

ADULT BYLAWS PERTAINING TO NSA SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

It is the responsibility of coaches/managers/sponsors to know the NSA Rules and Bylaws. Ignorance of these Rules and Bylaws is not grounds for protest or appeal.

ARTICLE XIII INDIVIDUAL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1

A player is eligible to compete as an amateur player, as long as he/she does not accept payment for participating in the game of softball.

SECTION 2

A player is considered an amateur if he/she plays the game solely for the pleasure, physical, mental, and social benefits derived from participation.

SECTION 3

An amateur player may be reimbursed by his team manager for actual necessary expenses incurred for travel, lodging or meals.

SECTION 4

An amateur player is eligible to participate in the NSA program, as long as he/she is **listed on an official online roster of a team sanctioned** by the association. The player's name must be entered on the online roster identical to his/her state driver's license, military id or a government issued id.

SECTION 5

An amateur player is not permitted to accept awards other than a watch, charm, trophy, jacket, bat or other like award that is acceptable to the association, as an award in which amateur status should be retained.

- a) Travel Money Tournaments: The award of travel money must be given to the team at the time they have participated in the respective Super Regional, World Series or Super World Tournament.
- b) Money Tournaments will be permitted in NSA – MUST be approved by the appropriate Zone Vice President and have all details of how money will be award posted on www.PlayNSA.com. Directors must also, have team representative sign off that they received money at tournament site.

SECTION 6

Under the guidelines set by each Zone Vice President and /or State Director, an equitable system of classifying teams and controlling team rosters will be instituted. Teams will be classified Elite, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Competitive, Recreational or Upper and Lower depending on the overall strength of the team offensively and defensively. Teams are not to be classified strictly on the number of home run hitters or the number of home runs produced. Programs utilizing the player point system will be classified based on the team classification totals. The player point system is a guideline and a State Director and/or Zone VP can re-classify at player or team at **ANY** time.

SECTION 7

A player may not participate in a sanctioned NSA Tournament with more than one team during the same tournament.

SECTION 8

A Tournament Director, Tournament Umpire-in-Chief or an Umpire of the

National Softball Association may not manage, coach, play, or umpire in any tournament in which he/she serves as part of the tournament committee staff. However, if the tournament director or other tournament committee staff is a NSA sanctioned umpire, they may, due to emergencies or other special circumstances, umpire until replacements arrive. All NSA Championship Play tournaments must have a tournament Umpire-in-Chief present during the playing of that tournament.

SECTION 9

A player is eligible to participate in any church sanctioned tournament, as long as the player is a member of the church for which he/she is playing, prior to July 1st of any given year, and conforms to any other requirements as outlined in these bylaws.

- a) A church roster that appears questionable must be verified through the church pastor, minister, or elder.
- b) A player that participates in the Church World Tournament must have been on the participating team's roster in the State Church Tournament or one Church Tournament during the current season.

SECTION 10

All teams must participate in a NSA Sanctioned league, Qualifier or an NIT during the current season in order to be eligible to play in a NSA State Championship. This refers to Men's Elite, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Women's upper, lower Divisions only. Teams that participate in any NSA Specialty Softball Programs (Church, Senior, Open, Industrial/Military etc.) can compete in that Specialty State Tournament.

SECTION 11

A player who is under contract to play professional softball or any player playing professional softball is ineligible to participate as a player in the NSA program. Any player who has been released as a professional softball player may apply for reinstatement as an amateur player with the NSA. The player must submit a written request to the National Headquarters of the National Softball Association, applying for reinstatement to be eligible to compete as an amateur. If reinstatement is approved, the player may participate as an amateur player in NSA sanctioned events.

- a) If a player has been released for two or more years, that player is automatically reinstated to participate as an amateur player in NSA sanctioned events, and is not required to apply for written re-instatement as outlined above.

ARTICLE XIV PLAYER ROSTERS (ADULT ONLY)

SECTION 1

The National Softball Association Official Roster must be entered online with all information correct and complete or the player(s) and/or team(s) will be considered ineligible to participate in any National Softball Association sanctioned tournaments, including Qualifiers, NIT's or Championship Play Tournaments.

- a) Teams must PRINT a copy of the Official **NSA ONLINE ROSTER** (complete & correct), **OBTAIN SIGNATURES of participants** to turn in

at ALL NSA sanctioned tournaments prior to their scheduled start or they will not be allowed to participate.

EXCEPTION: Adult Paper Rosters

- b) No written additions to the Online Roster other than signatures shall be made at any tournament site.
- c) Teams not qualifying before their State Tournament date will have their rosters frozen immediately by the State Director and/or Zone Vice President.
- d) When a team accepts a berth for World Series or the Super World Series, the team's roster will be frozen and no player on the qualified team's roster will be eligible to transfer to another qualified team during the current year. A team manager may not release a player from a qualified team roster after September 1st, of the current year. The Executive Director, President, or Executive Vice President of the National Softball Association must approve any exceptions to the above.
- e) Teams are limited to twenty-five (25) players per roster. PLUS Championship Play additional players: Two (2) may be picked up for Super Regional if team participates, Two (2) may be picked up for World Series if team participates, Two (2) may be picked up for Super Worlds.
- f) Adult Division (male/female) softball players are eligible for adult play when they have reached their sixteenth (16th) birthday.
- g) **PLAYER RELEASE:** A team manager may release any player(s) provided the player submits a request on the PLAYNSA online roster. A team manager may not release a player(s) after September 1st of the current year. This release must be submitted through the PLAYNSA system and approved by the State Director and/or Zone Vice President prior to the player(s) participating in a game with a new team. 1) Released player(s) from an unqualified team can be added to any roster of same class or higher with approval of State Director.
 - 2) Released player(s) from a World Series qualified team can only be added to an unqualified team with roster space available and player point value MUST be within the classification range of team adding. **EXCEPTION:** *Super World player additions, see Super World Rosters.*
 - 3) Released player(s) from a Super World qualified team can only be added to an unqualified team of same class or to any roster of a higher class team.
 - 4) Player(s) can only be released two (2) time per current playing season. Released player(s) can be added to a team of same classification or higher that has not met their Roster Limits.
- h) **DISBANDED TEAM** must have letter of disbandment on file and signed by the listed team manager.
 - 1) Teams that disband lose any berths, points and travel monies they have earned.
 - 2) Teams being reformed with players from disbanded teams must be reclassified by State Director with approval of Zone Vice President.
 - 3) Team must re-qualify to participate in state tournament.
- i) **DISBANDED PLAYER:** A player from a team that has been officially disbanded with State Director approval.

