Amateur Sports Alliance of North America Code

Updated Winter 2024

| Article 1: Definitions | 3 |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1.1 Amateur | 3 |
| 1.2 ASANA Softball World Series | 3 |
| 1.3 Association | 3 |
| 1.4 Big Sister City | 3 |
| 1.5 Council | 3 |
| 1.6 Council Member | 3 |
| 1.7 Disqualified Player | 3 |
| 1.8 Eligible Playing Participant | 3 |
| 1.9 Elite Athlete | 3 |
| 1.10 Gay/LGBTQ+ | 3 |
| 1.11 Ineligible Player | 4 |
| 1.12 Instruments of Governance (IOG) | 4 |
| 1.13 Member Association | 4 |
| 1.14 Member | 4 |
| 1.15 Potential New City (PNC) | 4 |
| 1.16 Potential New City Team | 4 |
| 1.17 Probation | 4 |
| 1.18 Player fee | 4 |
| 1.19 Qualifying Tournament | 4 |
| 1.20 Revocation of Membership | 5 |
| 1.21 Rush Program | 5 |
| 1.22 Umpire-In-Charge | 5 |
| 1.23 Unsportsmanlike Conduct | 5 |
| 1.24 World Series Team | 5 |
| Article 2: Disqualification | 5 |
| 2.1 Acts of Disqualification: | 5 |
| 2.2 Disqualification Procedures: | 6 |
| 2.3 Jurisdiction: | 6 |
| 2.4 Penalties: | 6 |

| Auticle O. ACANIA Discour Oleveiting | 7 |
|--|----|
| Article 3: ASANA Player Classifications | |
| 3.1 Player Classifications | |
| 3.2 Classification Process | |
| 3.3 Player Classification Score Ranges (W24) | |
| 3.4 Use of Player Classifications in Member Associations | |
| 3.5 Use of Classifications in Member Association Tournaments | |
| Article 4: ASANA Softball World Series | 8 |
| 4.1 World Series Announcement and Definition | 8 |
| 4.2 Member Association Representation | 9 |
| 4.3 Alternative Team Entry Options | 9 |
| 4.4 Host City Teams | 10 |
| 4.5 Player Eligibility | 11 |
| 4.6 World Series Team Roster Requirements | 13 |
| 4.7 World Series Team Roster Classifications | 14 |
| 4.8 Potential New City Team Roster | 15 |
| 4.9 World Series Team Automatic Reclassification | 15 |
| 4.10 World Series Roster Submission | 15 |
| 4.11 World Series Roster Fines | 16 |
| 4.12 World Series Format | 16 |
| 4.13 Umpires | 17 |
| 4.14 Protest Committee and Process: | 17 |
| Article 5: Qualifying Tournaments | 23 |
| 5.1 Requirements: | 23 |
| 5.2 Restrictions: | 25 |
| 5.3 Eligibility | 25 |
| 5.4 Classifications Process during a Qualifying Tournament | 27 |
| Article 6: Amendments to Code | 28 |
| 6.1 Changes to Code and Amendments: | 28 |
| 6.2 Precedence: | |
| Article 7: Publication | |
| | 29 |

Article 1: Definitions

1.1 Amateur

A. A softball player who engages in the sport solely for pleasure and physical, mental, or social benefits derived therefrom.

1.2 ASANA Softball World Series

A. The Amateur Sports Alliance of North America Softball World Series, which offers A, B, C, D, and E Softball Division Championships. (W95)(W04)(W06)(S08)(W15)(W23)

1.3 Association

A. A league, division, or association, which is an ASANA Softball member.

1.4 Big Sister City

A. A current ASANA Member Association that has agreed to help recruit a Potential New City (PNC) to join ASANA Softball via the Rush Program.

1.5 Council

A. The governing body of ASANA Softball.

1.6 Council Member

A. Is a Member Association representative chosen to serve on the ASANA governing body.

1.7 Disqualified Player

A. A person who has been disqualified from play in events promoted and conducted by ASANA for violation of its rules.

1.8 Eligible Playing Participant

A. Any player who identifies as a woman, transgender, or non-binary individual shall be eligible for play in the ASANA Softball World Series. (W19)

1.9 Elite Athlete

A. Elite athlete status, defined as any player who has ever played for a team or organization that can be described as semi-professional, professional, or Olympic caliber softball and/or baseball in any country, for any length of time.

1.10 Gay/LGBTQ+

A. The terms gay/LGBTQ+, ally, and related gender identification terms shall be

interpreted in accordance with the glossary of the Human Rights Campaign. (W17)

1.11 Ineligible Player

A. A player that is not eligible to participate in the ASANA Softball World Series. A disqualified player is included in this definition of an ineligible player.

1.12 Instruments of Governance (IOG)

A. The governing documents of ASANA, including the ASANA Bylaw and Code. (S99)

1.13 Member Association

A. A league, division, or association, which joins ASANA for the purpose of participation in the organization and the ASANA Softball World Series.

1.14 Member

A. An association member who is eighteen years of age or older. (W88)

1.15 Potential New City (PNC)

A. A league, division, or association that has been identified as a potential Member Association of ASANA, and which may be invited to participate in the ASANA Softball World Series via the Rush Program.

1.16 Potential New City Team

A. A team from a Potential New City's association that is participating in an ASANA Softball World Series via the Rush Program. A PNC may send one team, one time, to an ASANA Softball World Series before bidding for membership. (W07)

1.17 Probation

A. A penalty assessed to an association found to be in violation of ASANA Bylaw or Code. Probationary periods are assessed for one-year terms beginning midnight from the date of the infraction. (W91)(S99)

1.18 Player fee

A. All persons listed on a roster participating for the ASANA Softball World Series may be required to pay a Player fee at the time of team registration. (W97)(W09)

1.19 Qualifying Tournament

A. An ASANA tournament that qualifies teams and/or players for the ASANA Softball World Series. (W19)

1.20 Revocation of Membership

A. A penalty assessed to an association found to be in violation of ASANA Bylaw or Code and is currently on probation. Revocation of membership begins at midnight from the date of infraction and continues until the association re-petitions and is accepted into ASANA by the Council. (W91)(W91)(S99)

1.21 Rush Program

A. A program that's purpose is to recruit Potential New Cities (PNC's) by matching them with a Big Sister City or a ASANA Member City representative who will guide the PNC through the steps necessary to participate in the ASANA Softball World Series, and/or through the membership bid process.

