



The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance

Instruments of Governance

February 2016

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# ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

## Article One -- Name

- 1.01 The name of the organization is the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance-Open Softball Division, Inc.

## Article Two -- Existence

- 2.01 The period of existence is perpetual

## Article Three -- Purpose

- 3.1 Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- 3.2 To be a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of amateur sports competition, particularly softball, for all persons regardless of age, sexual orientation or preference, with special emphasis on the participation of members of the Gay Community; and to otherwise foster national and international sports competition by planning, promoting and carrying out amateur sports competition.
- 3.3 To establish uniform rules and regulations for amateur sports competition organized or conducted by this organization.
- 3.4 To organize and conduct any regional championship playoffs among member teams and organize and conduct a gay Softball World Series; the further purpose of the corporation being to organize, promote and conduct the best possible tournaments in Gay athletics; and to otherwise foster national and international sports competition.
- 3.5 To encourage the education and training of the proper skills of athletics, particularly softball, by promoting clinics, seminars and training courses.
- 3.6 To plan, promote and carry out other exempt activities that serve the welfare of the public at large.
- 3.7 To raise, collect, administer and dispense funds for the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation.
- 3.8 To carry out all of the purposes stated solely within the scope and meaning of Section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding section of future tax code.

## Article Four -- Members

- 4.01 The corporation shall have no members.

## Article Five -- Directors

- 5.1 The general management of the affairs of the corporation shall be vested in the directors of the corporation.
- 5.2 The term of office of the initial directors shall be until the first meeting of the incorporators and the initial board of directors.
- 5.3 The number of subsequent directors and their qualifications, manner of election and term of office shall be specified in the Bylaws.
- 5.4 The number of directors shall not be less than three.

## Article Six -- Disbursements

- 6.01 No part of net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; and the organization shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this document the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## Article Seven -- Operations

- 7.01 This corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

## **Article Eight -- Dissolution**

- 8.01 Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of the section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for the purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

# BYLAWS

## Article One -- Membership

- 1.1 Types of Membership: Upon proper application and qualification, membership shall be available as follows:
- Metro Association: An organization in a clearly defined metropolitan area.
  - District Association: An organization that consists of clearly disjointed metropolitan areas, each of which cannot qualify as a Metro Association.
- 1.2 Application: Applications for membership are presented to the Council at the annual Winter Meeting. A majority Council vote is required to obtain membership.
- A prospective member must submit its membership application in writing to the Commissioner before the start of a Winter Meeting to be considered at that meeting.
  - The application will be reviewed by the Membership Committee, which shall provide an advisory recommendation to the Council prior to its vote on accepting the prospective member.
- 1.3 Qualification: A prospective member must have operated for two consecutive years with a minimum of four teams registered in each of those years to be eligible for membership.
- The prospective member must identify itself as a sports organization in the LGBT Community of its home city or district.
  - The prospective member must have attended the immediately preceding Summer Meeting to be eligible to petition for membership at that Winter Meeting.
  - The two-year operating minimum criteria can be waived at the request of the membership Committee and a two-thirds majority of the Council.
  - Prior to acceptance, the petitioning association must attend the Ratings Workshop that is held every Winter Meeting.
- 1.4 Territories: Each Association will define the territory in which it operates by filing a description of the intended geographical boundaries with the Commissioner. No prospective member may apply to operate in territories / cities that overlap those served by a current member Association unless:
- The current member Association consents in writing; or,
  - The prospective member can clearly present to the Council the reasons for applying for membership as a separate Association within the same territory or city.
- 1.5 Suspension/Termination of Membership:
- Any hearing initiated by Bylaw 1.6 requires a minimum 60 day notice to the Association either electronically or recognized mail service. This notice must include a list of alleged violations with appropriate IOG reference.
- 1.6 Suspension requiring Council action:
- After a hearing before the Council, an Association's membership may be suspended or terminated by a two-thirds Council vote for the following reasons:
    - Failure to register at least four teams in any given year in an association
      - Exception: A one year grace period will be granted to an Association that drops to three or less teams for the purpose of rebuilding if requested by the Association. This grace period may be used only one time in five consecutive years.
    - Failure to pay dues within thirty (30) days of the due date.
    - Failure to attend any Regular Meeting.
    - Failure, in the opinion of the Council, to perform to the spirit of the NAGAAA Open Division, Inc. Bylaws and Softball Code.
    - Failure to send at least one team to the GSWS. (Also see Softball Code §6.7 for automatic penalties for minimum berths.)
  - Automatic Suspension:
    - Failure to pay a fine incurred for the late payment of dues under Bylaws §7.2.
- 1.7 Individual Membership Suspension/Termination  
In reference to any non-GSWS incidents or business matters, an individual member of a NAGAAA association can be suspended or terminated from NAGAAA under the conditions stated in Softball Code 9.2 and in accordance to Softball Code 9.3.
- ## Article Two -- Council
- 2.1 Authority: The Council shall be the legislative body of the Open Division.
- 2.2 Composition: The Council shall be composed of one voting representative from each Association and the members of the Board of Directors.
- 2.3 Credentials: The voting representative from each Association shall furnish proof from the Association he/she represents, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, certifying that he/she was selected to act as the Association's representative on the Open Division Council.
- Failure to provide satisfactory proof to the

- Commissioner shall cause that Association to lose its vote during the meetings.
- b) The person seated on the Council from each Association shall remain the same until the next regular meeting of the Council, unless a proxy is given in writing to an alternate representative from the same Association. A copy of such proxy shall be furnished to the Commissioner of the Open Division.
- c) First-time delegates must attend the Ratings Workshop,

2.4 Voting: Each Council Member other than the Commissioner shall be entitled to one vote on all matters brought before the Council. In the case of a tie vote, the Commissioner will cast the tie-breaking vote. The Commissioner is entitled to one vote in elections.

- a) Unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws or the Softball Code, motions require a majority vote to be passed.
- b) Each Council member will be limited to one vote per Committee

2.5 Motions: Any Council Member may present a motion for consideration or, if sponsored by a Council Member, any Member of an Association may make a motion. All motions from committees must be presented in writing.

2.6 Addressing Council: The Commissioner may limit debate in one or more of the following ways if two-thirds of the Council Members present consent:

- a) To Council Members.
- b) To a specified amount of time per Association on each motion.
- c) To a specified amount of time without regard to individual limits.

### Article Three – Board of Directors

3.1 Authority: The Board of Directors shall be the executive body of the Open Division. The Board will manage the operations of the Open Division subject to the direction provided by the Council.

- a) If requested, the NAGAAA Open Division Board may provide counsel to resolve differences between two associations.

3.2 Composition: The Board of Directors shall consist of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Business Development Director and Member-at-Large.

3.3 Election of Directors:

- a) Regular Nominations: Council Members will nominate candidates for each position to be elected at any Council meeting. In nominating candidates, Council Members should consider the principles of no conflict of interest and reasonable workload.
- b) Any individual who is nominated for the

Member-at-Large position cannot have served on the NAGAAA Board of Directors in either an elected or an appointed position.

- c) Nominations will open at the end of the Summer Meeting and close at a time specifically set by the Commissioner and made publicly known, which shall be on but not earlier than 11:59pm Pacific Time of the forty-fifth (45) calendar day preceding the convening of the next Winter Meeting. Candidates have fifteen (15) calendar days, after the close of nominations to accept or decline the nomination.
- d) If any candidate for the NAGAAA Board of Directors does not have a clean background check, he/she will be informed of such by the NAGAAA Board. Should the individual decide to move their nomination forward, the individual will be required to disclose that information to the Council
- e) Each candidate will be given an opportunity to address the Council.
- f) Votes will be cast via secret ballot during a Council Session
- g) Votes will be counted and tallied immediately; the vote count will be announced, if requested.
- h) In the event that no nominee wins fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the votes cast, the nominee(s) receiving the least number of votes will be eliminated and the process will continue until a nominee receives fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the votes cast.
- i) The Open Council may move to have a nominee confirmed via acclamation, if the position is unchallenged.
- j) Every candidate for Treasurer will be required to take an assessment exam on General Accounting Principles.
  - i) Scores will be reported to the delegates prior to election vote.
  - ii) Assessment exam will be administered by the Finance Chair
  - iii) Finance Chair will be responsible for submitting exam samples to the Board by November 1 of the year prior to the Treasurer election for approval.
  - iv) Exam will be administered at the Winter Meetings when the Treasurer election is held.
- k) There shall be no express advocacy for any nominee or potential nominee for office on official NAGAAA social media channels. Any use of NAGAAA's assets, real or Virtual, for the purpose of supporting or Opposing a nominee's election is expressly Prohibited. Any violations shall be reported to and under the jurisdiction of the Ethics Committee to adjudicate.

3.4 Term of Office: Directors shall serve two- year terms.

- a) The Commissioner, Treasurer and Member-at-Large positions shall be elected in odd numbered years.
  - b) The Assistant Commissioner, Secretary and Business Development Director positions shall be elected in even numbered years.
  - c) Each Director shall serve until his or her successor has been qualified and elected, unless such Director shall sooner be removed from office.
  - d) The Member-at-Large will only serve one (1) two-year term.
- 3.5 Removal: A Director may be removed from office by a two-thirds Council vote. Such removal shall take place only if a Director fails to perform or violates the duties of his office.
- 3.6 Appointment: If a Director resigns or is removed from office prior to the end of his term, the vacancy shall be filled by the nomination and vote of the remaining Directors.
- a) In the event of the Commissioner's resignation or removal, the Assistant Commissioner shall serve the remainder of the Commissioner's term and an Acting Assistant Commissioner shall be appointed.
  - b) In the event that a Director is elected to another directorship prior to completing the term of his/her original directorship, the original directorship shall be deemed vacant and shall be filled by nomination and election at the meeting in session in accordance with Section 3.3 of these Bylaws. The newly elected (replacement) Director shall serve the remainder of the original term of office.
- 3.7 Return of property: When leaving office, Council Members shall return all Open Division property to the Commissioner. A person who fails to return Open Division property within ninety days of leaving the Council shall be suspended from participating in all Open Division Associations and events. Upon the return of all Open Division property, the suspension may be lifted by a majority Council vote.
- 3.8 Commissioner – The Commissioner shall:
- a) Oversee the general operations of the NAGAAA Board and the organization (including implementation of policies and procedures, enforcement of rules, administration of priorities and initiatives)
  - b) Set meeting dates/agendas
  - c) Preside over meetings of the Council
  - d) Appoint an individual at each Council meeting to serve as Parliamentarian
  - e) Manage communications and documents pertaining to:
    1. Membership applications
    2. Territory filings
3. Proof of voting rights
  4. GSWS bid intents, negotiation and administration of the Host City Contract and relationship management with the GSWS Host City
  5. Proposed changes to the Bylaws
- f) Approve and sign all contracts between NAGAAA and a Host City, GSWS sponsor, vendor, field rental contracts or any additional contracts negotiated on behalf of NAGAAA
  - g) Coordinate Hotel contracts for NAGAAA sponsored events (booking executive travel, meeting space logistics, etc.)
  - h) Aide the NAGAAA Athletic Director in conducting the GSWS as requested
  - i) Serve as co-signer of NAGAAA checking account
  - j) Act as Liaison for following NAGAAA Committees: Advisory, Ethics
  - k) Appoint the Athletic Director
- 3.9 Assistant Commissioner - The Assistant Commissioner shall:
- a) Serve as Acting Commissioner in the event the Commissioner is unable to act
  - b) Serve as Commissioner if the Commissioner resigns or is removed from Office
  - c) Administer and maintain a ratings systems database and registration platform for GSWS teams and associations
  - d) Ensure communication of requirements and deadlines to be adhered to by GSWS teams and associations as defined in NAGAAA Bylaws and Softball Code
  - e) Serve as co-signer of all NAGAAA bank accounts.
  - f) Facilitate the collection of content and oversee scope of technology contracts
  - g) Act as Liaison for the following NAGAAA Committees: Athletics
- 3.10 Secretary – The Secretary shall:
- a) Maintain/update key NAGAAA documents and information (IOG, Council meeting minutes, Board meeting minutes, motions, delegate and association email distribution lists
  - b) Communicate and interact with delegates and associations
  - c) Facilitate any necessary filings of administrative changes for NAGAAA that occur. (e.g.: sources of financial support, address, etc
  - d) Facilitate systems/processes for how the Board executes collaborative duties, including monthly to-do lists.
  - e) Aide the NAGAAA Athletic Director in conducting the GSWS as requested
  - f) Act as Liaison for the following NAGAAA Committees: Bylaws, Internal Audit
  - g) Deliver the minutes of any council meeting and an updated revision of the Instruments of

Governance, inclusive of all enacted provisions, to the member associations no later than forty-five (45) calendar days following the adjournment of the same meeting. An electronic delivery receipt should be collected.

- 3.11 Treasurer – The Treasurer shall:
- Develop and present an annual budget
  - Prepare financial reporting to the Executive Board, Council and CPA Firm
  - Invoice, collect, deposit receipts, disbursements and documentation
  - Serve as co-signer on all NAGAAA bank accounts
  - Complete and submit all NAGAAA tax filings and any other required state and federal filings)
  - Verify all hotel deposits to be refunded to member cities
  - Coordinate/facilitate Audit preparation by providing all items to the Internal Audit Committee
  - Ensure all parties have appropriate liability insurance coverages/certificates of insurance, for NAGAAA Officers, Council, Host City and vendors
  - Aide the NAGAAA Athletic Director in conducting the GSWS as requested
  - Fixed Asset Manager includes cataloging, reporting in Treasurer's Report and possession of asset when appropriate.
  - Act as Liaison for the following NAGAAA Committee: Finance
- 3.12 Business Development Director – The Business Development Director shall:
- Develop and implement a fundraising strategy plan.
  - Develop and implement a sponsorship package that effectively communicates the value that can be gained from being a partner with NAGAAA.
  - Initiate contact with any and all potential new and/or returning sponsors to explain the benefits of partnering with NAGAAA.
  - Develop and implement a marketing plan for expanding the NAGAAA brand.
  - Coordinate requests for proposals (RFP's) for vendors and other third-party service providers when requested.
  - Prepare a contract for signature by an appointed NAGAAA Official and the sponsor for all NAGAAA corporate, in-kind and external vendor relationships. Executed contracts will be stored on file with the Commissioner or his/her designee.
  - Oversee an implementation of all NAGAAA marketing, in kind, sponsorship and vendor agreements (including promotional materials, signage, advertising and reporting)
  - Conduct ongoing marketing and

demographic surveys for use in NAGAAA's Marketing and Sponsorship efforts.

- Prepare and distribute press releases and marketing communications that promote NAGAAA and NAGAAA sponsored competitions.
- Assist the GSWS Host City Committee as requested with Marketing, Sponsorship and Publicity planning, proposals and efforts.
- Oversee all NAGAAA social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- Aide the NAGAAA Athletic Director in conducting the GSWS as requested
- Act as Liaison for the following NAGAAA Committees: Marketing & Communications, Fundraising & Sponsorship

- 3.13 Member-at-Large – The Member-at- Large shall:
- Aide the NAGAAA Athletic Director in conducting the GSWS as requested
  - Assist new member cities as necessary to ensure their understanding of the requirements of the ratings system database and registration platform
  - Assist the new associations in timely completion of their roster submissions.
  - Conduct background checks on persons nominated for a NAGAAA Board position
  - Work with the Membership Committee Chairperson to ensure interested associations/cities receive current information and all requirements for becoming a member of NAGAAA.
  - Contact any member city that has missed a deadline or missed a required Summer or Winter meeting
  - Communicate to the NAGAAA Assistant Commissioner any issues with the ratings system database and registration platform
  - Act as Liaison for the following NAGAAA Committee: Membership

- 3.14 When handling, addressing, or responding to communications from Association Members (other than Association officers or Open Division representatives), the Board of Directors will:
- Respond directly to the Association Member(s) or through local Association leadership if a communication relates to Open Division rules or procedures.
  - Defer to Association leadership if a communication relates to "local" Association disagreements, interpretations and/or arguments.

#### **Article Four -- Committees**

- 4.1 Creation of a Committee(s): The Council may create a committee by majority vote. Motions to create a committee shall specify:
- The objective of the committee.
  - The term of the committee.
  - The date upon which a committee is to



- report.
- d) The number of members of the committee.
- e) The members who serve on the committee.

