

The Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Classification Guidelines

The following classification guidelines and policies will be reviewed and followed in classifying teams:

The level of achievement or place of finish in any regular season or Championship Tournament play, whether or not Amateur Softball Association sanctioned, shall be considered in the determination of classification for Amateur Softball Association play.

The results of teams that willingly participate in Tournaments with home run limits unlike those of the Official Amateur Softball Association Rules for that level of classification will be considered in determining the future classification of those teams. Teams that demonstrate an ability to compete with a particular home run limit will be considered for classification at the level commensurate with that home run limit in Amateur Softball Association play.

POWER HITTER

For the purpose of classification, a power hitter shall be defined as an individual capable of hitting a home run over fence distances as specified in the official guide and for whom the outfielders play deeper in their defensive positioning than they normally play for other offensive batters.

Any current season's roster containing four (4) or more members in Fast or Slow Pitch, or two (2) or more members in Modified Pitch, or any roster from any previous season which was reclassified by either the State, Regional or National Classification committee must carry at least the new level of classification of the roster reclassified by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committee.

The Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania classifies teams, not individual players or leagues. Teams do not receive a level of classification simply by playing in a particular league. Admittedly, some leagues are better than others, but it also must be recognized that all teams within a league do not possess the same ability or potential.

MEN'S SLOW PITCH

Amateur Softball Association Championship Play Home Run rules shall apply in all classes of play.

CLASSIFICATION POLICIES

CLASS 'D' SLOW PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Wins the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
2. Wins any of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Divisional or Sectional State Championship Tournaments.
3. Finishes in the top eight (8) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals two (2) consecutive years (as defined and accepted by the Amateur Softball Association National Code and policies).
 1. Wins a District Championship or represents the District as its Champion advancing directly to the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals and finishes in the top two (2) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
 2. Wins a National Qualifying Tournament and finishes in the top four (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Divisional, Sectional State Finals and in the top (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Finals.
 3. Finishes in the top two (2) places in any NIT Tournament. National Invitational Tournament controlled and governed by the Amateur Softball Association National code.
 4. Finishes in the top two (2) places in the Central Atlantic Regional Championship Tournament.

MUST play at the next higher classification level in the next year.

CLASS 'C' SLOW PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Wins the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals two (2) consecutive years - as defined and accepted by the Amateur Softball Association National Code and policies.
3. Wins a National Qualifying Tournament and finishes in the top four (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Divisional, or Sectional State Finals and in the top (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Finals.
4. Wins a National Qualifying Tournament and finishes in the top two (2) places in the Central Atlantic Regional Championship Tournament.
5. Wins the Central Atlantic Regional Championship Tournament.
6. Finishes in the top two (2) places of any National Invitational Tournament controlled and governed by Amateur Softball Association National code.

MUST play at the next higher classification level in the next year.

CLASS 'B' SLOW PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Wins the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "B" State Championship Finals and finishes in the top four (4) places in two (2) consecutive years.
2. Wins the Central Atlantic Regional Tournament.
3. Wins a National Qualifying Tournament and finishes in the top two (2) places in State, Regional, or National Tournament.

MUST play at the next higher classification level in the next year.

Teams classified in accordance with these policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in two (2) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Official Classification appeal form and submitted to the State Classification Director with the approval of the District Commissioner. The State Classification committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the State Classification Committee will be final. If the appeal is granted, the team's roster will be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to the next higher classification level.

CLASS "D"

This level of Slow Pitch competition is basically for those teams incapable of maintaining a winning percentage (record above 500) in any competition rated Class "C" or above.

A Class "D" team has virtually NO power and does not score any great sum of runs with any regularity. Home runs hit over any fence 275 foot distance or greater must be a rarity, "D" teams have NO great hitters or real finesse in their defense.

With NO power and very little ability to score regularly, "D" teams do not win consistently in any level of competition, showing a winning percentage only against "XYZ" teams (very poor caliber teams).

Amateur Softball Association Championship Play Home Run Rules restrict "D" teams to **NO** home runs hit over the fence.

CLASS "C"

A Class "C" Men's Slow Pitch team is capable of winning without scoring any great sum of runs with power hitting or home runs.