- 1) Player(s) from a disbanded team can be added to any roster that has not met their Roster Limits and meets the teams classification point value.
- 2) Player(s) from a disbanded team may still be released twice during that year. A disbanded roster doesn't count towards the player's two (2) releases per year.
- 3) Player(s) from a disbanded team that has qualified for the Super Worlds may not be added to another team that has qualified for Super Worlds.
- j) Player(s) are **LIMITED** to dropping no more than one (1) classification from one calendar year to the next calendar year and must be approved by State Director and/or Zone VP for proper classification. (The NSA calendar year is from January 1st to December 31st).
EXCEPTION: *Players with an established value of 5 or higher cannot participate in Bronze. Players with an established 7 or higher cannot play Silver.*
- k) Players/teams not participating in the NSA program for one (1) or more seasons will retain their player point value and team classification they were moved up to prior to taking an absence from the National Softball Association.
- l) After State, two (2) additional players may be picked up for Super Regional if team participates, then two (2) additional players may be picked up for World Series if team participates and done prior to the tournament deadline and they **MUST** come from a World/Super World unqualified team roster of same or lower classification. Two (2) additional players may be picked up for the Super Worlds and they **MUST** come from Super World Series non-qualified NSA 2017 Tournament roster of same classification or any lower classification player prior to tournament deadline. Two (2) player pickups for Super World can be added and don't need a release from the team after the 9/1 release deadline, if team has not met their Roster Limit.
EXCEPTION: Participation Berth **IS NOT WINNING A BERTH** it is an AWARDED BERTH.
- m) Any player(s) release or addition to the team's roster must be approved by the appropriate State Director, or in the absence of a State Director, the Zone Vice President.
- n) The Executive Director and/or the Executive Vice President must approve any exceptions to the above bylaws.
PENALTY: Violation of any part(s) of the above bylaw will cause the player(s) and/or the team(s) to become ineligible to participate in any officially sanctioned National Softball Association tournament.
- o) Teams "home state" shall be determined by:
 - 1) NSA League Registration.
 - 2) Where the majority of players reside with their primary residence.
 - 3) Where coach resides with his/her primary residence.

SECTION 2

The appropriate NSA State Director or Zone Vice President must approve the roster and entry forms of any team participating in NSA Championship Play events.

SECTION 3 PAPER ROSTERS & PAPER ROSTER TOURNAMENTS

- a) Teams must fill out a NSA Approved Paper Roster
- b) Teams must sanction as a paper roster team and have information on www.playnsa.com as a paper roster and have an OFFICIAL NSA ONLINE SANCTION NUMBER.
 - a) Example – Paper/Team Name
- c) Paper rosters can't be used for Qualifiers, NIT's, States, Super Regional, Worlds or Supers.
- d) Paper roster tournaments must be posted on www.playnsa.com under the Fun status.
- e) Once paper roster is filled with twenty-five (25) players – the team must re-sanction and start a new paper roster.
- f) Copy of paper roster must be submitted to the State office and a copy may be requested by the Zone VP. The rosters, tournament report and sanctions must be submitted upon completion of the tournament.
- g) Teams can always play in a paper roster tournament with their official online tournament roster as printed out. No write in additions allowed to the official online roster. If they want additional player, they complete a paper roster and get a paper roster sanction.
- h) Cash may be awarded in paper roster tournaments but MUST be approved in advance by the Zone VP.
- i) Paper roster tournaments don't qualify for NSA National point system as they can't be qualifiers per NSA Bylaws. State points can be awarded per State Director approval.

SECTION 4

Industrial/Military teams participating in Championship Play tournaments, must submit, with their roster, a letter signed by an Executive of the Personnel Department certifying that each player listed on the team roster is a genuine full time employee of the teams sponsor. Department of Defense service teams are not allowed to enter and/or participate in the NSA Military World Series.

- a) An Official Men's Military team can consist of Retirees, Active Duty, Reserve and/or Guard Personal, along with Department of Defense civilians assigned to the same duty installation. Military dependents eighteen (18) years of age or older are authorized to participate with their sponsor's installation.

EXCEPTION: *A person who wants to participate in the NSA Military World Series and their unit/installation does not enter a team in that year's Military World Series must submit a written request to participate with another unit/installation for approval to his MWR Director. Once approved, the request then must be forwarded and approved by their new unit/installation MWR Director. The request must then be sent to the NSA Headquarters for final approval. The above request must be completed prior to the team's entry into the NSA Military World Series. All players*

must have a Department of Defense ID Card. Military teams participating in any Championship Play Industrial/Military tournament, must submit with their roster, a letter signed by their Installation Personnel Officer certifying each players status, (i.e. active duty, retired, reserve, etc.), and that each active duty member and DOD civilian's personnel records are maintained by his/her installation.