4.2 Advisory Committee: The Advisory Committee will be composed of past Commissioners to serve as a resource to the organization.

4.3 Operating Committees, Standing Committees, And NAGAAA Programs

- a) Operating Committees – The following committees are expected to operate on a year- round basis, participating in NAGAAA Board calls on a regular basis, and actively manage matters under their domain.
  - 1) Athletics: All matters relating to the administration of the GSWS including the rules of play, registration, tournaments, player eligibility, umpires, GSWS host city bids, player ratings, and GSWS divisional thresholds, including definitions of terms applicable to player ratings and the protest processes for enforcing them.
  - 2) Finance: Manage all issues regarding monies collected and dispersed by NAGAAA. Review financial statements and budget projections on behalf of the Council.
  - 3) Marketing & Communications: Coordinate strategies to improve the public visibility of NAGAAA and the GSWS.
  - 4) Membership: Manage issues regarding the rules and regulations related to Association memberships; development and recruit new Association memberships; and serve as a liaison for ensuring the health and development of current Association members.
  - 5) Fundraising & Sponsorship: Assist the Business Development Director in searching for and securing sponsorships for the operation of NAGAAA and the GSWS.
- b) Standing Committees – The following committees are expected to operate in preparation for Winter and Summer Meetings, or as needed, but generally at a significantly lesser degree of ongoing activity throughout the year.
  - 1) Bylaws: Review and update the Instruments of Governance and recommend clarifications to the Council
  - 2) Ethics: Manage all issues concerning conduct of Council members, associations, teams, players, and rules of conduct.
  - 3) Internal Audit: Review Open Division

financial records and report its findings to the Council at each Winter Meeting. The Audit Chair reports to the Commissioner.

- c) NAGAAA Programs – The following activities will operate as NAGAAA Programs, serving to fulfill a public-focused mission, reporting to the Board.
  - 1) NAGAAA Hall Of Fame: Conduct Hall of Fame activities, including an annual dinner to recognize new inductees.
  - 2) NAGAAA Archives: Conduct activities to preserve and promote the history of NAGAAA and the GSWS.

4.4 Chairpersons: The Commissioner will appoint one member of each committee as its chairperson. The chairperson shall be responsible for the operation of the committee.

- a) The Commissioner will appoint an Assistant Committee Chair for all committees.
- b) The Assistant Committee Chair is a non-compensated position.
- c) In the event that the Assistant Committee Chair has to take the place of a sitting Committee Chair, they will qualify for the Committee Chair per diem.

4.5 Tenure: Each committee chair will serve for one year unless such committee is terminated or the committee chair resigns or is removed from the committee. A committee chair may be reappointed to a committee.

- A committee chair may serve multiple terms
- a) Appointments will be made at the opening of the Winter Meeting and remain in effect through the beginning of the next Winter Meeting.

4.6 Motions: All motions from committees must be presented in writing to the Secretary before they are presented to the Council.

4.7 Resolutions in Progress: Committees may make recommendations that require amendments to the Instruments of Governance without having the specific amendments drafted. In such a case, the following steps will be followed:

- a) The committee will present its recommendations to the Council in the form of a motion.
- b) The Secretary will inform the Council which sections of the Instruments of Governance are affected by the committee's recommendation.
- c) The Council will be given the opportunity to discuss the recommendation followed by a Council vote.
- d) If the Council passes the motion, the motion will become a "Resolution in Progress" and

- take effect immediately or when the motion states it will take effect, subject to final codification at the next Regular Meeting.
- e) The Bylaws Committee will then draft the wording of the motion and recommend its final placement in the Instruments of Governance, subject to Council ratification at the next regular Council meeting.

## **Article Five -- Meetings**

- 5.1 Regular Meetings: The Council will conduct two Regular Meetings annually – the Winter and Summer Meetings.
- 5.2 Required Attendance: Every Association is required to attend each Regular Meeting in its entirety. Complete attendance is defined as having appropriate Association representation continuously from the opening through the closing of each meeting.
- 5.3 Winter Meeting: The annual Winter Meeting will be held before March 31 in any year.
- a) The following matters may appear on the agenda of a Winter Meeting.
- 1) Consideration of all proposed changes to the Bylaws, Softball Code or Appendices.
  - 2) Consideration of the expulsion or suspension of any Association.
  - 3) Nomination and election of all Directors whose terms expire at that meeting.
  - 4) Approval of the annual budget.
  - 5) Establish GSWS team fees, hotel deposit, umpire game rates & umpire hotel per diem.
  - 6) Consideration of membership applications.
  - 7) Announcement of the date, time, and place of the next Summer Meeting.
  - 8) Consideration of any other business that may be brought before Council.
  - 9) The annual Winter Meeting will not be held on Super Bowl Weekend.
- 5.4 Summer Meeting: The annual Summer Meeting will be held in conjunction with the GSWS in that year's host city and shall end no later than Columbus Day of any year.
- a) The following matters may appear on the agenda of a Summer Meeting:
- 1) Consideration of all proposed changes to the Bylaws, Softball Code or Appendices.
  - 2) Consideration of the expulsion or suspension of any Association.
  - 3) Announcement of the date, time, and place of the next Winter Meeting.
  - 4) Vote and Announcement of the next GSWS Host City.
  - 5) Consideration of any other business that may be brought before the Council.

- 6) Establish annual association dues for the year following such said Summer Meetings.

- 5.5 Notice of Regular Meetings: Written or printed notice stating the date, time and place of each Regular Meeting with a proposed agenda will be delivered either personally, by U.S. mail, or by email to each Council Member at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of said meeting. Announcement of the date, time, and place of the next Regular Meeting at the immediately preceding Regular Meeting constitutes notice sufficient to satisfy this section.
- 5.6 Special Meeting: Special Meetings may be called by at least two members of the Board of Directors or by the signatures of a majority of the Council. Special Meetings may be held either in person or by conference call.
- a) The following matters may appear on the agenda of a Special Meeting:
- 1) Consideration of the business that was the stated purpose for calling the Special Meeting.
- 5.7 Notice of Special Meeting: Notice stating the date, time, place, and purpose of each Special Meeting will be delivered as follows:
- a) If the Special Meeting will be held in person, written or printed notice shall be delivered personally, by mail or by email to each Council Member at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of such meeting.
- b) If a Special Meeting will be held by conference call, notice shall be delivered to each Council Member by telephone or email at least 72 hours prior to the start of the conference call.
- 5.8 Quorum: Attendance by a majority of the Council constitutes a quorum for any meeting of the Council.
- 5.9 The Open Division will use Robert's Rules of Order as advisory meeting resource.

## **Article Six – Fiscal Year**

- 6.01 The fiscal year begins on the first day of January and ends on the last day of December of the same calendar year.

## **Article Seven – Financial Management**

- 7.1 Budget: The Treasurer shall prepare and present a proposed annual operating budget at each Winter Meeting, subject to Council ratification. The budget will include funding for:
- a) The rental of meeting rooms and equipment for the Winter and Summer Meetings.
  - b) All costs directly related to the actual playing of games for the GSWS and NAGAAA Cup.
  - c) All umpire fees required to officiate the

- GSWS and NAGAAA Cup.
- d) Board of Directors:
    - Reasonable transportation and host hotel accommodation for the duration of the Winter and Summer Meetings and the GSWS
    - A midsize car rental not to exceed the cost currently available through the official NAGAAA rental car company for the duration of the Winter and Summer meetings and the GSWS.
    - All rental car gasoline expenses.
    - A per diem stipend of \$50 per day for the duration of the Winter and Summer Meetings and the GSWS
    - Reasonable telephone, postage, printing, secretarial, office supplies and miscellaneous expenses.
    - Discretionary funds up to a maximum of \$100 per meeting or event.
  - e) Operating Committee Chairs and Parliamentarian:
    - Reasonable transportation costs to attend the Winter and Summer meetings.
    - Two (2) nights hotel accommodation.
    - A per-diem stipend of \$50 per day for the duration of the Winter and Summer meetings.
  - f) Standing Committee Chairs:
    - All Operating Committee Chair compensation minus the local association contribution for attending the Winter and Summer meetings.
  - g) Umpire in Charge (UIC):
    - Reasonable transportation costs to attend the GSWS.
    - Hotel accommodation for the day before and the duration of the GSWS.
    - A midsize car rental not to exceed the cost currently available through the official NAGAAA rental car company.
    - All rental car gasoline expenses.
    - A per diem stipend of \$300 per day for the duration of the GSWS
    - An additional \$300 payment to permit early arrival to complete pre-GSWS activities.
    - A discretionary bonus fund of up to \$500.
  - h) Assistant Umpire in Charge:
    - Reasonable transportation costs to attend the GSWS.
    - Hotel accommodation for the duration of the GSWS.
    - A midsize car rental not to exceed the cost currently available through the official NAGAAA rental car company.
    - All rental car gasoline expenses.
    - A per diem stipend of up to \$150 per day, and all fees for any games officiated for the duration of the GSWS,
- not to exceed 75% of the UIC stipend, not including any discretionary bonus.
  - A discretionary bonus fund of up to \$500.
- i) Umpires:
    - Hotel accommodation for any full-time, non-playing, non-resident (defined as within 50 miles of the main host hotel), up to a maximum of 50% of the host hotel cost, inclusive of taxes, for the duration of the GSWS or until released from the officiating schedule.
  - j) Athletic Director
    - All costs defined in the Board of Directors budget outline.
    - Reasonable transportation costs to attend the NAGAAA Cup.
    - Hotel accommodation for the duration of the NAGAAA Cup.
    - A midsize car rental not to exceed the cost currently available through the official NAGAAA rental car company.
    - All rental car gasoline expenses.
    - A per diem stipend of \$50 per day for the duration of the NAGAAA Cup.
  - k) Assistant Athletic Director(s)
    - Reasonable transportation costs to attend the GSWS and the NAGAAA Cup.
    - Hotel accommodation for the duration of the GSWS and the NAGAAA Cup.
    - A midsize car rental not to exceed the cost currently available through the official NAGAAA rental car company.
    - All rental car gasoline expenses.
    - A per diem stipend of \$50 per day for the duration of the GSWS and the NAGAAA Cup.
  - l) Protest Chair:
    - Reasonable transportation costs to attend the GSWS.
    - Hotel accommodation for the duration of the GSWS.
    - A midsize car rental not to exceed the cost currently available through the official NAGAAA rental car company.
    - All rental car gasoline expenses.
    - A per diem stipend of \$50 per day for the duration of the GSWS
  - m) Assistant Protest Chair(s)
    - Reasonable transportation costs to attend the GSWS.
    - Hotel accommodation beginning on the evening prior to the beginning of pool play and for the remainder of the GSWS.
    - A midsize car rental not to exceed the cost currently available through the official NAGAAA rental car company.
    - All rental car gasoline expenses.
    - A per diem stipend of \$50 per day for every day they are at the field during that year's GSWS.

- n) Fund an Executive Assistant at the rate of \$20,000 from the general fund.

7.2 Dues: Each Association shall pay annual dues in like amount as shall be set by the Council at the previous year's Summer Meeting.

- a) Dues shall be delivered to the Treasurer via recognized mail delivery service or by hand prior to the start of the Winter Meeting.
- b) Dues must be paid prior to the start of the Winter Meeting or the Association will forfeit its right to vote until all accounts are satisfied. (See also Bylaws §1.6 concerning possible suspension or termination of the Association's membership.)
- c) Any Association that fails to meet the deadline for payment of Association dues will be fined \$100. This fine must be paid within 30 days of receiving electronic or written notification that the fine has been incurred. After 30 days, Associations failing to pay fines shall be suspended until all dues and fines are paid in accordance with bylaw § 1.6.

**7.3 GSWS team entry fees and other GSWS related fees / deposits**

- a) Each Association shall pay a per team based entry fee and other applicable GSWS fees and deposits as approved by the Council.
- b) All GSWS related fees and deposits shall be delivered to the Treasurer via recognized delivery service. See Appendix 1 for due date requirements.
- c) Any Association that fails to meet this deadline will not be permitted to participate in the current year's GSWS. Refer to SC 6.3 for automatic fines and penalties.

7.4 Advances: Advances for anticipated expenses will be limited to \$250.00 unless an invoice is provided. The advance will be provided in the form of a check payable to the vendor whenever possible. If the check is written to an individual Member, the Member will be responsible for repayment of the full amount until an appropriate receipt and/or the services/goods are received.

7.5 Fines: All fines must be paid prior to the beginning of the next regular Council Meeting following the assessment except for fines levied pursuant to Bylaws §7.2(c). Appeals: The Council will hear all appeals of fines at the next Regular meeting after which the fine is incurred.

- a) Payment: Automatic fines with immediate effects (ie, GSWS player registration issues) may be paid in cash to the Assistant Commissioner or designee, for which a written receipt shall be provided.

7.6 Exchange Rate/Currencies: US and Canadian Associations shall submit all dues, fines and other Association payments in their home country's

currency. US and Canadian dollars shall be accepted at a 1:1 exchange rate so that any dollar amount required to be paid shall not require a currency exchange conversion if submitted in US or Canadian dollars.

7.7 Reserve/Self-Insurance: The Open Division shall establish an \$80,000 reserve / emergency fund that is segregated from the operating account. The running of the GSWS is the priority for budgetary consideration and what is to be done with this reserve. This fund is an emergency / "rainy day" fund and can only be used with permission of the Council.

7.8 Payments All NAGAAA dues, entry fees and fines must be made by check credit card, or money order. Any check / money order should be made out to NAGAAA, Open Division. All GSWS automatic fines (i.e. roster changes, protests, etc.) will be invoiced to the appropriate Association upon completion of the GSWS and must be paid prior to the beginning of the next Winter Meeting.

7.9 Deficit: The NAGAAA Open Division, Inc. is not permitted to run in a deficit for more than three (3) consecutive years.

**Article Eight – Association Reporting**

8.1 Timely Reporting: Associations must submit all required forms by their stated due dates. Failure to do so will result in sanctions either as determined by the Council and/or as designated in the IOG. (See IOG Appendix 1 for a list of the required payments and reports and their due dates.)

- a) Association Information: Each Association must notify the NAGAAA Secretary within 30 days of any change to the Association or its officers' names, addresses, telephone numbers and/or email addresses. When the member Association changes officers, it is responsibility of the current Association's Commissioner to notify the NAGAAA Secretary of all changes.
- b) Failure to update the information as required in this section will result in an automatic \$100.00 fine to the Association.

8.2 All associations are required, at minimum, to have two contacts listed in the ratings system database and registration platform.

8.3 Each association that hosts a tournament will provide the dates of their tournament, hotel and rate, travel partners and all regional and national sponsors to the Business Development Director.

**Article Nine -- Privacy**

- 9.01 Association Directory: Use of the Association Directory is limited to official NAGAAA business only. Reproduction, sale, rental, lease, or use of the Association Directory or any of its contents by any person or group other than the Board of Directors or Associations is expressly prohibited. Instances of unauthorized use will be referred to the Ethics committee for evaluation and possible punitive/legal actions.

#### **Article Ten – Legal Contracts**

- 10.1 Legal Contracts: No Association or Member may enter into a legal agreement using the incorporated name of the Open Division without the written consent of the entire Board of Directors.
- 10.2 The Board of Directors may enter into sponsorship contracts that benefit the operation and administration of NAGAAA and its associations.

#### **Article Eleven – Conflict Of Interest Policy**

- 11.01 **Conflict of Interest Policy:** The NAGAAA Open Division, Inc. will adhere to the Conflict of Interest Policy as delineated in Appendix 4 of this document.

At the start of any Regular meeting all Board Directors, voting delegates, their proxies, petitioning association representatives and non-voting committee chairs are required to read, sign and adhere to the NAGAAA Open Division, Inc. Conflict of Interest Policy. No sitting NAGAAA Open Division Director shall serve as the GSWS Director, on the Board of a GSWS Series Bid Committee or on a member of a host city GSWS Committee. They can act as a resource to their GSWS committee.

#### **Article Twelve – Bylaw Amendments**

- 12.1 Amendment: These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by a majority Council vote at any Winter, Summer or Special Meeting at which a quorum is present.
- 12.2 Effective Date of Amendments: An amendment shall be effective immediately after its adoption unless otherwise specified by the wording of the amendment.

# SOFTBALL CODE

The Open Division's Gay Softball World Series shall be organized and conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations outlined in this Code.

