

# By-Laws/Waiver

## **NORTH COUNTY SENIOR SOFTBALL RECREATIONAL LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

Version May 13, 2025

### ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

1.1 The name of this organization is the North County Senior Softball Recreational League.

1.2 The purpose of the League is to provide an opportunity for anyone 55 years or older to play recreational softball. It does not discriminate because of race, religion, or gender.

### ARTICLE II – MEMBERS

2.1 Eligibility. Players will be eligible to become members of this League the calendar year of their 55<sup>th</sup> birthday. Players will be asked to present official documents to verify eligibility.

2.1.a Prior to team assignments, all prospective members of the League shall complete and sign a membership/Code of Conduct (COC)/liability waiver form and emergency contact/medical information for to be filed with the Board of Commissioners (BOC). Assignments are not based upon a player's geographic location or preference. Players cannot refuse team assignments but may request a trade. See below for details.

2.2. Player Definitions All players who have met eligibility and rating requirements are considered active, except players off for more than twelve months (two full seasons). Players who have been off more than a calendar year will return as New Players.

2.2.a. New Players (NPs): NPs are defined as players joining the league and eligible to be assigned to a team. A NP is considered eligible for team assignment when the NP has been fully rated by the ratings committee and has submitted the league fee and the required paperwork to a commissioner, ratings committee member or the treasurer. In the case of limited openings, eligibility will be determined on a first come, first serve basis meaning that the players will be considered in order of their meeting all the eligibility requirements of a NP provided for in this bylaw. The assignment to a team may be either by the pre-season draft, by the commissioners or via the in-season supplemental drafts.

2.2.a.1. New Players: (NPs) will be rated by the Commissioners, Managers, Ratings Committee, and any other designated players present a total of two times. This rating evaluation must include participation in at least one Monday pick-up game. Additional rating opportunities can be prior to a scheduled game by participating in a pre-game batting and fielding for both teams, as a sub from the sub list, or any other practice opportunity available. A NP must have an agreed rating established, paperwork complete and preferences noted (i.e. full-time, part-time, coastal, etc.) before being assigned. During their assessment period, new players must be able to demonstrate their ability to run from home upon batting a ball.

2.2.b. Active Players: are all players who have met eligibility and rating requirements and have been placed on a team.

2.2.c. Inactive Player: A player placed on Inactive will not be eligible to return to any league team as a regular member of a roster for the remainder of the current season. That player, however, is eligible to become a permanent substitute for the remainder of the current season. If a player has determined that they are unable to play the remainder of the season, they must consult with their manager and inform a league commissioner. They will then become inactive and be dropped off that team's roster. The manager does not have the right to keep the player on the roster if the player is unable to play the rest of the season.

2.3 Team assignments. Players will be assigned to teams as follows:

2.3.1 Pre-Season Drafts. The league holds pre-season drafts of all eligible NPs and active players for team assignments. The team assignments are effective for the length of the following season. A BOC or a draft committee shall develop draft procedures each season, draft forms, etc. The Draft date and location shall be approved by the managers and BOC. The actual draft should be performed no later than the first week after the current season ends. The BOC conducts the Draft with the assistance of volunteers.

2.3.1a If a player declares themselves unavailable to play in the games scheduled for the first 30 days of a new active season, he or she cannot be part of the applicable pre-season draft. They instead have the option to place their name in the in-season draft for the month in which they become available. (Added effective 6-1-2021)

2.3.1b Duo manager spouse/significant-other draft grid. The duo manager spouse/significant other grid is intended for significant others only. Those paired because of convenience, friendships or just wanting to be on same team are not allowed to be duos under this rule.

<u>Rating of 2nd person</u>	<u>Must pick no later than round</u>
7.0 or under	12
7.5 - 9.0	10
9.5 - 11.0	8
11.5 - 13.0	6
13.5 - 15.0	4
15.5 – 17.0	2
17.5 – 20.0	1

Generally speaking, the higher rated player of the duo should be designated as the manager (non-playing managers are exempt from this rule). Any attempt to gain an advantage from this rule by designating the lower rated player of the duo as the manager will not be allowed.

