



SUNCOAST SOFTBALL LEAGUE, INC. BYLAWS

**SUNCOAST SOFTBALL LEAGUE
BYLAWS**

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Chapter 1 Membership

Section 1 Membership Qualifications

Article IV of the SSL Constitution defines the types of memberships within our organization. Membership shall be valid until such time as a future membership fee(s) is past due. Any member who does not pay their insurance fees must remain off of the field-of-play during game play. All prospective members shall, upon request, furnish proof of age to the officers of SSL. The following discusses some of the special circumstances that effect said memberships.

Section 2 Membership Guidelines

A member will not be permitted to play until they have attended this clinic. Skills clinics will be provided by the League Ratings Committee prior to the start of each season of play, as well as at the Ratings Committee's discretion during season play. Once a new player has been placed on a team, they enter a probationary period of 5 game weeks to be reviewed in game situations by the Ratings Committee to ensure they are truly in the correct division. If the Ratings Committee feels the player is exhibiting skills that require they be moved to a higher or lower division during this period, a request will be made for arbitration to remove the player immediately.

Teams losing a player(s) due to ratings committee removal will be allowed to replace players only if they satisfy the depleted roster requirements. Player(s) that are removed from a team's roster due to ratings committee removal will be allowed to pick up with any team in the appropriate division even though the team of choice does not satisfy the depleted roster requirements.

Section 3 Membership Voting Rights

Each member, upon acceptance as a member of the League, shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to the League membership, as long as the membership remains in good standing.

Section 4 Membership Transfers

Membership in this League is not transferable or assignable. Should a membership be terminated, the current season's dues shall not be refundable. Should a member who was previously expelled apply for membership by completing his or her application and paying the current season's dues not be accepted by the Executive Council, the current season's dues will be refunded.

Section 5 Memberships Currently Under Suspension or Expulsion

All prospective individuals who may have been suspended or expelled by the League shall be reviewed by the Executive Council prior to acceptance into the League. A vote of not less than 2/3 (two-thirds) of all individuals of the Executive Council is required to waive an individual's suspension, or reverse an individual's expulsion. An individual who has been suspended, and therefore whose membership is "not in good standing" will be allowed to participate as an individual only and will not be allowed to serve in any leadership capacity, including but not limited to the following: the Executive Council, Team Council, League committees, team manager, or coach.

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Chapter 2 Meetings of Members

Section 1 Place of Meeting

Article V of the SSL Constitution identifies the types of meetings of members and when they are held. The Executive Council may designate any place as the place for these meetings of members so long as it shall be held within the boundaries of the Greater Tampa Bay Area

Section 2 Notice of Meeting

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of any meeting of members shall be delivered personally, by mail or electronic mail (email) to each team's Registered Team Representative for distribution to their team members. This notice will be delivered no less than seven (7) or more than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of such meeting. In the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice.

Section 3 Quorum

The members in good standing present at any meeting of the members, which is duly called, shall constitute a quorum at such meeting. Meeting is open only to members in good standing.

Section 4 Order of Business

At the annual meeting of the members, unless otherwise directed by a vote of the majority of members present, the order of business shall be as follows:

- A. The reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting of the members and every special meeting of the members held subsequent thereto.
- B. Report of the Executive Council
- C. Report of Special Committees
- D. Installation of New Officers
- E. Proposed Budget Outline for the following fiscal year beginning July 1st will be presented, which will be approved at the July joint meeting of the Executive Council and Team Council.
- F. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws
- G. Old Business
- H. New Business

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Chapter 3 Executive Council

Section 1 General Powers

The affairs and funds of the league shall be managed by the Executive Council, subject only to Article VI of the SSL Constitution.

Section 2 Number, Tenure

Each Officer shall hold office until a successor, who shall have been qualified and elected, is installed at the annual meeting of members, unless such officer shall sooner resign, be removed or otherwise be unable to perform the duties as an Officer. Each voting officer will be elected for a one year term.

