

SECTION 1: DEFINITION, JURISDICTION, AND OBJECTIVES

1.01 NAME

The region shall be named "Central Atlantic", but may be titled Region 2 as set forth in the USA Softball Code. Hereinafter in this document any reference to "region" or "regional" specifically means both Central Atlantic and Region 2.

1.02 OBJECTIVES

The regional objectives are as follows:

- a. To promote amateur softball for all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, fraternal affiliations, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, or national origin.
- b. To establish uniform softball rules and regulations.
- c. To protect the participatory rights of all eligible groups, organizations, players, teams, and umpires within the region; and, to safeguard their expectation of participation within the spirit of true sportsmanship to promote amateur softball.
- d. To establish and maintain allied memberships with associations devoted to the promotion of amateur softball.
- e. To promote and conduct amateur softball championships and tournaments.
- f. To conduct and promote clinics, seminars, and trainings for coaches, players, and umpires that teach and improve their skills and/or knowledge of rules, regulations, and mechanics.

1.03 JURISDICTION

The Central Atlantic Region was established, organized, and recognized by USA Softball. The United States Olympic Committee and the World Baseball Softball Confederation recognize USA Softball as the sole National governing body of softball in the United States.

The Board of Directors of USA Softball have the authority to establish, change, or redistrict each region's membership. Currently, the following six local associations are members of the region:

Central Virginia, Maryland/D.C./Delaware, North Carolina, Ohio, Piedmont Virginia, and West Virginia. These associations will post this code on their local Association website.

1.04 DEFINITIONS

The complete glossary of definitions is printed in Article 106 of the Official Code of USA Softball. The following phrases, terms, and words in this code are semantically used as:

- a. **Allied Member** is a non-profit organization within the region that administers, conducts, organizes or promotes amateur sports.
- b. **Annual Regional Meeting** is the region's pre-season meeting held in accordance with Article 5.01 of this Regional Code.
- c. **At-Large Player Representative** is a person appointed by the Commissioner of a local Association for each 2000 teams registered in the preceding year.

- d. **Committees** are those identified in Section 4 of this Regional Code and ad hoc committees commissioned by the Regional Director.
- e. **Junior Olympic (J.O.) Commissioner** is a local Association official representing the J. O. coaches, players, program, and teams.
- f. **Local Association** is a commissioned member of USA Softball.
- g. **Player Representative** is a local Association official representing players and teams.
- h. **Senior Representative** is a local Association official representing senior players and teams.
- i. **Umpire-in-Chief (UIC)** is a local Association member representing umpires and the umpiring program.
- j. **USA Softball** is the sole National governing body of softball in the United States.

1.05 AMENDMENTS AND LEGISLATION

- a. **Proposed redistricting legislation** within the region should be submitted for the Regional Council's approval before it is presented to USA Softball's redistricting committee. If the Council rejects the proposal, the author would be encouraged to withdraw the legislation.
- b. **A proposed amendment** to the Regional Code must be made by a Regional Council member either in writing to the Regional Director before a convened meeting or at any time during a convened Regional Meeting. Any proposal will be accepted if 60% of the regional council approves. Successful proposals would become immediately effective unless otherwise stipulated in the amendment.

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP

2.01 LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Central Atlantic Region includes all local associations assigned to it by USA Softball's Board of Directors. Each local association shall pay \$300.00 for annual regional dues. **Effective January 2020, the dues will be \$500.00 annually.**

2.02 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- a. Voting Members of the Regional Council
 - 1. The local Association Commissioner
 - 2. All National Council Voting Members within the region
 - 3. Each local Association's J.O. Commissioner, Player Rep, Senior Softball Rep, and Umpire-in-Chief
 - 4. All elected Regional Officers
- b. Proxy Request: A Regional Council Member may request a proxy by submitting a written request at least 2 weeks prior to the annual meeting. Commissioners may request an in-person emergency proxy at the annual meeting. Any proxy must be a member in good standing of the local Association for which he or she will be acting. A proxy will not be considered for Past Presidents, Commissioners Emeritus or Council Members Emeritus unless they hold office or position in their local Association. A simple majority of present voting members is required to confirm the request.
- c. Ethical Conduct: Regional Council Members in the execution of their duties and the exercise of the power and privilege their position with USA Softball accords them shall not act as follows:

1. Engage in any conduct or exert any influence that puts any individual, official, organization, or team at an undeserved or unfair disadvantage.
2. Engage in any conduct or exert any influence that grants any individual, official, organization, or team an undeserved or unfair advantage.
3. Engage in any conduct that puts self-interest ahead of the region's common good and welfare.

SECTION 3: REGIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

3.01 TITLES

The region's elected officers are as follows: Regional Vice President, Regional Director, Regional J. O. Commissioner, Regional Player Rep, and Regional UIC. These offices will be filled by a majority vote of the region's eligible voting members as described in Article 101 of USA Softball's Procedural Manual during USA Softball's annual convention/meeting. All officers are eligible for re-election at the end of their term. Candidates for these positions must notify the current Regional Director at least one month prior to the election. The regional secretary is appointed by the Regional Director. All officers must uphold our Regional Code, USA Softball's Bylaws and Code, and pledge loyalty to USA Softball including that regional officers will not hold an office or position with competing softball organizations.

