

TO: Girl's Fastpitch Coaches & Association Directors

FR: Minnesota Sports Federation Offices

RE: Clarification of MN/Mpls ASA ♦ USA Berths

We hope this note finds you looking forward to warmer weather and the upcoming season.

For the past 25 years ASA registered teams have been able to play for the ASA ♦ USA National and Northern National berths because St. Paul and Minneapolis combined with the State program.

Because Metro St. Paul ASA has decided to issue their own national berth this year and has also chosen to provide this berth exclusively to its members via the Tri County League, your team may not be eligible for the ASA ♦ USA-MSF conducted qualifiers or the ASA ♦ USA-MSF state tournament depending on your team status. This is because ASA Code (501 B) prohibits teams from registering and playing in two different Associations during the year in Championship Play—for a National berth. Once again, this is per ASA Code, but teams have the option to register with the Metro or the State.

This also includes the ASA sanctioned weekend tournaments, if you are looking for Northern National berths. Your team is still allowed to play in these tournaments if the tournament director allows, but you may not be able to secure a berth depending on your team status. As always, please contact the tournament director of the weekend tournament you wish to play in, as some still also offer AFA or other berths. We realize that these ASA sanctioned weekend tournaments are fundraisers for many Fastpitch Associations and the more teams in these tournaments the better for competition and participation.

If you are sanctioning through the St. Paul ASA, you **will be unable to play** in the MN ASA ♦ USA-MSF conducted qualifiers or the ASA ♦ USA-MSF state tournament. You can participate in ASA ♦ USA-MSF sanctioned weekend tournaments if the tournament director allows, but you would be unable to secure a MN ASA berth.

If you are affiliated with the Tri County League and choose to sanction with the MSF in lieu of St. Paul ASA and forgo the Tri County League Tournament (St. Paul Championship), you will be able to play in the MN ASA ♦ USA-MSF conducted qualifiers or the ASA ♦ USA-MSF state tournament. You can participate in ASA ♦ USA-MSF sanctioned weekend tournaments and would be able to secure a MN ASA berth. You are reminded that per ASA Code your team cannot play in Championship Play tournaments from two different ASA Associations in the same year.

If you are from a League that is sanctioning their teams with MSF you **will be able to play** for MN ASA National and Northern National berths including Qualifiers, MSF State Tournaments, and ASA sanctioned weekend tournaments.

Please contact the MSF office at 763-488-9995 ext.10 with questions or email me at anne@msf1.org.

Thank you.

Anne Strong
ASA ♦ USA-MSF
JO Commissioner

P.S. MN ASA ♦ USA-MSF is offering the same inexpensive, organized and quality program we have for the past 25 years. The only thing that has changed is that St. Paul Metro ASA is not combining with the rest of the state this year. A reminder that the only teams that will receive the ASA ♦ USA-MSF guidebook with rules and tournament schedules are those registered thru the state area, MSF.