

MANASSAS, VIRGINIA - Local ASA officials began holding competition for seniors at the tournament sites this year for the young teams. Tournament officials had been noticing a number of senior age players hanging out watching the young guys on their tournament weekends and decided to give them an opportunity to play as well. The first local senior tournament was the Capital Classic on June 7. When the dust settled on that Saturday evening, Al Tefft's Diamond Fever Gold from Fairfax, VA emerged as the Tournament Champion. And to most participants surprise the Diamond Fever Silver team finished in the runner-up position. Third place went to Joe B's AC managed by Dick Barratte and finishing in fourth place was the Northern Virginia Force managed by Alan Gillespie..

Northern Virginia ASA officials will be including senior divisions in their remaining tournaments for the 2008 season and beyond. The concept is an alternative to the current "regional qualifying tournaments" now being offered by others. "Based on numerous recent experiences, several senior teams have expressed a desire to have a lower cost, weekend tournament (one or two days) and we believe that we can provide that," offered RB Thomas, Jr. "We are very flexible in the format, our response from teams indicate a need for some one-day tournaments on the weekend, although most teams did not have a strong opinion on one or two day events as long as it was on the weekend only. We thought we would begin with an open roster concept since we will obviously not have enough teams to create 20 divisions of play based on the ISSA Ratings. Teams will email their list of players with age and current team info. We will place them in divisions accordingly with the aim of creating some parity. Obviously, the more teams that we get, the better job we can do in addressing age and skill levels. No expensive special ID card required, a drivers license will do. A one-day three-game minimum tournament will be \$150 and a two-day five-game minimum tournament will be \$250. We can provide the fields, umpires and awards for seniors to have a nice experience in a good softball atmosphere." The following are the remaining senior tournament dates:

August 2 35th Battle of Manassas

August 23 Northern Virginia Championships (open to all)

Anyone wishing to enter a team in these tournaments or would like more information or provide additional feedback can contact Thomas at 703-368-1188 or email to [issa94@aol.com](mailto:issa94@aol.com).