1.22 Umpire-In-Charge

A. An USA Softball/CASA accredited umpire who is appointed by the ASANA Executive Director to coordinate the umpiring staff for the ASANA Softball World Series. (S99)

1.23 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

A. Action that is detrimental or unbecoming to the purposes, objectives, rules, or regulations of ASANA and/or its Member Associations. (S99)

1.24 World Series Team

A. Is a roster of at least 10 players, all of whom are eligible as per Code Section 4.6. A team may also include but not be limited to coaches, managers, scorekeepers, and sponsors who represent the same group and occupy the player area during a game. (S99)

Article 2: Disqualification

2.1 Acts of Disqualification:

- A. The following is a list of acts, any one of which may be justification for the disqualification from the ASANA Softball World Series, of any player or team in any association in ASANA: (w91)(w02)
 - 1. Unsportsmanlike conduct;
 - 2. Physical violence such as an attack on an umpire or World Series official immediately preceding, during, or immediately following a game;
 - 3. Commission of a fraud such as playing under an assumed name for a fraudulent purpose, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to World Series officials:
 - 4. Receiving money or financial benefits in consideration of participating in softball or

baseball competition;

- 5. Participation while knowing they do not meet the eligibility requirements of the division:
- 6. Knowingly competing with players that are disqualified from division play;
- 7. Accepting money (directly or indirectly) by capitalizing on athletic performance, or fame in softball, such as allowing the use of the players name to advertise, recommend, or promote the sale of softball sporting goods or by accepting compensation for using such goods;
- 8. Ejection from the game for any reason, including playing while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. (W02)

2.2 Disqualification Procedures:

- A. **Hearing**: Prior to disqualification a team or team member must be given an opportunity for a hearing by the ruling body of the Member Association to which the team or team member belongs.
- B. **Notification**: The team or team member must be notified of the time, place, and date of the hearing.
- C. Rulings: After hearing all of the evidence, the ruling body may take whatever action it deems necessary and appropriate in accordance with this Code. The team or team member must be advised in writing of the action taken. A copy of such letter must be forwarded to the ASANA Executive Director.
- D. **Right of Appeal**: Any team or team member disqualified from division play may appeal to the ASANA Executive Director, who shall determine if a fair hearing was held and an equitable decision reached. The decision of the ASANA Executive Director is final.
- E. **Limitation of Appeal**: Any team or team member disqualified by a Member Association must notify the ASANA Executive Director within 30 days of their appeal. Such appeal must be made in writing and mailed registered or certified, return receipt requested.

2.3 Jurisdiction:

A. A team or Member Association shall cease to be eligible to compete in tournaments conducted or sanctioned by ASANA while disqualified from ASANA or any Member Association, provided that the disqualification by the Member Association does not conflict with this Code or established policies of ASANA.

2.4 Penalties:

A. **World Series Individual Penalties:** During the course of the ASANA Softball World Series, a team or team member may be disqualified for a period of time at the discretion of the ASANA Board of Directors for violations of this Code as shown in 2.01

with the exception that the following acts of disqualification require a minimum of one year loss of eligibility:

- 1. Physical violence;
- 2. Commission of a fraud:
- 3. Competing knowingly with disqualified or ineligible players; (wo3)
- 4. Receiving money directly or indirectly, for personal gain, by capitalizing on athletic ability or promotion of softball goods. (S99)
- B. **World Series Association Penalties:** Any Member Association having a team reclassified by the Protest Committee prior to or during World Series play may have penalties assessed against them. (W10)
- C. **Notification of Association Penalties:** The Competition Director report for each World Series shall include a list of any Associations that have received a warning or penalty in that ASANA Softball World Series. (W09)

Article 3: ASANA Player Classifications

3.1 Player Classifications

- A. ASANA Player Classifications are used to determine the appropriate ASANA division(s) of play for each player.
- B. The ASANA Player Classification Guideline Form, found in the appendix of this document, provides the specific guidelines by which each player is classified by their Member Association.
- C. All players in all ASANA Member Associations must be assigned a player classification.

3.2 Classification Process

- A. Player Classifications must be completed or confirmed each year by their ASANA Member Association leadership, regardless of whether the player is attending the ASANA World Series. (W19)
- B. In the event that a player is a member of two different ASANA Member Associations, the player must declare which ASANA Member Association shall be their primary Member Association before the start of both Member Associations regular season and notify both Member Association Commissioners. The player's primary Member Association is responsible for assigning an ASANA classification and entering it into the ASANA database. An association cannot be fined if a player is not entered into the database for their association if the player's primary team belongs to a different Member Association. (W18)(W19)
- C. Member Association Commissioners (or highest ranking official) will have final say in player classification scores. (W19)
- D. All player classifications must be submitted within one week of a local league's

- completion or 60 days before the ASANA World Series, whichever is earlier. (W19)
- E. All ASANA Member Associations must have a formal, documented process in place for completing player classifications written into their local Instruments of Governance. (W19) This process must include, but is not limited to:
 - 1. A Classifications Committee
 - 2. A petition process by which a team manager may formally petition for a player's classification to be reviewed after the Commissioner's decision.
- F. Player Classifications must be submitted to ASANA by the Member Association's highest ranking official, or their designee, via the ASANA Player Classifications Database. (W19)

3.3 Player Classification Score Ranges (W24)

- A player = total score 72-80
- B player = total score 59-71
- C player = total score 44-58
- D player = total score 32-43
- E player = total score 16-31

3.4 Use of Player Classifications in Member Associations

- A. Member Associations are not required to use ASANA Player Classifications to determine regular season team placement. (W19)
- B. Member Associations who choose to use ASANA Player Classifications to determine regular season team placement may choose the effective date when updated classifications must be used. (W19)

3.5 Use of Classifications in Member Association Tournaments

- A. Member Associations Tournaments are not required to use ASANA Player Classifications to determine tournament team placement unless the tournament is designated as an ASANA Qualifying Tournament. (W19)
- B. Member Associations who choose to use ASANA Player Classifications to determine tournament team placement must use the most recently available classifications for each player. (W19)

Article 4: ASANA Softball World Series

4.1 World Series Announcement and Definition

A. The ASANA Softball World Series for a given year should be confirmed and announced by the ASANA board a minimum of one year prior via email and a second form of communication. (w23)

- B. The anticipated tournament format, including divisions and ratings for a year's given series should be announced and confirmed no later than the first day of the Winter Council meeting for a given year, via email and a second form of communication. (W23)
- C. Changes in format should be announced no later than 60 days prior to a World Series, via email and a second form of communication. (W23)
- D. Teams impacted by changes in format announced 60 days prior should be given five days to request to withdraw with a full refund. (W23)

4.2 Member Association Representation

- A. Each association shall be responsible for the method of determining its ASANA Softball World Series representatives to the A, B, C, D, or E divisions provided that the requirements listed below are met. Member associations will determine the level of play for any team it sends to the ASANA Softball World Series. ASANA will not be responsible for making that determination. (w95)(w04)(w15)(w23)
 - 1. Each association must send in a written document submitted to the Tournament Director: (S08)
 - a) The association's number of teams broken down by their classification of A, B, C, D, E by June 1 or as specified in the Due Date document. (W11)(W15)(W23)
 - b) The number of teams the association intends to attend the World Series; the team's classification; team name, coach address, phone number and email address on or before July 15 of that year or as specified in the Due Date document. (W11)
- B. A member city can send any number of teams to the ASANA Softball World Series as long as they meet World Series participation qualification standards. (SP23)
- C. The ASANA Softball World Series draws for all divisions are to be randomly assigned by computer generated scheduling program or by conference call with all association's representatives invited to attend at the discretion of the Tournament Director. The draws are to be completed prior to the summer meeting of the ASANA council.