SECTION 5

Church teams participating in Championship Play tournaments must submit with their roster a letter signed by the Church Elder, Pastor or Minister certifying that each player is presently a member of the Church being represented.

SECTION 6

Age restrictive programs i.e. Masters or Senior, player eligibility is based on the birth date in the calendar year of participation.

SECTION 7

Specialty program with upper/lower team classifications male point restrictions. Lower is 6 point value or lower, upper is 6.1 or higher.

ARTICLE XV PLAYER POINTS & CLASSIFICATIONS

SECTION 1

Under the guidelines set by each Zone Vice President and /or State Director, an equitable system of classifying teams and controlling team rosters will be instituted. Teams will be classified Elite, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Competitive, Recreational or Upper and Lower depending on the overall strength of the team offensively and defensively. Teams are not to be classified strictly on the number of home run hitters or the number of home runs produced. Programs utilizing the player point system will be classified based on the team classification totals. The player point system is a guideline used by the State Directors and a State Director and/or Zone VP can re-classify at player or team at ANY time.

SECTION 2 Player Point and Team Classification Appeals

Player Points and Team Appeals are to be submitted in a detailed email to the appropriate State Director. The State Director will make his/her decision on the appeal, then submit to Zone VP for approval and then sent to the National Office. The National Office makes all changes to the player points.

Appeals must be made no later than May 1st of current season

SECTION 3 PLAYER POINTS VALUES

Players will receive a point value based on the classification the team participated in each season on a four year average in 2017 and a five (5) year average beginning in 2018. Player participating on multiple teams during a season will get a point value based on the average of team values in that season starting with 2016.

Major/Restricted Player List = 12 point player value
Restricted Player Watch List = 10 point player value
Elite team upgrade = 9 point value
Elite team player = 8 point player value
Gold Super World Champion = 8 point player value
Gold team upgrade = 7 point player value
Gold team player = 6 point player value
Silver Super World Champions = 6 point player value
Silver team upgrade = 5 point player value
Silver team player = 4 point player value
Bronze Super World Champion = 4 point player value
Bronze team upgrade = 3 point player value
Bronze team player = 2 point player value

EXCEPTION: Players with an established value of 5 or higher cannot participate in Bronze. Players with an established 7 or higher cannot play Silver.

TEAM CLASSIFICATION POINT VALUES

Bronze: - 22.0 - 29.0
Silver – 29.01 – 53.0
Gold – 53.01 – 77.0
Elite – 77.01 – 105

SECTION 5 **PLAYER UPGRADED POINT VALUES**

The following Men's (Elite, Gold, Silver, Bronze) teams will receive an additional (1) point value to the current season Player Point Value for these teams success. ½ point value to all below with 11 teams or less.

- ELITE DIVISION: Top 3 or 10% in World Series, Top 20% in Super Worlds.
- GOLD DIVISION: State Champions, Top 2 or 10% in Super Regional, Top 2 or 10% in World Series and Top 10% in Super Worlds.
- SILVER DIVISION: State Champions, Top 2 or 10% of Super Regional, Top 2 or 10% of World Series and Top 15% of Super Worlds.
- BRONZE DIVISION: State Champions, Top 2 or 10% of Super Regional, Top 2 or 10% of World Series and Top 20% of Super Worlds.
- SUPER WORLD CHAMPIONS will receive (2) Points and those players will be locked out of playing same class or lower for the next year of participation.

NOTE: Players/teams not participating in the NSA program for one (1) or more seasons will retain the classification they were moved up to prior to taking an absence from the National Softball Association.

See: [How to Appeal](#)

Deadline to Appeal is May 1st - Appeals received after this date will be denied.

SECTION 6

Winners of the Super World Series in Men's Class Gold, Silver and Bronze will have their entire roster of **players point value upgraded** including those player(s) who have not checked or signed in at the tournament site. The players shall not be allowed to play in the same Class or a lower class they played in the previous year. **Players on the ELITE Super World Champions Roster MUST participate in Elite next season played.** Player(s) have appeal privileges approved by the State Director and Zone VP, then submitted to National Office for changes.

SECTION 7

Players participating as a "GUEST PLAYER" during the year in qualifiers will not have their point values adjusted based on the teams they were a "GUEST PLAYER" for.

NOTE: GUEST PLAYERS aren't allowed in ANY Championship Play. (State, Super Regional, World Series or Super World)

SECTION 8

Any team that wins multiple berths to Championship Play events must participate in the highest class in which the team has qualified, and forfeits any berths, and is not allowed to participate, in the lower classification. Forfeited berths are to be handled the same as in Section 1.

ARTICLE XVI QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

All sanctioned tournaments conducted by a State or Area Director shall be conducted in accordance within the Rules and Regulations of the Association. That director must ensure that proper administration is being conducted at all times.

SECTION 1

Only a properly registered team with the National Softball Association may compete in a qualifying or state tournament sanctioned by the NSA. Teams must have registered and entered their roster online with all information correct and complete or the player(s) and/or the team(s) will be considered ineligible to participate in any National Softball Association Qualifiers, NIT or Championship Play Tournaments. **All rosters shall be printed from the NSA Online System.** No written in additions other than signatures shall be made unless approved by the appropriate State Director with approval of Zone Vice President. The appropriate State Director shall be responsible and required to contact the Tournament Director to rectify any late additions to the official tournament roster.

