Following a selection camp, 18 athletes have been selected to represent the Red, White and Blue on the 2016 Women's National Team (WNT) this summer while an additional 17 athletes have been named to the USA Softball Women's Elite Team. Held at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, Calif., 40 athletes participated in the selection camp where they were evaluated by members of the Women’s National Team Selection Committee (WNTSC), who selected the two rosters.

“This was definitely the deepest pool of athletes that have been to a National Team Selection Camp since 2010,” said Women’s National Team Head Coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla./Head Coach South Florida). “I think this proves that our youth movement as far as participation numbers goes is very healthy in the U.S.”

Representing the U.S. this summer as a member of the WNT are 12 returning veterans from the 2015 roster which claimed the World Cup of Softball X title and finished second at the Pan American Games in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Three rookies also join the squad, while three athletes were a member of the 2015 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team that claimed the Gold at the WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship. Members of the WNT will compete later this summer in the World Cup of Softball XI, the XV World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Women’s World Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada and the Japan Cup.

Ken Eriksen will lead the National Team and will be joined by Howard Dobson (Baton Rouge, La./Asst. Coach at LSU), Tri-sha Ford (Fremont, Calif./head coach at Fresno State) and John Rittman (Lawrence, Kansas) as Assistant Coaches.
Hello and welcome to the January edition of the Inside Pitch!

Wow, it’s been a very busy two and a half months! In that time, we have appointed three new commissioners and are still working on filling one volunteer position. During the Women’s National Team Selection Camp, we held tryouts for 40 women and in the end, selected two rosters for this upcoming season. The main goal is to win the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) World Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada in July. Between now and then, the Women’s National Team will play in Oklahoma City in addition to traveling to Texas and Japan in preparation for the World Championship. We will also be sending the Women’s Elite Team to Georgia for some additional training at the USA Softball JO Cup in July. Congratulations to the ladies who will represent our great nation next year as members of the Women’s National and Elite Teams.

The Junior Men also held a very successful camp in January as the team had their first opportunity to train together after being named to the team last October. Junior Men’s Head Coach Tim Lyon and his staff have accumulated a very talented group of young men who are looking forward to fighting for the Gold at the WBSC Junior Men’s World Championship in Midland, Mich. this July. I believe this is the best group of young men that the U.S. has assembled in quite some time.

As we head into the 2016 season, we as a group need to concentrate on all levels of our grassroots program, especially in our slow pitch division of play. I would like to challenge all of us in this area, including myself, to see what we can do to improve and get more people involved in our game. ASA/USA Softball provides the best of the best and it’s up to us to get the word out to teams, leagues and athletes on why they should play ASA/USA Softball.

Next week, we will be getting together with the Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioners in Oklahoma City at our biennial JO Workshop. It’s always a good time getting together with the JO Commissioners to exchange ideas and discuss some of the trending topics in the youth softball world.

In my travels around the country, I have been receiving positive comments about us rebranding our great organization to USA Softball this coming September. The best is yet to come and the 2016 season will be one for the books as there will be plenty of excitement and positive changes for us as we dive deeper into our rebranding initiatives.

Until next time, thank you for everything you do for ASA/USA Softball. If I or anyone at the National Office can be of any help, please don’t hesitate to reach out!

Warren Jones

ASA/USA Softball President
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In addition to the 2016 WNT roster, the WNTSC has also announced the roster for the Women’s Elite Team, which will participate in a series of exhibition games against the Women’s National Team in addition to the World Cup of Softball XI. The Women’s Elite Team will also participate in exhibition games at the USA Softball JO Cup in Marietta, Ga. Comprising the Women’s Elite Team are 11 athletes who have experience in the Red, White and Blue on either the 2015 Women’s or Junior Women’s National Teams, while six rookies will get their first taste of international experience this year.

“The next step is taking this group of athletes and continue to develop them to be a mature group of ball players that can understand the international game and its strategies,” said Eriksen. “I think we have what we need as far as position players and pitching depth to feel pretty good going into the future. Now, it’s whether they have the capacity, as our returning veterans have proven, to take this more serious than ever before.”

