

703 **SECTION 3 – ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**  
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705 **20.30 Professional players:** Professional softball or baseball players are ineligible to qualify for any Association  
 706 while pursuing their profession.  
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708 **20.31 Player age:** Players must be at least eighteen (18) years of age prior to roster submission deadline of the  
 709 NAGAAA tournament in which they are registered. Masters Division players must be at least 50 years of age at any  
 710 time in the calendar year of the NAGAAA tournament.  
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712 **20.32 Participation:** A player must participate in a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of their team’s regular season  
 713 games; except for Masters Division, for which the minimum requirement is five (5) games. Participation is defined  
 714 as a player included on their team’s game lineup card and present in or within close vicinity of their team bench or  
 715 dugout.

716 a. Players on a tournament roster of a NAGAAA Cup team in “A” or “B” Division may include their  
 717 participation in the NAGAAA Cup under rule 20.33(b) to meet the fifty percent (50%) participation  
 718 requirement.  
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720 **20.33 Requirements for Teams:** No team may be considered a regular season roster team nor be eligible  
 721 for a NAGAAA event unless the team completes at least ten (10) regular-season games against other teams  
 722 within the member association. This preceding requirement may be waived by the Board of Directors in  
 723 extraordinary circumstances. The games must be conducted according to the rules of USA Softball (ASA) or a  
 724 similar sanctioning body.

725 a. An “A” or “B” Division team may meet its ten (10) game requirement by playing scheduled games  
 726 against teams from other Associations, except for games played in any tournament.  
 727 b. Notwithstanding any other rule, any team competing at the NAGAAA Cup in a “A” or “B” Division shall be  
 728 credited four (4) games towards this ten (10) game requirement.  
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730 **20.34 Ratings Changes Affecting Players:** Should a player’s rating change during the member association’s  
 731 NAGAAA qualifying season and the rating change force the player to move to a new division or a different team,  
 732 the games played on either team or in either division in the same member association qualify towards the  
 733 participation requirement.  
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735 **20.35 Ineligible Players for the E Division:** Any player who receives a YES answer to Question 3 of the Player  
 736 Ratings Guidelines is not eligible to be rostered on a team in or compete with a team in the E Division. Any player  
 737 who receives a YES answer to Question 5 of the Player Ratings Guidelines is not eligible to be rostered on a team in  
 738 or compete with a team in the E Division nor the D Division.  
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740 **CHAPTER 25 – PLAYER RATING GUIDELINES**  
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742 **25.01 Jurisdiction:** This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Council and amended at any meeting. Any  
 743 amendment to this chapter requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council for adoption and is effective in the  
 744 calendar year following the year the amendment was adopted, except that an amendment adopted at a winter  
 745 meeting of the Council requires a ninety percent (90%) vote to be effective at a sanctioned NAGAAA Tournament  
 746 in the same calendar year as the winter meeting.  
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748 **SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS**  
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750 **25.10 Definitions:** The following definitions apply to this chapter:

751 a. At-bat – An at-bat is charged to a player following every plate appearance except when: 1) the player hits  
 752 a sacrifice fly that scores a runner, 2) the player is awarded a base on balls, or 3) the third out occurs and  
 753 the batter is not entitled to run to first base. Exception #3 shall not be considered if the batter is out due