SECTION 2

All applicable Team and Umpire Registration Fees must be paid to the Home Headquarters of the National Softball Association before any tournament is considered a sanctioned NSA tournament.

SECTION 3

All qualifying leagues and tournaments, in which a berth to a championship play tournament shall be awarded, must be completed one (1) week prior to the particular championship play tournament.

SECTION 4

The following is a list of the ways teams may qualify to participate in Super Regional or World Series tournaments:

- a) A preceding years champion and runner-up will automatically be invited back, in the appropriate class of play; however, each team must pay their own entry fee. In order to be eligible, a team must have a minimum of fifty (50) percent of the players of its preceding year's roster returning in order to receive the automatic berth to either a State, Super Regional or World Series Tournament. To be eligible for this exemption, eligible teams must register in the NSA program prior to participating in at least one Qualifying Tournament, NIT and the State tournament prior to the Super Regional or World Series tournament in the teams proper classification for that particular year.
- b) A registered team of the National Softball Association which qualifies either through qualified league or tournament, NIT must also participate in the state championship in order to validate the berth.
- c) A registered team of the National Softball Association that is named as a host team from the area where the Super Regional or World Series tournament is being played. The host team must play in the state tournament and must be approved by the Zone Vice President and the National Headquarters.

SECTION 5

A team may receive a refund of an entry fee for a sanctioned NSA tournament only under the following condition:

- a) A request for refund, sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, sent to the Tournament Director and received prior to the published cut off date for receiving entries. The U.S. Post Office postmark will be considered as the date of the refund request. The Tournament Director will forward a check to the team making the request. A refund is not required, regardless of when the request for refund was postmarked, if received after the tournament is drawn.
- b) NO Refund after tournament deadline
- c) NO REFUND after the brackets have been drawn and posted.

ARTICLE XVII CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY TOURNAMENTS (State, Super Regional, World Series)

SECTION 1

All teams must participate in a NSA Sanctioned league, Qualifier or an NIT during the current season in order to be eligible to play in a NSA State Championship. This refers to Men's Elite, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Women's Upper, Lower Divisions only. Teams that participate in any NSA Specialty Softball Programs (Church, Senior, Open, Industrial/Military etc.) can compete in that Specialty State Tournament plus a Men's or Women's State Tournament.

Team(s) cannot qualify from a cancelled tournament and no berths will be awarded from a tournament that is not physically played. Teams that play in Classes Elite, Gold, Silver and Bronze may only participate in State

Tournaments within the State borders from which it is sanctioned per calendar year.

EXCEPTION: *Would be an approved Dual, Tri and/or Quad State Tournaments.*

A team that wins its respective State Championship Tournament in the Men's Elite, Gold, Silver, Bronze divisions shall be awarded a berth to the Super World Series in their respective classification. In order for this berth to be valid the team must participate in either the Super Regional or the World Series. This berth can be passed down until a team accepts. Teams that win a berth to Super Regional or Worlds must validate by participating in their respective state tournament. (Spring and Fall states do not validate)

SECTION 2

Team(s) will hit their own NSA approved softballs for all NSA adult softball tournaments. The softballs used must meet NSA specifications; any deviations must be approved by the NSA National Headquarters. Directors may supply balls.

EXCEPTION: In Worlds and Super Worlds the Tournament Director will supply a minimum of two (2) softballs and stipulate the ball that will be supplied by the Director and teams for play.

EXCEPTION: Sponsored hit your own softball tournaments, the tournament director can supply minimum of two (2) softballs and require all teams to hit a specific softball.

SECTION 3

The Tournament Director's report along with all other paper work and travel money should be sent to the NSA National Headquarters within seven (7) days of the Tournament.

SECTION 4

The National Headquarters of the National Softball Association shall determine the amounts to be charged as entry fee for all Championship Play and Invitational Tournaments.

EXCEPTION: *Qualifying tournaments are left up to the discretion of the State or Area Director, but should remain within the accepted guidelines of the industry.*

SECTION 5

Teams that win a Slow Pitch State Championship will automatically receive a State berth the following year, provided the team properly registers with the National Softball Association that next year. The previous year state champion will receive the automatic berth in its proper team classification, if they retain at least fifty (50) percent of their previous year's roster. The team must also have participated in a NSA Qualifier, NIT prior to participating in the State Tournament.

SECTION 6

Super NIT and Championship Play tournaments must be scheduled as a minimum of a double elimination format or higher or by the format issued in the Official Championship Play Tournament Packet. Any change to this, prior to the start of the tournament, must be obtained from the National Headquarters of the NSA. The Tournament Director, once the tournament has begun, may change this format only because of weather conditions or other acts of God that would jeopardize the completion of the tournament. The Tournament Committee will decide on an alternate plan at the tournament site. This

alternate plan should be posted as quickly as possible, with a plan to ensure that all managers of the participating teams are informed of any such change.

SECTION 7

No State Tournament is allowed to be conducted on that day(s) if a Super Regional or World Series Tournament, within that region. No competitive tournament can be run on the same weekend as a NSA World Series.

SECTION 8

Travel money to Super World should be passed to the highest finishing teams participating in Super World Series. If it passes to a place in NIT, State, Super Regional or World Series with multiple teams, then they would split the fund equally if they are all attending the Super Worlds. If no team from a tournament that issued travel money doesn't attend the Supers, those funds would be retained by the National Headquarters.

SECTION 9

The Executive Committee of the National Softball Association will decide each year, at the annual National Convention, what tournaments will be classified as N.I.T.'S, Super Regional or World Series Tournaments. The Executive Committee will also determine all dates and locations of such tournaments. Anyone wishing to hold such tournaments must submit a written request at the National Convention.