## 1.1 Definitions

1.2 Additional Player - a player added to a team's regular season roster for purposes of GSWS play. The player must be from the regular season roster of another team within the same Association.

1.3 Altered bat – a bat that has been modified in any way from the manufacturer's original specifications or design.

1.4 Amateur - a softball player who engages in the sport solely for pleasure and/or the physical, mental or social benefits derived there from.

1.5 Association - a member of the Open Division as defined in Bylaws Article One.

1.6 At-bat – An at-bat is charged to a player following every plate appearance except: 1) when the player hits a sacrifice fly that scores a runner, 2) the player is awarded a base on balls, or 3) the third out occurs and the batter is not entitled to run to first base. Exception #3 shall not be considered if the batter is out due to a strike being a foul ball which ends the at-bat. In the event of any discrepancy between this definition and the official scoring rules of the ASA and definition contained therein, the latest version of the ASA rules shall control.

1.7 Athletic Director (AD) – the person in charge of running the GSWS.

1.8 Base Safely Reached on Error – A batter shall be credited with a base safely reached on error on the part of a defensive player(s) who is charged with an error by the scorekeeper.

1.9 Average/Above Average speed – Below Average Speed – a batter, at the point of contact, being able to run home to first in 5 + seconds or slower. Average Speed – a batter, at the point of contact being able to run home to first in 4-5 seconds. Above Average Speed – a batter, at the point of contact being able to run home to first in less than 4 seconds or faster.

1.10 Cash Prize - a prize or prizes in cash or merchandise that is easily converted to cash that are awarded to players, teams, or sponsors based on the final standings of a tournament or other competition. A player or team may receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred as long as the amount of the reimbursement is not dependent on the standings of the event.

1.11 Code – the Open Division's Softball Code that is part of the Instruments of Governance and governs the administration and playing of the GSWS.

1.12 Council - the governing body of the Open Division.

1.13 Council Member or Member of Council –  
a) a person named by an Association to

represent that Association on the Council

b) a member of the Open Division Board of Directors.

## 1.14 Defense definitions

a) A limited level of defense is a theoretical set of players having the following skills: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8

b) An intermediate level of defense is a theoretical set of players having skills greater than a limited level of defense but less than an exceptional level of defense.

c) An exceptional level of defense is a theoretical set of players having greater skills than: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

1.15 Director – a member of the Open Division Board of Directors.

1.16 Disqualified Player - a person who has been disqualified from play in events conducted, sanctioned, or promoted by the Open Division.

1.17 Fly Ball – any batted ball that is higher than a line drive but is in the air less than five (5) seconds.

1.18 Gay – includes gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT or LGBT) individuals

1.19 GSWS – The Gay Softball World Series hosted annually by the Open Division.

1.20 Hard Hit Ball – described as a ball hit at a minimum of 80 mph or greater than 250 feet in the air or a ground ball that would roll to a distance greater than 225 feet, if not impeded.

1.21 Invitational Tournament – The A/B Division tournament known as the NAGAAA Cup (See Appendix 5).

1.22 Hit – A batted ball that allows the batter to reach base safely: 1) on a fair ball which settles on the ground, clears the fence, or strikes the fence before being touched by a fielder, 2) on a fair ball which is hit with such force or such slowness or which takes an unnatural bounce that it is impossible to field with ordinary effort in time to make an out, 3) when a fair ball which has not been touched by a fielder becomes dead because of touching the person or clothing of an umpire, or 4) when a fielder unsuccessfully attempts to retire a previous runner and in the scorer's judgement, the batter-runner would not have been retired at first base by perfect fielding. A hit shall not be scored: 1) when a runner is forced out on a batted ball or would have been forced out except for a fielding error, 2) when a player fielding a batted ball retires a preceding runner with ordinary effort, 3) when a field fails in an attempt to retire a preceding runner, and in the scorer's judgement, the batter-runner could have been retired at first base, or 4) when a batter reaches first base safely as a result of a preceding runner being called out for interfering with a batted or thrown ball, or with a defensive player. In the event of any discrepancy between this definition and the official scoring rules of the

- ASA and the definition contained therein, the latest version of the ASA rules shall control.
- 1.23 Non-LGBT – (also referred to as straight, non-GLBT, non-LGBT or non-gay) means not gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.
- 1.24 High Fly Ball – Any batted ball that is in the air for five (5) seconds or more.
- 1.25 S/he - shall be read to mean and include all persons.
- 1.26 Host City – the Association(s) and their representatives who work with the Board of Directors to host a GSWS
- 1.27 In the Gap – a ball that is hit at a distance that is more than 30 foot radius (about 10-12 steps) from the outfield defender.
- 1.28 In the Hole - a ball that is hit at a distance that is more than 12 foot radius (4-5 steps) from the infield defender.
- 1.29 Ineligible Player - a person who is not eligible to participate in events conducted, sanctioned, or promoted by the Open Division. A disqualified player is included in this definition as an ineligible player.
- 1.30 Instruments of Governance (IOG) –the document that includes the Open Division's Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Softball Code and Appendices.
- 1.31 Invitational or Open Tournament - a tournament other than the GSWS.
- 1.32 Line Drive – a ball that from the point of contact rises vertically less than 10% of the total horizontal distance it travels.
- 1.33 Long Fly Ball – any batted ball that travels further than 250 feet in the air
- 1.34 Long Throw – a throw that travels 150 feet or more in the air.
- 1.35 Manager – the person designated by an Association to assume responsibility for the actions of a Team and its members.
- 1.36 Modified batting average – The percentage resulting from the sum of a player's: 1) hits and 2) base safely reached on error divided by the player's at-bats.
- 1.37 Medium Hit Ball – a ball hit 55 to 80 mph or hit 150 to 250 feet in the air or a ground ball that would roll to a distance of 125-225 feet, if not impeded.
- 1.38 Medium Velocity – a ball hit 55 to 80 mph or hit 150 to 250 feet in the air or a ground ball that would roll to a distance of 125-225 feet, if not impeded.
- 1.39 Member - a member in good standing of an Association.
- 1.40 NAGAAA – the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance
- 1.41 NAGAAA Official - During the GSWS the following are designated as NAGAAA Officials, the NAGAAA Board of Directors, the GSWS Assistant Athletic Director(s), the UIC, the Assistant UIC(s), the Protest Chair and Assistant Protest Chair(s).
- 1.42 No Repeat – Back to back GSWS years
- 1.43 Non-Resident Player – a person who, at the beginning of an association's GSWS qualifying season does not live in the association's defined NAGAAA territory.
- 1.44 On Purpose – with intent
- 1.45 Open Division – the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance – Open Division, Inc.  
a) The division of NAGAAA that is open to men and women.
- 1.46 Open Rostered Team – A team that is exempt from the provisions of Softball Code §5.2b1).
- 1.47 Physical Relocation – is the movement of a resident player's household from one fixed address to another.
- 1.48 Primary City – is the Greater Metropolitan area of that city See Appendix 8 for details
- 1.49 Proper Place – appropriate base or fielder
- 1.50 Rainbow Arc – a ball that from the point of release rises vertically 10% or more of the total distance that it travels
- 1.51 Regular Meeting – a Council meeting pursuant to Bylaws §5.1.
- 1.52 Resident player – a person who, at the beginning of an association's GSWS qualifying season resides in the association's defined NAGAAA territory.
- 1.53 Rudimentary Knowledge – no definition required
- 1.54 Shared Territory – Two or more Associations with overlapping or shared geographical boundaries. Players are allowed to be a member of one association within a shared territory See Appendix 3
- 1.55 Slow Hit Ball – a ball hit up to 55 mph or hit 150 feet or less in the air or a ground ball that would roll to a distance of less than 125 feet, if not impeded.
- 1.56 Softball – as defined in ASA Rule 3, Equipment E3 12" slow pitch softball
- 1.57 Special Meeting – a Council meeting pursuant to Bylaws §5.6
- 1.58 Spectacular Catch – when a player catches the ball while leaving his center of gravity or is able to overcome obstructions.
- 1.59 Summer Meeting – a Council meeting pursuant to Bylaws §5.4
- 1.60 Take Extra Bases – advance at least one base beyond what the opportunity would typically provide a base runner with average speed.
- 1.61 Team – includes, but is not limited to, the following: players, coaches, managers, trainers, scorekeepers, and sponsors who represent the same group and occupy the same player area during a game.
- 1.62 Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) - an accredited umpire appointed by the AD to coordinate the GSWS umpire staff.
- 1.63 Unsportsmanlike Conduct - action that is detrimental or unbecoming to the purposes and objectives of NAGAAA, the Open Division and/or its Associations.
- 1.64 Vicinity – within a step in any direction laterally of the player receiving the throw

- 1.65 Winter Meeting – a Council meeting pursuant to Bylaws §5.3
- 1.66 Within a few steps – includes balls hit to the player as well as balls hit within a few steps of the player
- 2.1 GSWS Administration
- 2.2 Jurisdiction - The actual contest between teams during the GSWS is solely under the jurisdiction of the Open Division, and specifically, the Athletic Director.
- 2.3 Athletic Director
- a) The AD is in charge of the GSWS and will ensure that all Open Division rules are followed during the GSWS.
    - 1) The AD is empowered to make such directives to the UIC, Teams, Managers, and players as may be necessary to properly conduct of the GSWS.
    - 2) The AD has permission to use the ratings system database and registration platform for purposes of communicating GSWS information to the GSWS Coaches and / or Managers.
    - 3) The AD may appoint an assistant to act in his/her place during the GSWS. The AD will specify the duties assumed by his/her assistant.
  - b) The AD will:
    - 1) Work with the Host City to obtain suitable fields for the GSWS if they had not been obtained prior to his/her appointment.
    - 2) Appoint a UIC for confirmation by the Council no later than the close of the Winter Meeting prior to the GSWS.
      - A) The AD shall not serve as the UIC.
      - B) The AD may dismiss the UIC for cause and make an interim appointment pending the next Council meeting.
      - C) The Council can overturn the AD's appointment of a UIC by a 2/3 vote.
    - 3) Develop a schedule of games and submit it to the Council at the Summer Meeting prior to the start of the GSWS.
    - 4) Conduct a Managers' meeting after the end of the Summer Meeting and prior to the start of GSWS play to review key information with all team Managers.
      - A) At this Managers' meeting, the AD shall provide each participating team's Manager with a copy of the rosters of all teams competing in the same division. This roster shall include complete player rating information including the answers to each question on the Player

#### Rating Guide.

- c) Implement a survey process for collecting team feedback on the performance of umpires.
- d) The AD will notify the Commissioner of the ejected player's Association
- e) Submit to the Ethics Committee at each Regular meeting a cumulative list of upheld GSWS ratings protests sorted by Associations.

#### 2.35 Assistant Commissioner

- a) At the time of a violation in the player registration system and/or process resulting in an automatic fine being assessed, notify, via electronic mail, the member association rostering the involved player with the team name and description of the violation.
  - 1) On or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the close of the event in which the fine is assessed, communicate, via electronic mail, to the member association the full scope of the details of the violation and the ability of the association to dispute the activity of the violation within 15 days of the notice by making a DISPUTE in writing, via electronic mail, to the Assistant Commissioner.
  - 2) Following this 15 day period noted in 1), any fine not appealed to the Assistant Commissioner is to be transmitted to the Treasurer for invoicing of the fine to the member association.

#### 2.4 Umpire-in-Chief - The shall:

- a) Select umpires in a manner consistent with the rules, regulations and acts of the Open Division.
  - 1) Umpires may be nominated only through the Association in whose territory they are accredited.
    - A) Each Association should nominate one or more umpires who are capable and willing to work in all divisions.
    - B) The UIC must receive an Association's umpire recommendation(s) by March 1 for the candidate to be eligible to officiate in the GSWS for that year.
    - C) Each umpire should have a current recommendation for the GSWS. Recommendations may come from their league commissioner, the league UIC, previous GSWS UIC or previous / current NAGAAA Athletic Director.
  - 2) Appoint Assistant UIC's based upon team projections, number of field complexes and budget allowances
  - 3) The AD retains the right to accept or reject any GSWS Assistant UIC and/or



- umpire recommendation.
- b) Schedule umpires for each GSWS game in a manner consistent with the rules, regulations and acts of the Open Division under the direction of the AD.
  - 1) The UIC may only umpire games in the GSWS in cases of emergency as directed by the AD.
  - 2) Teams have a right to request the removal of an umpire if he/she is from a metropolitan area or district involved in the game. The UIC will accommodate any such request if possible.
- c) Specify the uniform requirements for all umpires.
- d) Keep track of the number of games worked by each umpire and report this to the AD so that funds for their services may be properly disbursed by check.
- e) The UIC reports directly to the AD.

#### 2.5 Host City –

- a) The Open Division will enter into a contract with the GSWS Host City.
- b) Potential Host City shall:
  - 1) Complete and submit an Intent to Bid form by the stated deadline as defined in Appendix 1.
  - 2) Remit a \$500.00 deposit to the NAGAAA Treasurer prior to the start of the Winter Meeting.
- c) No association will hold a GSWS in another association's primary city without permission of that member city. See SC1.44 for primary city definition. See Appendix 8 – Greater Metropolitan Areas for specific details
- d) In the event of multiple associations bidding to host the GSWS in a particular year:
  - 1) There will be no hosted bid city parties.
  - 2) The Commissioner will set aside individual meeting rooms, at a particular time, during the Summer Meeting for a Q and A session with the bidding associations.
- e) The GSWS Host City contract is a standalone document. that allows the Board of Directors to modify the contract to meet the specific needs of the Open Division and / or that year's Host City.
- f) The Host City GSWS bid presentation shall be in the Summer Meeting two years before the event starts.
- g) No organization that is not a member of the NAGAAA, Open Division Softball, Inc. can serve as a Host City for the GSWS.
- h) In the event no association submits an Intent to Bid form for the GSWS, the NAGAAA Board of Directors will select the Host City for the event.
  - 1) NAGAAA assumes all responsibilities for hosting that year's GSWS.
  - 2) In this case, SC2.5(c) can be

suspended at the Board's discretion.

#### 2.6 Association Responsibilities –

- a) Reports – Associations must notify the Assistant Commissioner as to:
  - 1) The name of each team registered in the Association including the team Managers' names and addresses. This report is due by July 15 of each year.
    - A) Any Association that misses this deadline will be fined \$100.
      - i) This fine must be paid within 30 days of receiving written notification by mail, or electronic means provided for by the Treasurer, certified mail that the fine has been incurred.
      - ii) Failure to pay this fine will be referred to the Ethics Committee for consideration of further action.
  - 2) The number of teams the Association will send to each division of the GSWS. This report is due by July 15 of each year.
  - 3) Which teams the Association will enter in the GSWS. This report is due by August 1 of each year.
- b) See Section 5 of this Code for Team Roster and Player Rating reporting requirements.
- c) See Section 7.5(c) of this Code for Non-Resident Player reporting requirements.

#### 2.7 Team Manager Responsibilities -

- a) Team Managers will be held responsible for the conduct of their Team members at all times during the GSWS both on and around the playing field.
- b) In case of a disputed play or decision, only the Team Manager may consult game officials. The other players, coaches or sponsors may not participate in the discussion.
- c) Team Managers are to report any unsportsmanlike or derogatory acts by players or spectators to the AD.
- d) Team Managers or their designated representatives must attend the pre-GSWS Managers' meeting on behalf of his/her team.
- e) If the manager named on the team's GSWS roster will not be managing the team in the GSWS, a proxy manager must be named at the Manager's Meeting.
- f) Verify the accuracy and eligibility of the GSWS roster.

#### 2.8 Team/Player Registration - Each member of each GSWS team shall be required to check in at registration with the Host City prior to the beginning of GSWS play.

- a) During registration, players must

- Verify their rating, non- resident and pick up player status
  - Select an LGBT/Non LGBT status
  - Review the required waiver information
  - Verify the accuracy of all information and provide their signature to complete the registration.
- b) Players will be required to present state or nationally accepted photo identification at registration.
- 1) Players should also have additional proof of legal residence as indicated in Softball Code §8.7(g)(1)(A).
- c) With the exception of the Master's Division, player registration will be closed prior to the start of the first double elimination game
- d) The Assistant Commissioner shall have the authority to allow late registration to a player with a travel delay demonstrated to be beyond their control.

2.9 Expenses - The Open Division will assume all costs directly related to the actual playing of games (specifically those listed in Bylaws §7.1). Accordingly, the tournament is an event that is administered and paid for by the Open Division and hosted by an Association(s).