3.02 REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

- a. **Term of Office** is two years commencing at the end of USA Softball's National Council Meeting during odd numbered years.
- b. **Duties, Removal, and Vacancy** are addressed in Article 101D of the USA Softball Procedural Manual and adopted into this Regional Code by reference.

3.03 REGIONAL DIRECTOR

- a. **Term of Office** is two years commencing at the end of USA Softball's National Council Meeting during even numbered years.
- b. **Duties, Removal, and Vacancy** are addressed in Article 101E of the USA Softball Procedural Manual and adopted into this Regional Code by reference.

3.04 REGIONAL J. O. COMMISSIONER

- a. **Term of Office** is two years commencing at the end of USA Softball's National Council Meeting during even numbered years.
- b. **Removal** for just cause may be enacted by a 2/3 majority vote of the Region's voting members.
- c. When a **Vacancy** occurs, the Regional Director will appoint an interim replacement. A special election will be held at The National Council Meeting in accordance with Section 3.01 if the vacancy is in the first year of the two year term.
- d. **Duties** include but are not limited to the following: Chair the Regional JO Committee; represent the region at all Regional and National Meetings; assist the Regional Director with all phases of the regional JO program; and assist local Associations and their JO officials with the development and implementation of its JO program.

3.05 REGIONAL PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE

- a. **Term of Office** is two years commencing at the end of USA Softball's National Council Meeting during even numbered years.
- b. **Removal** for just cause may be enacted by a 2/3 majority vote of the Region's voting members.
- c. When a **Vacancy** occurs, the Regional Director will appoint an interim replacement. A special election will be held at The National Council Meeting in accordance with Section 3.01 if the vacancy is in the first year of the two year term.
- d. **Duties** include but are not limited to the following: Chair the Regional Player Rep Committee; represent the region and its coaches, players, and teams at all Regional and National meetings; and attend at least one Regional, Territorial, or National Tournament held with the Region annually.

3.06 REGIONAL UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF

- a. **Term of Office** is two years commencing at the end of USA Softball's National Council Meeting during even numbered years.
- b. **Removal** for just cause may be enacted by a 2/3 majority vote of the region's voting members.
- c. When a **Vacancy** occurs, the Regional Director will appoint an interim replacement. A special election will be held at The National Council Meeting in accordance with Section 3.01 if the vacancy is in the first year of the two year term.
- d. **Duties** include but are not limited to the following: Chair the Regional Umpire Committee; represent the region and its umpires at all Regional and National Meetings; coordinate with the hosting Local Association's UIC the assignment of umpires to all Regional Tournaments; assist local Associations with the direction, organization, and promotion of their umpiring programs, coordinate umpiring clinics and trainings; and perform all assignments relating to the region's umpires as assigned by the Regional Director or Regional Council.

3.07 REGIONAL SECRETARY

- a. **Appointment, Term of Office, and Removal** is at the pleasure of the Regional Director, commencing on the first day the Regional Director assumes office.
- b. **Vacancy** for any reason will be filled by the Regional Director's appointment.
- c. **Duties** include but are not limited to the following: recording minutes at all Regional Meetings and distributing said minutes to all regional voting members via e-mail within one month after the meeting's conclusion; serve as the official recorder and maintain records of all regional proceedings; and perform related duties as directed by the Regional Director.

SECTION 4: COMMITTEES

4.01 DEFINITION AND PROTOCOLS

The committees listed below will meet during the annual regional meeting or during the USA Softball National Council Meeting if ordered by the Regional Director. If roll call and minutes are taken, they shall be submitted to the Regional Secretary as part of the Regional Meeting's official minutes.

4.02 THE FINANCE COMMITTEE consists of all Commissioners within the region and shall attend to the region's fiscal concerns, operations, and stability. The Finance Committee will elect a Chairman and a Treasurer from its members. One person may hold both positions.

4.03 THE JUNIOR OLYMPIC COMMITTEE shall be chaired by the Regional JO Commissioner and have all local association JO Commissioners as members. The Regional Director may appoint additional members. This committee shall organize and promote the region's JO Program; and propose the awarding of all regional tournaments on a rotational basis.

4.04 THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE shall be appointed by the Regional Director ensuring that each local Association has representation. This committee shall monitor and update the Regional Code and accept and consider amendments from Regional Members. For an amendment to be enacted it must receive a 60% majority vote from the Region. **Exception:** if a part of the Regional Code conflicts with The USA Softball Bylaws, Code or Procedural Manual, it must be modified per Section 9 of this Regional Code. The committee chairman is required to send an updated document to each commissioner for posting on local Association websites.

4.05 THE PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE shall be chaired by the Regional Player Rep and have all local Association and At-Large Player Reps as members. The Regional Director may appoint additional members. This committee shall attend to the concerns of the region's coaches, players, and teams; and plan for the upcoming tournament season.

4.06 THE SENIOR COMMITTEE shall be appointed by the Regional Director and have all local association Senior Softball Reps as members. This committee shall attend to the concerns of the region's senior coaches, player, and teams; and plan for the upcoming tournament season.