- 754 to a strike being a foul ball which ends the at-bat. In the event of any discrepancy between this definition  
 755 and the official scoring rules of the USA Softball (ASA) and definition contained therein, the latest version  
 756 of the USA Softball (ASA) rules shall control.
- 757 b. Base Safely Reached on Error – A batter shall be credited with a base safely reached on error on the part  
 758 of a defensive player(s) who is charged with an error by the scorekeeper.
- 759 c. Behind the player (for fly balls) – The area on the field starting directly to the right of the player,  
 760 proceeding in a 180-degree arc behind the player and ending directly to the left of the player.
- 761 d. Cleanly fielding the ball – The player receives and controls the ball immediately while over his/her center  
 762 of gravity (i.e. not on their knees, on the ground or off-balance) and does not cause any delay in making  
 763 the next play (e.g., tags the runner, steps on the base, throws the ball to the appropriate place on the  
 764 field).
- 765 e. Deliver multiple pitch techniques with accuracy – The ability to use arc, spin, location and movement of  
 766 the ball to deliver various pitches (e.g. curve, change up, cutter / reverse curve, knuckle ball) that are  
 767 called strikes or cause the batter to swing.
- 768 f. Directly at the Player – A ball hit at a player that does not require the player to move his/her feet,  
 769 although it may cause the player to reach in any direction to make the play.
- 770 g. Fly Ball – Any batted ball that is in the air for more than three (3) seconds but less than five (5) seconds
- 771 h. Ground Ball – Ball hit with a downward trajectory that makes contact with the ground in front of the  
 772 player when hit directly at a player or in front of the bases when hit between players.
- 773 i. Hard Hit Ball / High Velocity – a ball hit greater than 250 feet (76.2m) in the air or a ground ball that would  
 774 roll to a distance greater than 250 feet (76.2m), if not impeded
- 775 j. High Fly Ball – Any batted ball that is in the air for five (5) seconds or more.
- 776 k. Hit – A batted ball that allows the batter to reach base safely: 1) on a fair ball which settles on the ground,  
 777 clears the fence, or strikes the fence before being touched by a fielder, 2) on a fair ball which is hit with  
 778 such force or such slowness or which takes an unnatural bounce that it is impossible to field with ordinary  
 779 effort in time to make an out, 3) when a fair ball which has not been touched by a fielder becomes dead  
 780 because of touching the person or clothing of an umpire, or 4) when a fielder unsuccessfully attempts to  
 781 retire a previous runner and in the scorer's judgement, the batter-runner would not have been retired at  
 782 first base by perfect fielding. A hit shall not be scored: 1) when a runner is forced out on a batted ball or  
 783 would have been forced out except for a fielding error, 2) when a player fielding a batted ball retires a  
 784 preceding runner with ordinary effort, 3) when a fielder fails in an attempt to retire a preceding runner,  
 785 and in the scorer's judgement, the batter-runner could have been retired at first base, or 4) when a batter  
 786 reaches first base safely as a result of a preceding runner being called out for interfering with a batted or  
 787 thrown ball, or with a defensive player. In the event of any discrepancy between this definition and the  
 788 official scoring rules of the USA Softball (ASA) and the definition contained therein, the latest version of  
 789 the USA Softball (ASA) rules shall control.
- 790 l. In the Hole – A ball hit that requires a player to take 4-5 steps (12 feet (3.7m) or greater) in order to make  
 791 the play.
- 792 m. Intentionally – See "on purpose"
- 793 n. Intentionally Place Hit a Ball – The batter executes getting on base and/or moving base runners for an  
 794 advantage by hitting the ball to a specific place within their field of choice.
- 795 o. Line Drive – a ball that from the point of contact rises vertically less than 10% of the total horizontal  
 796 distance it travels, or in the case of a throw, a ball that from the point of release rises vertically less than  
 797 5% of the total horizontal distance it travels.
- 798 p. Medium Hit Ball / Medium Velocity – a ball hit 150 to 250 feet (45.7 to 76.2 meters) in the air or a ground  
 799 ball that would roll to a distance of 150 to 250 feet (45.7 to 76.2 meters), if not impeded.
- 800 q. Modified batting average – The percentage resulting from the sum of a player's: 1) hits and 2) bases safely  
 801 reached on error divided by the player's at-bats.
- 802 r. Off center of gravity – The player fields the ball from his/her knees, off one foot, while moving the  
 803 opposite direction from the throw or while in the air.
- 804 s. On Purpose – with intent

- 805 t. Slow Hit Ball / Slow Velocity – a ball hit up to 150 feet (45.7m) or less in the air or a ground ball that would  
806 roll to a distance of less than 150 feet (45.7m), if not impeded.
- 807 u. Stopping the ball – The player prevents the ball from continuing beyond the player and causes it to  
808 remain in the vicinity of the player. The player is not able, however, to make the next play without delay.
- 809 v. Vicinity – within a step in any direction laterally of the player receiving the throw
- 810 w. Within a few steps – A ball hit that requires a player to take 2 – 3 steps (9 – 10 feet or 2.7 – 3 meters) in  
811 order to make the play.

