



USSSA classifies teams as A, B, C or Recreational/All-Stars. The level of play from highest level to lowest level is A, then B, then C, then Rec/All-Stars. With four classes of play, the boundaries between each class are not hard and fast. Some overlap may occur. Although we do not have explicitly defined rules that determine classifications, we do have some time tested guidelines that we have used over many seasons to determine Class C and Rec/All-Stars eligibility. A team manager may choose to register their team with USSSA at any class they desire. However, USSSA reserves the right to change the class and/or limit the level of tournaments a team may compete in (either up or down in class). Teams must be aware that reclassification may occur at any time before or during the season if USSSA deems that the team should participate at another level. This is particularly true for teams near the boundaries of classes. USSSA understands that reclassification may have a severe impact on a team's remaining schedule and possibly even create a hardship for the team, so we attempt to head off and avoid this situation as much and as soon as possible. We try to make sure teams understand our classification structure, our goals for the Class C and Rec/All-Stars, and that we are continuously (before, during, and after the season) reviewing all teams' eligibility for their respective classes.

#### **Characteristics of Class C teams (in some cases in comparison to A/B teams):**

- Class C teams are generally teams playing a smaller number of events than the top select teams. However, with the growth in recent years of the Class C schedule, some Class C teams may play 8-12 events in a season (including the fall portion of the season).
  - Class C teams typically have a more local recruiting area than the top select teams. Often the roster is mostly comprised of players from a small community, a small set of schools and/or the same local league.
  - Class C teams tend to be less demanding on the commitment of their players - practice less, play less, etc.
  - Class C teams tend to require less of a financial obligation (player registration, uniforms, equipment and travel) than higher class teams.
  - Class C teams tend to travel less to more distant tournaments.
  - Class C teams tend to carry a smaller number of pitchers - thus the normal Class C tournament includes only a 3 game format.
  - Class C teams tend to be more focused on the fun and recreation portion of play and less on the winning/losing portion.
  - Class C teams almost entirely play Class C or equivalent tournaments. USSSA does permit Class C teams to play in higher level events so that coaches may challenge their teams to improve and develop and to experience the higher level of play. USSSA also permits Class C teams to play in higher level events when teams do not have Class C events in their geographic location. However, USSSA scrutinizes teams' performance in these events even more closely than when the teams play in Class C events.
  - A Class C team that meets all of the criteria above may still be declared ineligible for the Class C tournaments if USSSA deems the team's play to be higher than that expected of Class C teams. Entries into Class C tournaments are continually reviewed by a committee to determine the team's eligibility. This review process first occurs when a team registers for an event. As the season progresses the review process of all teams is performed each week to determine if a team still qualifies as a C team.
- USSSA CPA/WPA has a growing/developing Rec/All-Stars program.** USSSA CPA/WPA wants to foster this portion of our program and it is an important goal to keep the Rec/All-Stars program for purely recreational caliber teams. The Rec/All-Stars tournaments play by the same rules as the Class C tournaments - see above.

**Characteristics of Rec/All-Stars teams (in some cases in comparison to C teams):**

- Rec/All-Stars are a class designed specifically for teams made up of players from a house league and selected to play a short schedule at the conclusion of the house league, which typically end sometime in mid to late June. Hence Rec/All-Stars tournament are typically held from the end of June through beginning of August.
- Rec/All-Stars teams are much like Class C teams as described above, but participate purely for the fun aspect of the game.
- Rec/All-Stars tournaments are hosted at 10, 12, and 14 & under only.
- Players on Rec/All-Stars teams all come from the same house league. Pick up players from other leagues or from other higher class teams very closely monitored.
- Rec/All-Stars teams typically do not participate in any other classification of tournaments. USSSA does permit such teams to play at a higher class, but the team's performance in these events is closely watched.
- Rec/All-Stars teams that meet all of the criteria above may still be declared ineligible for the Rec/All-Stars tournaments if USSSA deems the team's play to be higher than that expected of Rec/All-Stars teams.

USSSA CPA/WPA's goal is to provide levels of play appropriate for the various types of teams and thus create a more enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone involved in our events. Teams that are not sure that they fit the definition of a Class C team or a Rec/All-Stars team should contact USSSA CPA/WPA State Office to clarify their status and assist in determining their eligibility. The mission of USSSA CPA/WPA is to provide a C program that allows those teams to develop to a higher level and thus move on to A & B events.