Tairia Flowers (Tucson, Ariz./Head Coach Cal State Northridge) will lead the Elite Team as the Head Coach and will be joined by Laura Berg (Corvalis, Ore./Head Coach Oregon State), Kristie Fox (San Diego, Calif./head coach at UT- Arlington) and Gina Vecchione (New Rochelle, N.Y./Cal Poly Associate Head Coach), who will serve as Assistant Coaches.

TO VIEW TEAM ROSTERS, CLICK HERE.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Training Camp</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
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<td>June 16-18</td>
<td>Dallas Charge/Scraper Yard Dawgs Exhibition</td>
<td>(16) Oklahoma City, (17) McKinney, TX, (18) Woodlands, TX</td>
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<td>June 20-26</td>
<td>USA vs Japan All-Star Series</td>
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<td>Aug 24-Sep 5</td>
<td>Japan Cup</td>
<td>TBD. Japan</td>
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PICTURED ABOVE: Blanka Bell and Michelle Moultrie

PICTURED ABOVE: Paige Halstead

PICTURED ABOVE: Madilyn Nickles

PICTURED ABOVE: Ally Carda
Becoming an umpire:
A speech by Victoria Pulcine

"Good evening everyone. My name is Victoria Pulcine and I am a senior at Edgerton High School. Thank you for having me here tonight to discuss the process of becoming an umpire and how this job has affected me.

When I was sixteen years old, I heard about an umpire class at the Boys and Girls Club taught by Jerry Burhans. Since I have played softball since 2nd grade, I thought that it would be a great job to have. At that point, I thought that umpiring was just calling balls and strikes, outs and safes. However, the first day of class when everyone failed the pretest, I realized that I was extremely mistaken. There was much to know about both softball and baseball. We had to study the ASA rule book, and know it inside and out. We met every Tuesday and Thursday for two hours where we would be quizzed on our knowledge. Once we knew most of the rules, we started to spend time in the gym learning how to make calls and the different positions on the field and behind the plate. Jerry started to offer Sunday practices at Craig High School where we would put on gear and call balls and strikes using a pitching machine. With a couple weeks left of class, Jerry prepared us for the final step to becoming an umpire - the exam. He did everything possible to prepare us, but in the end, it was our effort that determined if we passed or not. Upon passing the exam, I started an adventure that I hardly knew would change my life.

Since Jerry’s class, I have achieved more than I had thought I could when I signed up. Shortly after I graduated from the umpire class, I attended the National Umpire School in Baraboo. After a grueling weekend of slideshows, drills, and practice behind the plate, I received a certificate and a special flipping coin for my work. This was a great honor, since I was one of the youngest umpires there. Over the past year and a half, I have worked approximately 150 games. Some of those games were for the Class B State Tournament in Wausau last year, some were for the Class A State Tournament in Watertown this year, and most of those games were for the many tournaments in Janesville, along with some games during the week in Edgerton, Milton, and the Burlington area. Just a week and a half ago, I umpired three college level games in Madison. Next year, I am on track to umpire a national tournament. I never thought umpiring would take me this far.

Working these games has greatly impacted my life. To begin with, umpiring has helped me to be financially independent. Being paid $35 per game, I can make around $500 for tournaments that last two and a half days, which is more than many fast food, serving, or retail positions pay their employees in two weeks time. Secondly, umpiring has built and developed many aspects of..."
my character. To be an umpire, one must be able to be outgoing, make quick decisions, resolve conflicts, and show professionalism, punctuality, and confidence. Although I already possessed some of these qualities, it took me many, many games to finally obtain the others. Best of all, I have found that these qualities have transferred into my everyday life, particularly my communication skills. Now that I’ve been an umpire, I can hold a conversation with people I’ve just met because I’m not as shy as I was when I started. This job has taught me skills that I will use for the rest of my life. In addition, being an umpire helped me to be a better softball player. After watching thousands of pitches and knowing all of the rules, I can see the ball easier when I am up to bat and also see the plays in the field from all different perspectives, giving me the upper hand to a favorable outcome for my team. Lastly, my favorite part about being an umpire is the support system I have become a part of. Because we have endured the early mornings together, shared countless stories, and experienced the love of the game with one another, we umpires have a unique bond. I know that I will be able count on these people for years to come.

Taking Jerry’s class has truly changed my life. As a 16-year-old, I pictured myself working a couple games in my hometown every once in awhile. Now, as an 18-year-old, I see myself continuing this job as long as I possibly can and traveling many places to do it. I have had these incomparable experiences due to the guidance and faith from Jerry. He is not only my employer, but the best mentor I could ask for.

