



Iowa Amateur Softball Association,
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Website: www.softball.org/iowa
"Providing Softball Services in Iowa since 1936"

Dear Iowa ASA Softball Coaches and Players:

Welcome to Iowa ASA Softball in 2009! We are looking forward to another great year of Youth Softball and have many new things to share with you. Enclosed you will find the Individual Registration Form, Team Registration Form, Open State Entry Form, along with a letter detailing the Individual Registration and the Insurance coverage as well as Team and League Insurance rates.

Teams register using **either** the **Team** or **Individual** method. We do strongly encourage all teams to register using the individual registration method due to the outstanding insurance benefits. All teams that play in the Iowa ASA State Tournaments must register using the Individual Registration process. The insurance includes a \$250,000 accident/medical/dental policy was increased this year to a \$5 million dollar liability policy. Fees for players are only \$13 for the \$0 deductible and \$8 for \$250 deductible. Registration fees for coaches are \$17/\$0 deductible or \$12/\$250 deductible. The \$0 deductible policy is the best value, as the insurance coverage covers any "out of pocket" medical or dental expenses a family may incur after any existing insurance policy has paid benefits or full coverage if a family has no such insurance policy. The insurance covers the player in anything softball related, whether it be a camp or clinic, indoor hitting league, practices, league or tournament play and regardless of the team they play with throughout the entire year! A huge benefit to leagues that register all of their teams using the individual registration for their players is that liability coverage is extended to all association volunteers at no cost! This is a \$5 million dollar policy and is very important benefit to volunteers that serve many youth softball organizations throughout the state. We also offer tournament insurance, field owners insurance, directors and officer's liability for non-profit organizations, crime insurance and equipment insurance. For more information on these policies contact our office or log on to the Iowa ASA website at www.softball.org/iowa for more details. Nearly 85% of all teams register using the Individual Registration method, with over 7,500 players and 1,250 coaches registering in 2008, taking advantage of one of the best insurance policies in the industry!

We are also pleased to announce the ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) Coaching Certification Clinics on that are now available ONLINE! The clinics will certify coaches and provide valuable training for the new or veteran coach **The ACE Coaching Certification is now required for at least one Coaches/Team for Teams that participate in Championship Play (State, National Tournaments, National Qualifiers).** We encourage all coaches to take advantage of this excellent coaching training. ACE Coaches will receive the added benefit of receiving emails and blogs containing helpful coaching tips and coaching advice throughout the season from Mike Candrea, well known coach of the Arizona Wildcats and former coach of the USA Women's National Team. This is also an excellent way for leagues to certify, train and background check their league coaches. Former USA National Team Coach Mike Candrea and members of the USA Softball Team lead the video format training clinic topics on Principles of Coaching, Legal Issues in Sports, First Aid, Practice Organization, Coach/Umpire Relations, and Coaching Sport Specific Skills. These clinics will be very helpful for leagues to help certify **and background check** their coaches and improve the level of coaching for players of all age and skill levels. Logon through the Iowa ASA or National ASA website and take the clinic with video and testing for your coaching certification at your convenience. If you attended an ACE Clinic in the past, you will want to keep your certification current by taking the 2nd 3rd/4th year recertification clinics that are also available online.

The Iowa ASA website continues to be very popular with coaches and players with over 65,000 visitors each year. The website is loaded with very beneficial information including rule changes, legal equipment, classification code (to help classify teams into the proper skill level of play), insurance information, age divisions, frequently asked questions and hotel information, just to name a few items. The Youth Fast Pitch page not only has all of the forms for registration, but a complete listing of all Championship Play Tournaments and Invitational Tournaments throughout the state. We also post all pre-tournament information, maps, and tournament brackets, as well as tournament results as soon as they are available for all to download and use. The website address is www.softball.org/iowa. Sanction your tournament with Iowa ASA and you can also advertise your own tournament on our Invitational Tournament page as well as host a national qualifying tournament for the Northern National Qualifiers! You will also want to check out the ASA/USA Softball website at www.softball.org

The Mid-America Region, which Iowa participates in, will again hold national qualifying tournaments for teams to qualify earlier in the year. We will feature USA/ASA National Qualifier and Hall Of Fame Qualifier for 14 & Under Class A on April 24-25, with other qualifiers in other age divisions held within the Mid-America Region. For all other qualifying tournaments please check the Iowa ASA website for tournaments hosted in Iowa and others held throughout the Mid-America Region and the U.S. You will find not only these tournaments, but all of our state tournaments played at some of the best softball facilities in the state if not the Midwest. Iowa ASA is very proud of its long-standing tradition of providing the best service for softball players and coaches in Iowa.

