

IOWA ASA SLOW PITCH PLAYER CLASSIFICATION APPEALS

May 8, 2010

Steps in Player Appeal Process

1. Player files an appeal using the national ASA website under adult slow pitch and then player classification. The player will then do a search for their name and then clicking on the appeal link on that page.
2. Appeal is typically given to the state commissioner for a recommendation. (Note: the national classification committee occasionally rules without asking for a recommendation.)
3. If the Iowa state appeal form has not already been completed the state commissioner advises the player of the need to file one.
4. State commissioner may choose to seek comment from ASA district commissioners and all district player representatives or may determine a recommendation independently.
5. State commissioner determines the recommendation to be made to the national classification committee.

Timing

To make well-informed decisions it is important the ASA collect and review as much relevant information as possible from numerous parties. One should anticipate a minimum of thirty days for the appeal process to be completed. It is the responsibility of teams and players to allow sufficient time before championship play before filing an appeal. Appeals filed less than thirty days before the start of championship play may not be decided upon before play is to begin.

Iowa ASA's philosophy regarding the review of player classification appeals:

Appeals should be granted on a limited basis only. If appeals are relatively easy to achieve it undermines the intent of player classification which is to prevent teams and players from "playing down" primarily to position themselves to win a state or national championship. We aim for consistency on our recommendations and our primary focus is on the health of our statewide program. While we certainly want teams to do well in national championship play an even higher priority is in maintaining competitive balance within our classes here in Iowa. Since we can not control decisions made outside our state we will not default to using the most liberal approach taken by one or more states in how they approach classification. No system is perfect and this one has shortcomings too but our goal is to be as fair and consistent as we can with it.

We recognize occasionally dominant teams will form within certain classes. These dominant teams will eventually achieve a level of success that will result in mandatory reclassification. Our philosophy is to allow them to enjoy their dominant status until such time their achievements dictate they are to be mandatorily reclassified. Once they have enjoyed this level of success it is time to move on to a higher level of play and allow others teams to enjoy success at the lower level. This is consistent with our basic belief that appeals should be granted on a limited basis only.

Finally, the burden of proof is on the player or team to provide sufficient and accurate information regarding why an appeal should be granted. If the evidence provided is limited or found to be inaccurate the appeal will be denied.

Reasons the Iowa ASA may support an appeal:

- Player was a coach or sponsor who had limited playing time on a team where the team's classification places the player higher class than where his skills would suggest he belongs.
- Player was a lower caliber player on a team that was mandatorily reclassified by their team's high finish at a national or state tournament but where few, if any, teams at the next classification level would consider having the player of this caliber on their roster. This will involve a small minority, and possibly none, of the players who played consistently for the mandatorily reclassified team.

Reasons NOT considered valid in generating support for an appeal:

- Claiming an appeal should be granted now that you are in your mid-30s to mid-40s. Players can be outstanding softball players well past their mid-30s. A more liberal view may be taken if the player is an outfielder whose outfield skill had been a key strength.
- Claiming your lack of home run power suggests you belong in the D class or lower. Power hitting ability alone is not a requirement for being a competitive player in higher classes.
- Claiming you would be viewed as a below average player at the level you are classified at. Just because you are below average does not mean the classification is inappropriate. By definition someone needs to be below average.
- The team you are a member of needs the appeal to be approved in order that they can play at a desired level. Player classification decisions need to be made on their own individual merit to achieve a fair and consistent outcome relative to other appeals received and therefore can not be influenced by helping a team achieve its own classification objectives. Players seeking appeals on the basis approval is necessary so they can play with friends or enable them to play on a team that can find more nearby invitational tournaments to play in or allow them to play in a class offering a state tournament are all not valid reasons for approval. Teams and players need to decide whether their top priority is playing with friends or playing at the classification level the make-up of their roster dictates. It is not the responsibility of the ASA to help teams enter local invitational tournaments. Supporting appeals for these reasons would undermine our primary focus to maintain competitive balance within classes.

Descriptions of Player Classification Levels:

A Class—among the best players in Iowa and surrounding states.

B Class—highly skilled players who are either extraordinary hitters or exceptional defensive players. These players are nearly always exceptional at least one of these two key phases of the game and in some instances at both.

C Class—quality softball players who either have a history of competitive softball play or players with a high level of natural ability but have little experienced in slow pitch softball.

D Class—low caliber softball players who lack consistent hitting ability or strong defensive skills. This may include older players and younger players alike with limited skills.

E Class—lowest caliber of softball players including older and younger players whose abilities and experience in competitive softball play is very limited.

Player Appeal Form

Player name: _____ Birthdate _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail Address _____

Current team name: _____

Manager's name: _____

Manager's phone: _____ E-mail Address _____

Classification applying for: _____ Is this related to a team reclassification : _____

Date of submission: _____

PLAYER HISTORY

Provide a five-year history of teams played with including teams where used as a pick-up player for ASA championship play. Please note the following: (1) team(s) played for, (2) ASA class played in, (3) experience in championship play in other associations including level of team finish and (5) player's role on each team including primary defensive positions.

Year #1 (last year):

Year #2:

Year #3:

Year #4:

Year #5:

State your case supporting your appeal: