

ARTICLE 1. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

1.01 Dues

Dues are set periodically by the Governing Board. Dues for a non-playing member shall be ½ of the dues for a playing member.

1.02 Requirements

An Individual Member is eligible to play in the League provided that they: have properly and accurately registered and paid all applicable membership fees; maintains sportsmanlike conduct, follows the GDASA Code of Ethics, and respects and complies with all rules of the League; is not currently suspended from GDASA; does not receive professional consideration as either a softball or baseball player, especially by accepting money (or merchandise that is easily converted to cash) when such payments are based primarily on the individual's performance or participation in softball competition; is at least 18 years of age at the time of registration.

1.03 Member Participation Restrictions.

A member of one GDASA team may not play on the roster of another team UNLESS it is a Masters level team, playing on an Open AND Womens+ team, or as a pickup player.

1.04 Umpire Participation Restrictions.

If an umpire is to participate as a ballplayer and/or coach on a team, he or she may not officiate any game within the same division of play that he or she plays or coaches, unless prior approval from Governing Board.

1.05 Other Restrictions.

The Governing Board reserves the right to limit participation of an Individual Member or Umpire if there is a potential conflict of interest not defined above.

1.06 Individual Penalties

Individual members may be disqualified for a period of time by the Governing Board for violations of the GDASA Code of Ethics or League rules, with the exception that the following acts disqualification may result in a minimum of 1-year loss of eligibility and of loss of monies paid or due:

- a. Physical violence and or threat of physical violence.
- b. Committing or encouraging others to commit fraud (such as intentionally playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to the League or its Officers.
- c. Receiving professional considerations (such as money or cash prizes.)
- d. Competing knowingly with disqualified players.
- e. Using an altered bat.

1.07 Individual Investigations

The Governing Board will investigate any alleged violations of the Softball League Code before beginning Disqualification Procedures (described below). However, if there is no way to validate the accusations, disqualification procedures will not proceed. Instead, the members will be personally reminded of the applicable GDASA Code of Ethics, League rules and the potential penalties.

Greater Denver Area Sports Association Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

Disqualification Procedures

Disqualification procedures are constituted as follows:

- a. Hearing - Prior to disqualification, an individual member shall be given an opportunity for a hearing by the Governing Board.
- b. Notification - The individual member must be notified in writing of the time, place and date of the hearing. Such notification must be made at least 48 hours prior to the date of the hearing.
- c. Ruling - After hearing the evidence available, the Governing Board will vote on action necessary and appropriate. If disqualification or suspension is approved, the Board shall notify in writing all Board Representatives of such action being taken; and
- d. Appeal - An individual member disqualified from League play must notify the Board within seven days if said team or individual member has an intention to appeal the disqualification or suspension. Such appeal must be in writing. The Board shall at this time call for a meeting of the Board as set forth in Bylaw Article 8.03.

ARTICLE 2. GDASA CODE OF ETHICS

2.01 Purpose

To maintain membership in GDASA, members must follow the GDASA Code of Ethics. Failing to adhere to these standards may result in suspension or termination of membership or team management rights. Team Managers must ensure that their team members follow the GDASA Code of Ethics.

2.02 GDASA Code of Ethics

To honor and respect each other and our community, all GDASA community members are asked to conduct themselves per the GDASA Code of Ethics. Failing to adhere to these ethical standards may result in suspension or termination of membership or team management rights. To the best of their ability, Sports Team Managers must assure members of their team(s) follow the GDASA Code of Ethics.

Regarding SPORTSMANSHIP, all GDASA Members are expected to:

- Maintain sportsmanlike conduct before, during, and after any GDASA sponsored games/events, especially immediately before, during, and after sporting events.
- Treat all community members, opposing teams, officials, spectators, and GDASA Board members with respect.
- Refrain from verbal or physical confrontation with players, officials, coaches, managers, community members, spectators, or league and association leadership.
- Show respect for an injured player who is removed from a game.
- Support all players at their varying levels of player ability.
- Embrace good sportsmanship by accepting both victories and defeat civilly.

Regarding TRAINING & COMPETITION, all GDASA Members are expected to:

- Have familiarity with the rules of the game(s) they play.
- Respect the officials' decisions during gameplay.
- Adhere to all rules related to equipment standards and usage.
- Handle all judgments, decisions, and strategies of their team manager respectfully while in the playing area.

