



SUNCOAST SOFTBALL LEAGUE, INC. CONSTITUTION

SUNCOAST SOFTBALL LEAGUE
CONSTITUTION

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Article I. Structure of the Suncoast Softball League

Section 1 Mission Statement

The Suncoast Softball League, hereafter referred to a SSL, was organized in 1994 to promote a friendly, competitive and emotionally safe environment for gay and lesbian men and women in the Tampa area to learn and participate in the sport of softball. While we realize opportunities exist outside of this league for softball play, our league exists as our special place, affording opportunities to us as a group which aren't available elsewhere. Our goal as a league is to promote sportsmanship, tolerance and acceptance of gay and lesbian men and women as well as those in our community who are friendly and supportive of our ideals.

Section 2 Legislative Power

The legislative power of the SSL is vested in the Team Council, and conducted by the registered Team Representatives of the Team Council in new business during the Team Council Meetings. Legislative power of the SSL is also executed by all members in good standing, as defined in Article IV Section 3 of this Constitution, during the Annual Meeting or Membership and all other Special Meetings of Membership via motions made to the SSL Constitution, Bylaws and other documented SSL Rules and Regulations.

Section 3 Executive Power

The executive power of the SSL is vested in the Executive Council. Any executive decisions made by the Executive Council can be overturned by the Team Council in accordance with Article VII Section 1.

Section 4 Judicial Power

The judicial power of the SSL is vested in the Executive Council, reported to the Team Council, and arbitrated by the Arbitration Committee. Any judicial decisions made by the Executive Council can be overturned by the Team Council in accordance with Article VII Section 1.

Section 5 Publication

The SSL shall post the SSL Constitution and Bylaws, as well as all related rules, regulations and procedures referenced in the Bylaws, on the league's website (www.suncoastsoftball.org) will all members having read access to said documents.

Section 6 Amendments to the Constitution

The SSL Constitution may be amended, modified, or repealed at the Annual Meeting of the Membership, or at a Special Meeting of Membership. When any amendment, change or modification is to be proposed, a notice of recitation of the article(s) or section(s) to be amended, shall be delivered to all registered members of the league, by mail or e-mail, for distribution to and for discussion with their team members, and posted on the SSL Website. In all cases, notification must be made at least ten (10) days prior to either membership meeting referenced above.

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A quorum is established by counting all those members present and in good standing (reference Article IV Section 3) and therefore are entitled one vote. Acceptance of an amendment to the SSL Constitution shall require an affirmative vote of not less than 2/3 (two-thirds) of all members present and voting, once quorum has been confirmed.

Section 7 Dissolution of Corporation

If the membership of the SSL votes to terminate the corporation by a vote of not less than ¾ of its remaining active members, or if no members exist and the corporation is disbanded, all remaining corporate assets will be donated to a nonprofit organization as is required by law.

Article II. Rules of Banking

Section 1 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the SSL shall be from 1 July until 30 June.

Section 2 Checks and Drafts

All checks and drafts or orders for payment of money issued in the name of the SSL or in the name of any fund managed by the SSL, shall require two authorized signatures as set forth under the duties of the Executive Council. In the event that a fund is managed by the SSL for a specific committee, then the Chairperson of that committee may serve as an authorized signatory on such fund if provided for in the resolution creating the Committee. All expenses up to \$100 must be approved by the SSL Commissioner in advance. For an expense not exempted by the annual budget, any expense over \$100 must be approved by the Executive Council in advance. In addition, for expenses not exempted by the annual budget that are over \$500, must have at least two competitive bids, in writing, prior to being approved.

Section 3 Deposits

All funds of the SSL, or funds managed by the SSL, shall be deposited to the appropriate account in an insured financial institution as selected by the Executive Council. All funds received must be deposited within three (3) business days of receipt. The monthly financial institution statement must be reconciled by the 16th of the month, following receipt of the statement.

Section 4 Gifts

The Executive Council may accept, on behalf of the SSL, any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for general purposes or for any special purpose of the SSL.