2.10 Insurance - If the state or province where the GSWS is being conducted requires insurance above and beyond what the Council has previously authorized this situation should be presented in the initial bid by the Association(s) seeking to host the GSWS.

### 3.1 Tournament Format

3.2 Gay Softball World Series Divisions - The Open Softball Division shall conduct "A", "B", "C", and "D" Divisions; and a Masters Divisions with a minimum of four teams.

### 3.3 Pool Play/Double Elimination.

- a) Pool play shall consist of four games per team, where possible, with a minimum of two pool play games.
- a. For the B, C and D divisions, the pool play draw is based on team ratings.
- b. For A & B Division pool play assignments, the top three seeds will be assigned to the top teams from NAGAAA Cup in their respective division.
- c. Masters Division pool play shall begin no earlier than Wednesday except that when more than 20 teams are registered in the Master's Division then pool play shall begin no earlier than Tuesday.
- d. The NAGAAA Board will hold and publish the results of a double elimination bracket draw.

- e. Seeding into Double Elimination will be determined by the results of pool play.
- f. Any team eliminated in pool play will be assigned the lowest seed in the Double Elimination Bracket.
- g. The AD is authorized to schedule the tournament such that some teams may be eliminated on the first day of Double Elimination play.

### 3.4 Trophies

- a) Trophies will be given in all divisions.
- b) Trophies will be awarded after the conclusion of the Double Elimination Tournament
- e) Team Trophies will be given for the 1st, 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place winners for each division.
- d) Individual awards will be given to the rostered members of the trophy-winning teams in each division.

### 4.1 Playing Regulations

4.2 Playing Rules: All GSWS games shall be conducted in accordance with the Bylaws, Softball Code and any other playing rules adopted by the Open Division.

4.3 Exceptions: All GSWS games shall be conducted according to prevailing Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules for slow pitch softball with the following exceptions:

- a) Men and women may compete on the same team
- b) No metal cleats shall be worn by any player, manager, coach or umpire
- c) Run rules and time limits may be imposed. See SC4.7 and SC 4.8
- d) No base stealing in any division.

#### 1. Bats

- 1) Bats are subject to any and all testing requirements and procedures at the discretion of the Athletic Director
- 2) NAGAAA will follow ASA bat rules, including 2012 ASA Code 510(n)(06), and distribute to managers the ASA Non-Approved Bat List in effect as of the Friday prior to the start of play.
- 3) Umpires may check all bats prior to the start of each game. Any non-approved, damaged, or otherwise non-compliant bat will be confiscated and held by NAGAAA until the respective team has concluded play.
- 4) NAGAAA will observe the prevailing ASA definition for "altered bat" and "non-approved bat"; in addition:
- A) Any bat deemed to have a forged or otherwise fraudulently applied certification sticker shall be treated as an altered bat.

- B) Any otherwise-approved bat lacking a valid certification sticker shall be treated as a non-approved bat.
  - 5) Individuals and/or teams in possession of a non-approved or altered bat are subject to disciplinary action.
  - 6) Automatic penalties, in addition to prevailing ASA rules, for the following:
    - A) Altered bat: The offending team is immediately disqualified for the tournament; the player in possession of the bat and its owner are subject to a five- year suspension from NAGAAA
    - B) Non-approved bat: Player ejected from the game
  - 7) Umpires and NAGAAA officials shall remove any bat suspected to be an altered bat from tournament play. At the discretion of the Athletic Director or designee, NAGAAA may seek third-party testing of the suspected bat at its expense.
    - A) If the owner of the bat does not consent to third-party testing, the team shall be disqualified from the tournament.
  - 8) At any time, the Athletic Director may request the Assistant Commissioner convene the Protest Committee, which shall have the authority to address any matter related to bats.
  - 9) Any player found to be in a second violation of an altered bat shall be banned from NAGAAA for life with no right of appeal.
  - 10) NAGAAA will provide all bats to be used during the GSWS for all divisions, provided the cost is budget neutral. The same bats will be provided to both teams to use during competition and must meet current ASA bat rules. With the recommendation of the Athletic Director, the Assistant Commissioner will determine the specific bat models to be used and announced no later than January 15 of the year of the GSWS in which they are to be used.
  - g) Safety bases will be used on all fields when possible. If safety bases cannot be used on one or more of the fields being used, they will not be used on any field unless required by the field management.
  - h) Field dimensions – NAGAAA will not adopt the ASA classifications of an 80 foot base path and a 325 foot fence length.
  - i) The official GSWS softball is defined as the ASA 12" Slow pitch softball.
  - j) All batters will begin with a one to one count. One courtesy foul will be awarded after the second strike.
  - k) NAGAAA will not adopt the ASA pitching change from 6' – 12' to 6' – 10'. The GSWS pitch height will remain 6' – 12'.
  - l) Electronic scorekeeping software shall be deemed an acceptable scorebook format
  - m) Masters Division will not observe a second home plate or commitment line (ASA Rule 8 Sec 9d).
  - n) After hitting an over-the-fence home runner, the batter needs only to touch first base; runners need only to touch their next base.
- 4.4 Game schedule - The tournament schedule will be presented at the Summer Meeting prior to play.
  - 4.5 Forfeits in Pool Play - Forfeiting any pool play game will result in an automatic disqualification of the team from that year's double elimination tournament.
    - a) Appeals of an automatic disqualification may be presented to the Assistant Commissioner before the beginning of the double elimination games if accompanied by a non-refundable \$50 fee.
      - 1) If an appeal is upheld, the team will be reinstated in that year's GSWS in accordance with SC § 3.3(g).
      - 2) If an appeal is denied, the team is disqualified from that year's GSWS.
  - 4.6 Game Completion: In the event of rain or any other cause that interrupts a game, the game must be resumed at the exact point where it was stopped. In the event the tournament cannot be completed as scheduled, the Board of Directors shall decide how to determine the final standings.
  - 4.7 Run rule -.The ASA run rule applies to all games in all divisions of the GSWS.
  - 4.8 Home runs
    - a) The following are the divisional limits for out of the park home runs A-4 progressive to a cap of 6 with no progressive allowed in the bottom of the last inning, B-2, C-1, D-0.(in 2017, Masters Classics Division – 1, Masters Legends Division – 0)
    - b) Once a team has reached their maximum of out of the park home runs, any additional out-of- the-park homerun will be considered an inning-ending out in all divisions.
  - 4.9 Time limit - In all divisions, no new inning may begin after 55 minutes in pool play and 60 minutes in double elimination with the exception of Championship games. The team ahead in the score shall be declared the winner and the game shall be declared completed.
    - a) The start of game time, is defined as:
      - 1) The scheduled game time.

- 2) In games beginning earlier than scheduled, the time agreed to by both managers and umpire(s).
  - 3) In games beginning later than scheduled, immediately once both scheduled teams have occupied the field.
- b) In all the above cases the umpire assigned to officiate the game has to announce that time has begun.

4.10 Tiebreaker – The International Tiebreaker rule shall apply in double-elimination time-restricted games if the score is tied after seven innings or 60 minutes. At the beginning of each half inning, the batting team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning being placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner following regular substitution rules.

#### 4.11 Uniforms

- a) Players competing in GSWS games must play in like-colored shirts or jerseys with a number on the back at least six inches in height.
- b) Coaches must be neatly attired, dressed uniformly and in accordance with the color code of the team.
- c) Only authorized headgear may be worn. If headgear is worn, it must be worn properly
- d) In the event of a conflict between this section and ASA rules, ASA rules shall prevail.

4.12 No Smoking - At no time will any players, coaches or managers be allowed to smoke on the field or in the dugout.

4.13 During GSWS play, any time a player, coach or manager strikes another player, coach or manager, said player, coach or manager shall be ejected from the game and shall not be allowed to sit on the player's bench.

4.14 Any individual ejected from a game or any individual who engages in conduct identified in SC 9.3 during the time of the tournament inclusive of all tournament related events, and is identified and recommended for disqualification by a director as identified in SC1.13 or the Umpire-in-Chief as defined in SC 1.58 or SC2.4(a)(2) shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing.

- a) If the ejection or recommendation for disqualification occurs before the time that protest committees, under SC8.3 are available at the field complex(s) then the Athletic Director shall convene a panel of 3 directors, exclusive of the Commissioner, to hear the case and make a ruling subject to (c.)
- b) If the ejection or recommendation for disqualification occurs while a protest

committee is available to convene, the committee shall convene, hear the case, and make a recommendation to the Athletic Director, subject to (c.)

- c) Any recommendation for sanctions under this section shall be limited only to the tournament, inclusive of all tournament related events, and may include any sanction up to complete disqualification from that tournament.

4.15 If a player is ejected from a GSWS game, the ejecting umpire will record the player's name, team name / city and the reason for the ejection. They must provide this information to a NAGAAA official at the end of the game who must ensure the AD obtains this information.

#### 5.1 Rosters and Ratings

5.2 Rosters – Associations must submit regular season and GSWS team rosters to the Assistant Commissioner as follows:

##### a) Regular Season Roster

- 1) Each team and team member must be listed on a properly submitted regular season roster.
  - A) Properly submitted regular season rosters shall include every player on every team of an Association. Players are not permitted to be listed on more than one team for rosters that are included in consideration of the GSWS.
  - B) The players' full legal name and date of birth must be included.
  - C) Failure to supply the correct birth date for all players on all teams will result in an automatic fine of \$100 plus an additional fine of \$10 per occurrence.
  - D) The Association's commissioner and each team's Manager must verify and attest that the player eligibility requirements herein have been satisfied.

2) Deadline – Regular season rosters with player rating information must be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner via the ratings system database and registration platform no later than July 15.

- A) Associations that submit regular season team rosters from July 16 through July 23 will be fined \$100.
- B) Regular season team rosters will not be accepted after July 23.
- C) Any change made to the regular season roster ratings after the deadline for submission (July 15) will incur an automatic fine of \$100

- per athlete.
- 3) A team's regular season roster may consist of up to 20 players.
    - A) Managers and coaches do not count as members of the regular season roster unless they also serve as players.
  - b) GSWS Roster
    - 1) Teams entered in the GSWS must compete with the same roster that they submitted during the regular season with the following exceptions:
      - A) A team may add up to four Additional Players, replacing players or filling empty slots on their regular season roster.
        - i) Additional Players must be indicated as such on the team's GSWS roster.
        - ii) A team may not add a player who is named on the regular season roster of another team that is entered in the same division of the GSWS.
        - iii) A player cannot be listed on more than one (1) GSWS roster.
    - 2) A team's GSWS roster may consist of up to 20 players.
      - A) Managers and coaches do not count as members of the roster unless they also serve as players.
      - B) Each GSWS roster may name two (2) non- playing Team members in addition to the maximum of 20 players.
    - 3) Each player will confirm the accuracy and / or answer the following information:
      - A) Name
      - B) Birth date
      - C) Residency
      - D) Rating
      - E) Sexual orientation Declaration
    - 4) Failure, by a player, to provide complete and accurate information will result in the player being denied admission into the current GSWS.
    - 5) Deadline - All Associations must electronically submit final GSWS rosters with player rating information to the Assistant Commissioner by August 1 prior to any GSWS for every Association team that will participate in that year's GSWS.
      - A) Failure to submit the GSWS roster(s) to the Assistant Commissioner by August 1 will subject the Association to a \$100 fine.
      - B) No team name or division designation changes will be considered after August 1.
  - C) The ratings system database and player registration platform will be kept open to allow changes to date of birth, correct player name spelling errors and to add / delete players from the GSWS roster. Ratings and residency on the regular season rosters will remain locked
  - D) The ratings system database and registration platform will lock one week prior to the start of the Summer meeting at midnight PST. A change after this deadline and before the time stated in SC5.2b)5)E) will go before the Ethics Committee and incur an automatic \$50.00 fine.
  - E) At 5PM (local time) on the last day of the Summer meeting, all GSWS rosters are considered final.
  - F) GSWS Roster Changes made after the 5 PM deadline will incur the following fines:
    - i) Addition / deletion of players or ratings changes, \$250.00 per occurrence
    - ii) Changing misspelled names or birthdates, \$100.00 per occurrence. For the Master's Division only, the incurred fines must be assessed to the player's home association.
    - iii) Identification of non-LGBT players, no fine
  - 6) In order to be considered a GSWS team, you must have 10 players.
- 5.3 Player Ratings - Each Association shall rate every player on each of its teams using the Player Rating Guidelines in Appendix 2 and report these ratings to the Assistant Commissioner on or before July 15 of every year.
  - 5.4 Team Ratings
    - a) A Team Rating is calculated by totaling the ratings of the ten top-rated players on each team.
  - 5.5 GSWS Division Guidelines
    - a) Teams may compete in the following GSWS divisions based on their Player and Team Ratings.
      - 1) A division
        - A) All teams rated 270 or lower.
        - B) No open- roster team rated lower than 170 is allowed to play in the A division.
      - 2) B division
        - A) All teams rated 185 or lower. (In 2017 team cap will be lowered to

- 175.)
- B) No players rated over 19 are allowed on a B division team.
  - 3) C division
    - A) All teams rated 135 or lower.
    - B) No players rated over 14 are allowed on a C division team.
  - 4) D division
    - A) All teams rated 95 or lower.
    - B) No players rated over 10 are allowed on a D division team.
  - 5) Masters Division: No players rated over 15 are allowed on a Masters Division roster. (Effective 2016, Player rating limit changes to 14, team rated limited to 135 or lower.) (In 2017, Master Division will be expanded to two Divisions. A) Classics Division – Masters: All teams rated 135 or lower and no players rated over 16 are allowed on a Classics Division team. B) Legends Division – Masters: All teams rated 115 or lower and no players rated over 12 are allowed on a Legends Division team.)
  - b) Any motion that would change the division guidelines must be vetted by the Assistant Commissioner to include the following:
    - 1) How many associations are impacted with this change.
    - 2) How many players will be displaced due to this change.
- 6.1 Team Entries
- 6.2 General Regulations - GSWS competition is open to all teams that meet the eligibility criteria specified in this Code.
- 6.3 Team Entry Fees – Associations shall reserve GSWS tournament berths by paying an entry fee for its teams in an amount set by the Council at the Winter Meeting.
- a) Associations shall provide fees as directed by the Treasurer and postmarked by July 15.
  - b) Late payments are subject to \$100 fine per team, payable by the Association and due by the start of Summer Meetings
  - c) Fees shall be refunded to an Association if a paid reservation is cancelled on or before August 1, subject to the Minimum Berth Requirement.
  - d) Fees for berths cancelled after August 1, or for teams otherwise unable to field a team, shall be forfeited.
- 6.4 Host Hotel Deposits – Each Association, except for the Host City, shall also provide a hotel deposit for each of its GSWS teams.
- a) The hotel deposit for each team, or on a

- cumulative basis for an Association, shall be fully refunded to the Association only when:
- 1) the Association provides receipts totaling fifteen room-nights per team
  - 2) the rooms are booked within the official block of qualifying rooms, and
  - 3) The receipts are provided to the Treasurer by the close of the following-year Winter Meetings; this deadline may be extended by seven days at the discretion of the Commissioner.
- b) Reservations for official room blocks shall open on the first non-holiday (Canada Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July) business day of July at noon local time in the host city.
- 6.5 World Series Berth Allocation – Teams may participate in the GSWS by earning a berth through one of the following:
- a) Association Berth Allotment: Member associations are allotted a certain number of GSWS berths. In turn, each Association shall be responsible for the rules, procedures, and selection of the teams utilizing its allotted GSWS berths.
  - b) The top three teams in the B, C, and D Division receive an automatic berth in the next-higher division at the following year's GSWS, which shall not count against the Association Berth allotment, but is subject to the following:
    - 1) The team consists of at least four (4) members of the prior-year GSWS team
    - 2) The team and its players are subject to all other eligibility qualifications
  - c) The team's performance in that year's NAGAAA Cup, as explained in Appendix 5.
- 6.6 No-Repeat Rule -- No team finishing in first or second place in the B, C, or D Division shall be eligible to compete in the same or lower division at the following year's GSWS. For the purpose of this rule, an ineligible returning team shall be defined as consisting of four (4) or more players from the prior-year GSWS roster of a team finishing first or second place.
- 6.7 Minimum Berth Requirement
- a) Each Association must send at least one team to the GSWS, or be subject to the following penalties:
    - 1) An automatic fine equal to the current-year GSWS team fee plus hotel deposit, due prior to Summer Meetings
    - 2) Total berth allocation in all divisions reduced to one (1) team for the following- year's GSWS
    - 3) Suspension or termination under Bylaw 1.6(b)(5), at the discretion of the Council.
  - b) An Association with eight (8) or fewer teams shall be exempt from the penalties

under the Minimum Berth Requirement under certain circumstances. To exercise this exemption, the Association must:

- 1) Notify the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner of its intent not to participate in that year's GSWS by July 15
- 2) Not have exercised this exemption in the immediate prior two (2) years
- 3) Continue fulfilling all other Association obligations, including GSWS Protest Committee(s)

6.8 Association Berth Allotment -- By virtue of its membership and good standing in NAGAAA, each Association is allotted a certain number of GSWS berths as follows:

- A Division – Unlimited
  - B, C, & D Division – Based on the B/C/D Division Berth Allocation Table
  - Masters Division – Unlimited
- a) **GSWS “B”, “C”, and “D” Divisions:**  
The total number of berths allotted to an Association, shown in the table below, is based on the total number of teams (including non-B, C, and D Division teams, if applicable) participating in its GSWS-qualifying season.