Section 3 Vacancy

Any vacancy occurring on the Executive Council may be filled by the Executive Council and the appointee shall be a member in good standing and shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the member who he or she succeeded. Such appointee however, shall not be disqualified for election for a full succeeding term.

Section 4 Quorum

The affairs and funds of the league shall be managed by the Executive Council, subject only to Article VI A majority of the voting members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Committee; but if less than a majority of the Officers is present at said meeting, a majority of the Officers present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Section 5 Manner of Acting

The act of a majority of the Officers present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Executive Council, unless the act of a greater number of Officers is required by these Bylaws.

Section 6 Involuntary Resignation

Any member of the Executive Council who shall absent himself or herself from two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the Executive Council, unless previously excused by the Commissioner, may be deemed to have resigned as a member of the Executive Council and may be replaced in accordance with the provisions stated in these Bylaws.

Section 7 Removal

Removal of any Officer of the League may occur for reason of conduct not in the best interest of the League, or for failure, refusals, or inability to perform the official duties of the office.

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Section 8 Compensation

The Executive Council shall serve without compensation, but are exempt from paying annual membership dues during their term.

Section 9 Committee Involvement

The Executive Council shall assign committee responsibilities to each Officer and/or a duly appointed Representative of the Executive Council.

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Chapter 4 Officers

Section 1 Officers

The Executive Council shall consist of Eight "Officers". They shall be a Commissioner, up to three Assistant Commissioners, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Parliamentarian and a NAGAAA Representative / League Compliance Officer. Officers work on behalf of all league members, and will at all times make decisions in the best interest of the league as a whole. As such, Officers are ineligible to serve on the Team Council as a Registered Team Representative as long as they maintain their office. Article VI of the SSL Constitution defines the role and responsibilities for each officer.

Section 2 Exclusive Powers

The Executive Council shall have the following exclusive powers, subject to Article VI of the SSL Constitution:

- A. Enforcement of the penalties for violation of the League rules.
- B. Prescribe additional duties for any of the Officers in addition to those set forth in these Bylaws.
- C. To set fees for membership at its discretion. The Executive Council, in addition to the foregoing specific powers, shall have the power to manage all affairs of the League and to act on any and all questions relating in any manner whatsoever thereto, and to make all contracts necessary for the proper transaction of all League business.
- D. Upon a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Executive Council, to suspend or expel a member for conduct in violation of these Bylaws or rules, or for conduct improper or prejudicial to the best interest of the League.
- E. Be responsible for the preparation of annual IRS reports, including the hiring of a CPA, if necessary.

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Chapter 5 Committees

Section 1 Removal of Committees

Any member of a committee may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Council, whenever in their judgment the best interest of the League shall be served by such removal.

Section 2 Term of Office

Each member of each committee shall service until the next annual meeting of members and until his successor is appointed, unless such committee shall sooner be terminated or unless such a member shall resign or be removed from the committee.

Section 3 Vacancy

Any vacancy in the membership of any committee may be filled by appointment as provided in Article VIII of the SSL Constitution.

Section 4 Chairperson

The commissioner shall appoint one member of each committee created to serve as the chairperson of such committee.

Section 5 Rules

Each committee may adopt rules for its own government not inconsistent with these Bylaws or the rules adopted by the Executive Council.

Section 6 Eight (8) Permanent Committees

The following bylaws are associated with the eight (8) permanent committees identified in Article VIII of the SSL Constitution.

Section 6.1 Gasparilla Softball Classic Committee

The Gasparilla Softball Classic is an annual softball tournament produced by the Suncoast Softball League, Inc. each February President's Day weekend. The goals of the Classic are summarized as follows:

- A. To provide a tournament-like atmosphere where our League teams can officially begin their softball year, and where many of our players will experience the rich rewards of tournament play for the first time.
- B. To encourage participation and provide a place for gay softball teams and players from around the United States and Canada to visit the Tampa Bay area each year for a warm weather winter experience.
- C. To serve as a fund raising mechanism to achieve several goals, including but not limited to:
 1. Funding the Suncoast Softball League's participation in the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA). (This includes trips for our NAGAAA Representative and

