

# ByLaws/Waiver

## **NORTH COUNTY SENIOR SOFTBALL RECREATIONAL LEAGUE BY-LAWS** (Amended January 2020 from November 5, 2019 Meeting)

### 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. It is a non-profit organization.

### 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 may be asked to present official documents to verify eligibility.

2.2 Player Definitions. All players, except players off for more than a calendar year (January through December), are considered active.

a. New Players (NPs). NPs are players joining the league after the annual draft. Prior to team assignments, all prospective members of the League shall complete and sign a membership form, Code of Conduct (COC) and liability waiver form 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.

a.1. Assignment of new players will only be made at the first managers' meeting following the pre-season draft and will be temporary until the next managers' meeting. No refusals by managers will be allowed. Players not rated by the assignment or draft date will be required to wait for the next draft period.

a.1. Assignment of new players by the commissioners will only be made at the first managers' meeting following the pre-season draft and will be temporary until the next managers' meeting. No refusals by managers will be allowed. Players not rated by the assignment or draft date will be required to wait for the next draft period.

a.2. The in season supplemental draft selections will be made at monthly managers meetings beginning with the 2<sup>nd</sup> managers meeting of the season.

a.3. All temporarily assigned players (from the 1<sup>st</sup> managers meeting) and any new or returning players will be entered in the supplemental draft. The commissioners will compute the draft order by assigning draft points to each team based on total active player points and total win/loss records. Total win/loss records will include all current season games through the Thursday prior to the managers meetings. Total win/loss records will be used to assign draft points from 9 to 1 with 9 draft points for first place, 8 draft points for second place and continuing down to 1 draft point for ninth place.

A.4. The same process will be used for total active player points with 9 draft points for the team with the highest total active player points and 1 draft point for the team with the lowest total active player points. Total active player points are defined as total player points less points for any player place on the inactive status list.

a.5. The draft points from the total win/loss records and the draft points from total active player points will be added together for each team. The team with the lowest total draft points will pick first. Ties will be broken first by the lowest number of active players and second by coin toss if needed. After each selection, the draft points for the total active player standings and subsequently the total draft points will be recalculated. This will be handled by a dynamic spreadsheet maintained by the commissioners. Again, the team with the lowest total draft points will select a player. This process will continue until all players have been selected.

a.6. To ensure that differences in number of active players are held to a minimum, 2 protocols have been instituted. First, any team with less than 12 active players will be guaranteed a draft selection. A team with less than 12 active players is not guaranteed the first selection, but their draft position will still be determined by the total draft points. For example, if a team has 11 roster players and there are 3 players in the supplemental draft, the team with 11 roster players is guaranteed 1 of the 3 picks but the order will still be

determined by total draft points. Second, any team with 2 or more active players than any other team will not be eligible for a player so long as they have 2 players more.

a.7. All teams with the minimum full roster (12 players) may elect to pass selecting a player. If all teams pass on selecting a player, that selection will go to the qualified team (a team that does not have 2 players more than any other team) with the highest win percentage. For example, if there were 3 players remaining and all eligible teams have passed, the team with the highest win percentage would pick third, the team with the second highest win percentage would pick second and the team with the third highest win percentage would pick first. Ties for this process will be broken first by lowest number of active players, second by highest total player points and third by coin toss if needed.

b. Regular/Draft are those players included in the previous year's draft.

b.1. A player placed on Inactive, will not be eligible to return during the current season. It will be up to the manager and the affected player to determine if that player will be placed on Inactive.

b.2. The designation of Inactive status will be provided to the BOC prior to the time designated for making player assignments at a time identified by the BOC (6:00pm on the Thursday prior to the manager's meeting).

**C. Number of Active Players** is defined as the total roster size less 1 for each Inactive player.

d. Players who have been off more than a calendar year will return the following calendar year return as NPs.

2.3 Team Assignment Factors. The BOC will assign NPs draft order per managers guidelines.

-Number of active players

-Total active player points

- Team period wins/losses record

a. New Players (NPs) will be rated by the Commissioners, Managers and any other designated players present at the Monday pick-up games. A NP must attend a minimum of three pickup games, 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.

2.4 Team assignments. Players will be assigned teams as follows:

a. The league holds a semi-annual draft of all active players. The draft is normally held at the end of the year each ending season and assignments become effective January of the following year.

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

- Only players may request a trade from their manager [once a season].
- The manager will attempt 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. Commissioners may trade NPs without manager's approval.
- No trades are permitted within 30 calendar days of the end of a regular season.

2.5 Annual Semi Draft. The league holds semi-annual drafts for team assignments. The team assignments are effective for the calendar year. A Draft Committee shall develop draft procedures each year, draft forms, etc. The Draft Procedures shall be approved by the managers and BOC. Draft Committee formation should take place around October each year, so that procedures can be approved and

the actual draft performed no later than the first week of December each year. The Draft Committee conducts the Draft. Team assignments are for the following calendar year.

2.6 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 membership. A Chair will be selected by the Commissioners to serve for a period of one year. 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: A candidate may qualify for election to the BOC by submitting a nominating petition to the BOC at least 30 days prior to the date of election. To be valid, the petition shall contain the printed names and signature of at least 10 current members of the League. No commissioner shall manage a league team.

c. Elections. The election shall be held during the month of October. Elections shall be by secret ballot. When there is only one candidate, the BOC and managers may vote to waive the secret ballot requirement and determine the method to elect one candidate. Ballots will be counted and results announced at the next regular meeting of BOC and managers.

d. Terms. Commissioners shall be elected to serve a two-year term. Elections shall occur each year, resulting in overlapping terms in order to provide continued experience. One commissioner shall be elected in each odd-numbered year and two commissioners shall be elected in an even-numbered year. The term of office shall commence on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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. 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.

b. Rating Committee – duties are:

- shall develop rating procedures for the current year.
- collects data from managers on their players
- provide spreadsheet with name, ratings, and positions to Draft Committee, managers and Commissioners.
- coordinate rating of NPs based on the same rating criteria used for the current draft year

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.

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

#### 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. 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 year.

#### ARTICLE VI NON-COMPLIANCE OF PLAYERS AND COMMISSIONERS

6.1 Violations of this document's intent will not be tolerated and will be categorized as either:

a. Minor: Any member while on the field, in the dugout, or in the immediate area of the playing field that uses profanity or abusive language toward another member, or who otherwise violates the COC shall be subject to a warning. The umpire or either team manager shall have the authority to issue such a warning. It is the manager's responsibility to warn a player(s) that persistent or escalated behavior will result in a written report. Note: any player has the right to file an incident report.

b. Major: Continued violations of the COC or instances that escalate to violent arguments, physical contact or gross unsportsmanlike conduct, may be subject to suspension by the BOC. Any member, who regularly violates the rules and regulations or is so disruptive as to embarrass the league or its officers and continues to be confrontational, may be expelled from the league.

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 Proposals for amendments to these by-laws may be submitted in writing to the BOC by any member of the league. The Commissioners shall forward proposals to the Rules Committee for their review and recommendations. The proposed by-laws amendments shall be sent, in writing, to all Commissioners and team managers at least ten days in advance of a meeting at which they will be considered.

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

7.3 Amendments to the By-Laws shall become effective immediately upon their being adopted.

To Download a copy of the By-Laws, click here: [By-Laws NCSSRL as Amended 06012010.doc](#)