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BALLS AND STRIKES

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings USA Softball Council Members and fans everywhere,

We began this year full of intention to make it the best one yet and nothing says we still can't despite the uncertainty our world faces with the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no doubt this imposes many challenges on USA Softball and how we grow and develop this game nationwide. Most of us have never faced something like this in our lifetime which leads us to further explore new and innovative ways outside of the box to advance the USA Softball mission.

In regards to the current COVID-19 pandemic, USA Softball will continue and recommends that the USA Softball community follow the guidelines set by the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), your state's public health department and other county and/or local authorities including school districts and government agencies.

All originally scheduled 2020 dates for the "Stand Beside Her" tour, presented by Major League Baseball, have been cancelled and

any new potential dates for future stops are being discussed. USA Softball will make a determination by June 1 of the status of the 2020 USA Softball National Championship Finals and the 2020 USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO) Cup, which take place beginning in mid-July and run through the beginning of September.

This letter comes to you all following the announcement from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) regarding the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games to 2021. It marks the first time in more than a century of the modern Olympic Games that the event has been delayed. The decision was made "to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community" according to a statement. While it was the right decision and USA Softball fully stands by the IOC, along with the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), it doesn't mean it was an easy one to make. The sport of softball has waited 12 years for its return to the Olympic Games and despite waiting another year, we know that it will be an Olympic Games for the record books.

As all of you know, we are in uncharted waters. We have never seen businesses closed, stay-at-home mandates, closures of parks, postponements of local leagues and tournaments, etc. These actions are to keep all of us safe and healthy. We are still trying to keep our organization solvent and moving forward as much as possible. As your USA Softball President, I will continue to work on and work through as many of the goals as I can

that I previously laid before you all. Our Bylaws and Procedural Code have been updated and are now on our website, the temporary committee for the JO National Championships has been formed and will start their meetings very shortly. I am working on putting together a temporary committee to look at our adult championships and that committee will be meeting in the coming weeks. Even though we will have our Board of Directors meeting by a telecommunication method, the plan is still to have our Board training from the USOPC. Even with this pandemic and rules changing daily if not hourly, I am still trying to move us forward and to get our goals accomplished. While these goals are important, they are not nearly as important as your health and well-being. That has to be our top priority. Please continue to follow the instructions of your governmental and health experts and we will get through this together.

As always, please know that if you ever need anything, I am a phone call or email away and am always interested in hearing what others have to say.

Thank you and stay safe,



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NEWS & NOTES



USA SOFTBALL MAKES ADJUSTMENTS FOLLOWING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

USA Softball has been following the developing COVID-19 pandemic as the safety and well-being of the USA Softball community continues to be a top priority for USA Softball.

USA Softball recommends and strongly encourages that the USA Softball community follow the guidelines set by the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), your state's public health department (click here for a listing of state public health departments), and other county and/or local authorities including area school districts and government agencies.

All originally scheduled 2020 dates for the "Stand Beside Her" tour, presented by Major League Baseball, have been cancelled and any new potential dates for future stops are being discussed.

USA Softball will have a decision by May 11 on whether to hold or postpone the U-18 Women's National Team Open Tryout, which is tentatively scheduled for June 15-16 in Oklahoma City.

USA Softball will make a determination by June 1 of the status of the 2020 USA Softball National Championship Finals and the 2020 USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO) Cup, which take place beginning in mid-July and run through the beginning of September.

USA SOFTBALL HOSTS 2020 NATIONAL UMPIRE SCHOOL IN CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

Umpires headed to Chattanooga, Tenn. on January 24-26 to attend a USA Softball National Umpire School (NUS) coordinated by Ed Rowe, UIC, USA Softball of Tennessee.

Ninety umpires from Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas were in attendance at the NUS held at East Hamilton High School. Dave Chandler, Davey Cole, Jimmy Derrick and Steve Nelson instructed the umpires ranging in ages from 18-73 in classroom and gym activities.





NEWS & NOTES

USA SOFTBALL TEAMS UP WITH OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS BART CONNOR AND NADIA COMANECI

USA Softball, along with other sports organizations within the Oklahoma City community, had interactive sports and fitness activities and demonstrations that were free and open to the public as part of the Bart & Nadia Sports Experience on February 22.

“We are honored to provide a free opportunity for kids to get excited about sports, and maybe they will learn a little about health and wellness, and making positive life choices,” said Conner. “We are especially grateful to our partners and sponsors that help to provide activities such as basketball, rowing, slack lining, tennis, softball, gymnastics, weightlifting, judo, cricket, golf and BMX.”

In addition to USA Softball, powerhouses partnering for the Bart & Nadia Sports Experience include the OKC Boathouse Foundation, the University of Central Oklahoma, the Oklahoma City Thunder, the University of Oklahoma, the United States Tennis Association, International Judo Federation, the Oklahoma City Dodgers, the OKC Strikers cricket team, OKC Energy, Topgolf, and Special Olympics Oklahoma.



February 21-23, 2024

USA SOFTBALL ISSUES 'LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS'

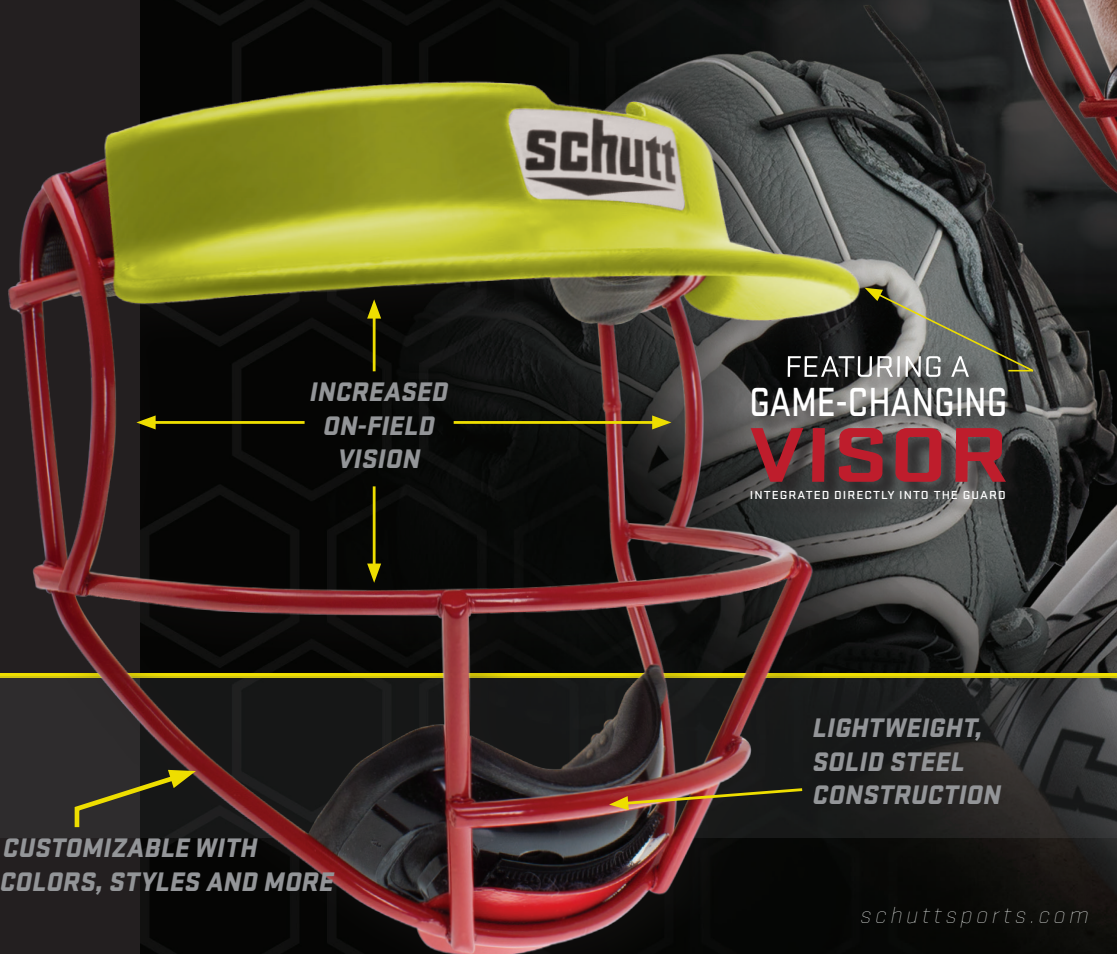
USA Softball takes great pride in being the National Governing Body (NGB) of Softball in the United States and recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) for our commitment to the well-being of the members in our organization. This reputation for providing the best-of-the-best in all aspects of the game is built on a foundation of 80-plus years in sanctioning the sport of softball – a foundation that we will continue to build upon.