Article III. NAGAAA Participation

Section 1 NAGAAA Rules

If a subject is not covered in the Bylaws of the Suncoast Softball League, the rules of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) shall apply.

Section 2 NAGAAA World Series

Each member city of NAGAAA must comply with NAGAAA rules for participation to be allowed in World Series Play.

1. Team rosters required to be released to NAGAAA will be taken from teams participating in our Spring Season.
2. Per NAGAAA rules, this season will be a minimum of six scheduled games.
3. Based on the then-current NAGAAA rating system, teams will be placed into divisions and their participation and eligibility in the NAGAAA World Series will be determined based on their ratings. In the event there is only one team in a particular division, then that team will play exhibition games only against other league teams.
4. A maximum of four teams may go to the World Series. Unless changed by an affirmative vote of the Executive Council, our League may enter up to one 'A' team, up to two 'B' teams, up to two 'C' teams and up to two 'D' teams. The first place winners in the 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' divisions will earn the right to represent Tampa in the World Series. If the winning team in a division chooses not to participate, the right would transfer to the next highest finishing team in the same division, and so on in each division. If the fourth berth for entry into the World Series is available, it will be awarded to a team from the largest division first, with the best division record of the teams remaining in that division.
5. Each manager and/or coach must sign a written statement of compliance with all NAGAAA rules prior to acceptance for World Series play. Once signed, this document will be submitted to the NAGAAA protest committee chair as well as the NAGAAA Commissioner at the beginning of World Series play.

Section 3 NAGAAA Membership

At the writing of this section, NAGAAA membership has helped greatly in the growth of our local tournament and in funding our league's annual charitable contributions. If in the future the benefits no longer outweigh the costs of maintaining membership, the SSL may choose to discontinue membership. The vote to discontinue NAGAAA membership would require no less than 2/3 (two-thirds) of both the entire Executive Council and 2/3 (two-thirds) of the entire Team Council.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1 Eligibility

Membership in the SSL will not discriminate against race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability. Sexual orientation will not be questioned on any membership form or application due to individual rights to privacy.

Section 2 Non-Member

Any a Non-Member is any individual not determined as follows:

- A. Member in Good Standing
- B. Member Not in Good Standing

Section 3 Member in Good Standing

The following constitutes two types of a Member in Good Standing:

Section 3.1 Player Member in Good Standing

- A. Completion of all required League forms.
- B. Attended and participated in a New Player Skills Assessment Clinic.
- C. Payment of appropriate player and insurance fees.

Section 3.2 Non-Player Member in Good Standing

- A. Completion of all required League forms.
- B. Payment of appropriate insurance fees.

Section 4 Member Not in Good Standing

The following constitutes two types of a Member not in Good Standing:

Section 4.1 Player Member not in Good Standing

- A. Failure to complete all required League forms.
- B. Failure to attend and participate in a New Player Skills Assessment Clinic.
- C. Failure to pay appropriate player and insurance fees.
- D. Has been suspended or expelled by the League.

Section 4.2 Non-Player Member not in Good Standing

- A. Failure to complete all required League forms.
- B. Failure to pay appropriate insurance fees.
- C. Has been suspended or expelled by the League.

Article V: Meetings

Section 1 Executive Council Meeting

Regular Meetings of the Executive Council shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Council. Special Executive Council Meetings may be called by the SSL Commissioner giving two (2) days notice to each Officer, either personally, by telephone or by electronic mail (email). Special Executive Council Meetings can also be called by either the SSL Commissioner or SSL Secretary at the request of any three (3) Executive Council Officers serving like notice as outlined above.

Section 2 Team Council Meeting

Meetings of the Team Representative of the Team Council shall be held from time to time in conjunction with the meeting of the Executive Council. Meetings will be called by the Executive Council with notice to be given or mailed to each Team Representative of the Team Council, unless they have been notified of the meeting at the prior Team Council Meeting. Special Team Council Meetings may be called by a majority of the Team Representatives, providing with four (4) days written notice to each Team Representatives of the Team Council and to the Executive Council. Team Council Meetings will be chaired by the SSL Commissioner, who will vote on motions being made only in case of a tie.

