

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USA SOFTBALL™

2020// ISSUE III

BALLS AND STRIKES



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BALLS AND STRIKES

Official Publication of
USA Softball
2020 \ Issue III

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Contributors

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The Official Publication of
USA Softball

Balls and Strikes Softball Magazine is
published quarterly by USA Softball
2801 N.E. 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
(405) 424-5266

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings USA Softball Council Members and fans everywhere,

Despite the uncertainty and challenging times 2020 has brought us, I am proud of how USA Softball has responded. For sports everywhere, from the youth to adult level, return to play guidelines have been different for everyone across the country. Many events were canceled while others were relocated. From the GOLD National Championships to the All-American Games and various Adult Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch National Championships, the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex has seen a range of tournaments come through Oklahoma City. Though the tournaments might have differed from previous years, we heard back from many players, coaches and fans alike who were grateful for the opportunity to return to play.

Having played roughly 31% of our 2020 National Championships, I am optimistic we can work together and provide ways for more participants to return to play and compete for a coveted 2021 National Championship title in their division. Wrapping up the 2020 season at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, USA Softball will host The Alliance Fastpitch Fall Cup and the Heart of America Elite Fastpitch League (HFL) Cup along with Oklahoma's OSSAA High School State Championships in October. Outside of Oklahoma City in Viera, Florida, we will be giving our Men's and Women's Slow Pitch National Team Programs the opportunity to compete in their respective Slow Pitch Showdown matchups at Space Coast Stadium.

Additionally, the USA Softball Board of Directors has continued to work and regularly meet despite not being able to hold meetings in person. We recently addressed locations and the bidding process for 2022 National Championships along with the possibility of hosting more tournaments at historic USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex.

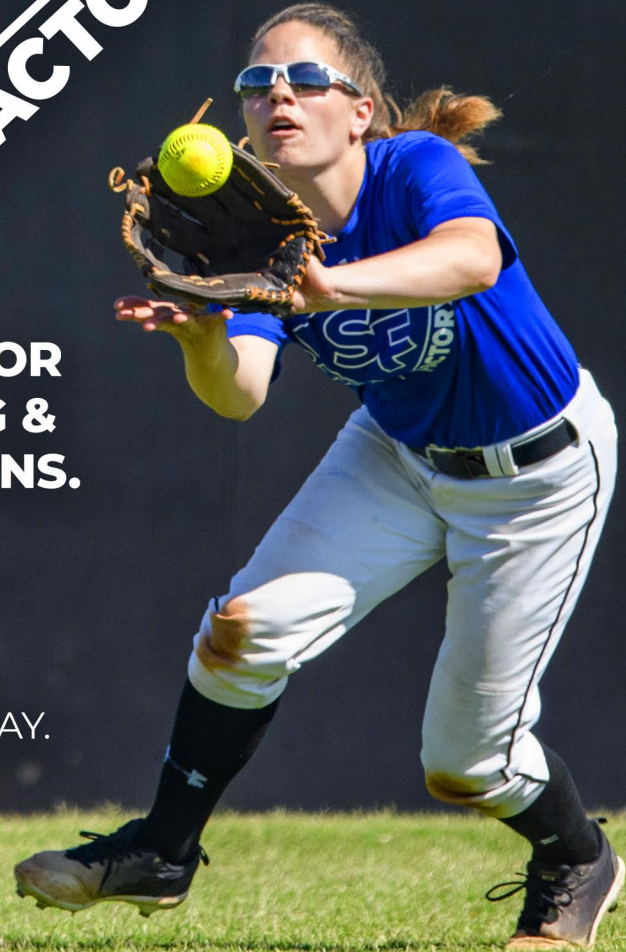
As we begin our fall seasons and start to prepare for our 2021 season, I just ask that everyone stay vigilant and follow the CDC guidelines and their local state, county and city guidelines in dealing with COVID-19. We have made major strides just to get back to playing our great game in many places, and we need to continue our safety practices moving forward. I am very hopeful that we will be over this in 2021.

Rodney Cobb
USA Softball President



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NEWS & NOTES

USA SOFTBALL CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF LONGTIME SOFTBALL LEADER, DON PORTER (1930-2020)

USA Softball joins the softball community in mourning the loss of former Executive Director, Don Porter (Oklahoma City, Okla.), who passed away on Sunday, June 7, 2020. He was 90 years old.

"We are deeply saddened to hear about the loss of Don Porter, a visionary leader and advocate for the sport of softball," said USA Softball Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Craig Cress. "His passion, dedication and perseverance to make softball an international leader in the sports community played an instrumental role in where we are today. His vision for our sport led to softball participation in over 130 countries around the world, and his impact and influence, not only for our organization but for the sport of softball as a whole, will continue to live on in every participant, administrator and fan. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Jean, as well as his family and friends from all across the world during this difficult time."

Porter's influence and contributions to the sport of softball extend across the globe. Beginning his career with USA Softball (formerly Amateur Softball Association) as a Commissioner of Southern California, Porter joined the National Office staff in May of 1962 before being appointed the Executive Secretary-Treasurer in January of 1963, a position which eventually merged into the Executive Director title. Porter served as Executive Director of USA Softball for over 35 years before retiring in 1997 and continuing his role as President of the International Softball Federation (ISF).

During his time as Executive Director, USA Softball had outstanding growth and development, including building of the National Office, the National Softball Hall of Fame and the historic USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City. Not only was Porter influential within the growth of USA Softball, he also helped conceptualize and launch the first-ever Softball World Championship in 1965, which led to the foundation of the ISF (now known as the World Baseball Softball Confederation).

[Click here to read more >>](#)





NEWS & NOTES

BSN SPORTS OPENS USA SOFTBALL TEAM SHOP AS OFFICIAL LICENSEE

USA Softball announced a one-year licensing agreement with BSN SPORTS, which tabs the company as an official licensee and apparel partner of USA Softball.

“USA Softball is proud to add BSN SPORTS as a licensed vendor and partner,” said USA Softball Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Craig Cress. “By adding BSN SPORTS to our vendor list, our grassroots network will have access to exclusive pricing on merchandise and customized team gear. We look forward to working together with BSN SPORTS as we continue to promote USA Softball across the United States and enhance the benefits that our members receive.”

BSN SPORTS will offer its rewards program to USA Softball members nationwide through a BSN SPORTS-operated USA Softball Team Shop where fans can purchase and customize team branded, print-on-demand apparel and accessories.

“Through this partnership with USA Softball, our BSN SPORTS family is thrilled for the opportunity to continue generating support and excitement around women’s athletics,” said BSN SPORTS President, Terry Babilla. “This opportunity to outfit the organization’s athletes and fans alike throughout the preparation for the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games is a central building block in our overall goal to propel and empower female athletes competing at the highest level. As an official licensed apparel partner of USA Softball, we look forward to providing best in class product selection to the organization’s members, while helping the sport flourish and lay the groundwork to bring softball into the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.”

[Click here to read more >>](#)

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\$41.00 UA Locker Tee Available in 3 other colors.



\$41.00 UA Women's Short Sleeve Locker Tee Available in 3 other colors.



\$38.50 Nike Legend Short Sleeve T-Shirt Available in 2 other colors.



\$38.50 UA Women's Short Sleeve Locker Tee Available in 2 other colors.



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NEWS & NOTES

CHRISTINA DRUMM SELECTED AS USA SOFTBALL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONER

USA Softball announced that Christina Drumm (Oceanside, Calif.) has been appointed as Commissioner for USA Softball of Southern California. Drumm assumed responsibilities following the retirement of Commissioner and past USA Softball President, Phil Gutierrez.

"I'm extremely honored to be selected as the Commissioner of USA Softball of Southern California," said Drumm. "I appreciate the leadership and vision Commissioner Phil Gutierrez has provided to SoCal during his tenure. I look forward to working with SoCal's dedicated and passionate staff to continue building relationships with our members and increased opportunity to play with USAS SoCal."

Prior to taking on the role of Commissioner, Drumm held the position of Deputy Commissioner for USA Softball of Southern California and was a member of the National Umpire Staff as the Western Territory Deputy Director. A member of the USA Softball Council and USA Softball of Southern California Board of Directors since 2011, Drumm has also served as the Committee Chair for ASA Properties and the annual Umpire Manual publication. Planning and monitoring the budget for the USA Softball of Southern California Local Association, Drumm has also used knowledge of new and emerging multimedia teaching techniques to create an implement training programs for multiple age groups and experience levels. A lead lecturer for numerous national and regional umpire clinics across the U.S., she has managed and coached performance skills to officials and volunteers and assisted in the overall membership process and championship play within the Southern Californian community.

