Hello everyone and thank you for taking the time to read the Official Newsletter of ASA/USA Softball.

As we enter the month of June, many teams are beginning the steps to qualify for an ASA National Championship or have already qualified. Please make sure that your teams have their required paperwork completed, and please be sure that the coaches have the required ACE certification.

There are a number of ways you can ensure they have an easy process to do so. One way is to make sure that you have the most current and up-to-date forms available for your teams. You can also provide these forms on your website for easier access. All of the required documents can be found on the portal.

There is still time for our local associations to reach out and recruit new leagues and teams. 2012 saw a decline in registrations so it’s important for us to explain the many benefits that playing ASA/USA Softball can bring. Not only is our organization the leader in equipment standards and certification, ASA/USA Softball also has the most knowledgeable and professionally trained umpires in the country.

See you next month!

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) -- Wrestling, squash and baseball-softball made the International Olympic Commitee (IOC) short list on Wednesday, May 29 for inclusion in the 2020 Olympics.

Eight sports were vying for a single opening in the lineup.

Eliminated from contention were five sports - karate, roller sports, sport climbing, wakeboarding and the Chinese martial art of wushu.

The IOC executive board will submit wrestling, squash and baseball-softball to the full IOC assembly for a final decision on Sept. 8 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

“It’s a good mix of team sports and individual,” IOC vice president Thomas Bach said.

The decision came after the eight sports federations made closed-door presentations to the IOC executive board.

Men’s baseball and women’s softball, which have been off the program since the 2008 Beijing Games, merged into a single federation, the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), to improve their chances.

Squash is bidding for an Olympic spot for a third time.
Eight things we bet you didn’t know about ASA/USA Softball!

To celebrate 80 years, ASA/USA Softball will feature a monthly segment in The Inside Pitch in which we give eight fun facts that you may or may not have known about our association. Do you have any interesting stories or moments from ASA’s history? Send them to Codi Warren, and you could be featured in the next issue of The Inside Pitch!

1. In 1938, ASA established a Board of Governors, which would later be known as the Board of Directors.
2. 1974 marked the first year that girls 16U and 18U were added to National Championship program.
3. The first National Umpire Interpretations Clinic was held in 1953 in New York City.
4. 1981 was the first year that the Men’s Super Slow Pitch division was played.
5. Player Representatives are established in 1978.
6. A seven-member Olympic Team Selection Committee was selected in 1993.
7. The National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum was officially dedicated in 1973.
8. Umpires were first included under the ASA Insurance program in 1958.

A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Codi Warren

Hello everyone and welcome to the May 2013 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) and USA Softball.

What a great May for ASA/USA Softball! For many, the softball season is well underway. In fact, several teams have already begun their process of claiming the coveted title of “ASA National Champion”.

In other exciting news, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recently voted Softball/Baseball onto the short list for Olympic inclusion for the 2020 games. “Diamond Sports”, in addition to wrestling and squash, will learn their fate in September when the IOC meets in Buenos Aires. Now is the time to step up to the plate and show your support for the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC)! A key component of the IOC’s decision is each sport’s respective popularity and outreach to the public. Show your support by “liking” the official PlayBall2020 Facebook, Twitter and website!

To our local associations and their staff members, keep up the hard work! Your daily efforts are what helps propel our organization to the top!

Thank you all for your continued support of ASA/USA Softball! See you next month!
The Official Supplier of ASA & USA Softball

Stabilizer
THE ORIGINAL NATURAL BINDER

Increase Your Field’s Performance

Arizona State University
2008 National Champions
Farrington Stadium, Tempe, AZ

Advancing the Evolution of Soil
Become an Ultimate Fan of USA Softball!

Women's National Team member Valerie Arioto (right) takes a photo with an Ultimate Fan Zone ticket holder during the UFZ exclusive dinner.

ACE Coaches surpass 13,000

ASA/USA Softball is excited to announce that the ACE Coaching Certification program has exceeded 13,000 ACE Coaches. In an effort to thank and award those coaches who achieve an ACE Certification, the ASA has teamed up with sponsors Pocket Radar™ and Powerchalk™ to provide ACE coaches with a prize pack. Every time the ACE Program reaches an odd-numbered 1,000th milestone, ASA will award that coach with a Pocket Radar ($200 value) and the next coach with a custom Powerchalk account ($100 value).

The following is a list of the latest recipients of the Pocket Radar™ and Powerchalk™ prize packs:

**Name, Hometown, Prize**
- Scott Council (Winston, Ga.) – Pocket Radar
- Scott Cooper (Pawtucket, R.I.) – Powerchalk Account
- Mike Baio (Youngstown, N.Y.) – Pocket Radar
- Gregory Tuttamore (Pemberville, Ohio) – Powerchalk Account

“The ACE program is beneficial in that it gives everyone some common ground to help approach the game” said Council. “The drills that have been provided by Coach Candrea have been awesome and I still utilize many of them at the 16-Under level. I enjoy the competition that ASA/USA Softball teams provide, plain and simple. We have already earned our berth to the ASA Nationals for this year and it is my goal to get them seen by the college coaches who will be recruiting them. The competition and camaraderie amongst the ASA/USA Softball teams is also unparallel.”

