

USA SOFTBALL™

What is the AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (ASA) and how is it related to USA Softball? The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America was founded in 1933 and was appointed the National Governing Body of Softball (NGB) in the U.S. by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) in 1978. With the NGB status, the USA Softball brand was established to join the ASA brand: ASA/USA Softball. In June, 2016, ASA/USA Softball announced a rebrand to simply "USA Softball". As the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States, USA Softball oversees aspects of the grassroots programs and the national team programs. www.usasoftball.org

What is the AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (ASA) of Southern California (SoCal ASA) and how is it related to USA Softball? Southern California of ASA (So Cal ASA) is an affiliate of ASA/USA Softball, the National Governing Body of Softball (NGB) in the United States and a United States Olympic Committee (USOC) voting member. Southern California ASA organizes youth clinics, umpire seminars and conducts national qualifying tournaments in slow pitch and fast pitch for men, women and youth.

In January of 2017, Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of Southern California, officially changed to USA Softball of Southern California, a non-governmental and non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. We are staffed by volunteers dedicated to the advancement of softball at all levels of play. Our funds go to the administration of activities and other related events that benefit our team membership. Southern California ASA is responsible for all financial obligations in the operation of the program. This association is self-supporting and does not receive any sponsorship funds from National ASA/USA Softball. www.socal-asa.org

WHEN WAS THE USA SOFTBALL BRAND ESTABLISHED? USA Softball was established in 1978 when the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) named the ASA the National Governing Body of Softball, pursuant to the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. In June, 2016, ASA/USA Softball announced an organizational rename and rebrand to USA Softball, showcasing and reflecting on the legacy that the organization has established in over 80 years as the leader in the sport of softball.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT NATIONAL TEAMS THAT COMPETE FOR USA SOFTBALL?

USA Softball has five different national teams that compete in various international competitions – Women's National Team, Men's National Fast Pitch Team, Junior Women's National Team and Junior Men's National Fast Pitch Team, and the Men's Slow Pitch National Team. Each of these National Teams compete at various World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) World Championships once every two years in addition to Pan American and Olympic Games. To learn more about the WBSC, www.wbsc.org

WHO SELECTS PLAYERS TO COMPETE FOR THE USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL TEAMS?

There are two committees that select players to compete on USA Softball National Teams – Men's National Team Selection Committee and the Women's National Team Selection Committee. These committees work tirelessly throughout the year scouting events across the country in search of the top athletes for national team selection. Committee members can be found at USA Softball tournaments, USA Softball Nationals, NCAA tournaments, the NCAA Women's College World Series and many other events.

HOW DO I GET SELECTED TO A USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL TEAM? Once committee members identify potential National Team players, these individuals are invited to participate in tryout camps and from those camps they are selected to represent the United States in international competitions.

The best way to be noticed by members of the selection committees is to compete in high level USA Softball tournaments and USA Softball National Championships if you are not currently playing at the collegiate level.