

USA SOFTBALL MASSACHUSETTS



TRAVEL TEAM GUIDEBOOK

**Distributed by: USA Softball Massachusetts
www.usasoftballma.com**

Version: 26.01.01

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DEFINITIONS

Affiliating your team(s) with USA SOFTBALL makes you a vital part of the National Governing Body of Softball. Your team(s) will enjoy the following:

Governing Body: USA SOFTBALL is the governing body of softball in the United States as approved by Congress and accepted at the National Governing Body by the US Olympic Committee and the International Softball Federation.

Eligibility & Playing Rules: All USA SOFTBALL teams are governed by the same playing and eligibility rules, thus ensuring your team fair competition. Player eligibility is governed by the National USA SOFTBALL Code and further defined by the USA Softball MA Rules and Regulations

Classification of Teams: USA Softball MA has established a classification system to regulate teams with dominating ability from playing in a lower classification.

Championship Competition: The USA Softball MA may hold a championship tournament for the following divisions and classifications: 10U, 10C, 12A, 12B, 12C, 14A, 14B, 14C, 16U, & 18U

Travel Team Registration Process

- All teams **MUST** register and insure with USA Softball and Bollinger Insurance.
 - Teams registering and insuring with Bollinger Insurance will need to submit their team information to MASoftball.com
 - To register teams, individuals and staff please visit <https://ma.registerplay.com/pages/cms/travel-team-registration>
 - Any players already individually registered and insured in the RegisterPlay Softball system for the current season will not be charged again for this season.

All coaches will need to complete the **SafeSport**, and the **USA SOFTBALL National Background checks**, both of which are now required in all USA SOFTBALL sanctioned events. USA Softball ACE training is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** but only required in USA Softball Championship competition.

Once all players and coaches have been registered, coaches may print a copy of their rosters from the MASoftball.com website. *Note:* Parents are no longer required to sign the paper roster for USA MA events as the waiver had been completed during player registration.

Teams wishing to be classified as ‘C’ must meet all the requirements for C status set by USA Softball of MA. Full list of requirements below.

Help tutorials are available on the [RegisterPlay site](#) as well as written directions available.

TEAM INSURANCE CERTIFICATE

After teams register via MASoftball.com website, they will be able to request a copy of their insurance certificate by visiting the [Bollinger Insurance Page](#) on the MASoftball.com site and filling out the applicable form.

ADDITIONAL INSURED CERTIFICATE

Teams will have the ability to request Certificates of Insurance naming field owners as additional insured. Some cities and towns are now requiring teams and leagues to obtain insurance certificates naming them as additional insured. There is no additional cost for these certificates.

To request an additional insured certificate please visit the [Bollinger Insurance Page](#) on the MASoftball.com site and fill out the applicable form.

Please be sure to include:
Facility or Person's Name
Full Street Address

The RegisterPlay site is currently developing an automated process to request insurance certificates. This will be updated when more information is available.

USA SOFTBALL ROSTER & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

In order for your players to be officially on your team, they need to be registered on MASoftball.com and added to your team roster.

Rostered Player

A player may participate as a regular rostered player on only one team within a season. At no time is a player allowed to be listed on two different rosters.

Pick-Up Player (Individual Weekends)

Once the USA MA Staff has frozen rosters (Date to TBA), teams are allowed to pick up player(s) using the Player Pick Up Process on the Register Play Site.

The Coach will be charged a \$25 non-refundable fee per player, per weekend when the invitation is initiated on the site. (Step-by-step directions)

Teams are allowed to utilize pick up player(s) on a maximum of three separate weekend tournaments per season.

Adding a Player During the Season

To pick up a player for the remainder of the season who is not currently rostered after rosters are frozen, a team will need to contact one of the JO State Staff members to assist with these roster changes.

To pick up a player for the remainder of the season that has already been rostered, follow the instructions in the “Releasing a Player” section below, once they are released please contact one of the JO State Staff members to assist with the roster changes. All roster changes are subject to a \$25 player pickup/ roster change fee.

Teams playing in USA SOFTBALL Championship Play CANNOT pick up players from other teams playing in USA SOFTBALL Championship Play.

Class C teams can only pick up players from their USA Softball Spring Recreational League. Class C teams can not pick up players that are rostered on A or B classified rosters regardless of the classification of the tournament.