4.07 THE UMPIRE COMMITTEE shall be chaired by the Regional UIC and have all local Association UICS as members. The Regional Director may appoint additional members. This committee shall organize and promote the region's Umpiring Program; coordinate training programs; attend to the general welfare of umpires; and plan for the upcoming tournament season.

SECTION 5: MEETINGS

5.01 THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING is conducted, convened, and described in Article 201 of USA Softball's Procedural Manual. This meeting is to conduct the national business of USA Softball and **the election of Regional Officers** per the USA Softball Bylaws, Code and Procedural Manual.

5.02 THE ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING shall be scheduled by the Regional Director. The date and site of the meeting will be determined by a majority vote of the Regional Council. The Regional Director shall send a notice and request for agenda items to each Regional Member at least 45 days prior to the start of the meeting. A quorum shall be at least 18 voting members including at least one Commissioner and one Elected Regional Officer. One person may satisfy both requirements.

5.03 ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. **Roberts Rules of Order** shall be the parliamentary law of the meeting.
- b. **The Agenda** shall be as follows:
 1. Roll call or sign-in
 2. Reading and approval of minutes from the last meeting
 3. Regional Director's remarks and report
 4. Treasurer's report
 5. Committee reports
 6. Unfinished business
 7. New business
 8. Remarks for the good and welfare of the organization

5.04 SPECIAL MEETINGS may be called by the Regional Director if emergency business requires him to do so. The Regional Council can mandate a meeting if 2/3 of the members endorse a written request to do so. A special meeting may be held in person, on line, or as a conference call. The quorum described in Section 5.02 must be maintained for special meetings.

SECTION 6: ELIGIBILITY AND SUSPENSION

Articles **3.01, 3.02, 3.03, 3.04, and 3.05** of USA Softball's Code are herein incorporated by reference. All Regional Protocols concerning eligibility and suspension are written therein.

SECTION 7: CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

7.01 REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS mandated by USA Softball's Code will be offered annually and awarded in compliance of Article 4.03 of this Regional Code. A minimum of 2 umpires must be used in all tournament games. Additional adult Regional Tournaments not mandated by USA Softball may also be awarded by the Regional Council.

7.02 ELIGIBLE TEAMS All USA Softball registered teams in good standing with their local Association are eligible to participate regardless of their acceptance of a berth to the current year's National Championship.

7.03 PROCEDURES, PROTOCOLS, AND RULES

- a. **USA Softball's Bylaws, Code, Official Playing Rules, and Procedural Manual** are the guides that Regional Tournaments must be conducted in accordance with.
- b. **Exceptions or modifications** to article 7.03 (a) are as follows
 1. Fast pitch tournaments may begin on Friday evenings so long as the entry form and all advertisements clearly print the tournament's starting date and time.
 2. Emergency or inclement weather procedures may be implemented as follows:
 - I. Play the winner bracket games first with a double elimination format
 - II. Use a single elimination format
 - III. Shorten all games to 5 innings
 - IV. For slow pitch only use a 3/2 count with no courtesy foul
 - V. Play 1 pitch games using a double elimination format
- c. **Tournament Awards** are the responsibility of hosting organization. The award package guidelines established by USA Softball's Procedural Manual must be adhered to.
- d. **The local Hosting Organization** is responsible for providing and paying for balls, umpires, and any other expenses associated with the tournament.
- e. **The Tournament Director** is responsible to update tournament results; the official order of finish; forward the official roster of any qualifying team to the National Championship or Tournament Director; and comply with all requirements mandated by USA Softball.
- f. **The local Association Commissioners** are responsible for payment of all Regional Tournament entry fees for teams entering through their associations.
- g. **The hosting Local Association's UIC coordinating with the regional UIC** will assign umpires to the regional tournament and forward the list to both the Hosting Local Association Commissioner and the Tournament Director.

SECTION 8: CLASSIFICATION CODE AND RECLASSIFICATION OF TEAMS

8.01 CLASSIFICATION AND RECLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES established by USA Softball's Code will be strictly adhered to and incorporated by reference into this Regional Code.

8.02 LOCAL ASSOCIATION SOVEREIGNTY is recognized by the Region to the extent that it recognizes the classification code of each member association as an official guideline for the region. Teams within the region will be classified by their local Association in accordance its local classification code.

8.03 CONFLICTS BETWEEN LOCAL ASSOCIATION CLASSIFICATION CODES may occur and may present challenges to certain players or teams prescribed class. The first step of resolution is for the local Association Commissioners (or their designees) to discuss the issue and resolve it between themselves. If an amicable solution cannot be reached the commissioners must notify the Regional Director who will appoint a panel consisting of the affected local commissioners (or their designees), the Regional Director, and 1 or 2 Regional Voting Members (to ensure that the panel has an odd number of panelists) from outside the conflicting associations. The panel's decision may be appealed in accordance with USA Softball's Code.

SECTION 9: COORDINATION OF CODES

This Regional Code must be revised to adhere to USA Softball's Bylaws, Code, Playing Rules, and Procedural Manual if they are amended or if any conflicts are discovered.