 (W95p)(W04p)(W09p)(W23)
- D. The ASANA Board of Directors have the discretion to make decisions in the best interest of the ASANA Softball World Series to alter sizes of divisions or eliminate divisions prior to the World Series. (W15)(W23)

4.3 Alternative Team Entry Options

- A. Potential New City Team (PNC Team)
 - 1. A team that is participating in the ASANA Softball World Series via the Rush Program (wo7)
 - a) A PNC Team's ASANA Softball World Series participation must be authorized by the ASANA Board and its entry must be declared in

- writing to the Tournament Director by on or before July 15 of that year or as specified in the Due Date document. (W07p)(S08p)(W11)
- b) If a PNC Team's league is located within the same metropolitan area as an existing Member Association, the League Commissioner from the existing Member Association must express their approval or disapproval in writing. (w23)
- c) 1. If the existing Member Association does not approve, the ASANA Council may override that decision by way of a two-thirds vote in favor of authorizing the team's participation.
- 2. A PNC Team must meet the following criteria:
 - a) It shall be properly classified (A, B, C, D, or E) with the assistance of its Big Sister City and/or the Membership Committee. (W07)(W15)(W23)
 - b) The same restrictions and guidelines regarding Elite and Dual division players also apply to the players on a PNC Team. (wo7)
 - c) Its roster shall not list players who are on the roster of a team in a current ASANA Member Association. (W07)
 - d) Its association must send a representative to the entire set of summer council meetings in order to be eligible to play in that year's ASANA Softball World Series. (w07)
 - e) It shall be subject to all requirements regarding uniforms, playing rules and regulations, tourney entry fees, player fees, fee deadlines, entry deadlines, paperwork (except for the on-line roster), and manager meeting attendance. (W07)
- B. Other Organized Entities (W10)(W23)
 - 1. Allow the participation of any registered teams from another softball governing body (USA/ASA Softball, NSA, USSSA, GSL, MLS, BSC, NSA, One Nation, WSL) to participate in the ASANA Softball World Series B division only. (W15)(W23)(SP23)
 - a) All B division ASANA classification rules and all other ASANA rules still apply. (W23)
 - b) Entry fee is the team registration fee plus \$150 non-member fee.
 - c) Organized Team is defined as more than 60% of the roster is Non-ASANA rated (W23)

4.4 Host City Teams

A. The host city may send unlimited teams declaring such before July 15 of that year or as specified in the Due Date document. The Tournament Director has the discretion to limit the number of teams that they send based on field availability. The Tournament Director must notify the host city before the dates as are above if limitations apply.

(W11)(W16)

4.5 Player Eligibility

- A. To be eligible for the World Series, players must meet at least one of the following membership requirements:
 - 1. Member of any ASANA Member Association
 - a) Must have been present for one-third (1/3) of games played by their team(s) in the regular season, or the portion of the regular season completed prior to the World Series.
 - b) Members residing more than 90 minutes by car from a Member Association must have been present for no less than three games played by their team(s) in the regular season, or the portion of the regular season completed prior to the World Series. (W24)
 - Drive time from player residence to Member Association will be determined as follows using Google Maps or equivalent tool. (W24)
 - 1. Use zip code of player residence to zip code of closest field location used by the Member Association. (W24)
 - 2. Use arrival time function to determine drive time on the day of the week when the majority of Member Association games are scheduled at the time when the majority of the first games are scheduled. (W24)
 - c) These requirements are waived for deployed and/or PCS/TDY, active-duty military players and their spouses provided that they were on the team roster at the beginning of the regular season. (W24)
 - d) Their classifications must still be verified in accordance with the ASANA Code.
 - 2. Member of any NAGAAA Organization
 - a) Only if assigned an ASANA Classification score
 - b) Must have been present for one-third (1/3) of games played by their team(s) in the regular season, or the portion of the regular season completed prior to the World Series.
 - c) This requirement is waived for deployed active-duty military players provided that they were on the team roster at the beginning of the regular season.
 - d) Their classifications must still be verified in accordance with the ASANA Code.
 - e) Must pay a fee to attend the World Series
 - Fee amount will be set yearly by the ASANA Executive Board
 - ii. Fee is due before registration
 - 3. Member of the ASANA Hall of Fame
 - Their classifications must still be verified by an ASANA Member Association
 - 4. Qualify through an ASANA Qualifying Tournament in accordance with ASANA

Code Article Five.

B. Elite Players:

- 1. An Elite Player is defined as any player who has ever played for a team or organization that can be described as semi-professional, professional, or Olympic caliber softball and/or baseball in any country, for any length of time.
- 2. Elite Players may not play for any B, C, D, or E Division team at the ASANA Softball World Series or Qualifying Tournament within five years of elite status ending. (W23)
- 3. An Elite Player can request a review of their elite player status in order to remove their elite status.
 - a) No later than 45 days before the ASANA Softball World Series or Qualifying Tournament, a request to remove elite status must be sent via email to the ASANA Competition Director by the Member Association Commissioner (or highest ranking official).
 - b) A detailed description of why the player should no longer be classified as an Elite Player must be sent with the request.
 - c) The ASANA Executive Board will review the request and respond with a decision within 15 days.
- 4. All World Series Players must be 18 years of age or older at the start of the ASANA Softball World Series
- C. Former Members of ASANA Member Associations (W24)
 - Any player who moves from a current member city to a location that does not have an ASANA member city within 90 minutes by car, can petition their previous city for qualifying guidelines and verifications for up to three years after the relocation.
 - a) Drive time from player residence to Member Association will be determined as follows using Google Maps or equivalent tool. (W24)
 - i. Use zip code of player residence to zip code of closest field location used by the Member Association. (W24)
 - ii. 2. Use arrival time function to determine drive time on the day of the week when the majority of Member Association games are scheduled at the time when the majority of the first games are scheduled. (W24)
 - Player must notify the current Commissioner of the past member association and the Competition Director within 60 days of the World Series of their intent to qualify through a previous member city and provide verification of their past membership status if requested.
 - a) Current Commissioner of the past member association is responsible for creating a "Former Players," league team in the ASANA Database, adding the former member and providing their score for all questions.
 - b) Current Commissioner is responsible for placing them on a World Series roster or releasing the player to a World Series roster of another member city by established deadlines.