812

813 *(NOTE: In reference to the modified batting average, a batted ball resulting in a fielder's choice is not included in*  
814 *the definition of a hit and therefore is not included in the number of hits a player is recorded to calculate the*  
815 *modified batting average. The USA Softball Rules and NAGAAA Governing Manual do not define a fielder's choice.*  
816 *A Fielder's Choice is understood to be an outcome of a batted ball where a preceding runner was put-out (or*  
817 *could have been in the judgement of the scorer) rather than the batter-runner. See lines 806-813 for these results*  
818 *of a batted ball that do not constitute a hit. This note is explanatory on the definition of modified batting average*  
819 *and is not considered a governing rule. Added by Board of Directors February 17, 2019)*

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821 **SECTION 2 – PLAYER RATING GUIDELINES**

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823 **25.20 Rating Guidelines:** The following are the official rating guidelines of this organization:

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825 *Directions:*

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1. Read the following Statement of Purpose: *This form is intended to be used as a tool to assist those responsible for rating players so ratings may be fair and consistent across all levels of play and across all leagues in the Open Division. All questions are intended to determine if a player possesses a skill or skills necessary for softball.*
2. Read and understand the definitions of the various terms used in ratings in the definitions section of this chapter.
3. Answer YES or NO for each question.
4. Many questions have multiple parts. A YES to ANY one part is a YES to the question.
5. Questions: All questions will begin with the phrase: DOES THE PLAYER HAVE THE ABILITY TO...

**DIRECTIONS: Review each of the following questions for every player. Does the player have the ability to perform the listed skill 60% of the time (unless otherwise identified)? If so, the player receives a YES for the question. A YES to any part of a question is a YES to that question.**

**HITTING**

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

Hits a fair ball with low velocity.

Hits a fair ball with medium velocity.

Hits a fair ball with high velocity. **(20% threshold)**Hits a fair ball with high velocity. **(60% threshold)**Hits a fly ball 300' (91.4m) or more. **(5% threshold)**

*NOTE:* Players with a YES to Question 3 cannot participate in the E Division. Players with a YES to Question 5 cannot participate in the D or E Divisions. See Governing Manual Section 20.35.

**Modified Batting Average***Batting against*

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8

Question 9

E Division

≥ .800

≥ .850

≥ .900

≥ .950

D Division

≥ .600

≥ .700

≥ .800

≥ .900

C Division

≥ .500

≥ .600

≥ .700

≥ .800

B Division

≥ .400

≥ .500

≥ .600

≥ .700

A Division

≥ .300

≥ .400

≥ .500

≥ .600

*NOTE:* The following questions are linked: 1 – 4, 6 – 9, 10 – 13, 15 – 22, and 23 – 28. A YES to the highest question in a linked set earns the player all those questions (i.e., a player with YES on Q21, will also be given Q15 – Q20).

**RUNNING**

Question 10

Question 11

Question 12

Question 13

Question 14

From a stopped standing ready position, runs from home plate to first base, one base to the next, or third base to home plate (i.e., 70 feet or 21.3 meters) in less than:

4.5 seconds

4 seconds

3.5 seconds

3 seconds

Base Running

Runner successfully advances beyond what would be expected relative to the Division and game situation.

*NOTE:* Question 14 Definitions are

1. Batter reaches first, runner goes from first to third, or runner goes from second to home.
2. Batter reaches second; runner goes from first to home.

*NOTE:* Q10 – Q13 are assessed based on the player having or not having the ability to perform the listed skill. There is no percentage threshold for these questions; the player can or cannot perform the skill.

