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Holiday greetings to everyone!

As the holiday season gets closer, signifying the quickly approaching New Year, I am happy to say that we’ve had a busy and great year here at the Amateur Softball Association of America and USA Softball. We’ve had our share of pains and misfortunes as well as many great times and good fortunes which all combine to make our organization stronger and better prepared for the coming year.

In the past month we had our Annual Council Meeting at the Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada. The meeting was a complete success! There was plenty of festivity as we inducted seven softball greats into the National Softball Hall of Fame and one into the ISF Hall of Fame with a great banquet celebration in their honor. Our Executive Director, Craig Cress, reviewed the year and we then immediately began working on ways to better service our participants by improving our game where needed. This was a very positive meeting with much camaraderie, many training sessions, fundraising events for our Special Events Programs such as Special Olympics, and a lot of information was disseminated to help our associations administer their local areas. Eight selections for induction to the National Softball Hall of Fame at the 2015 Council Meeting in Louisville, KY were announced at the end of the meeting. Thank you to all Council Members and guests for your attendance and for the work performed during the Council Meeting.

Two Board of Directors meetings were held while in Sparks, Nevada. One prior to the beginning of the Council Meeting and the second immediately following the Council Meeting. I am extremely proud to be a part of this Board of Directors, a great group of volunteers who give of their valuable time unselfishly to ensure that our association remains solidly solvent fiscally and provide policy to keep us administratively strong. The Board of Directors has taken difficult and in some cases bold action in the past year, with more on the horizon. Each was done with much deliberation after receiving all information available. All was done with only the best interest of ASA/USA Softball in mind. Thank you.
to each member of the Board of Directors for your time, your leadership and your devotion to ASA/USA Softball.

But, there is no rest for the weary! We start the New Year with three of our national teams in camp or tryouts beginning on January 2 at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, California. The Junior Women’s Team will hold an Open Camp/Tryouts, followed by tryouts for the Women’s National Team and ending the week with a Men’s National Team tryout. Not to be left out, our Umpire Program will hold its Biennial National UIC Clinic on February 5-7 in Oklahoma City. Please look through this publication and the soon to be published “December Inside Pitch” for more information on these and other events coming up at the beginning of the New Year as well as throughout the year.

I wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas. Have a safe and very happy holiday season!

Phil Gutierrez, President
ASA/USA Softball
THE LEAD OFF:
The 2014 National Softball Hall of Fame Class (L to R): Ron Radigonda, RB Thomas (ISF Hall of Fame), Craig Elliott, Darryl Day, Josh Harrison (for Ted Germain), Stacey Nuveman, Tommy Orndorff and Gregg Leather (for Bruce Tanski).
THE LEAD OFF:
The USA Softball Men's Fast Pitch National Team at the Pan American Championship in Parana, Argentina. Team USA qualified for both the ISF Men's World Championship and Pan American Games next summer after placing fourth at the tournament.
Every year, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America has 924,000 Junior Olympic (JO) athletes playing on more than 77,000 teams while over 1 million adults play on 88,000 teams across the United States. Meet Nadia, Kelsee, Lindsey and Gia, four athletes who play ASA/USA Softball!

**NADIA N., 9**
Hamlin, New York  
Rochester Lady Lions  
Girls’ 10-Under Fast Pitch  
Pitcher, Infield

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL**
Playing in tournaments

**GOAL**
To play D-I softball someday

**Proudest Moment**
Striking out 89 batters last season

**TOUGHEST OBSTACLE**
Overcoming arm surgery in 2013 and getting full use of my arm

**ROLE MODELS**
Jennie Finch, Cat Osterman and my neighbor Taylor Light who will pitch at the University of Buffalo.
FACES ON THE FIELD

KELSEE B., 14
Spring, Texas
Spring Stampede 2000
Girls’ 14-Under Fast Pitch
Catcher, Infield

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SOFTBALL
I know that I have nine sisters on the field to help me out.

GOAL
My goals for softball are next year as a freshman at Spring High to get on the varsity team and play through high school, then get a scholarship for any college, not just for softball but for academics also.

ROLE MODELS
Jennie Finch, Cat Osterman, and Mackenzie Vandergeest

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
The toughest obstacle I think I have ever faced is when I was younger and I made a mistake I would be extremely hard on myself because I knew that I should’ve or could’ve done whatever it was better. Over the years I have gotten better at this as I have gotten better and I realized that there is no point on being so hard on yourself and actually it tears you down instead of building you up. Once I learned this, that’s when I began to get better and it made the game a lot more fun and enjoyable.
LINDSEY H., 12
Norton, Ohio.
Ohio Ice - Red
Girls’ 12-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher, First Base

HER START
I first played baseball when I was 6 years old. I started playing fast pitch softball when I was 7 years old.

GOAL
To be the best that I can be and help my team anyway I can. Also to play for the Oklahoma Sooners!

WHY I LOVE SOFTBALL
I love to pitch and being part of a team. I like the feeling of know that when I work hard it will pay off when I’m on the mound.

PROUDEST MOMENT
Winning the ASA 10U Class A Eastern National Championship. It was very exciting to pitch and help my team win.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
Ten days after winning the ASA National Championship, our coach passed away from pancreatic cancer. It was really hard for all of my teammates. We still play for him every game!
Do you want to be profiled in “Balls and Strikes Online Softball Magazine” in the future?
Click here for information on how to submit your profile and photo

FACES ON THE FIELD

GIA R., 17
Hamlin, New York
Rochester Lady Lions
Girls’ 10-Under Fast Pitch
Pitcher, Infield

HER START
I started playing rec league softball when I was 7. I didn’t start out as a pitcher, but the coach asked if anyone was a pitcher and nobody raised their hand. So when she asked if anyone wanted to pitch, I raised my hand and told her I’d like to try.

WHY I LOVE SOFTBALL
I have learned from my failings and cherished my successes. God has truly blessed me and shown me what His love is about so that I may share it with my teammates and coaches. I’m a loyal friend and teammate, I’ve learned to trust others, and softball has blessed me with an unfailing confidence.

GOALS
My first goal was to have the opportunity to play at the collegiate level and in November I signed my National Letter of Intent to play for Coach Moore at Baylor University. The next softball goal would be to play for Team USA.

ROLE MODELS
Jennie Finch, Keilani Ricketts, Jessica Mendoza, Lauren Chamberlain and Dot Richardson to name a few.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE
My disappointments came in the form of a fractured bone in my elbow twice (12 yrs, 14 yrs). Each time I found myself heartbroken and determined to come back better and stronger. It was through these tough times that I learned patience, faith and hope.
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UTAH LIBERTY HONORED WITH BRIGHT LIGHT AWARD, PRESENTED BY MUSCO LIGHTING

Mike Shindler, Regional Sales Manager for Musco Lighting, was on hand during the ASA’s Annual Council meeting in November to present the Utah Liberty with the Bright Light Award. The Utah Liberty’s dedication to volunteerism and community service helped the squad earn the 2014 Bright Light Award, presented by Musco Lightning. The Utah Liberty is the third team to earn the award and received 10 Bright Light Award t-shirts and a $2,000 credit to use towards tournament fees for any 2015 ASA/USA sanctioned events in the U.S. Pictured (L to R) are Mike Shindler, Codee Flores, Utah Liberty athletes, John Flores and Julie Bartel of ASA/USA Softball.

NEW ASA/USA COMMISSIONERS IN WISCONSIN AND NEW JERSEY

Two new Commissioners joined the ASA/USA Softball family following the Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada. Tom Rausch (Fond du Lac, Wis.) has been appointed the Wisconsin ASA/USA Commissioner while Michael Warner (Toms River, N.J.) comes on board as the New Jersey ASA/USA Commissioner. Both will begin their duties on January 1, 2015.

Michael Warner (far right) was recently appointed the New Jersey ASA/USA Commissioner
ASA/USA SOFTBALL TO HOLD OPEN TRYOUT FOR 2015 JUNIOR WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM

Players hoping to make the 2015 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team will have an opportunity to attend an open tryout on January 2, 2015 at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, Calif. Athletes who met the requirements signed up to attend the camp, where the top performers will be invited to attend the USA Softball Junior Women's National Team Selection Camp January 3-4. More information can be found at USASoftball.com.

WOMEN’S SPORTS FOUNDATION

WOMEN’S NATIONAL TEAM WINS GRANT

ASA/USA Softball was recently announced as a recipient of the Women’s Sports Foundation 2014 Travel and Training Fund grant. The USA Softball Women’s National Team is one of 23 grant recipients – and more than 80 athletes – and will receive $7,500 to support its travel and training for the 2015 season.

For more NEWS and NOTES visit ASASoftball.com and USASoftball.com
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At just 25 lbs. the JUGS Travel Screen® is perfect to take with you either by air or land.

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YOU TWEETED IT!

Here’s a collection of our favorite tweets that we have received from our followers over the past few weeks.

