

2018

CONSTITUTION

of the

United States Specialty

Sports Association



USSSA NATIONAL MEETING SITES

1968	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1994	Chandler, Arizona
1969	Louisville, Kentucky	1995	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1970	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	1996	Albuquerque, New Mexico
1971	Petersburg, Virginia	1997	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
1972	Rochester, New York	1998	San Diego, California
1973	New Orleans, Louisiana	1999	Savannah, Georgia
1974	Las Vegas, Nevada	2000	Charlotte, North Carolina
1975	New York City, New York	2001	Daytona Beach, Florida
1976	Williamsburg, Virginia	2002	Orlando, Florida
1977	Lake Tahoe, Nevada	2003	San Antonio, Texas
1978	Orlando, Florida	2004	Jacksonville, Florida
1979	New Orleans, Louisiana	2005	Orlando, Florida
1980	San Francisco, California	2006	Scottsdale, Arizona
1981	Freeport, Grand Bahamas	2007	Daytona Beach, Florida
1982	Nashville, Tennessee	2008	Orlando, Florida
1983	Reno, Nevada	2009	Temecula, California
1984	El Paso, Texas	2010	Daytona Beach, Florida
1985	Cambridge, Massachusetts	2011	Orlando, Florida
1986	Las Vegas, Nevada	2012	Temecula, California
1987	Orlando, Florida	2013	Fort Myers, Florida
1988	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina	2014	Orlando, Florida
1989	San Diego, California	2015	Temecula, Florida
1990	New Orleans, Louisiana	2016	Fort Myers, Florida
1991	Las Vegas, Nevada	2017	Daytona Beach, Florida
1992	Virginia Beach, Virginia	2018	Temecula, California
1993	Arlington, Texas		

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NOTE: Use of the word “he” in this publication is intended to include both masculine and feminine genders unless otherwise noted. The word Association is intended to mean United States Specialty Sports Association.

ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the "United States Specialty Sports Association." The organization may be referred to as the USSSA. Herein, the organization may be referred to as the USSSA or the Association.

Section 2. The purpose of USSSA shall be to act as a multi-sport, sanctioning (i.e., creating, promoting and organizing) body for various recreational and competitive sports programs.

Section 3. The Association shall be chartered and incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the state of Florida and shall operate according to the guidelines and regulations as set forth according to laws of the state of Florida.

Section 4. The Association shall be authorized to conduct business in any state that has an established USSSA program.

Section 5. The Association shall operate on an established fiscal year commencing January 1st and ending on December 31st.

ARTICLE II - GOVERNING RULES

Section 1. The Association shall be governed, operated, and administered in accordance with rules, by-laws, procedures, directives, and policies as outlined and authorized by the Association Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Policies, and Procedures as described below:

- (a) **CONSTITUTION:** The Constitution shall govern the operations of the entire Association and shall involve jurisdiction over all Sports Programs of the Association.
- (b) **BY-LAWS:** The By-Laws shall govern the Playing Rules of a Sports Program and matters that apply to the general operations within a Sports Program. Such By-Laws shall appear in a special section of the Sports Program Rule Books.
- (c) **PLAYING RULES:** The Playing Rules shall be the rules necessary for the actual playing of the game within a Sports Program. All such Playing Rules shall appear in the Rule Book of each Sports Program or the USSSA Directives, Procedures and Policies manual.
- (d) **DIRECTIVES, PROCEDURES, AND POLICIES:** Directives, Procedures, and Policies shall be issued by the Association's Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall publish such Directives, Procedures, and Policies in writing in the form of a USSSA Announcement or as part of the USSSA Directives, Procedures, and Policies Manual.

(e) USSSA SANCTIONED EVENTS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE USSSA CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, PLAYING RULES, DIRECTIVES, PROCEDURES AND POLICIES. A USSSA Sanctioned Event shall be (1) a recreational or competitive sports tournament between USSSA Registered Teams/Players and only USSSA Registered Teams/Players and officiated by USSSA Registered Sports Officials and only USSSA Registered Sports Officials, for which USSSA receives and accepts a sanctioning fee, (2) a recreational or competitive league between USSSA registered Teams/Players and only USSSA Registered Teams/Players and officiated by USSSA Registered Sports Officials and only USSSA Registered Sports Officials for which USSSA accepts the league as a USSSA Sanctioned Event, or (3) any activity (including a non-competition activity, such as the USSSA National Meeting) that is announced by the USSSA National Office in written form (including publication on the USSSA National Website-www.USSSA.com) to be a USSSA Sanctioned Event. Activities that are not USSSA Sanctioned Events are not subject to the USSSA Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Procedures and Policies. The foregoing notwithstanding any substantial failure to follow the USSSA Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Procedures and Policies, may result in an activity not being a USSSA Sanctioned Event. Even if USSSA does not have a legal right to stop the use of the USSSA Playing Rules and By-Laws, in an event run by someone who is not a USSSA Director or who otherwise does not have the authority to run a USSSA Sanctioned Event, such event shall not be a USSSA Sanctioned Event even if the event happens to have USSSA Registered Teams/Players and USSSA Registered Sports Officials.

(f) COMPLIANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY. Compliance with USSSA Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Procedures and Policies with respect to USSSA Sanctioned Events is the responsibility of the League or Tournament Director and the Sports Officials of that USSSA Sanctioned Event. Compliance with Federal, State and Local law is the responsibility of the League or Tournament Director and the Sports Officials of that USSSA Sanctioned Event. The Association and its appropriate Officers are responsible for choosing and reviewing the actions of State Directors. State Directors are responsible for choosing and reviewing the actions of their Area Directors (including but not limited to, Tournament and League Directors). Tournament and League Directors are responsible for choosing and reviewing the actions of Sports Officials in their USSSA Sanctioned Events. Tournament and League Directors are responsible for the Sports Officials at their USSSA Sanctioned Events being familiar with, and properly applying, the USSSA Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Procedures and Policies at their USSSA Sanctioned Events. The condition of the site of a USSSA Sanctioned Event is the responsibility of the owner of the site. Choosing an appropriate site for a USSSA Sanctioned Event is the responsibility of the USSSA Director making that choice. The USSSA Tournament or League Director of the USSSA Sanctioned Activity is responsible for addressing any site issue that is brought to his attention. Under the Directives, Procedures and Policies as promulgated by the Association, the Tournament or League Director of a USSSA Sanctioned Event

may override a USSSA Playing Rule or By-Law, if it is their judgment that such an override is in the best interest of safety. In addition, where Federal, State or Local law is in conflict with the USSSA Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Procedures or Policies, the Federal, State or Local law must be followed.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be as follows:

- (a) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** The Executive Director shall be a salaried officer who devotes full time, as specified by contract, to his work as Administrative Officer and Chief Executive Officer of the Association. The Board of Directors shall employ him under contract. He shall be required to reside in the vicinity of the Association's National Headquarters. The Executive Director shall be in charge of the National Headquarters of the Association and shall act under the immediate direction of the Board of Directors. He is responsible for recommending plans of action and various programs and to conduct the day-to-day business of the Association. He has the authority to hire, terminate, and to determine the salaries of other National Headquarters staff members in accordance with approved budget authorization. He shall be responsible for presenting a yearly budget to the Finance National Sub-Committee for submission to the Board of Directors for final approval.