- a) All N.I.T.'S will be treated the same as World Series Tournaments. The National Headquarters must approve any changes to this procedure.
- b) The Executive Committee at the National Convention will determine the number of N.I.T.'S per Zone/Region. No tournament will be considered an N.I.T. unless approved in writing by the National Headquarters and accompanied with a contract executed by the proper personnel.
- c) The Champion of an N.I.T. will win a direct berth to the World Series Tournament of the same or higher classification. The Tournament Committee in conjunction with the National Headquarters will determine this classification.
- d) If the Champion of an N.I.T. does not accept the automatic World berth, the berth may be awarded to the next highest finishing team, but approval must come from the National Headquarters.

SECTION 10

An applicant may submit a written request to conduct such tournaments; provided the applicant has one year of proven participation with the NSA. Only in the case where a new program in a State, has less than one year of proven experience, will a written request to conduct an N.I.T., Super Regional, or World Series Tournament be accepted.

SECTION 11

Any written application requesting to conduct an N.I.T., Super Regional or World Series Tournament must include complete and detailed information concerning all aspects of the tournament. This information will be included in the mandatory contract for these tournaments.

- a) Any Tournament Sponsor must be approved and specified by the National Headquarters.
- b) A complete description of the facilities must be submitted. This description must include the number of playing fields, dimensions,

lighting, location, seating arrangements, scoreboards, sound systems, and any other details pertinent to the tournament location and the facilities it may provide.

- c) A complete list of motels, their accommodations, prices, addresses, and phone numbers; plus the proximity to the playing fields must be submitted. Included in this listing must be discounted team prices and adequate comp rooms for out of state umpires and NSA personnel.
- d) The availability of any media. This would include newspaper, radio, and television coverage.
- e) A list of special events or attractions for participating teams. This would include parties, opening ceremonies, manager's breakfast, and any other social activities provided.
- f) The financial responsibilities of the tournament must be specified between that of the Sponsor, Tournament Director, Park Owner, and the National Softball Association.
- g) All trophies and awards will be in accordance with detailed specifications outlined in Article XVII, Section 22 of these bylaws.
- h) Any other facts or aspects of the tournament, not covered in (a) through (g), will be incorporated and made a part of the application and contract for the specific tournament being requested.

SECTION 12

Any sponsor of a N.I.T., Super Regional or World Series Tournament, must sign a contract with the National Headquarters of the NSA. The contract will define the roles and responsibilities of both the Sponsor and the NSA, as they pertain to the specific tournament.

SECTION 13

The playing fields, under contract, to be used in a N.I.T., Super Regional or World Series tournament must meet the guidelines and specifications as outlined in the Official Rule Book of the NSA. All playing fields must have outfield fences. The Executive Committee of the National Softball Association must approve any on field specifications that deviate from the Official Rule Book in advance.

SECTION 14

The amount a team is to pay, as entry fee for an N.I.T., State, Super Regional, World Series or Super World Series tournament will be decided by the Executive Committee of the NSA. The Executive Committee will also decide the distribution and percentage of this entry fee.

SECTION 15

Travel expense money shall not be paid to any team winning a N.I.T., Super Regional or World Series tournament. The Executive Committee of the NSA must make any exception to this procedure. Travel expense money may be awarded to teams that participate in qualifying tournaments. This money is not to be paid directly to any team, but must be forwarded to the National Headquarters. The National Headquarters will ensure that these monies are properly distributed to the team advancing to the N.I.T., Super Regional or World Series tournament.

SECTION 16

All N.I.T., State, Super Regional and World Series tournament play will be under the jurisdiction and direction of the Executive Board with full

cooperation from the host city committee. The NSA Executive Director shall appoint a qualified individual to serve as Tournament Director and a qualified individual to serve as Tournament Umpire-in-Chief. The Zone Vice President of the region that is hosting the tournament, will act as liaison officer between the host city committee and the Executive Board.

All Championship Play Tournaments will have an appointed tournament committee that will ensure that the tournament is run according to the guideline rules and bylaws of the NSA. This committee will also rule on any protest. The tournament committee will be under the direction of the Tournament Director and the Tournament U.I.C.

SECTION 17

The following is a list of the ways teams may qualify to participate in Super Regional or World Series tournaments:

- a) A preceding years champion and runner-up will automatically be invited back, in the appropriate class of play; however, each team must pay their own entry fee. In order to be eligible, a team must have a minimum of fifty (50) percent of the players of its preceding year roster returning in order to receive the automatic berth to either a State, Super Regional or World Series Tournament. To be eligible for this exemption, **eligible teams must register in the NSA program and have their online roster filled out and submitted and participate in** at least one qualifying tournament, NIT and the State Tournament prior to the Super Regional or World Series tournament in the teams proper classification for that particular year.
- b) A registered team of the National Softball Association which qualifies either through a qualifying league or tournament must also participate in the state championship in order to validate the berth.
- c) A registered team of the National Softball Association that is named as a host team from the area where the Super Regional or World Series tournament is being played. The host team must play in the state tournament and must be approved by the Zone Vice President and the National Headquarters.

SECTION 18

Only properly registered teams of the NSA are allowed to compete in any post season play. **Teams must have registered and entered their roster online with all information correct and complete or the player(s) and/or the team(s)** will be considered ineligible to participate in any NSA Qualifiers, NIT and Championship Play tournaments. All rosters shall be printed from the NSA Online System. No pen and/or ink additions other than the signatures shall be made unless approved by the appropriate State Director. The appropriate State Director shall be responsible and required to contact the Tournament Director to rectify any late additions to the official tournament roster.