If I could have any #USAsoftball player on my team it would be... @Jolenecal54 @ASAUSASoftball #TeamUSA

—@SierraMackBay

Beautiful day for softball in Clearwater, FL! Watching some very talented young ladies in @ASAUSASoftball qualifier.

—@Coachchid

Congrats to 2014 #Gators signees @amandalorenzz and @AIM4TEAMUSA on invites to @ASAUSASoftball’s JWNT Selection Camp!

—@GatorZoneSball

Watching Lori pitch in a @ASAUSASoftball jersey gave me the goosebumps #usasoftball #idol #champ @biggestlosernbc

—@ChelseaSandahl

@ASAUSASoftball SLC Pegasus 14u takes 2nd in the ASA Utah Desert Classic 16u division in St George this weekend.

—@WeberBlue1

@ASAUSASoftball I am so honored and grateful to be one of your 2015 HOF Inductees! Indebted to my coaches and teammates! Thank you!

—@SueEnquist

@ASAUSASoftball mine is when we won the 16u Gold nationals in Broken Arrow #Summer 2014 #Fury97

—@JFortel14

S/O Kira Morgan and GA Impact Stewart for their win over '00 Frost Falcons and a berth to 2015 @ ASAUSASoftball nats!

—@MogiMo99

@ASAUSASoftball Chattanooga Force qualified for 2015 ASA Nationals in Spartanburg SC.

—@ChattForce97

Tweet at us for a chance to see your tweet in the next issue! @ASAUSASoftball
It’s been almost a year since Craig Cress took over the role of Executive Director for ASA/USA Softball, and what a year it turned out to be! From start to finish, it’s been another great year for the organization due in large to the efforts Cress has taken to ensure that ASA/USA continues to be the leader in softball in the United States. We caught up with Craig after the ASA/USA Annual Meeting to get his thoughts on his first year in office, and what he sees for the future of the association.

**Bo-S: What a busy year for ASA/USA Softball!!**

**What are some of the challenges you faced in your first year?**

**Craig:** Not sure I would call them challenges - I look at them more as opportunities. We had room for improvement so it was a matter of making sure that the staff and our council members knew that thinking outside of box was a great and needed opportunity. We have an extremely talented staff and it was important for them to feel comfortable in their roles. I only asked for two things from staff members - one, do not let something blindside us at the director level and two, please do not make the same mistake twice. We do so much work for a staff our size and mistakes are going to happen - just learn from them and move on!!

We have to continue to look for opportunities for improvement in our sport - we are the NGB and must be the leaders in printing our great sport!!

**Bo-S: What changes have you noticed with ASA/USA Softball since becoming Executive Director?**

**Craig:** We have made significant strides in improving our community involvement and being responsible corporate partners with the City of Oklahoma City. The City of Oklahoma City, Mayor Cornett and the City Council have done so much in securing the NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) for many years to come - it is our job to continue providing a world class facility and venue that any person would want to experience.

I believe that our ASA/USA Softball Council has a great appetite for change, positive change, and it is our duty to lead those opportunities.

**Bo-S: What are some things you learned or were surprised to discover this past year?**

**Craig:** No big surprises - just confirmation of how great an organization we have and how fortunate we are to be a part of the present and the future!! We have potential for growth and should always make decisions based on what is the best for our sport and membership.

**Bo-S: Something you implemented this year was a weekly Twitter Q&A. How did that turn out?**

**Craig:** I thought that they started great, but for many reasons they seemed to lose steam, mostly because of my schedule. I am thinking about changing the day and time for 2015 moving to an evening timeframe so more people are available to ask questions - we may even get live questions from the ball fields as things happen in the game. Questions are always welcome and makes for a better session.
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**2014 BY THE NUMBERS**

- **14,230** Attendance at the General Tire World Cup of Softball IX in Irvine, California in 2014
- **151,393** Teams (Adult and Youth) registered with the Amateur Softball Association/USA Softball in 2014 *(as of Nov. 30)*
- **25,885** Umpires registered with the Amateur Softball Association/USA Softball in 2014 *(as of Nov. 30)*
- **595** Junior Olympic teams qualified and competed in one of the ASA/USA “Big 7” National Championships in 2014
- **59** ASA National Championships Received an overall rating of 95% or greater in 2014 (Adult and Youth)
- **422** Teams from 35 states competed at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 2014
- **79,000** Spectators at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City *(due to construction)*
- **25,705** ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) Coaches certified through the Amateur Softball Association in 2014
- **70,265** Coaches and support staff were background checked through the Amateur Softball Association in 2014
- **.50** (500,000 households) Highest rated game of the General Tire World Cup of Softball – USA vs. Canada, Championship Game on ESPN
**HOW TEAM USA CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS**

It’s the most wonderful time of the year! Balls and Strikes Online caught up with members of Team USA to ask them about their favorite Holiday memories and what they’re asking Santa for this year...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATHLETE</th>
<th>Favorite Holiday Tradition</th>
<th>Holiday Plans This Year</th>
<th>Best Christmas Movie</th>
<th>Favorite Christmas Carol</th>
<th>Favorite Holiday Snack</th>
<th>Favorite Starbucks Holiday Drink</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RAVEN CHAVANNE</td>
<td>Driving around with my siblings, looking at lights while playing Christmas music</td>
<td>With friends in Tennessee, then flying home to California to be with family</td>
<td>That's tough! Either The Holiday, Love Actually, Home Alone or The Grinch (cartoon)</td>
<td>Anything by Michael Buble or Mariah Carey</td>
<td>Candy canes</td>
<td>Peppermint Mocha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYLIE McCLENLEY</td>
<td>Decorating the tree with family while watching a Christmas movie. A perfect start!</td>
<td>Spending the entire break I have with my family</td>
<td>Christmas Vacation with Chevy Chase</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sugar cookies</td>
<td>Not big into Starbucks, but I LOVE hot chocolate during the holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMANDA CHIDESTER</td>
<td>Seeing the tree and presents together as a family then battling for good seat on the couch</td>
<td>Spending time with all of my family</td>
<td>I love all The Santa Clause movies with Tim Allen</td>
<td>Baby, it's cold outside!</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pumpkin Spice latte but I love Caramel Brulée latte too</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JOSH JOHNSON, USA SOFTBALL MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM**  
I would like a new bat since mine had a hole in it while we were playing at the Pan American Championship. I’d also like some new shades since I hear the sun is intense in Saskatoon in June and Toronto in July.

**ZANE CHASON, USA SOFTBALL JUNIOR MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM**  
At the top of my Christmas wish list is a red, white and blue Mizuno MVP Prime glove. It’s the glove that I would like to wear while pitching for Team USA in the 2016 Junior Men’s ISF World Championship.

**MATT PALAZZO, USA SOFTBALL MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM**  
My wish list consists of a 34/28 Easton Synergy Extended and a Dr. Dre Beats “pill” speaker.

**TYLER BOULEY, USA SOFTBALL JUNIOR MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM**  
I’m asking for new catcher’s and fielder’s gloves!
Searching for the best deals this holiday season? Sometimes, shopping for everyone on your list can be hard work! With the holiday’s right around the corner, we’re highlighting some gift ideas for any softball fan!

Rock the latest softball fashion trends! From t-shirts to jewelry, we’ve got you covered!

We’ve got the latest styles to keep you warm during the off season! From hats to cozy pants and comfy sweaters, you’ll always stay in style!

Still stumped on what to get everyone on your Christmas list? Line your walls with some awesome posters!

Dress like members of Team USA! Show off your #USAPride with these official Nike dry-fit t-shirts!

The perfect stocking stuffers! Glam up your uniform with these Glam Bands, softball earrings and hacky sacks!

Need to send Christmas cards? SoftballOutlet.com has eight sets of softball-themed Christmas cards on sale for as low as $7.95
Another season of ASA/USA Softball has come and gone as over 650 Council Members, exhibitors, equipment manufacturers and National Office Staff headed to Reno, Nevada, for the ASA/USA Annual Meeting. What happens at the Annual Meeting you ask? This year from November 8-15, ASA/USA Council Members and guests engaged in a week full of meetings, presentations, discussions and training sessions to discuss the association needs and proposed rule and code changes.

Kicking off the week-long event this year was the 2014 National Softball Hall of Fame induction ceremony, where Darryl Day (Fast Pitch Player), Craig Elliott (Slow Pitch Player), Ted Germain (Umpire – Posthumous), Stacey Nuveman (Fast Pitch Player), Tommy Orndorff (Manager), Ron Radigonda (Meritorious Service) and Bruce Tanski (Sponsor) were honored. Fans can watch the induction ceremony at USASoftball.com.

On Sunday, the General Council met for the first time at the opening session. Larry Montgomery, the Deputy Director for the Southern Territory, kicked off the opening session with an unforgettable tribute to the United States Armed Forces. Following the tribute, ASA/USA President Phil Gutierrez and Executive Director Craig Cress addressed the Council on current association news. Members of the Utah Liberty were also presented with the 2014 Bright Light Award, presented by Musco Lighting.