Share your story in the next Inside Pitch and send to kwillis@softball.org.
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www.RPSBollinger.com
Hello and welcome to the January 2016 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA)/USA Softball.

For the readers of The Inside Pitch, you probably noticed that my name is new to the ASA/USA Softball world. Shortly after graduating from The School of Journalism and Media Studies at San Diego State University, I moved to Oklahoma City to begin my new role as communications coordinator here at the National Office less than a month ago. Talk about a fresh start to the new year, right? Yes, the weather is a little different from that of America’s Finest City but luckily, I have never ditched the winter clothes I had while living in the Midwest. Born and raised in Elyria, Ohio, the majority of my family still resides in and around that area, so I visit when I can!

Nonetheless, I can’t tell you how excited I am for this opportunity and beyond thankful for all those that have helped me get to where I am today. Among the many great responsibilities of my job are creating this monthly newsletter as a way of recapping and sharing not only what is happening at the National Office, but also the hardworking and dedicated associations around the country.

As we head into February, I’d like to congratulate each and every one of you on a job well done so far. It is my goal to help in any way so that we can all grow and develop our organization to make 2016 even greater than 2015. With that, here are some ideas on what you can do to up your social media game…

1. Seek out opportunities to interact and engage with those who like your Facebook page or follow you on Twitter/Instagram. With a variety of ways to promote success and share reasons why they should #PlayASA, the possibilities are endless!

2. Think visual. When scrolling through your newsfeed, what captures the attention of most viewers? Photos. Photos are a great way for others to see and visualize what happened, even if they weren’t there. Many times, photos bring out the emotions which sometimes lead people to say, ‘I wish I was there’ or ‘I want to play ASA/USA softball.’ Another good reason to show athletes that they should #PlayASA.

If you have any ideas or need help brainstorming, please don’t hesitate to ask our Marketing/Communications Department. Codi, Stacey, Nick and I are more than happy to share other opportunities/ideas to help you spread the word about ASA/USA Softball. Just a reminder, if you would like to have a news item or photo included in The Inside Pitch, please send me an electronic copy by the 15th of every month at kwillis@softball.org. Any items not submitted by the deadline may not be included, so please plan accordingly. Also if you have any questions or concerns regarding our department or organization, please feel free to contact me.
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ASA/USA Softball had quite the presence at the 2016 World Softball Coaches’ Convention at the Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. Over 1,000 coaches and players attended the event, which featured presentations from ASA Hall of Famer Sue Enquist and two-time Olympian Jessica Mendoza. Rhode Island ASA/USA Commissioner Bev Wiley is pictured with Maine ASA/USA Commissioner Tony Gowell at their booth, which featured some awesome giveaways and info on how to play ASA/USA Softball!
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits.

Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

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On January 16, twelve individuals were inducted into the Michigan ASA Hall of Fame. They celebrated took place at the H Hotel in Midland, Mich. with over 270 people in attendance. Congratulations!

PICTURED (L-R): Greg Melchert, Dave Ritsema, Al Diemer, Dave Courtney, Mike Maisner, Kathy Breece, Dorothy Bagley (deceased son, Tom), Mike Clark, Tony Chmielewski, Don Petro, Munn Manufacturing (R. Kunde), and Gary Compau.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners of the Greater Sacramento Softball Association!

PICTURED (L-R):
Back Row: Cassi Ponzo, Reagan Jacobs, Michaela Haynes, Kaitlyn King, Jenna Smith, Savannah Ozuna, Shelby Miller, Melanie Callahan, Gary Ybarra.
Front Row: Kasey Bagelmann, Marissa Walton, Rebecca Bernard, Stefanie Brunello, Amanda Bernard.
Not pictured: Vanessa Giles

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January 2016
USA SOFTBALL MOBILE APP

- All the latest in breaking news, results, announcements and stories
- Watch live-streaming from ASA/USA Softball events across the U.S.
- Find photo galleries and athlete profiles for members of USA Softball National Teams
- Discover the membership benefits of playing ASA/USA Softball and learn how to register
- Locate an ASA/USA Softball event near you
- Expansive photo galleries
- Links to social media accounts
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The results from the Preseason ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 Poll came out this past week, with reigning NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) champions Florida atop the polls after claiming 17 of the available 20 first-place votes. Capturing the No. 2 spot with one first-place vote is Michigan, while LSU rests at No. 3 after receiving two votes.

