

TEAM CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES
For Metro Fort Worth ASA Junior Olympic Softball
(Effective February 8, 2005)

These guidelines apply to all Registered Fort Worth ASA teams playing in ASA Sanctioned Invitational Tournaments. Teams traveling outside of the Metro will continue to be governed by these guidelines. Teams wishing exceptions to these guidelines must make a request in writing to the Metro Fort Worth Junior Olympic Classification Board. Teams can be lowered in playing classification only on approval of the Classification Board.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS

The following guidelines are for the member teams of Metro Fort Worth ASA. Member teams can request the Classification Board to change their playing classification during the fall and spring of each year. The overwhelming objective of the local classification is to increase the competitive level of the total youth program. The Board considers input from the association of the team requesting reclassification and the Deputy Junior Olympic Commissioners.

These classification guidelines are not about Class-A but for the most part are about Class-B and Class-C. Once a team has demonstrated the ability to control competition in a classification by winning trophies, the guidelines will require those teams to move up in classification and play at least two tournaments in the higher classification. If after playing in the higher classification and or there is a major change in that teams roster, that team can request a reduction in classification.

Tournaments for recreation teams or Class-C events are for those teams that have little or no tournament experience and are teams composed of players signing up for recreation play and selected from a pool of those signing up in a Metro Fort Worth member Association. These recreation teams cannot have protected players. Once a team has played in a tournaments as a recreation team it should not be allowed to ever again compete in Class-C and should be moved up to a higher age play classification. Teams registering as Recreation (Class C) are teams that do not compete in Local Invitational Travel Ball Tournaments. Teams that compete in Class-B and do not win trophies or place 1-5th will continue in Class-B.

GUIDELINES

The following applies to all Metro Fort Worth ASA teams that are rated as a Returning Team.

- + A Returning Team is defined as any team with five (5) or more returning players from the roster of the previous season or registration year, as defined in the ASA Code.
- + Tournament points for placing in tournament play will be accumulated for the entire calendar year. Results of ASA Championship play will be included.
- + All teams carry their tournament play classification from year to year, including:
 - + When the team moves to the next higher age class the following season.
 - + Two (2) points will be given to teams participating outside of their classification.
 - + Trophy points count if trophies are awarded to teams in a rain delayed tournament.
 - + Tournament Directors report the placement of teams through 5th place.
- + Two (2) points will be awarded to each team participating in a tournament outside the North Texas area or not listed on the Virtual Tournament Director (VTD). These points will be awarded as reports of tournament results are received.
- + ASA Travel Permits will be issued electronically on the VTD. All players must be listed and have picture identification in order to be approved by a commissioner (there should be NO players names written in on travel permits).
- + Team playing up in age class tournaments will play in the next higher playing classification; Class-C plays Class-B; Class-B plays Class-A when playing up in age.
- + By definition select teams are at minimum a B class team and must have at least 9 registered players.

CLASSIFICATION AND TOURNAMENT POINTS

- + The VTD Classification system for local invitational tournaments for 2005 are as follows: Teams will no longer be moved up in classified by the point total on VTD. All teams and tournaments will still have tournament placement points.
- + Initial participation points will be assessed as follows: Class-C teams begin with 0 points; Class-B teams begin with 8 points; and Class-A teams begin with 19 points. These point totals are for 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U. The 10U and 12U classification will be as follows: C-teams begin with 0 points; B-teams will begin with 8 points and the A Classification will begin at 25 points.
- + The VTD point totals will be a running total for all teams. The VTD points are to be accumulated nationwide. VTD will no longer have the capacity to reduce point totals for teams. Classification changes will not be an automatic capacity of VTD. Each teams point totals will be assessed by the local invitational tournament director prior to that tournament director approving a team in that local B or C class tournament. Each local tournament director determines what teams may compete in their invitational tournament.

+ More than 7 points will be the point total that moves a team to B classification; 8 points will begin the B classification. Teams registered and competing in 10U and 12U will move to class A at 25 points after a review by the local classification committee. 14U, 16U, and 18U will continue to move to the A classification at 19 points.

Guidelines for Class-C Tournaments (Hosted in Metro Fort Worth)

+ Invited teams will be recreational league teams only from Metro Fort Worth. The team Class-C status will be certified by the teams' home league official.

[Exception: Host leagues may invite teams from a neighboring ASA league when there is a city limit/county line common with the neighboring league (an adjacent county) that is a member of either Texas ASA or Metro Fort Dallas ASA. Such visiting teams must be certified as Class-C by their home league official and be in compliance with the same Class-C guidelines as the Metro Fort Worth teams]. Class C teams participating in a Fort Worth ASA Class C sanctioned tournament must compete in a recreation league in their local association.

+ Teams will have been classified as Class-C at the close of the previous season and have not participated on more than one Class C tournament during the current season.

+ Up to three (3) players may be picked up or drafted from other home league Class-C teams as certified by the teams' home league official. These pick up players must be from the same local association as the team picking them up.

+ In addition to the two (2) participation points, trophy points will be awarded based upon the tournament size as follows:

	more than 10 teams	6 to 10 teams	5 or less teams
1 st place	6	4	2
2 nd place	4	2	0
3 rd place	2	0	0

Guidelines for Class-B Tournaments (Hosted in Metro Fort Worth)

+ Teams will have been classified as Class-B at the close of the previous season or will not have "pointed out" to Class-A during the current season.

+ Up to three (3) players may be picked up. These players may include certain A team participants with the exception of: (1) Primary Pitchers, (2) Catcher, (3) Shortstop. Any A player picked up must not play one of these primary positions.

+ No participation points will be awarded to teams. Trophy points will be awarded based upon the tournament size as follows:

	more than 10 teams	6 to 10 teams	5 or less teams
1 st place	12	8	4
2 nd place	8	4	2
3 rd place	4	2	0
4 th place	2	0	0

Guidelines for Class-A Or OPEN Tournaments (Hosted in Metro Fort Worth)

+ Teams will have been classified as Class-A at the close of the previous season or by request.

+ Up to three (3) players may be picked up or drafted from other ASA teams.

+ Trophy points will be awarded based upon the tournament size as follows:

	more than 10 teams	6 to 10 teams	5 or less teams
1 st place	16	12	8
2 nd place	12	8	4
3 rd place	8	4	0
4 th place	4	2	0
5 th place	2	0	0