

**STATE TOURNAMENT INFO FOR JUNIOR OLYMPIC YOUTH PROGRAM**

**JUNIOR OLYMPIC YOUTH TEAMS:**

- (a) Junior Olympic teams must be rostered and the roster approved by their District commissioner prior to participation in any advancement tournament.
- (b) Teams registering late may lose advancement to championship play.
- (c) Players, coaches and parents should complete and document concussion protocol training. The training is available through the Center for Disease Control.
- (d) Junior Olympic players must individually register with the State.

**CLASSIFICATION:**

- (a) All Junior Olympic teams will classify "B" or "C". Prior to the State Tournaments teams may reclassify to upper classes for championship play.
- (b) If a team plays in a Championship Advancement Tournament and qualifies, it will be reclassified to that division; however, it may request to be reclassified with the approval of the State Junior Olympic Commissioner and the State Commissioner.

**DIVISIONS OF PLAY**

The Association will sponsor the following divisions and classifications of softball play:

<u>JUNIOR OLYMPIC:</u>	<u>Fast Pitch</u>	<u>Slow Pitch</u>
	10 and Under Girls	10 and Under Girls
	12 and Under Girls	12 and Under Girls
	14 and Under Girls	14 and Under Girls
	16 and Under Girls	16 and Under Girls
	18 and Under Girls	18 and Under Girls

**JUNIOR OLYMPIC COACHES**

- (a) All Junior Olympic teams must have at least two ACE coaches and all team personnel in the dugout/coaching must have background checks and all must display the appropriate identification. (Coaches should have ACE certification card visible when on the field.)
- (b) All ACE coaches must also complete Safe Sport training.
- (c) It is recommended coaches wear appropriate team attire when on the field.

## **JUNIOR OLYMPIC YOUTH STATE TOURNAMENTS**

Junior Olympic State Tournaments will be held in districts on the rotation and approved by the State Commissioner.

- (a) Districts must meet maintenance and scorekeeper requirements and have a minimum of ten quality fields. All tournament hosts will provide grounds crews and score keepers to maintain well kept fields and well run games. The State Commissioner or his designee shall have the authority to inspect facilities and services in the community to determine if the city has the ability to host a state tournament.
- (b) State entry fee will be \$325 per team. The USA Softball Fee is \$15 of the \$325. The fee includes all gate admissions.
- (c) State tournament rosters and entry fees are due to the team's local District Commissioner **by 6:00 p.m.** the Friday **14 days** before the tournament begins. The local commissioner will notify the state tournament host by 10:00 p.m. that Friday. ***All teams should be confirmed one week before the start of the tournament.***
- (d) All catchers must wear gear as required by rule.
- (e) Higher team seeding will be used when possible using invitational tournament results and by random draw and if at all possible, teams from the same city or town will not play each other in the first round. The use of an official USA Softball. bracket book is required.
- (f) Scheduling of game times will use a minimum of 1 hour and 45 minutes. The tournament may start as early as 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, if the number of teams requires an earlier start. The start must have the approval of the State Commissioner. No loser out game will be held prior to Saturday. To complete a tournament because of circumstances beyond the control of the tournament hosts the options in USA Softball Code Article 310 (Q) will be used.
- (g) The USA Softball time limit for games (one hour twenty minutes, finish inning, then play one more inning) will be used as provided in the USA Softball Code.
- (h) Run ahead rule: 15 runs at the end of 2 1/2 or 3 innings; 12 runs at the end of 3½ or 4 innings; 8 runs at the end of 4½ or 5 innings.
- (i) The tie breaker will begin after the end of the seventh inning.
- (j) Trophies - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team and 1st and 2nd individual awards for each division. (If small number of teams in a division, then 1st and 2nd team awards can be used.)
- (k) Three umpires will be used for the last loser out game and championship games. Note: excludes 10 and under classifications.

- (l) Uniform Code of USA Softball will be enforced.
- (m) Use of alcohol, tobacco products or E-cigarettes is prohibited during Junior Olympic competition.
- (n) Excessive music or artificial noisemakers such as cowbells, airhorns, “boom boxes”, etc. are not allowed during any game.
- (r) A financial statement including all revenues and expenditures must be submitted to the state office one week after the completion of the state tournament.
- (s) **The first place team in each division will receive \$500 towards the National Tournament, if they attend.**

**16.10. HELMETS:**

NOCSAE Helmets will be mandatory for all Junior Olympic Fast Pitch competition in Montana, according to USA Softball rules.