

## ISF COMPETITION & TECHNICAL CODE

### for WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS and OLYMPIC GAMES

#### (INCLUDING QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS for WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS and OLYMPIC GAMES)

(As adopted September 18, 1952 with amendments through **2009**)

#### ARTICLE 1 BID PROCEDURES FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.01 Bid procedures for World Championships are as follows:

- a. World Championships shall be bid three (3) years in advance. Detailed bids shall be presented to the Secretary General not less than **three (3)** months prior to the meeting at which bids will be considered and shall be mailed to each member **Federation** not less than **two (2)** months prior to such meeting.
- b. Bids shall be in writing on the proper form provided by the ISF Secretariat.
- c. Bids must contain and provide the following minimum guaranteed:
  1. Free housing for all participating teams including ISF officers. The total number of the team delegation shall be designated in the bid; such number shall not be less than twenty-three (23) plus an umpire. The host organizing commission must provide for not more than four (4) players to a room and two (2) coaches to a room.
  2. If a playing facility has not been constructed when bid is presented, then a copy of the proposed architectural drawings must be included.
  3. Playing facilities must seat a minimum of seventy-five hundred (7,500) spectators and be equipped with lights for night play.
  4. Bid must be accompanied by a good faith deposit of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500) US which will be kept on deposit by the ISF and applied against financial guarantee. If bidder does not fulfill all requirements by ISF for hosting World Championship, deposit will be forfeited.
  5. Bids must contain a financial guarantee to ISF of at least ten percent (10%) of the gross receipts (US dollars).
  6. All World Championship tournament contracts must be drafted, accepted, and signed off no later than six (6) months from the winning of the bid.
  7. Fifty percent (50%) of any television monies (US dollars) negotiated for World Championship play will go to the Federation.
  8. The ISF Secretary General will personally visit the site of the World Championship at least six (6) months prior to the opening of the Championship and meet with the organizing commission and inspect playing facilities. He will immediately following his visit submit a report to the ISF Board of Directors. The organizing commission will be responsible for the Secretary General's travel and accommodations.
  9. Each host country of a World Championship must file a financial report with the ISF Secretariat and a copy of the said report be published and distributed to all ISF members. This report will be due no later than

ninety (90) days following the completion of the World Championship. A host country that does not file the required financial report may have their affiliation rescinded.

OR

- d. Bids must contain and provide the following minimum guaranteed:
1. A guarantee to each participating team of \$15,000 USD which must be received by the participating team 30 days prior to the commencement of the championship.
  2. All local transportation, including airport arrival, airport to hotel, and hotel to the playing site and return to the airport on departure of each delegation and ISF Officers.
  3. Will provide suitable and acceptable hotel accommodations for officials, umpires, and ISF officers and a per diem of \$50 USD per day.
  4. If playing facility has not been constructed when bid is presented, then a copy of the proposed architectural drawings must be included.
  5. Playing facilities must seat a minimum of seventy-five hundred (7,500) spectators and be equipped with lights for night play.
  6. Bid must be accompanied by a good faith deposit of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500) US which will be kept on deposit by the ISF and applied against financial guarantee. If bidder does not fulfill all requirements by the ISF for hosting the World Championship, deposit will be forfeited.
  7. Bids must contain the following minimum financial guarantee to the ISF:

Women's	- \$20,000USD
Junior Women's	- \$10,000USD
Junior Men's	- \$7,500 USD
Men's	- \$20,000 USD

(NOTE – Bids may contain larger guarantees).

8. Fifty percent (50%) of any television monies in US dollars negotiated for World Championship play will go to the ISF.
9. The ISF Secretary General or his representative will visit the site of the World Championship at least six (6) months prior to the opening of the Championship and meet with the organizing commission and inspect playing facilities. He will immediately following his visit submit a report to the Board of Directors. The organizing commission will be responsible for the Secretary General or his representative travel and accommodation.
10. Each host country of a World Championship must file a financial report with the ISF Secretariat and a copy of the said report be published and distributed to all ISF members. This report will be due no later than ninety (90) days following the completion of the World Championship. A host country that does not file the required financial report may have their

affiliation rescinded.

NOTE: If a bidder chooses this option they are not responsible for meals and accommodations for individual teams. They must, however, provide teams, at least, six month prior to the Championship with a least three alternative accommodation choices and must be prepared to provide transportation to/from these facilities.

- 1.02 Voting on who should host World Championships shall be carried out at the Congress at which bids are considered. Those voting shall comprise the ISF Board of Directors and those member Federations that have attended one of the last similar three World Championships.

## **ARTICLE 2 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION**

- 2.01 At least six (6) months prior to the World Championship, the host nation shall invite entries from all nations who have qualified giving at that time the fullest possible details including in particular –

- The venue
- Commencing date
- Proposed method or program of play
- Salient financial details including accommodations offered and any assistance the host nation may be giving to visitors
- The closing date for entries which shall be five (5) months prior to commencement of the tournament.

- 2.02 Immediately upon the closing of entries the Federation shall circulate information to all National *Federations* informing them of the entries.

- 2.03 Each participating nation shall pay an entry fee of five hundred (\$500) US to the International Softball Federation no later than five (5) months prior to the tournament starting date.

- 2.04 Each participating nation shall pay a deposit of fifteen hundred (\$1500) US to the International Softball Federation no later than five (5) months before the tournament starting date. If the team fails to participate, the deposit will be forfeited to the organizing committee. If they participate, the deposit will be returned.

- 2.05 a. Each participating nation shall submit to the International Softball Federation no later than three (3) months before the tournament starting date, a preliminary team/squad roster of players and officials to participate in such tournament.
- b. Each participating nation shall submit to the International Softball Federation at the Technical Meeting prior to the tournament a final team roster of players and officials to participate in such tournament.

- 2.06 *In the event of a team failing to appear at a World Championship, following*

*consideration of a submission outlining the reason for that non-appearance, the Board of Directors may impose an appropriate sanction which might include suspension of that team from a subsequent World Championship.*

- 2.07 A Fast Pitch World Championship will be held every *two (2) (starting 2012)* years in each of the following divisions:

Women  
Junior Women  
Men  
Junior Men

*From 2010 the order will be - 2010 Women  
2011 Junior Women  
2012 Junior Men, Women  
2013 Men, Junior Women*

- 2.08 All Fast Pitch World Championships will consist of no more than sixteen (16) teams.  
a. The teams will be determined as follows:

Host	1
Africa	2
Asia	3
Europe	3
Americas	5
Oceania	2

- b. Where the World Championship has been conducted with the full complement of 16 teams the Region represented by the team finishing in 16<sup>th</sup> place shall lose one automatic right of entry for the next equivalent World Championship.
1. This vacant position shall be contested for at an At Large Qualifying Tournament at a venue determined by the ISF Executive.
  2. All interested Regions would be able to nominate the team which missed qualification but was next placed amongst those who contested that competition.
  3. The At Large Qualifying Tournament must be played at least four (4) months prior to the respective World Championship.
  4. The Region affected by this would regain the automatic quota for the next World Championship unless they had a team finish in 16<sup>th</sup> place.

- 2.09 All other World Championships (modified and slow pitch) will remain open qualification.