**B/C/D Division Berth Allocation Table**

Total Teams In League	Allowed Berths	Maximum # of Berths, by GSWS Division
Up to 9 teams	3 total	up to 1 per division
10 – 19 teams	4 total	up to two per division
20 – 24 teams	5 total	up to two per division
25 – 29 teams	7 total	up to three in “B” and two each in “C” & “D”
30 – 34 teams	8 total	Up to three in “B” . In “C” and “D” a limit of Three in a division, Allocated by Association, but no More than 5 total
35 or more	9 total	Up to three per division
GSWS Host City	One additional berth in each division of play	

- b) For the purpose of establishing the Total Teams in League for the Berth Allocation Table, a qualifying team must:
- 1) Complete at least ten (10) regular-season games against other teams within its Association, including inter-league play if applicable, and
  - 2) Those games must be conducted according to the rules of ASA or a similar sanctioning body

- 3) An “A” Division team may meet its 10-game requirement by playing scheduled games against teams from other Associations, except for games played in any tournament.

6.9 Open Roster Teams – Typically, the roster of a GSWS team consists primarily of players from its regular-season roster. Under the following scenarios, however, an Association may send an “open roster” team:

- a) Any Division: an Association sending only one (1) team may do so as an open-roster team, including up to four (4) players from association(s) with which it shares territories.
- b) Masters Division: All entries are treated as open-roster teams
- c) A Division: An Association sending only one (1) A Division team may do so as an open-roster team consisting of players from any of the Association’s regular-seasons teams, including those teams participating in another division
- d) A member association without a “B” Division team to send an Open Rostered “B” Division team to the GSWS. This team will not count towards that Association’s GSWS berths
- e) An Association without a C Division may send an Open Rostered C Division team to the GSWS. This team will not count towards a team’s allotted berths.
- f) Except as described above, open-roster teams not allowed.

7.1 Player Eligibility

7.2 Participation – A player must participate in a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of his/her team’s regular season games; except for Masters Division, for which the minimum requirement is five (5) games.

- a) Participation is defined as a player included on their team’s game line up card and present in (or within close vicinity) of their team bench or dugout
- b) Should a player’s rating change during the association’s GSWS qualifying season and the rating change force the player to move to a new division, the games played in both divisions, must be in the same association, to count towards the 50% qualification requirement.
- c) Should a player’s rating change during the association’s GSWS qualifying season and the change results in the team exceeding their team rating cap and forces a player to move to another team in the same division in the same association, the games played on



both teams will count towards the 50% qualification requirement.

- 7.3 Professional - Professional softball or baseball players are ineligible to compete for any Association while pursuing their profession.
- 7.4 Age - Players must be at least 18 years of age prior to June 1st of said year; Masters Division players must be at least 50 years of age at any time in GSWS calendar year.
- 7.5 Residency – A maximum of two non-resident players are permitted on a GSWS roster; except for Masters Division, which allows for unlimited non-resident players.
- a) A player may play for any team that he/she chooses in their qualifying association, which shall be declared at the player's first registration in a calendar year-  
**"Additional changes in progress pending database upgrade completion"**
  - b) If a player wishes to play for an Association in whose territory he/she does not reside, the player will be considered a non-resident player in that Association. This decision is irrevocable until after the GSWS of that calendar year.
  - c) An Association must notify the Assistant Commissioner via the ratings system database and registration platform by July 15 of any and all non-resident players participating in their Association. Failure to electronically submit notice of a non-resident player by July 15
    - 1) Will result in the player being ineligible to play for the non-resident Association in that year's GSWS.
    - 1) The Assistant Commissioner must notify any other Association commissioners affected within 15 days of receiving notice of a registered non-resident player.
  - d) A player may not be a non-resident player for any Association if said member has participated in any regular season or playoff games of another Association during the same calendar year.
  - e) A player may not become a non-resident of player for any Association if said member qualified due to participation in a regular season and / or playoff games of another Association during the same year.

The following rules do not apply to non-resident players.

- f) Upon physical relocation, players may register and become eligible to play for a second Association, but that registration will negate the eligibility of a previous registration.
- g) If a player relocates after qualifying with his league, that player will be considered a

resident player of said league.

- h) If a player relocates prior to meeting the GSWS residency requirements in the original league, the player may continue to play for that league but only as a non-resident player.

- 7.6 Non-LGBT players - A maximum of three (3) Non-LGBT players are permitted on a GSWS roster.
- a) A team in violation of the Non-LGBT player guidelines shall be subject to disciplinary action that may include but is not limited to:
    - 1) Permanent suspension of the Non-LGBT player from future GSWS and Open Division events.
    - 2) Disqualification and forfeiture of all the offending team's games.
    - 3) One year's suspension of the team's Manager
    - 4) A minimum \$100.00 fine imposed against the team's Association.
  - b) Any Association official in violation of or having assisted in a violation of SC §7.6(a) is subject to disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to:
    - 1) Permanent suspension as an Association representative to the Open Division.
    - 2) One year's suspension of the Association official from participation in all Open Division activities including the GSWS.
    - 3) A minimum \$100.00 fine imposed against the official's Association.
    - 4) Forfeiture of all games played by all of the teams representing the official's Association prior to the discovery of a violation.

## 8.1 Protests and Related Penalties

### 8.2 Types of Protests

- a) The UIC will rule on all protests regarding the application of rules of play.
- b) A Protest Committee will rule on all eligible protests in accordance with SC § 8.5 – 8.8.

### 8.3 Protest Committee –

- a) Composition - The Protest Committee shall consist of all Council Members or their appointed designees, except for the NAGAAA Commissioner.
  - 1) If an association fails to send a team to the GSWS; they still must fulfill their Protest Committee time slot(s) or are subject to the automatic fine (see SC 8.3e).
- b) Scheduling - The Assistant Commissioner will create a Protest Committee schedule assigning times and locations in proportion to the number of teams that an Association sends to that year's GSWS.



- 1) This schedule will be distributed prior to the close of the Summer Meeting for that year's GSWS
- 2) Protest Committee members must be present and available to hear protests at the assigned time and place.
- 3) Protest committee members may change assigned times/places provided they initiate the change with another Association and notify the Protest Chair
- c) Convening a Protest Committee – When a protest is filed, the respective Protest Chair or Assistant Protest Chair will convene a Protest Committee to hear and rule on the protest. A Chairperson or Protest Committee member with a conflict of interest will recuse themselves, and an alternate will be assigned.
  - 1) At least five (5) Protest Committee members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of hearing a protest.
  - 2) There shall be no more than one (1) representative per association on any Protest Committee
- d) Protest Committee business shall discussed only be discussed with other Protest Committee members, the Chairperson, NAGAAA Executive Board or Council members in accordance with the IOG while conducting NAGAAA business.
- e) A \$100 fine will be imposed on any Member Association that does not show up and report to the Protest Chair or Assistant Protest Chair at their assigned time.

8.4 Protest Committee Chairperson – The Commissioner shall appoint a Protest Chair and Assistant Protest Chair(s) who will be in charge of all respective protest proceedings during the GSWS.

- a) The designated Protest Chair will explain and distribute the procedure for protesting a player or team to the GSWS team representatives at the Managers' meeting held prior to the start of the GSWS.
- b) Once a protest has been filed, the Protest chairperson will assemble members of the Protest Committee to hear and rule on the protest subject to the following conditions:
  - 1) Any member of the Protest Committee who is a member of a team participating in the GSWS shall not participate in any matter involving any team competing within the same division as the Protest Committee member's team.
  - 2) No member of the Protest Committee shall vote on any matter involving a team or individual from the same Association that the Protest Committee member represents.

#### 8.5 Filing a Protest

- a) No player can have their ratings protested, if the result of the protest would cause their current GSWS rating to be lowered.
- b) A protest must be filed prior to the completion of the game in question.
- c) Protests may only be filed by the following:
  - 1) The opposing team's manager of record or their proxy, named to the Assistant Commissioner prior to the tournament, or
  - 2) Any Open Division Director, or
  - 3) An Association's Commissioner or their proxy, submitted to the Assistant Commissioner prior to the start of the tournament..
- d) No protests may be filed based on ratings in the A division.
- e) When filing a protest, the protesting party must identify the player(s) being protested and the specific basis for the protest including the questions of the Player Ratings Guide that are being challenged, if any. A protest fee must also be posted at the time of the filing of the protest pursuant to Softball Code §8.6.
- f) The game umpire will notify a NAGAAA official, of all protests or ejections.
- g) Upon review of the protest filing, should the protest be denied due to an improper filing, the NAGAAA official denying the protest will provide a denial reason but may not directly assist completing the form
- h) At the time a protest is accepted, the NAGAAA official will notify the teams' Managers:
  - 1) The timing of the hearing pursuant to Softball Code Section 8.7(a).
  - 2) If a protest is based on team and/or player ratings, the potential penalty pursuant to Softball Code Section 8.8(a).
  - 3) If a protest is not based on team and/or player ratings, the potential penalty pursuant to Softball Code Section 8.8(d).
- i) After a protest is filed, the game will continue to conclusion.

#### 8.6 Protest Fees

- a) Protests based on Player Ratings
  - 1) During pool play, the ratings protest filing fee is \$50.00 and \$10.00 per challenged question.
  - 2) During double elimination, the ratings protest filing fee is \$100.00 and \$20.00 per challenged question.
  - 3) If a protest is upheld, the protest filing fee and challenged question fee(s) are returned. The Protest Committee may also levy a fine against the disqualified player's Association.
  - 4) If a protest is denied, all fees are nonrefundable.
  - 5) If only a portion of the protest is upheld, monies shall be returned based on the

sliding scale for the protest filing fee and challenged question fee as shown below:

*#of questions challenged (round robin)*

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	\$ 60	\$ 70	\$ 80	\$ 90	\$ 100	\$ 110
1	\$ 60	\$ 35	\$ 27	\$ 23	\$ 20	\$ 18
2		\$ 70	\$ 53	\$ 45	\$ 40	\$ 37
3			\$ 80	\$ 68	\$ 60	\$ 55
4				\$ 90	\$ 80	\$ 73
5					\$ 100	\$ 92
6						\$ 110

*#of questions challenged (double elimination)*

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	\$120	\$ 140	\$ 160	\$ 180	\$ 200	\$ 220
1	\$120	\$ 70	\$ 53	\$ 45	\$ 40	\$ 37
2		\$ 140	\$ 107	\$ 90	\$ 80	\$ 73
3			\$ 160	\$ 135	\$ 120	\$ 110
4				\$ 180	\$ 160	\$ 147
5					\$ 200	\$ 183
6						\$ 220

Referencing table on prior page:

- Highlighted amount in yellow is equal to the amount to be paid prior to challenge being accepted
- Column on left equals the number of questions where the challenge was upheld
- Dollar amount equals the prorated amount of challenge fee to be returned

- 6) Protests not based on Player Ratings
- 7) There shall be a \$50 fee to protest a player for non-rating issues, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- 8) If a protest is denied, all fees are nonrefundable.

8.7 Hearings – The Protest Committee will hear the arguments of both teams in order to rule on a protest.

- a) Time of Hearing
  - 1) During pool play, the Protest Committee will rule on protests as quickly as possible but, in any event, prior to the determination of seedings for double elimination play.
  - 2) During double elimination play, the Protest Committee will rule on the protest prior to the start of the next game in which either team is to be involved.
- b) Protest Committee hearings are to be audio recorded.
  - 1) The audio equipment for the protest

committee(s) hearing(s) will be housed with the Assistant Commissioner.

- 2) The tapes from the protest hearing(s) will be kept for one year and then destroyed.
- c) All player ratings from the prior year and the current year will be available for all Protest Committee hearings.
- d) The Protest Committee chairperson will begin the proceedings by explaining the protest hearing procedures to each team's Manager.
  - 1) A protest that involves player eligibility as defined in SC7.1-7.6 must include at least one member of the NAGAAA Board of Directors.
    - A) In accordance with SC 9.4(d) the NAGAAA Commissioner is exempt from this requirement.
- e) The protesting party will begin the hearing by explaining the basis for the protest and presenting any evidence to support the protest.
- f) The Protest Committee has the authority to then call for a vote to move the protest forward.
- g) After the protesting party has presented its case, the protested party will be afforded the opportunity to present evidence to rebut the protesting party's argument.
  - 1) If a player's eligibility is challenged based on residency:
    - A) The player will be asked to provide documentation of his/her legal residence; i.e. voter ID, mail addressed to residence, tax return. A photo ID alone is not sufficient.
    - B) In lieu of this documentation, the player will be asked for his/her home address and telephone number and the names of other persons residing at that address. This information will remain confidential.
    - C) If the player in question fails to provide this information, the Protest Committee reserves the right to rule the player ineligible.
- h) After the parties have presented their cases, the Protest Committee will have the authority to interview players involved in the GSWS, Association officials and Members, and Open Division and GSWS officials and umpires. Both principal parties must be notified of and afforded an opportunity to be present.
- i) When the principal parties and the Protest Committee have completed their interviews, the Protest Committee shall vote by secret ballot to determine whether to uphold or deny the protest. The principal parties shall have the opportunity to observe the voting

- process.
- j) The votes will be tallied and the parties will be informed of the Protest Committee's decision.
  - k) If the Protest Committee changes a player's rating question, it will be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner and will remain marked "y" through the following season.
  - l) Any action taken by the Protest Committee will be reviewed by the Council at the next Regular Meeting to determine if further sanctions are appropriate.
    - 1) The matter will be referred for consideration to the Ethics Committee.
    - 2) The recommendation of the Protest Committee will be taken into account in determining any additional penalties.