Earlier this year, Drumm was selected to the staff of officials for the XXXII Olympic Summer Games softball competitions because of her extensive international umpiring experience. Drumm's international resume includes getting the call at the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Americas Softball Olympic Qualifier, a qualifying tournament for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, in addition to the World Cup of Softball five times, the 2009 Chinese National Games, 2016 Japan All-Star Series and WBSC Junior Women's and Women's World Championships. A member of the San Diego County Sports Hall of Fame class of 2011, Drumm received her WBSC certification in 2003 and was named to the USA Softball National Umpiring Staff in 2015.

Drumm is a graduate of California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) with a Masters of Public Health with an emphasis in health promotion and education, in addition to her Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology with an emphasis in health science.

Outside of USA Softball, Drumm continues to work as a program coordinator for the CSUSM Kinesiology Department and substitute teacher for the Oceanside Unified School District.

For more information on USA Softball of Southern California, please visit socal.usasoftball.com. Drumm can be reached at drumm.chris.socal.asa@gmail.com or (760) 473-4873.



of Southern California

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FACES ON THE FIELD



GREG, 53

Indiana

USA Softball of Indiana

HIS START

1993

WHAT DIVISION HE UMPIRES

All divisions of Slow Pitch Softball

FAVORITE THING ABOUT UMPIRING

The camaraderie amongst my USA Softball family

HIS GOALS

I've completed my bucket list. Now I'm trying to find "The next me" per a speech given by Craig Cress at the 2015 UIC Clinic.

BEST EXPERIENCE

By far the best experience I've had is umpiring the Special Olympics National Invitational. A person cannot leave that tournament without a smile on their face. The Armed Forces National Championships hold a special place in my heart as well.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Becoming an Elite Umpire.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

Self-doubt.

USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE AWARDS PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP

Blue, Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal, NIF, and Elite

MORE FROM GREG

The "Family" of USA Softball umpires is something that I will carry with me forever. If any of the members of "team blue" that I've fortunate enough to work with or for, are reading this. Thank you!



FACES ON THE FIELD

MARISSA, 17

California – Athletics Mercado Magorian
USA Softball of Sacramento



HER START

I began playing softball when I was 9 years old. I came home with a flyer from school and asked my parents if I could play softball. I started in our 10U rec league with my dad coaching me.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT PLAYING SOFTBALL

My favorite thing about playing softball is the feeling I get when I am on the field competing with my team and not having to worry or think about anything else. I feel free to be me.

HER GOALS

My softball goal is to continue playing softball in college

BEST EXPERIENCE

My best experience in softball so far is meeting Sydney Romero via zoom.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

The softball accomplishment I'm most proud of is batting .500 in my junior year of high school on varsity.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

The toughest obstacle I have had to overcome in sport is returning after getting really sick and losing a lot of weight. I have had to relearn just about every aspect of the game with the new me. It is an ongoing process but I love playing softball so I will continue to work hard to pursue my dreams.

HER ROLE MODELS IN THE GAME

My role models in softball are Sydney Romero and Danielle Henderson. Sydney is an awesome 3rd base player and always gives it her all on offense and defense. Another role model who happens to be my hitting coach is Danielle Henderson, who also played 3rd base and is a consistent power hitter!

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DUDLEY

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- New Lightning LiFT™ Lite Frame -13 Composite Technology - Max bat speed, see pitches longer, more plate coverage
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- Meets all softball association standards
- 31"/18oz, 30"/17oz, 29"/16oz, 28"/15oz, 27"/14oz

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-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

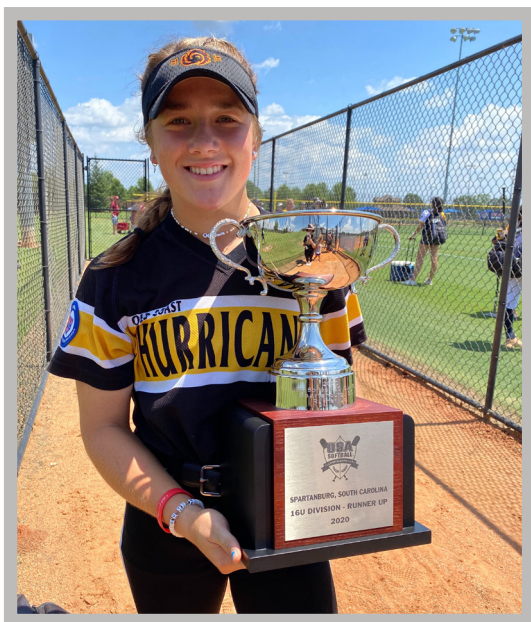
PLAYER'S RESPONSE... "I AM PLAYING 8U FOR MY FIRST SEASON AND I REALLY NEED A BAT WITH A LARGE SWEETSPOT TO GIVE MYSELF THE BEST CHANCE OF GETTING SOLID HITS ON BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PITCHES AS I LEARN HOW TO HIT A FASTPITCH BALL...."



MODEL LLFP13 - \$49.99

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- New Lightning Lite™ Frame -13 Aluminum Technology - Max bat speed, see pitches longer, more plate coverage
- High Strength Aircraft Alloy frame - Large sweetspot and good durability
- Approved by USASB, USSSA, NSA, ISA
- Meets all softball association standards
- 30"/17oz, 29"/16oz, 28"/15oz, 27"/14oz, 26"/13oz

FACES ON THE FIELD



KYLIE, 16

Florida – Gold Coast
Hurricanes-Hammonds
USA Softball of Florida

HER START

I started playing in 2010 when I was 7 after playing baseball as a 5/6 year old.

FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT PLAYING SOFTBALL Being part of a team and working towards our common goals. The sense of sisterhood and circle of friends I have gotten out of softball has been life changing for me.

HER GOALS My goal is to play D1 college softball at the highest level to challenge myself and lessen the financial burden on my family.

BEST EXPERIENCE I have had so many but in 2018 going 4 for 4 against the top ranked 14U team in the country while being watched by 50+ D1 coaches was pretty awesome.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT I had a diving catch in the gap that would have scored 2 in the USA Elite Championship game. We won 3-2.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE Balancing my commitment to my other sport (gymnastics) while becoming the best softball player I can be. I am a level 10 and 2 time national champion gymnast (vault & beam) that requires 30 hours of training each week.

ROLE MODELS IN THE GAME

Kelly Montalvo has always been an idol of mine. She never let her physical stature limit her goals. As another Florida girl I understand how much she wanted to play for UF. They would not consider her because of her size...so she went to Alabama and became an All-American.

FACES ON THE FIELD



MADDIE, 13

Rhode Island - Bombers Elite

USA Softball of Rhode Island

HER START

My mom signed me up and I started t-ball with the boys at the age of 4 and switched to softball at the age of 5 with the girls.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT PLAYING SOFTBALL

My favorite thing about playing softball is the development with your team on and off the field.

HER GOALS

My goals in softball are to play in high school and college.

BEST EXPERIENCE

The best experience I've had in softball so far is playing in Oklahoma at the Hall of Fame Stadium.

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

The softball accomplishment I'm most proud of is making the All-American USA team.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

The toughest obstacle I've had to overcome in this sport is earning my spot and working hard for it.

ROLE MODEL IN THE GAME

My role model in the game is Jennie Finch.

FACES ON THE FIELD



TIM, 52

New York

USA Softball of New York

HIS START

2005

WHAT DIVISION HE UMPIRES

Youth fast pitch & Adult slow pitch

HIS GOALS

Being a Veteran myself. I would like to umpire in the Armed Forces Championship

BEST EXPERIENCE

Umpiring in the Canadian Slo-Pitch National Championship

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Achieving my Elite status in Slow Pitch.

TOUGHEST OBSTACLE

Weather. Living in the Northeast the softball season is really only four months long. Very tough to get in as many games as I would like to.

USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE AWARDS PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP

Elite Slow pitch, NIF member, Gold level in medals program

FAVORITE THING ABOUT UMPIRING FOR USA SOFTBALL

Traveling around the United States as well as Canada meeting new people who share the same passion for umpiring as I do, as well as helping to mentor newer umpires.

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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!

I love to pitch. This is where I will be spring 2027. The picture is in my mind. Now, time to get back to work.

@EKSOFTBALL 2026



9 games in 3 days to take 2nd place in the @USASoftball 14U "A" Northern Nationals in KC this weekend. Proud of these young ladies, what they battled through and the lessons they learned.