- 2.10 At the World Championships for junior men and women, the age qualification is determined as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the year prior to the championship. If a player reaches his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday any time during the year of the championship, that player is

eligible for the Junior World Championship.

### **ARTICLE 3 QUALIFYING COMPETITION FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 3.01 The qualifying competition for World Championships:
- a. Will be open to any nation affiliated with ISF in the region.
  - b. May be a recognized competition currently held for the region.
  - c. With no recognized competition in place, the ISF Regional Vice President shall arrange the country to host the qualifying competition.
  - d. Each participating nation shall pay an entry fee to the host nation no later than four (4) months prior to the tournament starting date. The amount of entry fee shall be decided by the host nation and approved by the Board of Directors. Should a nation withdraw or fail to participate in the competition, the entry fee shall be forfeited to the host nation.
  - e.
    1. Each participating nation shall submit to the International Softball Federation not later than six (6) weeks before the tournament starting date, a preliminary team/squad roster of players and officials to participate in such tournament.
    2. Each participating nation shall submit to the International Softball Federation at the Technical Meeting prior to the tournament a final team roster of players and officials to participate in such tournament.
  - f. The cost of the tournament (travel, accommodation and meals) would be the responsibility of the individual participating country.
  - g. All qualifying tournaments must be completed no later than six (6) months prior to the World Championship.
  - h. At qualifying competitions for Youth World Championships the participants shall be eligible by age for the Youth World Championship in which they are to participate.
  - i. A National *Federation* who has entered a team and subsequently withdraws from participating may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Board of Directors, including the possible suspension of their affiliation.

### **ARTICLE 4 OLYMPIC GAMES COMPETITION**

- 4.01 The Olympic/World Championship Commission shall prepare and recommend to the Congress a system for qualifying teams for Olympic competition. The Commission shall make such proposal at least three (3) years prior to softball participating on the Olympic Program. The Commission shall take into consideration in preparing and recommending a system of qualifying that will give the greatest opportunity to as many teams and regions to participate in Olympic qualification taking into consideration time and cost factors. It shall be the final decision of the ISF Congress to consider all proposals with the ultimate consideration being to have the strongest and most competitive teams participating in the Olympic Program.
- 4.02 The Olympic Host Team plus the top four (4) teams from the Women's World Championship (excluding the host country, should they finish in the four (4) would

qualify for the Olympic Games. The other three (3) entrants to the Olympic Games would be determined by holding the following qualification tournaments.

- a. A qualifying tournament in Europe or Africa with teams from the European and African Region competing.
- b. A qualifying tournament in the Pan American Region with teams from North, South, Central America and Caribbean competing.
- c. A qualifying tournament in the Asian or Oceania Region with teams from Asia and the Oceania competing.

The winners of each of these tournaments would qualify for the Olympic Games.

## **ARTICLE 5 QUALIFYING COMPETITION FOR OLYMPIC GAMES**

5.01 The qualifying competition for Olympic Games would –

- a. Be open only to those teams who had not already qualified for the Olympic Games.
- b. Be at a site approved by the ISF Board of Directors. The highest finishing country in the World Championship from the respective regions would be given the “first right of refusal” to hold their region’s qualifier provided the minimum required criteria as established by the ISF Board of Directors is met.
- c. The cost of the tournament (travel, accommodation and meals) would be the responsibility of the individual participating country.
- d. The teams do not have to participate in the World Championship to participate in a regional Olympic qualifying tournament.
- e. All regional qualifying tournaments must be completed no later than six (6) months prior to the Olympic Games.
- f. Each participating nation shall pay an entry fee to the host nation no later than four (4) months prior to the tournament starting date. The amount of entry fee should be decided by the host nation and approved by the Board of Directors. Should a nation withdraw from or fail to participate in the competition, the entry fee shall be forfeited to the host nation.
- g.
  1. Each participating nation shall submit to the International Softball Federation not later than six (6) weeks before the tournament starting date, a preliminary team/squad roster of players and officials to participate in such tournament.
  2. Each participating nation shall submit to the International Softball Federation at the Technical Meeting prior to the tournament a final team roster of players and officials to participate in such tournament.
- h. A National *Federation* who has entered a team and subsequently withdraws from participating may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Board of Directors, including the possible suspension of affiliation.

## **ARTICLE 6 FORMATION OF SECTIONS AND METHOD OF COMPETITION (FAST PITCH)**

6.01 When there are *eleven (11)* or less entries, teams will play in one (1) section, culminating in a four (4) team page playoff.

6.02 a. When there are *twelve (12) to sixteen (16)* effective entries, the Board of Directors will form two (2) sections. A single round robin will be played within each section. The top four (4) teams from each section shall play in a double page system playoff.

b. The allocation to sections will be —

Section 1	Section 2
1	2
4	3
5	6
8	7
9	etc.

c. Teams shall be allocated to Sections on the basis of the following positions —  
**Women's (for the 2010 World Championship only):**

First eight placings – at the previous Olympic Games

Last eight placings - at the previous World Championship

For all future **Women's World Championships (post 2010)** and all Men's, Junior Women's and Junior Men's:

At their previous world championship

d. The Board of Directors at its discretion may also reverse the allocations to Section 1 and 2, in regard to the placings 11 to 16, in order to obviate a large number of countries from a region in one section.

e. Where a team did not compete at the previous World Championship, allocation to Sections will be made in accordance with the order the entries are received and teams placed in Section 1 or 2 at the discretion of the Board of Directors in order to obviate a large number of countries from a region in one section.

f. 1. When a team/s withdraws from a World Championship up to two (2) months prior to the commencement of the Championship, the Board of Directors may invite a team (who participated in that region's or another region's qualifying competition) to participate.

2. When a team/s withdraws from a World Championship within two (2) months of the commencement of the Championship or does not arrive at a World Championship, no replacement/s will be made.

3. Should there be a withdrawal/s from a World Championship within two (2) months of the commencement of the Championship, no change shall be made to the playing schedule, unless –

(a) The withdrawals leave the number of teams in one section greater than the number of teams in the other section by more than one (1); then one (1) or more teams shall be transferred from the section with the greater number of teams to the other section so that neither section has more than one (1) team than the other.

(b) There are ten (10) or fewer teams, when a new playing schedule

shall be drawn up for all teams to participate in the one section.

- (c) When because of withdrawal/s there are an uneven number of teams in sections (e.g. seven (7) teams in one section, eight (8) teams in the other section), the section with the least number of teams shall be considered to have a bye and each team in that section shall be awarded one (1) win.

6.03 Qualifying Competitions for World Championships and Olympic Games

- a. With two (2) teams participating, the teams will play the best of five (5) game series.
- b. With three (3) to ten (10) teams participating, the teams will play in one (1) section.
  - 1. With less than eight (8) teams participating, a double round robin will be played culminating in a playoff, the top two (2) teams playing the best of three (3) game series.
  - 2. With eight (8) to ten (10) teams participating, a single round robin will be played, culminating in a page system playoff involving the top four (4) teams.
- c. With eleven (11) to sixteen (16) teams participating, the teams will play in two sections as formed by the Board of Directors.
  - 1. The allocation to sections will be according to placings at previous World Championship, qualifying tournaments or regional tournaments –

Section One	Section Two
1	2
4	3
5	6
8	7
9	etc

- 2. A single round robin shall be played within each section, culminating in the top four (4) teams from each section playing a double page system playoff.
- d. The host nation shall advise ISF of the final placings immediately on conclusion of the tournament.