Section 3 Annual Meeting of the Membership

All Members in Good Standing are allowed to be present at the Annual Meeting of Membership which is duly called, and should constitute the determination for a quorum at such a meeting.

Section 4 Special Meeting of the Membership

A Special Meetings of Membership may be called by the SSL Commissioner, the majority of the Executive Council, or not less than one tenth (1/10) of the total SSL membership by petition to the SSL Commissioner or SSL Secretary.

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Article VI: The Executive Council

Section 1 Members

The Executive Council shall consist of five (5) members and one (1) additional member per each softball division of play in the SSL, hereunto each known as the Officers. No member can hold two positions on the Executive Council, nor shall a voting member receive special compensation as to violate the SSL Conflict of Interest Policy.

Section 1.1 Commissioner

The duties of the Commissioner shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Presiding at all formal meetings of members, Executive Council and Team Council, appointing a non-voting secretary and/or parliamentarian for such meeting if league secretary and/or parliamentarian is absent. (Appointee maintains vote if he or she is also the official Registered Team Representative of a team.)
- B. Serving as the tie-breaker vote on the interpretation and intent of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of the League.
- C. Serving as an authorized signatory on the League checking account(s) and on any funds managed by the League.
- D. Overseeing all day to day functions of the League.
- E. Serving as liaison between the League and any city's park and/or recreation department.

Section 1.2 Assistant Commissioners & Senior Assistant Commissioner

An Assistant Commissioner must play in the division they are representing and will be elected only by the SSL members within their respective division. Divisions are to follow NAGAAA guidelines. If a division is added mid-year that further expands the league, a representative advocate will be appointed by the SSL Commissioner until such time as the League decides whether to further expand the offices of the Assistant Commissioner.

The duties of the Assistant Commissioners shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Acting as an advocate for the division he or she represents in the Executive Council including the recruitment of players for teams in this division.
- B. Assisting the SSL Commissioner and the Senior Assistant Commissioner with duties as assigned.
- C. Will conduct any divisional manager's workshops.

At the Annual Membership Meeting, a Senior Assistant Commissioner would be selected from the elected assistant commissioners and designated as such by a simple majority of the members present. The duties of the Senior Assistant Commissioner shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Perform all duties of an Assistant Commissioner as stated above.
- B. Will serve as authorized signatory on all League checking account(s).
- C. Performing all duties and exercising all powers of the SSL Commissioner during his/her absence or disability, with still having only one vote as the current Senior Assistant Commissioner.
- D. Becoming the SSL Commissioner should the present SSL Commissioner resign or be removed from office, or otherwise be unable to fulfill his/her remainder of the current term. Once the current Senior Assistant Commissioner has become the SSL Commissioner, he/she will immediately appoint another member of the SSL to serve as the Assistant Commissioner for his/her division. The new SSL Commissioner will also assign a replacement Senior Assistant Commissioner from the now current Assistant Commissioners serving on the Executive Council.

Section 1.3 Secretary

The duties of the Secretary shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Keeping minutes of all meetings, as identified in Article V, via the SSL Website within 7 days of each meeting, subject to revisions and approval at the next meeting.
- B. Maintaining an official record of the Constitution, Bylaws, and any and all SSL supporting documentation, amendments and changes thereto.

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1. Will present to the Executive Council at the Annual Membership Meeting any proposed amendments to the Bylaws or Constitution.
 2. Will work with Parliamentarian gathering information concerning any infractions or petitions for changes to the SSL Bylaws and/or Constitution.
 3. Will oversee all changes made to the SSL Bylaws and/or Constitution.
 4. Will distribute changes to all registered Team Representatives of the Team Council as per Section 10.1 of the SSL Bylaws.
- C. Maintaining a record of all members of the SSL and their respective current mailing address.
D. Keeps records of current usernames and passwords for web hosting account.