4.6 World Series Team Roster Requirements

- A. A World Series Roster must consist of a minimum of 10 players.
- B. A maximum of 20 players will be permitted on a team's roster.
- C. A player may only be listed as a player on one World Series roster.
- D. Managers and coaches must be listed on rosters, but do not count toward the 20 player limit unless they also serve as players.
 - 1. E Division teams may submit a list of five coaches that are also listed on other World Series Rosters. Names must be submitted in advance of the tournament using a method designated by the ASANA Executive Board.
 - 2. These coaches may coach bases or in the dugout when available and must meet uniform rules as outlined in the Tournament Rules.
 - 3. These coaches must declare themselves as coaches only to the umpire and opposing team.
 - 4. These coaches may not enter the lineup as players.
- E. If a player's regular season team is attending the World Series, they must attend the World Series with the regular season team.
 - 1. Exception: The highest ranking official in a Member Association may release a player to play on another team.
 - The method for completing this release will be determined yearly by the Competition Director and will be communicated via any training materials or guides published that year.
- F. All players on the team do not need to be members of the same ASANA Member Association.
 - If the player is being added to the roster of a team that belongs to a Member Association other than the one to which the player belongs, the Member Association to which the player belongs must release the player to play on that team.
 - The method for completing this release will be determined yearly by the Competition Director and will be communicated via any training materials or guides published that year.
 - A team that has added a player from another ASANA Member Association is responsible for validating the accuracy of the player's classification at the beginning of World Series Tournament play.
 - a) If a manager becomes aware that a player was inaccurately classified, the manager must notify the Tournament Director that they have identified them as such and the player cannot continue playing on the notifying manager's team.
 - b) The ASANA Executive Board will do all that they can to help the team find another player to fill the position and the player find another team to join.

c) As long as the manager reports the inaccurate classification before a protest is filed, that player cannot be protested as part of that team, provided that the player has not continued to play for the team in question.

4.7 World Series Team Roster Classifications

- A. Teams are classified according to the composition of players on their roster.
- B. ASANA World Series B Division Classified Team:
 - 1. A team that has no Elite players, no more than four roster A division players, and any other combination of players of any lower classification, and whose highest 10 rated players sum rating does not exceed 710. (W24)
 - 2. Teams who qualify via the official ASANA qualifying tournament. (SP23)
 - 3. Any registered teams from another softball governing body [(USA/ASA Softball, NSA, USSSA, GSL, MLS, BSC, NSA, One Nation, WSL) (SP23)
 - a) The team must have registered and played with an outside organization in the last year. (SP23)
 - b) World Series roster must have at least six players from their registered roster. (SP23)
 - Exception: Any approved pick-up team. Recommendation must be made by the Tournament Operations and Competition Committees, and reviewed with the Executive Board for approval. (SP23)
 - ii. All committees reserve the right to refusal. (SP23)
 - 4. For players coming from outside organizations, no more than four total "A," "A Conference," "AA Conference," "Elite," or "Majors" classified players allowed on a team. (SP23)
 - 5. ASANA Teams who self-identify as a B Division team. (SP23)
- C. ASANA World Series C Division Classified Team:
 - 1. A team that has no Elite players, no A division players, no more than three roster B division players rated 59-65, and any other combination of players of any lower classification, and whose highest 10 rated players sum rating does not exceed 580. (W24)
- D. ASANA World Series D Division Classified Team:
 - 1. A team that has no Elite players, no A division players, no B division players, no more than three roster C division players rated 44-49, and whose highest 10 rated players sum rating does not exceed 430. (w24)
- E. ASANA World Series E Division Classified Team:
 - 1. A team that has no Elite players, no A, B or C division players, and no roster D players rated higher than 36, and whose highest 10 rated players sum rating does not exceed 310. (W24)

4.8 Potential New City Team Roster

- A. The Roster of a PNC Team may be composed of any combination of eligible players from that league.
 - 1. There are no requirements for the minimum number of league games played by a player on a Sister City team.
 - 2. A PNC Team must meet roster deadlines, unless otherwise agreed upon with the ASANA Executive Board, but will not be subject to any roster or paperwork fines.
- B. PNC Teams are subject to the requirements outlined in Code 4.3A

4.9 World Series Team Automatic Reclassification

- A. A team that places 1st or 2nd in their division at the World Series two years in a row will be required to move up to the next division at the next series that they attend provided that 50% or more of the team is returning.
 - 1. Two years in a row is defined as two years in which the team attended, even if they are not consecutive.
 - 2. A five or more year gap will not be considered two years in a row.
- B. In the event a team places 1st or 2nd in their division at the World Series two years in a row, and is now required to move up, the Commissioner of the team's league will be able to petition for an exemption to this rule. The petition for this exemption will need to be filed, in writing, with the ASANA Competition Director prior to the submission due dates for the League's regular season team roster.

4.10 World Series Roster Submission

- A. Players are added to a World Series roster by the Member Association to which they belong.
- B. Deadline: All World Series team rosters must be submitted online to the Competition Director 30 days prior to the World Series for a team to be eligible to participate in the World Series.
 - 1. World Series team rosters must be submitted into the ASANA Player Classifications Database.
 - a) Failure to submit World Series team rosters by the deadline will result in a fine.
 - b) Failure to pay the fine prior to the start of the Summer Meeting will result in exclusion of that association from that year's World Series.
 - c) Associations incurring this penalty will be notified prior to the start of the Summer Meeting by the Communication Director.
 - 2. Any players to be designated as "Late Register" must be included on the originally submitted roster by the due date. These players will be permitted to register as late as their team's first double elimination game.

- a) A player not registered before their team's first double-elimination game is not eligible to play (see World Series Rules of Play).
- C. A player classification must be submitted for all players, managers, and coaches listed on a roster. Coaches and managers who are not declared as players must be submitted with "0" player classification.
- D. Each team member's full legal name must be listed.
- E. By submitting a player's name on a World Series roster, the Member Association Commissioner (or highest ranking official) confirms that the player meets the Player Eligibility Requirements as defined in the ASANA Code.