Finishing the 2015 season at No. 1 with a record of 60-7, the defending Southeastern Conference (SEC) Champions Florida Gators reached the 60-win plateau for just the third time in school history and posted their third-highest win percentage (.895). Florida will begin its season Feb. 12 at the USF Wilson-DeMarini Tournament in Tampa, Fla., while conference play starts a month later (March 12) at Auburn.

No. 2 Michigan, last year’s runner-up at the NCAA WCWS, completed its season with a 60-8 record and returns eight starters to this year’s squad. The Wolverines will also begin their season at the USF Wilson-DeMarini Tournament and will square off with Florida in a No. 1 vs. No. 2 battle. Meanwhile LSU, who made it to the NCAA WCWS for the fourth time in program history last season, returns seven starters and will host the Tiger Classic where they will play Ohio State in their first game of the season.

No. 4 Oregon and No. 5 Alabama round out the Top 5 in the preseason poll. The Ducks, who tallied a program record of 21 conference wins last season, will look to claim their fourth-straight Pac-12 title this season. Following a 48-15 record in 2015, Alabama will begin its season at the UCF Classic on Feb. 12.

Rounding out the Top 10 are No. 6 Auburn, No. 7 UCLA, No. 8 Oklahoma, No. 9 Tennessee and No. 10 Florida State.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
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Of the teams ranked in the preseason poll, seven squads have athletes on the 2016 USA Softball Women’s National Team. Florida is represented by Kelly Barnhill (Marietta, Ga.), Aubree Munro (Brea, Calif.), and Kelsey Stewart (Wichita, Kan.) while LSU’s Bianka Bell (Tampa, Fla.), Oregon’s Jenna Lilley (North Canton, Ohio), Alabama’s Haylie McCleney (Morris, Ala.), Auburn’s Kasey Cooper (Dothan, Ala.), UCLA’s Delaney Spaulding (Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.), and California’s Jazmyn Jackson (San Jose, Calif.) will also suit up for the Red, White and Blue this summer.

Six teams ranked in the Top 25 also have athletes on the 2016 USA Softball Women’s Elite Team. Tennessee boasts three Elite Team athletes in Rainey Gaffin (Thornton, Colo.), Meghan Gregg (Williamson, Ga.) and Brooke Vines (Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.), while Oregon will be represented by Cheridan Hawkins (Anderson, Calif.) and Gwen Svekis (Davie, Fla.). Also represented by two athletes is LSU, as Emily Griggs (Wichita, Kan.) and Bailey Landry (Prairieville, La.) will don USA across their chests this summer. Also suiting up for the Elite Team are Florida’s Nicole DeWitt (Garden Grove, Calif.), UCLA’s Paige Halstead (Alta Loma, Calif.), Oklahoma’s Sydney Romero (Murrieta, Calif.), Missouri’s Paige Lowary (Dallas Center, Iowa), and California’s Annie Aldrete (Monterey, Calif.).

The ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 Poll is currently in its 14th year. Starting Feb. 16, regular season polls will be released for 14-consecutive Tuesdays with the final poll of the season to be released on June 14 following the NCAA WCWS. The first of 14 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week accolades will also be announced on Feb. 16 with a new player chosen each Tuesday of the regular season.

In addition to conducting the ESPN.com/USA Softball collegiate Top 25 Poll and the USA Softball Player of the Week, ASA/USA Softball is also in the 15th season of the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award. The Top 50 Watch List for the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year will be announced Feb. 3 with the Top 25 announced April 13, the Top 10 announced May 11 and the Top 3 announced May 25. The 2016 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year will be revealed May 31.

The ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 Poll is voted on by coaching representatives of 10 Division I Conferences in the 15 ASA/USA Softball Regions as well as members of the National and Local media who consistently cover Division I Softball across the country.
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ASA/USA Softball has hired Stacey Hepp (Lakeland, Fla.) as the Managing Director of Marketing for the National Office. Hepp will primarily be responsible for the marketing, promotion, and execution of all sponsorship and licensing initiatives.