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- XL Exterior composite shell - XL sweetspot
- Approved by USASB, USSSA, NSA, ISA
- Meets all softball association standards
- 31"/18oz, 30"/17oz, 29"/16oz, 28"/15oz, 27"/14oz

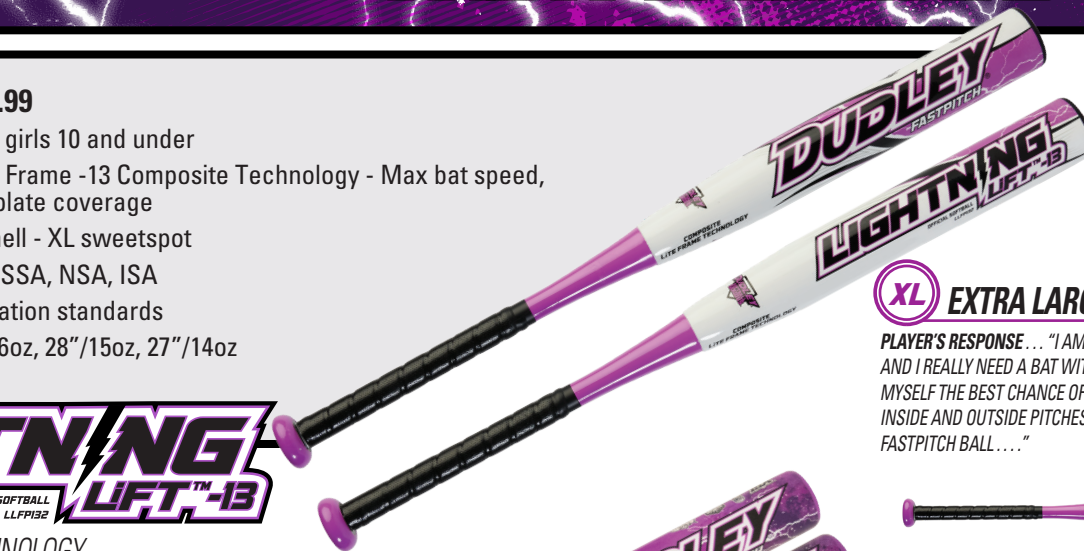
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LLFP132
LiFT™ -13

-13 LITE WEIGHT BAT TECHNOLOGY

COACH'S RESPONSE... "GIRLS 10 AND UNDER ARE JUST LEARNING THE GAME OF FASTPITCH. THEY WANT FAST BAT SPEED SO THEY CAN WAIT ON A PITCH AND SEE IT LONGER BUT STILL HAVE A QUICK BAT THROUGH THE ZONE."

\$\$ AFFORDABLE BAT PERFORMANCE & TECHNOLOGY

MOM'S RESPONSE... "MY DAUGHTER IS PLAYING FASTPITCH, SOCCER AND CHEERLEADING... SHE LIKES SOFTBALL, BUT I DON'T 100% KNOW IF SHE IS GOING TO PLAY NEXT SEASON OR NOT BUT I WANT TO GET HER A HIGH QUALITY FASTPITCH BAT SO SHE HAS FUN AND DOES WELL, BUT I DON'T WANT TO PAY TOO MUCH EITHER...."



LIGHTNING
LLFP13
LITE™ -13

XL EXTRA LARGE SWEETSPOT

PLAYER'S RESPONSE... "I AM PLAYING 8U FOR MY FIRST SEASON AND I REALLY NEED A BAT WITH A LARGE SWEETSPOT TO GIVE MYSELF THE BEST CHANCE OF GETTING SOLID HITS ON BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PITCHES AS I LEARN HOW TO HIT A FASTPITCH BALL...."



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- Meets all softball association standards
- 30"/17oz, 29"/16oz, 28"/15oz, 27"/14oz, 26"/13oz

2020 USA SOFTBALL GOLD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

JULY 19-25, 2020



16-UNDER LOCATION:
ARROWHEAD PARK
300 E. WASHINGTON STREET
BROKEN ARROW, OKLA. 74012



18-UNDER LOCATION:
USA SOFTBALL
HALL OF FAME COMPLEX
2801 NE 50TH STREET
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. 73111

The 2020 USA Softball GOLD National Championships, the pinnacle of Junior Olympic (JO) Championship Play, is organized to give participating teams the opportunity to showcase their abilities in front of college coaches as they compete against the top teams in the country.

As we near the start of the prestigious tournament, USA Softball is highlighting some of the teams who will take the field in Broken Arrow and Oklahoma City, Okla. For team rosters, quick facts, and more, [CLICK HERE>>](#)

2020 GOLD NATIONAL PARTICIPATING TEAMS

16-UNDER

- Arkansas Thunder - Knight
- Finesse 16U Kunkel
- LaVooDoo
- Louisiana Blazers
- Oregon Thunder 16U Gold
- Tulsa Elite 2021
- GCB 16U STX
- Maryland USSSA Pride Elite 16U
- Next Generation 16U - Figueroa
- NorCal Bandits
- Oregon Red Heat 03
- PS33 Academy
- Texas Fusion Gold
- USA Explosion 16 Gold - Thompson

18-UNDER

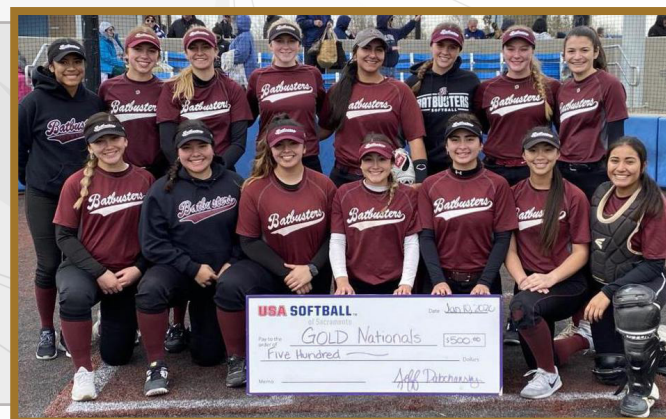
- Arizona Hotshots 18 Gold - Gutierrez
- Louisiana Blazers Elite
- Ohio Blazers Blue
- OK Athletics
- NM Suncats 18U Gold
- NW Batbusters
- Texas Bombers 18 Gold/National
- USA Explosion 18U Thompson
- Arkansas Thunder - Sanford
- Excel Elite Williams 18 Gold
- Impact Gold - Garcia 18U
- LaVooDoo
- Rock Gold Waye 18U
- Test Softball
- Texas Blaze 18U Elite Lindsey
- Texas Challengers 18U
- Wichita Mustangs
- Batbusters - Jason
- GCB 18U Gold
- Gold Coast Hurricanes
- Heartbreakers 18U Gold
- Next Generation 18U
- Oregon Thunder Sahlfeld/Eastman
- Snohomish Shock Greenlee 18U Gold
- Texas Fusion Gold

2020 USA SOFTBALL GOLD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(CONTINUED)

Meet the **Batbusters Comes – Jason**, a team competing in the 18-Under division. Based out of Sacramento, Head Coach Jason Adams breaks down what to expect from his 2020 roster.

“A sharp focus as we prepare for the GOLD Nationals will be taking advantage of having runners in scoring position. For example, focusing on situational hitting and taking every base possible. We also plan to focus on crisp defense and limiting mental fatigue on long, hot days. However, our focus will be having fun while getting better at the game.”

[READ MORE>>](#)


Meet the **Ohio Lasers Blue**, a team competing in the 18-Under division. Based out of Ohio, Head Coach Anthony Gunter breaks down his 2020 roster as they prepare for the 2020 GOLD Nationals.

“We aim to continue to take a workmanlike approach to preparation and endeavor to win every inning, one play at a time.”

[READ MORE>>](#)

Meet the **Arkansas Thunder**, a team competing in the 16-Under division. Based out of Arkansas, Head Coach Scott Knight talks about the strengths of his 2020 roster.

“We have great team chemistry. All the girls get along great and really work well together. Our defense is very strong as well.”

[READ MORE>>](#)


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SOCIAL MEDIA: YOU POSTED IT!