4.11 World Series Roster Fines

- A. Failure to submit a properly completed roster shall result in a fine.
- B. Fine is two errors no charge and then \$50 per error thereafter.
- C. Types of errors:
 - 1. Roster not submitted on time: A roster not submitted by the due date shall result in a total of 10 errors and a fine of \$400.
 - Incomplete roster: A roster with fewer than 10 players will be considered an incomplete roster. An error will be assessed for every player missing from the roster.
 - 3. <u>Player Classification Score submitted incorrectly</u>: A player on a World Series roster whose classification changes after the due date will be considered an error.
 - 4. Other errors not described here: The ASANA Board may, by majority vote, determine that an error will be assessed for a situation not described here. A full explanation of the error will be provided to the member associated.
- D. The following shall not be considered errors:
 - 1. A player's name not spelled correctly
 - 2. A player omitted from the roster and added later unless the original roster consisted of fewer than 10 players.
- E. Fines assessed as a result of an error at the player level will be assessed to the Member Association to which the player belongs.
- F. Fines assessed as a result of an error at the roster level will be assessed to the Member Association to which the team belongs.

4.12 World Series Format

- A. The ASANA Softball World Series utilizes current USA Softball Slow Pitch rules. Any exceptions or rules specific to the ASANA Softball World Series are outlined in the ASANA World Series Playing Rules Document. This document will be updated yearly prior to World Series Play. (W22)
- B. Playing rules must be annually presented at the Winter Council Meeting by the Tournament Director and must be approved by the Council with a two-thirds majority

vote. (SP23)

- C. World Series Awards will be provided in the following manner: (p)
 - 1. Team trophies shall be presented to the top three teams.
 - 2. Awards shall be given to each individual on the championship team whose name appears on the official competition roster, including additional players, and managerial and coaching staff who are present. Additional individual awards may be given. (W23)
 - 3. The cost of all awards listed above shall be borne by ASANA. Any participation awards borne by the host association must obtain prior ASANA approval. (W09)

4.13 Umpires

- A. The ASANA Tournament Director and the ASANA Softball World Series Umpire-In-Charge (UIC) will work together regarding all officiating decisions. (S98p)
- B. Each Member Association must submit to the ASANA officiating chair, by June 1 (registered, certified mail or email), a complete list of LGBTQ+ friendly umpires used in regular season play that would like to umpire in the ASANA Softball World Series, in addition to any umpire applications for the upcoming ASANA Softball World Series. All documents must be submitted in duplicate. The Chair will then forward a copy to the current ASANA Softball World Series UIC. (S98p)
- C. Every umpire on the ASANA Softball World Series payroll will be either USA Softball or CASA sanctioned in the Metro or District association in whose territories that are considered to be accredited. (\$98p)(\$99p)
- D. The ASANA officiating chair will send a letter of acknowledgement to each applicant by June 15. (\$98p)
- E. The ASANA officiating chair will send a letter of acceptance and an informational letter (including but not limited to: hotel information, dates of World Series, uniform information, pay structure, ASANA Softball World Series UIC phone number) to each umpire accepted to the ASANA Softball World Series by June 30. (\$98p)
- F. Assignment of umpires to the ASANA Softball World Series is the responsibility of the ASANA Umpire in Charge. It is recommended that each Member Association furnish one or more umpires.
- G. The ASANA Softball World Series UIC will attend the ASANA Summer Council Meeting. (\$98p)(W02p)

4.14 Protest Committee and Process:

If it is suspected that a player has been entered into the ASANA Softball World Series with an inaccurate classification, a protest may be initiated to challenge the player's eligibility to participate in the division that their team has entered the World Series in. (W18)

A. Protest Committee:

1. No member of the ASANA Executive Board can institute a protest. (W23)

- 2. The Tournament protest committee will consist of five members, drawn from the Competition Committee, Tournament Operations Committee and one member of the ASANA Executive Board. (W23)
 - a) The Executive Director will appoint either the World Series Events Director, Communications Director, or the Finance Director to be a part of the committee. (W23)
 - b) The Competition Director shall not be counted towards the total count as they will not vote unless a tie-breaking vote is required.
 - c) The Protest Committee may vary from protest to protest depending on who is available for discussion and voting.
- 3. No more than 50% of the committee members involved in the protest decision may be ASANA Executive Board Members. A majority vote is required to uphold any protest. (W18)
 - a) If fewer than three Competition Committee members are available, the Competition Director may elect to appoint additional committee members when the Protest is initiated. (W18)
 - i. These committee members will be selected from experienced Member City Delegates, Team Managers, and Players at the discretion of the Competition Director.
 - ii. A single member city may not represent more than 34% of the Protest Committee.
 - b) The Tournament Director and/or Competition Director must be involved in all protests. (W18)
 - i. If either Director is playing in a game at the time of the protest, they must elect to either leave their game or allow the committee to proceed with protest without them. (W18)
 - ii. If neither are available, they must decide who will walk away from their game. If they cannot agree, the ASANA Executive Director will determine who must leave their game. (W18)
- 4. If the Tournament Director and Competition determines that any Protest Committee member has a conflict of interest with either team involved in the protest, the Protest Committee will vote to determine if that committee member will be removed from discussion and voting. (W18)(W23)

B. Initiation:

- 1. Protests will only be allowed on players through 11:30 PM local time during non-semifinal or non-championship games, Friday of World Series week. (W24)
- 2. ASANA Protest Cards will be available at the ASANA board table. (W23)
- 3. Up through the first day of a division's double elimination play, if a manager feels a player is improperly rated, they may fill out and turn in a protest card free of any

- fee. The card will be accepted and held for informational purposes only and no protest hearing will take place. (W23)
- 4. The manager must complete the Protest Form, indicating which question scores are being challenged. (W18) The manager must provide specific examples of observations made that support the protest. Backup information must include two of the following: (W23)
 - a) All scorebooks and scoresheets that back up the assertion of the players incorrect rating while participating against the team. (W23)
 - b) List of specific games observed and any documentation regarding player ratings. (W23)
 - c) Any written and documented manager statements via a Protest Statement Form. (W23)
 - d) Gathering of all managers who are referenced in the protest notes above. (w23)
- 5. The exact cash amount of all protest fees must be submitted along with a completed protest form. (W18)
 - a) The base protest fee will be determined yearly by the ASANA Board of Directors and published to all Member Associations with the Due Date Checklist. (W18)
 - i. The base protest fee must be a minimum of \$200. (W18)
 - ii. The base protest fee shall not exceed the amount of the Tournament Entry Fee. (W18)
 - b) The base protest fee shall cover up to three individual questions for any one player being protested. (W18)
 - Additional questions may be protested at a rate of \$50 per question. (W18)
 - ii. Additional players from the same team may be protested at a rate of \$100 for up to three questions. Additional questions may be protested at a rate of \$50 per question. (W18)
 - iii. If a team manager believes that the parameters above create a situation where the total protest fee required prohibits them from submitting a protest, they may request to make a 50% cash deposit on the total amount required to submit the protest. In the event that the protest is not upheld, the team manager must surrender the remaining balance to ASANA within 1 hour of the decision.
 - 1. Requests will be approved or denied at the discretion of the Competition Director.
 - 2. If the balance is not surrendered as listed above, the team who initiated the protest will be ejected from the tournament.