2.3.2 In Season Draft Process. During a season, there are players that want to join the league and be assigned to a team. These players consist of either new players or returning players. For the purposes of describing the in-season draft process, all players to be drafted will be referred to as new players. For the purpose of the in-season draft process, the season schedule is divided into “rounds”. A round is defined as one full cycle of games during which each team is scheduled to play one game with every other team in the league. All of the rounds together represent the full season.

2.3.2.a At the first managers meeting prior to the start of a new season, the commissioners will temporarily assign the new players to a team. The commissioners take into consideration the current team size, team ratings, position needs, and overall league parity. A manager cannot refuse this temporary assignment.

2.3.2.b On the last game day of each “round” of games, a meeting (either virtual or in person) will be scheduled by the commissioners in which a supplemental draft process will be used to allow team managers to select players for their team. The new players that were temporarily assigned in the first managers meeting will be included in this draft along with other new or returning players. These selections will be permanent for the remainder of the season. This draft process will be repeated at each subsequent in season draft meeting. However, there are no new players drafted during or following the last round of the season.

2.3.2.c The rating committee or Commissioners must notify the league Data Manager(s) of players eligible for the draft as soon as possible prior to the Managers Meeting (however, no later than 2:00 pm the day before the meeting). This notification includes submission of any new player paperwork. Managers must notify the Data Manager(s) by 2:00 PM on the day prior to the Managers Meeting of any players to be placed on inactive status. Refer to bylaw 2.2.c, Inactive Player, for proper process to formally modify a player’s status from active to inactive. Notifications should be done by text, email or voice mail to provide a time stamp. Data Manager(s) will update the Team Rosters with all data provided and publish same to Managers, Commissioners and other Managers Meeting attendees no later than 8:00PM on the day prior to the Managers Meeting.

2.3.2.d The order of the in-season draft will be determined by ranking (lowest to highest with lowest receiving first pick) a “weighted winning %” calculation for each team. This calculation is based upon the win, loss and tie data of the current season to date data combined with the win, loss, tie data from the most recent completed round. Should two teams tie with the same weighted winning %, the tie will be broken first by preference to the team with the lowest number of players, ~~and~~ second by head-to-head record, third total runs differential head-to-head and fourth total run differential for the season. The calculation of the “weighted winning %” for each team is calculated as shown in the following two formulas.

$$\text{weighted winning \%} = (\text{season to date wins} + \text{round wins} + 0.5 \times \text{season to date and round ties}) / \text{“games played”}$$
$$\text{games played} = (\text{season to date wins} + \text{losses} + \text{ties}) + (\text{most recent round wins} + \text{losses} + \text{ties})$$

2.3.2.e Team eligibility: There are three possible reasons to declare a team ineligible for a round in the in-season draft. The first reason is; eliminate any teams which have previously “passed” during the in season draft. The second reason is to prevent teams having an unmanageable number of players. That is, any team with 15 active players will not be eligible for the in-season draft. The third is to ensure that all teams have a minimum of 12 rostered players.

2.3.2.f Subject to availability of players to be drafted, any team with less than 12 active players will be guaranteed a selection in the draft. However, they are not guaranteed a first pick. Their pick sequence will be determined by the standard draft calculation above. Once the number of players to be selected equals or is less than the number of players needed to satisfy teams with less than 12 active players, the remaining teams will be considered ineligible.

2.3.2.g All teams with the full roster (12 players or more) may elect to pass selecting a player. Teams with less than 12 roster players cannot elect to pass selecting a player. If all teams pass on selecting a player, that selection will go to the eligible team with the highest weighted winning % ranking. For example, if there were 3 players remaining and all eligible teams have passed, the eligible team with the highest weighted winning % ranking would pick third, the eligible team with the second highest weighted winning % ranking would pick second and the eligible team with the third highest total wins would pick first. Ties for this process will be broken first by lowest number of active players, second by highest total wins and third by coin toss if needed.

