



CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

For 2012

BACKGROUND CHECK

In 2012, all adult managers, coaches, and scorekeepers associated with a ASA/MASA registered Junior Olympic team, will be subject to a national criminal background check. The cost of this national background check is included in the adult registration fee and is not optional.

All background check results will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. An ASA committee has evaluated certain background check issues and advised ASA's Board of Directors' of the committee's conclusions. Recently, ASA's Board of Directors adopted a policy that states, at a minimum, any person who is known to have been convicted of any of the offenses described on the attached sheet warrants exclusion from any ASA youth program activities. This would include any participation as a coach, manager, official, umpire or participation in any other capacity with respect to J.O. league or other youth program activities.

The attached sheet lists various offenses. Different states adopt different laws and categorize different offenses. The attached list of offenses is not intended to be an exhaustive list. ASA will exclude any person from ASA youth program activities for any other offense is deemed appropriately relates to these issues.

All persons involved with any J.O. programs should remain diligent in safeguarding the welfare of the participants. Merely conducting background screenings is not a guarantee that the program will be problem-free. For instance, a background screening will not reveal a first time offender. A background screening may also fail to reveal conviction information on an individual using a false name or date of birth to conceal a criminal history.

Any person observing any criminal conduct should immediately report the conduct to the police.

ASA Background Check Screening Policy

ASA and/or ASA state/metro associations reserve the right to screen any volunteer and/or employee who has access to children in ASA programs. The screening may consist of (1) a Staff and Volunteer Application Form, (2) an interview, (3) consent to reference and fingerprint background checks, and (4) approval by staff and/or committee members.

Please note that the 50 states of the United States adopt different laws and categorize the offenses differently. The ASA list of offenses below is not intended to be an exhaustive list of offenses but a list of commonly used terms to define the offenses. Other convictions, accusations, charges or facts should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If a background check is performed and the following convictions are revealed, ASA and/or its state/metro associations should deny an individual application to participate in Junior Olympic youth programs to those persons who have been convicted of one or more of the following listed offenses:

Violent/behavioral crimes:

Murder
Theft/Burglary/Robbery-Armed/Larceny
Breaking & Entering
Prostitution
Disorderly conduct
Rape
Assault/Sexual assault Arson
False Imprisonment
Escape from penitentiary
Domestic violence/abuse

Crimes against kids: Indecent

solicitation of a child
Aggravated sexual abuse/assault of a child
Child abuse
Child molestation
Sexual conduct with a minor
Furnishing alcohol to a minor
Indecency with a child
Abandon/Endanger a child
Sexual abuse of a child

Drug-related crimes:

Possession of drug paraphernalia, THC, marijuana
Drug dealing
Trafficking cocaine, Methamphetamine

Alcohol-related crimes:

DUI/DWI (3 in last 7 years)

White Collar crimes:

Identity theft

Bad checks

Shoplifting

Money laundering

Forgery

Credit Card Abuse

Coercion

Breach of computer security

Conspiracy

Once a decision concerning eligibility to participate in the ASA youth program has been made based upon the results of the LexisNexis background check and reviewed by the National Background Check Committee, the person whose eligibility to participate is at issue should be permitted an opportunity to present his/her side of the story.

Appeal Process:

ASA recognizes that no policy can encompass every situation, so ASA has formed its National Background Check Committee to evaluate appeals and decide variance requests on a case-by-case basis in certain situations where good cause exists.

Any person whose application for participation in ASA's Junior Olympic youth program has been denied may appeal the denial to ASA's National Background Check Committee through the ASA State/Metro Commissioner. All appeals shall be in writing and directed to ASA's National Background Check Committee in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The written appeal submission must contain a statement of the specific grounds why the prior determination should be reversed and must be accompanied by all evidence supporting the request for reversal. With the written appeal submission, the person filing the appeal may also file any other information or evidence in support of the appeal.

In extenuating circumstances and for good cause shown, ASA's National Background Check Committee shall have the authority to, but not be required to, grant an appeal and permit an individual to participate in ASA's Junior Olympic youth program even though that person has been convicted of one of the above "White Collar crimes" or the crime of possession of drug paraphernalia, THC, marijuana, or its equivalent.



ACE COACH CERTIFICATION

For 2012

In 2012, MASA coaches MUST be ACE Certified.

If you are a travel team playing in any ASA qualifying tournaments or may want to play in the MASA state tournament, one coach ***must*** be ACE certified and in the dugout.

If you are a recreational team, it is ***highly recommended*** that every a coach associated with a Junior Olympic team be ACE certified.

MASA highly recommends that all adults associated with a Junior Olympic team be ACE certified.

ASA/USA Softball is proud to introduce the ACE Coaching Certification Program. The ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) Coaching Certification Program is a brand new certification program, developed and designed to provide softball coaches of all levels – from beginning coaches to experienced veterans – an opportunity to certify as a coach with a national softball organization.