If there's one thing we love at USA Softball, it's interacting with softball fans from around the world! Are you following along on social media? Share your photos and be sure to tag @USASoftball with the hashtag #USASoftball for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue of Balls & Strikes Magazine!

Happy #internationalwomensday! How fitting it was to watch the @usasoftball National Team exhibition today. These women are such great role models in showing young girls like mine that they can grow up to be strong women achieving their dreams. 'Here's to strong women. May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them.' #frankenclare #standbesidehertour #usasoftball #runlikeagirl

@SYLKANG



Got these in the mail today! Thanks, @SHIRTSandLOGOS!

I am excited to represent @USASoftball and these two awesome players! #ValerieArioto #MonicaAbbott #USASoftball



@BMINNOCH

So grateful to play for a team that I love that gives me such great opportunities like meeting such inspirational Olympians! Good luck in Tokyo! #standbesidehertour #usasoftball @USASoftball @RedsCommunity @dejahmulipola @DelaneyLyn @_janieredd

@MAKENZIJOHNSO11



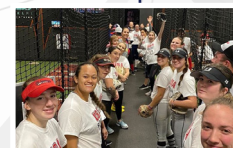
2019 Toy Drive Tournament- Qualifier • USA Softball of Arizona • Phoenix, Arizona #fastpitch #softball #fastpitchsoftball #arizona #mizuno #phoenix #tournament #softballlife #usasoftball #sportgirls #prescott #tucson #fitaid #nike #flosoftball #snickers #softballmoms #girlsfastpitch

@9STARSSPORTSFASTPITCH



USA Softball Sacramento Stand beside her tour stop tryouts this morning. What a turnout of amazing athletes. Thanks to all attended. A few of these girls will be lucky enough to play on the same field against Olympians and 10,000+ fans. #opportunity #bringhomethetgold #standbesidehertour #usasoftball #tokyo2020olympics #lk51 #lovethisgame #studs #usasoftballsacramento #letsellitout #sutterhealthpark #fans

@LKLEIN51



The journey begins ❤️ 6U.

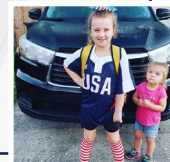
#usasoftball #softball #whereitallbegins #6usoftball #bellalete #bellaletestickers #bellaletesoftballpants #bellaletegirls Thank you for welcoming us into your community today @jurupagirlsoftballusa

@BELLALETE



Maddie got to dress for who she wants to be when she grows up - of course she chose to be an Olympian #pumpkinbaby #swingforthe fences #usasoftball #standbesidehertour #softballlife

@SARAHANNWESTBROOK



FUTURE STARS RECRUITMENT CAMP

CAMP INFO

Date: July 19, 2020

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location:
**USA Softball
Hall of Fame Complex
2801 NE 50th St.
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73111**

Cost: \$200

REGISTER NOW

The 2020 USA Softball GOLD National Championships will kick off with the FUTURE STARS Recruitment Camp set for Sunday, July 19.

A quality college recruitment event, this camp marks one of eight stops for the FUTURE STARS Recruitment Camp with other locations including Phoenix, Albuquerque, Midland (TX), and Chicago.

College coaches from around the country will gather at the Softball Capital of the World® to lead multiple skill enhancement drills and interact with the campers. Players will have the opportunity to go through high evaluation measurement testing that will reveal the speed at which an athlete throws, ball exit velocity, sprint time, pop-to-pop time and pitching speeds. The camp will then transition into breakout sessions that will consist of drill work for all positions including outfield, infield, hitting, pitching and catching. This camp will serve as a great way to network with the future of college softball, improve basic skills, and become better prepared for a career of success.

At the conclusion of the camp, there will be a FREE one-hour session that will allow players and parents to learn about the recruiting process from esteemed college coaches. This session is designed to educate aspiring college athletes and parents on the proper steps to take in order to be better prepared and organized for the recruitment world.



A DANGEROUS LINEUP



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2020 USA Softball JO CUP PREVIEW

About the USA Softball JO Cup

Since the inaugural year in 2015, the JO Cup has grown to include three age groups and has crowned 11 champions in its five years. This tournament is team-based and is led by a travel ball coaches committee, whose main focus is to give teams the opportunity to play in an elite tournament and rely on their feedback to produce a competitive atmosphere for all those involved.

As we near the start of the 2020 USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO) Cup, we're highlighting some of the teams who will take the fields in Spartanburg, S.C. For team quick facts, rosters, and information [CLICK HERE>>](#)

LOCATION:
SPARTANBURG, S.C.,
TYGER RIVER PARK

DATES:
JULY 26 - AUGUST 1, 2020

2020 JO CUP

14U Teams

Ohio Hawks 14u - Lenos
Ohio Outlaws Leggins
Florida Gold John
East Cobb Bullets 14u - Maher
Tulsa Elite Ark 2023
PA Strikers 14u
Snohomish Shock 06 - Shamrock
Team NC - Huss
Fury Platinum - Morrison
Aces Fastpitch NWA 06
Glory Atkins Gold
MO Stealth 14u FUTURES
SF Diamond Dusters
Firecrackers DFW 14u Gold
MO Stealth KC 05 Gold
Tampa Mustangs Seymour 14u
Lady Lightning Gold McGowan
Texas Blaze 2024 National
Finesse Kramer 14u
Fury Platinum Brown
Georgia Impact 14u - Janney
Louisville Lady Sluggers 06 - Pettiford
SC Elite
Pro Impact 14u - Houston/McCool
TN Mojo 2024 Abernathy

16U Teams

Carolina Elite National - Maddaluna
Lady Gators Jackson
EC Bullets Heggood/Backes
Clearwater Bullets
Lady Lightning Gold Pedy
TN Mojo 04 Carter
SC Elite
PA Strikers
Turnin2
Ohio Lasers Red 04
Rock Gold Waye/Manetta
Ohio Lasers Gold
Atlanta Vipers Billings
Indiana Fusion Elite 04 Unruh
St. Louis Chaos - 04
GA Power 16u
Glory Adkins Gold 16u
Gold Coast Hurricanes Hammond
Oklahoma Bombers Aud
Tulsa Elite 2021
Team NC 16u - Huss
Impact Gold DFW Sudderth
PA Xtreme 16u National Team
Tampa Mustangs
Indiana Fusion Elite 16u
KC Zephyrs
Williamsburg Starz Gold 16u National
Ohio Hawks 16u - Lenos
Georgia Hotshots Premier - 16u
EC Bullets 2021 - Sensing 16u
FL Impact
Ohio Outlaws Premier Schmeiser 16u

18U Teams

Rock Gold
Williamsburg Starz
GA Power Gold Berkhiser
Carolina Elite
Turnin2
Bandits 18u Blevins
OH Outlaws Hoffner
Carolina Cardinals Chandler
Lady Gators Jackson
Birmingham Vipers - Standifer
Impact Gold Holeman Premier
Indiana Fusion Elite 18u Pinkston
FL Select Davis
Texas Bombers Gold HTX
Glory Adkins Gold
MO Stealth Gold 18u
Ohio Hawks Hutchinson
Windermere Wildfire Paulson
Lady Lightning 18 Gold - Pedy
Georgia Impact - Wright
Premier Fastpitch 18u Paulson
Gold Coast Hurricanes
Atlanta Vipers 18u - Jiles
Conklin Raiders Gold 18u
Finesse 18u National - Kilburn
Hanover Lady Hornets
FL Impact
Georgia Impact 2020/21 - Ryman/Caldwell
GA Power Gold Roddy/Worley



2020 USA Softball JO CUP PREVIEW (CONTINUED)

Meet **Snohomish Shock 06 - Shamrock**, a team based out of Washington competing in the 14-Under division. Head Coach Brent Shamrock breaks down what you can expect to see from his team.

"We have been given an opportunity to play at a higher level of competition that allows us to compete with some highly competitive teams from around the United States. This year we have been given the opportunity to interact with collegiate coaches."

[READ MORE>>](#)



Meet **Georgia Hotshots Premier**, a team based out of Atlanta, Georgia competing in the 16-Under division. Head Coach Josh Henson breaks down what you can expect to see from his team.