The ACE Certification program is online and you can access the tests by login at [www.registerasa.com](http://www.registerasa.com). More detailed instructions are located on the homepage.

“I am new to the ACE program, but I have really enjoyed the testing modules,” said Baio. “Along with the Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program, the education that ACE provides has opened my eyes to some new ideas and some items that coaches sometimes take for granted or pass over. I also have found the ACE manual very useful, especially with some of the example practice plans. Ultimately, you know when you are playing ASA/USA Softball the teams you face are going to be the best of the best, and our team loves the competitiveness.”

Ultimate Fan Zone tickets are still on sale for the 2013 World Cup of Softball VIII. For only $250, USA Softball's Ultimate Fans get to watch the action from the best seats in the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. UFZ Fans also get a white ASA/USA Softball hat, an opportunity for their name to appear on the video board at the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium and an exclusive meet-and-greet lunch with the members of the 2013 Women's National Team.

Tickets can be purchased through [SoftballOutlet.com](http://www. SoftballOutlet.com). UFZ questions can be directed to Codi Warren at cwarren@softball.org.
Traveling this Summer?
Why not stay where Team USA stays? Save up to 15% by staying at any hotel in the Hilton Honors portfolio of brands!
Click here to access your savings!
The International Softball Federation (ISF), softball’s world governing body, announced the game schedule for the 16-nation ISF X Junior Women’s World Championship, scheduled to take place July 1-7 in Brampton, Ontario, Canada. Team USA looks to defend the World Championship Gold Medal they won in 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa during the seven-day competition, which features 66 match-ups between the world’s best.

Team USA will open play against Great Britain July 1 at 8 a.m. CST and will continue pool play through July 4. Playoffs begin at 10:30 a.m. CST on July 5 and end with the Gold Medal game at 1 p.m. on July 7. 

Click here to see the complete schedule.

Representing the Red, White and Blue in Canada are Ali Aguilar (Orangevale, Calif./All-American Sports Academy), Andrea Hawkins (Bay City, Texas/Alabama), Cheridan Hawkins (Anderson, Calif./Oregon), Sierra Lawrence (Snellville, Ga./Michigan), Haylie McCleney (Morris, Ala./Alabama), Danica Mercado (Temecula, Calif./Oregon), Erica Nunn (Apex, N.C./South Florida), Jessica Plaza (Huntington Beach, Calif./Stanford), Erin Shireman (Pearland, Texas/Texas), Lee Ann Spivey (Palm Coast, Fla./South Florida), Lauren Young (Anaheim, Calif./Arizona), Paige McDuffee (The Woodlands, Texas/UCLA), Sierra Romero (Murrieta, Calif./Michigan), Mysha Sataraka (Honolulu, Hawaii/UCLA), Kelsey Stewart (Wichita, Kan./Florida), Emily Crane (Troy, Mo./Missouri) and Jailyn Ford (Hot Springs, Va./James Madison).

Tairia Flowers (Tucson, Ariz./head coach Cal State Northridge) will lead the Red, White and Blue into the summer and four-time Olympian Laura Berg (Corvallis, Ore./head coach Oregon State), Trisha Ford (Fremont, Calif./head coach Fresno State), and Lisa Dodd (San Diego, Calif./head coach at UNLV) will join the coaching staff in Canada.

The 16 teams that will compete are: Australia, Brazil, Botswana, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Singapore, United States and Venezuela.

Click here for the ISF X Junior Women’s World Championship website.

Prior to the ISF Jr. Women’s World Championship, the team will compete in an exhibition game in Glenville, West Virginia on June 24. In conjunction with the exhibition game, the West Virginia ASA will host a youth clinic on June 25. Tickets for the event in West Virginia and information on the youth clinic are available at http://wvaasa.com/.

MEDIA: For more information on the ISF World Championship, please contact ISF at info@isfsoftball.
EVERYTHING SOFTBALL
GET 5% BACK ON BATS, GLOVES, CLEATS & MORE
WHEN YOU JOIN THE LEAGUE BY SPORTS AUTHORITY
ASA/USA Softball at work around the country

During the Nor Cal ASA annual district commissioners meeting, Region 14 members help support the 80th Anniversary of ASA/USA Softball during San Francisco Giant’s game. Over 100 staff members came out for a great day of baseball and a free 80th Anniversary t-shirt!

The Minnesota ASA had some action during a 12U tournament.

Umpires are all smiles at the Jack Reynolds 3-Umpire Evaluation Tournament, held in Seattle.

