpires who will be working Junior Olympic championship play must also have an official USA SB Background Check completed through www.registerusasoftball.com and must complete Safe Sport training. No other types of background check are allowed. Fall umpire registration are \$40.00 (registration on or after August 15,

umpire not eligible to officiate championship play). For all registrations, ten dollars (\$10.00) is kept by the local district commissioner, and the remaining amount is sent to the USA Softball Missouri. Registrations should not be held by the district commissioner for over 30 days. For all umpire registrations, a \$10.00 rebate will be sent to the district commissioner and MUST be used for umpire training programs, travel expenses by the district umpire-in-chief or other umpire related activities, as deemed appropriate by the district commissioner.

5.03 – RULES CLINICS All umpires desiring to umpire any state championship must attend a USA Softball Missouri approved rules clinic, hold a current USA Softball registration card, and be recommended and approved by the local district commissioner.

5.04 – STATE TOURNAMENT TRAVEL/HOUSING

a) Umpires working state tournaments may be entitled to hotel accommodations provided by the hosting organization, for both Friday and Saturday nights, two umpires per room. Should family members room with the umpire, then the umpire will be required to pay 1/2 the cost of the room.

b) Mileage costs, if any, must be approved by the State Commissioner in advance.

1. Umpires traveling over 30 miles one way, may be entitled to reimbursement of fifty cents per mile, but approval must be given by the State Commissioner to the state tournament director in advance of the tournament.

2. The maximum mileage paid for each car is 200 miles, roundtrip, or \$100.00, if approved by the State Commissioner.

3. If mileage is reimbursed, a minimum of two umpires must have traveled together in one car. When possible, up to four umpires should travel together.

c) All state tournament games will utilize two umpires per game.

d) The State Tournament UIC shall be paid a minimum of \$100 for a one-day tournament, \$150.00 for two-day tournaments and \$200.00 for three-day tournaments. Multiple divisions of play at the same site shall be defined as one tournament for UIC fee. This fee shall apply only for UIC's who do not umpire during the tournament. The payment of the UIC shall come from the host guarantee.

5.05 - STATE TOURNAMENT UIC shall have the following qualifications:

a) The current Deputy State UIC or current Associate Deputy;

b) The District UIC from the hosting district;

c) The tournament UIC may be appointed by the State UIC, the State Commissioner or the State JO Commissioner.

5.06 - 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:

a) The tournament UIC shall be responsible for securing umpires not being provided by the hosting district.

b) The UIC shall have a pre-tournament clinic to cover the ground rules of the tournament fields and cover any special rules for the appropriate level of tournament.

c) The tournament UIC shall assign the umpires to the games.

d) The UIC shall observe the umpires during the tournament in order to rate the umpires.

e) The UIC shall complete all paperwork, relating to umpires, and return to the State UIC/Commissioner in a timely manner.

f) The tournament UIC shall be provided with a hotel room if not from that area.

ARTICLE 6 - AMENDMENTS

6.01 - Amendments or changes to this USA Softball Missouri Code may be made by a 60%+ majority vote of the Board of Directors at any duly called meeting, or by 2/3 vote of all Council Members in attendance during a full Council session at the Annual Convention. The State Commissioner must ratify all amendments.