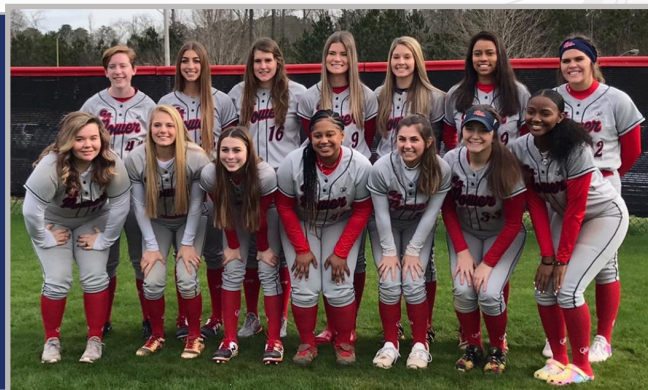
"We've got a 3 Headed Monster that's comparable to anyone's staff! Our defense can play with or against any team in the country, no questions asked. We've got so many moving parts and we pride ourselves on have young ladies that can easily play multiple positions! We run: if you come and watch us offensively you will understand completely. We run and we run a lot!"

[READ MORE>>](#)

Meet **GA Power Gold Roddy/Worley**, a team based out of Georgia competing in the 18-Under division. Head Coach Jay Worley breaks down what you can expect to see from the team.

"One thing that you can always count on with USA Softball is that it is tried and true. The brand is strong, it has a rich history, and is THE sanctioning body for fastpitch softball across the country and the globe. The JO Cup has already proven that it can draw the nation's top teams and compete at the highest levels. The positive memories that each of the teams will leave with will be far greater than they can ever measure with wins and losses."

[READ MORE>>](#)





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"STAND BESIDE HER" TOUR



The "Stand Beside Her" tour, presented by Major League Baseball (MLB), kicked off February 4 with a series of competitions and training opportunities for the 2020 USA Softball Women's National Team (WNT) as they prepare for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Although the tour was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, through mid-March Team USA boasted an undefeated 16-0 record with the offense combining for a .380 team batting average, 16 homeruns, and 119 RBIs while the pitching staff collected 173 strikeouts in 100 innings pitched.

Team USA "Stand Beside Her" tour homecomings

Athletes and coaches on the 2020 WNT were welcomed back to their alma maters during the "Stand Beside Her" tour, presented by MLB.

Head Coach Ken Eriksen - University of South Florida Head Coach



Cat Osterman - Texas State University Assistant Coach



(L to R) Michelle Moultrie (2012), Aubree Munro (2016), Florida Head Coach Tim Walton and Kelsey Stewart (2016) - University of Florida



Dejah Mulipola (2020) - University of Arizona



Hannah Flippen (2017) - University of Utah



Ally Carda (2015), Rachel Garcia (2020), Bubba Nickles (2020), Delaney Spaulding (2017) - UCLA



"STAND BESIDE HER" TOUR



"Stand Beside Her" tour youth clinics

The 2020 WNT gathered with young softball athletes in Santee, Calif. and Irvine, Calif. to conduct "Stand Beside Her" tour youth clinics!

Irvine, Calif.



Santee, Calif.



Thank you to the best fans for choosing to stand beside HER!

The "Stand Beside Her" tour evokes a powerful message of unity aimed to inspire communities to stand beside HER – the members of the WNT, America and the future generation of female athletes.

Irvine, Calif. -
2,487 fans in attendance!



Tampa, Fla. - 1,267 fans in attendance!



Tucson, Ariz. - 2,941 fans in attendance!



Gainesville, Fla. - 1,935 fans in attendance!



NATIONAL TEAMS

UPDATE



U-18 Men's National Team

The U-18 Men's National Team traveled to Palmerston North, New Zealand February 22 - March 1 to compete in the 2020 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) U-18 Men's Softball World Cup. Led by Head Coach Bob Piddock (Castro Valley, Calif.) and Assistant Coaches Tony Aresco (Stoneham, Mass.), Avon Meacham (Upper Marlboro, Md.), and Jerry Zimmerman (Ephrata, Pa.), the U-18 MNT finished in 11th place with a .264 team batting average, 23 RBI and a 2-6 record.



U-18 Women's National Team

The WBSC recently announced the postponement of several keynote events in the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One such event was the WBSC U-18 Women's Softball World Cup®, which was slated to take place August 23-30 in Lima, Peru. USA Softball qualified for the WBSC U-18 Women's Softball World Cup® last October after winning the U-17 Pan American Championship in Barranquilla, Colombia.



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2020 MEN'S SLOW PITCH NATIONAL TEAM ROSTERS

MEN'S SLOW PITCH

PLAYER NAME	HOMETOWN	SWINGS
Kevin Bazat	Columbia, Mo.	Easton
Cory Briggs	Siloam Springs, Ark.	Miken
Dale Brungardt	Vancouver, Wash.	DeMarini
Daniel Cayton	Redding, Calif.	Easton
Travis Clark	Kenosha, Wisc.	Easton
Andrew Collins	Largo, Fla.	Monsta
Greg Connell	Moultrie, Ga.	Easton
Ben Dunn	League City, Texas	Easton
Ryan Harvey	Clearwater, Fla.	Worth
Bubba Mack	Milton, Fla.	Easton
Kyle Pearson	Stonewall, La.	Miken
Andy Purcell	Rockledge, Fla.	Louisville Slugger
Filip Washington	Rochester, N.Y.	Anarchy
Brian Wegman	Hamilton, Ohio	Easton
Jeremy Yates	Lake City, Fla.	Easton
HEAD COACH	Brett Helmer	
ASSISTANT COACH	Todd Ankey	
ASSISTANT COACH	Tim Barnes	

FILIP WASHINGTON



MEN'S FUTURES SLOW PITCH

PLAYER NAME	HOMETOWN	SWINGS
Colin Baartman	Golden Valley, Minn.	Miken/Worth
Joseph Bennett	Statenville, Ga.	DeMarini
Patrick Ellwanger	St. Paul, Minn.	Easton
Chente Granados	Chino, Calif.	Worth
Alex Hovey	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Monsta
Jared Hunt	El Cajon, Calif.	Monsta
Tyler Marshburn	Clayton, N.C.	Easton
Phil Matte	Radcliff, Ky.	DeMarini
Jason Matusik	Umatilla, Fla.	Miken
Ryan McClanahan	El Cajon, Calif.	Miken
Zane Migues	Broussard, La.	Louisville Slugger
Brett Rettenmeier	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Monsta
Josh Riley	Berea, Ky.	Worth
Adam Ussery	Hot Springs, Ark.	Monsta
Johnathon Williams	Chicago, Ill.	Anarchy
HEAD COACH	Rob Humphrey	
ASSISTANT COACH	Denny Crine	

PATRICK ELLWANGER



2020 WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH NATIONAL TEAM ROSTERS



CHRISTAN DOWLING

WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH

PLAYER NAME	HOMETOWN	SWINGS
Patrika Barlow	Louisville, Ky.	Worth
Savannah Brown	Inola, Okla.	Easton
Chelsea Davis	Sarasota, Fla.	Easton
Christan Dowling	Rochester, N.Y.	Easton
Shelby Engle	Orlando, Fla.	Monsta
Fiana Finau	Chula Vista, Calif.	Easton
Stephanie Hartness	Mobile, Ala.	DeMarini
Tara Licuana	Bellflower, Calif.	Easton
Ashley Mack	Jacksonville, Fla.	Worth
Kelly Park	Aurora, Ill.	Easton
Sara Poteat	Marietta, Ga.	Miken/Worth
Terri Ross	Louisville, Ky.	Worth
Kristen Shifflett	Charlottesville, Va.	Easton
Tawna Williams	Amarillo, Texas	Louisville Slugger
HEAD COACH	Don Cooper	
ASSISTANT COACH	Tammy Higginbotham	
ASSISTANT COACH	Shannon Cooper	



SHAYNA FINLEY

WOMEN'S FUTURES SLOW PITCH

PLAYER NAME	HOMETOWN	SWINGS
Tyquilla Abdo	San Antonio, Texas	Easton
Marisa Basham	Ft. Madison, Iowa	DeMarini
Stephanie Call	Lake Worth, Fla.	DeMarini
Kelley Cash	Nashville, Tenn.	
Shayna Finley	Spartanburg, S.C.	Monsta
Megan Higginbotham	Minneapolis, Minn.	
Mandy Hollman	York, Pa.	Easton
Amber Parrish	Wilson, N.C.	Worth
Melanie Pfeiffer	Vancouver, Wash.	Easton
Annie Rardin	Lexington, Ky.	Miken/Worth
Wendi Reed	Little Rock, Ark.	Worth
Kristina Sherriff	Everett, Wash.	Easton
Kylee Studioso	Edmonds, Wash.	Louisville Slugger
Victoria Toplikar	Kansas City, Mo.	Louisville Slugger
Dani Wayt	Orange City, Fla.	Louisville Slugger
HEAD COACH	Cara Coughenour	
ASSISTANT COACH	Marieo Foster	
ASSISTANT COACH	Tina Amfahrr Parris	

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BORDER BATTLE HEADS WEST TO WASHINGTON



Kent, Wash. will host the 2020 edition of Border Battle, an annual international slow pitch event that features the USA Softball Slow Pitch National Teams. Held July 24-26 at Hogan Park at Russell Road (24400 Russell Road, Kent, Wash., 98032) the USA Softball Men's Slow Pitch National Team, Women's Slow Pitch National Team, Men's Futures Slow Pitch National Team, and Women's Futures Slow Pitch National Team will compete in three days of action against Canada's Men's and Women's Slow Pitch National Team rosters as well as grassroots clubs.