RIGHT: The Florida ASA recently held the Disney ASA National Qualifier, which was held at the Wide World of Sports Complex.

RIGHT: A beautiful shot of the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, taken during the 2013 NCAA Women's College World Series (WCWS).
You’re not just buying lights. You’re buying an affordable system that reduces energy and maintenance costs year after year. That means while decreasing wasted energy, you’ll save money and help protect the environment for her future.

To learn more visit: www.musco.com/generations
Eight National Team veterans, six Futures Team (32-Under) veterans and two rookies comprise the 2013 USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team rosters, who will play a pair of ESPN televised games in July during the World Cup of Softball, including Border Battle V, against the 2013 Canadian Men's Slow Pitch Border Battle Team and the second annual Slow Pitch Showdown against the USA Men's Slow Pitch Future's Team.

**2013 Men's Slow Pitch National Team Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Manufacturing Sponsor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rick Baker</td>
<td>West Harrison, Ind.</td>
<td>Combat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryson Baker</td>
<td>Magalia, Calif.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kevin Bazat</strong></td>
<td>Columbia, Mo.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Robert Blackburn</em></td>
<td>Indian Trail, N.C.</td>
<td>Louisville Slugger</td>
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<td>Geno Buck</td>
<td>Red Wing, Minn.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Travis Clark</strong></td>
<td>Kenosha, Wis.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kevin Filby</strong></td>
<td>Cardington, Ohio</td>
<td>Miken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Hall</td>
<td>Gastonia, N.C.</td>
<td>Worth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brett Helmer</td>
<td>Cicero, N.Y.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chris Larsen</strong></td>
<td>(Vancouver, Wash.)</td>
<td>DeMarini</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnny McCraw</td>
<td>(Lake Wylie, S.C.)</td>
<td>Combat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff McGavin</td>
<td>Macomb, Mich.</td>
<td>Combat</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lee Powers</strong></td>
<td>(Gaston, N.C.)</td>
<td>Louisville Slugger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Rainwater</td>
<td>Kathleen, Ga.</td>
<td>Easton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Luis Reyna</strong></td>
<td>(Tampa, Fla.)</td>
<td>Reebok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Wegman</td>
<td>(Hamilton, Ohio)</td>
<td>Easton</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Rookie</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2012 Futures Team Member</strong></td>
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Highlighting this year's roster are five-time Men's Slow Pitch National Team members Rick Baker (West Harrison, Ind.); Brett Helmer (Cicero, N.Y.); Johnny McCraw (Wylie, S.C.), the 2010 USA Softball Male Athlete of the Year; and Brian Wegman (Hamilton, Ohio). All were on the inaugural squad in 2009 and have continued to represent the United States each year since.

Returning to Team USA for their fourth campaign are Bryson Baker (Magalia, Calif.) and Brian Rainwater (Kathleen, Ga.), both of which were on the squad in 2009, 2011 and 2012.

Geno Buck (Red Wing, Minn.) has made the National Team for the third time in his career. Buck was a member of the 2011 and 2012 teams. Jeff McGavin (Macomb, Mich.) will be representing Team USA for the second time. He was a member of the 2010 squad.

Seven of this year's National Team players were members of the 2012 inaugural USA Men's Slow Pitch Future's Team. Kevin Filby (Cardington, Ohio), Luis Reyna (Tampa, Fla.), Travis Clark (Kenosha, Wis.), Lee Powers (Gaston, N.C.), Chris Larsen (Vancouver, Wash.) and Kevin Bazat (Columbia, Mo.) each competed against the USA Men's Slow Pitch National Team in the 2012 Slow Pitch Showdown held during last year's World Cup of Softball.

Three rookies, Robert Blackburn (Indian Trail, N.C.) and Jeff Hall (Gastonia, N.C.) round out the 2013 roster.

"I am extremely excited for the opportunity to play for Team USA this summer," said Blackburn. "The Border Battle and Slow Pitch Showdown are great promotions for our sport. Being on ESPN, they allow for a larger viewing audience to see the game that we love to play."

The team will be coached by Steve Shortland (Converse, Texas) who is making his fifth-consecutive appearance as the head coach of Team USA.

In addition to participating in Border Battle V, the 2013 USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team will also take on the 2013 USA Softball Men's Futures Slow Pitch National Team in the Slow Pitch Showdown this summer at the World Cup of Softball VIII in Oklahoma City. Two returners and 13 newcomers represent the 2013 USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch Futures Team.