The Executive Director shall create any and all National Sub-Committees and National Committees deemed necessary, and define the duties of each committee so created. He shall make appointments and carry out other duties as may be set forth in this Constitution. He shall act as spokesman for the Association at all public gatherings, or designate an alternate. He shall have the authority to call a meeting of the Board of Directors at any time provided each member is given adequate advance notice of such meeting. The Executive Director, as Chief Executive Officer, shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall serve as the permanent chairman of all open business meetings of the Association on a National level. He shall have the authority to appoint a designated alternate to serve as temporary chairman of open business meetings of the Association at any time.

- (b) **ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** When so warranted, the Association may have Assistant Executive Directors. An Assistant Executive Director shall be a person appointed/hired by the Executive Director. The position of the Assistant Executive Director can either be on a part-time or full-time basis; however, if the position is full-time, the person shall be required to reside in the vicinity of the Association's National Headquarters. If the position is part-time, the person may be allowed to hold other positions within the Association, provided such other positions do not interfere in anyway with performing the duties of Assistant Executive Director. If the position is being filled on a part-time basis, the person must be available to spend as much time as required at National Headquarters as requested by the Executive Director. He shall also,

upon short notice, be available to travel extensively. All Assistant Executive Directors shall report directly to the Executive Director and shall have only those duties and authorities that are delegated to him by the Executive Director. An Assistant Executive Director may be terminated from his position at any time for failure to perform his duties, insubordination, or other justifiable reasons by action taken by the Executive Director and approved by the Board of Directors, or by action of the Board of Directors itself.

An Assistant Executive Director may perform the duties of the Executive Director in the event for any reason the Executive Director declares it impractical to act personally. In the event of the Executive Director's death, or termination of employment, an Assistant Executive Director, so appointed by the Board of Directors, shall perform the duties of the Executive Director until the Board of Directors permanently replaces the Executive Director.

- (c) **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENTS:** When so warranted, Executive Vice Presidents may be appointed for the purpose of planning, organizing, and supervising various programs within the Association. A person holding this position must be available to travel extensively and attend various meetings when necessary.

All Executive Vice President positions shall be appointed positions. The Executive Director, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, shall make such appointments.

He shall have other duties and exercise such authority as from time to time may be delegated or assigned by the Executive Director.

An Executive Vice President may be terminated from his position, at any time, for failure to perform his duties, insubordination, or other justifiable reasons, by action taken by the Executive Director and approved by the Board of Directors, or by action of the Board of Directors alone.

- (d) **VICE PRESIDENT:** When so warranted, Vice Presidents may be appointed for the purpose of heading up an Association Sports Program involving the entire country or a division made up of states as designated by an approved geographic zoning structure as approved by the Board of Directors.

All Vice Presidents' positions shall be appointed positions. The Executive Director, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, shall make such appointments. He shall report directly to the appropriate Executive Vice President.

Vice Presidents shall oversee the affairs of his designated territory. His duties shall include assurance that each Director under his jurisdiction is conducting a program within procedures of the Association Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Policies, and Procedures.

He shall have other duties and exercise such authority as from time to time may be delegated or assigned by the appropriate Executive Vice President. All Vice Presidents must be in a position to travel extensively and attend various meetings when necessary.

A Vice President may be terminated from his position, at any time, for failure to perform his duties, insubordination, or other justifiable reasons, by action taken by the appropriate Executive Vice President and approved by the Board of Directors.

- (e) **USSSA OFFICERS.** Except as otherwise specifically prohibited herein, USSSA Officers may hold other positions within the Association, provided that such other positions do not interfere in any way with the performing of their duties as an Officer. USSSA Officers must act in the best interests of the USSSA as required by the applicable laws of the state of Florida, including but not limited to the fiduciary responsibilities imposed by such laws and shall place USSSA National matters as first priority above any and all associated USSSA State, Area or specific Sport Program matters.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall be the highest body of authority within the Association and shall act on all matters of the Association that affect the finances and operations of the Association on a National level.

Specific duties of the Board of Directors shall include, although not be limited to, budget approval, selection of sites for Men's Major World Series, Geographic Zoning of Divisions, confirmation approval of certain appointments, selection of sites for National Meetings, approval of new sports programs, establishing minimum bid amounts for all NIT's, National, and World Tournaments, approval of all team sponsor travel expense money, and establishing entry fees for National and World Tournaments.

The Board of Directors shall have full authority to terminate any Director or Officer from his position, at any time, for the failure to perform his duties, insubordination, or other justifiable reasons. Such action taken by the Board of Directors shall not require approval of any individual or body within the Association.

The Board of Directors shall have such further duties as may be set forth in the Constitution.

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Executive Director, all Assistant Executive Directors, all Executive Vice Presidents, and General Counsel (Non-Voting member). The Executive Director shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Except as otherwise specifically prohibited herein, USSSA Board Members may hold other positions within the Association, provided that such other positions do not interfere in any way

with the performing of their duties as Board Members. USSSA Board Members must act in the best interests of the USSSA as required by the applicable laws of the state of Florida, including but not limited to the fiduciary responsibilities imposed by such laws and shall place USSSA National matters as first priority above any and all associated USSSA State, Area or specific Sport Program matters.

ARTICLE V - GENERAL COUNSEL

The General Counsel of the Association shall be a lawyer duly admitted to practice before the highest court of any State. The Board of Directors shall hire him under contract. He shall act as a parliamentarian when called on to do so by the Executive Director, or the Board of Directors. He shall give legal advice and be authorized to represent the Association in legal matters that may arise. The Association may in its discretion hire other lawyers to represent the Association in litigation and other matters when deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE VI – WHOLLY OWNED LLC

The Association shall on an annual basis delegate responsibility for rule making and compliance, State Director appointments (and oversight), sanctioning, licensing, insurance and suspensions to a wholly owned Limited Liability Company, the officers and executive leadership of which are Members of the Association. Such delegation shall include a license to utilize Association intellectual property in the best interests of the Association, provided that such license is limited to one year to match the duration of the delegation. Such annual delegation to an Association wholly owned Limited Liability Company may be to the same Limited Liability Company as the previous year, but in the discretion of the Association Board of Directors may be to another wholly owned Limited Liability Company of the Association. The delegation of any responsibility related to rule making and compliance, State Director appointments (and oversight), sanctioning, licensing, insurance and suspensions includes all responsibilities (including related appointments) that are otherwise granted by this Constitution to the Association Executive Director, Assistant Executive Directors, Executive Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents or other individuals shall be delegated instead to the corresponding executive leadership or officers of the Limited Liability Company. Additionally, any committees formed or to be formed by the Association under this Constitution with respect to rule making and compliance, State Director Appointments (and oversight), sanctioning, licensing, insurance, and suspensions by the Association shall be formed under and formed by the wholly owned Limited Liability company, its executive leadership or its officers.