All state and regional tournaments use a three-game guarantee bracket. All teams are guaranteed at least three games with teams losing their first two games still eligible to play back through the bracket and win the tournament.

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Here are just a few quick facts and benefits of your registration with ASA Softball:

- The ASA annually registers over 245,000 softball teams comprising over 3.5 million players
 - The ASA annually registers over 83,000 youth girls' fast pitch softball teams comprising over 1.2 million girls
 - The ASA annually registers over 43,000 certified umpires
 - The ASA was formed in 1933 and has remained the official rules writer and interpreter for the sport of softball

 - The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of softball pursuant to the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act of 1978**
 - Under the banner of USA Softball, the ASA is responsible for training, equipping and promoting, women's, men's, junior girls' and junior boys' National Teams that compete in international and domestic competition
 - ASA conducts youth and adult softball programs in every state and virtually every city in the United States through a network of 88 state and metro local associations•Every season the ASA conducts over 100 National Championships in which 30,000 players compete
 - Membership publications are produced on a bi-annual basis and are distributed twice a year to 300,000 softball players and coaches
 - The ASA has over 83 local associations across America capable of implementing any event or promotion at the local and regional level
 - Collegiate scholarship opportunities for local players (over 80% of all collegiate softball players played in ASA league and tournament programs)**
 - The ASA's website, www.softball.com , averages over 4,000 "visitors" per day focusing on updated softball player and team information, trivia contests, and other fan giveaways.
 - A very structured national grassroots organization involved in all facets of softball including youth fast/slow pitch, adult fast/slow pitch, modified pitch, coed, seniors and umpiring
 - ASA softball related publications
 - Championship Play competitions in every state and major metropolitan area
 - ASA Insurance Program
 - ASA Equipment Certification Program
 - ASA family of websites
 - USA Softball National Team program
 - National Softball Hall of Fame & Stadium
- Each ASA registered team/individually registered coach receives a Copy of the Official Rules of Softball
Each ASA registered team receives the following:
- USA Softball Magazine
 - ASA Scorebook
 - Team ID card featuring additional membership benefits like discounts off rental cars, airline travel ASA merchandise.
 - Opportunity to receive quality insurance benefits for any player regardless of age or skill level
 - The ASA is the largest softball organization in the United States, but prides itself on being able to provide local service
 - The ASA maintains an office with a local commissioner, youth coordinator, athlete representative and umpire-in-chief in every state and major metropolitan area in United States
 - All ASA state offices use district commissioners to ensure a direct local contact at every level to communicate directly with leagues and park/recreation departments
 - Each of the 83 ASA local associations have voting privileges deciding how the organization is run at the National level through commissioners, elected player representatives and regional appointments
 - The ASA has approximately 265 voting members ensuring that a democratic process is followed and the best interests of softball player's tournament organizers and league directors are met
 - ASA National Coaching Certification Program; a.k.a., ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate)**
 - ASA National Coaching Schools
 - ASA Youth Clinics and Camps
 - Complete ASA insurance coverage for league teams and league administrators if all players are individually registered
 - Tournament opportunities for each recognized classification of play
 - Structured and enforced classification system allowing for fair competitions among local leagues and travel teams
 - Collegiate scholarship opportunities for local players (over 80% of all collegiate softball players played in ASA league and tournament programs)
 - Opportunity to host events that generate millions of dollars for the local community
 - The ASA can provide insurance for every softball game through very affordable liability coverage for field owners
 - Opportunity for member teams and individually registered players to purchase accident insurance at low group rates
 - Comprehensive general liability coverage in the amount of \$5 million for league officers if 100% of the teams are registered with ASA
 - Comprehensive general liability coverage in the amount of \$5 million for the local umpire association if 100% of the umpires are registered with the ASA

On behalf of Ron Zimmerman, State Junior Olympic Commissioner, and our many Junior Olympic District Commissioners across the state we want to welcome you to the 2009 season and look forward to working with you to provide you with the best softball program possible to meet the needs of your league or tournament teams.

Have fun playing softball and "Play Iowa ASA"!