**2013 Men's Slow Pitch Futures Team Roster**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Manufacturing Sponsor</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Brandon Dillon</em></td>
<td>(Anderson, Ind.)</td>
<td>Easton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anthony Dress</strong></td>
<td>(Rosemount, Minn.)</td>
<td>Reebok</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Sal Formosa</em></td>
<td>(San Jose, Calif.)</td>
<td>Miken</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Chente Granados</em></td>
<td>(Chino, Calif.)</td>
<td>Louisville Slugger</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Neil Haglund</em></td>
<td>(New York, N.Y.)</td>
<td>Louisville Slugger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Brandon Jonas</em></td>
<td>(Claremont, N.C.)</td>
<td>Demarini</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Dave Kessler</em></td>
<td>(Cincinnati, Ohio)</td>
<td>Louisville Slugger</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Corey Large</em></td>
<td>(Bedford, Texas)</td>
<td>Miken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Kyle Moyer</em></td>
<td>(Tiffin, Ohio)</td>
<td>Easton</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Bryce Oliveira</em></td>
<td>(Las Vegas, Nev.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Adam Rockoff</em></td>
<td>(Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.)</td>
<td>Demarini</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Casey Rogowski</em></td>
<td>(Livonia, Mich.)</td>
<td>Louisville Slugger</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Andy Vitcak</em></td>
<td>(Oakdale, Minn.)</td>
<td>Louisville Slugger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Scott Zaciewski</em></td>
<td>(Toledo, Ohio)</td>
<td>Reebok</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brian Zirkle</strong></td>
<td>(Kankakee, III.)</td>
<td>Easton</td>
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<td>* Rookie</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2012 Futures Team Member</strong></td>
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Slow Pitch Showdown and Border Battle tickets are included in all-session tickets to the World Cup, July 11-14 in Oklahoma City. All-session tickets, which are $250 for the Ultimate Fan Zone reserved seating in the first three rows of the stadium, $60 for other reserved seating and $30 for general admission seating, can be purchased by phone at 800-654-8337 or online at SoftballOutlet.com. Single session general admission tickets will be on sale in early June.
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America is proud to introduce this instructional DVD aimed at coaches of all levels.

Learn the finer points of team play as taught by two-time U.S. Olympic Team Head Coach Mike Candrea.

For more information, visit SoftballOutlet.com or call (800) 654-8337.

“Kids today are visual learners and without a doubt, the USA Softball Animated Playbook will be a great resource to teach young players the responsibilities involved in playing defense. Defense is a big factor in winning and hopefully everyone can enjoy learning defensive play on their own computer. The Animated Playbook will be a resource for every player learning the game of softball.”

— Mike Candrea, two-time U.S. Olympic Team Head Coach
ASA unveils new National Championship awards look for 2013

ASA/USA Softball is excited to introduce a new look and feel of the 2013 Adult and Junior Olympic National Championship Awards. Created and designed by MTM Recognition, the exclusive championship trophy provider of ASA, the new awards bring a fresh and contemporary look to many of softball’s most coveted honors.

“As we celebrate our 80th Anniversary, it was important to us to keep our look appealing to our audience and athletes,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “After the immense hours of practice, travel and sacrifice, earning the right to call your team an ‘ASA National Champion’ is something pretty special and what you take home or hoist in the air is a symbol of tremendous hard work and dedication. We want to provide items that our athletes are proud to display and keep for a lifetime.”

(Click here to see a photo gallery of the new items).

All National Championship awards, including the team trophies and individual awards, went through a re-design process. As per the ASA Code, the number of participating teams in each of the National Championships determines the trophy package each location receives. In addition, each National Championship team receives a new “Champion” banner customized to the discipline of the tournament.

Click here to see where the 2013 ASA National Championships, both Adult and Junior Olympic, will take place!

“ASA was looking for a new, more contemporary look for their awards program working within a predetermined budget,” said Jeff Weis, Creative Director at MTM Recognition. “The goal was to present a fresh new look while capturing the symbolic history of the program. Through the use of quality materials such as optic crystal and high tech processes like full color digital direct print, we were able to deliver an affordable, quality product while honoring the integrity of the ASA symbols and tradition.”

Remembering former TN ASA Player Rep Fred Richardson

The Tennessee ASA lost a great one with the passing of former Player Representative Fred Richardson. Richardson passed away on May 16.

He was retired from Dupont after 35 years of service and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1959-63. Richardson served as the TN ASA State Commissioner for 23 years and also held the titles of District Commissioner, Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner during his time with the TN ASA. He was also recently inducted into the Tennessee ASA Hall of Fame.
Product Description

SportaFence™ is a revolutionary new design that allows softball and baseball outfield fences to be easily moved from field to field. It quickly adjusts to specific field dimensions.

Advantages

♦ Custom design for every field
♦ Easy set-up
♦ Fast, on-the-fly, distance adjustment
♦ Quick, easy transfer from field to field
♦ Security for fields and events
♦ High durability
♦ High impact design
♦ Stores easily

Product Features

♦ Heavy-duty portable chainlink fence panels: 6ft H x 10ft L / Weight: 175 lbs. (also available in 5'H x 10'L)
♦ Constructed of durable galvanized steel with 8-gauge coated chainlink fence material.
♦ Connectors secure panels together to form one continuous fence.
♦ Legs collapse for easy storage.