ARTICLE VII - NATIONAL PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

The National Program Chairperson may be appointed for the purpose of coordinating programs relating to a specific part of the National Program. The need for creating such positions shall be decided upon by the Board of Directors. Once the need for the position has been approved then candidates for the position may apply to the appropriate Executive Vice President for

consideration of appointment. All National Program Chairpersons shall be appointed by the appropriate Executive Vice President subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

National Program Chairpersons may advise, recommend, and assist in methods to be used in order that teams playing in their respective programs shall have a complete, wholesome program. He shall assist, when called upon, to recruit qualified specialty program directors. He shall review team registrations to insure that proper coding is used in order for the specialty program to receive proper credit. Each National Program Chairperson shall make certain that their respective program is conducted in accordance with the Association Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Policies, and Procedures

All National Program Chairpersons shall report directly to the appropriate Executive Vice President. A National Program Chairperson may be terminated from his position, at any time, for failure to perform his duties, insubordination, or other justifiable reasons by action taken by the appropriate Executive Vice President and approved by the Board of Directors.

Persons holding the following positions in the Association are not eligible to be appointed as a National Program Chairperson: Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Executive Vice President, Vice President, and General Counsel.

ARTICLE VIII - STATE AND AREA DIRECTORS

Section 1. STATE DIRECTORS: A State Director shall have the authority to promulgate and enforce the rules of the Association within his assigned state in accordance with the Association Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Policies, and Procedures. He has the right to organize his own state program; however, it must in no way contradict or conflict with National Playing Rules, Policies, Constitution, By-Laws, or Directives. Special state rules that do not contradict or conflict with National Playing Rules or policies may be permitted within state programs only, provided such rules are approved in advance by the appropriate Executive Vice President.

A State Director shall be obligated to submit all required paperwork and monies to National Headquarters in a timely manner as required by policy and procedures. He shall be responsible for creating a state association, which involves extensive recruiting of qualified directors, for the purpose of organizing a strong, wholesome program to the Association members.

All State Directors in the USSSA program shall be appointed to their position by the appropriate Executive Vice President or Vice President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Each State Director shall report directly to the appropriate Executive Vice President or Vice President.

Any State Director may be terminated, at any time, from his position for failure to perform his duties effectively, failure to submit paperwork, and funds to National Headquarters on time,

insubordination, or other justifiable reasons by action taken by the appropriate Executive Vice President, or Vice President, with approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. AREA DIRECTORS: An Area Director shall basically have the same duties as a State Director, except his jurisdiction shall be confined within a designated geographic area. He shall report directly to the State Director or to a person so delegated by the State Director. Tournament Directors (at the State Level and below) and League Directors are Area Directors. A Tournament Director is the on-site person in charge of a USSSA Sanctioned Tournament and anyone designated as an Event Director of a USSSA Sanctioned Tournament and a League Director is the person in charge of a USSSA Sanctioned League.

Any Area Director, State Officer or State or Area Chief Official may be terminated, at any time, for failure to perform his duties effectively, insubordination, or other justifiable causes by action taken by the State Director.

Section 3: OTHER DIRECTORS. The Executive Director where in his discretion he deems it appropriate may appoint, name and define the duties of Other USSSA Directors (such as Director of Affiliate Relations) with the approval of the Board of Directors. Such Other Directors include Tournament Directors for all USSSA Sanctioned Events above the State level.

Other Directors shall be appointed by the Executive Director and shall report to the USSSA Director or Officer as designated in their appointment to the position.

Any Other Director may be terminated, at any time, from his position for failure to perform his duties effectively, failure to submit paperwork, and funds to National Headquarters on time, insubordination, or other justifiable reasons by action taken by the appropriate Executive Director with approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX - PROGRAM NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Each USSSA Sports Program may have a Program National Committee whose specific duties shall be to review and approve all program committee proposals presented at the National Meeting that affect any change in a USSSA Sports Program Rule Book. This approval shall be necessary in order for such proposals to be advanced to the voting delegates.

Each Program National Committee shall review bids and select sites for NIT's, National and World Tournaments within their respective sports program, excluding the Men's Major World Series in Slow Pitch Softball and the National Tournaments and Men's Class "B," "C," "D," and NIT's.

ARTICLE X – REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any qualified person and/or team may register with this Association by applying to

the proper representative of the Association and paying an established registration fee. Registered Teams, Players, Sports Officials and Area Directors may have access to certain USSSA websites and information not available to the public in general, and shall only utilize such USSSA websites and information only in the furtherance of USSSA interests and activities.

- (a) **TEAM REGISTRATION:** Any team, in good standing, which competes and plays in a Sports Program offered by the Association, is eligible for registration. In order to become registered with USSSA, a team must pay a registration fee, so designated by the National Program Committee and approved by the Board of Directors and be accepted as a USSSA Registered Team.

The portion of registration fees due USSSA National Headquarters must be forwarded to USSSA National Headquarters with a properly executed registration form. Such transmittal must be made by the applicable state or area director.

Registration fees are paid annually. A team may register in only one state. Any team that changes its name during the season must re-register with the Association.

This membership entitles a team to compete and enter any USSSA sanctioned league or tournament in the sports program in which it is registered provided it meets the qualification rules governing the league or tournament. The team shall be eligible to purchase any team accident insurance program offered through the Association. A team registration card and a Rule Book shall be available to each team manager.

Each team shall be insured of proper administration of the Association as set forth in the Association Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Policies, and Procedures. Such registered teams shall be USSSA Registered Teams.

- (b) **PLAYER REGISTRATION:** In some USSSA Sports Programs, players or participants may be required to individually register with the Association in order to participate. The cost of such Player Registration shall be recommended by each Sports National Program Committee and approved by the Association's Board of Directors. If the registration of such players is accepted by USSSA, such registered players shall be USSSA Registered Players.
- (c) **SPORTS OFFICIALS REGISTRATION:** Any person who is defined in Article XVI, Section 1 as a USSSA Registered Sports Official (such as an umpire or referee) shall be granted a Sports Officials Registration in the USSSA. Registration fees, the manner of collection of such fees and any categories for USSSA Sports Officials shall be established by the Board of Directors.
- (d) **AREA DIRECTOR REGISTRATION:** Any person who is an Area Director (including Tournament and League Directors) shall be granted an Area Director

Registration in the USSSA. There shall be no cost for registering an Area Director with USSSA.

- (e) **HONORARY REGISTRATION:** Honorary Registration may be awarded and conferred upon such persons, as may be deemed worthy of such honor, upon recommendation to the Association's Executive Director, a State Director, or any Executive of the Association. Honorary Registration shall be awarded annually. Honorary Registrants shall be awarded a registration card.

Any Honorary Registrant, upon presentation of a registration card, may be permitted free admission to any USSSA sanctioned tournament. Honorary Registrants are not required to pay any fees to the Association. Honorary Registrants shall be considered for renewal each year.

Section 2. Members may have access to certain USSSA websites and information in addition to that of Registrants, and shall only utilize such USSSA websites and information in the furtherance of USSSA interests and activities subject to the terms of use and access that apply to such use and access.