On Monday and Tuesday, several committee and territory meetings took place to discuss important pieces of legislation, elect representatives for territorial seats on the ASA/USA Softball Board of Directors. Council Members were also offered several training sessions that covered topics such as Techniques and Tools to Reach Different ASA Markets, Best Practices and Social Media.

Story continues on next page >
On Wednesday afternoon, over 100 individuals/associations received awards at the Wilson Sports Goods Awards luncheon. In the service award category, 34 members were honored for their five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 50 years of service to the organization. Another 20 were given benchmark awards for increases in the registering of adult and youth teams and umpires. For a complete list of honors, click here.

The annual trade show capped off Wednesday evening with over 70 exhibitors in attendance. Exhibits ranged from cities bidding for the ASA/USA National Championships, equipment manufacturers, softball suppliers and the ASA/USA Softball National Office staff. More than 600 council, association delegates and visitors attended the trade show.

Thursday marked the last day of the Council Meeting as the General Council voted on the host cities for the 2016 ASA/USA National Championships and territory meetings voted on their host cities for the 2016 territorial National Championships.

**IN OTHER NEWS**

The sites for the 2016 National Championships were announced. [Click here for the host cities.](#)

For 2015 Rule and Code changes that were voted on during the Council Meeting, please [click here.](#)
The city of York, Pennsylvania is rich in American history. Known as the birthplace of the Articles of Confederation, the city would also serve as a temporary capital for the Continental Congress.

For a city that formed a building block of our nation, sports also have a storied history within the city. Since its founding in 1933, ASA/USA Softball has been the “Game America Plays”, and York, Penn. is no exception.

In recent years, York has hosted an ASA/USA Girls’ Eastern National Championship every year since 2004, their most recent being the 2014 ASA/USA Girl’s 16U and 18U Class B Eastern National Championship. The city also hosts GOLD Territorial Qualifiers and the Pennsylvania ASA State Championships. To learn more about York, Penn., visit YorkPa.org/Sports.

Christina Smith, of Sport York, is pictured with Minnesota ASA JO Commissioner Tom Bye at the ASA/USA Annual Meeting Tradeshow.

The Maryland Crush claimed the ASA/USA Girls’ 16U B Eastern National Championship while the Milton Panthers took home the 18U B Eastern trophy.
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### 2015 ASA National Umpire Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ft. Worth, TX</td>
<td>Dec. 5-7, 2014</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tim Ellis</td>
<td>817-247-5467</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tellis@triumphgroup.com">tellis@triumphgroup.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbridge, VA</td>
<td>Jan. 16-18, 2015</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bob Angeli</td>
<td>703-599-0016</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bob.angeli@cox.net">bob.angeli@cox.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumming, GA</td>
<td>Feb. 20-22, 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jim Hiett</td>
<td>404-275-8361</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jim_asatrainer@comcast.net">jim_asatrainer@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling Green, KY</td>
<td>Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2015</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brenda Petty</td>
<td>270-779-2689</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bpettyasa@aol.com">bpettyasa@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsboro, OR</td>
<td>March 6-8, 2015</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Don Alexander</td>
<td>541-821-8698</td>
<td><a href="mailto:archer.502001@gmail.com">archer.502001@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratford, CT</td>
<td>March 13-15, 2015</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tony Roberto</td>
<td>203-878-4996</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robertojr0089@yahoo.com">robertojr0089@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester, MN</td>
<td>April 10-12, 2015</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ed Hruska</td>
<td>507-208-0450</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ehruska@rochsports.com">ehruska@rochsports.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casper, WY</td>
<td>April 24-26, 2015</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Fran O’Donnell</td>
<td>307-267-5410</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wyoasauic@aol.com">wyoasauic@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>May 29-31, 2015</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dee Fick</td>
<td>513-563-2755</td>
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For more information on ASA National Umpire Schools click here!
For the first time since 2003, the USA Softball Men’s National Team will compete at the Pan American Games after qualifying at the Pan American Championship in Parana, Argentina last October. Team USA finished fourth out of eight teams and finished with a 4-4 record.

Led by Head Coach Denny Bruckert, the U.S. saw some tough competition throughout the event, giving up just 18 runs in eight games played while scoring 14 runs against their opponents. As a team, the men combined for a .175 batting average while the pitching staff fanned 78 batters en route to a staff ERA of 1.305.

By placing fourth, the USA qualified for both the International Softball Federation (ISF) Men’s World Championship, slated for June 26-July 5 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada and the 2015 Pan American Games which are July 10-26 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

To keep up with the USA Softball Men’s National Team, visit USASoftball.com!
INFIELD CONDITIONS: STABILIZED

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

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During each Pledge season, youth sports teams from around the country compete to recruit their supporters to pledge to promote good sportsmanship. At the end of the period, the five Large Division teams and the five Small Division teams with the most Pledges will each earn $2,500 to help support their team. In the past, teams have used the monies to fund player scholarships, purchase new uniforms or equipment, pay for team travel expenses, or create opportunities for underprivileged kids in the area who want to play.

We have three periods annually for your supports to Pledge and assign their point to your organization:
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• Fall: August 15 – October 15
• Winter: November 15 – January 15

The Winter season ends on January 15, 2015. TAKE THE PLEDGE TODAY!
2014 LOCAL CHAMPIONS
BY REGION

CINCINNATI
Adult
Men’s Major SP
Sonny’s
Men’s C SP
EMR
Men’s D SP
White Castle/SOP/Chics
Men’s E SP
Loose Cannons/Planet Fitness
Men’s 35-Over SP
Premier Services
Men’s Open SP
Premier Services
Men’s Rec SP
Cincy Ball Busters
Men’s Open Industrial
Pipefitters/Blue Local 392
Men’s C Industrial
Rehage Landscaping
Women’s D SP
Godbey/Jakes Auto/Belly’s
Coed Rec SP
Loose Cannons/Velocity
Coed Comp SP
Mich Ultra
Girls’ 12-Under A
Heartland Havoc
Girls’ 14-Under A
BNGSA Angels
Girls’ 16-Under A
Diamond Storm Elite
Girls’ 18-Under A
Extreme Havoc
Girls’ 10-Under B
Chaos Crush
Girls’ 12-Under B
Morton Mystics
Girls’ 14-Under B
Morton Mystics
Girls’ 16-Under B
CASA Gators
Girls’ 18-Under B
Canton Lady Giants
Coed C SP
Jacksonville Ball Park Motors
MICHIGAN
Youth
Girls’ 12-Under A
Michigan Pride
Girls’ 14-Under A
Lakeside Pirates
Girls’ 16-Under A
Team Michigan
Girls’ 18-Under A
Michigan Athletics
Girls’ 10-Under B
Eagles Fastpitch
Girls’ 12-Under B
Michigan Hawks
Girls’ 14-Under B
MBS Jets
Girls’ 16-Under B
Saginaw Bay Lady Riverdawgs
Girls’ 18-Under B
Godbey/Jakes Auto/Belly’s
Men’s D SP
Player’s Choice/Elite
Men’s E SP
Diamond Kingz/Hovingh
Men’s F SP
Dawg Pound
Men’s 35-Over Div I
State Bar/Robin’s Roost
Men’s 35-Over Div II
Fireball Tribe/BW3
Men’s 16-Inch SP
Scrappers’
Men’s 9-Man Modified A
Secory Flyers
Men’s 9-Man Modified B
Cheap Charlie’s
Men’s 10-Man Modified A
Team Stats
Men’s 10-Man Modified B
Cheap Charlie’s
Women’s D SP
HM Xpress
Women’s E SP
Rip It Softball
Coed D SP
Multi Scoregasms
Coed E SP
Outlaws

ALASKA
Youth
Girls’ 8-Under
FS&G GreenBeans
Girls’ 10-Under
Jolly Roger Jets
Girls’ 12-Under
Arctic Heat
Girls’ 14-Under
Arctic Storm
Girls’ 18-Under
Arctic Storm
Adult
Men’s Comp
Far North/Mass X
Men’s C
Gallo’s
Men’s D
Sanford
Women’s C
Ballz Deep
Women’s D
Cleats & Cleavage
Coed Comp
Titans
Coed C
Eddie’s Bad News Beers
Coed D
Hot Shots
Men’s Open
Titan’s
Men’s Rec
Gala’s
Men’s Industrial
Manco’s
CASA Gators
Girls’ 10-Under A
Heartland Havoc
Girls’ 12-Under A
Lakeview
Girls’ 14-Under A
Diamond Storm Elite
Girls’ 16-Under A
Icy Breeze
Girls’ 18-Under A
Extreme Havoc
Girls’ 10-Under B
Chaos Crush
Girls’ 12-Under B
Morton Mystics
Girls’ 14-Under B
Morton Mystics
Girls’ 16-Under B
CASA Gators
Girls’ 18-Under B
Canton Lady Giants
Adult
Men’s C FP
Central Illinois Knights
Men’s D FP
Belleville Stallions
Men’s E FP
Precision Recovery
Men’s Rec FP
Belleville Stallions
Men’s Open FP
Belleville Stallions
Men’s Rec SP
Belleville Stallions
Men’s Rec SP
Belleville Stallions
Men’s D SP
Kankakee Off in the Dugout
Men’s E SP
Decatur Elite
Coed C SP
Jacksonville Ball Park Motors