A "C" team is one which is inconsistent both defensively and offensively. They have no more than one power hitter. They are not a team that wins consistently by scoring a large sum of runs in any particular game. They rely upon the base hit to score thus they must bunch many hits in any inning to score a large number of runs. A "C" team is a singles hitting team. They hit very few home runs and many of their extra base hits are the result of hustle, speed and good base running.

It must be remembered that even though some teams have very little power they continue to score large number of run consistently, making them more than a "C" team.

Classification is based on a team's ability to score runs and their defensive soundness, especially through the middle (2nd base, shortstop, right centerfield and left centerfield).

CLASS "B"

A Class "B" Men's Slow Pitch team is capable of scoring regularly without a great deal of power. A "B" team is strong defensively and capable of turning the double play with ease and consistency. They run bases well and field the ball with finesse.

Even though capable of scoring large sums of runs, Class "B" teams are not what would be considered a power hitting team. They may have more than one long ball hitter but the team is not built around power.

CLASS "A"/OPEN

A Class "A"/OPEN Men's Slow Pitch team is capable of scoring runs regularly, some as the direct result of power. They are a strong team both offensively and defensively and can rely on their power to win. Defensively they are capable of taking games away from their opponents with strong, clean fielding.

MEN'S MASTERS

35 and Over Class "A" is for teams interested in or capable of advancing to and competing in Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament play in this division.

35 and Over Class "D" must play together as a team in an Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania League and be classified "D" by the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Masters and Seniors Classification Committee. These teams are not capable of better than a "D" level of classification within the Open Slow Pitch division of play.

35 and Over Class "Recreation" must play together as a team in an Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania League and be classified as not being able to compete consistently in the 35 and Over Class "D" states by the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Masters and Seniors Classification Committee.

40 and Over is for teams interested in or capable of advancing to and competing in Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament play in this division.

45 and Over is for teams interested in or capable of advancing to and competing in Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament play in this division.

MEN'S SENIORS

50 and Over is for teams interested in or capable of advancing to and competing in Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament play in this division.

55 and Over is for teams interested in or capable of advancing to and competing in Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament play in this division.

60 and Over is for teams interested in or capable of advancing to and competing in Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament play in this division.

65 and Over is for teams interested in or capable of advancing to and competing in Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament play in this division.

NOTE: Every senior softball team classification is for the purpose of competing in National Competition according to The Amateur Softball Association. National Code is governed by a three (3) member National Seniors Classification Board to be appointed by the President.

RECREATIONAL MEN'S SLOW PITCH

This level of play will be for Class "D" Men's Slow Pitch teams who:

- *have never won more than one (1) game in any Class "D" Championship Competition
- *have a verifiable record below 500 and
- *have not won more than two (2) games in any Tournament throughout the season
(exception: under 500 Tournaments)

The Class "D" Home Run Rule will be in effect.

In order to participate in Championship play at this level the team must be approved and recommended by their District commissioner with a verifiable record below .500. Teams which are questionable or have borderline ability or potential will not be permitted to participate at this level of Championship play. Teams discovered participating at this level of State Championship competition with unquestioned winning records will be subject to immediate disqualification with NO refund of entry or expense fee.

NEW TEAM

To be considered a new team for classification purposes the team must have more than three (3) members on any roster from the previous year. A team that has four (4) or more members from a previous year's roster must carry at least the level of classification of that team. Their classification could be higher if their ability dictates such, but in no case is a lower classification permitted.

In the classification of teams and their personnel, potential is an important factor along with ability. Many times, for various reasons, teams do not play well early in the season yet seem to come together or develop as the season progresses. Classifications must be made early in the season, many times before the team reaches its true potential. Commissioners must consider many variables in making their classification of teams in the early season.

WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH

CLASSIFICATION POLICIES

CLASS "D"

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
2. Participates in the Amateur Softball Association National Championship Tournament Finals.
3. Finishes in the top four (4) in the Eastern National Championship Finals.

CLASS "C"

Any team with four (4) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes in the top two (2) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) in the Eastern National Championship Finals.
3. Wins three (3) Tournaments or finishes first or second in any four (4) tournaments.

OPEN

Any team with four (4) or more roster members from any team that:

1. Finishes first or second in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania State Championship Finals in two (2) consecutive seasons of play at the Class "C" level.