SECTION 19

If a team has qualified to compete in a Championship Play tournament and due to a legitimate reason cannot attend; they may be replaced by the next qualified team chosen by the Zone Vice President, State or Area Director.

SECTION 20

The Tournament Director, with approval from the Executive Director of the NSA, will set a deadline for accepting entries for Super Regional or World Series tournaments. A one (1) week minimum is required.

SECTION 21

The intent of awards is to acknowledge the accomplishment of teams during the entire season. Awards presented must represent these accomplishments and be of the finest quality possible. All awards presented must represent the high quality and standards for which NSA is known for. It is mandatory that the following trophies or awards be presented at all World Series tournaments. All World Series must give a minimum of 1st – 4th place. All World Series with 20 or more teams must award 1st – 6th place. Super World Series must award 1st – 8th place. All awards must be approved by the Zone Vice President and the National Headquarters.

SECTION 22

Any team that wins multiple berths to Championship Play events must participate in the highest class in which the team has qualified, and forfeits any berths and travel money, and is not allowed to participate in the lower classification.

SECTION 23

A team that wins a World Series Tournament and the Runner-Up, shall automatically be invited to participate one class higher, in the following years World Series Tournament provided the following requirements are met:

- a) The rosters of these teams must have at least 50% of its preceding year's players returning in order to receive the automatic World Series berth.
- b) The rosters will be automatically frozen when the team completes play in its first NSA qualifying tournament or prior to the State tournament deadline.
- c) The defending World Series champion and runner-up must become a registered team with NSA. The defending World Series champion and runner-up must play in at least one (1) qualifying tournament or NIT and the State tournament the year following its championship.

SECTION 24

Once a World Series Tournament is scheduled, a State Director may issue a travel permit (or give permission) with the approval of the Zone Vice Presidents and the National Headquarters to a team to participate in a World Series outside of the scheduled area. The National Headquarters must approve any such permission. If there are not enough teams to conduct a scheduled World Series, a team may be allowed to travel to the closest World Series available to them, provided the National Headquarters grants permission.

SECTION 25

In all National Softball Association World and Super World Series it will be mandatory that all team rosters be checked and all players on that roster to show government issued picture id of who they are and sign the roster in front of the Tournament Officials prior to the first game played and at any time deemed necessary during that tournament. This includes teams in both the winner and loser brackets.

SECTION 1

How to qualify for Super World Series and validate those berths. Team must receive a berth from a Super World NIT, State Championship, Super Regional, World Series.

- a) Super World NIT berths **must validate** by participating in state and either the Super Regional or World Series.
- b) State Championship berth **must validate** by participating in either the Super Regional or World Series.
- c) Super Regional Two (2) berths will receive a direct berth to the World Series and Super World Series.
- d) World Series Three (3) or top 30% berths will receive a direct berth to the Super World Series. **NO PASS DOWNS**

EXCEPTION: *In World Series with 12 or fewer teams the 3 awarded berth's can be passed down until accepted but to no 0-2 record teams.*

- e) **Participation Berth awarded must validate by participating in state plus four (4) qualifiers or Super NIT's and either Super Regional or World Series.**
- f) Spring and Fall States DO NOT validate World or Super World berths. Winter, Spring and Fall Worlds DO NOT validate.

SECTION 2

- a) Super World NIT, State Champion, Super Regional berths can be passed until accepted.

NOTE: *State Championships and NIT's 2nd and 3rd berth's when awarded must have a 2-2 record or better.*

- b) Participation Berth awarded **must validate** by participating in state plus four (4) qualifiers or Super NIT's and either Super Regional or World Series.
- c) States that run multiple state tournaments will be able to award a Super berth to each champion and then if they run a Super State, they would have another Super berth to award that champion. Must be approved by Zone VP and the National Headquarters. At the State (East, West, South, North and Super State, directors may give additional Super World Series berths. If there are 12+ teams, a 2nd berth is awarded and if there are 24+ teams, a 3rd berth is awarded. These berths may be passed to any team that has at least a 2-2 record. Teams must validate by playing in Super Regional or World Series.
- d) Super Regional is top 2 teams
- e) World Series is top 3 teams or top 30% whichever is greater berths with no pass down berths.

EXCEPTION: *In World Series with 12 or fewer teams the 3 awarded berth's can be passed down until accepted but to no 0-2 record teams.*

- f) Directors may give additional Super World Series berths in Super World NIT's. If there are 12+ teams, a 2nd berth is awarded and if there are 24+ teams, a 3rd berth is awarded. These berths may be passed to any team that has at least a 2-2 record. No travel money and must be validated by playing in State and either the Super Regional or World Series.

- g) Men's Elite/Gold NIT'S the highest finishing in each class Elite & Gold will receive a Super World Berth and the travel will be retained by the respective classifications. (One "Elite" berth and One "Gold" berth will be given, but if a class has 12+ teams in that division an additional berth will be given). **EXAMPLE:** 18 team tournament, with 6 Elite and 12 Gold teams the Gold class will get an additional berth.