References

ASA Official Portable Fence; NCAA Women’s Fastpitch “World Series” Division I, II & III Championships Series; City of Woodland, City of Santa Maria, Salem VA, etc.

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TYJA Sports named official uniform Men’s Slow Pitch program

ASA/USA Softball recently announced that TYJA Sports will be the official uniform and apparel supplier of the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National team program and the Canadian National Slow Pitch team this summer.

(Click here to view the new uniforms for USA and Canada)

“ASA is excited to welcome TYJA to the USA Softball Slow Pitch family,” said ASA/USA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “Their dedication and energy towards this program and upcoming events is exceptional and we look forward to establishing a long term relationship with them for our men’s program.”

A new partnership and effort to assist in the Border Battle and Slow Pitch Showdown scheduled this July, TYJA will provide three teams (USA, USA Futures & Canada) with the official uniform with custom design to represent their respective countries. In addition to uniforms, the partnership includes spirit wear for athletes who have recently been named to the teams and all items, including replica jerseys, will be available at the TYJA website www.tyjasports.com in the coming weeks.

“TYJA is thrilled to partner with ASA and USA Softball on this prestigious project,” said Mark Weber, TYJA Chairman. “Our goal is to provide a fresh new look to both Team USA and Team Canada that reflects their patriotism and will be worn with pride.”

TYJA will also receive signage, marketing, and promotional opportunities at the Border Battle, World Cup and ASA Junior Olympic National Championships throughout the summer months.

It will be “Slow Pitch” Thursday on July 11 in Oklahoma City with the Border Battle V match up kicking off at noon followed by the second annual Slow Pitch Showdown at 3 p.m. featuring USA vs. USA Futures. Tickets are on sale now for the Border Battle V and the Slow Pitch Showdown at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City. Log on to SoftballOutlet.com or call 1-800-654-8337.

Click here to view the rosters of the USA teams set to take the field in July for the Red, White and Blue.

San Francisco ASA great Hal Flynn passed away

Anna Louie, San Francisco ASA Commissioner notified the ASA National Office on the recent passing of Hal Flynn, San Francisco ASA Commissioner Emeritus.

Sympathy cards can be sent to his spouse Dolores Flynn at the following address:

Dolores Flynn
4705 Stonehedge Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Further the ASA in your area with promotional packets for $7

The Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) advertising and promotional packets are still on sale for $7 each, which includes a DVD and the cost of shipping. Commissioners and Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioners can place orders for their association by e-mailing Codi Warren, Coordinator of Marketing and Communications, at cwarren@softball.org.

If ordering the packages to distribute at a specific event, please order at least two weeks before you need to receive them, if possible. Include the date of your event in the e-mail to ensure that they are shipped in time.
Being a family member of Team USA has it’s benefits.

Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

United has flown Team USA for over 30 years, and we strive to be the airline of choice for Olympic family members as well. That’s why we offer discounted fares for USOC/NGB associated events. Go to united.com/USOC to book your flight, or to learn more.
2013 ASA/USA Softball Slow Pitch Championships set to relocate

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) and USA Softball announced today that the 2013 ASA Adult Slow Pitch Championships in Men’s Class A, Men’s Class B, Men’s C & D and Women’s Open, originally scheduled to take place in Oklahoma City, will be moved to a new location due to potential renovations at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex.

“With the likelihood of major renovations to ASA Hall of Fame Complex beginning this summer; ASA felt that it was in the best interest of the athletes, umpires, and spectators to relocate these tournaments at this time to ensure ample time for everyone involved to make the necessary travel and tournament plans to guarantee successful tournaments,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “ASA prides itself in conducting outstanding events and the cities selected to host these prestigious tournaments have a proven track record of success. We are honored that these cities have stepped up on short notice to partner with ASA on behalf of our players, umpires and spectators.”

The four National Championships which will be relocated are: The Men’s Class A, Men’s Class B, Men’s Class C, Men’s D Championship Series and Women’s Open Championships.

The new locations and dates for the National Championships are:
- Men’s Class A (September 26-29) - Ridgeland, Miss.
- Men’s Class B (August 16-18) - Andover, Minn.
- Men’s Class C (August 30-September 2) - Liberty, Mo.
- Men’s Class D & Women’s Open presented by Worth (September 26-29) - Ridgeland, Miss.

This marks the first time since 2001 that the Adult Slow Pitch Championship Series has not been held in Oklahoma City. In 2012, over 50 teams competed in their respective National Championships with Sonny’s Softball Club (Casper, Wyo.) claiming the Class A title, Xtreme/Combat (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) claiming the Class B, Classic Glass/Easton/DDS (Sacramento, Calif.) claiming the Class C, Titans (Murfreeesboro, Tenn.) claiming the Class D and the Derby Girls (Seattle, Wash.) claiming the Women’s Open title. For a full list of 2013 National Championships, click here.
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The World's Best
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Scan the code to get your tickets!