**ARTICLE 7 FORMATION OF SECTIONS AND METHOD OF COMPETITION (MODIFIED AND SLOW PITCH)**

7.01 Where there are fifteen (15) or less entries, teams will play in one (1) section. In the event of there being less than eight (8) effective entries, a double round robin will be played. In the event there are eight (8) to fifteen (15) effective entries, a single round robin will be played, culminating in a page playoff involving the top four (4) teams.

7.02 a. Where there are sixteen (16) to twenty-four (24) effective entries, the Board of Directors will form two (2) sections. A single round robin will be played within

each section. The top four (4) teams from each section shall play in a double page system playoff.

- b. Teams shall be allocated to Sections on the basis of the finishing positions of the previous World Championship as follows –

Two Sections (16-24 teams)	
Section One	Section Two
1	2
4	3
5	6
8	7
9	Etc

- c. Where a team did not compete at the previous World Championships, allocation to Sections will be made in accordance with the order the entries are received.

- 7.03 a. Where there are twenty-five (25) or more effective entries, the Board of Directors will form four (4) sections, and a single round robin will be played in each section. The top two (2) teams from each section shall play in a double page playoff.

- b. Teams shall be allocated to Sections on the basis of the finishing positions at the previous World Championship as follows –

Four Sections (25 + teams)

Section One	Section Two	Section Three	Section Four
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13
17	etc.		

- c. Where a team did not compete at the previous World Championship, allocation to Sections will be made in accordance with the order the entries are received.

**ARTICLE 8 RESOLUTION OF TIES**

- 8.01 A tie exists within one (1) section, or across two (2) or four (4) sections, when two (2) or more teams have the same win-loss record.

- 8.02 A tie shall be resolved by following, in order, the procedure set out below –

- a. Within Section Round Robins
  - 1. With two teams tied on wins/losses, rank them by the results of their game

in the round robin; the winner is placed ahead of the loser.

2. With more than two teams tied on wins/losses, rank them in order –
  - (a) By the results of their games among themselves in the round robin games. ***With two teams tied on wins/losses, rank them by the results of their games in the round robin; the winner is placed ahead of the loser.***
  - (b) If still tied on wins/losses, by their runs against record in the games among themselves; the team with the lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, the team with the second lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, etc.
  - (c) If any teams tied by their runs against record in the games amongst themselves –
    - (1) two teams – by the results of their games amongst themselves in the round robin games
    - (2) more than two teams – by their runs against record in all the round robin games; the team with the lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, the team with the second lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, etc.
  - (d) If any teams still tied on runs against, by random selection; the first team selected is placed ahead of the others.

b. Across Section Round Robins

With two or more teams tied on wins/losses, rank them in order –

1. By their runs against record in all round robin games; the team with the lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, the team with the second lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, etc.
2. If any teams still tied on runs against, by random selection; the first team selected is placed ahead of the others.

8.03 For a tied team “runs against” is the total number of runs scored by the specified opponents of that team.

EXCEPTION: Where teams are tied for a place in a Page System the Technical Commission may decide that such tie may be resolved by a playoff provided the Technical Commission agree that conditions are satisfactory for such playoff.

## **ARTICLE 9 FINALS (FAST PITCH)**

### **9.01 PAGE SYSTEM PLAYOFF (4 TEAMS) – ONE SECTION**

- a. The Page System shall comprise of two (2) semi-finals, one (1) final and one (1) grand final.
- b. Two (2) days shall be set aside for the Championship Page System at the end of

- the Championship. The two (2) semi-finals shall be played on the second to last day, the final and grand final shall be played on the last day.
- c. First Semi-final – The teams ranked third and fourth in the round robin shall play for a place in the final; the loser is fourth in the Championship.
  - d. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first and second in the round robin shall play for a place in the grand final.
  - e. Final – The winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for the second place in the grand final; the loser is third in the Championship.
  - f. Grand Final – The winner of the second semi-final and the winner of the final shall play for the Championship; the loser is second in the Championship.

#### 9.02 DOUBLE PAGE SYSTEM PLAYOFF (8 TEAMS) – TWO SECTIONS

- a. The Double Page system shall comprise of two (2) Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B” to determine the four teams to play in the Championship Page System to determine the first four places in the Championship.
- b. The Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B” shall each comprise of two (2) semi-finals and one (1) final.
- c. The Championship Page System shall comprise of two (2) semi-finals, and one (1) final and one (1) grand final
- d. It is recommended that two and a half days shall be set aside for the Double Page System playoff. The two (2) semi-finals of each Preliminary Page System “A” and “B” shall be played on the third to last day; one final of each Preliminary Page System “A” and “B” and two (2) semi-finals of the Championship Page System shall be played on the second to last day; and the final and grand final of the Championship page system shall be played on the last day.

#### 9.03 TWO SECTIONS – 8 TEAMS

- a. Preliminary Page System “A”
  - 1. Shall comprise the first and third teams from Section One and the second and fourth teams from Section Two.
  - 2. First Semi-final – The teams ranked third in Section One and fourth in Section Two shall play for a place in the Preliminary Page System “A” final.
  - 3. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first in Section One and second in Section Two shall play for a place in the Championship Page System second semi-final.
  - 4. Final – The winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for a place in the Championship Page System first semi-final.
- b. Preliminary Page System “B”
  - 1. Shall comprise the first and third teams from Section Two and the second and fourth teams from Section One.

2. First Semi-final – The teams ranked third in Section Two and fourth in Section One shall play for a place in the Preliminary Page System “B” final.
  3. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first in Section Two and second in Section One shall play for a place in the Championship Page System second semi-final.
  4. Final – The winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for a place in the Championship Page System first semi-final.
- c. Championship Page System
1. First Semi-final – Winner of the final of Preliminary Page System “A” and winner of the final of Preliminary Page System “B” shall play for a place in the final; the loser is fourth in the Championship.
  2. Second Semi-final – Winner of the second semi-final of Preliminary Page System “A” and the winner of the second semi-final of Preliminary Page System “B” shall play for a place in the Grand Final.
  3. Final – Winner of the first semi-final of the Championship Page System and the loser of the second semi-final of the Championship Page System shall play for a place in the Grand Final, the loser is third in the Championship.
  4. Grand Final – Winner of the second semi-final of the Championship Page System and the winner of the final of the Championship Page System shall play for the Championship title; the loser is second in the Championship.

## **ARTICLE 10 FINALS (MODIFIED AND SLOW PITCH)**

### **10.01 PAGE SYSTEM PLAYOFF (4 TEAMS) – ONE SECTION**

- a. The Page System shall comprise of two (2) semi-finals, one (1) final and one (1) grand final.
- b. Two (2) days shall be set aside for the Championship Page System at the end of the Championship. The two (2) semi-finals shall be played on the second to last day, the final and grand final shall be played on the last day.
- c. First Semi-final – The teams ranked third and fourth in the round robin shall play for a place in the final; the loser is fourth in the Championship.
- d. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first and second in the round robin shall play for a place in the grand final.
- e. Final – The winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for the second place in the grand final; the loser is third in the Championship.
- f. Grand Final – The winner of the second semi-final and the winner of the final shall play for the Championship; the loser is second in the Championship.