- (a) **DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP:** All State Directors, National Program Directors, Program National Committee Members, Vice Presidents, Executive Vice Presidents and Members of the Board of Directors shall be awarded a Director or Executive Membership. Appointments and elections of such members shall be in accordance with procedures as set forth in this Constitution. Duties, responsibilities, and voting rights shall be in accordance with guidelines as set forth in this Constitution. Persons holding this type of membership shall not be required to pay any membership fee to the Association. All such members shall receive a membership card. All such members, upon presentation of membership card, may be permitted free admission to any USSSA Sanctioned Event held anywhere in the world.

ARTICLE XI – APPOINTMENTS

Section 1. All USSSA Appointees (including Directors) except those who also receive a salary paycheck from USSSA that is subject to federal employee tax withholding rules, are independent contractors and are not employees of USSSA. As such, these independent contractors do not have the authority to bind or otherwise act on behalf of USSSA, except to the extent provided by the USSSA Constitution. All USSSA appointments are, unless otherwise specifically stated in writing, for 12 months. Unless authorized by this Constitution, no one has the authority to bind or act on behalf of USSSA. USSSA trademarks may be used by USSSA Appointees only to the extent necessary to perform their respective duties as Appointees and only so long as such use is in the furtherance of USSSA interest and activities. In addition, access to and use of USSSA websites, USSSA confidential information, and USSSA trade secrets shall be allowed to USSSA Appointees only to the extent necessary to perform their duties as USSSA Appointees and only so long as such use is in the furtherance

of USSSA interests and activities. Such trademark use, access to and use of such websites, and access to and use of such information and trade secrets shall cease when an Appointee is no longer a USSSA Appointee, or if and when the USSSA Executive Director determines in his sole discretion that such access and use should cease.

Section 2. All State Appointees, including Area Directors and State or Area Chief Officials, shall come under the jurisdiction of the State Director and such appointments shall be made accordingly.

Section 3. All Tournament Directors for an event classified as a World Series shall be appointed by the Association's Executive Director.

Section 4. All Tournament Directors for National and World Tournaments shall be appointed by the Appropriate Executive Vice President.

Section 5. All Tournament Directors for National Invitational Tournaments and National Championship Tournaments shall be appointed by the appropriate Executive Vice President or Vice President.

Section 6. The Directors of a USSSA Sanctioned Event within a state that is not classified on a National level, shall be appointed by the State Director.

Section 7. All National Committees shall be appointed by the Association's Executive Director.

Section 8. USSSA is a sanctioning body and does not run or operate recreational or competitive sports competitions. Such sport activities that are USSSA Sanctioned Events are run under the supervision of USSSA Directors, who are independent contractors and are not employees of USSSA.

ARTICLE XII – MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual National Meeting of the Association shall be held in November.

- (a) The planning and supervision of the Annual Meeting shall be the responsibility of and be under the control of the Executive Director.
- (b) Attendance and registration of members, guests, and visitors shall be controlled by appropriate registration under rules and procedures established by the Executive Director. The Executive Director, for good cause, and with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall have the authority to deny to any person registration and entry into the Association's meetings, banquets, and functions.
- (c) All city visitors' bureaus, convention bureaus, and hotels may submit bids to host the

Association's National Meeting. Such bids shall include a detailed proposal stating guaranteed room rates, number of rooms available, available meeting facilities, available dates, banquet prices, and any special amenities. The Executive Director shall review all bids for the purpose of eliminating any bidder that lacks the criteria to accommodate the National Meeting.

- (d) Bids that meet the criteria shall be presented to the Association's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall then have the authority to invite candidates to attend the National Meeting.

Section 2. Other meetings, designated as special meetings, may be called at the discretion of the Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director. An advance agenda should be sent out to all meeting attendees.

Section 3. Each Division may hold an Annual Divisional Meeting. The planning and supervision of the Divisional Meeting shall be the responsibility of the appropriate Executive Vice President or Vice President. Attendance and registration of members, guests, and visitors shall be controlled by appropriate registration under rules and procedures established by the appropriate Executive Vice President or Vice President. The appropriate Executive Vice President or Vice President, for good cause and with the approval of the Executive Director, shall have the authority to deny registration and entry into the Divisional meetings, banquets, and functions to any person. Dates of all Division meetings must be approved in advance by the Executive Director.

ARTICLE XIII – ALLOCATIONS AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

Section 1. All Allocations paid to part-time directors and officers must be included in the approved budget of the Association.

Section 2. Travel Expense Allotments and reimbursements may be paid to employees and representatives of the Association provided such expenses are budgeted and have the proper approval.

Section 3. Non-budgeted emergency expenses, which are outside the scope of budgeted expense allotments, shall be reimbursed only when such expenses are approved in advance by the Executive Director. Such approved expenses must be supported by receipts covering lodging, transportation, meals, car rental, etc.

Section 4. If the Association has established an Official Travel Service or Agency, then all travel arrangements must be made through such agency in order to be eligible for reimbursement.

ARTICLE XIV – TREASURY WITHDRAWALS AND REPORTS

Section 1. The National Headquarters shall be responsible for prompt payment of all budgeted debts. The approved budget shall be considered as the authority to pay such debts.

Section 2. Unbudgeted debts of \$10,000 or less may be paid by National Headquarters with the consent of the Executive Director.

Section 3. Unbudgeted debts in excess of \$10,000, except as defined by Article XIII Section 3 above, must be approved by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The Association shall not be responsible for debts made by individuals not following this procedure.

Section 4. National Headquarters shall forward a written financial report to each member of the Board of Directors each month during the period of May through September. A detailed financial statement shall be submitted to the Association at the Annual Meeting each year.

ARTICLE XV – NATIONAL OR WORLD TOURNAMENT BID PROCEDURE

Section 1. The Association's Board of Directors shall select a site for the USSSA Men's Major World Series or any other World Tournament. Such event, or events, shall be sponsored and run entirely by the Association and, therefore, it shall not be put out for bids.

Section 2. All tournament bids must be submitted to National Headquarters by a date announced by National Headquarters. The Official USSSA Bid Form must be used for all bid tournaments.

Section 3. In order for a sponsor to be eligible to be awarded a National or World Tournament, the sponsor must have at least one full season of proven participation with the USSSA. Bids from sponsors with less than one full year of proven participation with the USSSA shall only be considered with approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. All written bids must include complete and detailed information regarding various aspects of the tournament as follows:

- (a) The Tournament Sponsor with whom the contract shall be made must be clearly specified.
- (b) The Tournament Sponsor's monetary bid which shall be paid to the Association National Treasury. Minimum bid amounts shall be established each year by the Association's Board of Directors and announced by the Executive Director in the form of a procedure manual. The Tournament Sponsor must indicate on the bid forms the date that the monetary bid amount shall be paid to the Association National Treasury. All bid amounts for National Tournaments must be paid no later than the date the tournament agreement is signed.

