USA Softball Terms Glossary

Acronyms

ACE: Aspire, Challenge, Encourage. This is the coaches' Exam. There are four levels, 1, 2, 3, and Continuing Education. A minimum of one coach per team is required to be ACE Educated each year. Exams are valid until the end of the season.

JO: Junior Olympic, more commonly known as the Youth Program.

UIC: Umpire-in-Chief. The head of an association's umpire program. UICs oversee umpire registrations and assign umpires to tournaments.

Commonly Used Terms

Adult Commissioner: The head of an association's adult program.

Age: A player's age as of December 31 determines the age at which the player is eligible to play for that year. Starting with the 2024 season, the Youth Program moves to the player's age as of September 1.

Association: The name for one of the 65 locations. Most are broken up by state but in highly populated areas, locations may be further divided. For example, USA Softball of Texas and USA Softball of Houston are two separate Associations.

Board of Directors: Made up of leaders from Associations, usually Commissioners and 1/3 Athletes. 8 Players, 2 outside members, and 14 Association members.

Championship: A stricter version of play with Nationally set rules for teams wanting to play competitively. A player is only allowed to be on one Championship Roster.

Commissioner: The top position of an Association who is ultimately accountable for what happens in the Association.

Council Members: Association Staff including Commissioners, JO Commissioners, Adult Commissioners, UIC, etc. Quantity per Association varies based on Registration numbers.

District: At times, Associations will break into smaller bodies called districts. These districts may have their own Commissioners, JO Commissioners, UICs, etc. Some Associations refer to their districts as Groups/Leagues.

Individual Registration: Payment for USA Softball membership and Insurance which is specific to a person and follows the person from team to team.

Insurance: The primary insurance is accidental insurance that serves as insurance or secondary medical insurance. There is liability insurance that protects coaches and adults from being sued.

JO Commissioner: The head of an Association's youth program.

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League: A group that registers with an Association. For example, a city's parks and rec department with 450 players. Insurance defines a league as four or more teams. These are also called clubs.

League Administrator: The person responsible for Registering the League in Register USA. The role entails entering data, submitting payments to the Association, etc.

Membership: Paid membership to play in USA Softball-sanctioned events.

National Organization: The Oklahoma City Office, also known as the National Office.

Region: There are ten regions to group the 65 associations. Each Region has its own UIC.

RegisterUSASoftball.com: The Registration Site, Publicly - individual registration only.

Roster: List of approved participating players. Rosters cannot exceed 20 players. There are two types, Championship and Standard.

SafeSport: Child protective class and exam the Federal Government mandates through the United States Olympic Committee. SafeSport is required for all individuals who are around children.

Sanctioning: Membership-only payment, typically associated with a Team Registration.

Season: The 13-month period, generally from December 1st to December 31st of the following year. Youth begins on September 1st and ends on August 31st. RegisterUSA has an overlap where Registrations for September 1st start about two weeks early.

Standard: Version of play usually used for recreational play. Players are allowed to be on multiple Standard Rosters.

Team Administrator: The person responsible for Registering the Team in RegisterUSA. The role entails entering data, submitting payments to the Association, etc.

Team Registration: A team name that has paid membership dues and insurance purchased separately, also known as StandAlone Team Registration.

teamusa.org/USA-Softball: Marketing and media.

Territory: There are four territories: Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western. Two to Three Regions make up a territory.

Tournament Coordinator: Assistant tournament director.

Tournament Director: The head of a tournament.

TournamentUSASoftball.com: The tournament site to sign up for events.

Travel Teams: Individual or Team registration participating in competitive or championship events.

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