Story continues on next page >
### New Hampshire

**Youth**
- Girls’ 10-Under A FP New Hampshire Comets
- Girls’ 12-Under A FP New Hampshire Lightning
- Girls’ 14-Under A FP New England Diamond Gems Elite
- Girls’ 16-Under A FP USA Lady Mavericks Red

**Adult**
- Men’s D SP Craig & Gatzoulis
- Men’s 10-Man Modified B Plumbob
- Men’s 10-Man Modified C Engrave-It
- Men’s 10-Man Modified D KPMB Enterprises
- Men’s 10-Man Modified E People’s Linen
- Women’s C Modified Byron’s Septic

### North Carolina

**Youth**
- Girls’ 10-Under A FP Lady Blues
- Girls’ 12-Under A FP Lady Lightning 01
- Girls’ 14-Under A FP Team NC Holmes
- Girls’ 16-Under A FP Team NC Trull
- Girls’ 18-Under A FP Team NC Louisville Slugger

**Adult**
- Men’s Div I SP Mandan Heartland Investors
- Men’s Div II SP Mandan Action Sports
- Men’s Div III SP Fargo Dirt Dynamics/Fat Tire/ Hooligan’s
- Men’s Rec 1 SP Mandan Boulder Homes
- Men’s Rec II East SP Devils Lake Proz/DVYA
- Men’s Rec II West SP Bismarck Expressway Suites/ Simonson’s
- Men’s Rec III East SP Valley City John Deere Seeding
- Men’s Rec III West SP Center Merchants
- Men’s IV East SP Fargo Riding the Pine
- Men’s IV West SP LaMoure Choice Financial
- Men’s 35-Over Div I SP Mandan Roughrider Resources
- Men’s 35-Over Div II SP Bismarck Dakota Mini-Storage
- Men’s 35-Over Div III SP Bismarck Corral Bar
- Men’s 40-Over Div I Bismarck Stadium
- Men’s 40-Over Div II Valley City Elliott Farms
- Men’s 50 Wood Bat Mandan Dust-Tex
- Women’s D SP West Fargo Town Hall Bar
- Women’s Rec I SP Jamestown Allied Agronomy
- Women’s Rec II SP Fargo Dirty Turfettes
- Women’s Rec III East SP Fargo Ness Flooring/Carousel

### North Dakota

**Youth**
- Girls’ 14-Under SP Medina
- Girls’ 18-Under SP Medina
- Girls’ 10-Under FP Bismarck
- Girls’ 12-Under FP West Fargo Impact

**Adult**
- Men’s B SP TFA
- Men’s C SP MidAmerica/ShirtDrs.com
- Men’s D SP Sandbaggers
- Men’s E SP Free Agents
- Men’s F SP Flippin’ Ink
- Men’s Church SP Edge Church
- Women’s D SP Wicked
- Women’s Rec III West SP Jamestown Shady’s
- Women’s Div I SP Bismarck BDS Concrete
- Women’s Div II SP Oakes Rudy’s
- Women’s Div III SP Jamestown Tom’s Electric

### Oklahoma

**Youth**
- Girls’ 12-Under FP Oklahoma Force 01
- Girls’ 14-Under FP Oklahoma Bandits
- Girls’ 16-Under FP Oklahoma Ultimate Gold
- Girls’ 18-Under FP Oklahoma Storm

**Adult**
- Men’s C Level 1 FP R.M. Kurtz
- Men’s C Level 2 SP Steve’s Stump Removal
- Men’s D SP PA Aftershock 96

### Pennsylvania

**Youth**
- Girls’ 10-Under B FP Central PA Krunch
- Girls’ 12-Under B FP PA Power Elite
- Girls’ 14-Under A FP PA Strikers Black
- Girls’ 14-Under B FP Milton Elite
- Girls’ 16-Under A FP Lower South Liberty Elite
- Girls’ 16-Under B FP Mifflin County High Intensity
- Girls’ 18-Under A FP Sports Connection
- Girls’ 18-Under B FP PT’s Late Night/ NES

**Adult**
- Men’s C SP PT’s Late Night/NES
- Men’s D SP PA Aftershock 96

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*Story continues on next page*
2014 LOCAL CHAMPIONS BY REGION

NORTH DAKOTA - MEN’S D2 SP - FAT TIRE/ FARGO DIRT DYNAMICS/HOOLIGAN’S

Men’s D 2 East SP
Chickie’s & Pete’s

Men’s D 2 West SP
Giannilli’s II

Men’s E East SP
Gibbon’s Legal

Men’s E West SP
BCB Beaver County Brew Crew

Men’s 35-Over D Rec SP
Chub’s Pub

Men’s 40-Over SP
Station House/Brown Assoc.

Men’s 45-Over D Rec SP
Not Too Old Navy

Men’s 50-Over SP
Not Too Old Navy

Men’s 55-Over SP
Roadhouse Blues/Score Card

Men’s 60-Over SP
Roadhouse Blues

Men’s 10-Man A Modified
Zachary Mowry

Men’s 10-Man B East Modified
Wargo Flooring

Men’s 10-Man B West Modified
Millerstown Inn

Men’s 10-Man C East Modified
The Bats/Swan Hotel

Men’s 10-Man C West Modified
V.F.W.

Men’s 10-Man Church Modified
Stillwaters Presbyterian

Women’s C SP
Café 99

Women’s D SP
Tony’s G’s

Women’s E SP
Justus Softball

Coed B SP
Pinnacoli Law

Coed C East SP
Fully Loaded

Coed D East SP
Two Cousins

SOUTH DAKOTA

Youth
Girls’ 10-Under SP
Shelby, SD

Girls’ 12-Under SP
Ipswich Crush

Girls’ 14-Under SP
Ipswich Blast

Girls’ 16-Under SP
Jurgens Printing

Girls’ 18-Under SP
Huron Heat

Boys’ 12-Under SP
Service Plus

Boys’ 14-Under SP
Honey Badgers 14U

Boys’ 16-Under SP
Honey Badgers 16U

Boys’ 18-Under SP
Primetime Golden Seals

Girls’ 10-Under East FP
Brandon Rage

Girls’ 10-Under West FP
Sizzle

Girls’ 12-Under A FP
Diamonds Steele

Girls’ 12-Under B FP
Brandon Shock

Girls’ 12-Under C East FP
PT Sliders

Girls’ 12-Under C West FP
Cure

Girls’ 14-Under A FP
SD Renegades Gold

Girls’ 14-Under B FP
Diamond Eclipse

Girls’ 14-Under C East FP
Brandon Power

Girls’ 14-Under C West FP
Flandreau

Girls’ 16-Under A FP
SD Flash

Girls’ 16-Under B FP
Drake Fastpitch

Girls’ 16-Under C West FP
Black Hills Rebels

Girls’ 16-Under C East FP
Harrisburg Tigers

Girls’ 18-Under A FP
Midwest Dirt Devils

Girls’ 18-Under B FP
SD Stomp

Girls’ 18-Under C FP
Riot

Adult
Women’s Div 1 SP
Silver Dollar

Women’s Div 2 SP
Rockham SD

Women’s Div 3 SP
Missouri River Outfitters

Women’s Div 4 SP
Cubby’s Bud Light

Women’s Div 5 SP
East Bully’s Chop House
West Denture Clinic

Women’s Div 6 East SP
Lorenzen Auction

Women’s Div 6 SP
West State Farm/Vern Eide

Women’s 35-Over SP
Sioux Falls Chiropractic

Men’s B-C Open SP
River Ridge

Men’s Div D SP
Cubby’s Softball

Men’s Div E East SP
The Pack

Men’s Div E West SP
Prairie Phoenix

Men’s Rec 1 East SP
Dental Solutions

Men’s Rec 1 West SP
Bauman Lumber

Men’s Rec 2 East SP
Vision Care

Men’s Rec 2 West SP
Tipton Grease Organics

Men’s 16” SP
Dahme Construction

Men’s 14” 35-Over A SP
Lagers/Coors Light

Men’s 14” 35-Over B SP
Subway

Men’s 14” A SP
WD/Woody’s

Men’s 14” B SP
O’s Rebels/Bryce Nation

Men’s 14” C SP
H.O.B.