DATE: JULY 24-26

LOCATION:

KENT, WASHINGTON

HOGAN PARK

KRISTEN SHIFFLETT



“We’re excited to bring Border Battle XII to the west coast. This will be the first time in the history of the event that fans out west will have the opportunity to watch the best slow pitch softball in the world right in their back yard.”

- USA Softball Chief Executive Officer, Craig Cress

TYLER MARSHBURN



TRAVIS CLARK



“USA Softball of Seattle in conjunction with the City of Kent is very excited to be hosting the 12th annual Border Battle. This is the first time that the Border Battle has been held on the west coast and we look forward to continuing to help make this the premier slow pitch event in the country.”

- USA Softball of Seattle Commissioner, Mike Rabin

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JO WORKSHOP

Approximately 100 USA Softball representatives, including Local Association Commissioners, Junior Olympic/Youth Commissioners and others, attended the 2020 Junior Olympic (JO) Workshop held January 31 – February 1 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Sponsored by RPS Bollinger Insurance, members from the 67 USA Softball Local Associations took part in a series of instructional and informational sessions on youth softball hosted by the USA Softball National Office.

The two-day event kicked off with opening remarks from USA Softball President Rodney Cobb and Chief Executive Officer Craig Cress in addition to a presentation by RPS Bollinger Insurance, the official insurance program of USA Softball.

USA Softball Director of Umpires Kevin Ryan and Managing Director of Membership Services, Rich Cress spoke on the Code and Rule changes affecting the JO program, while Julie Whiteaker, Event Manager, provided information on GOLD berth allocations. Additional training sessions included learning about the U.S. Center for SafeSport certification (Savannah Edwards, Managing Director of Information Technology), Future Technology (Edwards/Devin Loehrs, Registrations Administrator & Project Manager), marketing your product (Adam Brooks, Senior Advisor at Candor), and working with local Convention and Visitors Bureau (Sue Hollenbeck, Director of Sports Business for VisitOKC). Other discussions involved the 2020 All-American Games, set to return to Oklahoma City for its fourth year.

The final day of the workshop featured a series of sessions covering news on the USA Softball Sport Development Department (Destinee Martinez, Managing Director of Sport Development) and Technology in Business (Robin Roberson, Executive Director of Oklahoma Employment Security Commission) before a coaches panel, which featured Mike Aud (Oklahoma Bombers Head Coach), Amber Flores (Seminole State College Head Coach, Chicago Bandits Assistant Coach), Kenny Gajewski (Oklahoma State University Head Coach) and Scott Smith (Impact Gold Head Coach).

The 2020 JO Workshop concluded with a presentation by John McPhail (JO Commissioner for USA Softball of Piedmont Virginia and Region 2 Vice President) on USA Softball National Championships followed with closing remarks from the USA Softball National Office.

LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS

USA Softball takes great pride in being the National Governing Body (NGB) of Softball in the United States and recognized by the United States Olympic Committee for our commitment to the well-being of the members in our organization. This reputation for providing the best-of-the-best in all aspects of the game is built on a foundation of 80-plus years in sanctioning the sport of softball – a foundation that we will continue to build upon.

The U.S. Congress designated the U.S. Center for SafeSport (USCSS) with the authority to respond to reports of sexual misconduct within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) by passing the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017. This legislation also known as S.534, designates the USCSS to serve as the independent national safe sport organization, with the additional responsibility for the USCSS to develop national policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical, mental and sexual abuse of amateur athletes.

Many of our members have been misinformed that this federal law affects only those NGBs under the umbrella of the USOPC, but that is not the case. This federal law also extends to non-NGB sports organizations if they are engaged in interstate or international commerce or activities. Interstate competition refers to sports organizations that travel across state lines to compete. But even those that do not travel across state lines are indirectly impacted by the act because it sets a new standard of care that will likely apply to all organizations over time. Most states will also move to pass state-specific legislation that directly applies to sports organizations that do not cross state lines.

USA Softball, under USOPC Bylaw Section 8.7.1(c), is indeed under more stringent requirements from the USCSS in regard to implementing abuse prevention training and other measures to reduce one-on-one interaction between adults and minor athletes. However, this should be viewed in a positive light as we continue to set the standard for athlete safety and well-being.

We take protecting our members both on and off the field seriously and are dedicated to building and maintaining a supportive and nurturing environment in which our participants may flourish and grow. We are the leaders in the sport of softball and as such our commitment to athlete safety is unmatched. Simply put – USA Softball will not tolerate ANY abuse whether it is emotional, physical, mental and sexual. That is why for over 10 years, USA Softball has required background checks for adults on the field of play in our Youth/Junior Olympic (JO) program. Since the introduction of the USCSS, the USOPC has developed a Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) and USA Softball has further developed our own MAAPP and USCSS policy designed to protect our members from various types of misconduct and abuse.

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NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF PROMOTIONS & ADDITIONS

PROMOTIONS



JULIE WHITEAKER (UKIAH, CALIF.) - EVENT MANAGER

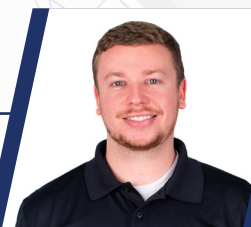
"Working for USA Softball is not only a dream, but a passion of mine," said Whiteaker. "I am excited to be a part of the National Office Staff and help continue improving softball amongst players everywhere."

ADDITIONS



JAKE HILL (MIDWEST CITY, OKLA.) - FACILITY MAINTENANCE STAFF

"I'm excited to join the staff here at USA Softball because I, along with everyone here, want to make the game of softball the best it can be."



AARON WINTERMOTE (HILLSBORO, KAN.) - COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

"USA Softball has given me a chance to start a career doing what I love. I am so thankful and overjoyed to be here."



JUSTIN MCGREGOR (OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.) - EVENT COORDINATOR

"I am excited for the opportunity to serve within USA Softball and be a part of a growing program for excellence and achievement."



2020 HOF COMPLEX

The 2020 schedule for the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex – OGE Energy Field – INTEGRIS Field has been revealed, meaning players, coaches, umpires and fans alike can once again look forward to many action-packed weekends at the Softball Capital of the World®. *Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain events held at the HOF Complex have been canceled. Please check USASoftball.com for the latest schedule.*

2020 USA SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME COMPLEX SCHEDULE

College Coach Recruitment Camp – **July 18-19**

18U GOLD National Championship – **July 19-25**

All-American Games – **August 13-16**

USA American Heroes Slow Pitch Tournament – **August 21-23**

Men’s Class C Slow Pitch National Championship – **August 28-30**

Men’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship – **September 4-5**

Men’s Class B Slow Pitch National Championship – **September 6-7**

U.S. Games 16U/18U – **September 18-20**

OSSAA High School State Championship – **October 8-10**

OSSAA High School State Championship – **October 15-16**



2020 marks the celebration of the renovated OGE Energy Field – INTEGRIS Field and 30th anniversary of the NCAA Women’s College World Series at the renovated USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium – OGE Energy Field. Check out some pictures of the wide range of events the Complex has hosted through the years! For more information about the renovations [CLICK HERE>>](#)