### **10.02 DOUBLE PAGE SYSTEM PLAYOFF (8 TEAMS) – TWO AND FOUR SECTIONS**

- a. The Double Page system shall comprise of two (2) Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B” to determine the four teams to play in the Championship Page System to

- determine the first four places in the Championship.
- b. The Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B” shall each comprise two (2) semi-finals and one (1) final.
- c. The Championship Page System shall comprise of two (2) semi-finals, and one (1) final and one (1) grand final.
- d. It is recommended that two and a half days shall be set aside for the Double Page System playoff. The two (2) semi-finals of each Preliminary Page System “A” and “B” shall be played on the third to last day; one final of each Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B” and two (2) semi-finals of the Championship Page System shall be played on the second to last day: and the final and grand final of the Championship page system shall be played on the last day.

#### 10.03 TWO SECTIONS – 8 TEAMS

- a. Preliminary Page System “A”
  1. Shall comprise the first and third teams from Section One and the second and fourth teams from Section Two.
  2. First Semi-final – The teams ranked third in Section One and fourth in Section Two shall play for a place in the Preliminary Page System “A” final.
  3. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first in Section One and second in Section Two shall play for a place in the Championship Page System second semi-final.
  4. Final – The Winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for a place in the Championship Page System first semi-final
  
- b. Preliminary Page System “B”
  1. Shall comprise the first and third teams from Section Two and the second and fourth teams from Section One.
  2. First Semi-final – The teams ranked third in Section Two and fourth in Section One shall play for a place in the Preliminary Page System “B” final.
  3. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first in Section Two and second in Section One shall play for a place in the Championship Page System second semi-final.
  4. Final – The winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for a place in the Championship Page System first semi-final.
  
- c. Championship Page System
  1. First Semi-final – Winner of the final of Preliminary Page System “A” and winner of the final of Preliminary Page System “B” shall play for a place in the final; the loser is fourth in the Championship.
  2. Second Semi-final – Winner the second semi-final of Preliminary Page System “A” and the winner of the second semi-final of Preliminary Page System “B” shall play for a place in the Grand Final.

3. Final – Winner of the first semi-final of the Championship Page System and the loser of the second semi-final of the Championship Page System shall play for a place in the Grand Final; the loser is third in the Championship.
4. Grand Final – Winner of the second semi-final of the Championship Page System and the winner of the final of the Championship Page System shall play for the Championship title; the loser is second in the Championship.

#### 10.04 FOUR SECTIONS – 8 TEAMS

- a. Preliminary Page System “A”
  1. Shall comprise the first team from Section One, the first team from Section Three, the second team from Section Four and the second team from Section Two.
  2. First Semi-final – The teams ranked second from Sections Two and Four shall play for a place in the Preliminary Page System “A”.
  3. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first from Sections One and Three shall play for a place in the Championship Page System second semi-final.
  4. Final – The winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for a place in the Championship Page System first semi-final.
  
- b. Preliminary Page System “B”
  1. Shall comprise of the first team from Section Two, the first team from Section Four, the second team from Section Three and the second team from Section One.
  2. First Semi-final – The teams ranked second from Sections One and Three shall play for a place in the Preliminary Page System “B” final
  3. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first from Sections Two and Four shall play for a place in the Championship Page System second semi-final.
  4. Final – The Winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for a place in the Championship Page System first semi-final.
  
- c. Championship Page System
  1. First Semi-final - Winner of the final of Preliminary Page System “A” and the winner of the final of Preliminary Page System “B” shall play for a place in the final; the loser is fourth in the Championship.
  2. Second Semi-final – Winner of the second semi-final of Preliminary Page System “A” and winner of the second semi-final of Preliminary Page System “B” shall play for a place in the Grand Final.
  3. Final – Winner of the first semi-final of the Championship Page System and the loser of the second semi-final of the Championship Page System shall play for a place in the Grand Final; the loser is third in the Championship.
  4. Grand Final – Winner of the second semi-final of the Championship Page System and the winner of the final of the Championship Page System shall

play for the Championship title; the loser is second in the Championship.

## **ARTICLE 11 STANDINGS**

- 11.01 A schedule of final team standings shall be published immediately following the last game of a World Championship. Such other standings shall be published as and when required by the ISF official in charge of the Championship.
- a. The final standings of the first four (4) teams shall be determined by their standings in the final page playoff(s).
  - b. The final standings for fifth to eighth (when two sections play a double page system playoff) shall be determined as follows –
    1. The losers of the First Semi-finals in Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B”, seventh and eighth.
    2. The losers of the Final in Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B”, fifth and sixth.
    3. The teams with the lowest loss record (round robin and preliminary page system games) shall be placed in the higher position of each pair. Where teams have the same loss record, their positions shall be determined in accordance with Article 8 of this Code.
    4. At the Women’s World Championship should there be a playoff to decide fifth position for the Olympic Games that shall decide the fifth and sixth placings at that World Championship.
  - c. The final standings of the remaining teams shall be determined by their win/loss ratios established during section play. Ties shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of this Code.
- 11.02 Standings established at a given World Championship or Olympic Games are used as basis for forming more than one section at the next similar World Championship; all such standings expire after being used as indicated above.
- 11.03 Teams which enter a World Championship without a standing shall be included at the end of the established standings in the order in which their entries are received.

## **ARTICLE 12 COMPETITION**

### **12.01 PLAYERS**

No more than seventeen (17) individual players shall participate in a World Championship and qualifying competitions for World Championships or Olympic Games.

At the Technical Meeting prior to the commencement of the tournament the passports of each player participating shall be checked by the Technical Commission for nationality/citizenship, and at youth tournaments checked for date of birth.

A waiver of liability may be required by all players to participate in ISF competition. Determination of the requirement to execute a waiver will be at the sole determination of

the ISF Board of Directors.

## **12.02 TEAM UNIFORM**

- a. All players must be uniformed alike on a given team. The players must have the name of their country on the front of the uniform or an emblem depicting national origin. The same number must be on the back of uniform shirts, both light and dark, and be six inches in height; this will serve to identify each eligible player. These mandatory provisions shall not preclude display on the uniform, in one position only, the name or logo of a sponsor, provided that such display measures no more than three (3) inches by two (2) inches. A miniature flag or emblem of the country may be placed in front of the cap (men), one (1) inch above the visor is recommended.
- b. Two (2) teams shall not in any games wear the same or similar color uniforms. Each team shall be required to have a white/light color shirt, and also a contrast color/dark color shirt. The home team will wear a contrast color/dark color shirt and the visiting team will wear a white/light color shirt. See 12.04 to determine which is the home and visiting team.
- c. Female players must wear shorts in all World Championship and Olympic Games competition unless otherwise exempted by the Board of Directors.
- d. *Players must have their number displayed on the front right-hand side of their uniform shirt, 7.62cm (3") high.*

## **12.03 HELMETS (FAST PITCH ONLY)**

Helmets are mandatory on offense for batters, on-deck batters, batter-runners, runners, youth age players who coach in the first and third base coaches box, and youth age representatives that participate as a bat boy or girl while on the field or in the dugout.