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- Commissioner to the winter and summer meetings, as well as Annual NAGAAA Membership Dues and mandatory NAGAAA World Series fees.)
2. Raising monies which may be used to offset travel expenses of our League teams to other tournaments around the country.
 3. Making a donation to a local charity.
- D. To work with our League sponsors and other community organizations and Businesses that may benefit from the presence of these winter visitors to our area. Being a member of NAGAAA is not necessary to hold a tournament, but facilitates attendance, since most cities are members and will travel only to other member tournaments. NAGAAA, therefore, encourages attendance at our Classic. The Classic, therefore, should be financially responsible for NAGAAA's expenses, and our League should benefit from Classic revenues by providing other playing opportunities in cities around the country.

Tournament Producer

- A. Individuals seeking the position of Producer will apply and be interviewed prior to selection of the Producer. The Producer must have either:
- a. Served on the Gasparilla Softball Classic Committee
 - b. Served on the Executive Committee or
 - c. Have equivalent experience to successfully carry out the assigned duties in the opinion of the Executive Council before he / she will be considered.
- B. The Producer must also be a member in good standings as per Article IV of the SSL Constitution. Functions of the Producer include:
- a. Coordinate and oversee each of the following Sub-Committee Chairs and ensure that all deadlines established are met: Awards, Publicity (local), Accommodations / Travel, Publication, Budget / Finance, Volunteers (for the prescribed duties).
 - b. Secure the playing fields for the following year's tournament.
 - c. Serve as Fund Raising Chairperson: Functions of the Chairperson include:
 - d. To solicit local and / or corporate sponsorship for the Classic.
 - e. Will gather other League members to assist in performing tasks of the committee.
 - f. Other Classic / League functions as dictated by the Executive Council.
 - g. Serve as authorized signatory on any funds which are authorized by the Tournament Committee for tournament competition.
 - h. The Producer will vote only in case of a tie.

Tournament Director

- A. Individuals seeking the position will apply and be interviewed prior to selection of the Director. The Director must have served on the Gasparilla Softball Classic Committee or have been on the Executive Committee before he / she will be considered.
- B. The Director must also be a member in good standings as per Article IV of the SSL Constitution. Functions of the Director include:
- a. Coordinate and oversee each of the following Sub-Committee Chairs and ensure that all deadlines established are met: Select 1 Competition Director for Each Field, Out of Town Publicity, Entertainment / Social, Scheduling, Field Maintenance, Concession (t-shirt sales), Umpires / Officiating, Registration, First Aid, Volunteers (for the prescribed duties)
 - b. Recruit teams from NAGAAA and non-NAGAAA cities to participate in the Classic.
 - c. Gather all information from Sub-Committees to be placed in players' and umpires' welcome packets.

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- d. Serve as authorized signatory on any funds which are authorized by the Tournament Committee for tournament competition.
- e. The Director will vote only in case of a tie.

General Operations

- A. Committee will then work throughout the remainder of the year on soliciting local advertisers, national advertisers and carrying out the remaining Producer's duties.
- B. At the August Executive Council and Team Council meeting, a Tournament Director will be chosen. By the end of September, solicitations to all NAGAAA and non-NAGAAA cities will be mailed, followed up by phone calls. All field and hotel arrangements should be established and finalized at this time.

Proceeds

The Classic will maintain start-up capital no less than the amount of \$2,000.00. Additional monies will be distributed as follows:

- A. A final accounting of the tournament shall be presented to the Executive Council and the Team Council at the March regular meeting. Any outstanding transactions must be noted.
- B. From the net income, an amount equal to the yearly expenses for our NAGAAA Representative and Commissioner to travel to a winter and summer meeting (amount to be determined when League budget is approved each year) along with an amount equal to the required yearly NAGAAA membership dues and mandatory NAGAAA World Series fees will be provided.