- 6. A protest must be submitted prior to the beginning of the game(s) determining the fourth place team in each respective division begins. (W11)
 - a) If a division consists of fewer than six teams, the deadline will be extended to the game determining the third place team in that division.
- 7. The manager wishing to initiate a protest must submit the form to any available Board Member. The manager must also take a picture of the Protest Form and email it to the ASANA Executive Board board@asanaseries.org. (w18)
 - a) The person receiving the protest must immediately notify all members of the ASANA Board of Directors that a protest has been initiated. (W18)
 - b) The Competition Director or Tournament Director must assemble all available Protest Committee Members. (W18)

C. Review of Submitted Protest:

- 1. Information must immediately be reviewed by the Protest Committee to support the committee's discussion of the Protest. (W23)
 - a) Protest committee should review materials prior to official acceptance of the protest. (W23)
 - b) If the committee feels the protest materials have met the criteria for action, the protest process should begin. (w23)
- 2. As soon as a protest is received and deemed actionable, the Competition Director has 30 minutes to notify the following via cellular phone call and email: (W23)
 - a) The manager of a team being protested. (W18)(W23)
 - The team being protested must surrender their scorebook for all games played. (W19)(W23)
 - ii. The team being protested may submit a list of managers who are willing to support their inclusion in the division in which they are currently playing. Cellular phone numbers must be provided.

 (W19)(W23)
 - b) The Member City Commissioner and/or Delegate of the team being protested. (W23)
 - c) If the team qualified for the World Series via a Qualifying Tournament, the Tournament Director of said Tournament. (W23)
- 3. Information gathered by protester should include all of the following but is not limited to:
 - a) Scorebooks (W23)
 - i. Scorebooks/game results in games being used in the protest. (W18)(W23)
 - 1. This must include the scorebook from the team being protested, as well as any other submitted scorebooks from

the protesting manager/coach. (W19)(W23)

- b) Managers who agree/support of the protest must be made available by the protester for questions/discussions within 15 minutes of the protest committee start. (W19)(W23)
- c) The manager from the team being protested must be given an opportunity to refute any claims made on the Protest Form. (W18)(W23)
- d) If available, the Member City Commissioner and/or Delegate may also make a statement. (W18)(W23)
- e) If they choose to, the player(s) being protested may also make a statement in-person or via phone call. (W19)(W23)
- 4. All information gathered reviewed must be documented by a member of the committee. (W23)
- 5. All statements received by the Protest Committee must be signed by the person giving the statement. (W18)(W23)
- 6. Total Protest Review Time will be limited to one hour from start of committee assembly to delivery of decision. (W19)(W23)

D. Decision (W18)

- 1. Once all information has been reviewed, the Protest Committee will vote to either uphold or dismiss the protest.
- 2. A majority (51%) vote is required to uphold a protest.
- 3. The Director of Softball Field and Team Operations, Softball Tournament Director, and ASANA Executive Director will meet separately with the managers and, if available, the Member City Commissioners and/or Delegates from both teams to deliver the decision.
 - a) No other members of either team may be present at the time that the decision is delivered.
 - b) There will be zero tolerance for members of any team who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct upon receiving the decision of the Protest Committee. Anyone acting in an unsportsmanlike manner will be removed from the field complex immediately.
 - Egregious acts of unsportsmanlike conduct may result in a fine to the Member City.
- 4. If the protest is upheld:
 - a) All monies submitted with the protest will be returned to the manager who initiated the protest.
 - b) The protest committee will make a recommendation to eject the entire team from the tournament or to eject the individual player(s) from the tournament. (W19)
 - If the protest is filed during Round Robin play, the protest

committee may opt to convert all games in which the player(s) participated to forfeits but allow the team to continue playing in the tournament. The player(s) will be removed from the team for the remainder of the tournament but a team in a higher division may pick the player(s) up for the remainder of the tournament, provided that the player(s) meets the requirements of that division and a uniform is available for the player(s). If not picked up by another team, the player(s) will be permitted to remain in the team's dugout and/or coach bases for the remainder of the tournament. (W19)

- ii. If the protest is filed during Bracket play, the protest committee may opt to only remove the individual player(s) from the tournament if it is clear, through the review of available scorebooks and statements, that the individual player(s) did not have a significant impact on the team's overall progress through the tournament. The player(s) will be permitted to remain in the team's dugout and/or coach bases for the remainder of the tournament. (w19)
- iii. If it is clear, through the review of available scorebooks, that any of the following are true, the entire team will be ejected from the tournament: (W19)
 - 1. The individual player(s) had a significant impact on the team's overall progress through the tournament. (W19)
 - 2. The manager and/or member city commissioner and/or delegate knowingly submitted an inaccurate classification for the player(s). (W19)
 - The manager and/or member city commissioner and/or delegate did not adhere to the guidelines in the ASANA Code. (W19)
- c) The Member City who submitted the Player Classifications will be assessed a fine equal to the amount of all protest fees.
 - i. This fine shall not be lower than \$200.
 - ii. This fine shall not exceed the amount of the Tournament Entry Fee.
 - iii. The ASANA Executive Board may opt to decrease the fine if they believe the fine to be excessive. (W19)
 - iv. The ASANA Executive Board will recommend corrective actions for the Member City who submitted the Player Classifications.
- d) If different, the Member City associated with the team that was

- protested will be assessed a fine of \$50.
- e) Any ratings updates confirmed by the Protest Committee will be effective immediately and will be updated in the database by the Director of Softball Field and Team Operations within 2 weeks of the conclusion of the ASANA Softball World Series. (W20)
 - A question rating updated by the Protest Committee cannot be decreased through the conclusion of the following year's ASANA Softball World Series. (W20)
 - ii. Other question ratings for the player may be increased or decreased during the league's rating process but the overall rating total may not be decreased. (w20)
 - iii. League commissioners may petition the ASANA Executive Director to lower the protested player's rating. The ASANA Executive Director will assign a committee to review or decline the request. The committee will consist of six individuals, two from each of the following committees: Tournament Operations, Competition, and the original Protest Committee. (W20)
- 5. If the Protest is dismissed:
 - a) Protest fee will be kept by ASANA
 - b) Players from the same team may be protested later in the tournament.
 - c) The same player may be protested again under other rating questions not included in the former protest. The same player may be protested again under the same rating questions of the former protest only if additional evidence is found and presented.