## **12.04 CHOICE OF INNINGS AND DUGOUT**

- a. To be decided by toss of coin by the Umpire in Chief at the Technical Meeting. All tosses for the games in the rounds will be held at this time.
- b. The home team will be assigned the third base dugout and the visiting team, who will bat first, will be assigned the first base dugout.
- c. In the page system final where the winning team from the final plays back to back in the Grand Final, the winning team may keep the dugout utilized in the previous game.

## **12:05 REPORTING TO PLAYING SITE**

- a. *Teams preparing to play must report to the Umpire-in-chief at least one (1) hour before scheduled to play and submit at that time, the completed line-up card.*
- b. *When the completed line-up card is submitted to the Umpire-in-Chief, the completed line-up card must be signed by the Head Coach/Manager.*
- c. *Once submitted to the Umpire-in-Chief, the line-up will be official.*

- d. It shall be the host organizing committee's responsibility to see that teams are picked up and delivered to the playing site on time.*

#### **12.06 BATS CHECKED**

Each team must have their bats checked by the umpires prior to the start of their first game, and thereafter, if necessary, in the tournament. All bats must conform to the rules of the ISF Equipment Standards Commission.

#### **12.07 USE OF DIAMOND**

Prior to their first game on a diamond, each team may have a five (5) minute warm-up on the diamond. The "home team" shall have last warm-up and shall remain on the diamond for the start of the game.

#### **12.08 TEAM MEMBERS ON PLAYING FIELD OR IN DUGOUT**

No one, other than team members in uniform, coaches and managers, will be permitted on the playing field. Permission to be on the playing field for other than players, coaches and managers can only be given by the Umpire in Chief.

#### **12.09 SMOKING**

No smoking is permitted on the field or in the dugout at any time.

#### **12.10 DEMONSTRATIONS**

- a. Any type demonstration by a team before, during, or following a game, must be held in an area directly in front of their own assigned dugout.
- b. If this is violated, the team Head Coach will not be allowed to coach as follows –
  1. If demonstration is before a game, the Head Coach cannot coach that game.
  2. If demonstration is after a game, the Head Coach cannot coach the next game.
  3. If demonstration is after last game of Championship, appropriate action will be dealt against the country by the Board of Directors.

#### **12.11 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

- a. No communication equipment is allowed between –
  1. The coaches on the field;
  2. The coaches and the dugout;
  3. The coaches and any player; or

4. The spectator area and the field, including the dugout, coaches and players.

NOTE: If such equipment is continued to be used after a warning, the Head Coach will be ejected from the game.

*Note 2: In World Championship and Olympic Play, communication devices issued by the official scorer for the purpose of communication between the coaches/managers and the official scorer are permitted provided such devices are only used for official score keeping purposes.”*

- b. Video taping will be allowed in designated areas to the left and right of centre field plus at any location at the venue. Each team is allowed video cameras with a tripod and may video games for training purposes, with the following requirements.
  1. *The cameras need to be set up in designated areas to the left and right of centre field plus at any in any location at the venue but cannot interfere with the spectators, or games in progress; and*
  2. *Computers and other electronic equipment can be used except for immediate transmission of information to the playing teams.*

## 12.12 COMPLETION OF GAME

- a. All games must go at least seven (7) innings, except as provided for in Article 12.12 b and 12.12 c below.
- b. **COMMENCEMENT/DELAY/SUSPENSION/DEFERMENT/RESUMPTION OF GAME**
  1. In the advent of adverse weather conditions, the Technical Commission in conjunction with the Umpire in Chief shall decide whether a game shall be –
    - (a) In the case of a game that has not started –
      - (1) Commenced, with particular attention being given to an impending storm and for both teams to have equal innings of playing conditions, or
      - (2) Delayed, with any such game being rescheduled at a later time and/or date.
    - (b) In the case of a game that has commenced, but with less than five (5) innings played –
      - (1) Suspended for a short period of time (up to a maximum of three (3) hours), or
      - (2) Deferred for a long period of time (in excess of three (3) hours), with particular attention being given for both teams to have equal innings of playing conditions
  2. Where, due to darkness, rain, panic or other cause, a game is suspended or deferred –
    - (a) The game shall be regulation if five (5) or more completed innings

have been played, or if the home team has scored more runs than the visiting team has scored in five (5) or more innings.

- (b) The game shall be resumed at a later time and/or date at the exact point where the game was suspended or deferred, if a result has not been obtained under Article 12.12 b 2 (a) above, or if the scores are tied at the time of suspension or deferment.

*EXCEPTION: When the Tournament Umpire-In-Chief suspends a game of Olympic, World or Continental Championship, this game shall be resumed at the exact point where the game was suspended.*

**c. 15/10/7 RUN AHEAD RULE (FAST PITCH and MODIFIED ONLY)**

A game must be called a regulation game if one team leads the other by *fifteen (15)* runs or more after three (3) innings, *ten (10) runs* or more after four (4) innings, or seven (7) runs or more after five (5) innings have been played. Both the visiting team and the home team must complete the same number of innings at bat unless the home team leads by the required number of runs and the game is called at that point.

**d. TIE BREAKER**

If, after the completion of seven (7) innings of play, the score is tied, the following tie breaker will be played to determine the winner –

Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth (tenth in SP, or eleventh in SP with an EP) in that respective half inning being placed on second base. The player who is running can be substituted in accordance with the substitution rules.

**12.13 MAJOR DISRUPTION TO PLAYING SCHEDULE**

- a. Where there has been a major disruption to the playing schedule during the round robin or playoff rounds, the determination of placings and winners of medals shall be decided by the Technical Commission.
- b. The following guidelines are for assistance in making such determination –
  - 1. Every attempt should be made to determine a winner through the playing of games (i.e. complete the round robin matches as a minimum).
  - 2. If the round robin matches cannot be completed, the placings should be decided on the games actually played. However, consideration should be given to the number of games each team has played.
  - 3. If any of the playoff games cannot be played or continued due to any circumstance, the following method will be used to determine the placings
    - (a) No playoff games played Placings and medal winners will be determined by the final rankings at the completion of the round

robin. Rankings to be determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of this Code.

- (b) Playoff rounds have commenced and cannot be completed
  - (1) Any game where a team has been defeated and eliminated from the remaining playoff round games will be deemed legal.
  - (2) An undefeated team (including round robin and playoff round games) will be declared the winner.
  - (3) In the event of there being more than one undefeated team (including round and playoff round games) the winner will be determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of this Code.

#### **12.14 PROTESTS**

All protests must be settled on the playing field. No protest will be considered following the completion of the game, or on a judgment call. Protests on eligibility will be handled by the Technical Commission.

#### **12.15 OFFICIAL SCORER**

Official Scorer(s) will be named by the host country and will locate themselves close to the Umpire in Chief, when possible, and practical. All official score sheets will be filed with the Secretary General at the conclusion of the tournament.