2.3.3 Managers have elected to limit the size of teams to 15 active players. Therefore, teams are also not eligible if they have a total of 15 active players.

2.3.4 Number of active players is defined as the total roster size less 1 for each inactive player.

2.3.4a It is the Player's responsibility to notify their manager when they will be unavailable for a game(s), or a specific amount of time. This can be done in person, phone, text, or email. When a player fails to contact their manager for a two-week period (14 days) and the manager is unable to contact the player by phone, text or email, the manager may (at the manager's discretion) notify the commissioners in writing by email. The commissioners will try to contact the player by phone, text or email during the next one-week period (7 days). If the commissioners are unable to contact the player, the player will be removed from the active team roster and designated as inactive for the rest of the current season.

## 2.4 In Season Trades:

2.4 From time-to-time player trades may occur during a season.

- The Managers and Commissioners shall make their best attempt to resolve any issues or conflicts. If all attempts are unsuccessful, a player may request to be traded.
- A player may request to be traded because of player issues or conflicts (once a season)
- The manager will attempt to find a suitable trade, if possible.
- If a trade request is made by a player, all managers must be notified by the commissioner(s).
- If a trade is found, both players and managers must agree; the BOC will then be notified. The BOC has final approval to ensure an equitable trade. If no trade can be found, the player shall remain on the current team until a trade can be found.
- No trades are permitted within 30 calendar days of the end of a regular season.

2.5 Dues: Teams are required to pay dues each season to the League to cover field rental fees, League insurance, and other costs incurred.

## ARTICLE III – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

3.1 Administrative duties (day-to-day duties) for the league shall be vested in the BOC consisting of three members elected by popular vote of the team managers and current BOC. A Chair will be selected by the Commissioners to serve for a period of one season. The duly appointed Chair of Commissioners shall assign the principal collateral duties of Vice Chairman and Secretary to the other remaining Commissioners.

3.2 The BOC shall be responsible for carrying out the following list of duties, responsibilities and other such duties as may be required. The BOC may appoint league members to assist in effectively carrying out the duties and responsibilities.

- a. Set dues for each team each season necessary to meet league expenses. Appoint a Treasurer to collect all monies owed the League, pay all obligations incurred by the League and report monthly on the status of League finances.
- b. Assign NP using managers guidelines.
- c. Maintain and report regularly/semi-weekly on League standings.
- d. Solicit new players.
- e. Develop and maintain local league rules, issue written interpretations to ASA and make such exceptions to Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules as deemed appropriate for the safety and enjoyment of play. See attached League Rules.
- f. Develop and maintain a Code of Conduct (COC). Maintain a copy of all players signed forms.
- g. Take disciplinary action as described herein for any violation of the By-laws or COC.
- h. Secure playing fields in various North County cities for the conduct of League games. Ensure that all fees are paid promptly, and city use requirements are adhered to by League members to maintain effective relationships with our host cities.
- i. Provide liability insurance for the League sufficient to meet the applicable cities requirements.
- j. Develop and maintain the League Master Roster of all teams, players, DLs players. Maintain a current list of all players, and their essential contact information.
- k. Appoint/solicit players to various committees as needed.
- l. Keep accurate records of the proceedings of all meetings of the BOC and managers.
- m. Hold elections of Commissioners.

n. Conduct monthly meetings.

### 3.3 Election of Commissioners:

a. Eligibility. In order to be eligible to be elected to the BOC, a player must have no history of disciplinary action taken against him/her in the two-year period preceding the date of the election; and be in an active status.

b. Candidates: The BOC will solicit candidates. No commissioner shall manage a league team.

c. Elections. The election shall be held at the monthly meeting no later than 1 month prior to the end of the season. Elections may be by secret ballot. The proposed candidate will be approved by a simple majority of the BOC and managers.

d. Terms. Commissioners shall be elected to serve a 1 ½ year term. Elections shall occur each season, resulting in overlapping terms in order to provide continued experience. The term of office shall commence the day of the draft for the new season.