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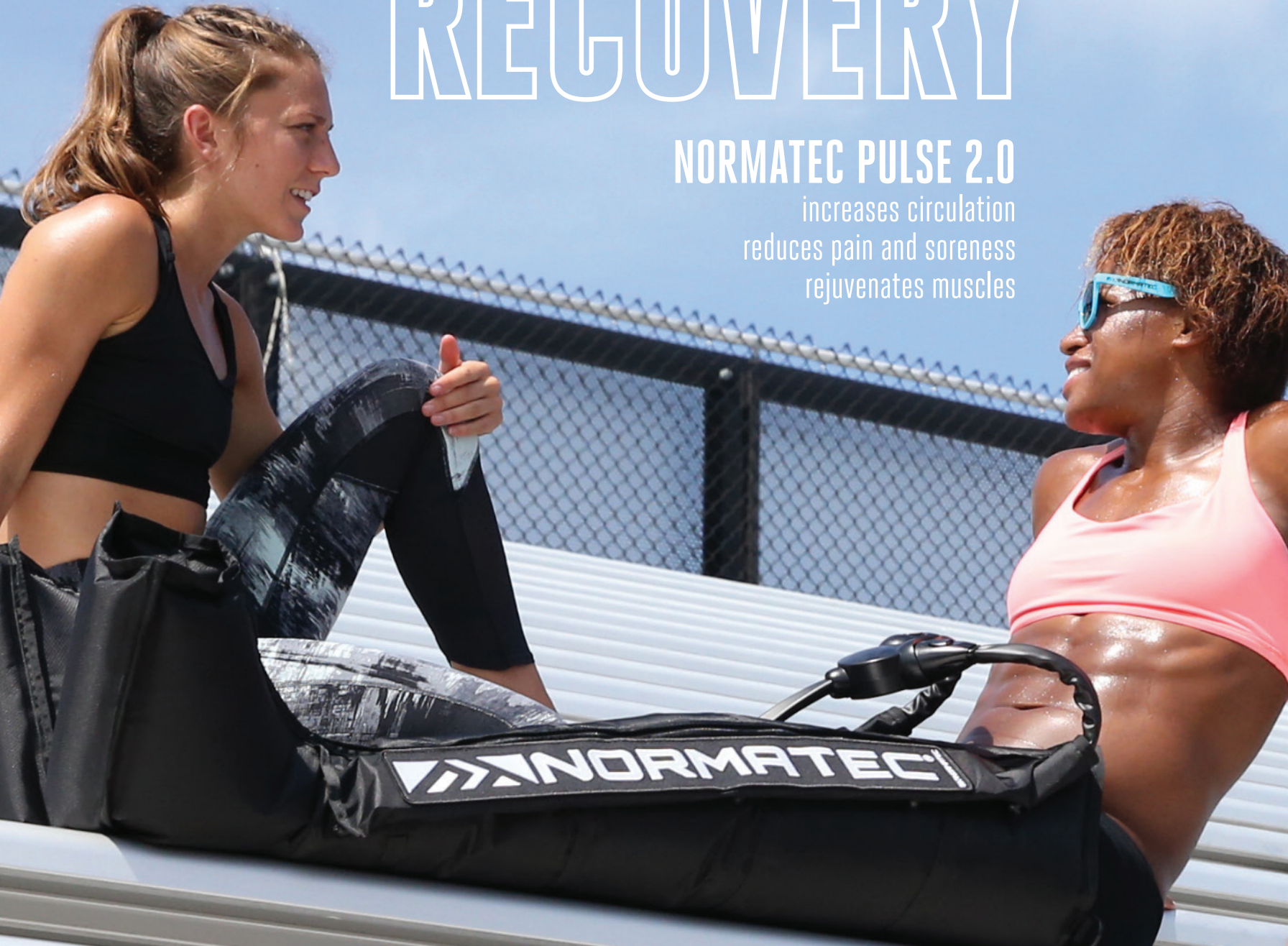
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LOCAL ASSOCIATION SPOTLIGHT

GREATER SAN JOAQUIN INDUCTS 2020 HALL OF FAME CLASS

It was an incredible evening at the Central Cal District 7 Greater San Joaquin Hall of Fame Ceremony on February 15, 2020 at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds. This event not only honored this year's inductees but also presented awards to Mark Miller, "Ambassador to the Sport" recipient and National Tournament umpires of 2019.

Former Commissioner of Greater San Joaquin Softball Association and current USA Softball Commissioner Emeritus, Matt Pfeifer, served as the Master of Ceremonies for this event.

"This program started in 1945 and has continued to leave me in awe each year by the amount of talent in our area that are more deserving of this recognition," said Pfeifer. "However, my favorite part is watching the past inductees interact and renew friendships each year. To me, that is really special. I already can't wait until next year."



Pictured above (L-R): Marty Morfey, Lori Cook-Baird, Bart Magellan, Kim Reese, Sam King, Rick Vargas, Master of Ceremonies Matt Pfeifer

FOR INDUCTEE BIOS, [CLICK HERE>>](#)

2020 INDUCTEES

Sam King – Pitcher

Kim Reese – Shortstop

Marty Morfey – Player/Manager

Bart Magellan – Administrator

Lori Cook-Baird – Player

Rick Vargas – Player

The Greater San Joaquin Softball Association is always looking for nominations for its future classes. Anyone can nominate someone.

*To nominate someone and have them go before the committee, **call Matt Pfeifer at (209) 484-5036** and he will email you the form. Nominations are due by Thanksgiving every year for the following year's class.*

LOCAL ASSOCIATION SPOTLIGHT

INAUGURAL USA PATRIOTS PARTNERSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED TO NEVADA AND VIRGINIA

The USA Patriots is an incredible organization made up of true American heroes... They are indeed difference makers.

USA Softball of North Dakota (Commissioner Dick Gulmon) and USA Softball of Piedmont, Virginia (Commissioner Andy Dooley) earn first-ever USA Patriots Partnership Awards.

Fargo, N.D. played host to the USA Patriots for the first time in 2019, arranging an exhibition game in mid-June to help raise funds for the teams' two yearly camps - the aforementioned Kids Camp and an Alumni Camp for those who have participated in a previous Kids Camp. A couple of weeks later, the team was back in North Dakota as part of McQuades' first Thursday night exhibition game in association with the Bismarck Larks baseball club. When all was said and done, approximately \$70,000 had been raised for the camps as a result of the two visits.

"The USA Patriots is an incredible organization made up of true American heroes. The work they do across the country and the impact they have on young people with their Kids Camps goes without saying. They are indeed difference makers," says Commissioner Gulmon. "It was an honor for USA Softball of North Dakota to receive the USA Patriots Partnership Award and hope the small part we played in their organization has also made a difference. I would like

to also offer special thanks to our own Jack Jones who does incredible work for the USA Patriots as a member of their Board of Directors. We are indeed so proud of Jack and thank him for his good work."

Also earning one of the inaugural USA Patriots Partnership Awards was USA Softball of Piedmont, Virginia Commissioner Andy Dooley. Dooley was the driving force behind a remarkable seven-day, five-city tour earlier this summer.

USA Patriots Executive Director Desiree Ellison spoke highly of Dooley, saying "Obviously, he is a very caring person and the compassion he has for youth sports and veterans is incredible. He is someone we know we can rely on to not only support us but to help bring others to the table to work with us on advancing our mission."

USA Softball of North Dakota is proud to announce that the USA Patriots are scheduled to be back at McQuades in June - this time as returning champions. Last summer, the team claimed the Men's Rec 4 title thanks to a 6-0 run in a 52-team field.

For more information about the USA Patriots Amputee Softball Team or to contribute to their Kids Camps directly, visit their website at TheWWAST.org.