Greater Denver Area Sports Association Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

- Not play under an assumed name or provide false information about player/team ability.
- Allow all community members to engage in enjoyable competitive sport.

Regarding ACCOUNTABILITY and RESPONSIBILITY, all GDASA Members are expected to:

- Create a safe and welcoming environment for all community members by not intimidating, offending, insulting, humiliating, or discriminating against any other person because of their gender, race, disability, age, religious or political belief, sexual orientation, social background, ethnic origin, language, marital or civil partnership status or pregnancy.
- Accept responsibility for their conduct, their teammates, and the fans who accompany their team.
- Discourage offensive behavior towards other players, coaches, officials, leadership, or spectators, which includes the use of violence and verbal abuse.

Additionally, all GDASA Members are expected to:

- Pay all fees, dues, and debts promptly to the Association and the member's team as necessary.
- Not commit fraud or theft against GDASA, a team, or a league member.
- Not use GDASA trademarks, rights, or 501(c)(3) status without permission from the League.
- Not use illegal drugs in the playing areas.
- Not be in the play area while ability is impaired by alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Obey all laws and governing rules for the Association, tournament, and facility.
- Not engage in destruction of property, abusive behavior, or violation of federal, state, and local laws.
- Respect the rules of parks and venues while being used by GDASA.
- Encourage other members to follow this Code of Ethics.

ARTICLE 3. TEAM MEMBERSHIP

3.01 Requirements

In addition to the team membership requirements specified in the GDASA Bylaws, to maintain eligibility, a team shall:

- a. Be responsible for requiring all individuals on their team to register as an individual member on the league website properly;
- b. Not compete with ineligible players;
- c. Designate a Board representative as required by the GDASA Bylaws;
- d. Provide an official scorekeeper at each game;
- e. Have a Manager;
- f. Have a Manager (or Manager's designee) attend a player ratings workshop prior to the start of the team's first league game. A Manager's designee must be a member of the team. Returning managers do not need to attend a ratings workshop unless procedure has changed
- g. Have a Manager (or designee) attend monthly Board meetings if desired.

3.02 Inducements.

Inducements, whether financial or otherwise, by any person/s in any form to any player to play for any team are strictly prohibited

**Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions**

Last updated: 05/03/2023

3.03 Sponsor Restrictions

A team sponsor may not instruct a manager as to who will be on a team, who will play or who will start a game.

3.04 Non-LGBT Players.

We are a league that welcomes all people from the LGBTQ+ community. Although we like to see teams consist in higher proportions of the LGBTQ community, this isn't a requirement. "Non-LGBT" - (also referred to as straight, non-GLBT, non-LGBT or non-gay) means not gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

3.05 Change in Individual Member Status.

An Individual Member's playing status (LGBT or Non-LGBT) is determined by his/her declaration at the beginning of the season when he/she registers as an Individual Member. After an Individual Member has declared his/her status at registration, that status may not be changed for the duration of that season.

3.06 Unpaid Team Dues, Fees, and Penalties

Once a team is notified that money is due to the League, any future scheduled games will be forfeited by the team until all money owed is paid in full, including any money owed as a result of these forfeits. Additionally, as long as a team owes money to the League, they shall be ineligible for League playoffs and future League seasons until the money is paid in full.

ARTICLE 4: TEAM REGISTRATION AND ROSTER PROCEDURES

4.01 Official Team Rosters.

Official team rosters shall be due no less than two weeks prior to the start of the season either at a regularly scheduled or during a Special Board Meeting convened for this purpose.

- a. Rosters will be completed for Board review and access
- b. Rosters will be submitted to the Board or designated Board Member no later than the designated meeting and must be completed in full;
- c. The GDASA-approved numerical rating must be used for all players who have had a rating in the past. The GDASA-approved numerical rating is the most recent rating given the player by GDASA, NAGAAA, or any NAGAAA-affiliated league. A manager should check with their Board Representative to find a player's rating if necessary;
- d. In the case of a new player (a player who has never had a GDASA-approved numerical rating), the manager shall assign a rating. For this initial rating, the manager is required to assign at least one point for each major rating section (throwing, fielding, running, and hitting) or provide an explanation. A manager must assign an initial rating even if he or she has not seen the player play. In these cases, a manager may update this player's rating during the season as appropriate (see Article 5.01);
- e. If a manager wants to adjust a player's previously assigned rating, they must follow the procedures in Article 5 before the changes take effect;
- f. The roster must be completed in its entirety in accordance with the instructions on the form;