Men’s 14” C Consolation
Dog Shop/Bud & Owens

Coed B SP
The Draft

Coed C SP
Marquart Transportation

Men’s Open FP
Rocks

Men’s Master’s FP
Scarlett O’Hara’s

UTAH

Youth
Girls’ B 10-Under FP
Thunder-Whiting

Girls’ B 12-Under FP
Utah Hot Shotz

Girls’ B 14-Under FP
Utah EVO

Girls’ B 16-Under FP
Firebirds

Girls’ B 18-Under FP
Flames
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2015 CF7 Lineup

See them here.
WBSC WELCOMES OLYMPIC AGENDA 2020 REFORMS AS NEW ERA FOR SPORTS AND ATHLETES

The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) joins the worldwide chorus of support following the successful reception and endorsement of key Olympic Agenda 2020 reforms at the extraordinary IOC session in Monaco today, particularly regarding the adoption of a more flexible Olympic sports program.

On behalf of the worldwide baseball and softball family, WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari congratulated and thanked IOC President Thomas Bach, the IOC Members and working groups for leading and driving the reforms, which sport experts say will open a new chapter in world sport.

“The WBSC fully shares the IOC’s vision of Olympic reform under President Bach, and stands ready to support and assist the Olympic Movement in implementing the reforms, wherever baseball and softball can help,” President Fraccari said.

“Above all the Olympic Games is the world’s most inspirational sporting event, and the Agenda 2020 reforms will inspire more young people and women, who are the future of all sports, to take up more sport and to participate in sport and in the values of sport, and make sport more relevant to the next generation, and as a catalyst for change in our communities and societies,” President Fraccari said.

President Fraccari indicated that the WBSC would wait for guidance and direction from the IOC and the Tokyo 2020 organizers to determine how the new reforms could involve baseball and softball.

As potential Olympic sports, baseball and softball -- sports that embody and promote gender-equality -- would also help to take the Olympic values and focus on sport to 65 million players and 250 million fans at all levels worldwide, and make the Olympic Games more relevant in more regions of the world where baseball and softball are growing in popularity, especially among young people and women, and have become national sports.

President Fraccari said that as the world governing body overseeing baseball and softball, the WBSC is humbled by the opportunity provided by the reforms to be included in the Olympic Games which enable future Olympic host cities and organizing committees, including Tokyo 2020, to include additional sporting events in the Olympic sports program, which could potentially include baseball and softball, two of the most popular sports in the world that have experienced a wave of global development in recent years.

The new more flexible approach to Olympic sport approved by the IOC session has provided a massive boost of optimism and hope that the changes could result in baseball and softball joining the Olympic Games sports program.

“It’s like when the manager calls you off the bench to pick up the bat and warm up, and the bases are loaded,” President Fraccari said. “All you want to do is swing for the fences!”

“Today, there is excitement circulating around the baseball and softball world and there is great hope that our athletes will now have a real opportunity -- the pinnacle and highest honor in our sport -- to play for their country, aiming to win an Olympic gold medal.

“The reforms herald a new era for sports and athletes worldwide, and provide important hope and inspiration for sports and athletes wanting to participate in the world’s most important global sporting event, the Olympic Games,” said President Fraccari.

The world governing body leader was confident that if included, baseball and softball could significantly enhance the Olympic experience, building on the vast fan, player and community support levels for the bat-and-ball sports worldwide.

“While baseball and softball have very deep historic and contemporary connections in sporting communities and at all levels of society in Japan, the sports are experiencing worldwide popularity and growth, with new as well as existing and upgraded venues able to host the sports in both traditional and new markets in Africa, the Middle East as well as in Europe,” he said.

President Fraccari said the huge legions of young people and women who play and support baseball and softball at all levels across the world, along with strong sponsor, broadcaster and viewing audiences and support would increase levels of excitement and engagement at the Olympic Games.

President Fraccari said the WBSC had devised a new shorter and more compact format for Olympic baseball and softball which included the use of a shared and existing competition venue in order to ensure the baseball and softball events were sustainable and affordable and leave meaningful sporting and community legacies for young people and women after the Games.
It's been quite some time since a city has hosted an ASA/USA Boys' Slow Pitch National Championship. To be exact, it's been 11 years as the last champion to be crowned was Toshiba (16U) and Pepsi Rebels (18U) in 2003. This reality is ultimately what fueled Indiana ASA former President and local commissioner Butch Lehman to bring boys slow pitch back on the national scene. The idea paid off as Kendallville, Ind. hosted the 16-Under and 18-Under Boys' Slow Pitch National Championship this past year.

Starting at the grassroots level, Lehman organizes a local youth slow pitch league in Indiana, which is where the idea to introduce the teams to a national tournament began. Lehman, who hosts the Indiana ASA/USA Boys’ Slow Pitch State Championship, saw the opportunity to host a National Championship and never looked back. We spoke with Lehman and Indiana ASA/USA Commissioner Mick Reneissen about what went into hosting the Boys’ Slow Pitch National Championship, and here's what they had to say:

Bo-S: Indiana has hosted several Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championships in the past. Do you think that passion helped lead to the success of a youth slow pitch championship?
Mick: While we do still have a viable Men’s Fast Pitch program in Indiana, I think our strength is in slow pitch where we register more than 3,000 teams. That means many young adults are exposed to slow pitch by their parents who may play or by just watching games at Indiana parks.
Bo-S: What led you to select Kendallville as the host for the Boys’ Slow Pitch Championship?
Mick: The success of any program relies on good people. Butch is relentless in promoting the sport of softball. While his park in Topeka, Indiana isn’t large enough to host a national, he recommended using a neighboring facility in Kendallville for this event. After inspecting the site and meeting with the staff and Butch at the facility, it clearly was a site that met ASA/USA standards for a national tournament. Bottom line: I had the utmost confidence that Butch would put on a first class event that Indiana and the ASA/USA National Office would be proud of.

Bo-S: Butch, it’s been over 10 years since an ASA/USA Boys’ Slow Pitch Championship has been held. What led your team to try to revitalize the program?
Butch: I realized that we had a unique situation here in that we and a community in Ohio has a number of teams that we thought just might be interested in playing. We tried it and it worked!
Bo-S: What were some of the challenges you faced in preparing for this event?
Butch: Our photographer we had lined up to work the event was working at a camp for kids a few days before our tournaments started and had a kid that was bi-polar get upset and hit her so hard that it fractured her skull. So, we didn’t have her and had to scramble a little bit. Also, none of us had ever run a national championship, so we were rookies!

Bo-S: How did you get the word out about the National Championships?
Butch: I went to Holmes County, Ohio which is in the central part of the state in February to help promote it. We also met with Leroy “Pee Wee” Miller the District Commissioner, the local umpires, and Ohio ASA/USA Commissioner Warren Jones. They did a great job in helping promote it, especially Miller!

Bo-S: What are some of the highlights of that stand out in your mind from this year?
Butch: The Kendallville staff did a great job. They had a local 12-Under girls softball team that helped run the scoreboards and the skills competitions, but the kids that competed really thanked us for having a National Championship for them. They had a blast! We videotaped the Championship Games and players can buy them from our Facebook page!

Bo-S: What are some things you learned this year that you’ll use to help improve the Championships in 2015?
Butch: We have a Facebook page but we need to do better job using social media to promote it. Also, driving people to TournamentASA is definitely a must.

Bo-S: What can athletes and fans expect next year in Kendallville?
Butch: More teams, a smoother check-in process and better communication the day before the event! Also, we’ll have a 21-Under division!

For more information on the 2015 ASA/USA Boys’ Slow Pitch National Championship, visit USASoftball.com!
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ASA/USA SOFTBALL DONATES $6,000 TO SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE®

Seven years and counting as the Amateur Softball Association/USA Softball made a donation to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure of Central and Western Oklahoma last October during the Race for the Cure®.

The money, $6,000, was raised via an online auction of pink items used by the 2014 USA Softball Women’s National Team during July’s General Tire World Cup of Softball. This year’s donation brings ASA/USA Softball’s six year Susan G. Komen for the Cure donation total to $71,700.

“To be a part of such a great cause means a lot to me and my teammates,” said USA Softball infielder Lauren Gibson, whose signed jersey netted $435 in the Pink Auction. “Women of all ages have been affected by this disease and by donating our jerseys we have high hopes that they’ll one day find a cure.”

The USA Softball Women’s National Team donned pink uniforms in a “Pink Out” game during the General Tires World Cup of Softball in Irvine, Calif. to honor breast cancer survivors and create awareness for breast cancer research. In October, 18 items went up for bid on eBay, including not only the game worn jerseys of the National Team athletes, but also replica jerseys signed by the entire team and a pink USA Softball batting helmet.

Lauren Gibson’s game-worn jersey netted $435 in the Pink Auction.

Members of Team USA before the “Pink Out” game at the General Tire World Cup of Softball in Irvine, Calif.
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Madison Hayes, of Ooltewah, TN is the 2014 MLB Pitch, Hit & Run (PHR) National Champion in the 11/12 girls softball division. PHR is the official skills competition of MLB, designed for youth ages 7-14 to showcase their baseball and softball skills. Hayes competed locally in Chattanooga, attended the Team Championship at Turner Field, and was 1 of 12 girls to advance to the 2014 PHR National Finals in Minneapolis held at the MLB All-Star Game. Hayes took some time to answer a few questions about her experience with Pitch, Hit & Run!