- (c) An agreement on the part of the Tournament Sponsor that he completely understands that a team entry fee shall be charged at a fee previously established by the Association's Board of Directors. The Association's Board of Directors shall also establish what portion of the entry fee shall go to the Tournament Sponsor.
- (d) An agreement on the part of the Tournament Sponsor that he completely understands that all Tournament entry fees shall be made payable to the host USSSA State Association or Vice President or Executive Vice President. The Tournament Sponsor's portion of the entry fee shall not be released to him until all terms of the tournament agreement are fulfilled at the conclusion of the tournament.
- (e) The number of playing fields and facilities must be described in detail. Such description must include name of facility, dimensions, lighting, location, seating arrangements, scoreboards, PA facilities, etc. It shall not be the policy of the Association to award a bid tournament to any new facility that has not completed construction at the time the tournament is awarded. The costs to provide all playing fields for World Tournaments shall be borne by the Tournament Sponsor.
- (f) Bid forms must list names of motels, showing room rates, number of rooms available, and location of motels in relation to the playing fields.
- (g) Availability of newspaper, television, and radio coverage for the tournament.
- (h) What social functions shall be offered for the teams participating in the tournament, such as parties, managers' breakfasts or luncheon, and free handouts, etc.
- (i) An agreement on the part of the Tournament Sponsor that he completely understands and shall honor the USSSA Souvenir Policy.
- (j) The official name of the tournament, actual location (city and state), and dates of the event must be listed on the bid form.
- (k) Team Sponsor Travel Expense Awards are awarded in most National and World Tournaments. The Association's National Treasury is responsible for such awards. All Team Sponsor travel expense awards shall be established by the Association's Board of Directors and announced each year by the Executive Director in the form of a procedure manual.
- (l) All bid forms must address such subjects as vehicle parking, gate admission, concessions, sale of alcoholic beverages, program booklets, and opening ceremonies. All profits from gate admissions, concessions, alcoholic beverages, and program booklets shall go to the Tournament Sponsor.

- (m) The Sponsor must agree to furnish, at no expense to the USSSA, all trophies and awards as outlined in the Sports Program By-Laws.
- (n) The responsibility for payment of services and expenses of a Tournament Director shall be that of the Tournament Sponsor.
- (o) The responsibility to pay all Sports Official game fees shall be that of the Tournament Sponsor.
- (p) If the World Tournament pertains to a program that has a National Program Chairperson, then the Tournament Sponsor shall be responsible to pay travel and motel expenses of the National Program Chairperson providing he or she attends the tournament. A National Program Chairperson must commit his or her intentions to attend the tournament at least 30 days prior to the event in order to take advantage of the best commercial travel rates.
- (q) The Sponsor should designate on the bid form if it is proposing to pay travel and motel expenses of any special guests.
- (r) All other facts and aspects of the tournament not covered in this Article of the Constitution should be incorporated on the bid form.

Section 6. All Sponsors of NIT's, National, or World Tournaments must sign an Official Tournament Agreement Contract with the Association. Such a contract shall define responsibilities of both the Tournament Sponsors and the Association in regards to the tournament.

Section 7. USSSA National Headquarters shall reserve the right to obtain National Sponsors for certain World Tournaments.

ARTICLE XVI – SPORTS OFFICIALS

Section 1. All sports competition activities that are USSSA Sanctioned Events shall utilize only USSSA Registered Sports Officials. USSSA Registered Sports Officials are those Sports Officials who are either (a) a Sports Official who has paid a registration fee to the Association and are accepted as a USSSA Registered Sports Officials by the appropriate USSSA State or Area Director, or (b) an Allowed Other Association Sports Official. An Allowed Other Sports Association Official is a Sports Officials that is registered with a recognized National, State or Local organization (such as, the National High School Federation) and who is accepted as a USSSA Registered Sports Official by the appropriate State or Area Director. Only those USSSA Registered Sports Officials that have paid a registration fee to the Association shall be covered by USSSA insurance for their actions as a Sports Official in USSSA Sanctioned Events (unless USSSA Tournament insurance is purchased for the USSSA Sanctioned Event Tournament in which they are officiating, in which case they will be covered by such USSSA

Tournament insurance for that tournament). All such Other Association Allowed Sports Officials will need to provide their own insurance coverage for their actions as Sports Official in USSSA Sanctioned Events and otherwise.

Tournament and League Directors are responsible for choosing and reviewing the actions of the Sports Officials in their USSSA Sanctioned Events. Compliance with Federal, State, and Local law is the responsibility of the League or Tournament Director and the Sports Officials of that USSSA Event. Compliance with USSSA Playing Rules, Bylaws, Policies, Procedures, and the USSSA Constitution with respect to USSSA Sanctioned Events is the responsibility of the League or Tournament Director and the Sports Officials of that USSSA Sanctioned Event. The condition of the site of a USSSA Sanctioned Event is the responsibility of the owner of the site, while choosing an appropriate site for a USSSA Sanctioned Event is the responsibility of the USSSA Director making that choice. It is the responsibility of the Sports Official in a USSSA Sanctioned Event to report any concerns with the condition of the site at the particular location at which he is officiating to the appropriate League or Tournament Director. In addition, if a Sports Official becomes aware of a situation at the particular location at which he is officiating that in any way creates an unsafe situation, such Sports Official shall immediately stop play and report such to the appropriate Tournament or League Director for that Directors decision on how to proceed. USSSA Sports Officials are not allowed to wear USSSA marked Sports Official clothing (including but not limited to shirts, pants, shorts, shoes, caps) or protective gear or otherwise hold themselves out as USSSA Registered Sports Officials when officiating or otherwise acting in any capacity for any event other than a USSSA Sanctioned Event.

Section 2. Sports Officials' registration fees shall be paid to the Association's National Headquarters.

Section 3.

- (a) In National or World Tournaments the majority of the Sports Officials shall be drawn from within the State hosting the event. No Sports Official shall be used outside of the host state without the approval of the Assistant Chief Official or Chief Official of the Sport.
- (b) A State Director cannot act as a Sports Officials in any USSSA Sanctioned Event above the state level without prior approval by the next higher level of authority.

Section 4. In all tournaments, the Sports Officials shall report to the Tournament Director or his designee. In all leagues, the Sports Officials shall report to the League Director or his designee. Tournament and League Directors in their discretion may overturn the decision of the Sports Official as to the interpretation of the applicable USSSA Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Procedures or Policies with respect to a USSSA Sanctioned Event.

Section 5. Every Sports Official who joins the Association and/or whose services are utilized by the Association in any circumstance shall be an independent contractor and shall not be an employee of the Association, unless otherwise specified by contract with the Sports Official.

ARTICLE XVII –SUSPENSION/DISBARMENT

Section 1. Anyone that is disbarred/suspended by USSSA under this Article XVII for any reason, shall not be allowed to participate in any capacity within the Association or to enter a USSSA facility until the suspension has ended, unless otherwise provided in the suspension notice.

Section 2. Tournament/League Directors and Officials have the authority to eject a player or team anytime during a Tournament/League. Ejections are not suspensions/disbarments and are not appealable.