Greater Denver Area Sports Association Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

- g. The roster must meet the Division guidelines for team and player ratings as defined by NAGAAA for the next Gay Softball World Series (except for guidelines adopted within 30 days of the GDASA registration deadline). See exceptions for Masters teams below.
- h. Team rosters shall have a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of twenty (20) active players, and up to four (4) non-playing members, except that Masters teams may have up to twenty (20) active players.
- i. The Board or designated Board Member shall distribute a copy of all team rosters to each team manager prior to the first week of play; and
- j. The Team Manager and/or Team Board Representative must be registered as either a playing member or non-playing member of GDASA

4.02 Team Registration Requirements.

The completed roster shall be accompanied by full payment of league membership dues and bonds including individual membership fees. In addition to fees, a signed membership application and release of liability form for each active player and non-playing member shall accompany the roster indicating commitment to said team. Only fully paid members shall be listed on the official roster submitted during the Board Meeting and only paid rostered players who are members of GDASA may participate in a league game. All items are available on our website and may be handled in person if necessary.

4.03 Player Rating Adjustments.

If a player's numerical rating is needed, these must be submitted prior to 3rd playing Sunday of June.

4.04 Early Season Roster Changes.

Following the initial roster submission and prior to a team beginning play of the game that would constitute completion of greater than 50% of the season's regularly scheduled games, roster additions and deletions can be made under the guidelines detailed in Article 4.05. Such roster changes shall be distributed to all team managers before their next regularly scheduled game by the Board or designated Board Member.

4.05 Player Addition and Drop Procedures

- a. **Drop Procedures.** A team manager may request to drop a player from a roster by using the Roster Change Request Form on the league website. The form must include the reason why the player is being dropped. Permission to drop a player will be given after the Board is satisfied the change is in the best interest of both the player and the team. A player may not be dropped just for the sake of making room for another player on the roster.
- b. **Add Procedures.** A manager may add a player to a roster by using the Roster Change Request Form on the league website. This written communication must be delivered to the appropriate persons listed on the form by Friday at 9:00 P.M. prior to the next regularly scheduled game. Additionally, the player must properly register and pay his or her player fee by Saturday at midnight in order to play that coming Sunday.
- c. **Board's Duties.** The Board will review requests for all roster changes. If the request is denied, the Board must inform the requesting manager by 9:00 p.m. on the Saturday before the next scheduled game. If the request is approved, all managers within the requesting manager's division must be informed of the roster additions. Only the requesting manager will be informed in the event the request is denied.

Greater Denver Area Sports Association Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

4.06 Late Season Roster Changes.

Once a team begins play of the game that constitutes completion of greater than 50% of the season's regularly scheduled games, the following roster rules apply:

- a. No player shall be dropped from the roster except for extenuating circumstances to be reviewed in a case by case basis by the Board or as a result of a player's rating adjustment as described in 4.03 above;
- b. No new roster additions will be allowed unless the team's roster is below 12 active players except in the case of 4.06.c
- c. A player will only be eligible for play-off competition if they have played 50% of the scheduled games on the team that he will participate with in the playoffs.

4.07 At-Large Teams.

The Governing Board may form an At-Large team for a season if there are enough players who want to play but do not have a team. For At-Large teams, the following special rules will apply:

- a. At the discretion of the Board, At-Large teams will be exempt from some or all of the roster rules in this section of the Softball League Code, except as they relate to changing an existing player's rating.
- b. The Board may waive the Team Membership Fee, but team members must pay the Individual Membership Fee.
- c. At-Large teams will play against teams in divisions that the board deems appropriate
- d. Players on At-Large teams will be encouraged to finalize the team or find another team for next season. Team fee will apply for the teams 2nd season if they choose to keep the team.

4.07 Masters Teams.

A Masters team is a team that consists of players who are at least 50 years old. For Masters teams, the following special rules will apply:

- a. All players on the roster must be at least 50 years of age by December 31st of the year of the next Gay Softball World Series.
- b. Players may be on a Masters roster and on the roster of another team. However, a player may not be listed on the roster of more than one Masters team.
- c. At the discretion of the Board, Masters teams may have rosters that deviate from the ratings specifications for the next Gay Softball World Series.
- d. There are no territory restrictions for Masters teams.
- e. Masters teams will play against teams in divisions that the board deems appropriate.
- f. The Manager of a Masters team is the Manager of record for players who are not on other rosters, but they are not the Manager of record for players who are on the rosters of other teams.