#### **12.16 CHAMPIONSHIP TRIBUNAL**

- a. The Championship Tribunal shall be appointed by the ISF President or his nominee.
- b. The Championship Tribunal shall have the authority to deal with and take appropriate action against any player or official whose off-diamond actions or conduct are reported as being detrimental to the sport of softball.
- c. Procedures for the Championship Tribunal to investigate the report and the Championship Tribunal hearing shall follow similarly to those set out for the ejection of a player/official from a game in f, g, h, i of this clause.
- d. Any player/official ejected from a game for reason of a violation of Rule 10, Section 9 (a) or for any other reason which could be considered as bringing the game into disrepute, shall be required to appear before a Championship Tribunal.
- e. Should any player/official be ejected from a game, the umpire concerned shall submit a written report to the ISF Representative (per the Championship Umpire in Chief), immediately following the conclusion of the game from which the player/official was ejected.
- f. The ISF Representative shall advise the Manager/Administrator of the team, of the ejected player/official, of the time and place for the Tribunal Meeting. This meeting shall be conducted as soon as possible following the conclusion of the game from which the player/official was ejected and prior to the game scheduled for that team.

- g. The player/official shall be permitted to be accompanied by the Team Manager/Administrator to the Tribunal hearing.
- h. The Tribunal shall have the authority to impose one of the following penalties –
  - 1. To reprimand the player/official, or
  - 2. To suspend the player/official for any or all of the remaining games in the Championship.
- i. The Tribunal shall advise the player/official of its decision immediately following the meeting.

**12:17 TWENTY (20) SECOND CLOCK PROCEDURES AND MECHANICS**

If used, clocks will be placed on the playing field for the viewing of players, managers, umpires and spectators. One clock will be on (or near) the scoreboard in the outfield, and the others located to the left and right of the home plate area and placed so as to be outside of the playing area and visible by the pitcher, the batter and the umpires.

**BETWEEN PITCHES:**

- 1) **BATTER:** After entering the batter’s box and between pitches, the batter must remain in the box by keeping at least one foot in the box while taking signals from the coach. Between pitches the Twenty (20) Second Clock shall restart as soon as the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher and the pitcher is within the pitcher’s circle.

EXCEPTIONS: The batter can leave the box:

- a) If the ball is hit fair or foul.
- b) On a swing, or a slap or check swing.
- c) If forced out of the box by a pitch.
- d) On a wild pitch or passed ball.
- e) If there is an attempted play.
- f) If “time” has been called.
- g) If the pitcher leaves the eight-foot pitcher’s circle or the catcher leaves the catcher’s box.
- h) On a three ball pitch that is a strike, and the batter thinks the pitch was a ball.

EFFECT (1 a-h) If the batter leaves the batter’s box and none of these exceptions apply, the umpire will call a strike. No pitch has to be thrown and the ball is dead. The clock will be stopped and reset during this called strike.

- 2) **COACH:** An offensive team coach (base coach) shall be stationed near first base or near third base and is obligated to stay within the confines of their respective coach’s box. The coach cannot leave the coach’s box between pitches.

EXCEPTION: A coach may leave the coach’s box:

- a) To signal a runner to slide, advance or return to a base, or
- b) To move out of a fielder’s way, as long as the coach does not interfere with the play.
- c) When “time” has been called.

EFFECT: If the coach leaves the coach's box, with, in the plate umpires judgment, the intention to deliver a verbal message or any signal to the batter, the coach will be charged with an offensive conference.

- 3) **TWENTY SECONDS:** In situations where the batter is new or has left the batter's box, as permitted, by one of the Exceptions listed in Section 1, the twenty (20) second clock shall restart when the ball is returned to the pitcher, in the pitcher's circle.
  - a) The batter has ten (10) seconds to obtain instructions from the coach. Once the batter steps back into the batter's box, the pitcher may, with the hands separated, step on the pitcher's plate or already being on the pitcher's plate, take a signal with the hands separated."
  - b) Should ten (10) seconds elapse before the batter returns to the box, the time clock light will go on. A STRIKE shall be called by the plate umpire. No pitch has to be thrown and the ball remains dead. The clock will start again at twenty (20) seconds when the umpire points to the pitcher and declares "Play Ball." The clock will not stop, or the light goes on, if the batter is in the box before the ten (10) seconds have expired.
  - c) Should the batter place both feet in the box prior to ten (10) seconds, the umpire will point to the pitcher, whereby the pitcher can then step onto the pitcher's plate with the hands separated or if already on the pitcher's plate, take a signal and then begin the pitch. Practice swings can be taken while the pitcher is preparing to pitch.
  - d) The pitcher can be behind the plate taking a signal or be on the pitcher's plate with the hands separated, prior to the umpire pointing and declaring "Play Ball or prior to the batter stepping into the batter's box with both feet. If on the pitcher's plate, a signal must be taken after the umpire says play ball or the batter enters the batter's box with both feet." (The pitcher must then follow Rule 6, Section 1-d)
  - e) Should the time clock expire after twenty (20) seconds, and prior to the pitcher starting the pitch, the clock will be stopped and the umpire will call a "BALL." The clock will start again, with a new twenty (20) second count, when the umpire points to the pitcher and indicates "PLAY BALL." Starting the pitch occurs after the pause and after one hand is taken off the ball.
  - f) Once the pitch is starts the time clock light may go on, but there will be no buzzer AND there is no violation.
  - g) "TIME" will not be granted to either the offense or the defense with five (5) seconds or less remaining on the twenty (20) second clock. "Time" may be granted, if in the umpire's judgment, the circumstances warrant it. "If "TIME" is granted prior to this time, the clock will be reset to twenty (20) seconds.
- 4) **TIME CLOCK** will be operated from a convenient location that has an unobstructed view of the batter, pitcher, umpires and clocks. The Clock will be started when the pitcher, while in the pitching circle, receives the ball from any player or the umpire. It will be started or stopped as described above.
- 5) **TIME CLOCK OPERATOR** will be required to stop and start the clock as described above.

## KEY POINTS

### BATTER:

- 1) An offensive coach cannot leave the coaches box to give the batter signals. (Coach will be warned for the first incident and then charged with an offensive conference)
- 2) The batter must keep at least one foot in the batter's box while taking signals.
- 3) If the batter is not ready, as described above within ten (10) seconds a strike is called on the batter.
4. "Time" will not be granted during the last five (5) seconds, unless in the umpire's judgment unusual circumstances exist. In such cases the clock will be reset to twenty (20) seconds.

### PITCHER:

- 1) Can take a signal from the catcher during first ten (10) seconds while off the pitching plate.
- 2) Once the plate umpire points and signals "Play Ball", the pitcher can step on the pitching plate with the hands separated and begin the pitch
- 3) The pitcher has the remaining time on the twenty (20) second clock.
- 4) "Time" will not be granted during the last five (5) seconds, unless in the umpire's judgment unusual circumstances warrant it. In such cases the clock will be reset to twenty (20) seconds.
- 5) The pitcher must follow the pitching rules (Rule 6) for preliminary and delivery.
- 6) If the pitch is not started within twenty (20) seconds, an automatic ball is awarded the batter, and the clock will start again.