**Bio Info:**

ASA Team/League(s): TN-ASA - Fury Fastpitch '01
Position(s): Catcher/Shortstop
Height: 5'8

**National Finalist Questionnaire:**

How did you find out about the Pitch, Hit & Run competition/who encouraged you to try PHR?

My mom is the Director of Recreation with City of Chattanooga and they have the competition every year. They asked me and my sister to do it a few a years ago and we've been doing it each year. It's a lot of fun!

What was your favorite element about PHR: Pitching, Hitting or Running? Did you practice a lot?

Hitting. Yes I had to practice a lot. Especially on focusing and not getting upset if I didn't have a great hit the first time. I kept saying in my head, "it just takes one".

What do you remember about the first time you stepped onto a Major League Field at the Team Championship (Turner Field)?

How big the field was and that I wanted to play on it.

Looking back at your PHR National Finals experience during All-Star Week, what was your favorite memory?

Meeting all of the other participants. I made some good friends and we still text each other now.

What was it like when you got home after the All-Star Game with peers, classmates, teammates, reporters, etc.?

I got a lot of attention before, during and after the competition. I felt like a super star! People were calling and interviewing me, I went on a radio show, I was recognized at City Council, and they are even making a Madison Hayes day in the City of Chattanooga for me. All of my friends were happy and my school teachers said they were so proud. Everywhere we went people would say congratulations and that they had seen me on TV. That was cool.

What advice would you give to young girls planning to compete in their local PHR competition?

I would say the two most important things are to practice and to have fun. It took me three times to make it to the National Finals.

Who are your softball idols?

Natasha Watley from UCLA and USA Softball. Also, Ellen and Ivy Renfroe from the University of Tennessee. I worked with Ellen and Ivy at an ASA National tournament and they were really nice. I threw out the first pitch to Ellen.

What are your goals for the next couple years?

Continue to work on my game and hopefully win an ASA National title. I want to play in college and win the College World Series too.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

PHR annually reaches over 600,000 boys and girls between the ages of 7 to 14. The program includes four levels of competition, with top performers in all 30 markets competing at Major League ballparks, followed by the National Finals at the MLB All-Star Game. PHR is FREE to both hosts and participants.

Register today to host a Local Competition – www.mlb.com/phr

TIMELINE/LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- Local Competitions: Administrative kits distributed to Local hosts in February with events being hosted in March, April or early May.
- Sectional Competitions: Local winners advance to Sectional Competitions in late May.
- Team Championships: Hosted in all 30 Major League Ballparks. Qualifiers compete in a pre-game competition and recognition ceremony.
- National Finals: The top participants nationwide take part in the National Finals competition as a part of MLB All-Star Week in July.

STEPS TO HOSTING A PHR LOCAL COMPETITION

- Register to Host: Visit www.mlb.com/phr and register your free event.
- Receive Support Materials: Receive a free administrative kit, which will include a handbook, strike zone banner, registration forms, posters, participation cards, awards, etc.
- Event Day: Host your 1-day competition with a handful of volunteers and pass along awards and advancement information to the winners (provided by PHR Headquarters).
- Report Results: Submit results online and mail in registration forms (pre-paid postage provided).

MLB Pitch, Hit & Run Headquarters
email: pitchhitrun@mlb.com • website: www.mlb.com/phr
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOUR HEALTH

Give your body the greatest gift this season by choosing to be active and indulge in healthy eating during the holidays. Now I know that many of us hear the word ‘healthy’ and think, “What side dish and dessert will I have to pass over this year at Christmas dinner so I don’t hate myself in the morning...” but in all reality, you don’t have to skip out on any of the goodness that comes with cherry pie and candied yams. Instead of skipping out on certain foods completely, try exchanging it for a healthier version. Sweet potatoes instead of mashed potatoes, (minimal) cranberry sauce instead of gravy -- it’s all about perspective. Perspective doesn’t just apply to healthy eating habits though, it also covers physical activity. When we hear ‘exercise,’ we think, “How many miles will I have to run to keep myself from waddling around like a penguin for the next 72 hours...” instead of other fun alternatives. Again, it’s all about perspective.

Here are a few tips to help you keep your holiday cheer bursting and not your holiday waistline:

**Don’t miss meals.** When I say don’t miss meals, I mean don’t think that skipping breakfast and lunch is a good way to prepare yourself for the holiday feast you are about to embark on. Eat small snacks prior to your celebratory meal to avoid over indulging from hunger.

**Choose white meat over dark meat.** Dark meat is packed with lots of wonderful flavor, but it is also packed with lots of fat and calories. Don’t like that painfully full and sleepy feeling after you eat? **Try cutting back on the turkey.** Turkey contains tryptophan which your body uses to produce serotonin. Serotonin helps your body to relax and sleep.

**Rolls. Oh those sweet, buttery, warm rolls...** Buns on the plate, buns on the body. Try to control yourself when passing the bread basket. Control means one roll, not “one roll for every trip I make back to the table.”

**Add some green to your plate.** Vegetables go a long way.

Everything looks amazing right? Go for it, try it all. **But try it all in small portions.**

Ways to measure portion size:

- **Meats** - size of your fist
- **Carbohydrates (potatoes, rice, bread etc.)** - palm of your hand
- **Vegetables** - half of your plate
- **Ideal plate proportions would be 1/3 meat, 1/3 carbs, 1/2 vegetables**

Story continues on next page >
**Maintain don’t gain.** Don’t wear your stretchy pants to the dinner table; then you’re just asking for trouble. Have the mindset that it’s just another regular ol’ really delicious, celebratory meal instead of “going HAM” and treating it like it’s the “last supper” (See what I did there?)

**Dessert: Treat yourself. To small portions.** Quality over quantity. Got a sweet tooth? Fruit is a natural sweetener. And it just so happens to be extremely good for your health. Also, that whip cream on top of your pumpkin pie ...He is not your friend.

**Exercise: Again, quality over quantity.** You don’t have to run a marathon to keep yourself from feeling guilty about eating Grandma’s homemade chocolate pecan pie. Just get out and be active for 30 minutes every day. Examples of being active for 30 minutes:

- Play with the dog
- Ride your bike
- Backyard football
- Go for a walk
- Wrestle your sibling
- Driveway basketball
- Build a Snowman
- Rollerskating
- Frisbee
- Rake the leaves
- Go for a hike
- Run a 5k
- Jog a 5k
- Walk a 5k
- **DO SOMETHING ... ANYTHING ... OUTSIDE!**

The point here is that you don’t need to invest in a gym membership for your 2-3 days (if you’re like my family) of holiday meal madness, just get outside and get moving. Trust me, your body will thank you later. And THAT my fellow feasters, is my guide to happy and healthy holiday eating. Hope you enjoy!
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CUSTOMIZE YOUR TEAM.

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JUST DO IT.
CHARLES MOSS, SR.
Lanexa, Va.
Meritorious Service

A cornerstone of umpiring in Virginia, Charles Moss, Sr. began his career in 1977 when he attended his first ASA rules and mechanics class. His love for the game took root that year, fostering a lifelong commitment to ASA/USA Softball. Two years after attending his first class he was appointed to the Central Virginia ASA staff as an Eastern District Commissioner and Umpire-in-Chief (UIC), positions which led to his attendance at several Regional and National Umpire Clinics. Not only was Moss active at an administrative level, he also continued his career as an ASA/USA Umpire. His dedication and commitment to the game helped launch his successful umpiring career and several honors have been bestowed upon Moss. In addition to umpiring at 10 ASA/USA National Championships and one International Softball Federation (ISF) event, he is a member of the ASA/USA Umpire Medals program at all levels and he’s a member of the National Indicator Fraternity. Moss is also a member of the Central Virginia ASA Hall of Fame and the National Senior Hall of Fame. Moss also has a strong commitment to Senior softball and has played a major role in the success of the program.

MIKE WHITE
Eugene, Ore.
Fast Pitch Player

One of the most respected pitchers in the game, Mike White put his teams on the map at both the national and international scene. A native of New Zealand, White spent some time as a member of their Men’s National Team before coming to the U.S. to begin his playing career in the Men’s Major division. White’s impressive resume includes nine ASA/USA All-American titles and three Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championships. White also has a storied career with the USA Softball Men’s National Team Program beginning in 1995 when he earned a silver medal at the Pan American Games in Mar Del Plata, Mexico. In his 11 years as a member of the Team USA, White helped guide the U.S. to three silver medals in the Pan American Games and one bronze medal at the ISF World Championship. He continues to help the National Team Program as a member of the coaching staff for the Women’s National Team and is also a member of the ISF Hall of Fame.