@SODAKXPLOSION

@Turnin2Softball checking in to JO Cup #USASoftball #JOCup #Tournament #squad final journey of 16U. Best of luck T2. Get after it @DylanCardinale

@LCARDINALE1



Firecrackers Maryland - we have arrived 🍌🌟🌟

@FIRECRACKERS_MD



So proud of this girl for being selected to play on one of the Region 7 USA Softball All-American teams representing the midwest in OK City this summer! Way to go Morgan! All of that hard work is paying off.

@CPENN19



And they are off to OKC #USASoftball

@MIKESCOTT21



@USASoftball
#USASoftball

Great weekend up north, blessed to watch these girls grow up so fast.

@MBSWEATPANTS



Thank you @USASoftball for the prize pack!! This is beyond amazing and more than we could ever have expected!! My daughter can't wait to get back out on the field with her team and get some hits out of this new Louisville Slugger!!

@COLDPLAYMXOXO



SOCIAL MEDIA: YOU POSTED IT!

Softball Capital of the World! USA 18GOLD Nationals. Nowhere else I would rather finish out this crazy COVID season. We



left a small amount of dirt on the field. Walk off win in the bottom of the 7th for our first bracket win last night.

@SLAP_HAPPY



Love the game for everything it can teach you about yourself. Love the game for the feeling of belonging to a group endeavoring to do its best. Love the game for being involved in a team whose members can't wait to see you do your best. Doin' what we do best: cheering each other on! 🙌🏻🇺🇸 Team chemistry 100

@KELLEYCASH



A few pictures from our trip to Oklahoma!
@norcal.bandits.fastpitch

@MARIAHHOPKINS2023



left a small amount of dirt on the field. Walk off win in the bottom of the 7th for our first bracket win last night.

@SLAP_HAPPY



What else would I be doing on the weekend?? Some fun times at the USA Softball complex in OKC this past weekend!
#usasoftball

@TBOULEY12



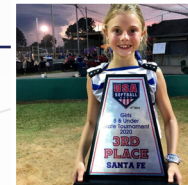
Pretty cool weekend. Was honored to play fast pitch at Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City with some friends from Boston

@MAPLE_STREET_HOT_RODS



How I spent my weekend... 6 games in 13+ hours today to take 3rd place baby. My 3rd baseman was on fire 🔥

@RAISINGROOSTERSCO



Opportunity is everything 🇺🇸🇵🇸

@LINDSAY.FULLER9



A few photos and a video clip of my nephew Sam Nieman playing in the 2020 USA Softball Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship this weekend at USA Softball facility in OKC. His team from St. Paul, MN finished the tourney in 4th place with a 4-2 record. It was great to get to watch him play!
@KEITH8404



20 years ago I met David " Bear" networking in Coral Spring, FL...he moved to California, I moved to New Orleans and we reconnected today in Oklahoma City. Great job Kylie with the late inning single for the win!

@MMADLOCK



F21

BAT COLLECTION

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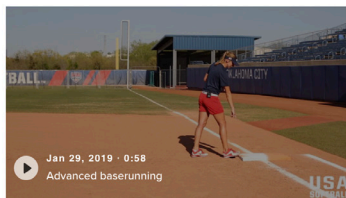
Amateur Resource Center – ARC

Launched in April 2019, USA Softball’s Amateur Resource Center is a website designed to promote grassroots education for coaches, parents, umpires and youth athletes. Covering important topics that relate to youth softball, the website also features original content from members of the USA Softball National Team Programs and instructional videos covering the basic fundamentals of softball.

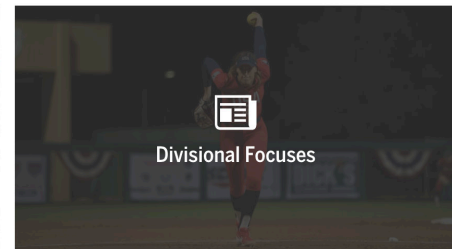
[Visit USASoftballEducation.com for more >>](http://USASoftballEducation.com)

Included in the Amateur Resource Center is USA Softball’s Sport Development Series, a 10-topic series that aired bi-weekly with a focus on educating all levels of softball in a brand-new way. Each episode featured a panel of softball experts alongside host, Lauren Chamberlain. The series kicked off on May 28 with a discussion on Mental Health Awareness and concluded on September 30 with the final episode covering Technology in Sport.

Softball Fundamentals Video



Coaches



Health & Safety

Nutrition

Athletes can prepare their bodies for competition through proper nutrition.

[» Learn More](#)

Strength & Conditioning

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

[» Learn More](#)

Prohibited Substances

Review the prohibited substances of the World Anti-Doping Agency for January 2019.

[» Learn More](#)

General Safety

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

[» Learn More](#)

SafeSport

Through education, resources and training, the U.S. Center for SafeSport helps members of the sport community recognize, reduce and respond to misconduct in sport.

[» Learn More](#)

Sport Development Series

Previous episodes are available to watch through the [USA Softball Amateur Resource Center >>](#)

Sport Development Series
Mental Health Awareness | [Facebook.com/USASoftball](#)

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player







Dr. Jim Bauman
Sports Psychologist

Valerie Ariato
2000 Olympic Team member

Ally Carda
2000 Olympic Team member

Christina Drum
Western Territory Deputy Director

Episode 1: Mental Health Awareness

Sport Development Series
Strength Training & Recovery | [Facebook.com/USASoftball](#)

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player







Mike Burwell
WUSA and USA Softball
Deputy

Samantha Carter
Certified ATC | Women's National
Team Athlete Trainer

Michele Lattimer
Certified ATC | Women's National
Team Athlete Trainer

Haylie McClenny
2000 Olympic Team Member | Certified
Strength & Conditioning Specialist

Episode 2: Strength Training & Recovery

Sport Development Series
Nutrition, Hydration and Self Care | [Facebook.com/USASoftball](#)

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player







Monica Abbott
2000 Olympic Team Member

Ben Dunn
Men's Club Pitch National Team
Member

Ken Erikson
Women's National Team Head
Coach

Rebecca Meach
USA Softball Olympic & Paralympic
Committee Sport Dietitian

Episode 3: Nutrition, Hydration and Self Care

Sport Development Series
Recruiting | [Facebook.com/USASoftball](#)

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player







Carol Bruggeman
WUSA Executive Director

Sam Fischer
Professional Softball Player

Michele Maultree
2000 Olympic Team Member

Tari Tynan
Head Coach of Rowland University

Episode 4: Recruiting - Finding the right path for you

Sport Development Series
Staying Involved in the Game

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player







Jade Hewitt
"Starline Baseball" Team,
presented by WUSA Digital Media

Destinee Martinez
Managing Director of Sport
Development, USA Softball

Steve Nelson
Western Territory Deputy Director
Co-Chair of Church in the City

Janie Reed
2000 Olympic Team Member

[Facebook.com/USASoftball](#)

Episode 5: Staying Involved in the Game

Sport Development Series
Women in Sports | [Facebook.com/USASoftball](#)

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player







Rachel Folden
Minor League hitting
Coach | Chicago Cubs

Kim Ng
Senior Risk President, Baseball
| Softball Development | USA

Michele Smith
Two-time Olympic Gold Medalist
| USA Softball Analyst

Lindy Roberts
Senior Associate Athletics
Director | Southeastern University
| USA Athletics

August 5, 2020 | 2 pm CT

Episode 6: Women in Sports

Sport Development Series
Social Media: Lessons for Athletes and Parents

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player








Dejah Mulipola
2000 Olympic
Team Member

Aubree Munro
2000 Olympic
Team Member

Allison Parazell
Fastpitch Promotions Manager
Western Sporting Goods

Jazz Jackson Vesely
President of Program
Director | Impact Social
Organization

Tim Walton
Head Coach
University of Florida

[Facebook.com/USASoftball](#) August 19, 2020 | 2 pm CT

Episode 7: Social Media: Lessons for Athletes and Parents

Sport Development Series
Championship Experience

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player







Patty Basso
Head Coach
University of Oklahoma

Cat Osterman
2000 Olympic
Team Member

Kellani Ricketts
2000 Olympic
Team Member

Bryan Smith
Midwest Region
Deputy Region Director

[Facebook.com/USASoftball](#) September 2, 2020 | 2 pm CT

Episode 8: Championship Experiences

Sport Development Series
Mental Game & Facing Adversity

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player








Rachel Garcia
2000 Olympic
Team Member

Bubba Nickles
2000 Olympic
Team Member

Dr. Jim Bauman
Sports Psychologist

Cara Coughenour
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New York's National Show
Pitch National Team

Lee Gray
Insignia |
USA Softball

[Facebook.com/USASoftball](#) September 16, 2020 | 2 pm CT

Episode 9: Mental Game - Facing Adversity

Sport Development Series
Technology in Sport

HOSTED BY
Lauren Chamberlain
National Champion, Former National Team and Professional player







Andrea Chidester
2000 Olympic
Team Member

Heather Tarr
2000 Olympic Team
National Coach

Scott Smith
National Program Director |
Deputy National Coach

Andrea Duran
Account Executive |
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[Facebook.com/USASoftball](#) September 30, 2020 | 2 pm CT

Episode 10: Technology in Sport



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TRUESPORT: EDUCATION



From accountability to teamwork, TrueSport® and USA Softball have teamed up to provide expert insight surrounding youth sports today such as ways coaches can encourage teamwork, how to earn the respect of your players and more. In case you missed it, check out a few of the expert-driven articles brought to USA Softball by TrueSport!