“I am so very excited to be joining the ASA/USA Softball family,” said Hepp. “As the National Governing Body for Softball, ASA/USA Softball has a long and rich history with amazing athletes and role models. The National Office Staff continues to keep things moving forward with the latest trends in technology, allowing for even greater engagement for fans and partners. I am humbled for the opportunity, thrilled by the challenge, and look forward to working with the National Office Staff, all the amazing programs ASA/USA offers to its members and the associations nationwide.”

Hepp comes to ASA/USA Softball with more than 15 years of experience, with expertise in event marketing and business development. Hepp’s most recent role as an account executive for Radio Disney Charlotte, a division of The Walt Disney Company, allowed her to plan and create successful campaigns for a diverse clientele base. Her track record also includes work for USA Canoe/Kayak, Walt Disney World, Harrah’s Entertainment, Orlando Conference Management Group, MostlyChocolate.com and Dillsboro Chocolate Factory.

While working for ASA/USA Softball, Hepp will manage all aspects of various business relationships relating to sponsor and association benefits. Her role will also oversee the planning, development and implementation of key marketing strategies and partnerships for targeting new and existing markets. All related sponsor activities including, but not limited to, signage, merchandise, event logistics and television production will be under her direction.

Hepp attended St. Petersburg College and Polk State College where her focus was public relations. She also had the opportunity to study abroad in Germany during her college career. Hepp can be reached at shepp@softball.org or by phone at (405) 425-3463.
Two trips to Japan, a World Championship and four U.S. cities highlight the upcoming season for the Women’s National Team program. At the top of the lineup for both squads is the World Cup of Softball XI, which returns to Oklahoma City for the first time since 2013. The WNT will also compete in a series of exhibition games against two National Pro Fast-pitch (NPF) franchises, the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Women’s World Championship, the USA vs. Japan All-Star Series and the Japan Cup. Meanwhile, the Women’s Elite Team will participate in training at the USA Softball JO Cup in Marietta, Ga.

“The 2016 schedules for both the Women’s National Team and Women’s Elite Team is exciting,” said USA Softball Women’s National Team Head Coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla.). “The opportunity to train and play on our home field in Oklahoma City is fantastic. I know the teams are looking forward to getting into their locker rooms and enjoying all of the upgrades that the combined efforts of many have produced at OGE Energy Field. Our competition schedules are perfect for our objective of winning Gold at the WBSC World Championship.”

As they prepare for a busy summer schedule, the 2016 USA Softball WNT will begin their season at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex for training from June 12-16. Highlighting the Oklahoma City training camp are two exhibition games against the NPF’s Dallas Charge and Scrap Yard Dawgs on June 16. The WNT will then head to Dallas and Houston to continue the exhibition series against the Dallas Charge and Scrap Yard Dawgs on June 17-18. The tour stops will give fans in Dallas and Houston the opportunity to catch WNT athletes Amanda Chidester (Allen Park, Mich.), Sara Nevins (Pinellas Park, Fla.) and Jaclyn Traina (Naples, Fla.) in action before they join the Scrap Yard Dawgs roster after the 2016 USA Softball season.

“The Dallas Charge and Scrap Yard Dawgs are providing our players with an opportunity to prepare for our international season with some great competition,” said Eriksen. “Hopefully this opportunity for a great marriage between ownership groups in the NPF will provide a great way for all to enjoy the benefits of a powerful USA Softball program in all facets.”

The WNT will make their first international trip of the season June 20-26 as the team heads to Tokyo, Japan for the USA vs. Japan All-Star Series, which will be held at the Tokyo Dome, as the international softball world continues their efforts to get softball added to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Game program. The team will have a brief break before returning to Oklahoma City for the World Cup of Softball XI July 7-10. From there, the WNT will head to Surrey, B.C., Canada for the WBSC Women’s World Championship, slated for July 15-24, where they will look to reclaim the No. 1 spot in the world against reigning World Champions Japan. Rounding out the 2016 season for the WNT is the Japan Cup, which will be held August 29-September 5.

Also hitting the road this summer is the 2016 USA Softball Women’s Elite Team, who will be joining the WNT for a training camp in Oklahoma City in preparation for the World Cup of Softball XI. The Women’s Elite Team will complete their season in Marietta, Ga. July 22-28 for training in conjunction with the USA Softball JO Cup.