3.4 Commissioner Vacancy. If a commissioner cannot or will not complete his elected term, a simple majority vote of the BOC and managers will decide whether to replace him/her for the remainder of their term. The BOC will solicit candidates, if it is determined to fill the vacancy. The proposed candidate will be approved by a simple majority of BOC and managers.

3.5 Removal of Commissioners. A commissioner may be removed from office for violation of COC, and/or failure to perform their duties, by a two-thirds vote of a panel consisting of managers and non-involved commissioners.

## ARTICLE IV – STANDING COMMITTEES AND MANAGERS

4.1 The BOC shall ensure that the following committees are formed, and meet in a timely manner, as required. A Commissioner may be a committee member, but not chair of a committee.

a. Draft Committee –shall be formed each year to develop draft procedures, applicable forms, provide ratings to managers, etc. The Rating Committee will provide the Draft Committee current ratings of players.

4.1.b.1: Provide a rating for all players in the league. A rating committee member cannot rate himself, have any vote on his rating, or be present when his rating is being discussed.

4.1.b.2: Develop procedures and guidelines to be used to determine player ratings and provide this guideline to the managers (Refer to Player Rating Matrix included).

4.1.b.3: Use the managers' ratings AND the committee's rating to rate each player.

4.1.b.4: Once the players have been ranked and sorted from highest to lowest, the committee will do a second review of the top 20 players for smoothing purposes. The committee will also perform a review of the manager's own ratings for themselves to ensure them for accuracy.

4.1.b.5: provide spreadsheet with name, ratings, and positions to Draft Committee, managers and Commissioners, (No change, renumber only)

4.1.b.6: coordinate rating of NPs based on the same rating criteria used for the current draft year, (No change, renumber only)

4.1.b.7: other duties as assigned by the BOC. (No change, renumber only)

c. Rules/By-Laws Committee – this committee will review and recommend proposed changes to the league playing rules and By-Laws. Proposed changes to league rules will be forwarded to the Rules Committee for consideration and recommendations. Rule changes will be approved by the BOC and managers.

c.1. The procedure for rule changes or new rules has been determined that the managers or rules committee members will ask the BOC to consider the new rule or rule change. The BOC would then task the rules committee to seek feedback on the proposed rule or change. The Committee would then draft proposed wording for rules or changes that reflect the proposed change. The Rules Committee would then present these options to the managers and BOC at the "rules meeting" or whenever the BOC instructs the committee to present it.

c.2. The rules committee may not change a rule or change the intent of a rule without being tasked by the BOC and gaining BOC and manager approval.

c.3. The rules committee, however, is tasked with the responsibility to continually review and improve current By-laws and Local Rules. The Committee is asked to correct all typographic errors, punctuation mistakes, grammar errors, placement or sequencing errors, and wording that is ambiguous that can lead to confusion. The Committee will highlight these and provide corrections. These corrections will be presented to the managers for discussion and a vote for approval.

d. League Expansion/Management Committee – this committee shall develop a long-range expansion plan for the league. Factors to be considered are:

- identify maximum number of teams.
- identify available fields.
- identify maximum number of players per team.
- establish NPs assignments intervals, i.e. monthly, seasonal, etc.
- review schedules
- review needs for divisions.
- Best time to add new team, i.e., beginning of season, annual, etc.
- review need for waiting list.
- present plan to managers and BOC for approval.

4.2 Managers' duties. Team managers shall attend managers meetings, provide active player ratings each season per the Player Rating Guidelines to the Rating committee, disseminate information to their players, collect monies, ensure adequate field equipment is available, etc.

a. Assignment of Managers. Manager vacancies for an existing team shall be solicited first from within the team. Volunteers from within the team shall be approved by the managers and BOC. If no team player volunteers, the BOC shall solicit volunteers from the active players in the league. When a new team is formed, the BOC shall solicit volunteers from the active players in the league. The BOC and managers shall approve/appoint new team managers.