Section 6.2 Sports Information/Events/Awards Committee

The duties of the Sports Information/Events/Awards Committee shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. Providing awareness of the league throughout the Tampa Bay metropolitan area for the purpose of recruitment of new members, players, teams and sponsors.
- B. Providing consistent and organized advertising messages and public relations articles to all available media throughout the Tampa Bay area.
- C. Providing a means by which a person(s) interested in becoming a member, player, team or sponsor of the league can readily obtain information about the league. All expenditures of the committee will be pre-approved by the Team council on an as needed basis.
- D. Coordinating, scheduling and planning, in conjunction with the Executive Council, all fund raising activities on behalf of the league. These fund raising activities include concessions, the Miss/Mr. Suncoast Softball fund raiser, other charity fund raisers and any others that the executive council or managers council votes to do. All fund raising activities will be planned, scheduled and presented to the executive council no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each new season (beginning with Spring 1999 season.)
- E. Coordinating, scheduling and planning, in conjunction with the Executive Council, all social activities on behalf of the league. These social activities include host bars, opening and closing ceremonies, closing party and end of year party. All social activities will be planned, scheduled and presented to the Executive Council for approval no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each season, beginning in Spring 1999. All expenditures of the committee will be pre-approved by the Team council on an as needed basis.
- F. The League will give the following awards, to be handled each year by the Executive Council:
 - 1. First, second and third place trophies.

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2. An award for each member of the first place team.
3. Participation plaques to remaining teams.
4. Tim Blunk Memorial Commissioner's Award given to the person (player or non) who contributed most to the League. This award is voted upon by the Executive Council.
5. Steve White Memorial Spirit Award is given to the team that displays true spirit during the entire year. Qualifications for the award will be:
 - a. Support of all league activities,
 - b. Sportsmanship during softball play, and
 - c. Establish and maintain comradeship among team players and other teams in the League.

Nominations for the Spirit Award must be in writing on a form chosen by the election committee and submitted during the Spring nomination period. The Team Council will then formally nominate three teams, from which the winner will be selected by the general membership during Spring elections. The team receiving a plurality of votes will be declared winner.

6. Team Tampa Bay Award, as voted on by the league members, recognizes the individual that provides the most significant contributions to the success of the league, and associate league activities, throughout the current year. Nominations for the Team Tampa Bay Award must be in writing in a form chosen by the election committee and submitted during the Spring nomination period. The Executive Committee will then formally nominate three to Six candidates, from which the winner will be selected by the general membership during Spring elections. The player receiving a plurality of votes will be declared winner. The Team Tampa Bay Winner is NOT required to pay "League Membership" dues for as long as he or she participates in the Suncoast Softball League. Other dues, such as Insurance Fees, will still need to be collected under normal guidelines as defined by the league. Entitlement for Team Tampa Bay Winner: Pays no dues for as long as he or she participates in the League. The winner, along with three finalists, will be recognized for their contributions at the end of the year.

Qualifications for the award will be:

- a. Support of all league activities,
 - b. Sportsmanship during softball play,
 - c. Establish and maintain comradeship among team players and other teams in the League, and
 - d. Serves on one or more committees during the season.
7. J.W. White Inspirational Award is given to the player that demonstrates sportsmanship and inspiration to league members throughout the year. Qualifications for the award will be:
 - a. Support of all league activities,
 - b. Sportsmanship during softball play,
 - c. Establish and maintain comradeship among team players and other teams in the league,
 - d. Assists in the mentoring of new players,
 - e. Ensures that our league remains a safe and accepting environment for all, and
 - f. Exemplifies the award description above.

Nominations for the J. W. White Award must be in writing in a form chosen by the election committee and submitted during the Spring nomination period. The Team Council will then formally nominate three players from which the winner will be selected by the general membership during Spring elections. The player receiving a plurality of votes will be declared winner.

Section 6.3 Election Committee

Duties of the Election Committee shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. Verify nomination and second, in writing, of all prospective nominees.