Section 1.4 Treasurer

The duties of the Treasurer shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Accounting monthly for all dues and moneys collected by the SSL.
- B. Accounting monthly for all disbursements made by the SSL.
- C. Having custody of the checkbook(s) of the SSL and the checkbook(s) of any funds managed by the SSL.
- D. Depositing of all monies of the SSL in such banks as shall be specified by resolution of the Executive Council.
- E. Making disbursements and having charge of the financial affairs of the SSL and of any funds managed by the SSL under authorization of the Executive Council.
- F. Collecting of all dues and moneys owed the SSL.
- G. Account for all expenses and income from all fund raising efforts and deposit all profits into the appropriate SSL checking account(s).
- H. In the above, the treasurer manages all accounts, including regular seasons and the Gasparilla Softball Classic.
- I. Will serve as authorized signatory on all SSL checking account(s).
- J. Present to the Executive Council and the Team Council a monthly report containing the following:
 1. Monthly Transactions Ledger showing all transactions for the previous month.
 2. Income Statement for previous month and year to date.
 3. Balance Sheet showing all monies owed to the League and monies owed by the League. All league finances, including committee funds, will be included in this report. Any monies held on behalf of Teams must also be listed under monies owed.
 4. Copy of Bank Statement(s) for each League account.
 5. Footnote accounting for all league assets.

Section 1.5 Parliamentarian

The duties of the Parliamentarian shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Maintaining order at all SSL meetings.
- B. Ruling on parliamentary procedures whenever used during SSL meetings of the Executive Council, Team Council and general membership.
- C. Establishing and chairing an Arbitration Committee to resolve all protests and disputes.

Section 1.6 NAGAAA Representative-Compliance Officer

The duties of the NAGAAA Representative -Compliance Officer shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Serving as the official voting representative of the SSL on the Council of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA).
- B. Shall ensure that the SSL is kept up-to-date with all NAGAAA rules and ensure that the SSL is in compliance with all NAGAAA requirements.
- C. Will serve a member of the Executive Council and Team Council, serving in an independent advisory manner only.
- D. Will report at the Annual Meeting of Membership the status of the league from a compliance perspective.
- E. The NAGAAA Representative -Compliance Officer must have been a member of the Executive Council for at least two years and must be familiar with all aspects related to the current SSL and NAGAAA rules.

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Section 2 *Vacancies/Removals*

The SSL Commissioner will appoint a member in good standing to any vacancy in the Executive Council. The Team Council shall have the power to remove any Officer of the Executive Council by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of all registered Team Representatives on the Team Council.

Section 3 *Terms of Office*

The Officers of the Executive Council shall have terms of office for one year, aligned to the fiscal year as defined in the SSL Constitution. The one exception to this one year term for Officers is the NAGAAA Representative-Compliance Officer, who will serve a two year term from the time elected.

Section 4 *Election of Officers*

The election of Officers shall be conducted during the next to the last scheduled week of play. Run-offs, if necessary, will occur on the last week of play. The nominee who receives a majority of the votes (over 50%) cast in the election shall be declared to have been elected to the office. Should no candidate obtain the majority of the votes cast, a run-off vote will be taken between the two candidates who obtain the largest number of votes.

Nominations will officially open, and the election committee will make nomination forms available, at the first pitch two weeks prior to the scheduled election. Nominations will officially close when the last out is made on the week prior to the scheduled election.

In the event of rain-outs and schedule conflicts, the Executive Council shall modify these dates only when necessary to achieve a fair election. Any changes shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Council.

Article VII: The Team Council

Section 1 - Members

The Team Council shall consist of 1 (one) Registered Team Representative from each team. The Registered Team Representative will serve until such time as a new Registered Team Representative is selected and the SSL Secretary is notified in writing of such change. Each Registered Team Representatives must be a Member in Good Standing.