An OPEN team can have good power and team speed. They are capable of making things happen on offense and are solid defensively in the critical middle positions. They may turn the double play with ease and consistency. They are capable of scoring large sums of runs in any given game, but do not require large leads to win. Their defense is capable of winning without any great number of runs.

CLASS C

It has excellent talent and is strong both offensively and defensively. They too are capable of scoring many runs in any given game but do not require large numbers of runs to win. They are capable of winning with excellent defense. Their overall ability is unquestioned.

CLASS "D"

A Class "D" team has virtually no power and does not score any great sum of runs with any regularity. Class "D" teams have no great hitters or real finesse in their defense. Class "D" teams do not win consistently in any level of competition; show a winning percentage only against very poor caliber teams.

Team speed plays an important part in the classification of Women's softball, much more so than in the Men's game. Power is important as the ability to score runs is a determining factor in the classification of any Women's team. Defense plays a much more important role in this classification, also, simply because there are not nearly as many runs scored per game in the upper classifications of Women's softball, thus making team speed that much more important.

CO-ED OR CO-REC

MAJOR

Major teams may be formed from other Amateur Softball Association registered teams. Teams that contain players from rosters classified Major. These teams represent top quality Co-Ed teams with quality players.

CLASS "A"

A Class "A" team is capable of scoring runs regularly, some as the direct result of power. They are a strong team both offensively and defensively and can rely on their power to win. Defensively they are capable of winning with strong and clean fielding. (This team is capable of competing at the National level).

CLASS "B"

A Class "B" team is capable of scoring regularly without a great deal of power. A "B" team is strong defensively and capable of turning a double play with ease and consistency. They run bases well and field the ball with finesse. They may have more than one long ball hitter, but the team is not built around power. This team should be at best a recreational team and capable of competing at the National "B" Level.

Home Run Rule : According to National Code.

CLASS "C"

A Class "C" team is inconsistent both defensively and offensively. They are not a team that wins by scoring a large sum of runs in any particular game. A Class "C" team is a singles hitting team. (This should be an average Co-Rec team).

Home Run Rule: 1st – Out; 2nd and any in excess – Out and Disqualification.

CLASS "D"

A Class "D" team has virtually no power and does not score any great sum of runs with any regularity. Class "D" teams have no great hitters or real finesse in their defense. Class "D" teams do not win consistently in any level of competition; show a winning percentage only against very poor caliber teams.

Home Run Rule: 1st- Out; 2nd and any in excess – Out plus disqualification.

MEN'S MODIFIED PITCH

CLASSIFICATION POLICIES

CLASS "B"

Any team with two or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes First or Second in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "B" State Championship Tournament.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) in the Class "B" Amateur Softball Association National or NIT Tournament.
3. Wins at least one (1) Tournament and finishes in the top four (4) in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "B" State Championship Tournament.
4. Wins at least one (1) Tournament and finishes First or Second in three (3) Tournaments **MUST** play at the next higher classification level the next year.

CLASS "C"

Any team with two (2) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes First or Second in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "C" State Championship tournament.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Class "C" Amateur Softball Association National or NIT Tournament.
3. Wins at least one (1) Tournament and finishes in the top four (4) in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "C" State Championship Tournament.
4. Wins at least one (1) Tournament and finishes First or Second in three (3) Tournaments **MUST** play at the next higher classification level the next year.

CLASS "D"

Any team with two (2) or more roster members returning from any team that:

1. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Class "D" State Championship Tournament.
2. Finishes in the top four (4) places in the Class "D" Amateur Softball Association National or NIT Tournament. **MUST** play at the next higher classification level the next year.

Teams classified in accordance with the above policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Official Classification Appeal Form and submitted to the State Classification Committee chairperson with the approval of the District Commissioner. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the State Classification Committee will be final. If the appeal is granted, the team's roster will be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to the next higher classification level.

CLASS D

This level of Modified Pitch is for teams unable to maintain a definite winning percentage (record of 500) in any competition rated Class "C" or lower due to pitching problems and the inability of its members to execute the basic offensive and defensive fundamentals of softball with any regularity. These teams usually score few runs due to a lack of power and an inability to "bunch" base hits. Defensive weaknesses often allow unearned runs. The pitching is usually very weak due to poor location and a lack of speed which results in many "fat" pitches being offered.