#### 8.8 Penalties

- a) Automatic Fines for Player/Team Ratings Violations - If a Player/Team Ratings protest is upheld, the protested Team's Association will automatically be fined as shown in the following chart and is calculated cumulatively over the entire GSWS:

Number of Questions Successfully Challenged	Automatic Fine Assessed For Each Question Successfully Challenged	Total Fine for All Questions Successfully Challenged
1	\$100.00	\$100.00
2	\$200.00	\$300.00
3	\$300.00	\$600.00
4	\$400.00	\$1,000.00
5	\$500.00	\$1,500.00

6 or more	Incrementally increasing fines for each additional question successfully challenged as evidenced by the \$100 increases for each of the first 5 questions.	Total fine for all questions successfully challenged.
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#### 1) Examples:

- A) *If one player is protested and the protest is upheld as to one question, the player's Association will automatically be fined \$100.*
- B) *If one player is protested and the protest is upheld as to three questions, the player's Association will automatically be fined \$600 (\$100+\$200+\$300).*

#### b) Other Automatic Penalties for Player/Team Ratings Violations -

- 1) If a protest results in a player rating change that causes a team to move up a division,
  - A) The protested team forfeits the protested game and the opponent is named the winner of the game,
  - B) The protested team is eliminated from the current GSWS, and
  - C) The protested team's Association is automatically fined \$500, in addition to the fines imposed by Softball Code §8.8(a).
- 2) If a protest results in a player rating change that does not cause a team to move up a division,
  - A) If a protested player's rating is increased by one point and does not move the player over the ratings cap for that division, the player can continue to play in the current GSWS.
    - i) The new rating will stand for the team's overall rating.
    - ii) The result of the game stands.
    - iii) The team whose player was protested can continue in the GSWS, provided that it is not their second loss in the GSWS Double Elimination.
  - B) If a protested player's rating is increased by two or more points, the player will be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the current GSWS. This holds true even if the rating is within the player rating cap for that division.
    - i) The new rating will stand for the team's overall rating.
    - ii) The result of the game stands.
    - iii) The team whose player was protested can continue in the

- GSWS, provided that it is not their second loss in the GSWS Double Elimination.
- C) If a protested player's rating exceeds the limit for that division; the player is ineligible going forward and can no longer play in the current GSWS.
    - i) The new rating will stand for the team's overall rating.
    - ii) The protested team will be declared the loser of the game.
    - iii) The team can continue to play in the GSWS only if the new team rating, which includes the ineligible player's new rating, is less than the team cap
    - iv) The team whose player was protested can continue in the GSWS, provided that it is not their second loss in the GSWS Double Elimination.
  - 3) If a team has three or more protest ratings questions upheld, either in one game or multiple games,
    - A) The protested team will forfeit the last protested game and the opponent is declared the winner.
    - B) The protested team is eliminated from the current GSWS.
    - C) The protested team's association is automatically fined \$500.00 in addition to the fines imposed by Softball Code 8.8(a).
    - D) The protested team, association, coach and players may be subject to further penalties at the next Winter Meeting as outlined in Softball Code 8.8(c)
  - 4) Dual protests in one game of the winner's bracket: Whenever two teams shall protest each other in the same game and both teams have at least one protest question upheld:
    - A) If the penalty for both Team A and Team B result in both teams being declared the loser, yet allowed to remain in the tournament, then the actual loser of the game will move to the loser's bracket. The actual winner of the game will advance to next level of the winner's bracket and a forfeit will be declared, thus sending the team to the loser's bracket.
    - B) If the penalty for both Team A and Team B results in both teams being declared the loser, and one team is ejected based on the result of the protest and the other team is allowed to continue based on the result of the protest, the team that is allowed to continue will move to the loser's bracket.
  - 5) Mandatory Attendance is required at Winter Ratings Workshop if:
    - A) A team lodges two or more unsuccessful ratings questions during one single GSWS,
    - B) An association has more than two protest questions upheld during one single GSWS
    - C) An automatic fine of \$100 will be assessed for associations who are required to and do not attend the Winter Ratings Workshop
  - c) Discretionary Penalties for Ratings Violations - Any or all of the following penalties may be imposed by the Council after a review has been completed at the following Winter Meeting:
    - 1) Suspension of all members and the Manager of that team from the next GSWS.
    - 2) Suspension of any individual determined to be involved from the next GSWS.
    - 3) No team from that Association allowed in that division in the next GSWS.
    - 4) Suspension of the Association's voting privileges.
    - 5) Suspension of the Association's commissioner for the next GSWS and/or any future GSWS.
    - 6) Permanent expulsion of the Manager.
    - 7) Permanent expulsion of the player(s) involved.
    - 8) Permanent expulsion of the Association's commissioner.
    - 9) Permanent expulsion of the Association.
    - 10) A fine of up to \$2,500.
  - d) Automatic Penalties for Eligibility Violations Based on Provisions Other than Player/Team Ratings
    - 1) If a player is deemed ineligible for reasons other than player/team ratings violations:
      - A) The player's team forfeits the protested game and any subsequent games in which the protested player has played prior to the resolution of the protest, and
      - B) The player and his/her Manager will be disqualified from the remainder of the current GSWS.
      - C) An automatic fine of \$500 .
- 9.1 Disqualification/Suspension of an Individual, Team or Team Member
  - 9.2 Jurisdiction – An Individual, team or Team

member shall cease to be eligible to compete in tournaments conducted or sanctioned by the Open Division while disqualified by the Open Division or by an Association provided that the disqualification does not conflict with this Code or the established policies of the Open Division.

- 9.3 Acts of Disqualification - The following is a list of acts, any one of which may be justification for the suspension or expulsion of any Individual, Team or Team member by the Open Division or by any Association:
- a) Unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - b) Abusive behavior toward an umpire, tournament official or participant of the current GSWS immediately preceding, during, or after a game.
    - 1) Any expense that is incurred by NAGAAA to ensure the safety of the NAGAAA GSWS participants will be paid by the offending member association, GSWS Umpire, participant or spectator.
  - c) Commission of fraud such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to tournament officials.
  - d) Player/Team accepting a cash prize in a softball/baseball tournament.
  - e) Receiving money or financial benefits in consideration of participating in softball or baseball competition.
  - f) Participating while knowing they do not meet the eligibility requirements of the Open Division.
  - g) Knowingly competing with players that are disqualified from Open Division play.
  - h) Accepting money (directly or indirectly) by capitalizing on athletic ability, athletic performance, or fame in softball or baseball, such as allowing the use of the player's name to advertise, recommend, or promote the sale of softball or baseball sporting goods or by accepting compensation for using such goods.
- 9.4 Disqualification Procedures:
- a) Hearing - Prior to disqualification by the Open Division or by an Association, a Team or Team member must be given an opportunity for a hearing by the Council or by the ruling body of the Association to which the team or team member belongs, except during the course of GSWS play when the provisions of Softball Code 8.1 – 8.8 shall apply.
  - b) Notification – If the Open Division is taking the action, the Open Division Secretary will notify the Team or Team member's Association, at least 60 days prior to the scheduled hearing date, electronically and/or in writing of the time, place and date of the hearing. The Association is responsible for forwarding this information to its involved

Members.

- c) Rulings - After hearing all of the evidence, the Council may take whatever action it deems necessary and appropriate in accordance with this Code. The Association must be advised electronically and/or in writing of the action taken. The Association is responsible for notifying its involved Member(s) of the ruling.
- d) Right of Appeal - A Team or Team member disqualified from Open Division play may appeal to the Commissioner who shall determine if a fair hearing was held and an equitable decision reached. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final.
- e) Timing of Appeal - Any disqualified Team or Team member must notify the Commissioner of his/her desire to appeal the decision within thirty (30) days of being notified of the disqualification. Such appeal must be made in writing and sent by certified or registered mail with return receipt requested.

- 9.5 Penalties Imposed by Associations – After a hearing, a Team or Team member may be disqualified for a period of time at the discretion of an Association's governing body for violations of §9.02 of this Code except that the following acts of disqualification require a minimum of one year loss of eligibility:
- a) Physical violence.
  - b) Commission of fraud.
  - c) Accepting Cash Prizes from softball/baseball tournaments.
  - d) Knowingly competing with disqualified players.
  - e) Receiving money by capitalizing on athletic ability or promotion of softball or baseball goods.

#### 10.1 Fines in Master Divisions

- 10.2 Any fine assessed against an association for a Violation of any rule by a player in the Master's Division shall be assessed against that player's home association. The home association shall be understood to be the association which the player is rated in and in whom the player qualified under SC 7.2.

#### 11.1 Amendments to the Softball Code

##### 11.2 Amendments

- a) This Code may be altered, amended or repealed and new Code may be adopted at a Summer, Winter or Special meeting at which a quorum is present. Amendments to this Code may be proposed as follows:
  - 1) If submitted to the Secretary in writing prior to the opening of any of the above mentioned meetings,

- 2) If in the form of a committee report, or
- 3) From an individual Member during the above mentioned meetings if sponsored by a Council Member.
- b) A proposal to amend this Code requires a majority vote of the Council to be adopted. Voting shall follow the procedures outlined in Bylaws Article 2.
- c) Proposed amendments voted on at a Summer or Special Meeting that might affect the playing, rules, format and / or an Association's obligations to the GSWS of that year's GSWS must be ratified by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Council.
- d) At the Winter Meeting, the Council shall have the option of accepting or rejecting any new ASA rule change, addition, or deletion.
- e) An amendment shall be effective immediately after its adoption unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

11.3 Amendments - The player rating definitions, player ratings and GSWS Division guidelines of this section may be amended both in the Summer and Winter Meetings with the following exceptions:

- a) All changes must be approved by a 2/3rds vote of the Council.
- b) All changes made during a calendar year will go into effect with the following calendar year's GSWS.  
*Example:*
  - *In the Winter Meeting of 2012 there are 42 voting members of Council. 28 is a 2/3 majority. There is a motion to change the B Division so that no player rated*

*higher than a 20 can play in the B Division. The motion passes with 32 votes. Therefore, for the 2013 GSWS, no player that is rated over 20 can play in the B Division.*

- *In the Summer Meeting of 2012 there are 42 voting members of Council. 28 is a 2/3 majority. There is a motion to change the cut off for the B Division to 180. The motion passes with 30 votes. Therefore, for the 2013 GSWS, the cut off for the B Division will now be to 180.*
- c) Change made during the Winter Meeting may go into effect with the current GSWS provided that the proposal comes from the Athletics Committee and is approved by ninety per cent (90%) super majority of the Open Council.  
*Example:*
  - *In the Winter Meeting of 2012 there are 42 voting members of Council. 38 is the 90% super majority. There is a motion to change the B Division so that no player rated higher than a 20 can play in the B Division. The motion passes with 39 votes. Therefore, for the 2012 GSWS no player that is rated over 20 can play in the B Division.*
- d) The NAGAAA Secretary will remind delegates of effective changes prior to the Winter Meeting when the changes take place. These changes will also be reflected in the Winter Meeting Agenda.
- e) Changes will be included in the IOG edition published after the Winter Meeting when the changes take effect.

## Appendix 1 - Association Payment and Reporting Due Dates

Associations are required to submit the following information through the Open Division's Online Web Facility when available. When information cannot be submitted online, it must be sent via email or by certified mail or other documentable delivery service to the appropriate Open Division representative.

Payments and Reports submitted annually listed by due date:

By Opening of the Winter Meeting:

1. Association dues must be paid. For 2016 the association dues are \$250.00.

March 1:

1. GSWS umpire nominations received

April 1:

1. Current year due dates are to be posted on the web site.

July 15:

1. List of regular season teams and Managers.
2. Reservation of GSWS berths.
3. Regular season team rosters including player ratings.
4. Non-resident player affidavit.
5. GSWS per team entry fee and hotel deposit must be postmarked to the Treasurer for all berths that are reserved. For 2016 the per team entry fee is \$500 and hotel deposit is \$300.

August 1:

1. Designation of GSWS Teams.
2. GSWS team rosters including player ratings.
3. Notification to the Treasurer and Asst. Commissioner if any of the GSWS berths reserved will not be utilized. There is a complete refund of per team entry fee and hotel deposit until this date. After this date there will be no refund of the per team fee and hotel deposit.

Payments and Reporting submitted other than annually:

1. Association Contact Information Updates – The Member Association is required to update their Association contact information the Sunday prior to the start of the Winter Meeting or 30 days after any change. Failure to update this will result in an automatic \$100 fine to the Association. (Refer to Bylaws Article 8 for Association Reporting Requirements)

## Appendix 2 – Player Rating Guidelines

### Directions:

1. Read the following Statement of Purpose: *This form is intended to be used as a tool to assist those responsible for rating players so ratings may be fair and consistent across all levels of play and across all leagues in the Open Division. All questions are intended to determine if a player possesses a skill or skills necessary for softball*
2. Answer YES or NO for each question.
3. Many questions have multiple parts. A YES to ANY one part is a YES to the question.
4. Questions: All questions will begin with the phrase: DOES THE PLAYER HAVE THE ABILITY TO...

### DEFINITIONS

#### Definitions For Throwing And Fielding

OCCASIONALLY: to be able to perform the particular skill with some regularity or more often than not. (i.e. the skill can be performed 3 out of 5 times)	CONSISTENTLY: to be able to perform the particular skill with great regularity. (i.e. the skill can be performed 4 out of 5 times)
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#### Definitions for Base Running:

OCCASIONALLY: to be able to perform the particular skill with some regularity or more often than not. (i.e. the skill can be performed 3 out of 5 times)
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#### Definitions for Hitting

OCCASIONALLY: to be able to perform the particular skill, but without regularity. (i.e. the skill can be performed 2 out of 5 times)	CONSISTENTLY: to be able to perform the particular skill with some regularity or more often than not. (i.e. the skill can be performed 3 out of 5 times)
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### THROWING

Questions 1-5 are intended to identify THROWING ability, and have nothing to do with the player's ability to field the ball.		Questions #1-5 are linked. A player who gets Question #4, for example, automatically gets #1-3.		
Question 1 occasionally throw a ball through the air 65 feet or better in the vicinity of another player?	Question 2 consistently throw a ball through the air 90 feet or better in the vicinity of another player? OR occasionally throw to the proper place turning accurate infield plays against runners with average base running speed?	Question 3 occasionally throw a ball through the air 90 feet or better without a rainbow arc in the vicinity of another player? OR consistently throw to the proper place turning accurate infield plays against runner with average base running speed?	Question 4 consistently throw a ball through the air 90 feet or better without a rainbow arc in the vicinity of another player?	Question 5 consistently throw without a rainbow arc to the proper place turning accurate infield plays against aggressive runners with above average speed? OR consistently make long throws without a rainbow arc from the outfield directly and accurately to the proper base completing proper plays  against aggressive runners with above average speed?



FIELDING:				
<i>Questions 6-14 are intended to identify FIELDING ability, and have nothing to do with the player's ability to throw the ball.</i>		<i>Questions #6-13 are linked. A player who gets Question #11, for example, automatically gets #6-10.</i>		<i>Question #14 is not automatically linked to any other question.</i>
<b>Question #6</b> occasionally on purpose catch balls that are thrown to the player with a rainbow arc?	<b>Question #7</b> occasionally on purpose catch balls that are thrown to the player without a rainbow arc?	<b>Question #8</b> consistently on purpose field slow hit balls that are within a few steps? OR consistently on purpose catch fly balls that are within 15 feet?	<b>Question #9</b> consistently on purpose field medium hit balls that are within a few steps? OR consistently on purpose catch fly balls that are more than 15 feet away?	
<b>Question #10</b> occasionally on purpose field medium hit balls that are in the hole? OR occasionally on purpose catch fly balls that are more than 30 feet away?	<b>Question #11</b> consistently on purpose field medium hit balls that are in the hole? OR consistently on purpose catch fly balls that are more than 30 feet away?	<b>Question #12</b> occasionally on purpose field hard hit balls that are in the hole? OR occasionally on purpose stop line drives in the gaps from getting by the outfielders?	<b>Question #13</b> consistently on purpose field hard hit balls that are in the hole? OR consistently on purpose stop line drives in the gaps from getting by the outfielders?	<b>Question #14</b> occasionally on purpose make spectacular catches?

#### BASE RUNNING

*Questions #15-18 are linked. A player who gets Questions #17, for example, automatically gets #15 & #16  
Rating is to be determined by answering the speed element and one additional element*

	Question #15	Question #16	Question #17	Question #18
<b>Speed</b>	below average speed (>5 seconds to go 70 ft.)	average speed (4-5 seconds to go 70 ft.)	above average speed (approximately 3-4 seconds to go 70 ft.)	exceptional speed (<3 seconds to go from one base to the next)
<b>Base Running Knowledge</b>	runs past first base, but doesn't run past other bases	gets solid jump start out of the batters box; doesn't lead off; tags up; goes half way to next base on a fly ball; rounds bases with "question mark" technique	aggressive jump out of the box, makes a turn at first and goes about half way to second base on an outfield base hit; advances on a slightly bobbled ball	makes an attempt to turn a routine base hit into a double on a ball hit to a player who is adept at fielding and throwing.
<b>Sliding</b>	does not slide	sometimes slides to be safe	executes several different slides to avoid tags; slides with a deliberate attempt to break up a double play	similar skills to the above average player but achieves greater frequency of success

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## HITTING

*Questions 19-27 are intended to be answered based on the outcome – not counting walks – of each completed at bat (whether the batter reaches base or is out on the final pitch of the at bat), not based on the outcome of each swing during an at bat.*

*Questions #19-22 are linked. A player who gets Question #22, for example, automatically gets #19-21.*

<b>Question #19</b> occasionally hit a fair ball?	<b>Question #20</b> consistently hit a fair ball?	<b>Question #21</b> occasionally hit a fair ball with at least medium velocity?	<b>Question #22</b> consistently hit a fair ball with at least medium velocity?
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*Questions #23-26 are linked. A player who gets Question #26, for example, automatically gets #23-25. For questions #23-26, use the modified batting average defined in the Softball Code.*

Against	Question #23	Question #24	Question #25	Question #26
D Division	.800 or better	.900 or better	.975 or better	1.000
C Division	.600 or better	.700 or better	.800 or better	.875 or better
B Division	.300 or better (.400 in 2017)	.500 or better	.600 or better	.750 or better
A Division	.100 or better (.200 in 2017)	.300 or better	.400 or better	.600 or better

*Question #27 is not automatically linked to any other question.*

<b>Question #27</b>	occasionally hit a ball over a 300' fence?
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## Appendix 3 – Association Territories

### A Division (Only)

For the purpose of the A Division Only the territories will be defined as follows;  
The shared territory will encompass the full Providence or State.