Section 3. The following are Section 3 Acts, which may result in a Section 3 Suspension/Disbarment:

- (a) Physically attacking anyone in connection with any USSSA activity.
- (b) Anyone threatening a USSSA Officer, Director, Official, Employee or Independent Contractor
- (c) Anyone, in connection with a USSSA activity fighting; using unsportsmanlike conduct; using abusive tactics, derogatory or unbecoming acts that are detrimental or not in the best interests of the USSSA.
- (d) Anyone failing to cooperate with the USSSA in identifying the user or owner of an altered bat or in any other matter that might result in a suspension.
- (e) Anyone returning a bat to play that has been removed from play by a USSSA Director or Umpire.
- (f) Destroying of property or the abuse of hotel property or failure to pay hotel or motel bills in connection with a USSSA activity.
- (g) Knowingly competing with or against ineligible or suspended players.
- (h) Participating in or permitting a fraud to be perpetrated.
- (i) Refusing to submit funds to the Association that are due to the Association.
- (j) Competing under an assumed name.

- (k) Submitting a check for any reason that cannot be negotiated for payment.
- (l) Failing to arrive after entering a National or World Tournament unless reasonable advance notice is given.
- (m) Using or publishing false or derogatory information to the detriment of USSSA, its Officers, Directors or Officials.
- (n) Participating after being informed that you are suspended/disbarred/ineligible.
- (o) Anyone violating any Articles of the Constitution, By-Laws, Rule Book, Directives, Procedures, and Association Policies.
- (p) Anyone failing to submit information due the Association in a timely manner.
- (q) Any Manager, Sports Official, Tournament or League Director that allows anyone other than a Participant, Manager, Coach, Trainer or Sponsor to be in the dugout, bench or field of play during a USSSA Sanctioned Activity and anyone other than a Participant, Manager, Coach, Trainer, Sports Official or Sponsor who is in the dugout, bench or field of play during a USSSA Sanctioned Activity. Managers, Coaches, Trainers and Sponsors must be 18 years of age or older to be allowed in the dugout, bench or field of play during a USSSA Sanctioned Activity.
- (r) Any Sports Official, Tournament Director or League Director, who upon identifying an unacceptable risk to safe play at the site of a USSSA Sanctioned Event allows play to continue prior to removal of that risk to safety.
- (s) Anyone wearing USSSA marked Sports Official clothing (including but not limited to shirts, pants, shorts, shoes, caps) or protective gear or otherwise holding themselves out as a USSSA Registered Sports Official when officiating or otherwise acting in any capacity for any event other than a USSSA Sanctioned Event.

Section 4. Only State Directors, Vice Presidents, Executive Vice Presidents and Assistant Executive Directors have the authority to issue suspensions/disbarments for Section 3 Acts and only for a period of one year from the time of the incident. All reports of suspension must be in writing and submitted to the USSSA National Headquarters within 30 days of the suspension. Copies of such suspensions shall be sent to the party against whom it is directed. Any offense that occurs may be acted upon by the State Director in the state in which the offense occurred. Should the State Director not take action, he or she shall submit the incident to the player or team's home State Director to be acted upon. Any Section 3 Disbarment/Suspension beyond the one year suspension shall be ruled upon by the Association's Board of Directors or Disbarment Committee at anytime it convenes. In order for such action to be effective, reasonable notice (at least 30 days) shall be given to the

offending person before the convening of the Board of Directors or Disbarment Committee. Such notice shall be deemed sufficient if sent by registered mail to the address of the offending party last on file with the USSSA National Office or the USSSA State Director's Office (and if none is on file, to the address of the offending parties manager or coach); and contains a written statement of the offense and the length and terms of the requested additional disbarment beyond the one year suspension.

The offending party may prepare a written explanation and provide written evidence for the Board of Directors or Disbarment Committee as to why the additional suspension or disbarment should not be imposed. The decision of the Board of Directors or Disbarment Committee shall be final and binding and not be the subject of an appeal.

Section 5. The USSSA Board of Directors, the Executive Director, State Officers and Directors have the authority to issue indefinite suspensions for anyone who fails to meet financial or other responsibilities including compliance with USSSA Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Policies and Procedures to the Association or its State programs.

Section 6. Anyone who has been disbarred/suspended or declared ineligible, may use the appeal process procedure as set forth in the Constitution, except as otherwise limited by the provisions of this Constitution (such limited by provisions including, but not limited to, those found in section 7, below).

Section 7. The following Section 7 Acts may result in Section 7 Suspension/Disbarment:

- (a) **Filing a Law Suit.** Any person who files a law suit after December 15, 2007 (or who has previously filed such a suit and such suit has not been resolved prior to December 15, 2007) against the USSSA, any of its Directors, Board Members or affiliates regarding a matter that is in any way associated with the USSSA activities, is suspended permanently from all USSSA activities upon filing of such a law suit. A Person for purposes of this paragraph includes any natural person, the parents or guardians of a natural person who is a minor on behalf of whom a lawsuit is filed, any Entity (including, but not limited to corporations, non profit organizations, partnerships, trusts and limited liability companies) recognized under state or federal law, any beneficial or other owner of an Entity that brings suit under state or federal law and anyone that controls or is part of the group that controls the Entity. To the extent that the terms of this paragraph are unclear or ambiguous, the USSSA Board of Directors in its sole and absolute discretion shall determine their meaning in a way that excludes those who might have participated in any law suit against the USSSA.

In its sole and absolute discretion, the USSSA Board of Directors may commute a suspension under this paragraph, if it is determined in the Board of Directors sole and absolute discretion that there is no reason to believe that the Person will attempt to resolve any future dispute by the hiring of lawyers or the filing of a law suit or that the suspension is in any other way in- appropriate for the best interests of the USSSA.

To the extent that application of this section 7(a) would violate state, local or federal law, this section 7(a) shall not apply.

- (b) Threatening to, or using, an Attorney to resolve disputes.** Anyone who threatens legal action or the use of a lawyer to address disputes with USSSA may be suspended/disbarred indefinitely under Policies or Procedures which address such acts. There will be no right to appeal from such Suspensions, except as provided under such Policies or Procedures.
- (c) Charged with, or convicted of, a violent felony or of a sexual nature involving a minor.** Anyone charged with a violent felony or any crime of a sexual nature involving a minor shall be suspended/disbarred until such time as those charges are withdrawn or the person is found innocent of those charges. Anyone convicted of such crimes shall be suspended/disbarred for life from all USSSA sanctioned activities and facilities. The appeal of such a suspension may be made by use of the Third Step of Article XVIII, Section 3 Procedures for Appeal.
- (d) Involved with using or altering equipment.** Anyone who has a suspension resulting from an altered bat or ball rule may be suspended for life as determined by the USSSA rules and that determination may be made by the Altered Bat Committee, the Altered Bat Committee Chairman, the Executive Director or the Board of Directors. The appeal of such an issue shall be governed by as set forth in the appropriate rule books.
- (e) Competing Against USSSA.** Anyone who has or does compete (and any related parties) with USSSA may be indefinitely suspended by the Board of Directors. Rights of appeal for such suspensions/disbarments shall be governed by the Policy or Procedure which implements this authority to suspend/disbar for those who compete against USSSA.