Releasing a Player

Once a player is registered and added to your roster, in order for a player to join another travel team, they must be released from your team. A coach or authorized staff member can release players on the MASoftball.com roster page.

ALL ROSTER ADDITIONS OR PLAYER PICK UPS AFTER THE ROSTER FREEZE DEADLINE WILL BE SUBJECT TO A \$25 CHARGE

Player Moving

As stated earlier, a player cannot move to another travel team without being released from the first team. This is a National USA SOFTBALL Code item and cannot be waived by the USA Softball MA for any reason.

Once a player is on a roster, they can move up in age and/or classification or be released from their current team to join another team at the same age and classification. Players can NEVER move down in classification. Players can move down to a younger age division provided they are age eligible. These rules are in effect even though the current team has finished their year and the lower classified team has not completed theirs.

Examples:

A player on a 14A team CAN play for a 16U or an 18U team, but CANNOT play for a 14B team or 14C team.

A player on a 14B team CAN play for a 14A but CANNOT return to play for the 14B team for the remainder of the season.

A player on a 14B team CAN play for a 16U or 18U team and return to play for the 14B team

An age-eligible 12A that plays for a 14A team CAN play for any 12A team during the same year, but CANNOT return to a 12B or 12C team.

A player on a C team (10C, 12C or 14C) can only join another C team if all the players, including the joining player, play in the same USA Softball Spring Recreational League

A player on a C team CAN play for an A or B team, but CANNOT return to the C team for the remainder of the season

USA Softball of MA Classification System:

Class A 18 & Under
 16 & Under
 14 & Under
 12 & Under

Class B 18 & Under
 16 & Under
 14 & Under
 12 & Under
 10 & Under
 8 & Under

Class C 14 & Under
 12 & Under
 10 & Under

USA SOFTBALL MA CLASSIFICATION METHOD:

Definitions:

Spring Recreational Softball Organization:

An organized town/city recreational youth softball program that's approved and sanctioned by the USA SOFTBALL MA for a minimum of one season.

Club Softball Organization:

An organization that holds tryouts, actively recruits players and does extensive traveling.

PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH YEAR TEAMS ARE CLASSIFIED BASED ON THEIR CURRENT YEAR'S ROSTER. JUST BECAUSE A TEAM WAS CLASSIFIED AS A CLASS C ONE YEAR DOES NOT MEAN THEY WILL BE CLASSIFIED AS CLASS C IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

Class A:

This level of competition is highly competitive with most players having consistent ability and pitchers being capable of controlling the game. Example of teams that WILL be classified as 'A' are:

A travel team that meets the requirements of Class C or Class B, but wishes to play up in classification.

A travel team that was classified as 'B' the previous season and won that year's State Championship or other Championship Event (Regionals or Nationals) and was denied an appeal by the USA Softball MA JO Staff

A travel team that was classified as 'B' the previous season and dominated play in that classification

Teams classified as Class A may play unlimited Class A USA SOFTBALL sanctioned events and other softball organization's events

Teams classified as Class A CANNOT play in any Class B or Class C USA SOFTBALL sanctioned event

Class B:

Teams can classify themselves as B with no restrictions. However, should they dominate 2 or more Class B tournaments, that team may be reclassified as A with no regard for future Class B tournaments the team is registered for.

Teams classified as Class B CANNOT play in any Class C USA SOFTBALL sanctioned event

Class C:

In order to be approved for Class C, a travel team MUST have 100% of its players all play within the same **Spring Recreational Softball Organization** as defined by USA Softball of Massachusetts.

A minimum of 66% of the players MUST reside from the same town and the remainder of the players can come from local towns at the discretion of USA Softball of Massachusetts so long as 100% of the players play within the same Spring Recreational Softball Organization as defined by USA Softball of Massachusetts.

If the surrounding town or towns also have a **Spring Recreational Softball Organization** as defined by USA Softball of Massachusetts, that town's Board of Directors will be contacted by USA Softball MA to see if these players will affect the surrounding town's ability to form their own Class C travel team. If it will affect the town from forming their own travel team, the requested team will be denied Class C status.

Teams classified as Class C may play in any classification.

ALL CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS ARE AT FINAL DISCRETION OF USA MA STAFF