#### Region #1

British Columbia (Vancouver)  
Washington (Seattle)  
Oregon (Portland)  
California (Long Beach, Palm Springs  
San Diego, Silicon Valley, San Francisco  
Los Angeles, Sacramento)  
Nevada (Las Vegas)  
Arizona (Phoenix)  
Colorado (Denver)  
Idaho  
Montana  
Wyoming  
New Mexico  
Utah  
Alaska  
Hawaii

#### Region #2

Texas (Dallas, Houston, Austin)  
Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, Tulsa)  
Tennessee (Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville)  
Louisiana (New Orleans)  
Alabama (Birmingham)  
Georgia (Atlanta)  
Florida (Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, Orlando)  
Virginia (Mid-Atlantic)  
Kentucky  
West Virginia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Mississippi  
Arkansas  
Washington DC  
Maryland

#### Region #3

Ontario (Toronto)  
Quebec (Montreal)  
Minnesota (Twin Cities)  
Ohio (Columbus)  
New York (New York City)  
Missouri (Kansas City, St. Louis)  
Illinois (Chicago)  
Wisconsin (Madison, Milwaukee)  
Massachusetts (Boston, Southern New England)  
Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)  
Rhode Island  
North Dakota  
South Dakota  
Nebraska  
Kansas  
Iowa  
Indiana  
Michigan  
Delaware  
New Jersey  
Connecticut

Atlanta Hotlanta Softball League  
Georgia, South Carolina, Chattanooga TN including surrounding counties (shared with Nashville, TN and Knoxville, TN) and Charlotte, NC including surrounding counties (shared with Mid-Atlantic and Knoxville, TN).

Austin Softball Austin  
A 100 mile radius around Austin, Texas. Territory includes the greater Austin metro area, Round Rock, San Marcos, New Braunfels, Killen, Temple and San Antonio. This territory is shared, jointly, with Houston for all divisions.

Birmingham New South Softball League  
Alabama, Mississippi all locales South of Tupelo, the panhandle of Florida. This territory is shared, jointly, with Memphis and Nashville for the purpose of the A and B Divisions only. In addition, Southern Tennessee (excepting Chattanooga) is shared with Nashville for all divisions.

Boston Beantown Softball League  
Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. This territory is shared with Rhode Island. Western Massachusetts is also shared with SNE. For the purposes of the A and B Divisions this territory is shared jointly with Rhode Island and Southern New England

Chicago Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association  
To include Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

Columbus, Ohio Columbus Lesbian & Gay Softball Association  
The state of Ohio. Sharing Kentucky 120 miles south of the Ohio border to include Louisville and Lexington with Knoxville.

Dallas Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association  
Counties that are included and border to the West are: Hardeman, Foard, Knox, Haskell, Jones, Taylor and Runnels. Counties that are included and border to the on the North along the Texas State Line are: Hardeman, Wilbarger, Wichita, Clay, Montague, Cooke, Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Red River and Bowie. Counties that are included and border to the East along the Louisiana State Line are: Bowie, Cass, Marion, Harrison, and Panola. Counties that are included and border to the South are: Panola, Rusk, Cherokee, Anderson, Freestone, Limestone, McLennan, Bosque, Hamilton, Comanche, Coleman and Runnels. And, all counties located within these boundaries. Dallas and Houston will share territory for all divisions in Panola, Rusk, Cherokee and Anderson Counties. Dallas and Houston will continue to share all territory for the "A" Division, only.

Denver Denver Area Softball League  
Colorado, Wyoming, Montana

Fort Lauderdale South Florida Amateur Athletic Association  
Martin, Lee, Hendry Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, Monroe, and Dade Counties exclusively. Will share all other counties with Tampa and Orlando except for the counties specifically defined as Tampa's and Orlando's exclusive territories, For the "A" Division only, Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando and Tampa agree to share all defined territory.

Houston Montrose Softball League  
300 mile radius of city of Houston, Dallas and Houston will share territory for all divisions in Panola, Rusk, Cherokee and Anderson Counties. Dallas and Houston will continue to share all territory for the "A" Division, only.

Kansas City Heart of America Softball League  
Greater Kansas City Metropolitan area, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, W. Arkansas and Iowa. Eastern Missouri share Boone and Cole Counties with St. Louis Shared with Tulsa, OK Kansas--Southeastern counties of Crawford, Labette, Montgomery, Chautauqua, Elk, Wilson, and Neosho. Missouri – McDonald, Newton, Jasper, Barton, Dade, Lawrence, Barry, Greene and Christian counties. Arkansas– Benton, Washington, Crawford and Sebastian counties.

Knoxville K-Town Softball League  
For all Divisions: Eastern Tennessee sharing Chattanooga with Nashville and Atlanta, sharing Middle Tennessee with Nashville, Western North Carolina and Central North Carolina, sharing Charlotte with Atlanta and Mid-Atlantic, state of Kentucky sharing from Louisville to Lexington north to the Ohio border with Columbus and sharing Southern Kentucky with Nashville.

Las Vegas Las Vegas Gay Softball League  
To include Clark County, NV (including the cities of Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas and Boulder City) and St. George and Cedar City, Utah.

Long Beach                                      Surf and Sun Softball League  
The territory south of the northern border of San Louis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties to the Nevada and Arizona borders with the inclusion of the country of Mexico where it borders the state of California. Palm Springs, Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Diego agree to share the stated borders. For the A/ B divisions only, this territory will be shared with Las Vegas. For the purpose of the A division these borders will be shared with Phoenix.

Los Angeles                                      The Greater Los Angeles Softball Association  
The territory south of the northern border of San Louis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties to the Nevada and Arizona borders with the inclusion of the country of Mexico where it borders the state of California. Palm Springs, Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Diego agree to share the stated borders. For the A/ B divisions only, this territory will be shared with Las Vegas.

Madison    Badgerland Softball League  
The state of Wisconsin including the cities of Madison and Milwaukee shared with territory Milwaukee for all divisions and the state of Iowa. Madison will share territory 75 miles surrounding the state of Minnesota into Wisconsin and Iowa with Twin Cities for all divisions. For the purpose of the A Division only, Madison will share territory with Milwaukee, Twin Cities and Chicago.

Memphis    Bluff City Sports Association  
West Tennessee east to Henry, Carroll, Henderson and Hardin counties, Eastern Arkansas, Northern Mississippi. For all divisions, share southeastern Missouri with St. Louis. This territory is shared, jointly, with Birmingham for the purpose of the A and B Divisions only and Nashville for all divisions.

Mid-Atlantic, Virginia                          Mid-Atlantic Amateur Softball Association  
Virginia excluding I-95 North of Fredericksburg and counties that adjoin DC, North Carolina with the exception of Charlotte, NC, which is shared Atlanta.

Milwaukee    Saturday Softball Beer League  
The state of Wisconsin to include the cities of Milwaukee and Madison, shared with Madison for all divisions. Sharing 75 miles into the state of Wisconsin with Twin Cities For the purpose of the A Division only, Milwaukee will share their territory with Chicago, Madison and Twin Cities.

Montreal    Ligue de Balle Maxima  
Provinces of Quebec and Ontario sharing with Toronto for all divisions.

Nashville    Metro Nashville Softball Association  
State of Tennessee, West Tennessee east to Henry, Carroll, Henderson and Hardin Counties, the city of Chattanooga is shared with Atlanta, GA and Knoxville, TN and the defined Memphis, Tennessee territory. Also includes Southern Kentucky. This territory is shared, jointly, with Birmingham for the purpose of the A and B Divisions only, and with Memphis for all divisions. Also, for all divisions: Southern Kentucky and Middle Tennessee are shared with Knoxville; Northern Alabama is shared with Birmingham

New Orleans    NOLA Softball League  
225 mile radius of New Orleans, sharing Alabama locations with Birmingham

New York    Big Apple Softball League  
New York, New Jersey North of New Brunswick and Western Connecticut. Western Connecticut and Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties in New York are shared with SNE.

Oklahoma City                                      Sooner State Softball Association  
Oklahoma shared with Tulsa

Orlando    Central Florida Softball League  
Alachua, Marion, Lake, Volusia, Seminole, Orange, Osceola, Sumter and Brevard Counties exclusively. Will share all other counties with Tampa and Ft. Lauderdale except for the counties specifically defined as Tampa's and Ft. Lauderdale's exclusive territories, For the "A" Division only, Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando and Tampa agree to share all defined territory.

**Palm Springs**                                      **Palm Springs Gay Softball League**  
The territory south of San Louis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties to the Nevada and Arizona borders with the inclusion of the country of Mexico where it borders the state of California, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Palm Springs and San Diego agree to share the stated borders. For the A/B divisions only, this territory will be shared with Las Vegas. For the purpose of the A division these borders will be shared with Phoenix.

**Philadelphia**                                      **City of Brotherly Love Softball League**  
Geographic region surrounding Philadelphia, PA., Pennsylvania, West to and including Harrisburg, East North to the New York state border including Scranton, all of Delaware, Maryland North of Baltimore and New Jersey South of New Brunswick. This territory is shared, jointly, with Washington, DC for the purpose of the A Division only.

**Phoenix**    **Cactus Cities Softball League**  
**Arizona**  
For the purpose of the A Division this territory will be shared with Long Beach, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, San Diego and San Francisco

**Portland**    **Rose City Softball Association**  
Shared boundaries with Seattle: SW Washington and Oregon

**Rhode Island**                                      **Renaissance City Softball League**  
Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. This territory is shared with Boston. Western Massachusetts is also shared with SNE. For the purposes of the A and B Divisions the territory is shared jointly with Boston and Southern New England

**Sacramento**                                      **Sacramento Valley Gay and Lesbian Softball**  
Shared with San Francisco, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties

**San Diego**    **America's Finest City Softball League**  
The territory south of the northern border of San Louis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties to the Nevada and Arizona borders with the inclusion of the country of Mexico where it borders the state of California. Palm Springs, Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Diego agree to share the stated borders. For the A/ B divisions only, this territory will be shared with Las Vegas. For the purpose of the A division these borders will be shared with Phoenix.

**San Francisco**                                      **San Francisco Gay Softball League**  
The territory north of the northern border of San Louis Obispo to the California / Oregon border For the A/B divisions San Francisco and Las Vegas will share a territory. For the purpose of the A division these borders will be shared with Phoenix. Will share the following counties with Sacramento for all divisions El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano Sutter, Yolo and Yuba

**Silicon Valley**                                      **Silicon Valley Softball League**  
Shared with San Francisco: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marion, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma Counties For the A/B Divisions this territory will be shared with Las Vegas

**Seattle**    **Emerald City Softball Association**  
Shared boundaries with Portland: SW Washington, Oregon, Idaho and shared with Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

**Southern New England**                                      **Southern New England Friendship League**  
Entire state of Connecticut, Western Massachusetts (including Springfield), Westchester County, New York and Eastern New York including Putnam and Dutchess Counties. Western Connecticut and New York State references are shared with New York. Western Massachusetts is shared with Boston and Rhode Island. For the purposes of the A and B Divisions the territory is shared jointly with Boston and Rhode Island

**St. Louis**    **St. Louis Gay and Lesbian Association of Summer Softball** Eastern Missouri share Boone and Cole Counties with Kansas City – Share with Chicago, city of Springfield and all Illinois counties south of Springfield. For all divisions, share southeastern Missouri with Memphis.

**Tampa**    **Suncoast Softball League**  
Citrus, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties exclusively. Will share all other counties with Ft. Lauderdale and Orlando except for the counties specifically defined as Ft. Lauderdale's and Orlando's exclusive territories For the "A" Division only, Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando and Tampa agree to share all defined territory.

Tulsa Tulsa Metro Softball League  
Oklahoma – shared with Oklahoma City, Kansas – shared with Kansas City -Southeastern counties of Crawford, Labette, Montgomery, Chautauqua, Elk, Wilson, and Neosho. Missouri – shared with Kansas City – McDonald, Newton, Jasper, Barton, Dade, Lawrence, Barry, Greene and Christian.  
Arkansas – shared with Kansas City Benton, Washington, Crawford and Sebastian.

Vancouver  
Shared with Seattle: Northern Washington and British Columbia

## Appendix 4 – Conflict of Interest Policy

### Article One -- Purpose

The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (NAGAAA Open Division 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.

### Article Two -- Definitions

#### 1. 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.

#### 2. Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement,
- b. A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c. 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. Under Article III, Section 2, 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.

### Article Three -- Procedures

#### 1. 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.

#### 2. 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.

#### 3. 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.
- 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.



4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

- a. 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 member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation 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.

**Article Four – 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, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

**Article Five -- Compensation**

- a. 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.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c. 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.

**Article Six – 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 conflicts of interest policy,
- 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.

**Article Seven – 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 inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

**Article Eight – Use Of Outside Experts**

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, NAGAAA Open Division 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.

## Appendix 5 – NAGAAA Cup

Hosted by the Open Division, the NAGAAA Cup is an invitational tournament that is designed to increase GSWS participation by the A and B Divisions.

- 1) The NAGAAA Cup will consist of 24 to 32 teams, depending on field logistics.
- 2) Invitations will be given to all A Division teams and the top B Division teams from the previous year's GSWS
- 3) The NAGAAA Board will determine the location of the NAGAAA Cup.
- 4) The NAGAAA Cup will be held between January 1 and June 1 of the same year as the GSWS.
- 5) Teams that have been invited must have 4 members of their GSWS roster to be considered eligible for play in the NAGAAA Cup.
- 6) All teams will pay a fee for participating in the NAGAAA Cup.
- 7) After the deadline for acceptance has passed, the NAGAAA Assistant Commissioner will then issue invitations to any new A Division Team that has formed before April 1st of that year and then the remaining B teams from the previous GSWS in order of their finish.
- 8) All teams must submit their NAGAAA Cup roster by March 1st.
- 9) As this is a NAGAAA sanctioned tournament, all ASA rules that apply to the GSWS, likewise apply to this tournament. All rules governing the GSWS as found in the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance also apply. Should there be a rule or procedure in this appendix, it will supersede either the ASA rules and / or the NAGAAA IOG
- 10) Regardless of their overall NAGAAA Cup standing, the 3 highest placing A and B Division teams will receive an automatic berth into that year's GSWS.
- 11) GSWS team fees for the highest-placed A and B Division teams will be waived. All other fees/deposits will still apply.
- 12) Automatic berths shall not count toward the respective association's GSWS berth allotment.
- 13) Each team is guaranteed five games.
- 14) Pool play will have a mixture of A and B Division teams.
- 15) All ties in pool play stand.
- 16) Home team will be decided by a double flip for all games.
- 17) The Home team is the official scorekeeper. The score will be confirmed with the umpire after each half inning.
- 18) Any player ejected from a game is ineligible for play in the next game.
- 19) No base stealing allowed.
- 20) Uniforms need not be like colored. However, an Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting color at least 6 inches high must be worn and visible. Identical numbers are not permitted. Numbers 0 and 00, 3 and 03 are examples of like numbers.
- 21) A NAGAAA Cup trophy for overall first, second and third place will be awarded.

