

# 2018 16-A Girls' USA Fast Pitch National Championship



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## WHO:

- About 125 teams will come to Federal Way, WA
- USA Softball, formerly known as Amateur Softball Association (ASA)

Website: [USA Softball](http://USA Softball)

## WHAT:

USA Softball, formerly the Amateur Softball Association (ASA)/USA Softball, is a volunteer driven, not-for-profit organization based in Oklahoma City, OK. It was founded in 1933 and has evolved into the strongest softball organization in the country. The growth and development of the association has led the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) to name ASA the National Governing Body of Softball, pursuant to the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. In 2015, ASA/USA Softball announced a re-brand of the organization to USA Softball, which became effective September 1, 2016. USA Softball has many important responsibilities at the National Governing Body of softball in the United States, including regulation competition to ensure fairness and equal opportunity to the millions of players who annually play the sport.

When USA Softball entered the softball picture in 1933, the sport was in a state of confusion with no unified set of playing rules and no national governing body to provide guidance and stability. USA Softball changed all that by adopting softball's first universally accepted rules of play and by organizing consistent and fair competition across the nation. From this beginning, USA Softball has become one of the nation's largest and fastest growing sports organizations and now sanctions competition in every state through a network of 70 local associations. USA Softball has grown from a few hundred teams in the early days to over 160,000 teams today, representing a membership of more than four million".

The 16-A is the largest and most prestigious USA Softball girls' fast pitch national championship in the country. In 2006, Team Seattle hosted this same event and drew 138 teams from all over the United States. In 2012 this tournament drew 151 teams, 138 teams in 2013, 136 teams in 2014 and 185 teams in 2015. Expectations are for 125 or more teams. The economic impact of this tournament is significant. The Seattle Sports Commission recently completed a study for this event and projected the economic impact for this tournament at approximately \$ 4,700,000.

## WHEN:

Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## WHERE:

Unfortunately, the major element of the tournament will be played at venues in Kent's Hogan Park (Russell Road Sports Complex) along with the Service Club Ball Fields and use of the Showare Center. They will use Celebration Park during the course of the week to accommodate the tournament. It is expected that teams will stay in hotels/motels in the area.

**WHY:**

1. USA Softball is the National Governing Body (NGB) of the sport of Softball in the United States. USA Softball is also the ONLY softball association recognized by the United States Olympic Committee.
2. USA Softball is a not-for-profit 501 (c3) Organization which is comprised of 70 local associations across the country.
3. USA Softball provides affordable recreation for women ages 8 to 80.
4. USA Softball provides affordable insurance through Bollinger Insurance to its athletes, coaches, field owners and umpires.
5. USA Softball provides the best coaching education program called ACE (Aspire, Challenge, Encourage), where coaches of all levels gain expert training opportunities every year. USA Softball also provides background checks on ALL coaches who are involved in championship play.
6. USA Softball offers softball at ALL LEVELS: Recreational, League, Tournament, National Championships, and International.
7. USA Softball is known for having the most knowledgeable and trained umpires in the country.
8. USA Softball is the BEST OF THE BEST in competition, and crowns TRUE champions who have to qualify and earn berth to become National Champions.
9. USA Softball has been the leader in the industry to protect the integrity of the sport. Each year, the USA Softball's equipment testing and specifications committee examines the current rules and specification governing various items of equipment.

**HOW:**

- Be prepared for increased hotel/motel guests and restaurant traffic
- Potential program advertising for your business
- If advertising in The Mirror, be sure to "Welcome Fast Pitch Tournament Competitors"

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**For any questions, please contact:**

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