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- B. Verify eligibility of nominees (e.g., must be Spring member in good standing).
- C. Forward copy of completed nomination sheets to the Website Committee, either in hardcopy or electronically, to be posted on the website for general membership to view within 24 hours of the closing of nominations.
- D. Prepare uniform ballots with the name of each person running for the position (each division will vote for their respective Assistant Commissioner) as well as an area for write-ins for each position, run the election verifying that only those members in current good standing are able to vote, reviewing the status of any team with a bye week or is not playing the week of voting and allowing them to vote via means that will be made available to them (voting results will be accepted via personal email, or confirmed by the Election Committee via phone to each individual on the day of election) and report results (e.g., the winners' names and positions, not total votes) to the Team Council and Webmaster, via email, before the end of the day. The Webmaster will post the results on the league website within 24 hours. Run-off elections will be noted in the same email and website posting. Run-off results will be handled the same as with the regular voting results.
- E. Election Committee Chairperson will be present to present the new officers at their installation during the annual meeting.

Section 6.4 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall audit the previous year's regular season and tournament books and report to the Executive Council and Team Council at the August meeting of the Executive Council and Team Council.

Section 6.5 Arbitration Committee

The purpose of the Arbitration Committee is to serve as the body to receive grievances from league members in good standing relating to the league. These grievances are to include, but not to be limited to, players and/or teams in possible violation of rules.

It shall be the duty of team manager/coach to provide the name and contact information to the Parliamentarian of the primary and alternate team member who would serve on the Arbitration Committee upon induction of Parliamentarian each year. The following arbitration process will be used to form and execute all arbitrations:

- A. A written or electronic notice of an arbitration request is to be given to the Parliamentarian, complete with detailed information of the grievance. At minimum, the information submitted must include the players name, current team and specific reason for the arbitration in conjunction with section 7.2 of the league bylaws, the meeting will be organized and called to order with a minimum of 5 days notice to the body and the parties who made the request. All requests will be at the discretion of the Parliamentarian and the Executive Council.
- B. The meeting shall consist only of Parliamentarian, a single member presenting for each side of the grievance, the player in question (optional) and a quorum of committee members. A minimum of 2/3 of the team arbitration representatives will constitute a quorum.
- C. If quorum is not present, the meeting will be adjourned and an automatic fine will be assessed to all teams absent as follows:
 - 1. First offense: \$25.00
 - 2. Second offense: \$50.00
 - 3. Third offense: \$75.00
 - 4. Fourth offense: \$100.00

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5. Each offense beyond the fourth will result in a team suspension. All fines must be paid prior to the team in question's next game or each game thereafter is forfeited and the team will not be considered "In Good Standing" until the fine is paid.
- D. Each committee member must sign in before entering to ensure only one representative is present per team.
- E. Each side will have 5 minutes to present their case within the 10 minute time allotment. It is recommended, that the presenter provide factual information specific to the reason for arbitration such as playing statistics, medical history, etc. to ensure the committee has enough information to make an educated decision. The facts should not draw comparison to the other players as this creates unfounded speculation. The Parliamentarian will then poll the Arbitration Committee for any specific questions. Upon completion of the Q&A period all but the voting Arbitration Committee will be asked to leave to allow a 10 minute "closed door" session for the Arbitration Committee to discuss the cases and vote. Only 1 vote per team represented is allowed. Simple Majority vote required.
- F. Upon the votes being counted and verified the Parliamentarian will provide the Arbitration Committee's binding decisions to the EC. The session's sign-in sheet will be presented to the league Secretary for the league records.

Section 6.6 Website Committee

The Commissioner shall be the liaison for the Website Committee and give final approval before any updates are posted to the league's website.

This committee will be responsible for updating the game results each week, posting upcoming events, and maintaining the schedule and season over season results.

Section 6.7 Hall of Fame Committee

The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of three members from the SSL Hall of Fame. The chairperson and two committee members shall be current members of the SSL (if available). If there are not enough current members of the SSL that will serve on the Hall of Fame Committee, then any Member of the Hall of Fame may serve as a member. The Hall of Fame Committee will report to the Executive Council on all functions regarding the Hall of Fame including but not limited to funds needed, website, applications for new membership and voting for Hall of Fame Membership.