Youth Sports: How to Deal with Anxiety Around Return to Play [Click here for more >>](#)

As young athletes return to practice after being away from friends and coaches for months due to COVID-19 lockdowns, athlete anxiety will be natural. Not only are there new safety protocols in place that may seem confusing or intimidating, it's a big shift emotionally as well.

TrueSport Expert Kevin Chapman, PhD, clinical psychologist and founder of The Kentucky Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders, is here to help parents navigate an athlete's return to play. With these tips, you can learn to recognize athletes' feelings, determine the cause, and help them address their anxiety.

1. *Let Them Feel Feelings*
2. *Assess Where Anxiety Stems From*
3. *Work Through Solutions*
4. *Reset Goals and Expectations*
5. *Take Them to Practice, Regardless*



TRUESPORT: EDUCATION

NEED TO PREPARE FOR A GAME?

Step 1: Good Sleep

Step 2: Good Nutrition



TrueSport

Top Nutrition Tips to Help Heal a Sports Injury [Click here for more >>](#)

When your athlete is recovering from a sports injury that's keeping them from taking part in practice and play, proper nutrition becomes more critical than ever. TrueSport Expert Kristen Ziesmer, a registered dietitian and board-certified specialist in sports dietetics, explains how to use nutrition to help recover from a sports injury. These nutrition tips can make a big impact on your injured athlete's return to play:

1. *Eating healthy is eating for injury*
2. *Lower sugar intake*
3. *Skip supplements*
4. *Hydrate properly*
5. *Look on the bright side*

For more articles and materials, visit USASoftball.com or TrueSport's comprehensive LEARN resource.

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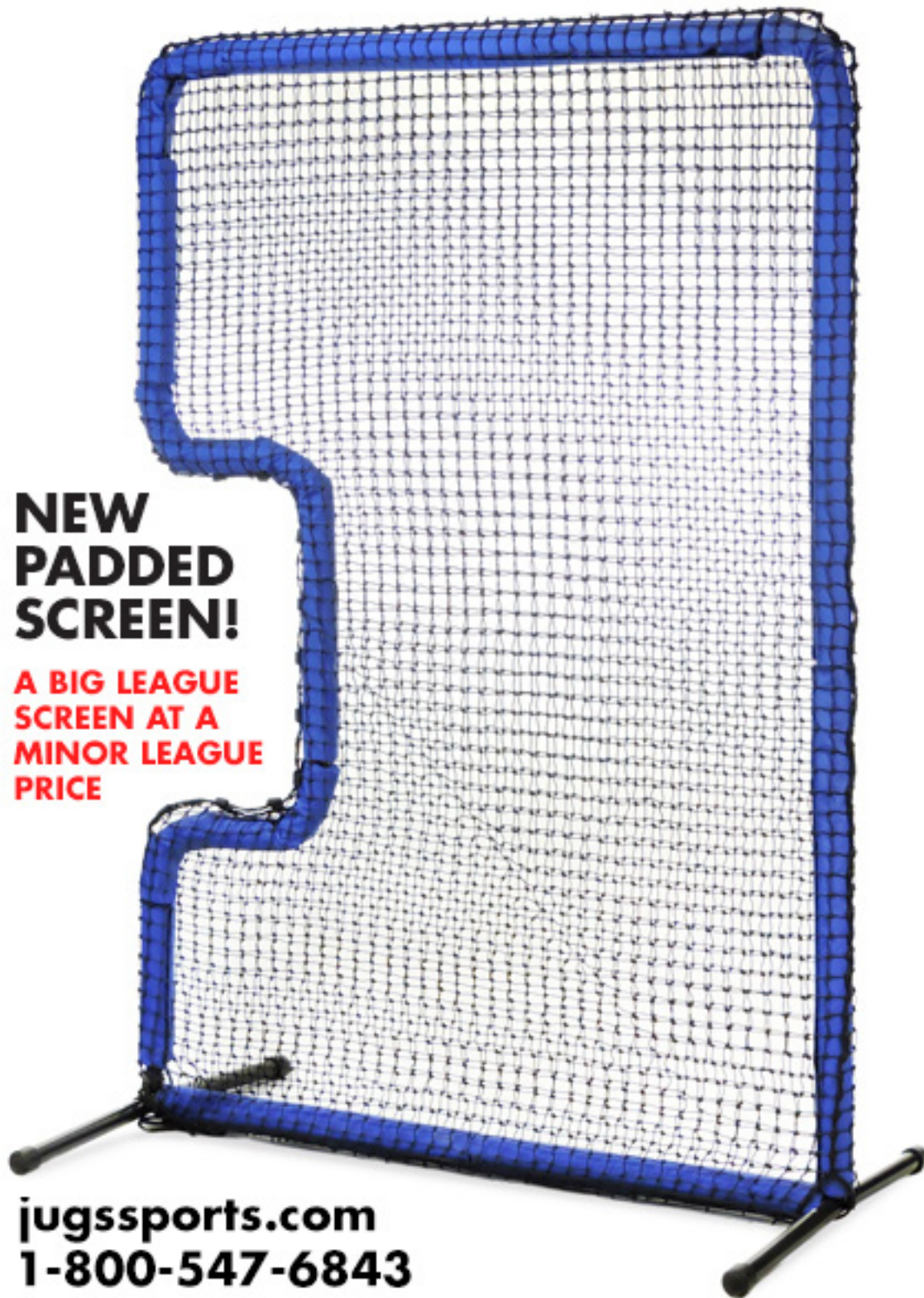
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GOLD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Softball welcomed participants, umpires, coaches and fans to the 2020 USA Softball Girls' 16-Under and 18-Under GOLD National Championships held in Broken Arrow and Oklahoma City, Okla. July 19-25. The elite event for USA Softball's Junior Olympic (JO) play featured 42 teams competing in the 16-under division, hosted at Arrowhead Park (Broken Arrow, Okla.), while the 18-Under division saw 71 teams compete at Wildhorse Park (Mustang, Okla.), Bouse Sports Complex (Choctaw, Okla.) and the Softball Capital of the World® (Oklahoma City, Okla.)

Recording the final victories after a full week of action was Hotshots Premier Nelson (16U) and Birmingham Thunderbolts (18U) as they were crowned the 2020 16-Under and 18-Under GOLD National Champions.



16-Under division (Broken Arrow, Okla.)

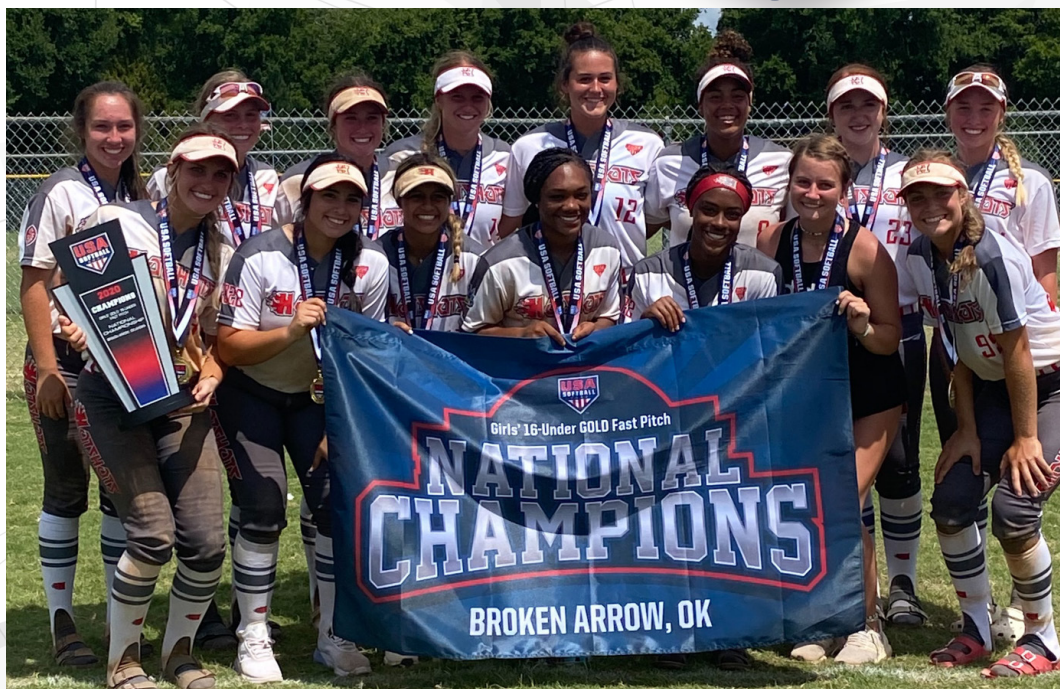
Hotshots Premier Nelson tallied a 10-1 record through the 16-Under GOLD Nationals double-elimination

bracket play, dropping their solo loss to Texas Bombers Burgess before battling through the loser's bracket with seven-straight wins to advance to the Championship finale against California Breeze Birch.