Speed

FIELDING (INFIELD)	Question 15	Question 16	Question 17	Question 18	Question 19	Question 20	Question 21	Question 22
Ground Ball/Line Drive Low Velocity	Cleanly fields a ball hit with low velocity directly at the player <b>OR</b> Stops the ball hit with low velocity directly at the pitcher.	Cleanly fields a ball hit with low velocity within a few steps (9 – 10 feet or 2.7-3 meters) of the player <b>OR</b> Cleanly fields a ball hit with low velocity directly at the pitcher.	Cleanly fields a ball hit with low velocity in the hole (>12 feet (3.7 meters) or 4-5 steps) away from the player.					
Ground Ball/Line Drive Medium Velocity			Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity directly at the player <b>OR</b> Stops the ball hit with medium velocity directly at the pitcher.	Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity within a few steps (9-10 feet or 2.7-3 meters) of the player <b>OR</b> Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity directly at the pitcher.	Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity in the hole (>12 feet (3.7 meters) or 4-5 steps) away from the player.			
Ground Ball/Line Drive High Velocity			Stops the ball hit with high velocity directly at the player.	Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity directly at the player <b>OR</b> Stops the ball hit with high velocity directly at the pitcher.	Stops a ball hit with high velocity within a few steps (9-10 feet or 2.7-3 meters) of the player <b>OR</b> Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity directly at the pitcher.	Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity within a few steps (9-10 feet or 2.7-3 meters) of the player.	Stops a ball hit with high velocity in the hole (>12 feet (3.7 meters) or 4-5 steps) away from the player.	Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity in the hole (>12 feet (3.7 meters) or 4-5 steps) away from the player.
Fly Ball	Catches a fly ball hit directly at the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 15 feet (4.6 meters) to the sides/front of the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 30 feet (9.1 meters) to the sides/front of or 15 feet (4.6 meters) behind the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 45 feet (13.7 meters) to the sides/front of or 30 feet (9.1 meters) behind the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 60 feet (18.3 meters) to the sides/front of or 45 feet (13.7 meters) behind the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 75 feet (22.9 meters) to the sides/front of or 60 feet (18.3 meters) behind of the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 90 feet (27.4 meters) to the sides/front of or 75 feet (22.9 meters) behind of the player.	Catches a fly ball hit >90 feet (27.4 meters) to the sides/front of or >75 feet (22.9 meters) behind of the player.
FIELDING (OUTFIELD)	Question 15	Question 16	Question 17	Question 18	Question 19	Question 20	Question 21	Question 22
Ground Ball Medium Velocity	Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity directly at the player.	Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity within 15 feet (4.6 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity within 30 feet (9.1 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity within 45 feet (13.7 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity within 60 feet (18.3 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity within 75 feet (22.9 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with medium velocity within 90 feet (27.4 meters) of the player	
Ground Ball High Velocity		Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity directly at the player.	Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity within 15 feet (4.6 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity within 30 feet (9.1 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity within 45 feet (13.7 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity within 60 feet (18.3 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity within 75 feet (22.9 meters) of the player	Cleanly fields a ball hit with high velocity within 90 feet (27.4 meters) of the player
Fly Ball	Catches a fly ball hit directly at the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 15 feet (4.6 meters) to the sides/front of the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 30 feet (9.1 meters) to the sides/front of or 15 feet (4.6 meters) behind the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 45 feet (13.7 meters) to the sides/front of or 30 feet (9.1 meters) behind the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 60 feet (18.3 meters) to the sides/front of or 45 feet (13.7 meters) behind the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 75 feet (22.9 meters) to the sides/front of or 60 feet (18.3 meters) behind the player.	Catches a fly ball hit within 90 feet (27.4 meters) to the sides/front of or 75 feet (22.9 meters) behind the player.	Catches a fly ball hit >90 feet (27.4 meters) to the sides/front of or >75 feet (22.9 meters) behind the player.

## THROWING AND PITCHING

Question 23	Question 24	Question 25	Question 26	Question 27	Question 28
Throw 50 feet (15.2 meters) with line drive (regardless of accuracy)	Throw 50 feet (15.2 meters) with line drive <i>and</i> accuracy	Throw 70 feet (21.3 meters) with line drive <i>and</i> accuracy	Throw 100 feet (30.5 meters) with line drive <i>and</i> accuracy	Throw 150 feet (45.7 meters) with line drive <i>and</i> accuracy	Throw >200 feet (61 meters) with line drive <i>and</i> accuracy
	Pitch a strike	Vary the height, depth and location of the pitch while maintaining accuracy	Deliver multiple pitch techniques while maintaining accuracy		
Throw 70 feet (21.3 meters) (regardless of arc or accuracy)	Throw 70 feet (21.3 meters) with line drive (regardless of accuracy)	Throw 100 feet (30.5 meters) with line drive (regardless of accuracy)	Throw 150 feet (45.7 meters) with line drive (regardless of accuracy)	Throw >200 feet (61 meters) with line drive (regardless of accuracy)	Throw 150 feet (45.7 meters) with line drive and accuracy while off center of gravity (e.g., from knees, from one foot)
	Throw 100 feet (30.5 meters) (regardless of arc or accuracy)	Throw 150 feet (45.7 meters) (regardless of arc or accuracy)	Throw >200 feet (61 meters) (regardless of arc or accuracy)	Throw 100 feet (30.5 meters) with line drive and accuracy while off center of gravity (e.g., from knees, from one foot)	