All communications from the Hall of Fame Committee to its members shall be copied to the League Commissioner and Secretary. The Hall of Fame Committee shall keep a registry of current addresses (mail and email) on all members of the Hall of Fame. This registry shall be forwarded to and maintained by the League Commissioner and Secretary.

Section 6.8 Ratings Committee

The Ratings Committee shall consist of the League Commissioner, NAGAAA Representative and a ratio of 1 member per 3 teams within their division based upon the previous qualifying season. The EC will take nominations from qualified candidates for the ratings committee to represent each division and will appoint the most qualified persons upon approval of the TC at the EC/TC meeting in August. The Executive Council shall also announce their appointment of the Chairperson of this committee out of the league members not currently serving on the Executive Council at the EC/TC meeting in August.

The members appointed by the Executive Council must have the following qualifications:

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- A. Played at least 3 years in a NAGAAA sanctioned league,
- B. Demonstrates a strong understanding of the rating system and how NAGAAA interprets the ratings questions, and
- C. Demonstrates a strong understanding of the game of softball and the 4 basic softball skills used in the NAGAAA ratings (e.g., throwing, fielding, base running and hitting).

The NAGAAA Player Ratings Procedure outlines the requirements associated with addressing any changes to a players rating, which is inclusive of the following functions:

- A. Attending the mandatory Manager Ratings Clinic
- B. Establishing a new player's rating
- C. Monitoring and reporting changes to a players skill level
- D. Evaluating a player independent of a player's coach or manager
- E. Changing a player's rating
- F. Appealing a change to a player's rating
- G. Resolving conflicts with the use of the NAGAAA Player Ratings Procedure

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Chapter 6 Team Council

Section 1 Team Council Members

The registered Team Representative will be selected by each team in a manner they choose. A second team member may attend Team Council meetings, but may not at times be recognized to speak, and may not vote.

Section 2 Quorum

A majority of the Council members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Council meeting; but if less than a majority of the members is present at said meeting, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. If a team misses a meeting where a quorum is not reached, said teams may be fined up to \$100 and may have games suspended until paid in full.

Section 3 Manner of Acting

The act of a majority of the Council members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute the act of the Council.

Section 4 Compensation

The Council members shall serve without compensation.

Section 5 Duties of the Council

The duties of the council shall be:

- A. Review the rules of play and make recommendations for changes or revisions. Those members present will vote on any changes or revisions for their respective divisions. Any change / revisions will be in effect for that season.
- B. To approve the League schedule prior to the beginning of League play.
- C. To approve the method of determining the League Championship team.
- D. To act as a liaison between the general membership and the Executive Council. As such, the Registered Team Representative will attend all meetings, either in person or by proxy, to obtain information and facilitate communication between the Executive Council and the general membership.
- E. To select three teams from those nominated who will then be voted on by league members for Spirit Award.

Section 6 Divisional Manager Workshops

Divisional Manager Workshops may be called when needed.

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Chapter 7 Amendments

The bylaws or any part hereof, may be amended, modified, or repealed at the annual meeting of the members, or at a special meeting of the membership. When any amendment, change or modification of the Bylaws is to be proposed at such a meeting of the membership, a notice of such meeting containing a recitation of the article(s) or section(s) to be amended, and including that proposed amendment, shall be delivered to all Team Representatives personally, by mail or e-mail for distribution to and for discussion with their team members and posted on the League Website. In all cases, notification must be made at least ten (10) days prior to the membership meeting. Acceptance of amendment(s) to the Bylaws shall require an affirmative vote of not less than 2/3 (two-thirds) of all members present and voting.

Chapter 8 Nomination and Election of Officers

Section 1 Qualification of Nominees

Each nominee shall be selected from the spring League membership roster. In addition, to be certified as qualified to run for an office, one must meet the following qualifications:

- A. Be a playing member of the League for the previous fall and current spring seasons OR be a non-playing member who has served on a League or Tournament committee for the previous fall and current spring seasons,
- B. Be a member in good standing, and
- C. Comply with all election rules as set forth by the election committee.