Section 8. The State Director upon learning that a Section 7 Act has resulted in a Section 7 Disbarment/Suspension within his state should in a timely manner report such in writing to the USSSA National Headquarters.

ARTICLE XVIII APPEAL PROCESS PROCEDURE

Section 1. Definition of an Appealable Issue

Except where otherwise provided herein, an Appealable Issue shall be:

- (a)** Any sanction imposed or decision made that negatively impacts the appellant, but only to the extent that it violates the Association's Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Policies and Procedures.

- (b) Any aspect of an act of a Section 3 Act (as defined in Article XVII) resulting in a Section 3 Disbarment/Suspension (as defined in Article XVII), unless otherwise identified as not appealable under the Association's Constitution.

Section 2. Appeal Policy for Section 1 Appealable Issue.

All stages of the appeal of an Appealable Issue shall be in writing on appropriate forms supplied by the Association, and no substitution thereof shall be utilized. In such writing, the appellant (i.e., the person appealing) must specify on the appropriate form the specific relief he expects to obtain through use of the appeal procedure. Failure by the appellant to comply with all substantial procedural requirements of the appeal process procedure without just cause will terminate the right to further appeal.

Failure of the Association to comply with all substantial procedural requirements of the appeal procedure without just cause will, at the option of the appellant, advance the appellant to the next step in the appeal process. Failure of the Association, without just cause, to comply with all substantial procedural requirements of the final step of the appeal procedure shall result in a continuing right to the final step in the appeal process.

In those instances where an appeal is to an individual whose title is concurrent with the title of the person being appealed to in any given step of the appeal procedure, then that step shall be avoided and the next step shall be instituted automatically; however, the initial appeal must always be made within 15 days after the occurrence.

Where conflict of interest relative to the parties hearing in any given step exist in the view of the Executive Director or his designee the Executive Director shall designate members of the Association to hear that step of the appeal process.

Section 3. Procedure for Appealable Issue.

First Step – Appropriate Executive Vice President:

Within 15 days after the occurrence or condition giving rise to appeal, the person or team affected must present the appeal in writing to the appropriate Executive Vice President. Within 15 days of such presentation, the Executive Vice President shall give its reply in writing to the individual or team with respect to the appeal. The 15 day period for the Executive Vice President to reply may be extended for 10 additional days upon written notice from the Executive Director that he will need the additional time.

Second Step – Appropriate Assistant Executive Director:

If a satisfactory resolution is not reached at the first step, the appellant may so indicate on the appeal process form and submit the appeal to the Appropriate Assistant Executive Director within 15 days. Within 15 days of such presentation the Assistant Executive Director shall give its reply in writing to the appellant. The 15 day period for the Assistant Executive Director to

reply may be extended for 10 additional days upon written notice from the Assistant Executive Director that he will need the additional time.

Third Step – If a satisfactory resolution is not reached at the second step, the appellant may submit the appeal in writing to the Executive Director of the Association. Submission to the third step must occur within 15 days of the decision in the second step, unless there is mutual agreement for an extension. The Executive Director shall render a written reply to the appellant within 15 days after receipt of the written appeal. If the Executive Director, in his sole discretion, upon receipt of the written appeal and receipt of a request from the appellant for a hearing, determines that a hearing would be advisable, the Executive Director may set a time and place for that hearing within the following 90 days of such receipt. The expense of travel to such hearing shall be paid by the appellant. Each side may call witnesses at such a hearing. This step is final and is non-appealable.

The site of any third step hearing shall be chosen at the discretion of the Executive Director of the Association. The Executive Director shall have the option of appointing a panel of disinterested parties to decide the third step; however, the Executive Director shall be chairman of any such panel.

The Executive Director in consultation with the General Counsel shall have the authority to establish rules, policies, and procedures for any third step hearing which shall be provided to the appellant within 30 days of the hearing.

Note: Anyone disbarred/suspended or declared ineligible for a period greater than 5 years shall have the right to apply one time every 5 years for reinstatement to membership in the Association, following the one year anniversary of the suspension, provided he gives the Disbarment Committee, through National Headquarters, 30 days written notice of his intention to so reapply. Any individual suspended by the Disbarment Committee, can only appeal to the same committee for reinstatement. The Disbarment Committee shall act on such applications at the Annual Meeting of the Association.

Section 4. Other actions or issues, such as Section 7 Disbarment/Suspensions (as defined in Article XVII) shall be appealable only as provided in the rules set forth for such issues as found in the appropriate Constitution, By-Laws, Playing Rules, Directives, Policies or Procedures of the Association.

ARTICLE XIX – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

In all matters not covered by the Constitution or the By-Laws of the United States Specialty Sports Association, Robert’s Rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall be consulted as the proper authority, and those rules shall be followed as though they were a part hereof.

ARTICLE XX – MINUTES OF NATIONAL MEETING

All minutes of the National Meeting shall be made available to all Board of Director Members and Program National Committee Members of the Association.

ARTICLE XXI – HALL OF FAME

Section 1. The Association may honor certain individuals by electing them to the Association's Hall of Fame. This shall be considered as the highest honor the Association can bestow on any individual.

Section 2. The procedure, which governs the Hall of Fame election, is as follows:

- (a) Either a State Director, any member of the Program National Committee or the Association's Board of Directors must recommend a candidate for the Hall of Fame to the USSSA National Headquarters.

Such recommendations must be submitted in writing no later than June 1st of each year using the official USSSA Hall of Fame nomination form, and shall include detailed background information, statistics, and a recent photograph of the candidate in order for proper consideration to be given. All recommendations are only good for one year. Unsuccessful candidates must be resubmitted each year. Any candidate who is nominated by a person who resides outside of the State from where the candidate resides must have the approval of the candidate's State Director in order for the candidate's application to be processed. This does not apply to candidates in the Executive or Director category. The Board of Directors may recommend an individual for the Hall of Fame who, due to extenuating circumstances, may not meet all the criteria for nomination.

- (b) A person must be properly recommended in one of the following categories in order to be considered for nomination:
- Adult Male Player
 - Adult Female Player
 - Team Manager
 - Executive or Director
 - Umpire
 - Special Category (manufacturer, sports writer, announcers, or other individuals who have outstandingly, beyond any doubt, contributed to the USSSA program, however, do not qualify to be nominated in any of the other categories).
 - Special Service Longevity Category

(c) Special qualifications for each category are as follows:

- **Adult Male Player:** Must have been selected to an All-World Team at least three times, or to any combination of All-World, or Regional, Divisional, or National All-Tournament teams at least five times.
- **Adult Female Player:** Must have been selected to an All-World Team at least three times, or to any combination of All-World or Women's "A" National, Divisional, or Regional All-Tournament teams at least five times.
- **Team Manager:** Must have managed teams in five World Tournaments or in seven of any combination of World, Regional, Divisional, National, or Women's "A" National.
- **Executive or Director:** Must have been on a National Committee for five years.
- **Umpire:** Must have officiated in at least five of any combination of World, Regional, Divisional, or National Tournaments.