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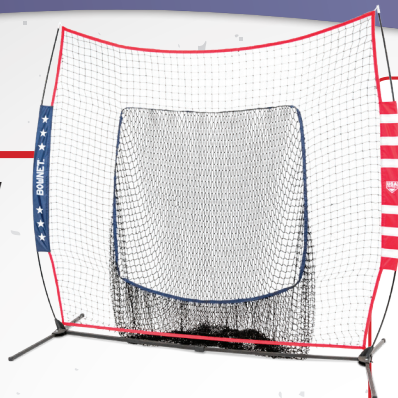


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USA Ball Bag

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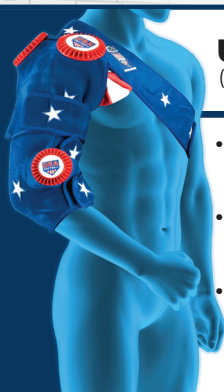
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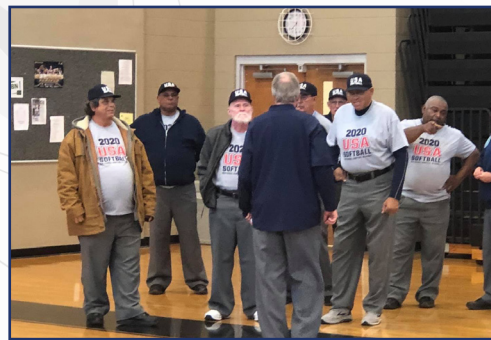
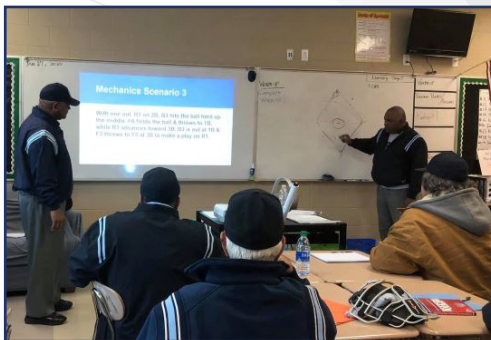
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USA SOFTBALL

NATIONAL UMPIRE SCHOOLS

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

Chattanooga, Tenn. hosted a National Umpire School on January 24-26 coordinated by Ed Rowe, UIC, USA Softball of Tennessee. Ninety Umpires from Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas were in attendance at East Hamilton High School. Dave Chandler, Davey Cole, Jimmy Derrick and Steve Nelson instructed the umpires ranging in ages from 18-73 in classroom and gym activities.



TO FIND NUS LOCATIONS AND HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE YOURSELF, [CLICK HERE>>](#)

STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

Stevens Point, Wisc. hosted a National Umpire School on February 21-23 coordinated by Matt Disher.



USA SOFTBALL

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

USA Softball, a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization, seeks to provide opportunities for people of all ages and all levels to be involved in the sport. With a mission to provide opportunities for participation and the best possible experience for those involved, USA Softball allows former players, coaches, umpires, or aspiring fans to continue their passion for the sport through various leadership roles. Among the leadership opportunities USA Softball offers, Natalie

“As non-profits, we are here to serve the sport of softball and that’s exactly what drew me to the position of State Commissioner,” said USA Softball of Alabama Commissioner, Natalie Norman. “I saw an opportunity to build our sport in the state of Alabama and wanted to take the reins and develop a good staff that would have the leadership to provide our participants with what they needed to excel in the sport.”

Norman became involved with USA Softball in 1989 while she was working for the City of Montgomery Parks & Recreation department. Since then, she has led 30 USA Softball National Championships as Tournament Director and is currently in her fourth year as USA Softball of Alabama Commissioner where she continues to ensure participants get the top-quality experience they deserve.

“The game of softball and what it does for our youth and adult programs as far as wellness, both physically and mentally, and the teamwork and sportsmanship it teaches has made my role as Commissioner feel like an absolute privilege,” said Norman. “To be able to be a part of providing those opportunities for athletes in Alabama is truly so special to me.”

Norman (USA Softball of Alabama), Kristy Rich (USA Softball of Missouri), Anna Louie (USA Softball of San Francisco), and Beverly Wiley (USA Softball of Rhode Island) have each stepped into the role of Local Association Commissioner, a role that plays a crucial part to the improved development of our sport.



“I saw an opportunity to build our sport in the state of Alabama... to provide our participants with what they needed to excel in the sport.”



USA SOFTBALL

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Joining Norman in a female Commissioner role is USA Softball of Missouri Commissioner Kristy Rich. Rich garners a long history in the sport of softball, starting as a young player before working her way to Junior Olympic Commissioner in 2005 and State Commissioner in 2020. During her involvement with USA Softball, Rich has had the opportunity to travel to the 2008 Olympic Games, Border Battle, and the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Coed Slow Pitch World Cup.




KRISTY RICH

“USA Softball has given me so much,” said Rich. “It’s allowed me to travel places I probably never would’ve been able to go while most importantly giving me something I could use my passion of softball for after my playing days were over.”

Rich first joined USA Softball after experiencing a knee injury that ended her playing career, forcing her to seek additional ways to share her passion for softball. She quickly found USA Softball as a way for her to stay active in the sport and hopes to be an example for females in similar positions.

“We definitely need more females in these larger roles,” said Rich. “Not only are they vital to continue growing our program, but they’re a huge factor in showing younger girls that females have the ability to lead and grow the game in a significant way.”

“We definitely need more females in these larger roles... [we] have the ability to lead and grow the game in a significant way.”

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WOMEN WHO LEAD** 

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How to PERSEVERE as a TEAM

- DEVELOP A TEAM MISSION STATEMENT
- MAKE SURE IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT GAME DAY
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- BUT LET THEM BE COMPETITIVE
- CHANGE YOUR VIEW AROUND WINNING

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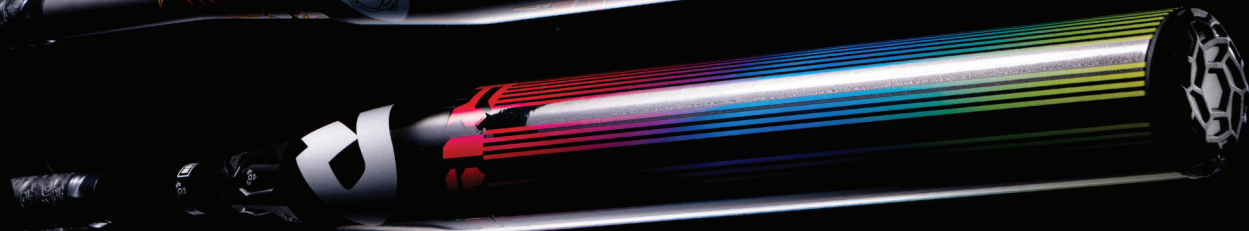
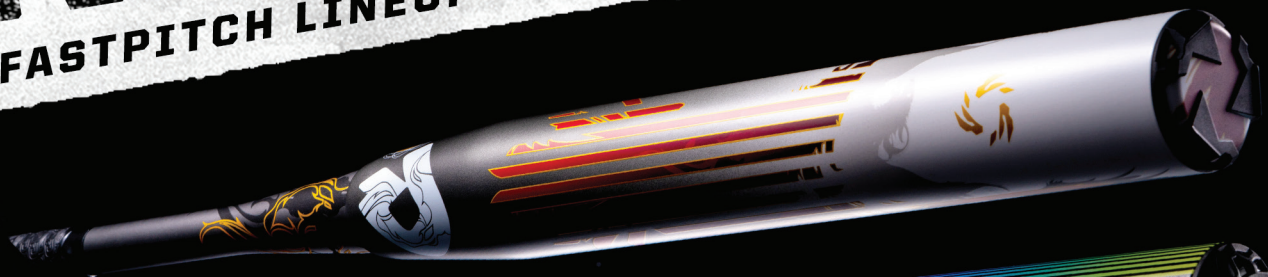
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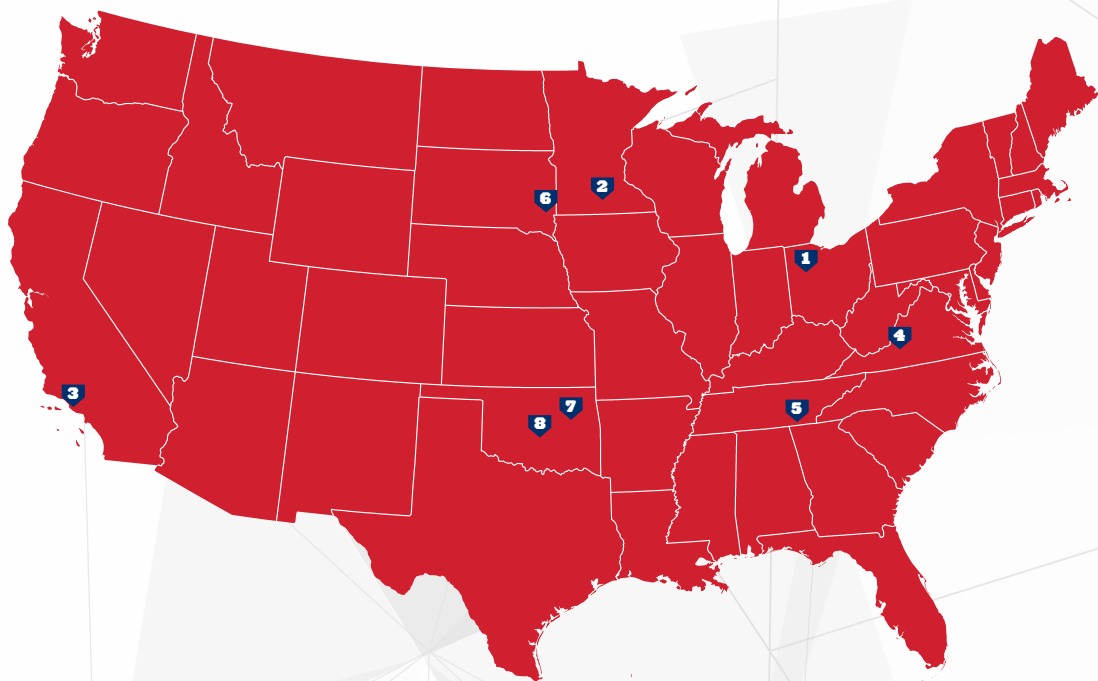


MAP OUT YOUR ROAD TO A 2020 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Each year, teams within USA Softball's Junior Olympic (JO) program complete their season the last two weeks of July at USA Softball JO National Championships. USA Softball conducts over 100 National Championships in each of its major disciplines of the sport – slow pitch, fast pitch and modified pitch. Champions go home as the unchallenged best team in the nation for their respected division each year!