### BOTH

- 1) If "Time" is granted prior to the last five seconds (the clock will be reset to twenty (20) seconds.

## ARTICLE 13 GROUNDS

13.01 There shall be a standard distance from home plate to the outfield fence. There shall also be boundary fences from the backstop down each foul line linking with the outfield fence.

FP	MEN	Not less than seventy six point two zero (76.20) meters (two hundred fifty (250) feet) nor more than eighty three point eight two (83.82) meters (two hundred seventy five (275) feet
	WOMEN	Sixty seven point zero six (67.06) meters (two hundred twenty (220) feet)
SP	MEN	Not less than ninety one point four four (91.44) meters (three hundred (300) feet) from home plate to the outfield fence
	WOMEN	Not less than eighty point seven seven (80.77) meters (two hundred sixty five (265) feet) from home plate to the outfield fence

- 13.02 There shall be a standard type backstop at least seven point six zero (7.60) meters (twenty five (25) feet) from home plate and not more than nine point one zero (9.10) meters (thirty (30) feet)
- 13.03 There shall be a standard type base, of strong material, securely fastened.
- 13.04 *In World Championship or Olympic Play, on skinned or loose surfaces, there shall be a marker of rope or horse hair staked below the surface to mark the corners of the batters boxes.***
- 13.05 Ground rules shall clearly indicate areas that photographers will be allowed. Only properly certified (by the ISF) photographers will be allowed on field, if provided by ground rules.
- 13.06 Medical or first aid attendants shall be on duty at all times.

#### **ARTICLE 14 EQUIPMENT**

- 14.01 An official ball for each ISF World Championship will be designated not less than one (1) year prior to the commencement of the World Championship. Manufacturers will be contacted to send sample balls to ISF Secretariat for review and testing. The Secretariat shall determine through a testing procedure whether the balls meet the ISF specifications as set out in the ISF Playing Rules.
- 14.02 All balls used in World Championship play must bear the ISF logo. Application for official ball status must contain a specific monetary guarantee to ISF and enough complimentary balls for use in World Championship as determined by the Secretary General. The ball or balls must be able to pass specifications set by the ISF and be of high quality and durability.
- 14.03 A supply of balls will be turned over to the Umpire in Chief prior to the start of the tournament and he will be responsible to see that only those balls designated official World Championship balls are used during the tournament games.
- 14.04 All bats to be used must be approved by ISF. ***Notification of the approval shall be made by adding the bat name and model number to the list of approved maintained on the ISF website. Once the bat is added to the list, it is certified for use in Championship play.*** All bats to be used must conform to the specifications as set out in the ISF Rules. ***Once a bat manufacturer withdraws from the bat certification program, all bats currently listed as certified bats shall remain on the certified bat list for a period of two (2) years from the date of withdrawal. (The expiry date of the bats should be included in brackets after its listing. e.g. Easton Synergy 2 (Expires Dec 2011))***
- 14.05 ***With respect to two-piece bats,***
- a) ***Manufacturers must demonstrate that the interchangeable bat fails in a safe manner, i.e., visible damage before locking feature fails***

***b) Bat components must be designed in a way to prevent uncertified equipment alterations.***

***ISF approval logo must appear on both the handle and the barrel***

- 14.06 Equipment with identifying marks and/or logo of the original manufacturer may be used in any ISF competition including World Championships, Olympic Games and other sanctioned competition. Except the original manufacturing mark and/or logo must not represent more than ten percent of the equipment. Note: Any dispute regarding this section shall be resolved by the ISF Equipment Standards Commission. As this section relates to Olympic competition any exception must be approved by the IOC.
- 14.07 All other equipment must adhere to the specifications as set in the official rules of the ISF.
- 14.08 EQUIPMENT ON GROUND. This will be the responsibility of the team. Umpire should see that no equipment is left in any way that would obstruct playing of the game or present a hazard to players or umpires.
- 14.09 The double base must be used in ISF World Championship and Olympic play.

## **ARTICLE 15 UMPIRES**

- 15.01 Prior to the World Championship, the President of ISF shall appoint an Umpire in Chief who shall be in attendance at the Championship and be responsible for the game assignment of umpires and shall act as *a member* of the Protest Commission. The President shall also appoint an assistant to the Umpire in Chief.
- 15.02 The President shall, prior to the start of the World Championship, appoint at least two persons who shall, together with the Umpire in Chief, serve as a Protest Commission for the duration of the Championship. All protests in question of rules shall be submitted to the Commission and their decision shall be final.
- 15.03 Approximately seven (7) months prior to a World Championship, the Director of Umpires will recommend to the ISF President, the number of umpires needed for the championship, based on the number of teams tentatively scheduled to participate and the number of fields to be used.

### ***15.04 Process for selecting umpires to World Championships***

- 1. Each National Federation of the ISF will be invited to nominate up to four (4) umpires – five (5) to six (6) months prior to the World Championship.***
- 2. Nominations may be made by returning the umpire application form to the ISF.***
- 3. The umpire application form must be approved by the National Federation or the National Federation Director of Umpires (NOTE: electronic approvals submitted by the National Federation or the National Federation Director of Umpires are considered acceptable).***

4. *The application form must be submitted to the ISF by the posted deadline unless an extension has been granted by the ISF Director of Umpires.*

#### *Selection process for World Championships*

1. *Should a National Federation nominate more than one umpire, the umpires must be seeded by the National Federation and the justification used for the seeding must be submitted to the ISF along with the nomination forms.*
2. *The regional umpire coordinator reviews the nomination of his/her region based on ability and/or experience in conjunction with level needed in the said tournament.*
3. *An activity report indicating the number of games officiated by the nominated umpire as well as the level of ball of the games officiated, i.e., Adult/Youth, Male/Female, Elite/Recreational must accompany each umpire's nomination.*
4. *The ISF Director of Umpires will determine the number of umpires required for the World Championship based on the number of teams, fields utilized and number of games per day.*
5. *The ISF Director of Umpires will make the selections from the submitted umpire nominations in consultation with regional umpire coordinators and the Directors' from the umpire selection committee.*
6. *The ISF Director of Umpires will submit the selected umpire crew list to the ISF President for final approval.*

#### *15.05 Selection Criteria for World Championships*

1. *The umpire's ability to officiate at the level of competition to be played at the World Championship.*
2. *Performance in previous ISF tournaments (based on evaluations or reports from the attending UIC and DUICS).*
3. *Umpires for Senior Championships must have received a previous ISF evaluation [two (2) or three (3) evaluations preferred].*
4. *Eligible evaluations can be used from participation at an ISF senior or youth tournament.*
5. *For youth tournaments, evaluations are required from either the regional umpire coordinator or National Federation Director of Umpires.*
6. *The contents of the umpire activity reports must cover the umpire's activity for the previous three years. The activity report must be validated by the National Federation.*
7. *Selections will be made in three elimination rounds based on the following:*
  - a. *the first selection round - umpires with a participating country are considered.*
  - b. *the second selection round - the number of participating countries of a region (i.e. North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania) are taken into consideration in regards to the number of umpires selected from the region.*
  - c. *the third selection round - any remaining umpire positions may be filled from the host federation or from the federations located in the hosting region.*

