

YOUTH 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. Last Updated 12.19.16

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 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 4

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.

SECTION 5

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.

SECTION 6

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

SECTION 7

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.

ARTICLE XIV PLAYER ROSTERS (YOUTH ONLY)

SECTION 1

- 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 sanctioned tournaments, including Qualifiers, NIT's or Championship Play Tournaments.

- b) **Teams must PRINT a copy of the Official NSA ONLINE ROSTER (complete & correct), OBTAIN SIGNATURES Parents or guardian if Youth (18 years and older must sign for themselves) to turn in at ALL NSA sanctioned tournaments prior to their scheduled start or they will not be allowed to participate.**
EXCEPTION: See Youth Tryout Rosters
- c) No written additions to the Online Roster other than signatures shall be made at any tournament site.
- d) When a team qualifies for a 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.
The Executive Director, President, or Executive Vice President of the National Softball Association must approve any exceptions to the above.
- e) 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

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.

SECTION 3

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. (NIT's, State and World)

SECTION 4 YOUTH PLAYERS ROSTERS

Unless approved by the National Headquarter or Zone Office, 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. Roster will be frozen by the date of the State tournament.**

NOTE: *Player additions must be added to the roster prior to the tournament entry deadline.*

- a) No college player may play on a "B" Division team. Players who have officially signed to play college softball and have not yet played in an official college game are eligible to play in NSA Youth Fast Pitch Class "B".
- b) The State Director/State Youth Director may reclassify a team in a division at anytime during the season.
- c) The State Director/State Youth Director who registers a "B", "C" or High School Division team must approve any out-of-state player(s) on the team roster.
- d) Any player that qualifies with an "A" Division team may not play in the "B" or "C" Division for that year.
- e) After the State Tournament, two (2) players may be picked up and added to the roster for the World Series. These added players must have played in a NSA Tournament.

- f) All player(s) shall be entered into the online NSA system to be eligible to play in any National Softball Association tournaments.
- g) All player(s) regardless of age shall have a parent's (or legal guardian) signature on the youth roster unless the player(s) is of 18 years of age or older, they will sign for themselves.
- h) Player(s) are considered on the Official Roster when the parent(s) have signed the roster, unless the player (s) is 18 years of age or older and signed for themselves.
- i) All rosters shall be printed from the 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.
- j) Roster is limited to twenty five (25) players per roster. A release, injury, relocation or a player quitting the team does not open a new roster position. Only roster positions that were never occupied by a player(s) are eligible or open to add additional player(s).
EXAMPLE: *A team that has all twenty five (25) positions filled on their roster shall not be able to add any additional player even though player(s) have been released, injured or quit.*
- k) **Teams must PRINT a copy of the Official NSA ONLINE ROSTER, OBTAIN SIGNATURES of parent or guardian (18 years and older must sign for themselves) to turn in at ALL NSA sanctioned tournaments prior to their scheduled start or they will not be allowed to participate.**
EXCEPTION: *See Youth Tryout Rosters*
- l) Teams can add a maximum of two (2) players to the team roster prior to the State Tournament with the approval of the Zone Vice President and the State Director. A roster addition at the discretion of the State Director or above shall be allowed for injury or other legitimate reason after the cut-off date, but not at the tournament site. Player(s) additions must be added to the roster prior to the tournament entry deadline in the State Championship, NIT, and World Series.
- m) **The youth sanction year is August 1st to July 31st. The cutoff date for the youth age eligibility is December 31st of the current sanction season. The player's age on December 31st during the CURRENT SANCTIONING SEASON will be the age group the player is eligible for during the ENTIRE sanction year. All players must meet the age requirements to be put on a current year's roster.**
Example: *If a player turns 15 years old on December 31st of 2016, they CANNOT be put on a 14u roster for the 2017 sanction year that begins August 1st, 2016. A copy of the original birth certificate and/or a Government Issue photo ID must accompany youth players at all times.*
- n) Player(s) may be released one (1) time between August 1st and December 31st and one (1) time between January 1st and August 31st. Player(s) playing in a higher age group may play down in the same season and must be eligible age wise.
- 1) Player(s) from a disbanded team do not lose their right of release or to be picked up by another team.

- 2) Player(s) may be released at any time at the request of the team manager or parent/guardian with approval of their State Director before they participate with another team. Players cannot be released from an "A" team to play with a class "B" or "C" team.
- o) Teams may add two (2) players before the World Series Tournament. Added player(s) must be of the same or lower class. Approval for a youth player(s) to play in the next highest age group must be obtained from the State Director or the Zone Vice President.

p) GUEST PLAYERS

- 1) If a team uses a guest player and plays in another state, they have to play under the guidelines set in the state they are playing in. Not all states may offer this program. Contact your State Director.
- 2) Request must be approved by the State Director or his/her representative 24 to 48 hours prior to the start of the tournament.
- 3) The State Director or his/her appointed representative must also receive written or electronic approval from her current coach
- 4) A player can only guest play maximum of two (2) times per sanctioned season.

SECTION 5 YOUTH TEAM TRYOUT ROSTERS

- a) Team(s) involved in tournaments designated as a team tryout shall be held after the World Series and shall submit a paper roster.
- b) All rosters shall be opened to allow player(s) movement for team(s) to begin the process of forming their team for the following year.
- c) Team rosters shall be considered open for a designated team trial tournament and players shall be exempt from obtaining roster releases to participate.
- d) Team trial tournaments are to be held no later than March and are at the discretion of the State Director to allow for team formation in the fall and spring.
- e) These are non qualifying tournaments and no berths can be awarded.