In order to participate in Championship Play at this level the team must be approved and recommended by their District Commissioner with a definite verifiable record below .500. Teams which are questionable or have borderline ability or potential will not be permitted to participate at this level of Championship Play. Teams discovered participating in this level of State Championship competition with unquestioned winning records will be subject to immediate disqualification with NO refund of entry or expense fee. NOTE: Teams should clarify any questions concerning their classification with their District Commissioner prior to participating in Championship Play.

CLASS "C"

A Class "C" team is inconsistent both offensively and defensively. They are not a team that wins repeatedly by scoring a large sum of runs in any particular game. They rely upon the base hit to score, they must bunch many hits in an inning to score a large number of runs. They hit few home runs and many of their extra base hits are the result of hustle, speed, and aggressive base running. Their pitching is inconsistent often resulting in base runners due to walks. They have difficulty making the offensive team put the ball in play through their inability to throw strikes.

CLASS "B"

A Class "B" team is capable of scoring regularly, without a great deal of power. They are strong defensively and able to turn the double play in most instances. They run the bases well and field the ball with finesse. Even though they are capable of scoring large sums of runs, they are not considered a power hitting team. Pitching doesn't handicap the defense by providing unnecessary base runners through a lack of control.

CLASS "A"

A Class "A" team is capable of scoring regularly, without a great deal of power. They are strong defensively and able to turn the double play in most instances. They run the bases well and field the ball with finesse. Even though they are capable of scoring large sums of runs, they are not considered a power hitting team. Pitching doesn't handicap the defense by providing unnecessary base runners through a lack of control. They do not require scoring a large sum of runs in order to win consistently.

OPEN

An Open team is strong both offensively and defensively. Although capable of scoring regularly, they do not require large leads to win. Defensively, they are capable of defeating their opponents with strong, clean fielding. An Open team is the top of the line and reflects that in all of its play.

WOMEN'S MODIFIED PITCH

OPEN

An Open team is strong both offensively and defensively. Although capable of scoring regularly, they do not require a large lead to win. Defensively, they are fundamentally sound and make few errors, often winning games on the strength of their defensive plays. Strong pitching is an unquestioned characteristic. An Open team is capable of scoring regularly without a great deal of power. Pitching, although not over-powering, doesn't handicap the defense by providing unnecessary base runners through their lack of control. These teams are capable of winning regularly.

CLASS "B"

A "B" team is offensively and defensively inconsistent. They commit many errors and their pitching provides the offensive team with numerous base runners due to walks. This team does not score any great sum of runs with regularity and has no true power hitters.

MEN AND WOMEN FAST PITCH

CLASSIFICATION POLICIES

CLASS "C" FAST PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more players on their roster or any player transferring from any team:

Teams classified in accordance with the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Classification Appeal Form and submitted to the State Classification Committee Chairperson. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the committee will be final. Any classification changes will be filed with the State Office.

If the appeal is granted, the team's roster shall be frozen for the remainder of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal will be nullified and team reclassified to the next higher classification level. Any team not falling into any of the above guidelines will be dealt with by the District Classification Committee. Any classification changes must be filed with the State Office by March first of the current year.

The National Classification Code requires any Men's Class "C" team that finishes in the top six (6) positions at the National Championship Tournament to be moved to Class "B" for the immediate following season. Other Amateur Association of Pennsylvania teams that win regional or area championships will be subject to reclassification based upon meeting further criteria established by the State Classification Committee.

CLASS "B" FAST PITCH

Any team with four (4) or more players on their roster or any player transferring from any team:

1. Winning the State Championship
2. Winning or finishing second in the Regional Championship Tournament.
3. Winning a National Qualifying Tournament in two (2) successive years must play at the next higher classification level the following year.

The National Classification code requires any Men's Class "B" team that finishes in the top six (6) positions at the National Championship Tournament to be moved to Class "A" for the immediate following season. Other Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania teams that win regional or area championships will be subject to reclassification based upon meeting further criteria established by the State classification Committee.

CLASS "A" FAST PITCH

As governed by the Amateur Softball Association National Code.

MAJOR FAST PITCH

As governed by the Amateur Softball Association National Code.

Teams classified in accordance with the above policies and procedures have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Classification Appeal Form and submitted to the State Classification Committee chairperson. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. The decision of the committee will be final. Any classification changes will be filed with the State Office.