Hotshots Premier Nelson scored five runs on 10 hits in the Championship Game to post a 5-2 victory and force an if-necessary game with California Breeze Birch. Firing from all cylinders, Hotshots Premier Nelson pulled away for good in the bottom of the third inning and scored four runs to take a 5-1 lead after three complete innings. Adding to their hit column, Hotshots Premier Nelson went on to plate another four runs in both the fifth and sixth innings to claim a 9-1 (six inning) run-rule victory and finish as Champions of the 2020 USA Softball GOLD National Championship

16-Under division. California Breeze Birch (2nd) and Texas Bombers Gold Burgess (3rd) rounded out the Top 3 in the 16-Under division.



GOLD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



**18-Under division
(Oklahoma City, Okla)**

***Birmingham
Thunderbolts***

cruised through the

18-Under division with a 6-0 undefeated record through double-elimination bracket play to land in the Championship contest against Hotshots Premier Dumezich.

Having lost to Birmingham Thunderbolts, 5-3, Friday evening, Hotshots Premier Dumezich looked to prove they could battle back for a chance at the trophy. A solo homerun by Nelia Peralta helped the Birmingham Thunderbolts take an early 2-0 lead in the first inning. Hotshots Premier Dumezich tied the game before a two-run fourth frame put them ahead, 4-2. The Birmingham Thunderbolts tied it up again in the sixth inning, but the game was pushed into extra innings after a scoreless seventh. Hotshots Premier Dumezich scored their International Tie Breaker (ITB) runner on a RBI single from Katie Cimusz in the top half, resulting in the 5-4 win. With everything on the line in a winner-take-all matchup, both teams were strong in the circle and kept battling offensively. Annabelle Wildra and Kiley Goff led the Birmingham Thunderbolts with two hits apiece, while Lilly Agan, Natalie Hurdle and Tallen Edwards collected a RBI to put three runs on the scoreboard. While a two-run homer in the fourth inning from Hotshots Premier Dumezich's Samantha Graeter cut into the Birmingham Thunderbolt lead, both teams held each other scoreless through the seventh inning with Birmingham Thunderbolts coming out on top, 3-2.



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JUNIOR OLYMPIC CUP



USA Softball welcomed participants, coaches and fans to Spartanburg, S.C. for the 2020 USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO) Cup held at Tyger River Park July 29-31. The JO Cup featured a combined total of 78 competing teams across the nation with 23 teams competing in the 14-Under division, 28 teams in 16-Under division and 27 teams in 18-Under division.



TN Mojo 2024 - Ross

In the 14-Under division, TN Mojo 2024 - Ross claimed the trophy with a 4-1 record through double-elimination bracket play. Mojo 2024 - Ross had an undefeated run in the 14-Under A bracket until TN Mojo 2023 handed them a 2-1 loss in the A bracket Championship game. Quick to respond, though, Mojo 2024 - Ross bounced back with a 4-2 "if-necessary" game win over Mojo 2023 to advance to the 14-Under finale against Florida Impact 05 - Gatewood who advanced through the 14-Under B bracket with a perfect 4-0 record.

Mojo 2024 - Ross emerged in the Championship contest, piecing together 14 hits to secure a 10-4 Championship win over Florida Impact 05 - Gatewood. The offense was simply unstoppable for the Mojo, with four batters having a multi-hit game, including three-hit performances from Brinli Bain and Willa Ford.



Florida Impact 05 - Gatewood



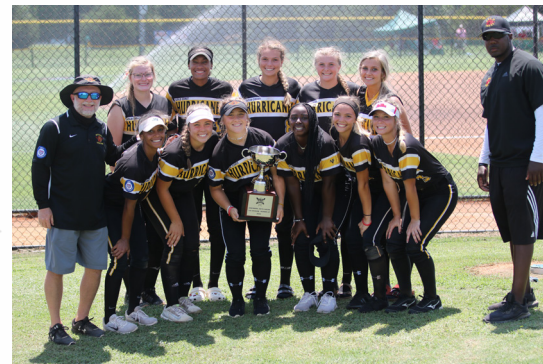
TN Mojo

In the 16-Under division, TN Mojo was crowned Champions with a 6-1 record through the 16-Under A bracket with their lone loss coming from the Atlanta Vipers. After a bounce back victory in the loser's bracket, TN Mojo advanced to the A bracket Championship to face the Vipers for the second time, this time coming out on top with a 3-0 victory to force the "if-necessary" game. With a trip to the 16U Championship Game on the line, TN Mojo proved victorious in their final match up against the Vipers, claiming a 1-0 win to advance to the 16-Under finale against Gold Coast Hurricanes - Hammonds.

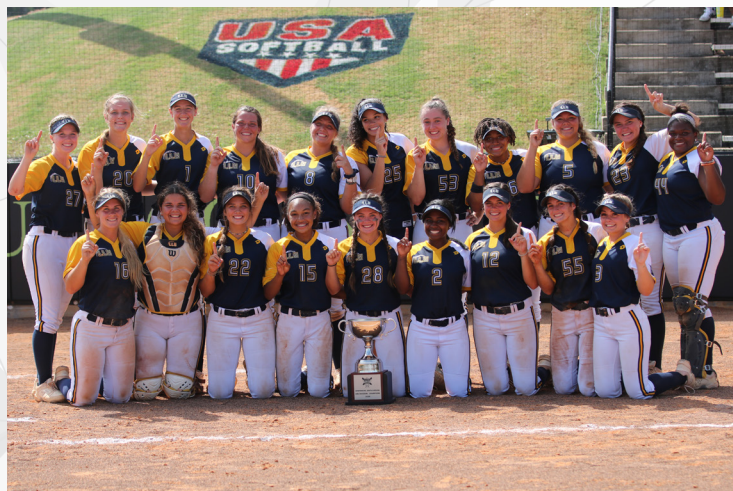
JUNIOR OLYMPIC CUP



TN Mojo dominated in their final game of the tournament, earning a 5-0 shutout win over Gold Coast Hurricanes – Hammonds to secure the 2020 USA Softball 16-Under JO Cup Championship trophy. The Mojo’s Lauren Derkowski struck out eight batters from the circle in the win, while a two RBI performance from Aubrey Barnhart at the plate fueled the Mojo offense.



Gold Coast Hurricanes – Hammonds



LLG DPS – Corn

LLG DPS was in full-force in the Championship contest, utilizing nearly every player on their roster to earn a 3-1 victory over Wildfire 18U – Paulson for the 18-Under JO Cup Championship title. Taking advantage of a deep roster, four pitchers saw time in the circle for LLG DPS while six batters recorded hits in their win.

LLG DPS – Corn stole the show in the 18-Under division, earning their first-ever USA Softball JO Cup title after posting a 5-1 overall record en route to the trophy. LLG DPS dominated their way through the 18-Under B bracket before dropping the B bracket Championship game, 2-1, to the Atlanta Vipers – Trowell/Ray to force the “if-necessary” game. With the winner advancing to the 18-Under Championship contest, LLG DPS proved victorious with a 4-1 win that punched their ticket to the 18-Under finale against the Wildfire 18U – Paulson.