SUE ENQUIST
San Clemente, Calif.
Meritorious Service

A true icon in the softball world, Sue Enquist has been a driving force for the sport of softball at all levels for nearly four decades. Her resume alone speaks for itself. Enquist has three ASA/USA All-American titles, five ASA/USA National Championships, five Gold Medals as a member of the USA Softball Women’s National Team and three as a coach of the program. Perhaps her most notable accolades came during her time as the head coach of the UCLA Softball program. With a 27 year career at the helm of the Bruins, Enquist compiled an 887-175-1 record and 11 NCAA National Championships while producing 15 U.S. Softball Olympians and 65 NCAA All-Americans. Beyond her role as a coach and player, Enquist is highly regarded as a clinician and advocate for softball. A true legend of the game, Enquist continues to instill her passion and excellence to players and coaches around the country.

JOHN DAVIDE
Centereach, N.Y.
Slow Pitch Player

In a time where teams played fewer than 100 games a year, John Davide was a staple of the County Sports softball organization for many years. Known as an intense competitor, Davide was well known throughout the Men’s Major Slow Pitch world as an outstanding shortstop and a feared hitter. Many teammates, coaches and opponents often referred to him as the best home run hitting shortstop in the game. He left little to doubt, often hitting anywhere from 70 to 100 homeruns every year he played. Davide was a member of several ASA All-Tournament and All-American squads while capturing numerous Tournament MVP titles throughout his career. His playing accolades didn’t stop at the Major Slow Pitch level as he continued his playing career through the Master’s and Senior Softball divisions.
MARK INGRAO
Falls Church, Va.
Umpire

Mark began his umpiring career in 1974 at the age of 16 in Falls Church, Va. Five years later, he joined the Fairfax Softball Umpires Association and kicked off a career with ASA/USA Softball that spanned 25 years. His umpiring credits included two Central Atlantic Regional Slow Pitch Tournaments and six National Championships, including the first Men’s Master’s 35-Over in 1985. He then worked his first of four Super Slow Pitch National Championships in 1990. His final National Championship assignment came in 2002 when he umpired at the Slow Pitch Championship Series. Along with his National Tournament assignments, Ingrao is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity, an ISF Certified Umpire and an Elite Umpire in the slow pitch category. Ingrao also has several accomplishments as an administrator for the Central Atlantic Region, including serving as the Metro Washington DC Deputy Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) from 1989-2004. He also served on the National Umpire Staff from 2006-2012.

ANDY DOOLEY
Thanxton, Va.
Commissioner

Andy Dooley has a storied career with ASA/USA Softball beginning in 1984 when he served as an At-Large Player Rep for Piedmont VA ASA/USA. Ten years later, his commitment and dedication to the organization helped earn him the title of Commissioner and helped lead the association to one of the prominent in the Region. Along with his local accolades, Andy has made an impact at the National level, serving on the ASA/USA Board of Directors as the Eastern Territory Vice President and as the President of ASA/USA Softball from 2009-2011. Since 1992, the Piedmont VA ASA has held several ASA/USA events, including National Championships and USA Softball National Teams. Andy is also extremely active with the Special Olympics Program in both Virginia and on the National level and helped establish the ASA Special Programs Committee. Master’s and Senior Softball divisions.

STEVE PADILLA
Montejo, Calif.
Fast Pitch Player

In an era of iconic men’s fast pitch teams, Steve Padilla was a driving force from the circle. Starting out in the Men’s Class A division, Padilla led his team Tee House to the 1982 Men’s Class A Fast Pitch National title while earning ASA All-American honors. Once word of his pitching abilities spread, Padilla made the jump to the Men’s Major division and never looked back. Joining the California Kings in 1983, he would earn his first ASA/USA Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship the following year, helping his squad win 10-straight games en route to the title where he was also named the MVP. Padilla’s 5-0 performance at the National Championship while giving up just one unearned run helped him garner another ASA/USA All-American accolade. Through 10 additional seasons, Padilla earned three additional All-American honors with Guanella Brothers and the Nor Cal Merchants and earned a Men’s 40-Over National Championship in 1994 with the Merchants. Padilla also made a name for himself on the international scene as a member of the USA Softball Men’s National Team that claimed the silver medal at the 1987 Pan American Games. He also competed in five U.S. Olympic Festivals. Once his playing days came to an end, Padilla continued to play a role in men’s fast pitch as a coach in the National Team Program. Padilla served as an assistant coach for the 1999 Men’s National Team at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada and the ISF World Championship in Sydney, Australia. He also was an assistant coach for the Puerto Rican Women’s National Team at the 1996 Olympic Games in Athens, Ga.

BONNIE ANDERSON
Springfield, Ore.
Umpire

Ask anyone in the Northwest and they’d tell you that Bonnie Anderson was considered the premier umpire from Oregon and Pacific Northwest. Umpiring from 1974-1998, Bonnie’s achievements go far behind the playing field. Bonnie umpired in 29 ASA/USA Regional Tournaments throughout her career and received her first National assignment in 1981 at the Women’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship. She would go on to umpire in five additional National Championships before breaking into the international scene at the 1995 ISF Junior Women’s World Championship in Normal, Ill. Anderson also served as an umpire at the 1982 National Sports Festival and the U.S. Olympic Festival in 1984. Other accolades include being ISF Certified and a charter member of the National Indicator Fraternity. While her umpiring resume is impressive, her off-field work is just an outstanding. Bonnie became the first woman Umpire-in-Chief for ASA/USA Softball in 1981 and established a top-notch training and education system for Oregon umpires. Sadly, Bonnie passed away in January, 2012, but to this day, her military-style of teaching continues to groom umpires in the Northwest.
2014 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

JUNIOR OLYMPIC FAST PITCH

ASA Boys’ 16-Under Fast Pitch
ASA Girls’ A 10-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ A 10-Under Fast Pitch Northern
ASA Girls’ A 10-Under Fast Pitch Western
ASA Girls’ A 12-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ A 12-Under Fast Pitch Northern
ASA Girls’ A 12-Under Fast Pitch Southern
ASA Girls’ A 12-Under Fast Pitch Western
ASA Girls’ A 14-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ A 14-Under Fast Pitch Northern
ASA Girls’ A 14-Under Fast Pitch Southern
ASA Girls’ A 14-Under Fast Pitch Western
ASA Girls’ A 16-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ A 16-Under Fast Pitch Northern
ASA Girls’ A 16-Under Fast Pitch Southern
ASA Girls’ A 16-Under Fast Pitch Western
ASA Girls’ A 18-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ A 18-Under Fast Pitch Northern

Champions

Winston Royals
Central Ohio Lady Vipers 03
Originals – Berryman
Aces 10U
Ohio Emeralds 01
Originals – Simbeck
Cametime Stars 01
The Next Level
Conklin Raiders Elite
Iowa Sundevils
Kentucky Storm
Nightmare Softball 00
Michigan Batbusters – Vitala
Iowa Premier Black – Slauson
Texas Venom – Myers
Lady Sharks 16U
Diamond Dusters
JR Phoenix

Hometown

Winston, MO
Grove City, OH
Liberty, MO
Federal Way, WA
Massillon, OH
Blue Springs, MO
Oklahoma City, OK
Temecula, CA
Conklin, NY
Des Moines, IA
Paducah, KY
Oregon City, OR
Sterling Heights, MI
Des Moines, IA
Sweeny, TX
San Jose, CA
Binghamton, NY
Green Bay, WI

JUNIOR OLYMPIC FAST PITCH

ASA Girls’ A 18-Under Fast Pitch Southern
ASA Girls’ A 18-Under Fast Pitch Western
ASA Girls’ B 10-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ B 10-Under Fast Pitch Northern
ASA Girls’ B 10-Under Fast Pitch Western
ASA Girls’ B 12-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ B 12-Under Fast Pitch Northern
ASA Girls’ B 12-Under Fast Pitch Southern
ASA Girls’ B 14-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ B 14-Under Fast Pitch Northern
ASA Girls’ B 14-Under Fast Pitch Southern
ASA Girls’ B 14-Under Fast Pitch Western
ASA Girls’ B 16-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ B 16-Under Fast Pitch Northern
ASA Girls’ B 16-Under Fast Pitch Western
ASA Girls’ B 18-Under Fast Pitch Eastern
ASA Girls’ B 18-Under Fast Pitch Northern
ASA Girls’ B 18-Under Fast Pitch Western

Champions

Tulsa Eagles
Tucson Scramblers
Northern Calvert Fury
Chicago Fireworks Blue 10U
Simi Valley 10U
Amherst Lightning – Farber
Velocity
Camarillo 12U
Milton Elite
Magic Softball 00
14U Angels Premier
Garden Grove
Maryland Crush 16U
Brookings Outlaws
Santa Monica Patriots
Milton Panthers
Blackhawks
TC Thunder

Hometown

Collinsville, OK
Tucson, AZ
Huntington, MD
Chicago, IL
Simi Valley, CA
Getzville, NY
Atlanta, GA
Camarillo, CA
Milton, PA
Rosebud, AZ
McKinney, TX
Garden Grove, CA
Prince Frederick, MD
Brookings, SD
Los Angeles, CA
Milton, PA
Findlay, OH
Tooele, UT

