

Proposed DGS� Constitution Amendments

October 30, 2023

Dundas Girls Softball League

(A Division of Dundas Girls Athletic Association)

Constitution

(as amended October 15, 2023)

Article 1 – Name

The name of the organization shall be the “Dundas Girls Softball League” (DGS�), a division of the “Dundas Girls Athletic Association (DGAA)”.

- 1) All subsequent amendments to the Constitution shall pertain to the DGS�, although submitted to the DGAA.

Article 2 – Purpose

The purpose of the DGS� shall be:

- 1) To encourage good sportsmanship between members and teams.
- 2) To encourage baseball skills at a recreational level.
- 3) The DGS� is a division of the DGAA and operated on a “not for profit” basis.

Article 3 - Membership

- 1) Membership in the DGS� shall be open to all children ages 4 to 19, that are residents of the City of Hamilton, the Town of Dundas or other areas where there are no equivalent leagues. Members of the DGS� include:
 - a. Registered Members are children between the ages of 4 and 19 who have paid the required registration fee to the DGS�.
 - b. Associate Members include: Parents/Guardians of children registered in the DGS�.
 - c. Volunteers of the DGS�.

- 2) The DGSL is a volunteer non-profit venture. Participating in the league by assisting with things such as Coaching, Executive, Committees, and any other League events is expected of all members or delegates.
- 3) Age categories will be determined by Flamborough Minor Softball Association (FMSA), to correspond with Softball Ontario, as long as DGSL remains an active member of FMSA.
- 4) Players will play in their own age category (Division) unless a special request, acceptable to the Executive, is approved
- 5) Players on teams entered in Divisions sponsored by other Centres (i.e. Flamborough Minor Softball Association) must abide by the age groups as defined by that League. Depending on circumstances, DGSL may be able to submit a request to FMSA asking that a player be allowed to play in a higher or lower age group.

Article 4 – Code of Conduct

- 1) The DGSL will not tolerate: poor sportsmanship, swearing, spitting, smoking, alcohol use, drug use, physical or emotional challenges at games or practices, from any person affiliated with the League.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the DGSL to provide a safe, controlled environment in which the activities may take place. It is the responsibility of each player in the DGSL and/or their parent/guardian to bring to the attention of the League any conditions which would compromise these responsibilities. Upon notification, the Executive shall take whatever action is appropriate for the situation. For example, the Executive shall ensure that equipment or playing fields are repaired as quickly as possible or ruled unusable. The Executive shall further determine whether health or physical conditions, which may compromise the safety or well being of a player or peers, requires that reasonable restrictions are placed upon the situation and/or player(s). The Executive may request a doctor's certificate and/or a waiver of liability in such cases.
- 3) All DGSL parents are expected to abide by the FMSA code of conduct as follows:
 - a. Encourage the team as well as the individual, exhibit a positive and pleasant deportment at games and practices, offer assistance to the team where appropriate, and demonstrate respect for the abilities and the authority of coaching staff and umpires. As a result of this, you become part of the team, by extension, you have the respect of your child and his/her team. You can consider yourself part of their achievements.
 - b. As a parent, you should never do the following:

Use foul language, interrupt games or practices with personal comments, opinions or calls, make derogatory comments of any kind, use physical or verbal abuse of any kind, show disrespect by word or deed, for the authority of the coaching staff or umpires, encroach or interfere for the purpose of distracting or otherwise affecting players, harass players, coaches or other officials.

c. Consequences of inappropriate behavior by a FMSA parent:

The players are the ones who will ultimately suffer in many ways for parents' bad behavior. Investigation by non-partisan committee, followed where inappropriate behavior or action is validated, by discipline - verbal warning, written warning, game suspension, multi-game suspension, season suspension, loss of position, refusal of position in following year(s), as well as, on a personal basis, loss of respect and creditability as an individual, contributing to degradation of the image and reputation of the FMSA.