ARTICLE XV 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.

SECTION 2

The Zone Vice President and/or the State Director have the authority to upgrade other teams in class if necessary. A Zone Vice President and/or the State Director may upgrade any team up in class, at any time, due to the advanced play of the team in question.

SECTION 3

- a) No college player may play on a "B" Division team. Players who have officially signed to play college softball and have not yet played in an official college game are eligible to play in NSA Youth Fast Pitch Class "B".
- b) The State Director/State Youth Director may reclassify a team in a division at any time during the season.

- c) The State Director/State Youth Director who registers a "B", "C" or High School Division team must approve any out-of-state player(s) on the team roster.
- d) Any player that qualifies with an "A" Division team may not play in the "B" or "C" Division for that year.

SECTION 4

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.

ARTICLE XVI QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

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 and provide a copy of their team insurance.** 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. **NSA sanctioned tournament approved by State Director and posted online at online.playnsa.com.**

SECTION 3

All qualifying leagues and tournaments, in which a berth to a post season 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 a World Series tournaments:

- a) A registered team of the National Softball Association which qualifies either through qualified league or tournament must also participate in the state championship in order to validate the berth. NIT winners does not need to play in state.

SECTION 5

A team may receive a refund of an entry fee for a sanctioned NSA tournament only under the following condition: A request for refund, sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, sent to the Tournament Director and received prior to the published cutoff 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, **or the tournament is full.**

SECTION 6

Only NSA approved black stitched; optic yellow softball can be used. Refer to Rule 3 of the Official Playing Rules for softball specifications. The Executive Committee of the National Softball Association must approve any deviation from this in advance.

SECTION 7 YOUTH FALL TOURNAMENTS AND WORLD SERIES QUALIFIERS

- a) Teams must participate in age and class they are trying to qualify for the following year World Series.
- b) Teams qualifying under these conditions must retain a minimum of six (6) players or 50% of the qualified roster whichever is greater to retain their berth. The appropriate State Director could impose or set higher standards in this regard.
- c) Teams must participate in no less than one (1) qualifier and the state tournament the following year to validate a fall berth.
EXCEPTION: *18U teams may bypass their State Tournament in order to participate in the World Series. However, they must have obtained a berth by participating in a World Series Qualifier in the fall or spring and retain 50% of the qualified roster whichever is greater to retain their berth. The appropriate State Director could impose or set higher standards in this regard.*
- d) **Online rosters are mandatory for Fall Qualifiers.**
- e) Youth State Tournament – youth teams may be required to participate in a NSA sanctioned league or qualifying tournament in order to participate in the State Tournament. Check with your State Director.

ARTICLE XVII CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY TOURNAMENTS (NIT, State, World Series)

SECTION 1

All teams must participate in a NSA State Championship Tournament in order to be eligible to play in a NSA World Series Tournament. Team(s) cannot qualify from a cancelled tournament and no berths will be awarded from a tournament that is not physically played. **NIT winners does not need to play in state.**

EXCEPTION: *18U teams may bypass their State Tournament in order to participate in the World Series. However, they must have obtained a berth by participating in a World Series Qualifier in the fall or spring and retain 50% of the qualified roster whichever is greater to retain their berth. The appropriate State Director could impose or set higher standards in this regard.*

SECTION 2

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 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

Under the guidelines set by each Zone Vice President and/or State Director, an acceptable system must be developed to qualify teams for Championship Play tournaments. Teams may qualify directly from an approved qualified league. The Zone Vice President and/or the State Director approval, in conjunction with the National Headquarters, must be sought for determining how many berths will be awarded from league play.

SECTION 6

The Youth Fast Pitch World Series Director, must play with a four (4), (5) or (6) game format that is approved by the NSA National Headquarters.

SECTION 7

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

SECTION 8

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 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 and runner up of an N.I.T. will win a direct berth to the World Series Tournament of the same or higher classification and can bypass the state. 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 9

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. or World Series Tournament be accepted.

SECTION 10

Any written application requesting to conduct an N.I.T. 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 23 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 11

Any sponsor of a N.I.T. 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 12

The playing fields, under contract, to be used in a N.I.T. 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 13

The amount a team is to pay, as entry fee for an N.I.T., State, or 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 14

All N.I.T., State 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 15

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

- a) 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.
- b) A winner and runner up of a NIT has a direct berth to World.
- c) A registered team of the National Softball Association that is named as a host team from the area where the 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 16

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 along with a copy of their team insurance and a signed online roster 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 17

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 18

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

SECTION 19

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. All awards must be approved by the Zone Vice President and the National Headquarters.

SECTION 20

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 21

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 that the team is from; provided that the World Series Tournament that the State Director is sending the team to, is geographically closer and more economical for the team. 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.

ARTICLE XIX PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETION OF TOURNAMENTS

SECTION 1

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

- 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, not meeting requirement in a timely manner, may be suspended and no insurance coverage.
- c) What makes a NSA Sanctioned Event?
 - 1. NSA teams sanctioned online with signed NSA roster and proof of insurance turned in.
 - 2. NSA umpires sanctioned online prior to taking the field with sanction number.
 - 3. NSA rules special rules must be submitted in writing and be approved prior to using in tournaments. If not special rules you follow the rulebook.
 - 4. NSA approved equipment – NO EXCEPTIONS
 - 5. Tournament approved by State Director.
If any one of these requirements is not met insurance coverage will be void.
- d) 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.
- e) 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 resolution to the second appeal, the applicant may indicate dissatisfaction with the second appeal. The applicant may submit within ten (10) days the proper information that he/or she feels has been missed understood 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.