Article 5: Qualifying Tournaments

A Qualifying Tournament is defined as a tournament through which teams or players may qualify for the ASANA Softball World Series if they are not members of an ASANA Member Association. Teams or players qualified through a Qualifying Tournament per the requirements listed in this article will be eligible for the ASANA Softball World Series for 365 days following the end of the Qualifying Tournament. This article was re-written and adopted in the Summer of 2019. (S19)

5.1 Requirements:

- A. A Qualifying Tournament may be hosted by:
 - 1. An ASANA Member Association
 - 2. The ASANA Executive Board
 - 3. The ASANA Tournament Operations Committee

- 4. The ASANA Competition Committee
- 5. The ASANA Membership and Marketing Committee
- B. A Qualifying Tournament must conclude no less than seven days before the deadline to register for the ASANA Softball World Series
- C. A Qualifying Tournament must have at least four teams.
- D. Publicity shall include: "ASANA Softball World Series Qualifying Tournament"
- E. Each city that is interested in hosting a qualifying tournament must:
 - 1. Appoint a Qualifying Tournament Director
 - 2. Appoint a Qualifying Tournament Classifications Committee Chair
 - a) The chair must be approved by the ASANA Competition Director
 - b) The chair must complete a training course with the ASANA Competition Director
 - 3. Submit an application to the ASANA Board no less than one month in advance of the tournament. Applications will be approved by the ASANA Competition Director and/or the ASANA Executive Director. The application will include, but is not limited to:
 - a) Member City hosting
 - b) Tournament dates
 - c) Field location
 - d) Divisions offered
 - e) Qualifying Tournament director contacts
 - f) Tournament fees charged
 - g) Proposed number of berths awarded by ASANA Division
 - h) Method of payment for berths awarded
 - i) Date when rosters, including all player classifications, will be due to the Qualifying Tournament Director
 - j) Classifications Committee Chair contact
 - 4. Participate in at least two conference calls/webinars with the ASANA Competition Director and/or the ASANA Executive Director.
 - a) One conference call/webinar must be held within two weeks after the application's approval.
 - b) One conference call/webinar must be held within two weeks before the Qualifying Tournament's first day of play.
 - c) Additional conference calls/webinars may be required by the ASANA Competition Director and/or the ASANA Executive Director.
 - 5. Cover travel expenses for the ASANA Executive Board member throughout the Qualifying Tournament as follows:
 - a) 12 Women's+ Division teams** or fewer Lodging plus \$40 per diem* for each day of play or events for one ASANA Board Member.
 - b) 13 to 30 Women's+ Division teams** Lodging plus \$40 per diem*

- for each day of play or events for two ASANA Board Members.
- c) 31 or more Women's+ Division teams** Lodging plus \$40 per diem* for each day of play or events for three ASANA Board Members. Airfare for one ASANA Board Member
- d) Tournaments located in high-cost locations must provide increased per diems as listed below
 - 1. Boston \$50
 - 2. New York City \$55
 - 3. Chicago (downtown) \$55
 - 4. Las Vegas \$50
 - 5. Los Angeles 50
 - 6. San Diego \$50
 - 7. San Francisco \$50
 - 8. Washington DC \$50
- e) ASANA Executive Board Member availability and attendance is not guaranteed. In the event that no ASANA Board Members are available, Member City Delegate(s), Member City Commissioner(s), or ASANA Committee Chairperson(s) may be sent in place of an ASANA Executive Board Member(s).
- f) If there will be no Women's+ Division, team count will be based on the number of teams with players able to qualify through the tournament.

5.2 Restrictions:

- A. No cash prizes may be awarded to an individual, team, or sponsor.
- B. No Qualifying tournament may be held by a Member Association on a date conflicting with the ASANA Softball World Series

5.3 Eligibility

- A. Team Eligibility
 - 1. A team that meets all of the following requirements is eligible to play for the berth to the ASANA Softball World Series:
 - a) Must not have been a member of a local ASANA association for a period of at least three years. (W17)
 - i. The Commissioner of the local association may provide a waiver, at their discretion, to allow a former member team to become eligible if they do not meet the three-year requirement. (w17)
 - b) Team roster cannot be composed of more than 33% existing ASANA members. (W17)
 - c) Must notify the Qualifying Tournament Director of their intent to

obtain a berth for the ASANA Softball World Series.

- 2. If qualified as a team, all players on the Qualifying Tournament roster must attend the ASANA Softball World Series with the same team as they attended the Qualifying Tournament with.
 - a) Exception: Individual players who meet the criteria listed in 4.5
 Player Eligibility may attend the ASANA Softball World Series as described in that section.
 - b) Exception: Individual players who are current members of an ASANA Member Association may play with any team attending the ASANA Softball World Series in accordance with the ASANA Code.
- 3. If qualified as a team, the team must attend the ASANA Softball World Series under the same team name as they attended the Qualifying Tournament.
 - a) A sponsor name may be added to or removed from the team name if necessary.
- 4. If qualified as a team, the team may not add players that did not attend the Qualifying Tournament to their roster for the ASANA Softball World Series
 - a) Exception: The team may add any player that is a current member of an ASANA Member Associated and meets all criteria as outlined in the ASANA Code.
 - b) Exception: A team playing in the B Division or higher at the ASANA Softball World Series may add up to four players that did not attend the Qualifying Tournament and do not qualify through an ASANA Member Association.
 - i. These players will be automatically assigned a player score of 100
 - ii. A B team may not exceed a total of four A players, including players already on the team who have been rated as A players.

B. Player Eligibility

- 1. Individual players that attended a Qualifying Tournament that meet at least one of the following requirements are eligible to attend the ASANA Softball World Series as described below:
 - a) Any player rated B or higher may play with any team attending the ASANA Softball World Series that is rated B or higher
 - b) Any player rated E may play with any team attending the ASANA Softball World Series that is rated E
 - i. An E player will only be able to qualify through a Qualifying Tournament one time. In order to qualify in the future, the player must join a Member Association.
 - ii. If there is no E division, the player may join a D team.