SECTION 3 SUPER WORLD SERIES ROSTERS

- a) **Teams must have registered and entered their roster online with all information correct and complete or the player(s) and/or team(s) will be considered ineligible to participate in any National Softball Association Qualifiers, NIT's or Championship Play Tournaments.**
- b) Teams are limited to twenty-five (25) players per roster. Super World Series a team can add two additional players for the Super Worlds through the National Office and/or Super Coordinator in the grayed area on roster and prior to tournament deadline.
- c) Players **MUST** fit into the teams point classification. Team cannot exceed the classification points they are qualified to participate in.
- d) Super World Series additional players pick-ups must come from a current NSA **Men's** Tournament Roster of Elite, Gold, Silver or Bronze class that has not WON a berth or ACCEPTED a pass down berth to the Super World Series of the same classification or any player from a **lower classification**. EXCEPTION: Participation Berth is not WINNING a berth it is an awarded berth.
- e) **All rosters shall be printed from the NSA Online system and have signatures.**
- f) No pen and or ink additions other than signatures shall be made at the Super World site.
- g) Mandatory roster check and wrist bands applied to only players listed on the playing roster.

SECTION 4 SUPER WORLD TRAVEL FUNDS

** Teams must post the appropriate tournament fee to secure the berth.

When a team wins a Super World Series NIT (12+ teams a 2nd berth awarded, and if there are 24+ teams a 3rd berth is awarded. These berths may be passed to any team that has a 2-2 record or better), they receive an unpaid berth to the appropriate Super Regional, World Series and the Super World Series Tournament, but must validate the Super World Berth by playing in the State and either Super Regional or World Series.

- a) Teams that finish in first (1st) place in a Super World N.I.T. will be the only team that will receive travel money that is based on \$50.00 per team in the NIT Tournament with a maximum of \$1,250.00 being received.
- b) Teams in a Elite/Gold NIT that finish as the highest Elite and Gold teams will receive travel money that is based on \$50 per team in the NIT Tournament with a maximum of \$1250 being awarded. The travel money will be given based on the number of teams in each classification and awarded to the appropriate classification at the Super Worlds.
- c) Each State Championship berth winner (12+ teams a 2nd berth is awarded, and if there are 24+ teams a 3rd berth is awarded. These berths may be passed to any team that has at least a 2-2 record or better) will receive a berth to

the Super World Series Tournament. Teams must post the appropriate tournament fee to secure the berth.

- d) Teams that finish in first (1st) place in a Super Regional Tournament will receive travel money that is based on \$25.00 per team in the Super Regional Tournament. The second (2nd) place team will receive a berth to the Super World Series. Teams must post the appropriate tournament fee to secure the berth.
- e) Teams that finish first (1st) in the World Series will receive travel money that is based on \$25.00 per team in the World Series Tournament. The second (2nd) and third (3rd) place team will receive a berth to the Super World Series.
- f) The NSA National Headquarters shall make all at-large berths to the Super World Series.
- g) SUPER WORLD CHAMPIONS will receive (2) Points and those players will be locked out of playing same class or lower for the next year of participation.

SECTION 5 PAYMENT PROCEDURE FOR SUPER WORLD S

- a) Teams that win berths to the Super World Series from a Super World Series NIT, State Championship or Super Regional Tournament, must submit a paid Super World Series entry fee to National Office, within 14 days after the completion of the tournament. Failure to submit Super World fee within the 14 days MAY result in forfeiture of your berth.
- b) All berths award at the World Series Tournament must submit a paid Super World Series entry fee to the National Office within 7 days after the completion of the World Series Tournament. Failure to submit the entry fee by the deadline listed above may result in the team losing the berth and the berth being passed down to the next highest team and losing all travel monies won.
- c) NO REFUNDS after tournament deadline. NO REFUNDS after brackets have been drawn and posted.

ARTICLE XIX PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETION OF TOURNAMENTS

SECTION 1

The National Softball Association shall use the following format for completing Adult Super Regional, NIT, and World Series tournaments:

- a) Normal rain delay, push games back without any changes. Look at the option of playing games throughout the night with no changes in the format.
- b) One (1) pitch tournament with a forty-five (45) minute time limit.
- c) Drop the loser's bracket. Refer to Section 2 below, for order of finish at a point and time when the tournament cannot be completed.

SECTION 2

The National Softball Association shall use the following methods in determining the order of finish in a Championship Play tournament that cannot be completed:

- a) Any single undefeated team will be declared the Tournament Winner.
- b) If there is more than one (1) undefeated team in the Winner's Bracket, those teams will be declared Co-Champions. c) Head to head competition.
- d) Average per game of the total runs allowed in the tournament.
- e) Average per game of the total runs scored in the tournament. If a tie still remains from the results of the above criteria, then and only then can a Tournament Director use a coin flip or other approved methods to determine the final standings in the Tournament. The National Headquarters must approve any method not listed above.

NOTE: *Directors: for more information on how to determine a winner or how to give awards to co-champions, refer to www.PlayNSA.com and click on the Blank Forms in your Director account.*

ARTICLE XX ACTS OF DISBARMENT OR SUSPENSION

SECTION 1

Any team, player, manager/coach or other team representative, whose conduct on or off the field that would be detrimental to the National Softball Association will be dealt with immediately. The National Softball Association expects that all manager/coaches, players and team representatives to act in a manner where sportsmanship is always practiced. The Association also expects team coaches or officials to have complete control of their players at all times during the playing of a National Softball Association sanctioned tournament. The National Softball Association through its Zone Vice Presidents and the National Headquarters shall have and reserve the right to withdraw membership during the playing of any NSA Sanctioned Tournament.

SECTION 2

The National Softball Association will not tolerate any of the following unsportsmanlike behaviors.

- a) Any coach, player, team official or parent that displays abusive behavior or language in any form during the playing of a NSA event. b) Any coach, player or team official using words or actions that will incite demonstrations.
- c) Using any form of intimidation tactics (profanity, baiting, ridicule, etc.) in the taunting of the opposing team and its members.
- d) The use of any behavior that is not conducive to fair play.
- e) Fighting and/or leaving the bench area when a fight has broken out will cause all participants engaged in the altercation to be immediately ejected from the game.
- f) Any type of physical attack on a player, umpire or tournament official during the playing of the game or immediately following the game.