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Ricketts named back-to-back Player of the Year

Oklahoma pitcher Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, Calif.) was selected as the 2013 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year. The award, which is considered the most prestigious honor in Division I women's softball, is designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievement by female collegiate softball players across the country. Ricketts, also the 2012 award winner, helped lead the Oklahoma Sooners to their third straight NCAA Women's College World Series (WCWS) appearance this season.

The 2013 Big 12 Conference Pitcher of the Year, Ricketts currently ranks eighth in the country with a 1.22 ERA, seventh with 311 strikeouts and second with 16 shutouts. The lefthander holds a 31-1 record on the year and helped the Sooners to their tenth Big 12 Conference Championship. Ricketts’ 1,566 career strikeouts currently ranks 11th all-time nationally and second in conference history.

“First I want to say congratulations to both Raven and Lauren,” said Ricketts. “Those girls have had insane seasons this year. I also want to thank my teammates and coaches for helping me win this award. There’s no way I could have done it without them. Thank you to the voters and ASA/USA Softball for this honor.”

From the plate, Ricketts holds a .375 batting average, .706 slugging percentage and has 13 home runs. Behind their senior leader, the Oklahoma Sooners held first place in all 14 regular season ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 Polls this year.

“I’m really happy for Keilani. She has worked really hard throughout this season,” said Oklahoma Head Coach Patty Gasso. “I’m also proud of Coach Lombardi and Coach MacKay, our assistant coaches, who have both worked really diligently to help Keilani throughout the season. It’s hard when you have expectations on you so heavily coming into a season and she has handled it very well. She’s very deserving of this award as were all of the finalists.”

Ricketts joins the ranks of Cat Osterman (2003, 2005 and 2006) and Danielle Lawrie (2009 and 2010) as the only multiple USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year honorees.

The other two finalists for the 2013 award were fellow Sooner Lauren Chamberlain (Trabuco Canyon, Calif.), who ranks second in the nation with 27 home runs, and All-Southeastern Conference First-Team honoree Raven Chavanne (Thousand Oaks, Calif.) of Tennessee who also reached the WCWS this year with the Lady Vols.

The USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award is voted on by coaching representatives from 11 Division I Conferences in the 15 ASA Regions as well as members of the media who consistently cover Division I Softball across the country, and previous Player of the Year recipients. Other past winners of this award include UCLA’s Stacey Nuveman, Florida State’s Jessica Van der Linden, Tennessee’s Monica Abbott, Virginia Tech’s Angela Tincher, and 2011 winner Ashley Hansen from Stanford.
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“A Series of Their Own”

New Book Provides History of College Softball’s National Championship

Two Oklahoma City writers have collaborated to publish a new book that provides the history of the NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS). *A Series of Their Own: The History of the Women’s College World Series* chronicles the 44-year journey of collegiate softball’s national championship, from its meager beginnings in 1969 in Omaha, Neb., to its current position in Oklahoma City as the preeminent event for the sport of fastpitch softball.

Authors Bill Plummer III and Larry C. Floyd worked together in the early 1990s at the Amateur Softball Association, the national governing body for U.S. softball with its national office in Oklahoma City. They wrote about and photographed this national championship when it first moved to Oklahoma City and followed the event over the years.

Using their contacts with many of the early organizers and participants, their recently published book provides comprehensive information on tournament play, the growth of college softball, and the sport’s administration for the more than four decades of the Women’s College World Series.

“This women’s national tournament has a history much unlike so many of the other men’s collegiate national championships,” Plummer said. “It started in the 1960s without the NCAA and when there were no athletic scholarships available for women athletes. These college teams were self-funded with bake sales and fund-raisers by the players and coaches.”

*A Series of Their Own* demonstrates how changing social attitudes toward women as competitive athletes and funding from Title IX legislation combined to promote college softball and its national championship. Some of the media’s role in this promotion is also briefly explained.

The book gives brief follow-ups on the lives of many of the players and coaches after their appearances in the women’s series. In the early years of the tournament and with few opportunities outside college softball, many of these athletes moved on to successful lives outside sports.

In more recent decades, some of the women’s series stars jumped to the world stage as heroines of the U.S. softball team in the Olympics. Some of these softball stars included Jennie Finch, Dot Richardson, Lisa Fernandez, Cat Osterman and other players that became familiar household names following Olympic competition.

This history and more is covered in this 304-page book. It is illustrated with historical and recent photos, team standings, and tournament brackets from this now well established and still growing women’s sports spectacular.