JR PHOENIX - GREEN BAY, WI

DEVILS - ST. PAUL, MN
2014 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

JUNIOR OLYMPIC FAST PITCH
ASA/USA Girls Gold 16-Under Fast Pitch
ASA/USA Girls Gold 18-Under Fast Pitch
ASA/USA Girls’ A 10-Under Fast Pitch
ASA/USA Girls’ A 12-Under Fast Pitch
ASA/USA Girls’ A 14-Under Fast Pitch
ASA/USA Girls’ A 16-Under Fast Pitch
ASA/USA Girls’ A 18-Under Fast Pitch

CHAMPIONS
TN Fury 97
Wagners GOLD – Dunn
Arkansas Team Worth 01
So Cal Athletics
Ohio Lasers Blue
Tampa Mustangs – Boynton

HOMETOWN
Whitwell, TN
Orlando, FL
Cookeville, TN
Quarles, CA
Miamisburg, OH
Tampa, FL

JUNIOR OLYMPIC SLOW PITCH
ASA Boys’ 16-Under Slow Pitch
ASA Boys’ 18-Under Slow Pitch

MODIFIED PITCH
ASA Men’s (10) Modified Pitch

ADULT FAST PITCH
ASA Men’s Major Fast Pitch
ASA Men’s A Fast Pitch
ASA Men’s C Fast Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 50-Over Fast Pitch
ASA Men’s Senior 60-Over Fast Pitch

CHAMPIONS
East Holmes
Buckeye
Press Box Blue Sox

HOMETOWN
Fredericksburg, OH
Millersburg, OH
Fond du Loc, WI

ADULT SLOW PITCH
ASA Men’s B Slow Pitch
ASA Men’s C Slow Pitch
ASA Men’s D Slow Pitch
ASA Men’s D Slow Pitch Eastern
ASA Men’s D Slow Pitch Northern
ASA Men’s D Slow Pitch Southern
ASA Men’s D Slow Pitch Western
ASA Men’s E/Rec Slow Pitch Eastern
ASA Men’s E/Rec Slow Pitch Northern
ASA Men’s E/Rec Slow Pitch Western
ASA Men’s Industrial Slow Pitch
ASA Men’s Masters 40-Over Rec. Slow Pitch
ASA Men’s Senior 50 AA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 50 AA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 50 AAA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 55 AA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 55 AAA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 55 AAA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 55 Major Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 60 AA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 60 AAA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 60 AAA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 65 AA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 65 AAA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 70 AA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 70 AAA Slow Pitch East
ASA Men’s Senior 75 AA Slow Pitch East
ASA Women’s C Slow Pitch
ASA Women’s Open Slow Pitch

CHAMPIONS
OI Livingston/Scotts Lawn/ Worth
Taligators
DIA/Water Connection/Dutch Mafia
Kings Court
Pipac/Miken
Lehigh Valley Polish Water
DIA/Water Connection/Dutch Mafia
One Hit Wonders
Mulligan’s/JE Dunn/JLG
Los
Sikorsky Club
Touch of Gray
Indiana Old Stars
JM Properties/Silver Bullets
Angus Barn – PCI
Lewisville Masters 55
Triangle Masters
Rookies Bar
Telmanik Travel
Superior Senior Softball
CH Engineering
Spicer Properties
Burlington Classics
Georgia Nuggets
Leiden’s 75’s
Devils
Derby Girls/Combat

HOMETOWN
Fayetteville, GA
Cheswick, PA
Madera, CA
Bridgeport, CT
Winthrop, IA
Lehigh Valley, PA
Madera, CA
Stratford, CT
Williston, ND
Stockton, CA
Stratford, CT
Edmond, OK
Cedar Lake, IN
Milford, CT
Youngsville, NC
Lewisville, NC
Chapel Hill, NC
Lansing, MI
Fort Mill, SC
Richmond, VA
Raleigh, NC
Keedysville, MD
Burlington, NC
Grayson, GA
Augusta, GA
St. Paul, MN
Seattle, WA

ADULT SLOW PITCH
ASA Coed C Slow Pitch
ASA Men’s A 16-Inch Slow Pitch
ASA Men’s Church Slow Pitch
ASA Men’s A Slow Pitch

CHAMPIONS
John’s Tree Service
Silver Bullets
Evangel Temple – I am
Compound Athletics/Bubbas

HOMETOWN
Des Moines, IA
Illinois
Jacksonville, FL
Lake Geneva, WI

EVANGEL TEMPLE - JACKSONVILLE, FL

CH ENGINEERING - RALEIGH, NC
FOUR TEAMS CROWNED CHAMPIONS DURING SLOW PITCH CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES WEEKEND

Four teams held up their respective ASA/USA National Championship trophies in the air in late September as the Men’s Class A, Class D, Super’s and Women’s Open Divisions took to the dirt to determine a new National champ.

Claiming their second-consecutive Super Slow Pitch National Championship was Long Haul/H. Auto/Easton who took the title after a 39-16 (five inning) win over Sonny’s in the “if-necessary” game. Compound Athletics/Bubbas took home the Men’s Class A title while DIA Water Connection/Dutch Mafia took home the Men’s Class D title and Derby Girls won the Women’s Open title.

In addition to the Slow Pitch National Championships, the ASA Stadium Power Tour concluded with Team DeMarini sweeping the honors as Chris Larsen was named the world’s greatest home run hitter for the second time in his career, crushing 12 out of the park. Team DeMarini also took home the coveted Manufactures Cup, totaling 23 for the evening.

**2014 ASA STADIUM POWER TOUR FINALS**

Chris Larsen, DeMarini - 12 points  
Dale Brungardt, DeMarini - 11 points  
Scott Kirby, Easton - 9 points  
Kevin Filby, Miken - 9 points  
Brian Wegman, Easton - 8 points  
*Denny Crine, Miken - 10 points  
*Crine was hitting for Manufactures Cup

**MANUFACTURES CUP FINALS**

Team DeMarini - 23 points  
Team Miken - 19 points  
Team Easton - 17 points
We're making it easier for ASA teams in your area to find your tournaments. Launched in 2010, TournamentASA.com is an ASA exclusive, tournament management system designed to promote your ASA tournament, register teams and manage your online bracket from the first pitch to the last out. Coaches and managers can’t get enough of the special features that are included on the site! Tools such as our Power Rankings, opponent overview and tournament history, all based off teams past games, give coaches a better understanding of the competition they are schedule to face.

Scan the code from your smart phone to visit TournamentASA!
ATHLETES INVITED TO ATTEND NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CAMPS

Three USA Softball National Teams will hold selection camps next January at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, Calif. as athletes look to make the Women’s, Junior Women’s and Men’s National Teams for the 2015 season. In addition to the Selection Camps, there will also be an open tryout opportunity for athletes hoping to make the 2015 Junior Women’s National Team.

From January 3-4, 27 athletes will vie for a spot on the 17-player roster for the 2015 Junior Women’s National Team (JWNT) that will compete at the World Cup of Softball X in Southern California and the International Softball Federation (ISF) Junior Women’s World Championship in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Click here to see the list of invited athletes for the JWNT Selection Camp

Following the conclusion of the JWNT tryout, 33 athletes will vie for 17 spots on the 2015 USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) roster that will compete at the World Cup of Softball X and a spot on the 15-athlete roster that will compete in the 2015 Pan American Games, which will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Click here to see the list of invited athletes for the WNT Selection Camp

Concluding the selection camps is the Men’s National Team (MNT) Selection Camp, which will be January 8-9. 27 athletes have received invitations to try out for a spot on the 2015 roster that will compete at the ISF Men's World Championship in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada and a spot on the 15-athlete roster that will compete in the 2015 Pan American Games.

Click here to see the list of invited athletes for the MNT Selection Camp
At Mizuno we understand you play for something bigger than yourself. That’s why we’ve precisely engineered our New Whiteout 2 with New Double Wall Technology for a massive sweet spot. Helping you have a monster at bat every time and take your team to the next level. Mizuno. THE POWER OF TEAM™.
FROM THE VAULT

1941 Promotional Vehicle at ASA Nationals

1988 Girls 12U Slow Pitch in Enid, Oklahoma

1956 Joe Gatliff Softball Team

1982 Men’s Major Industrial

Betsy Rose Softball Team
How well did you pay attention to this edition of Balls and Strikes? Submit your answers to these five questions to promotions@softball.org with the subject “Balls and Strikes Trivia” and you could win a Softball Prize Pack from ASA/USA Softball.

1. How many people attended the General Tire World Cup of Softball IX in Irvine, Calif.?

2. Name one location of a 2015 ASA National Umpire School.

3. When was the last year ASA/USA held a Boys’ Slow Pitch National Championship?

4. How many Fast Pitch Players will be inducted into the 2015 National Softball Hall of Fame?

5. Who won the ASA/USA Men’s Class A National Championship?
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2. Contact RPS Bollinger Sports — ASA Department, Ph: 800-446-5311 • ASA@RPSins.com

1-800-446-5311
In January visit us at www.RPSBollinger.com