- c) Any player that lives more than one hour and 30 minutes by car from a Member Association may play with any team attending the ASANA Softball World Series as long as they meet the team composition requirements as described in the ASANA Code.
 - i. Drive time from player residence to Member Association will be determined as follows using Google Maps or equivalent tool.
 - 1. Use zip code of player residence to zip code of closest field location used by the Member Association
 - 2. Use arrival time function to determine drive time on the day of the week when the majority of Member Association games are scheduled at the time when the majority of the first games are scheduled
 - ii. Zip code of player residence will be verified by the Qualifying Tournament Director and confirmed by the Member Association located nearest to the player by reviewing the player's government-issued ID.
 - 1. A copy of the player's government ID may NOT be retained by any entity and should be reviewed in-person if possible.
- 2. An individual player need not notify the Qualifying Tournament Director in advance of the Qualifying Tournament.
- 3. An individual player that has qualified through a Qualifying Tournament must notify the Qualifying Tournament Director of their intent to attend the ASANA Softball World Series no later than 30 days before the ASANA Softball World Series
 - a) A petition may be filed for special consideration if this deadline is not met.

5.4 Classifications Process during a Qualifying Tournament

- A. All teams (ASANA and Non-ASANA) must submit ASANA Classifications for all players to the Qualifying Tournament Director no less than two weeks in advance of the tournament by a date to be defined by the Qualifying Tournament Director. (W17)
 - 1. A form is provided in the appendix of the ASANA Code
 - 2. Each player must be marked as "ASANA Player" or "Non-ASANA Player"
 - 3. The Qualifying Tournament Director or Qualifying Tournament Classifications Committee Chair must review all rosters and:
 - a) Validate that all current ASANA members ratings match the scores in the ASANA Player Database.
 - b) Validate that all non-ASANA members are not shown in the ASANA Player Database as current members
- B. The Qualifying Tournament Director or Qualifying Tournament Classifications

 Committee Chair must conduct a manager's meeting in advance of play, either via

conference call/webinar or in-person at the beginning of the tournament, with all team managers (ASANA and Non-ASANA teams)

- 1. Review how player classifications will be verified
- 2. Review how berths will be awarded and whether they will be paid for unpaid berths
- 3. Review deadlines for the ASANA Softball World Series
- C. An "ASANA Qualifying Tournament Information Table" must be set up during the entirety of the Qualifying Tournament at all field complexes that will be used by teams/players that may qualify for the ASANA Softball World Series
 - 1. The table must be staffed at all times throughout the tournament
 - 2. Information about the ASANA Softball World Series must be provided
 - 3. Information detailing how teams or players may qualify for the ASANA Softball World Series must be provided.
- D. The Qualifying Tournament Director must confirm that players are classified correctly by observing games during the tournament.
 - 1. The local Member Association must have a committee designated to assist.
 - All committee members must be experienced with completing ASANA Classifications and must ensure that all Non-ASANA players are observed.
 - b) This committee must consist of league members from at least two different teams.
 - c) This committee must provide coverage for the entirety of Round Robin play.
 - i. Each game must be observed by at least 2 members of the committee.
 - ii. Observers must collect a copy of the lineup card from each team for each game they observe.
 - 2. A "Qualifying Tournament Player Observation Form" is provided in the appendix of the ASANA Code and must be used throughout the Qualifying Tournament
 - 3. At the conclusion of the Qualifying Tournament, all rosters and confirmed player classifications must be submitted to the ASANA Competition Director for entry into the ASANA Player Database.

Article 6: Amendments to Code

6.1 Changes to Code and Amendments:

- A. The Code may be altered, amended, suspended, or repealed, and new Code may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at any winter or summer meeting of Council at which a quorum is present. (w91)(w93)(w10)
- B. Any suggested changes to the Code must be made in writing and submitted to the

Communications Director who will copy the ASANA Board of Directors and IOG Committee. These changes must reference all sections of the governing documents needing revision. These changes will be provided to the Council for review 21 days prior to the winter meetings if these changes are to be made effective for the upcoming year. (W10)(W13)

- C. Any suggested changes that have been voted upon and approved during council meetings must be submitted, in its final approved form, but the originator and/or the originator's committee chair, to the Communications Director within 10 days from that council meeting as part of their final report. (W17)
- D. Amendments shall be made effective immediately after their adoption at the winter meetings. (W10)
- E. Amendments voted and adopted at the summer meetings will take effect January 1 of the following year. (W10)
- F. Amendments may be effective immediately only if extreme circumstances warrant it, as deemed by the ASANA Executive Director in concurrence with the two- thirds vote at the summer meeting of Council at which a quorum is present. (W10)

6.2 Precedence:

A. In the event of a conflict between the ASANA Code and Bylaws, the ASANA Bylaws shall prevail.

Article 7: Publication

7.1 Publication of Document:

A. A copy of this Code and its amendments shall be published annually and copies furnished to each Member Association.

Note: all revisions and amendments to this Code are dated according to the Meeting in which the Council took such action: W=Winter meeting, S=Summer meeting, SP=special council meeting, P=Moved from procedural document. (*w*10)

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|---------------|---|---------------------------|--------------|---|---|
| Player Name | e: | | | _ Team: | |
| | • | | | est represents the rdless of the playe | skill level player r's primary position in |
| 1 = 0% - 10% | % 2 = 25% 3 | = 50% 4 | = 75% | 5 = 90% + | |
| THROWING | _ | | | | |
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7. Player catches solid fly balls hit right at them or within an easy range.Infield: within 2 steps in any direction

• Outfield: within five steps in any direction

| 8. Player catches solid fly balls on the run (shows good range). Infield: within seven steps in any direction Outfield: within 10 steps in any direction |
|--|
| 9. Player effectively and consistently performs at their primary position. |
| BATTING |
| 10. Player hits line drives with power. Ball is hit with speed such that the infielder has little to no time to react. |
| 11. Player hits solidly to the outfield in the air. |
| 12. Player hits singles or better consistently. Do not confuse fielding errors with hits. |
| 13. Player gets on base (includes, hits, walks, errors, fielder's choice, etc.) |
| 14. Player has the ability to hit to all fields (place hit intentionally). |
| BASE RUNNING |
| 15. The Batter-Runner runs at full speed from the batter's box to first base (70' base path) in: 1 -> 6.5 seconds 2 - 5.5 - 6.49 seconds 3 - 4.5 - 5.49 seconds 4 - 3.5 - 4.49 seconds 5 - < 3.49 seconds 16. Player runs the bases aggressively and effectively. Listens to base coaches. |
| TOTAL SCORE: |