The first book signing for *A Series of Their Own* was held May 29 in the gift store at the National Softball Hall of Fame. The book will be available for purchase online beginning in late May at [http://www.seriesoftheirown.com](http://www.seriesoftheirown.com).
In 2013 SoCal ASA is privileged to host the ASA Fast Pitch Camp (Advanced Umpire School). This camp is for fast pitch umpires who are interested in developing their skills and mechanics to the ultimate. Included in the four-day schedule (five-days if attending the ISF Seminar) are daily plate drills and base mechanics, lectures on rules and positioning as well as in-depth philosophy behind umpire mechanics. There will be group discussions with leaders of the ASA umpire program, and assigned games that are video taped for evaluation. (This camp also serves as an ISF "certified" rating seminar. Umpires applying for the ISF certification seminar must meet the requirements for ISF certification.)
Youth Athletes, Get Identified!

Do you want to play at the next level? Join the ASA/USA Softball National Identification Program, powered by Softball Factory.

The National Identification Program helps identify players for the USA Softball Junior National Team Selection Committee, while also providing additional college exposure and skill development through the Softball Factory brand.

Click here for more information and dates.

Apply for the 2013-16 Men’s National Team Coaching Pool

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball, the National Governing Body for Softball in the United States, announced today it will begin accepting applications from fast pitch coaches for the next four years (2013 – 2016) for the Men’s National Team program.

The USA Softball Men’s National Team Selection Committee will select a coaches’ pool plus name a head coach from the new pool. The Head Coach will become a member of the Men’s National Team Selection Committee which will select each year’s National Team and Assistant Coaches. Pool coaches will be required to participate in international events, player evaluations, selection camps and other specified events as part of the evaluation process. Coaches will work under the direction of the Head Coach and USA Softball Men’s National Team Director Ronnie Isham.

To be considered as a candidate for the pool and the Head Coach position, please forward via email a letter of application and a resume to arrive no later than July 1, 2013 which must include:
- National Coaching and/or playing experience
- International Coaching and/or playing experience
- Relevant clinic and/or speaking experience
- Reasons you would like to be a member of the pool

Please indicate on letter of application if applying for Head Coach.

Please send letter of application and resume via email to:
Ronnie Isham
Director of USA Softball National Teams
ASA/USA Softball
risham@softball.org

For questions call Ronnie Isham at 405-202-8269.
Christi Orgeron - There’s Always Another Chance
Women’s National Team member Christi Orgeron shares how she helps pick up her teammates. "In a game where you fail more than you succeed, it can be hard to keep a good head and remain in a good perspective. Sometimes you just need a little reminder that the sun's going to come out tomorrow and that you're going to get another at bat."

Valerie Arioto - Three Out Of Ten
World Cup Gold Medalist Valerie Arioto explains the mindset needed to succeed in softball. Knowing that failure is a part of the game will help fortify your mental toughness. Valerie states, “It’s not going to be the last time I strike out. It is what it is, and that is the hardest thing for kids to get.”

Kaitlin Cochran - Internal Conflicts
World Cup Gold Medalist Kaitlin Cochran urges youth athletes to be a team player, no matter what. She stresses not worrying about outside factors, such as the coach setting the lineup. Instead, focus on what you can control. For example, you control your attitude, your effort, and improving yourself as a player.
Each month, the team at Responsible Sports tackles current issues in youth sports and seeks advice, from youth sports experts in our Fundamentals eNewsletter. We talk about how to handle tryouts, the latest research in sports safety, advice on social media communication with athletes and parents, or how to turn the latest news in professional sports into teachable moments with your youth athletes.

Recent headlines and topics included:

**For the Love of the Game** - In the wake of the soccer referee tragedy in Utah, we sat down and talked to Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) Founder and CEO Jim Thompson as well as PCA Chief Impact Officer Tina Syer to get some advice on how to stand up for Responsible Sports values.

**When You Are the Underdog** - As was highlighted in the 2013 March Madness tournament - how do Responsible Coaches and Responsible Sport Parents mentally prepare their youth athletes for games where they are the underdog?

**Respecting Our Opponents** - While teams are going through the motions of respecting their opponents, clearly the mindset and emotion are not quite what we all intended. We turned to the experts at Positive Coaching Alliance to ask: what exactly can and should we do to respect our opponents?

**Sibling Rivalry** - Jim versus John. While it’s players on the field who determine the outcome of any game, the storyline of this year’s Super Bowl wasn’t about the players from either side. What’s a Responsible Sport Parent to do when sports create tough sibling rivalry moments?

Sign up today to get exclusive content and start putting the advice of our vast array of experts - from professional coaches, Olympians, world-class athletes, sports psychologists, nutritionists, sports safety specialists and youth sports authorities – to work with your athletes and kids!

Enjoy the latest news in youth sports - delivered straight to your inbox.