Section 2 Nominations by Members

Any member of the League in good standing may nominate any member of the League in good standing for any position on the Executive Council to be filled in the election. Such nomination shall require a seconding nomination for the person to be entered as a candidate for the position. In addition, the person nominated must affirm his or her commitment to the position.

Section 3 Limitations for Nominations

A member may be nominated for more than one position, but the nominee may only run for one office at one time.

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Chapter 9 Team Representatives, Managers, and Coaches

Section 1 Team Representatives, Managers, and Coaches

Each team will have an individual or individuals that will serve as a manager, coach, or manager / coach and a player or member who will serve as the team's Registered Team Representative. This can be the same person. The duties of this individual(s) will be:

- A. Should attend all Team Council meetings in accordance with Article Seven (or have a designated representative in attendance.)
- B. Inform the Assistant Commissioner of the division in which the team plays of any new individual(s) in the community that have expressed interest in becoming a playing or non-playing member of the League.
- C. Disseminate League information to team members, both playing and non-playing.
- D. Provide team members to assist as volunteers during fundraising events or tournaments.
- E. Inform team members of all League activities to include distribution and accountability of all League raffle tickets and admission tickets to League activities.
- F. Ensure that all League forms are fully completed and presented to the League Secretary by the due date as established by the Officers. Also ensure that all team members' dues are paid and attached to the membership applications.
- G. Ensure that a current playing roster is turned in to the Secretary whenever there is a change to that roster.
- H. Ensure there are sufficient playing members for all games.
- I. Ensure that all team members adhere to Rules of Play.
- J. Comply with any additional guidelines as directed by the Executive Council.

Section 2 Involuntary Resignation

Any member of the Team Council who shall absent himself or herself from two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the Team Council without another member serving in his or her place, unless previously excused by the Commissioner, may be deemed to have resigned as a member of the Team Council and may be replaced in accordance with the provisions stated in these Bylaws. A team would be required to immediately appoint or elect a new Registered Team Representative and notify the League Secretary of such.

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Chapter 10 **Hall of Fame Membership Criteria**

Section 1 Purpose

The purposes of the Suncoast Softball League Hall of Fame (SSL Hall of Fame) are to: provide an historical perspective and perpetuate the history of gay softball in the Tampa Bay area; to document the participation of the Suncoast Softball League in NAGAAA; and to promote our eligible members for consideration for NAGAAA offices and the NAGAAA Hall of Fame.

Section 2 Eligibility

Any living participant of the Suncoast Softball League, to include players, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, and fans, must have been in our league for at least seven years to be eligible for nomination to the SSL Hall of Fame. This eligibility requirement is waived for a deceased member. Nominees should have made significant contributions to our league, our tournament and/or to NAGAAA.

Applications for nomination to the SSL Hall of Fame shall be made on or before the third week of the spring season. Nominations will close when the last out of the third scheduled week is made. The applications may be submitted by any person who is familiar with the candidate. We strongly recommend that the application include a photograph of the nominee. The reason for the photo is that names do not always convey the person nominated. A picture is worth a thousand words and could jog the memory of the voting members. This could determine whether or not a nominee is elected into the SSL Hall of Fame. The photo will become the property of the SSL Hall of Fame. Nominated people who are not elected shall be resubmitted for the following year. After the 2 year period, if the candidate is not elected the maker of the applicant shall be notified, and asked to submit an updated application for the nominee. The Hall of Fame Committee will prepare a ballot with the names of all nominees and will submit the ballot with a copy of the applications to the voting members by April 30th of each year. Voting members may vote by mail or e-mail. Votes must be cast by May 15th of that year. The voting members may vote for as many of the nominees as he/she wishes. A nominee must be selected on at least two-thirds (2/3rds) of the ballots cast to become a member of the SSL Hall of Fame. The Chairman of the Committee will tabulate the results of the voting, and notify the nominees, SSL Officers, and the living SSL Hall of Fame candidates of the results. The SSL will schedule a dinner "party" / or other function (perhaps as a fund raiser for the upcoming tournament) where each year's winners will be honored. Upon the 20th anniversary of the Suncoast Softball League, in the year 2014, the minimum participation requirement for living members will be increased to 10 years to align with the Hall of Fame requirements of NAGAAA.