## Appendix 7 – Hall of Fame

### Hall of Fame Critical Dates

January 1	Applications open for the Hall of Fame
January 5	Calendar Year Contribution Campaign (Booster Club) opens. Chair to notify all HoF members, Council and NAGAAA Board of Directors
March 15	Applications close for the Hall of Fame
April 15	Applications and ballots sent to the Hall of Fame members for voting. May 15Deadline for returning ballots to the Hall of Fame Chair
May 31	Ballots and results are forwarded to the Hall of Fame Board Liaison
June 1	Contribution Campaign (Booster Club) reminder to be sent out to the HoF members, Council and NAGAAA Board of Directors
June 15	Deadline for Board Liaison to verify information and communicate findings to the HoF Chair June 30 Deadline for Hall of Fame Chair to notify the new inductees, nominators as to yea or nay of their nominee, the NAGAAA Secretary to broadcast the Hall of Fame recipients for broadcast to all associations and other involved individuals
July 15	Deadline for named Contribution Campaign (Booster Club) donations to be included in the Hall of Fame program booklet

### Hall of Fame Contribution Campaign (Booster Club) Donation Tier/Award

- 1) \$50 donation – dinner ticket
- 2) \$100 donation – dinner ticket and/or a HoF polo shirt/ guest ticket to the HoF dinner
- 3) \$500 donation – individual – dinner ticket, mention in the program booklet/tri-fold, a HoF polo shirt, and acknowledgement of the contribution at the NAGAAA Talent Show

### Balloting Process

- 1) Ballots shall reflect a “yes” or “no” vote for each nominee.
- 2) Three individuals will separately examine the Hall of Fame ballots (Hall of Fame Chair, Hall of Fame Secretary and Hall of Fame Board Liaison)
- 3) The voting process shall be reviewed by the Hall of Fame Chair and verified by the Secretary or their designee

### Veterans Committee

- 1) By March 1, the Hall of Fame Chair shall convene by conference call a Veterans Committee of twelve (12) current Hall of Fame members for the purposes of insuring deserving nominees are not forgotten.
- 2) By a vote of two-thirds of the Veterans Committee, up to three nominees not otherwise qualifying for induction may be voted into the Hall of Fame.

### Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

- 1) Following the Hall of Fame Guidelines, the GSWS Host City at the Winter Meeting, will make available a list of dining options for the Hall of Fame dinner.
- 2) The Hall of Fame must make a decision on the Hall of Fame dinner venue within sixty (60) days from the close of the Winter Meeting and that decision must be communicated to the GSWS Host City.
- 3) Only the Hall of Fame inductees will receive a complimentary meal (paid for by NAGAAA) at the Hall of Fame dinner.

### NAGAAA Women's Division Hall of Fame

- 1) Hall of Fame members of the Women's Division shall not be considered members of the Open Division Hall of Fame, as there never was joint voting in the original Hall of Fame.
- 2) If an individual of the dissolved NAGAAA Women's Division is currently a member of the Open Division, they may be nominated with the time that they spent as a member of the NAGAAA Women's Division going towards meeting their membership requirement.

### Suspension of Rights and Privileges

Anyone not in good standing will lose all rights and privileges, including participating in a GSWS and or attending future induction celebration dinners until it has been determined by the Hall of Fame Chair and the Treasurer that good standing has been re-established.

## Appendix 8 – Greater Metropolitan Areas

### Designated World Series Hosting Territories

Per Softball Code 2.04c), associations bidding for the Gay Softball World Series are restricted from using venue(s) within the metropolitan area of another association. The respective metropolitan area for the each association is shown below. In the U.S. these areas are the U.S. Census Combined Statistical Area (CSA), or Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) when not located in a CSA. Canadian associations are shown by their Statistics Canada Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).

Association	Designated World Series Hosting Territory
Atlanta	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Gainesville, GA-AL CSA
Austin	Austin-Round Rock-Marble Falls, TX CSA
Birmingham	Birmingham-Hoover-Cullman, AL CSA
Boston	Boston-Worcester-Manchester, MA-RI-NH CSA
Chicago	Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City, IL-IN-WI CSA
Columbus	Columbus-Marion-Chillicothe, OH CSA
Dallas	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX CSA
Denver	Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO CSA
Fort Lauderdale	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL MSA
Houston	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX CSA
Kansas City	Kansas City-Overland Park-Kansas City, MO-KS CSA
Knoxville	Knoxville-Sevierville-La Follette, TN CSA
Las Vegas	Las Vegas-Paradise-Pahrump, NV CSA
Long Beach	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside, CA CSA
Los Angeles	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside, CA CSA
Madison	Madison-Baraboo, WI CSA
Memphis	Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA
Mid Atlantic	Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC MSA
Milwaukee	Milwaukee-Racine-Waukesha, WI CSA
Montreal	Montreal (Laval) CMA
Nashville	Nashville-Davidson–Murfreesboro–Columbia, TN CSA
New Orleans	New Orleans-Metairie-Bogalusa, LA CSA
New York	New York-Newark-Bridgeport, NY-NJ-CT-PA CSA
Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK CSA
Orlando	Orlando-Deltona-Daytona Beach, FL CSA
Palm Springs	Riverside County, CA CSA
Philadelphia	Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland, PA-NJ-DE-MD CSA
Phoenix	Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ MSA
Portland	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA MSA
Rhode Island	Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA MSA
Sacramento	Sacramento–Arden Arcade–Yuba City, CA-NV CSA
San Diego	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA MSA
San Francisco	San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA CSA
Seattle	Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA CSA
Silicon Valley	San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA CSA
S. New England	Hartford-West Hartford-Willimantic, CT CSA

Association	Designated World Series Hosting Territory
St. Louis	St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO-IL CSA
Tampa	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL MSA
Toronto	Toronto (Mississauga) CMA
Tulsa	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK CSA
Twin Cities	Minneapolis-St. Paul-St. Cloud, MN-WI CSA
Vancouver	Vancouver (Surrey, Burnaby) CMA
Washington	Washington-Baltimore-Northern Virginia, DC-MD-VA-WV CSA

References:

*US Census Combined Statistical Areas:*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table\\_of\\_United\\_States\\_Combined\\_Statistical\\_Areas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table_of_United_States_Combined_Statistical_Areas) US Census

*Metropolitan Statistical Areas:*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table\\_of\\_United\\_States\\_Metropolitan\\_Statistical\\_Areas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table_of_United_States_Metropolitan_Statistical_Areas)

*Statistics Canada Census Metropolitan Areas:*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_metropolitan\\_areas\\_in\\_Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_Canada)

## Appendix 9 – Approved Softball Code Changes Pending Implementation With Database Changes

The 2016 Winter Meetings approved the below changes to the Bylaws and Softball Code that are NOT YET effective. At such time as the Executive Board certifies that a reconstructed or new database exists to accomplish the provisions listed herein, then these sections shall become effective and placed in the appropriate place in the IoG. Until that time, they are presented here so you may be aware of their pending implementation.

### SECTION 1 - CREATE THE FOLLOWING NEW DEFINITIONS, INSERT AS APPROPRIATE IN SOFTBALL CODE & RENUMBER ACCORDINGLY:

Non-qualifying Association – A member association in which a player does not maintain eligibility to qualify and participate for a calendar year's GSWS despite having played part or all of a qualifying season in that association.

Player ID – The unique identifying number assigned to an individual player in the NAGAAA database.

Qualifying Association – The member association through which a player maintains eligibility to qualify and participate in a calendar year's GSWS by that association bearing responsibility for the player's rating, eligibility standards, and compliance with the NAGAAA database standards.

Qualifying Season – The playing season of each member association in which a player and teams qualify for the GSWS and in which the player is evaluated and rated by the Association.

### SECTION 2 – CREATE SC 2.3(B) (F) AS FOLLOWS:

(f) Review GSWS rosters and the ratings database for any rostering and rating of players on more than one GSWS roster and/or ratings in more than one association and report the violation to the Commissioner(s) of the association(s) in which the player is rostered and rated, the Commissioner of NAGAAA, the Membership Committee, and the Ethics Committee.

### SECTION 3 – CREATE SC 5.2(B) (3) (F) AS FOLLOWS:

5.2(b) (3) Each player will confirm the accuracy and / or answer the following information:

- A) Name
- B) Birth date
- C) Residency
- D) Rating
- E) Sexual orientation Declaration
- F) Declare any and all associations in which the player played during the qualifying seasons for that years' GSWS.

### SECTION 4 - AMEND SC 5.3 AS FOLLOWS:

#### 5.3 Player Ratings & Database Entry –

- a) Each Association shall rate every player, who has declared that association as the player's qualifying association, on each of its teams using the Player Rating

Guidelines in Appendix 2 and report these ratings to the Assistant Commissioner on or before July 15 of every year.

b) Only a player's qualifying association shall rate that player for the purposes of the NAGAAA database, and the qualifying association shall be responsible to ensure that the player exists only once in the database with a single Player ID attributed to the player. The qualifying association bears all responsibility for the accuracy of all data attributed and attached to the player. A qualifying association, upon discovering a duplicate player entry, shall notify the Assistant Commissioner to have the duplications merged into one player identity.

c) In the case of a player who plays in multiple associations, the player shall be listed on a team's regular season roster in the non-qualifying association under the provisions of SC 5.2(a), but the non-qualifying association shall not recreate the player with a separate Player ID nor alter the rating assigned that player by the qualifying association or any data entered by any other association.

d) Any association violating the provisions in this section shall be required to attend the next available Registration & Database Workshop after the violation has been noted by the Athletic Director and shall also be subject to penalties listed in SC 8.8(c)

### SECTION 6- CREATE SC 7.7 AS FOLLOWS:

7.7 Player & Associations Requirements of Registering in an Association – Player registration in any NAGAAA member association for play during a qualifying season is subject to the following:

a) At the first registration for a season in a calendar year in which a player registers in any association, the player must declare which NAGAAA member association is that player's qualifying association and any other association that player has, will, or may play in all or part of a qualifying season in that calendar year. A player who only registers and declares in one association shall consider that association that player's qualifying association.

b) At any subsequent registration in that calendar year, the player shall declare to the association in which the player is registering, that player's qualifying association and any other association that player has, will, or may play all or part of a qualifying season.

c) The player shall make declaration to NAGAAA of any association(s) played in pursuant to SC 5.2(b) (3) (f).

d) Any association, registering a player as a non-qualifying association, shall immediately inform, in writing via electronic mail, that player's qualifying association of the player's registration.

e) If applicable, the qualifying association, upon receiving the registration of a player declaring the association that player's qualifying association or receiving the notice in (d) of the player's declaration made in (a) shall request, in writing via electronic mail, a transfer of the player in the NAGAAA database to their association for control of the player's rating and eligibility under SC 5.3.

f) If applicable, any association which is declared as the qualifying association of a player, and that player fails to register in that association, the association shall immediately transfer the player to one of the player's declared non-qualifying associations as chosen by the player which shall become the player's qualifying association.

g) Any and all associations, which receive a valid request for transfer of a player in the NAGAAA database, shall perform the transfer as soon as practicable and without delay, but not later than 30 days after the transfer request has been made or July 10<sup>th</sup>, whichever comes first, so as not to hinder the duty of the qualifying association under SC 5.3. All associations are expected to maintain open and timely communication between associations to foster correct and accurate registration and declarations of players.

h) Any association violating the provisions in this section shall be required to attend the next available Registration & Database Workshop after the violation has been noted by the Assistant Commissioner and shall also be subject to penalties listed in SC 8.8(c).

#### **SECTION 7 - AMEND SC 8.8(c) AS FOLLOWS:**

8.8 (c) Discretionary Penalties for Ratings & Database Violations  
- Any or all of the following penalties may be imposed by the Council after a review has been completed at the following Winter Meeting:

- 1) Suspension of all members and the Manager of that team from the next GSWS.
- 2) Suspension of any individual determined to be involved from the next GSWS.
- 3) No team from that Association allowed in that division in the next GSWS.
- 4) Suspension of the Association's voting privileges.

- 5) Suspension of the Association's commissioner for the next GSWS and/or any future GSWS.
- 6) Permanent expulsion of the Manager.
- 7) Permanent expulsion of the player(s) involved.
- 8) Permanent expulsion of the Association's commissioner.
- 9) Permanent expulsion of the Association.
- 10) A fine of up to \$2,500.

#### **SECTION 8 - MOTION TO INSTRUCT THE BOARD**

The Council hereby instructs the NAGAAA Board to accomplish the following in implementing the proposal:

- 1) Direct the Secretary to issue the following suggestions, and any others the board deems necessary and appropriate, to the member associations to aid leagues in complying with the new registration requirements in new SC 7.7 and avoid penalties:
  - a. It is suggested to each member association that you review every part of your current registration processes, forms, and materials for any possible changes that are needed to comply with the new registration requirements under SC 7.7.
  - b. It is suggested to each member association that you update your registration forms, to include a required field where players declare their qualifying association and any other association that they plan to, have, or may play softball (even one game) in during that calendar year.
  - c. It is suggested to each member association, that you query a player submitting registration to your league as a qualifying association on which member association in the past calendar year, if any, will have rated that player and registered them in the NAGAAA database and to make an immediate request for a transfer of that player to the former league. It is suggested you copy the Assistant Commissioner on the transfer request.
  - d. It is further suggested that your association take due diligence to see that the data you are required to collect under your membership in NAGAAA is accurate and fulfills the needs set forth in this resolution.

## CHANGE SUMMARY

The following changes enacted at the 2016 NAGAAA Winter Meetings are reflected in this document versus the most recent prior version.

Meeting Motion	Summary of Change	IOG Section Changed	Description
Motion 3	Merge Competition and Athletics Committees	ByLaw 3.9(h) ByLaw 4.3 SC 11.3	Remove references to Competition Committee Redefine the duties of the Athletics Committee
Motion 13	Allow a courtesy runner	Appd. 5 (19)	Eliminate wording for no courtesy runner allowed
Motion 14	Allow a courtesy runner	SC 4.3(m)	Eliminate (m) referring to courtesy runner
Motion 18	Modify Hard Hit Ball	SC 1.18	Add wording for a ground ball
Motion 19	Modify In the Gap	SC 1.24	add wording of steps to radius
Motion 20	Modify In the Hole	SC 1.25	add wording of steps to radius
Motion 21	Modify Long Throw	SC 1.31	Add wording for In the air
Motion 22	Modify Medium Hit Ball	SC 1.33	Add wording for a ground ball
Motion 23	Modify Medium Velocity	SC 1.34	Add wording for a ground ball
Motion 25	Modify Slow Hit Ball	SC 1.51	Add wording for a ground ball
Motion 27	Modify No Repeat Rule	SC 6.6	Add wording for finishing first or second place
Motion 29	Masters to Start on Tuesday	SC 3.3c	If there are more than 20 teams than Masters Division pool play to begin on Tuesday
Motion 33	Two Masters Divisions beginning in 2017	SC 5.5(a)(5)	Classic and Legend divisions with player and team rating caps
Motion 36	Masters Division Home Run limit	SC 4.8	Limit to 1 over the fence
Motion 37	Defining Modified On Base Percentage	SC 1.6 SC 1.8 SC 1.22 SC 1.36 App. 2	Defining At-Bat Defining Base Safely reached on Error Defining a Hit Defining a Modified batting average Adding wording for Modified batting average
Motion 38	Running Questions	App. 2 - Q15-18	Delete the Use of Base Coach
Motion 45	Change to Question 23 in 2017	App. 2 - Q 23	In 2017, B Division changes to .400, A Division changes to .200
Motion 56	Notification of Automatic fine during registration	SC 2.35	Describes process of notification to Association
Motion 59	Team fees for 2016	App. 1	Team fees for 2016 are \$500
Motion 62	Hall of Fame	App. 7	Remove Item 4 - Contribution Campaign Donation



Motion 63	Splitting the Role of Assistant Commissioner and Athletic Director	ByLaw 3.8(k) ByLaw 3.9 SC 2.3 SC 4.3(1)(8) SC 4.3(1)(10) SC 4.5(a) SC 8.3(b) SC 8.4	Appointment of Athletic Director Eliminating Athletic Director Role from Asst. Comm. Remove reference to Assistant Commissioner Refer to Assistant Commissioner to convene Assistant Commissioner to determine bat models Appeals to be presented to Asst. Commissioner Assistant Commissioner to create Protest Comte. Assistant Commissioner appoints Protest Chair
Motion 65	Equal time for Candidates	ByLaw 3.3(k)	Cannot use official social media, asset or assets to support or oppose a candidate
Motion 67	Multiple Association Players Questions	SC 7.5 and App. 9	Allows a player to play In multiple associations as long as a qualifying association is declared prior to the first registration of the year. Appendix 9 created to outline future changes when database is updated.
Motion 68	Payment of Automatic fines	ByLaw 7.5 SC 5.2(b)(5)(F)(iv)	Remove reference to SC 5.2(b)(5)(f)  Removed
Motion 71	Add Montana to Denver	Appd. 3	Add State of Montana to Denver Territory