Wildfire 18U – Paulson

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COMPLEX CLEANING:

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- STAFF WILL SANITIZE DUGOUTS IN BETWEEN GAMES
- STAFF WILL SANITIZE ALL HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS ON A REGULAR BASIS THROUGHOUT THE DAY
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CONCESSIONS:

- MARKERS ARE PLACED ON THE GROUND TO ENSURE 6 TO ENSURE CUSTOMERS ARE 6 FEET APART IN CONCESSION LINES
- IT IS RECOMMENDED CONCESSIONAIRE WORKERS WEAR MASKS AND GLOVES TO ENSURE THERE IS NO CROSS CONTAMINATION
- CUSTOMERS WILL REMAIN AT THE WINDOW UNTIL THEIR ORDER HAS BEEN COMPLETELY FULFILLED BY CONCESSIONAIRE STAFF

VISIT USA SOFTBALL.COM FOR
'BACK TO THE BALLPARK'
RECOMMENDATIONS AND COVID-19
RESOURCES



USA SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME COMPLEX

OPENING BACK UP FOR 2020

In the unprecedented times of the COVID-19 global pandemic, USA Softball has strived to protect the integrity of the game while also providing a safe environment for all involved.

With the “Back to the Ballpark Guidelines” protocols in place as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex opened its doors for the first time since July 2019 after completing a \$27.5 million-dollar renovation.

The Softball Capital of the World® has played host to seven 2020 USA Softball sanctioned events, welcoming over 150 teams to the newly renovated Hall of Fame Complex.



- HFL 4th of July Showdown
- 18-Under GOLD National Championships
- All-American Games
- Men's Major FP National Championship
- Men's Class A SP National Championship
- Men's Class B SP National Championship
- Men's Class C SP National Championships
- Alliance Cup
- High School State Championship (Small School)
- High School State Championship (Large School)
- HFL Cup



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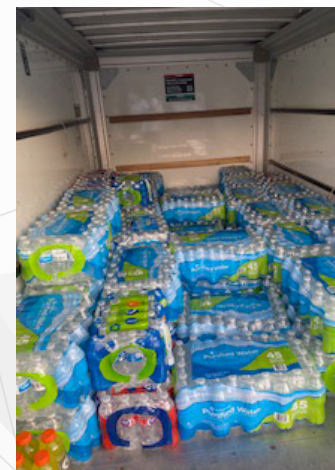
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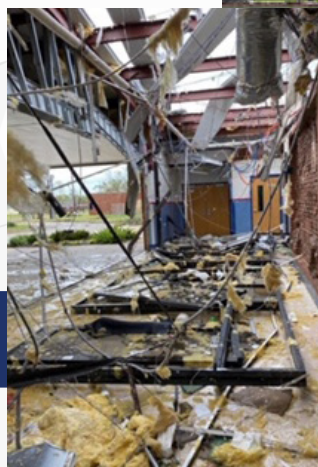
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“I want to thank everyone who helped make it possible: USA Softball of Houston and LSU-Eunice Softball’s Head Coach Meghan Collins for their generous donations, Belhaven University Athletics who did an all-team water drive, and Belhaven’s softball coaches who took the time to drive over 700 miles round trip with me to deliver it all on Wednesday,” said USA Softball of Louisiana JO Commissioner, Dakota Hill.

“Because of the help of these groups, we took a mix of well over 200 cases of water and sports drinks to those in serious need. It’s estimated that it’s going to take roughly 3-4 months for water & at least 50% of power to be restored to the area. We were able make a huge impact on the lives of so many people who lost close to everything they had.”





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ALL-AMERICAN GAMES



The USA Softball All-American Games returned to the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex August 13-16 for the fourth-consecutive year as a total of 18 teams from eight regions traveled to the Softball Capital of the World® to compete for the coveted 12-Under All-American Games title.

Following a perfect 4-0 record through single-elimination bracket play, Region 5 Red secured the 2020 USA Softball All-American Games Championship trophy with a 7-0 shutout victory over Region 3 Blue.



ALL-AMERICAN GAMES

OGE ENERGY FIELD



Region 5 Red wasted no time in their final game of the tournament, plating four runs in the top of the first inning followed by another two runs in the top of the second. Khamari Hall, Addyson Sheppard and Jenna Thedford ignited the Region 5 Red offense in the top of the first frame with a single a piece followed by a Rylee Church double to score the first four runs of the game. Hall and Sheppard recorded their second singles of the game in the top of the second frame with Kailey Monsef and Chloe Ellis joining in to give Region 5 Red an early 6-0 lead.

The Region 3 Blue defense kept the Region 5 Red offense off the board in the third and fourth innings, but the explosive Region 5 Red bats struck again in the top of the fifth to extend their lead to 7-0, courtesy of three singles from Hall, Ella Smith and Isabel Cruz

followed by an RBI fielder's choice from Monsef. With the hour and thirty-minute time limit near, Region 3 Blue went to the plate for their final shot at redemption but a solid 1-2-3 inning from the Region 5 Red defense would close out the contest with Region 5 Red earning the 7-0 Championship victory.

Region 5 Red combined for 12 hits in the Championship finale with nine of their 14 players recording at least one hit. Hall and Sheppard led the Region 5 Red offense with Hall going an impressive 3-for-4 at the plate and Sheppard reaching base two out of three times.

"Being here at the Hall of Fame Stadium and getting to be a part of the history and heart of softball while watching these kids on the field just pour their heart into the game was just such an amazing experience," said Region 5 Red Head Coach, Aimee Church. "It was a great event that I feel so honored to be a part of."



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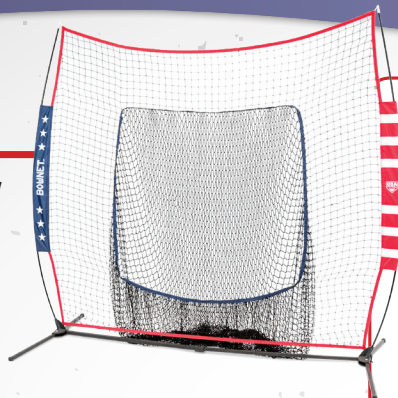


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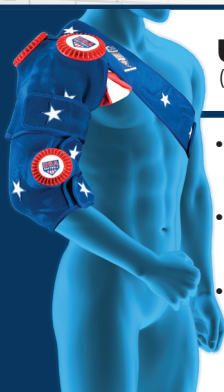
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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2020 JUNIOR OLYMPIC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2020 USA Softball Junior Olympic National Champions Are Crowned!



Girls' Class A 14-Under National Championship (Salem, Va.)
Champion: Georgia Impact Lunsford
Runner Up: Corona Angels FTS 2023

[CLICK HERE FOR BRACKET RESULTS >>](#)

Girls' Class A 16-Under National Championship (Chattanooga, Tenn.)
Champion: Tennessee Mojo 04 Fisher
Runner Up: Birmingham Thunderbolts 03

[CLICK HERE FOR BRACKET RESULTS >>](#)

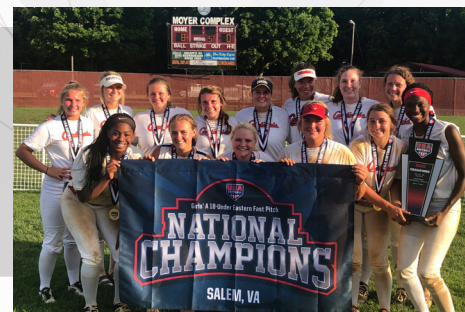


Girls' Class A 14-Under Northern National Championship (Kansas City, Mo.)
Champion: 05 Texas Glory
Runner Up: South Dakota Xplosion

[CLICK HERE FOR BRACKET RESULTS >>](#)

Girls' Class A 18-Under Eastern National Championship (Salem, Va.)
Champion: Carolina Cardinals East
Runner Up: Virginia Unity

[CLICK HERE FOR BRACKET RESULTS >>](#)



Girls' 16-Under GOLD National Championship (Broken Arrow, Okla.)
Champion: Hotshots Premier – Nelson
Runner Up: California Breeze Birch

[CLICK HERE FOR BRACKET RESULTS >>](#)

Girls' 18-Under GOLD National Championship (Salem, Va.)
Champion: Birmingham Thunderbolts
Runner Up: Hotshots Premier Dumezich

[CLICK HERE FOR BRACKET RESULTS >>](#)



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2020 SLOW PITCH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2020 USA Softball Slow Pitch National Champions Are Crowned!