Section 3 Voting Members

Voting members shall consist of all living elected members of the SSL Hall of Fame and all current league members who were original league members (subject to verification). In any case, no person shall have more than one ballot but may vote for more than one person as outlined.

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Section 3 Application Form

Suncoast Softball League Hall Of Fame Membership Application

Name of Nominee: _____

Address (if still living):

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: (____) _____

List Seasons and teams with whom the applicant has played / coached:

League Accomplishments (attach separate paper if necessary):

NAGAAA Accomplishments (attach separate paper if necessary):

Other Qualifications (attach separate paper if necessary):

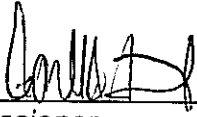
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Chapter 11 Conflict of Interest Policy

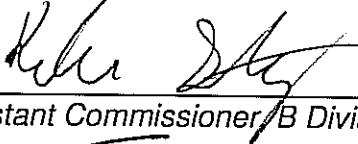
At the start of any meeting that the Suncoast Softball League, Inc. engages in, all officers, directors, voting delegates, proxies, non-voting committee chairs and members are required to read, sign and adhere to the Suncoast Softball League, Inc. Conflict of Interest Policy.

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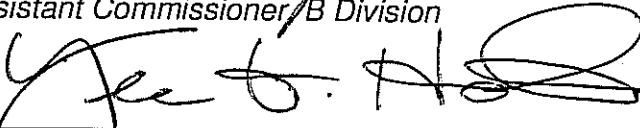
Chapter 12 Signature of Adopted Bylaws



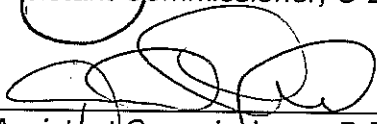
Commissioner



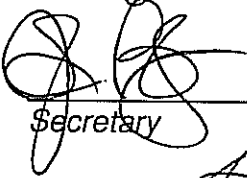
Assistant Commissioner, B Division



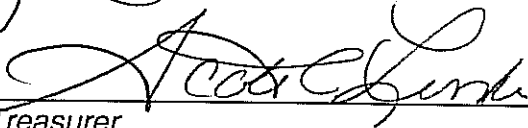
Assistant Commissioner, C Division



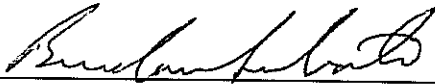
Assistant Commissioner, D Division



Secretary



Treasurer



Parliamentarian



NAGAAA Rep/Compliance Officer

Notes:

- In August 1998, Sergeant-at-arms was changed to Parliamentarian in all places where it appeared in these bylaws.
- In August 1998, Executive Committee was changed to Executive Council in all places where it appeared in these by-laws.
- In June 2010, each Article and Section of the Bylaws was renumbered due to Article One: Constitution being created.

Chapter 13 Conflict of Interest Policy

Section 1 Purpose

The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (Suncoast Softball League, Inc.) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Section 2 Definitions

Interested Person - Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an Interested Person.

Financial Interest - A person has a Financial Interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement,
- A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
- A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.
- Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.
- A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. A person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Section 3 Procedure

Duty to Disclose In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest:

- A. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- B. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.

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- C. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- D. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

Section 4 *Violation of the Conflict of Interest Policy*

If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest it shall inform the members of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigations as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Section 5 *Records of Proceedings*

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

- A. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest
- B. The nature of the financial interest
- C. Any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and
- D. The governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- E. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement.
- F. The content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- G. A record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

Section 6 *Compensation*

A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, for the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

Section 7 *Annual Statements*

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall, prior to each meeting, sign a statement which affirms such person:

- A. Has received a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy,

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- B. Has read and understands the policy,
- C. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- D. Understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Section 7 Periodic Reviews

To ensure the Organization operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- A. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- B. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Organization's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

Section 7 Use of Outside Experts

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, Suncoast Softball League, Inc. may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.