The 2020 Championship Season for the USA Softball Junior Olympic Program is right around the corner! Start mapping out your road to a National Championship!

For a complete listing of USA Softball National Championships, visit USASoftball.com!



CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

1. Fast Pitch Girls' Class A 10-Under East
7/29-8/2 - Findlay, Ohio
2. Fast Pitch Girls' Class A 10-Under West
7/22-7/26 - North Mankato, Minnesota
3. Fast Pitch Girls' Class A 12-Under
7/27-8/7 - Camarillo, California
4. Fast Pitch Girls' Class A 14-Under
7/19-7/26 - Salem, Virginia
5. Fast Pitch Girls' Class A 16-Under
7/19-7/26 - Chattanooga, Tennessee
6. Fast Pitch Girls' Class A 18-Under
7/20-7/26 - Sioux Falls, South Dakota
7. Girls' GOLD 16-Under
7/19-7/25 - Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
8. Girls' GOLD 18-Under
7/19-7/25 - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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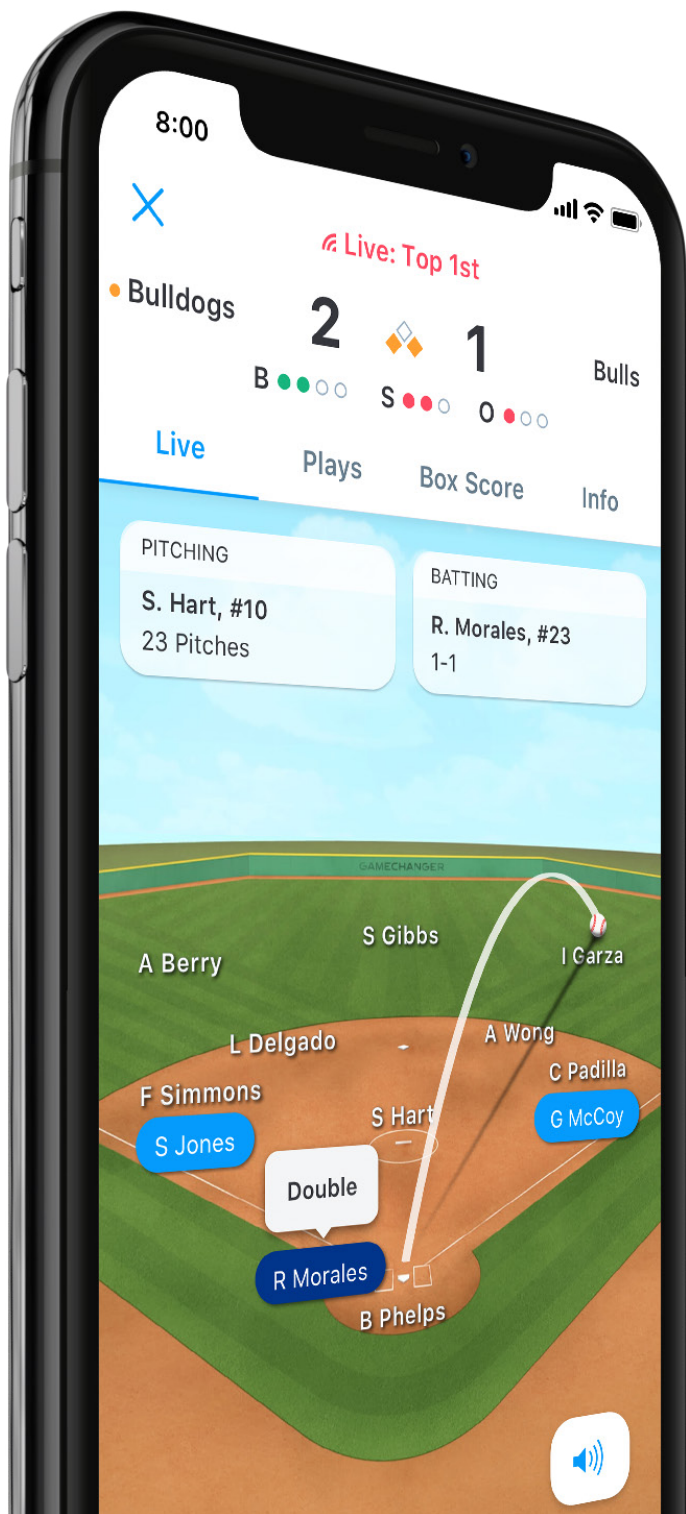


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2020 ALL-AMERICAN GAMES

The USA Softball All-American Games is a prestigious tournament to be hosted at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City. This event will provide National exposure to elite athletes in the 12u age division and has been designed to identify and highlight the best athletes from across the country.

Each Region will select teams (30 players and 4 coaches) to represent their geographical area. Additional at-large selections are given to Regions with highest registration. This event is designed to recognize individual athletes for their outstanding playing abilities and selections should represent the individual best players and not an in-tact team.

Designation to a USA Softball All-American team is the highest honor a player can receive and instantly brands the player as one of the top athletes in the United States. Only 360 girls Nationwide will have the opportunity to wear the USA Softball Jersey at this elite event.

Participants experience VIP treatment during their time at the USA Softball All-American Games. The event will feature a meet & greet with USA Softball National Team Members, Opening Ceremonies, intense competition in a 4 Game Guarantee Tournament and a swag bag for all participants.





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AMATEUR RESOURCE CENTER SPOTLIGHT

USA Softball has many important responsibilities as the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States, including regulating competition to ensure fairness and equal opportunity to the millions of players who annually play the sport.

As a resource for all softball participants, USASoftball.com features tips on various softball-related topics.

Health & Safety Resources

Nutrition [LINK >>](#)

Athletes can prepare their bodies for competition through proper nutrition

Strength & Conditioning [LINK >>](#)

Strength and conditioning provides specific conditioning in a manageable, controlled environment.

Prohibited Substances [LINK >>](#)

Review the prohibited substances of the World Anti-Doping Agency

General Safety [LINK >>](#)

This guide is formulated to assist in educating yourself to minimize risks and prevent unnecessary injuries while playing softball.

SafeSport [LINK >>](#)

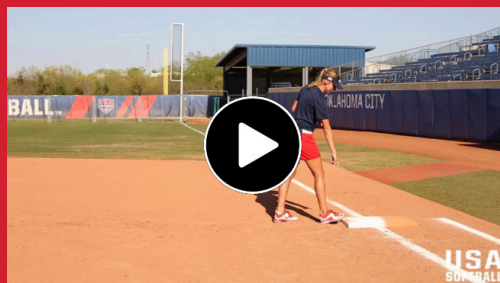
The U.S. Center for SafeSport is an independent nonprofit committed to ending all forms of abuse in sport.

Softball Fundamental Videos

USA Softball: Beginner Catching



USA Softball: Advanced Baserunning



Coaching Resources

Coaching your child [LINK >>](#)

A guide to coaching your child through good and difficult times.

Divisional Focuses [LINK >>](#)

A breakdown of what to focus on per division.

Team USA Coaches [LINK >>](#)

Informational bios of USA Softball National Team Coaches.

Printable Resources [LINK >>](#)

Printable resources offered by USA Softball including Diamond Diagram, Lineup Cards, Team Contact Sheet, and Team Roster Sheet



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