**Schedule set for World Cup of Softball VIII**

The top four softball teams in the world will converge on Oklahoma City this July 11-14 as the World Cup of Softball VIII returns to the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium along with the Border Battle V. The USA Softball Women's National Team will look to defend their top finish from last year’s World Cup as they take on reigning International Softball Federation (ISF) World Champion Japan, Australia, Canada and Puerto Rico in the four-day event. The USA Men's Slow Pitch Team will also compete in the fifth annual Border Battle as they look to improve their record to 4-1 over the Canadian Men's Slow Pitch National Team. Single and All-Session tickets are currently available by phone at 800-654-8337 or online at softballOutlet.com.

Click here for the complete World Cup of Softball VIII and Border Battle V Schedule.

Now in its eighth year, the World Cup line-up is highlighted by the 2013 USA Softball Women's National Team as well as defending World Champs Japan. Team USA last faced Japan in the finals of the 2012 ISF Women's World Championship where they fell 2-1 in a 10-inning shootout. Australia claimed the Bronze Medal at the 2012 ISF World Championships while Canada took fourth.

The World Cup, an ISF sanctioned event, will again feature men's slow pitch action with the Canadian Men's Slow Pitch National Team, the USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team and the USA Softball Men's Futures Slow Pitch National Team competing in Oklahoma City. The Border Battle V on July 11 will feature Canada against the U.S. Men's Slow Pitch National Team at noon and will be immediately followed by the second annual Slow Pitch Showdown between the two USA teams at 3 p.m.

The 2013 USA Softball Women's National Team roster will be finalized in June following the USA Softball Women's National Team Selection Camp in Oklahoma City.

Click here to view the rosters of the 2013 USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team and Men's Futures Slow Pitch National Team.
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   Featuring six top coaches demonstrating Tee, Toss and Live-Arm Drills using the
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK HERE or CALL 1-800-547-6843
ASA/USA Softball announced the invitees to the 2013 Women’s National Team Selection Camp to be held in Oklahoma City, Okla., June 10-12 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. Thirty-two athletes will vie for 17 spots on the 2013 Women’s National Team roster which will be announced on Friday, June 14.

During the three-day selection process athletes will participate in position drills as well as simulated games. The event will be open to the public and also streamed live on USASoftball.com.

Following selection camp, the 17 athletes selected to the USA Softball roster will compete in three separate events in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Fans in the United States will get an opportunity to see the team in action as they look to defend their 2012 Gold Medal at the World Cup of Softball VIII, July 11-14, in Oklahoma City. For ticket information click here.

Following the World Cup, the Women’s National Team is slated to compete July 16-22 at the Canadian Open Fast Pitch International Championship in Surrey, B.C., Canada and August 5-18 at an International Softball Federation (ISF) Women’s World Championship/Pan American Games qualifier in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The list of invitees are:
Valerie Arioto (Pleasanton, CA/California 2012)
B.B. Bates (Victorville, CA/UCLA junior)
Cassidy Bell (Bakersfield, CA/Penn State senior)
Megan Blank (Culver City, CA/Iowa sophomore)
Whitney Canion (Aledo, TX/Baylor RS junior)
Lauren Chamberlain (Trabuco Canyon, CA/Oklahoma sophomore)
Raven Chavanne (Thousand Oaks, CA/Tennessee senior)
Amanda Chidester (Allen Park, MI/Michigan 2012)
Aimee Creger (Yukon, OK/Tulsa junior)
Sam Fischer (Simi Valley, CA/Loyola Marymount 2012)
Amber Freeman (Lakewood, CA/Arizona State sophomore)
Lauren Gibson (Pasadena, MD/Tennessee senior)
Taylor Hoagland (Flower Mound, TX/Texas senior)
Nicole Hudson (Webb City, MO/Missouri senior)
Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, OR/Washington junior)
Stephany LaRosa (Diamond Bar, CA/UCLA sophomore)

Destinee Martinez (Corona, CA/Oklahoma junior)
Jessica Moore (Sutter, CA/Oregon senior)
Nicole Morgan (The Woodlands, TX/Texas A&M junior)
Michele Moultrie (Jacksonville, FL/Florida 2012)
Sara Nevins (Pinellas Park, FL/South Florida junior)
Alexa Peterson (Salem, OR/Oregon junior)
Janine Richardson (Auburndale, FL/South Florida 2012)
Lindsey Richardson (Estero, FL/South Florida senior)
Keilani Ricketts (San Jose, CA/Oklahoma senior)
Hannah Rogers (Lake Wales, FL/Florida junior)
Kourtney Salvarola (Arnold, MD/South Florida junior)
Rhea Taylor (Buford, GA/Missouri 2011)
Taylor Thom (Cedar Park, TX/Texas junior)
Jordan Wallace (Weatherford, S/Louisiana-Lafayette sophomore)
Hallie Wilson (Santa Ana, CA/Arizona sophomore)
Lindsey Ziegenhirt (Elk Grove, CA/California senior)
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2. Call Bollinger Sports, ASA Department—Ph: 800-526-1379 or ASAinfo@Bollinger.com

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