Fans at home can follow along all summer long with the USA Softball National Teams at USASoftball.com.

To see the complete schedule, click here.
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Easton is voluntarily removing the following softball bat models from the ASA/USA list of certified bats: SCN1, SCN11BH, SCN1B, SCN2B, SCN3, SCN4B, SCN5, SCN5B, SCN6B, SCN7, SCN7B, SCN8, SCN8B, SCN9, SCX14, SCX14B, SCX24B, AND SCX3.

Other organizations that currently use ASA’s bat performance standards such as the NCAA, NFHS, NAIA, NJCAA may restrict such bats from play in 2016 and beyond.

‘NICK’S PICS’ ARE BACK : Left: SoCal ASA Umpires - Middle top: USA Softball of Portland - Middle bottom: Florida ASA Umpires (Kathy Cox, Julie Johnson, Clare Soltys) - Right: Seattle Metro Softball Umpires Association.
The ASA/USA Softball National Office is currently seeking applicants for four (4) seasonal internship positions of Event Management Intern and one (1) seasonal internship position of Communications Intern. All positions require a 40-hour work week and some weekends. The positions will begin in May 2016 and end in August.

The Event Management Interns will be responsible for assisting the Championships Department in all matters relating to ASA events. The focus will be on the NCAA Women’s College World Series, the ASA Junior Olympic Hall of Fame Tournaments, and all other events as assigned.

**Event Management Interns**

**Job Responsibilities (May-August):**

1. NCAA Women’s College World Series – assist with all on-site aspects of the event, including facility management and game day operations.
2. Coordinate ASA Hall of Fame Junior Olympic Tournaments:
   a. Responsible for working directly with ASA Event Managers to secure the 26 participating teams in each tournament.
   b. Work directly with the teams both prior to and during the tournaments.
   c. Responsible for the tournament brackets and tournament administration.
   e. Must work the four weekends of the JO Hall of Fame Tournaments (June-July 2016).
3. Assist with all aspects of tournament reporting for ASA/USA National Championship events.
4. Other duties as assigned during Internship.

**Communications Intern**

**Job Responsibilities (May-August):**

1. NCAA Women’s College World Series – assist with all communications efforts for the event, including National Team athletes in attendance, photos, etc…
2. Assist with the website for ASA/USA Softball, including weekly news stories and updates.
3. Assist with all communication efforts for the World Cup of Softball and Border Battle, including online streaming, stats, photos and TV production.
4. Act as an on-site lead for the 16U and 18U GOLD National Championships, including website updates, live scoring and streaming.
5. Represent ASA/USA Softball at various events.
6. Other duties as assigned during Internship.

Erin Kane, an intern with the events department, assisted at the National Office last summer.

**EVENT MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP APPLICANTS REPORT TO: RICH CHRESS, RCHRESS@SOFTBALL.ORG**

**COMMUNICATIONS INTERNSHIP APPLICANTS REPORT TO: CODI WARREN, CWARREN@SOFTBALL.ORG**
ASA/USA Softball has hired Katie Willis (Elyria, Ohio) as the Communications Coordinator for the National Office. A recent graduate from the School of Journalism and Media Studies at San Diego State University (SDSU), Willis will assist with all communications functions for the ASA and USA Softball brands, including websites, Inside Pitch, Balls and Strikes Magazine, public relations and social media.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to begin a new chapter here in Oklahoma City at the National Office for ASA/USA Softball,” Willis said. “I’m looking forward to promoting our National Teams and continuing the efforts of enhancing the quality of the game and the service ASA/USA Softball provides to athletes around the country. I feel fortunate and blessed to be part of this organization and can’t thank my support system of family, friends and mentors for their encouragement and guidance along the way.”

Willis comes to ASA/USA Softball with more than four years of experience after most recently working for the San Diego State Athletics Media Relations Department, where she was a student assistant. In her role, she served as one of the primary contacts for women’s cross country and track and field in addition to writing and posting website content for other Aztec athletic teams. Willis combines her recent experience with past internships at Fox Sports San Diego, the San Diego Hall of Champions, Coronado Speed Festival and the Rock Church where she was able to develop further skills in marketing, public relations and event management.

Willis graduated from San Diego State University in December of 2015 with a degree in journalism with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in marketing.

She can be reached at kwillis@softball.org or by phone at (405) 425-3425.
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