b. Roster Management. A key premise of the NCSS is to promote full participation of its members in all scheduled games, regular season games as well as playoff games. A player, not any manager, not any commissioner nor any other player will decide when and if a player will participate in any given game. At no time may anyone in the league other than the player make the decision to participate in a game nor request or suggest that a player not participate in a game. An infraction of this bylaw will result in an immediate investigation by the commissioners or an ad hoc committee. If the investigation confirms an infraction as taken place, the offending individual (commissioner, manager, or other player) may face suspension or expulsion at the discretion of the commissioners. If a player does not play in a playoff game due to a request, suggestion, or direction not to do so by the player's team (players and/or manager), the team that the offending individual is a member of will forfeit the game to the opposing team in addition to the aforementioned suspension or expulsion actions. This bylaw applies to a player who has been properly assigned as a substitute player to a team to the same degree as all active roster players on a team.

c. Removal of Manager. Failure to carry out managerial duties may result in removal by BOC and managers.

#### 4.3 Chief Umpire:

Duties and Responsibilities:

Administrative:

1. Report to commissioners
2. Rule Formation
3. Rule Interpretations
4. Protests
5. **Power to eject a player after conferring with the manager of the subject player.**
  - a. **This can be as a spectator of a game, umpire of a game or player of his/her game.**
6. Screening player and non-player umpires
7. Administering manager screening(s)
8. Screening of umpire complaints
9. Final approval of manager screening of potential umpiring
10. Help recruit umpires



## Education:

1. Conducts clinics (Recommended attendance)
  - a. Minimum of once each season
2. Monday mini-clinics
3. Written tests where needed
  4. Manager pre-screening of potential umpiring – submit list to commissioners and chief umpire
    - a. Knowledge of ASA/USA rules
    - b. Local Rules
    - c. Positioning (angle over distance)

## Field

1. Pre-game protocols
  - a. Ground rules
  - b. Player absences
  - c. Agreement of number of innings
  - d. Substitute player positioning (both managers agreement)

## ARTICLE V – BOARD MEETINGS

5.1 Board meetings shall be conducted once a month with the BOC and team managers. A quorum shall consist of two Commissioners and fifty percent of managers. No business shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum. The Commissioners shall call a managers' meeting, if at least, three team managers request a meeting. The BOC Chair shall notify all involved parties within ten days prior to such meeting. If less than three team managers and/or players requests a meeting of the BOC, an "expedited review" meeting of Commissioners may be called and involved parties given five days' notice.

5.2 Voting authority is vested in the managers and the BOC. All decisions will be made by a simple majority of votes by the BOC and managers unless otherwise stated in the by-laws. Tie votes shall be decided by the Commissioners. Board meetings shall be governed by the procedures set forth in Roberts' Rules of Order.

5.3 Absence of Commissioners. For parliamentary purposes only, the Commissioners shall be ranked Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. In the absence of the Chair, the next ranked available Commissioner shall temporarily chair meetings of the Commissioners and Managers. The Chair shall serve for a period of one season.

## ARTICLE VI NON-COMPLIANCE OF PLAYERS AND COMMISSIONERS

6.1 Code of Conduct: Violations of this document's intent will not be tolerated.

No Member shall:

1. a. At any time lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, verbally “attack,” or threaten to strike or curse at a member or spectator.
2. b. Be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, official or spectator.
3. c. Endanger the safety of any player, official or spectator, i.e., collisions.
4. d. Refuse to abide by an official’s decision.
5. e. Be guilty of verbally attacking and/or belittling any official, player or spectator for any decision, judgement, or action.
6. f. Be guilty of using unnecessary, potentially harmful, or harmful tactics in the play of the game against the body and/or person of any player, official or spectator.
7. g. Use profane, obscene, or vulgar words(s) in any manner and/or language at any time.