#### *15.06 Process for selecting umpires to ISF operated "Cups" or World Games*

1. *Participating National Federations will be invited to nominate one (1) umpire – five (5) or six (6) months prior to the Championship.*
2. *Nominations may be made by submitting the umpire application form to the ISF.*

3. *The umpire application form must be approved by the National Federation or the National Federation Director of Umpires (NOTE: electronic approvals submitted by the National Federation or the National Federation Director of Umpires are considered acceptable).*
4. *An activity report indicating the number of games officiated by the nominated umpire as well as the level of ball of the games officiated, i.e., Adult/Youth, Male/Female, Elite/Recreational must accompany each umpire's nomination.*
5. *The application form must be submitted to the ISF by the posted deadline unless an extension has been granted by the ISF Director of Umpires.*
6. *The regional umpire coordinator reviews the nomination of his/her region based on ability and/or experience in conjunction with level needed in the said tournament.*
7. *The ISF Director of Umpires will determine the number of umpires required for the Championship based on the number of teams, fields utilized and number of games per day.*
8. *The ISF Director of Umpires and the Regional Coordinator (of the location where the championship is to be held) comprise the umpire selection committee and will make umpire selections from submitted umpire nominations.*
9. *The ISF Director of Umpires will submit the selected umpire crew list to the ISF President for final approval.*

***N.B. Process for Sanctioned Cups***

*ISF Director of Umpires will review list of umpires selected by the host Federation or host committee and offer advice on the selected umpires.*

***15.07 Criteria used for ISF operated "Cups" or World Games***

1. *Umpire's ability to officiate at the level of competition to be played at the Championship. Special consideration may be given to adding female umpires to the crew outside of participating team or regional balance considerations.*
2. *Performance in previous ISF tournaments (based on evaluations or report from the attending UIC and DUICS).*
3. *Eligible evaluations can be used from participation at an ISF senior or youth tournament.*
4. *For youth tournaments evaluations are required from either the regional umpire coordinator or National Federation Director of Umpires.*
5. *The contents of the umpire activity reports must cover the umpire's activity for the previous three (3) years. The activity report must be validated by the National Federation.*
6. *Selections will be made in three elimination rounds based on the following:*
  - a. *In the first selection round - umpires with a participating country are considered.*
  - b. *In the second selection round - the number of participating countries of a region is taken into consideration in regards to the number of umpires selected from the region (consideration may be given to adding female umpires to the crew).*
  - c. *In the third selection round - any remaining umpire positions may be filled from the host federation or from the federations located in the hosting region.*

15.08 Each National Federation of the ISF shall have the right to notify the ISF if any umpire is not in good standing or unavailable with said National/Federation and the reason that the umpire is not in good standing.

15.09 The National Federation will be notified no later than five (5) months prior to the championship of the umpire(s) selected by the Committee. The National Federation must have the umpire(s) selected, complete both the general information form and the uniform measurement form and submit (by email) to the Director of Umpires no later than four

(4) months prior to the championship. Failure to email the forms by the deadline could cancel the assignment.

- 15.10 Each umpire selected and participating in any World Championship must wear the official ISF uniform as described under Rule 10, Section 1c of the official rules, and provided by an official ISF sponsor. It is important that uniform measurements be submitted no later than four (4) months prior to the competition.
- 15.11 Should the National Federation umpire fail to attend their assigned championship, that National Federation loses its right to submit an umpire recommendation for the next two world championships.

EXCEPTION: A Medical Doctor's Certificate, verifying the umpire's inability to attend and participate, will nullify this ruling.

- 15.12 Selection of umpires for the Olympic and Olympic Qualifying Championships shall be as follows:

Olympic Qualifying: Umpires, who are being considered for the Olympics, may be invited to participate in one of three qualifying championships, together with host umpires. Participating countries and those countries who have qualified for the Olympics should recommend two (2) names to be considered including one (1) female. ISF will be responsible for air travel for all umpires other than host.

Olympics: Every member country may recommend 1-6 umpires for consideration for the Olympics as long as they meet the following criteria:

1. The gender difference may not exceed more than one in their recommendations (i.e. 2 females and 1 male, 3 males and 2 females, or 3 males and 3 females.)
2. The umpire must be active and must have participated in a World Championship or Olympic Qualifier within six (6) years of the Olympic competition.
3. The umpire must be registered with ISF Headquarters and approved by his National Federation attesting to their knowledge of current rules and mechanics.
4. Umpire names and qualifications should be submitted within one month after last Olympic Qualifier.
5. If the Selection Committee would like to consider someone other than those recommended, the Committee should consult with the appropriate National Federation.

The ISF Director of Umpires and the Selection Committee will recommend twelve (12) umpire names (six male and six female), plus two (2) alternates to the ISF Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE 16 AWARDS**

- 16.01 The “Diamond International” will be the official championship trophy for women. The “World Cup” will be the official championship trophy for men. In addition, appropriate trophies will be provided for second and third place by the host country.
- 16.02 Twenty five (25) individual gold, silver and bronze medals will be prepared by the host with approval of ISF headquarters and will be awarded to each player on the roster of the first, second, and third place teams and members of the delegation as shown on the roster.
- 16.03 The President of the ISF will present the championship trophy and individual medals to the first place team; he may invite the regional vice president and/or president of the host organizing commission to make presentation of the second or third place awards, and if desired, a distinguished person of the host country.

## **ARTICLE 17 PROTOCOL**

- 17.01 The Board of Directors shall have the prerogative of defining what flag, anthem and symbol shall be used and in all matters of protocol at all times during a World Championship or Olympic Games.
- 17.02 a. The President shall appoint an ISF Technical Commission for each World Championship and Olympic Competition.
- b. Each Technical Commission shall comprise the ISF Secretary General (or his appointee) and up to five (5) members of the Board of Directors.
- c. The duties of the Technical Commission shall be –
1. To interpret where necessary and apply the ISF Code and Technical Code as they relate to World Championships or Olympic Competition.
  2. To rule on matters relating to eligibility of players.
  3. To determine matters specifically referred to the Commission in the Technical Code.
- d. Decisions of the Technical Commission shall be final.
- 17.03 There shall be opening and closing ceremonies at all World Championships. The Secretary General shall determine the form of such ceremonies and advise the organizing commission. No other ceremonies, presentations or similar events shall be held except with the prior approval of the President of the Federation.
- 17.04 The ISF Technical and Protocol Guide must be used in all ISF World Championships and Olympic competition. The Guide may be amended when necessary under Article 4.09h of the ISF Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 18 OLYMPIC COMPETITION**

### **18.01 ROSTERS**

The official team roster list must be received by the local competition manager at the time of the Technical Meeting prior to the start of the competition.

#### **18.02 NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

The maximum number of players will be decided in concert with the IOC, OCOG and the Federation.

#### **18.03 ROSTER CHANGE DEADLINE**

Changes in the official roster may be made only for injury, illness, death or other incapacitation as determined by the ISF Technical Commission. Substitution may be made only from the pool of athletes eligible in accordance with the procedures approved by the respective National Olympic Commission (NOC) of the participating countries. Changes may be made at any time prior to the beginning (submission of the line-up) of the team's first official competition.