Men's Super Slow Pitch National Championship (Hendersonville, Tenn.)
Champion: H. Auto/Sonnys/RDD/Sprizzi/S&S/Easton
Runner Up: Monsta Athletics/Black Sheep

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW 2020 MEN'S SUPERS SP ALL-AMERICANS >>](#)



Women's Open Slow Pitch National Championship (Hendersonville, Tenn.)
Champion: Smash It Sports/Derby Girls/Sonnys/STG/Easton
Runner Up: Low Bobs/Shirts & Logos

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW 2020 WOMEN'S OPEN SP ALL-AMERICANS >>](#)

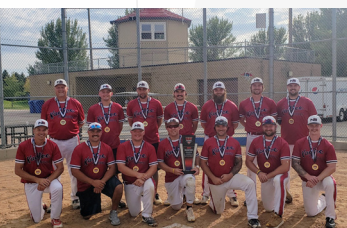


Men's Class A Slow Pitch National Championship (Oklahoma City, Okla.)
Champion: Seminoles/TPS/NACSF/Inc
Runner Up: Comatose/S2N/Monsta

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW 2020 MEN'S CLASS A SP ALL-AMERICANS >>](#)



Men's Class D Eastern Slow Pitch National Championship (Salem, VA)
Champion: DGS/Eshore/S&D Electric Softball
Runner Up: Perutis



Men's Class D Northern Slow Pitch National Championship (North Mankato, MN)
Champion: Northwoods Elite
Runner Up: Grassland

Men's Class AA Slow Pitch National Championship (Hendersonville, Tenn.)
Champion: Precision/Sonnys/H. Auto/Sprizzi/Bulldawg Trucking
Runner Up: MPT/Anarchy

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW 2020 MEN'S CLASS AA SP ALL-AMERICANS >>](#)

Men's Class C Slow Pitch National Championship (Oklahoma City, Okla.)
Champion: Beloli/OSS Apparel
Runner Up: D&R Miller Concrete

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW 2020 MEN'S CLASS C SP ALL-AMERICANS >>](#)

Men's Class B Slow Pitch National Championship (Oklahoma City, Okla.)
Champion: Comatose/S2N/Monsta
Runner Up: Tharaldson Softball

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW 2020 MEN'S CLASS B SP ALL-AMERICANS >>](#)

Men's Eastern Class E Slow Pitch National Championship (Salem, VA)
Champion: Claw Dawgs
Runner Up: LaFlamme Plumbing

Men's Class E/Rec Northern Slow Pitch National Championship (North Mankato, MN)
Champion: New Era
Runner Up: Slim Chickens



[ADDITIONAL 2020 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS >>](#)

[CONTINUED PAGE 46...](#)

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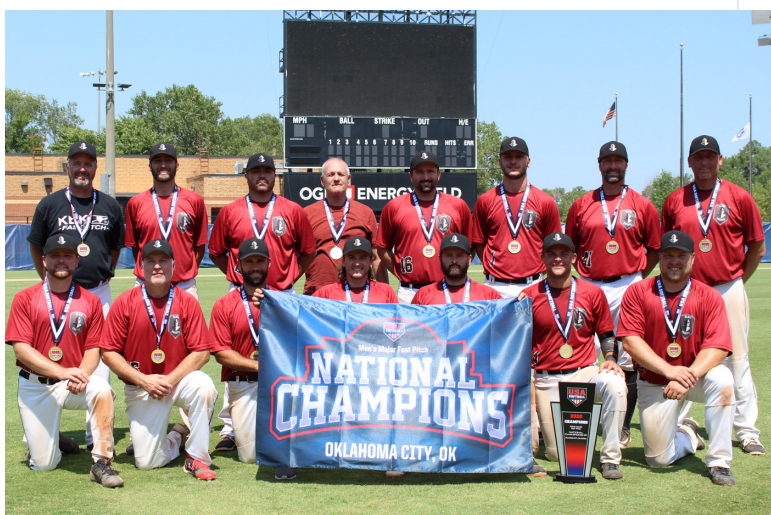
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2020 MEN'S MAJOR FAST PITCH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2020 Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship took place at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex on August 21-23 for the first time in the venue's history. Relocated to Oklahoma City, Okla. from South Bend, Ind. as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, USA Softball welcomed 11 teams to the Softball Capital of the World® for a chance to compete for the coveted National Championship title.

The Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship dates back to 1933 when USA Softball, known as the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, was founded during the World's Fair in Chicago, Ill. It also marked the first time since the 2018 Men's Masters 50-Over Fast Pitch National Championship that a men's fast pitch event was held at the facility.

Kegel Black Knights took home the trophy following a 8-1 Championship victory over NY Gremlins. Improving from a fifth-place finish in 2019, the Black Knights went on a 4-0 undefeated run while outscoring their opponents 51-21 in route to the 2020 Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship title at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex.



Champions: Kegel Black Knights

In the Championship contest, Kegel Black Knights matched up against the NY Gremlins for the second time of the tournament. Playing as the home squad, Kegel's BJ Gulick and Chris Heinline hit back-to-back fly balls to put the Black Knights up, 2-0, in the first inning. Jonathan Lynch doubled to lead off the second inning, tagged up on a fly out to reach third and scored on a passed ball to cut the Gremlin deficit in half. Kegel's offense stayed hot in the second inning as Zac Shaw sent a bases-loaded single up the middle to extend the lead, 4-1. A walk to Gulick loaded the bases once again and with a 2-2 count, Heinline smashed a ball to deep centerfield for a grand slam, putting the Black Knights in front of the Gremlins, 8-1. The score held until the fifth inning, when the Kegel Black Knights completed the 8-1 run-rule victory over the Gremlins to claim their first ever Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship title. BJ Hunhoff got the win, allowing one run on five hits and striking out two batters in five innings. Mike Lewis, Chris Heinline and BJ Gulick finished with two hits apiece, with tournament MVP Heinline leading the team with five RBI.



Runner Up: NY Gremlins

CLICK HERE TO VIEW 2020 MEN'S MAJOR FP ALL-AMERICANS >>



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THROWBACK: 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



The inaugural Gold Ball Gala took place in Oklahoma City to serve as a fundraiser for the USA Softball National Team Program with proceeds raised going directly to help fund both current and future National Teams in their efforts to stand atop the podium.

Pictured: Women's National Team member, Aubree Munro
 "The women in this room are worth investing in."

The fourth annual 2019 All-American Games saw 24 teams travel to Oklahoma City, with Region 3 Blue claiming the title.



The Men's and Women's National Teams competed at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru with the Men's National Team ending a 16-year medal drought at a major international competition by medaling for the first time since 2003 and the Women's National Team taking home the Gold with a 3-1 hard-fought win over Canada.





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THROWBACK: 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



The Border Battle title returned to USA Softball Slow Pitch National Team Program when both the Men's and Women's SPNT defeated Canada in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

The Women's National Team qualified for the Tokyo Olympics by winning the 2018 WBSC World Championship held in Chiba, Japan.



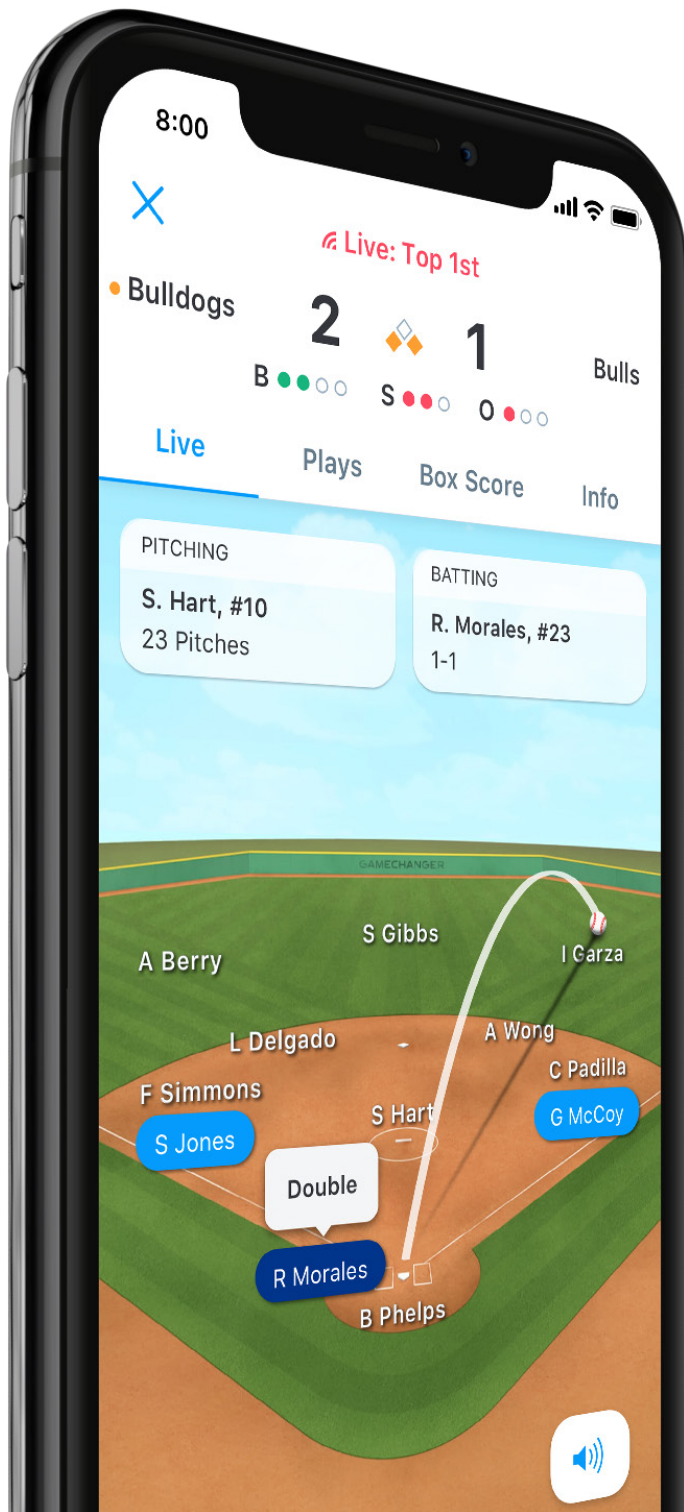
Representing USA Softball at the WBSC Co-Ed Slow Pitch World Cup, 417 Reloaded finished with the Bronze Medal with a 6-3 record.