If the appeal is granted, the team's roster shall be frozen for the remainder of that year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal will be nullified and the team reclassified to the next higher classification level. Any team not falling into any of the above guidelines will be dealt with by the District Classification Committee. Any classification changes must be filed with the State Office by March 1st of the current year.

40 & OVER MEN'S FAST PITCH

No Major pitchers are permitted. Former Class "A" pitchers must be out of the game three years in order to be eligible for participation. Current Class "B" and Class "C" pitchers will be eligible. Any Pick Ups for Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Championship Tournament Play must be made from within the district of the team.

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEES AND POLICIES

- (a) Appeals – All classifications made by the State Classification Committee (teams and roster members thereof) shall remain the exclusive responsibility of the State Classification Committee. Appeals must be properly submitted in writing to the Classification director whose decision, with the ultimate approval of the committee will be final.
- (b) Any current season's roster containing four (4) or more members in Fast and Slow Pitch or two (2) or more members in modified pitch, of any roster from any previous season which was reclassified by either the State, Regional, or National Classification committee must carry at least the new level of classification of the roster reclassified by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committee.

(c) District Classification Committee Slow – Fast -Modified Pitch

(1) Members – District Classification Committees shall consist of the District Commissioner or his designee and any number of members as deemed necessary by the District Commissioner or his designee. Membership is not restricted and all committee members shall be appointed by the District Commissioner or his designee.

(2) Duties – The District Classification Committee shall be responsible for the observation and evaluation of the performance and potential ability as displayed in any regular season, Invitational Tournament, and/or Championship Tournament Play, whether or not Amateur Softball Association sanctioned, to determine classification for District purposes, which shall be consistent with Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Classification guidelines as defined by the State Classification Committee.

(3) Appeals – All classifications proposed by the District Classification Committee shall be presented to the District Commissioner for approval. All teams reclassified shall be notified promptly, and shall have the right of appeal. Appeals shall be submitted in writing to the Committee whose decision, with the approval of the District Commissioner, will be final. Any team may formally apply in writing to the District Classification committee for reclassification, with formal action being taken by the Committee. All appeals for classification in which the appealing team was classified by either the State, Regional, or National Classification committee may be considered by the District Committee for further action. The District Classification Committee is not permitted to revise any classification adjustment or realignment made by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committees.

(4) Roster – Any team whose current season's roster conforms with Article 4.03 (d) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania must carry at least the new level of classification of the roster reclassified or adjusted by the State, Regional, or National Classification Committee.

(5) Roster Personnel – Any team whose current season's roster contains two (2) or more members of any roster from any previous season whose classification was higher must be reviewed by the Committee to determine evaluation of the performance and potential ability of that team. All teams will be responsible to report any such players who fall into the above category to the Committee. Failure of teams to report any such players will, upon discovery by the District of State Classification Committee, result in immediate reclassification to the higher level as represented by those players. Failure to review any affected team, when known by the Committee, will result in automatic and immediate reclassification to that higher level by the State Classification Committee when a formal appeal in writing is received and reviewed for validity.

(d) Any team that wins two (2) or more games (excluding forfeits) in a State Tournament (including Area of Divisional State Tournaments in Men's Class "C" and "D" Slow Pitch) may not participate in a lower classification in the same Division of Championship Play during the following season. A team which has five (5) or more players on a roster from such a team shall be considered the same team.

(e) An Adult team which has four (4) or more players on a roster from a team that has won an Amateur Softball Association Fast Pitch or Slow Pitch State Championship Tournament, two (2) or more players on a roster from a team that has won a Modified Pitch State Championship Tournament, as a Class "B", "C", or "D" classification levels must play at the next higher classification for the following season unless they played in the Coed division.

(f) Teams classified in accordance with 4.04 (e) have the right to appeal their classification after participating in three (3) sanctioned Amateur Softball Association Tournaments at the higher classification. The appeal must be filed on the proper Amateur Softball Association of Pennsylvania Official Classification Appeal form and submitted to the proper State Classification Director. The State Classification Committee will review and evaluate the appeal. If the appeal is granted, the team's roster shall be frozen for the balance of the year. If the team adds a player to their roster, the appeal is nullified and the team is reclassified to the next higher classification level.