Article 5 – Executive

- 1) The DGSL Executive shall include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, Umpire in Chief, Past President, Registrar, League Rep, Member-at-large and any other such position deemed necessary. Based on interest and/or expertise, an Executive Member may perform more than one of the specified duties, but they are still limited to only one vote.
- 2) All DGSL Executive Members shall be elected to serve a term of one (1) year, commencing the day after the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 3) Executive Members will be nominated by the voting members of the DGSL in attendance at the AGM.
- 4) Executive Members will be elected by a simple majority vote of all attending the AGM.
- 5) The Executive shall meet monthly, or as necessary. The date, place and time shall be made available to the coaches one (1) week prior to the meeting.
- 6) Meetings shall be open to all DGSL members.
- 7) If an individual wishes to present information at an Executive meeting, they must inform the Secretary and/or president, five (5) days prior to the meeting. At that time, the individual shall be placed on the agenda for the meeting.
- 8) If an Executive Member is unable or unwilling to complete their term, they will be removed from the Executive and a new member appointed for the balance of the term.
- 9) An Executive Member may be removed from office, at any time, for dereliction of duty, or incompetence, by a majority vote of all Executive Members. The cause(s) of removal shall be documented and signed by the deciding Executive Members and noted at the next AGM.

Article 6 – Nomination and Voting Procedures

- 1) A voting member is:
 - d. A parent/guardian who has a child(ren) registered in the DGSL.
 - e. A person who is volunteering in the DGSL.
 - f. A player who has reached the legal age of eighteen (18) and is registered in the DGSL.

Article 7 – Duties of Executive Members

- 1) President:
 - a. Shall preside at all meetings of the DGSL.
 - b. Shall call meetings as deemed necessary.
 - c. Shall oversee all functions of the DGSL and assist in any operation that requires or requests help.
 - d. Shall act as a signing officer on all documents and cheques pertaining to the operation of the DGSL.
 - e. Will only have voting privileges in the case of a tie-breaking vote.

- 2) Vice president:
 - a. Shall perform such duties as assigned by the President. Will substitute for the president, as required.
 - b. Shall participate in the deliberations of the DGSL, with voting privileges.

- 3) Past President:
 - a. Shall perform such duties as assigned by the President.
 - b. Shall participate in the deliberations of the DGSL, with voting privileges.

- 4) Secretary:
 - a. Shall keep and accurate record of the proceedings of the League and maintain an up-to-date record of all executive members, coaches, team members and equipment.
 - b. Shall conduct all correspondence of the DGSL, keeping a record of this correspondence.
 - c. Shall notify Executive Members of their duties, as assigned.
 - d. Shall issue a record of all items discussed at meetings.
 - e. Shall be a signing officer, along with the President and Treasurer, for all cheques issued on behalf of the DGSL.
 - f. Shall assist in any operation that requires help.
 - g. Shall participate in the deliberations of the DGSL, with voting privileges.

- 5) Treasurer:
 - a. Shall collect and record all finances pertaining to the DGSL.
 - b. Shall submit a report at regular meetings and a yearly report at the AGM.
 - c. Shall be a signing officer, along with the President and Secretary, for all cheques issued on behalf of the DGSL.
 - d. Shall make available to other signing officers of the DGSL all financial data and cheques in her/his absence.
 - e. Shall be responsible for maintaining a record of registration and payments.
 - f. Shall participate in the deliberations of the DGSL, with voting privileges.

- 6) Registrar:
 - a. Shall be responsible for the organization and collection of all monies concerning registration.
 - b. Shall be responsible for signing up late registrations.
 - c. Shall be responsible for compiling a master list of all players, by division.
 - d. Shall be responsible for providing a financial report, to the Treasurer, of all monies paid, owing and waived, for registrations.
 - e. Shall be responsible for the maintenance and disbursements of the waiting list(s).
 - f. Shall be responsible for bringing forth any request for waived registration fees, to the rest of the Executive, to be reviewed and voted on, on an individual basis.
 - g. Shall participate in the deliberations of the DGSL with voting privileges.