(d) A Hall of Fame nominee does not have to be retired to be nominated or elected; however, all nominees must be 33 years of age or more. The age requirement shall not apply to any nominee who is deceased.

(e) A nominee in all categories except the player category must have completed a minimum of seven years USSSA service in the specific category for which he or she is being nominated. A nominee in the Player Category must have completed a minimum of 10 years as a player in the USSSA program. The years of service requirement shall not apply to any nominee who is deceased.

(f) The Hall of Fame Committee may nominate up to five different categories each year. No more than two candidates shall be nominated for each category.

(g) All qualified nominees shall be placed on a ballot and voted on by the Board of Directors prior to or during the Annual National Meeting of the Association. A tie vote shall result in the election of both candidates.

(h) A person can be elected into the Hall of Fame only once.

(i) Upon the recommendation of the Hall of Fame Committee, The Board of Directors may select up to three (3) players in each of the male and female categories annually for induction into the Hall of Fame. Three (3) additional applicants may also be selected from the remaining categories if recommended by the Hall of Fame Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Said applicant must meet all requirements as prescribed in Article XXI of the USSSA Constitution.

(j) Hall of Fame recipients shall be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame the following year at the Annual National Meeting of the Association.

Notwithstanding Section 1 and Section 2(f) of this article, if a nominee has given 20 years of combined service in the categories of Player, Umpire, Manager, Director, Executive Board or Executive Committee, or Special Category, he or she may upon vote of the USSSA Board of Directors be eligible for induction into the USSSA Hall of Fame. No more than one person so qualified may be elected to the Hall of Fame each year in this category, which shall be referred to as a Special Service Longevity category.

Section 3. Hall of Fame recipients shall receive the following:

- (a) Travel and lodging expenses shall be paid for the recipient to the National Meeting for the purpose of being inducted.
- (b) A certificate shall be presented to the recipient.
- (c) A Hall of Fame ring shall be presented to the recipient.

Section 4. A plaque, with the recipient's likeness, shall be placed in the USSSA Hall of Fame Building.

ARTICLE XXII – GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to set geographic boundaries, which make up Divisions of the Association. A review of all Divisions should be made each year at the Annual National Meeting at which time proposed changes would be approved or disapproved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XXIII – NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to select a suitable city in which the Association's National Headquarters can be located.

ARTICLE XXIV – AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Meeting of the Association. Such changes to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of eligible voters present at an open meeting of the Association provided the amendment was previously submitted to the Board of Directors for review. (Note: Program Committee recommendations shall not be allowed to go to the floor for vote if the Board of Directors defeats them.)

Section 2. This Constitution may also be amended without previous notice to the Board of Directors; however, such amendment must receive one hundred percent (100%) affirmative vote of eligible voters present at an open meeting of the Association.

Section 3. The By-Laws of each Sports Program of the Association may be amended at any National Meeting of the Association. Such changes to the By-Laws shall require a majority vote of eligible voters present at an open meeting of the Association, provided the proposed change has been approved by the Program National Committee of the sports involved. **EXCEPTION:** Slow Pitch By-Laws may be submitted either September 1st or at the National Meeting. Playing rule changes submitted prior to the National Meeting must be submitted to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall then provide each voting delegate with properly submitted By-law changes at least 30 days prior to the National Meeting. By-law changes submitted prior to the National Meeting shall require a majority vote of the eligible voting delegates. Playing rules submitted at the National Meeting shall require a three-fourths vote of the eligible voting delegates.

ARTICLE XXV – NATIONAL MEETING VOTING PROCEDURE

Section 1. All voting during open meetings of the Association shall be done in the following manner:

- (a) Voting for election to the Hall of Fame shall be conducted by secret ballot with each eligible voter casting one vote.
- (b) Voting of all constitutional matters shall require a roll call of the various eligible voters. Such roll call votes shall be cast in a verbal manner. At such time as a Constitution Amendment is read for the first time and any member of the Board of Directors requests that a ballot shall be cast on that question, such request shall be made immediately after the first reading. In that event, the vote, when taken, shall be by written ballot. The roll call vote shall be conducted and recorded.
- (c) The eligible voters (who are entitled to cast one vote) are as follows:
 - Executive Director
 - All Assistant Executive Directors
 - All Executive Vice Presidents
 - All Vice Presidents
 - All National Program Chairpersons
 - All State Directors (see paragraph (d) below)
- (d) In the absence of the State Director, the Area Directors present must decide who shall act as their voting delegate. All State or Area Directors who are voting delegates must have been appointed as Directors as of July 1st of the current year and approved by the Executive Director USSSA National Headquarters as of July 1st must have recorded such appointments.
- (e) If a State Director is also a National Director, member of the Board of Directors, Vice President or Region Director, then no other vote may be cast from their respective state.

Section 2.

(a) The following affirmative voting requirements are necessary for passing of voting items:

- Board of Directors Matters – Majority Vote
- Constitution Amendments with Board of Director Notice – 2/3 Majority Vote
- Constitution Amendments without Board of Director Notice – 100% Vote
- Hall of Fame Election – Majority Vote

(b) Ballots for Hall of Fame elections shall contain boxes for voting no.

(c) Each Sport shall establish procedures for changing and updating Rules and By-Laws

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to remove or change Rules or By-Laws that are determined to be unsafe or detrimental to each respective sport.

**ARTICLE XXVI – COPYRIGHTS,
TELECAST, AND BROADCAST RIGHTS**

Section 1. The USSSA shall own all copyrights, telecast, and broadcast rights, (including all rights to telecast or broadcast by television, cable, radio, or other visual or audio media) and similar rights, to all USSSA sponsored or sanctioned sporting events including, but not limited to, games, series, tournaments, championships, award ceremonies, and related events (collectively: the “Games”), together with the right to record, tape, videotape, broadcast, reproduce, copy, display, or distribute any Game (collectively: the “Rights”).

Section 2. By participating in any USSSA sponsored or sanctioned Game, a participant shall be deemed to have acknowledged and agreed that, as a condition to his or her membership in the USSSA:

- (a) The participant has transferred and granted to the USSSA any and all Rights he or she may have in any Game;
- (b) The participant consents to the recording, taping, videotaping, use, broadcasting, telecasting, reproduction, copying, display, and/or distribution of his or her name, voice, photograph, image, or description in connection with the USSSA’s marketing, licensing, transfer, or other disposition of the Rights in the Games;
- (c) The USSSA shall have the exclusive right to market, license, transfer, or otherwise dispose of with any of the Rights in any of the Games; and
- (d) The participant shall not assert any claim to any Rights in any Games, whether against the USSSA or any third party.

Section 3. The proceeds to the USSSA from any license, transfer, or other disposition of any Rights in the Games shall belong solely to the USSSA and shall be used for such purposes as shall be designated by the Board of Directors of the USSSA consistent with the charitable purposes of the USSSA.