6.1.1 If, in the judgement of a member’s manager [or] acting manager or a 3<sup>rd</sup> party umpire, a member violates the Code of Conduct, the manager [or] acting manager or 3<sup>rd</sup> party umpire may remove (eject) that member from the game. A player (member) umpire can only recommend this action to the manager or acting manager. Violations of the above Code of Conduct are to be reported to the commissioners by each manager of the participating teams. The violation report must be in writing and be received by a commissioner within 72 hours from the time of the incident for review and possible action. The commissioners may take appropriate action up to and including suspension or expulsion from the league/association.

6.1.2 A member that has been removed (ejected) shall leave the field and parking area. Ejection shall not result in an out for the ejected member’s turn at bat

## 6.2 Written notices:

- a. Any written report presented to the BOC concerning a violation/incident must be made available to the player(s) involved.
- b. Reports and notices shall cause a review by the BOC and/or Ad Hoc committee. The BOC shall ensure explanations and witnesses, as necessary, to evaluate the incident. The involved player(s) shall be given the opportunity to give a statement or provide witnesses to the Ad Hoc Committee.

## 6.3 Non-Compliance Ad Hoc Committee.

- a. The BOC, after initial review of the incident report, may elect to appoint an Ad Hoc (single purpose) committee, to review the incident and report back to the BOC with their findings and recommendations. All decisions will be made by the BOC, not the Ad Hoc Committee.
- b. The BOC will select three non-involved player/umpire for the Ad Hoc Committee.

## 6.4 Penalties.

a. All written documentation will be dated. The duration of the penalty must have a starting and ending effective date. All involved parties shall be provided copies of the decision. The BOC shall keep a record of all decisions. After two years, a player's record will be cleared.

b. Offenses to the COC may require that a person(s) be placed on probation for a specific period of time.

c. The extent of action required may range from suspension to expulsion from the league.

6.5 Suspension of Managers: It is the manager's responsibility to warn his/her player when someone lodges a complaint regarding a player's behavior. A manager may be suspended for not attempting to report unruly conduct (following review by the BOC, assisted by the Ad Hoc Committee if deemed necessary.)

6.6 Appeals. Any affected member of the league may appeal to the BOC within one week of the dated BOC decision.

## ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS AND RATIFICATION

7.1 To propose an addition or change to a Bylaw or Local Rule ("Rule") any member of the league may submit a proposal choosing one of the two procedures mentioned below (7.1.a or 7.1.b).

a. A new Rule can be presented in writing during the "New Business" portion of the managers meetings.

- The proposal should cite the Rule that is to be changed by number. If it is a new Rule, cite the location in the Rules that this Rule should be inserted.
- State the desired wording of the new Rule.
- Provide a brief abstract. Describe why you feel this change or new Rule should be implemented. What is wrong with the old Rule, what would the new Rule fix?

After the suggestion is discussed in New Business, the proposal gets tabled until the next managers meeting for a vote. This allows for evaluation, investigation and discussion among the managers.

At the next managers meeting a final discussion and vote on the proposed change is permitted.

b. A new Rule can be presented in writing to the BOC at least 10 DAYS before a scheduled managers meeting. It must follow the same format as the New Business submission.

- The proposal should cite the Rule that is to be changed by number. If it is a new Rule, cite the location in the Rules that this Rule should be inserted.
- State the desired wording of the new Rule.
- Provide a brief abstract. Describe why you feel this change or new Rule should be implemented. What is wrong with the old Rule, what would the new Rule fix?

The BOC will review and present the Rule proposal in good order to the managers at least ONE WEEK before the next managers meeting

At the next managers' meeting the proposal can then be discussed and voted on.

7.2 Proposed amendments shall require a majority vote of the Commissioners and team managers in order to be ratified.

7.3 Ratified Bylaw/Local Rule amendments that are voted successfully into place may then be subject to a second vote. The second vote is to determine if the new Bylaw/Local Rule takes effect immediately or for the following season.

However, no Bylaw/Local Rule can be voted on to take effect immediately if the new rule affects the integrity of the pre-season draft, the balance of power of the league, or that gives any competitive advantage or disadvantage to any team or teams in the league.

To Download a copy of the By-Laws, go to the league website at: [ncseniorsoftball.net](http://ncseniorsoftball.net).