EFFECT: *Any coaches, players or team officials that take part in any of the above conduct shall be ejected and/or suspended for one*

(1) or more games during the remainder of the tournament. Upon further investigation by the NSA Director if any of the above unsportsmanlike conduct is warranted to be severe enough in its nature, the NSA has the right to issue additional penalties. Such penalties can involve the suspension of further play of the team and/or its members in the tournament. Any of the above behaviors can also warrant the NSA to issue further suspensions and even disbarment of the guilty parties from the National Softball Association.

SECTION 3 ACTS OF DISBARMENT OR SUSPENSION

- a) Any type of physical attack of any player, umpire, league or tournament official or any officer of the National Softball Association during a game or immediately following a game, being held under the administration of/or sanctioned by the National Softball Association. A person that has pending charges or a conviction of battery toward a NSA Official or any NSA Representative may be banned from participating in any NSA activity with the approval of the National Softball Association's Vice President and/or NSA Executive Director.
- b) A team member(s) using audible obscene language or any display of flagrant actions considered as unsportsmanlike gestures.
- c) A player or team receiving money or financial benefits in consideration of participating in softball competition.
- d) A team or player knowingly competes with or against ineligible, illegal or suspended players.
- e) A team or player participating in or permitting a fraud to be perpetrated.
- f) A team, player, coach/manager or parent/guardian participating in or permitting a fraud to be perpetrated by signing another person name(s) on a NSA roster.
- g) Any NSA Official who refuses to submit collected or owed funds that are due the National Softball Association.
- h) Any player or team that competes under an assumed name.
- i) At any time a submitted roster is found to not have been individually signed by players or parents/guardians, it will be considered illegal and players will be ineligible to participate.
PENALTY: The team can be removed from a current tournament or if it is discovered after the tournament is completed, the team will lose any berths and points from the tournament and in either case, the coach/manager and team can be suspended for a year.
- j) Any person or persons or team submitting a bad check, stopping payment on a check, or doing a credit card charge back or providing a bogus credit card number to the National Softball Association or to any Director acting on their behalf will be suspended. This may include all players on the roster of the team that is involved and may also hold responsible the legal guardian of any minor.
- k) Any person who purposely uses false information to damage the reputation, image, or credibility of the National Softball Association.

- l) All suspensions MUST be submitted through the State Director, and then forwarded to the respective Zone VP, and the Zone VP will forward to the National Headquarters. The suspension will be posted by the National Headquarters ONLY. Directors are to be advised that if they have information concerning suspension(s) on their web site that should be linked to the National web site.

SECTION 4 SUSPENSIONS

- a) Any NSA Officer, Director or persons representing the NSA that violates any Articles of these Constitution/Bylaws or does not adhere to the Policies or Procedures of the National Softball Association, may be suspended.
- b) Any NSA Officer, Director, or persons representing the NSA that fail to submit fees and/or information due the NSA, in a timely manner, may be suspended.
- c) Any Officer, Director, Umpire, Participant, or persons representing the NSA that are suspended for any reason, will not be allowed to participate in any capacity within the Association, until such suspension has been lifted. This would include any sanctioned event or any event being conducted under the Administration of the National Softball Association.
- d) The NSA has adopted the following procedure with regard to disagreements that threaten legal action or that lead to legal action. By any of the following, but not limited to, a player, coach, team or related persons against any affiliated person director, park, umpire or facility of the NSA. Any participant, team, coach, sponsor or any other party who threatens in writing, through legal counsel or otherwise to take legal action against the NSA, files a legal action against the NSA or has a lawyer contact the NSA verbally regarding a dispute will automatically and immediately be suspended from all NSA activities until the legal discussions are concluded to the satisfaction of the NSA. Additionally, if legal action is filed against NSA or a NSA affiliated person, park, or facility by any participant, team, coach or any other person, the person filling the action, the person's team (if a player or coach), and each of its members may be suspended from any and all NSA events until the legal actions are resolved to the satisfaction of NSA.

ARTICLE XXI APPEAL PROCESS PROCEDURES

SECTION 1

Outline of the National Softball Association's Appeal Procedures:

- a) Step 1: Any team or player affected by the occurrence or condition that would cause an appeal may present that appeal in writing to the appropriate Zone Vice President within fifteen (15) days after the occurrence or condition. If not filed within fifteen (15) days the applicant loses their right to appeal.
- b) Step 2: If the appealing team/person does not receive a satisfactory resolution to the first appeal, the applicant may indicate dissatisfaction with the first appeal. The applicant may then submit

the proper forms within fifteen (15) days to the appropriate National Softball Association Vice President duly appointed by the Executive Director to conduct the second step of the appeal process. If not filed within fifteen (15) days the applicant loses their right to appeal.

- c) If the appealing team/person does not receive a satisfactory solution to the second appeal, the applicant may indicate dissatisfaction with the second appeal. The applicant may submit within ten (10) days the proper forms to the Executive Director of the National Softball Association, unless there has been a mutual agreement for an extension. The applicant may submit this final appeal in writing or may request that a hearing be conducted. All parties involved may have legal counsel and any witnesses at this hearing. The applicant must pay all financial responsibilities for such legal counsel or witnesses. The Executive Director must render a decision within ten (10) days pertaining to the final appeal. The decision rendered **by the** Executive Director is final and under no circumstances will another appeal be granted.