

## **TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS • ROSTER CONSIDERATIONS**

The Original Tournament of Champions is a "Special Event" on the SSUSA Tournament calendar. The TOC is not a Qualifier, Regional, National or World Championship event. TOC rosters cannot be used as a "qualifying roster" for the National and World Championships. Accordingly, the TOC differs in major aspects from those Tournaments, requiring "special" rules for "special" circumstances.

### **The TOC was instituted to –**

- Honor the invited teams for their Championships in the premier SSUSA events (and those of affiliated associations ISA and SPN) that occurred during the regular Tournament season; and
- Provide an exclusive and first-class tournament environment to crown the "Champion Among Champions" in each age group and division. The overall quality of the entry field, and not maximizing the number of teams playing in any division, is a top priority for the TOC.

### **The SSUSA believes that –**

- Invited teams should participate with the same roster, or as close as reasonably possible, to the roster they used when they won the tournament that resulted in their invitation to the TOC. There is a "level playing field" only if there is continuity in roster composition from the qualifying roster to the TOC roster;
- Due to a variety of legitimate circumstances, some teams may not be able to bring the exact same players to the TOC that were on their qualifying roster;
- There be provisions in the rules to fairly address the roster issues facing some teams; and
- Any team participating in the TOC with "roster exemption players" should have up to five reserves available on their roster. Thus, teams that add players, and normally play with ten defensive players, will have a roster limit of 15 players, and teams that normally play with 11 defensive players will have a roster limit of 16 players. **NOTE:** An invited team may have more than 15/16 players on its TOC roster if that team is not adding "roster exemption players" for the TOC.

### **"Special Roster Rules" For All Men's and Women's Divisions –**

- If an invited team has at least 15 (or 16, depending on the number of defensive players normally used) from the original qualifying roster planning on attending the TOC, that team is prohibited from adding "roster exemption players";
- If an invited team has less than six players remaining from the original qualifying roster, that team is considered a "new team" and is not eligible to participate in the TOC;
- Managers may request to add players who are regular members of the team, but were not able to attend the qualifying championship tournament. Managers must email SSUSA for approval of these players in before entry deadline. The players are approved on an individual basis. **NOTE:** Any player to be considered for roster addition must have been otherwise eligible as to age and residency for that team during the qualifying season.
- If an invited team's roster falls below 12/13 players, the team may request to add players until it reaches the 12/13 player level. These players may be from the SAME (or older) age group in the SAME or LOWER skill level. Managers must email the request to add players before deadline. They are approved on an individual basis.
- If an invited team's roster falls below the 15/16 limit, the team will be able to add players until it reaches the 15/16 player level. These players must be from the next OLDER age group in the SAME or LOWER skill level. Managers must email the request to add players.
- Any player from the original qualifying roster not planning to attend the TOC and who's spot on the TOC roster was filled by a "roster exemption player" is considered removed from the qualifying roster. That player is not eligible to participate in the TOC unless a recently added "roster exemption player" is removed from the TOC roster and the original player is reinstated to both rosters, thereby maintaining the 15/16 player roster limit; and
- Women's teams will be given broad latitude when "roster exemption player" requests are received due to the unique player eligibility criteria employed in the Women's Division.

**"Roster Exemption Player"** requests may be sent to the SSUSA by e-mail to [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com) or by fax to (916) 326.5304. Congratulations to the invited teams and Good Luck in Florida!

Inquiries are always welcome in the SSUSA offices at (916) 326.5303.