As the National Governing Body of Softball, it is the ASA's responsibility to ensure that our coaches achieve a certain level of understanding of what their duties are as coach of a youth softball team. The ACE Certification videos and the ACE Certification Manual are practical guides to the everyday situations you will encounter as a youth softball coach. After obtaining your ACE certification, you will be well prepared to coach a youth softball team.

The guiding principles behind the ACE Coaching Certification Program are:

A-chieve: A certain level of knowledge.

C-ertify: To confirm that a coach has obtained a level of understanding over that which he/she has been tested on.

E-ducate: To assist with the gathering of knowledge and information.

There are now more ways to become an ACE Certified Coach. Certifying as an ACE Coach is a simple, straightforward process. You can attend an MASA ACE Coach Certification Clinic, if your local association is hosting one, or you can now complete your ACE Coaching Certification online at <http://ace.usasoftball.com/ace/home.asp>. In each setting you will watch the ACE video that corresponds to your certification level and then be tested on the material in the video. The videos cover such topics as Principles of Coaching, Legal Issues in Sports, First Aid, Practice Organization, Coach/Umpire Relations, and Sport Specific Skills. Once you have passed the ACE Certification test you are an ACE Coach and receive full ACE Benefits. It is that easy!

Benefits of ACE membership:

Here is a quick run through of the ACE Coaching Certification program and how one would become certified and achieve the highest level of ACE Certification

The first step to complete for any coach who is attempting to become certified using the ACE Online System is a profile lookup. If you are an existing coach* who is coming to the site to complete another level of certification your profile should be located and you should be able to continue from the position that you left off. For example if John Doe has completed ACE Levels 1 and 2 in an ACE Clinic through its local association, when he looks up his profile the system will recognize this and make ACE Level 3 available for purchase and completion. For the system to properly find your coaches profile, you must enter your information (i.e. first name, last name, email address, zip code) exactly how you did when you registered. If you have moved since you last registered, enter the previous zip code under which you registered and then edit your information in the ACE Online System. If you are a previously registered coach and the system does not find your profile properly, DO NOT create a new profile which you will do in Step 2 on the ACE Online Program. Instead, contact the ACE Administrator at the ASA National Office. The administrator's contact information can be located on the ACE Website under the Contact Us tab.

If you are a first time ACE Coach or you have not certified through a local association in the last year, you will have to create a new profile and begin ACE Online Certification at Level 1.

Once your profile has been found or you have created a new profile here is what you will have to do to become an ACE Certified Coach:

ACE Level 1 Coach Certification

1. Register with the ACE Online program and purchase Level 1 Certification Video and test.
2. Successfully complete the Level 1 ACE certification exam (questions will be taken directly from the ACE Level 1 video)
4. That's It!

Benefits: Insurance coverage, certificate and ID card

ACE Level 2 Coach Certification

After your first year of certification, you do not need to watch the ACE video again to re-certify. To stay an ACE certified coach for a second year you must:

1. Log-on to the ACE Online Program, purchase the ACE Level 2 Video and certification exam.
2. Watch the ACE Level 2 Video and complete the ACE Level 2 Certification Exam as you watch the video.
3. That's It!

Benefits: Insurance coverage, certificate and ID Card 2

ACE Level 3 Coach Certification To be eligible for this level of certification a coach must have completed the ACE Level 2 Certification

1. Log-on to the ACE Online Program, purchase the ACE Level 3 Video and certification exam.
2. Watch the ACE Level 3 Video and complete the ACE Level 3 Certification Exam as you watch the video.
3. That's It!

Benefits: Insurance coverage, certificate and ID Card 3

ACE Continuing Education Certification To be eligible for this level of certification a coach must have completed the ACE Level 3 Certification.

1. Log-on to the ACE Online Program and purchase the ACE Continuing Education Exam.
2. Complete the ACE Continuing Education Exam.
3. That's It!

Benefits: Insurance coverage, certificate and ID Card 4

For those wanting to become certified through a MASA ACE Coaching Certification Clinic please contact MASA for dates and times of these clinics. For local associations who want to host an ACE Clinic contact the MASA state office with any questions.

For coaches who have previously certified with MASA at an ACE Clinic, online certification should begin at your current level of certification. For example, if you complete ACE Level 1 Certification at an ACE Clinic then when you log onto the ACE Online Website you should be able to purchase and complete ACE Level 2 Certification. At this time, only the Level 2 material will be available for you to purchase and complete. The Level 1 Video, Certificate and Insurance form will not be available for you to review or to view and print off. The feature will be available in the future as we continue to enhance and improve the ACE Online Coaching Certification System.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the ACE Online Coaching Certification Program please contact the MASA state office.