- 7) Equipment Manager:
 - a. Shall look after the equipment owned by the DGSL, clean and repair such equipment, purchase and replace such equipment and supply an up to date copy of this inventory to the Secretary. All purchases must be approved by the Executive.
 - b. Shall be responsible for the acquisition of uniforms for team members, coaches and executives.
 - c. Shall be responsible for maintaining an equipment budget as specified by the Executive.
 - d. Shall be responsible for ordering any awards and sponsor plaques that the League requires.
 - e. Shall participate in the deliberations of the DGSL with voting privileges.

- 8) League Rep:
 - a. Will act as liaison between the DGSL Executive and any other Organization (ie FMSA) in which the League has teams registered.
 - b. Shall attend meeting of the other Organization, as required. If they are unable to attend, they will send an informed representative.
 - c. Shall be responsible for sharing all information with the DGSL Executive.
 - d. Shall carry out any duties as required by the other Organization(s).
 - e. Shall participate in the deliberations of the DGSL, with voting privileges.

- 9) Umpire-in-Chief:
 - a. Shall be responsible for organizing and co-ordinating umpire(s) for each DGSL home game.
 - b. Shall ensure that umpires are informed of the rules pertaining to each age division.
 - c. Shall be responsible for training and development of umpires.
 - d. Shall be responsible for preparing umpire payment requests and submitting same to the treasurer for payment.
 - e. Shall participate in the deliberations of the DGSL with voting privileges.

Article 8 – Annual General Meeting:

- 1) The DGSL shall have an Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the elections of Officers/ Executive Members, held each year in October. The date, location and time are to be widely circulated on social media and/or through direct electronic mailings, at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- 2) At the Annual General Meeting (AGM):
 - a. The current Executive shall present a financial statement and other such reports, as deemed necessary.
 - b. Nomination and election of Executive Members, for the coming year, will be held.
 - c. Articles of the Constitution may be amended. Proposed amendments will be decided by a majority vote of the attending members.
- 3) The Annual General Meeting will be chaired by the President or his/her designate, who will only have voting powers in the event of a tie vote.
- 4) For DGSL business, Executive Members shall have one vote, whereas:
 - a. There must be a quorum of two thirds (2/3) of the Executive present to consider the motion.
 - b. A simple majority of the quorum will carry the motion.
 - c. In the event of a tie vote, the Chairman of the meeting shall cast the tie-breaking vote.
- 5) Any person nominated for the Executive must be a member in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year prior to the election, unless approved by two thirds (2/3) majority of the members present.
- 6) Candidates for a position on the Executive must be duly nominated and seconded by another member (who is in good standing).
- 7) Candidates who are nominated but absent from the AGM must indicate, in writing, their willingness to serve.
- 8) Amending Procedure:
 - a. Proposals for changes or amendments to be made to the Constitution, must be delivered, in writing, to the Secretary, by the last meeting prior to the AGM.
 - b. Amendments will be read and discussed at the last Executive meeting, before the AGM.
 - c. Amendments will be brought forth at the AGM to be voted on by all members present.
 - d. The Executive may change the order of the Articles and Subsections to improve cohesiveness, providing the wording or meaning does not change.

Article 9 – General:

- 1) The DGSL shall maintain a bank account in its name and this account will require any two (2) of the three (3) signing officers (President, Treasurer, Secretary).
- 2) The DGSL shall reimburse all legitimate expenses incurred by Executive Members, in a timely fashion. Such expenses must be supported by an invoice, receipt or bill and the nature of the expense must be approved, in advance, by the Executive.
- 3) Each player shall pay the DGSL an annual registration fee which is to be set prior to the registration date.
 - a. The Executive has the right to waive this fee, in exceptional circumstances, after receiving a written request.
 - b. No refund shall be given after the first regular season game
 - c. The registration fee must be paid at the time of registration and verified by the registrar.
 - d. Players may not play until their registration fee has been paid or waived.
- 4) The DGSL shall supply all required equipment and only equipment specifically approved by the Equipment Manager, shall be used. Players may supply their own helmet and/or bat, provided that said helmet or bat meet current CSA/Softball Canada standards (face mask).
- 5) Any team entered in another Organization(s) (i.e. FMSA), must abide by the Constitution and Rules of that Organization. These would supersede the DGSL Constitution and Rules, if there is a conflict.