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FROM THE VAULT

USA SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME COMPLEX RENOVATIONS



The Softball Capital of the World® rounded out its final phase of extensive renovations this year, which resulted in a \$27.5 million-dollar facelift that took place over the span of seven years. The newly renovated complex was given a modernized look with upgraded features for both the fan experience and media coverage.



Beginning in 2013, renovation included updated and expanded dugouts, underground locker rooms, restrooms and training rooms, new photo wells for media and television crews and a new parking pad for television crews.





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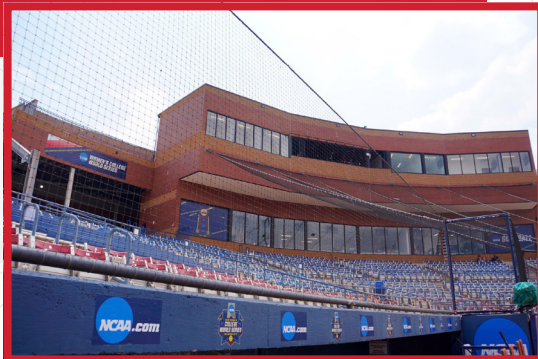
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FROM THE VAULT

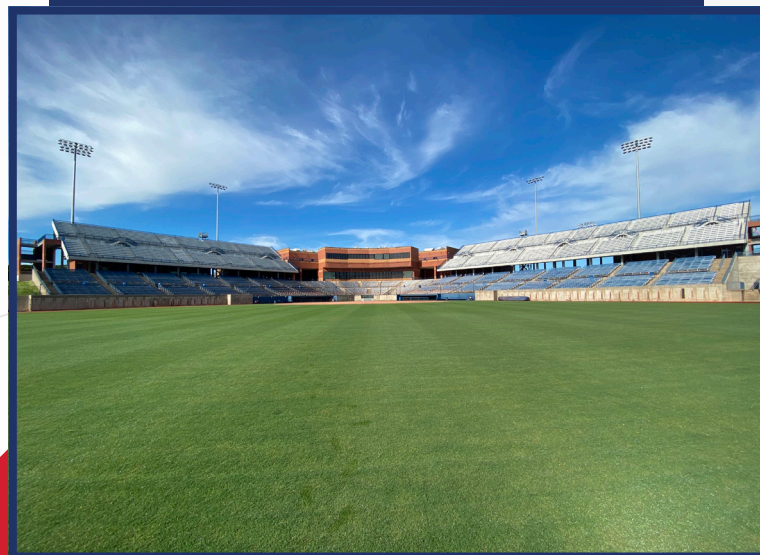
USA SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME COMPLEX RENOVATIONS



Renovations to the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex continued in July 2018 with demolition to the outer entrance and press area, resulting in a beautiful rock and brick facade with new ticket windows and entrances to give the facility a more modern feel. Additionally, a three-story press box was built, featuring new interview rooms with tunnels leading from the team locker rooms, a broadcast booth and upgraded technology infrastructure, elevators, meeting rooms and additional media work areas.



The final phase of renovations began in 2019, which included an added upper-deck seating area with 4,000 seats, additional restroom and suites.





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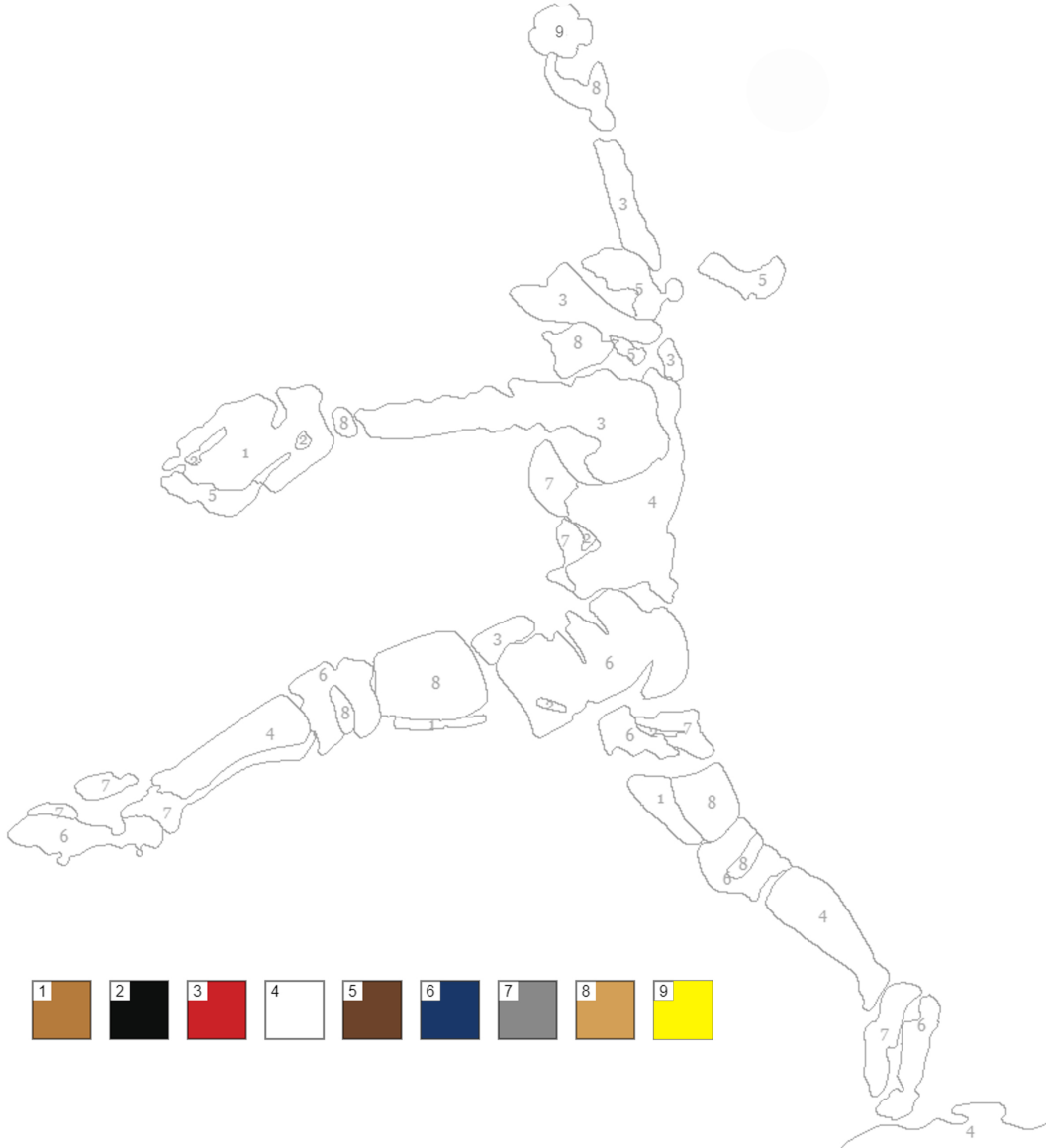
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