The Team Council shall have the power to overturn any decision of the Executive Council by a vote of not less than 2/3 (two-thirds) of all Registered Team Representatives. Each team must maintain a Registered Team Representative with the SSL Secretary at all times. A team maintains its Registered Team Representative until such time as new team fees are past due.

Article VIII: Committee Structure

Committees may be requested by any Officer of the Executive Council and adopted by a majority vote of all the Executive Council Officers. Each member on a committee must be a Member in Good Standing, and an Executive Council Officer shall be assigned by the SSL Commissioner as serve in an advisory role for each of the committee.

There are Eight (8) standing committees within the SSL:

1. Gasparilla Softball Classic Committee
2. Sports Information/Events/Awards Committee
3. Election Committee
4. Audit Committee
5. Arbitration Committee
6. Website Committee
7. Hall of Fame Committee
8. Ratings Committee

Section 1 *Gasparilla Softball Classic Committee*

The Gasparilla Softball Classic Committee will be formed by the end of March in the year preceding the tournament, to meet monthly beginning with the appointment of the Tournament Producer. At the April Executive Council and Team Council meeting, a proposed budget will be presented by the committee and approved by the Executive Council.

The Gasparilla Softball Classic Committee shall consist of the following members approved by the Executive Council:

- A. Tournament Producer
 1. Selected by the Executive Council
 2. The Tournament Producer will be appointed at the March Executive Council and Team Council meeting.
- B. Tournament Director
 1. Selected by the SSL Commissioner with the approval of the Executive Council.
 2. The Tournament Director will be chosen and begin work on the following year's tournament by the August meeting of the Executive Council and the Team Council.

Section 2 *Sports Information/Events/Awards Committee*

The Sports Information/Events/Awards Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the Commissioner with approval from the other Executive Council members. The chairperson of this committee will serve as its director and will be responsible for selection or appointment of a minimum of three other league members to serve on the committee.

Section 3 *Election Committee*

The Executive Council shall appoint three (3) members who are not already on the Executive Council to serve as the Election Committee, to be announced at the April meeting of the Executive Council/Team Council. The Election Committee shall appoint a Chairperson.

Section 4 *Audit Committee*

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The Audit Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the Commissioner with approval from the other Executive Council members at the June meeting of the Executive Council and Team Council. The chairperson of this committee will serve as its director and will be responsible for selection or appointment of a minimum of two other league members to serve on the committee.

Section 5 Arbitration Committee

The Arbitration Committee shall be chaired by the Parliamentarian who votes only in the event of a tie. The body of Arbitration Committee shall consist of one team representative from each team.

Section 6 Website Committee

Each July the Commissioner shall appoint two individuals to maintain the league's website. These members can come from the general membership of the league and should have experience with maintaining and updating websites.

Section 7 Hall of Fame Committee


The Executive Council shall appoint the chairperson and two committee persons each year during the January joint Executive/Team Council meeting.

Section 8 Ratings Committee

The 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.

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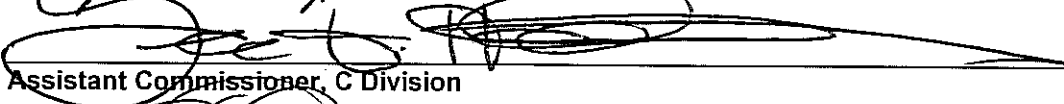
Article VIII: Signatures of Adopted Constitution



Commissioner




Assistant Commissioner, B Division



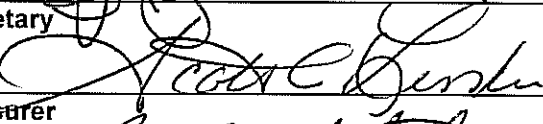
Assistant Commissioner, C Division




Assistant Commissioner, D Division



Secretary



Treasurer



Parliamentarian



NAGAAA Representative/Compliance Officer