4.08 Womens+ Teams.

- a. A Womens+ team is a team that consists of players who identify as one or more of the following:
 1. Cis Woman
 2. Transgender Woman
 3. Transgender Man

Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

4. Non-Binary
- b. Players may be on a Womens+ roster and on the roster of an Open team. However, a player may not be listed on the roster of more than one Womens+ team.
- c. At the discretion of the Board, Womens+ teams may have rosters that deviate from the ratings specifications for the league.
- d. Womens+ teams will play against teams in divisions that the board deems appropriate.

ARTICLE 5: PLAYER AND TEAM CLASSIFICATION

5.01 Classification Responsibility.

- a. **General.** Every GDASA player has a numerical rating using NAGAAA's player rating guidelines for Open leagues and ASANA's player rating guidelines for Womens+ leagues. See Article 4 for roster guidelines related to player ratings.
- b. **Board.** The Board is responsible for approving and reporting such ratings as required by and to other League Boards, to Tournament Directors, and to the League's team managers. The Board, with assistance from the Team Representatives, has a continuing responsibility to observe and review player ratings to ensure that player and team ratings continue to be accurate and current.
- c. **Manager.** A Manager who fails to properly monitor and update the ratings for players on his/her team, may be subject to penalties as defined in the GDASA Bylaws.
- d. **Ratings Changes.** A player's numerical rating may only be changed by using the Ratings Change Request Form and only in these circumstances:
 1. To correct a clerical error;
 2. By a majority vote of the Governing Board;
 3. By agreement between the player's team's manager and the Governing Board
 4. For adding skill points only, by agreement between a player and his team manager;
 5. For new players only, by a team manager at any time before 9pm on the Thursday before the final regular season Sunday, except that if a player is protested by an opposing team during a GDASA league game in which case that player's rating is frozen until the RRC process (not including the appeals process) is completed This applies only to players who did not have a GDASA-approved numerical rating before the season;
 6. Through the Ratings Review Process described below.

5.02 Ratings Review Committee Purpose.

The Ratings Review Committee (RRC) shall serve from year-to-year as a standing committee. The RRC will review and affirm or deny requests for player rating reductions and increases.

5.03 Ratings Review Committee Membership.

The RRC will be comprised of three voting members, plus Governing Board. The Chairperson will be appointed by the Board and the two additional voting members may be nominated by any GDASA member and will be elected by the Governing Board.

5.04 Requesting a Ratings Review

Requests for a ratings review can only be made as follows:

Greater Denver Area Sports Association Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

- a. By the Board
- b. By the appropriate Team Representative with the approval of the Board
- c. By a majority vote of the Governing Board
- d. By the team representative for members of that team
- e. By a player for his own rating
- f. As a result of a protest by an opposing team during a GDASA League game. Procedures for filing a ratings protest are found in the GDASA Rules of Play, Article 12.
- g. As a result of a successful protest by a non-GDASA team at a tournament sponsored by a NAGAAA-affiliated league. The Board shall request a rating review automatically in this case.
- h. All requests must be submitted using the Ratings Review Request Form, and in the method described on the form. If the request is from the player or the team representative, a brief explanation must be given on the form.
- i. Every season, each team may request one ratings point for one player to be reviewed for free.
- j. Except for the free review above, any request by a team or player for a ratings review, requires a
- k. \$10 bond per ratings point, paid to GDASA. This bond is refundable if the requested ratings change is upheld by the RRC, or if the ratings change is removed from the ratings review list as described in 5.08 below.
- l. The review of a player's rating point may be removed from the Ratings Review List by the person or persons who requested/initiated the ratings review any time before a final RRC vote on that point is taken. In this case, if a \$10 bond was paid for that point, it will be refunded.

5.05 Ratings Review Committee Notifications.

- a. **Board.** Upon receiving a ratings review request, the Board shall forward all pertinent information to the RRC Chairperson within three calendar days.
- b. **RRC Chairperson.** The RRC Chairperson will notify the RRC of the request in writing and arrange for a quorum of the RRC and Board to review the player. The RRC Chairperson will notify the Governing Board, RRC and the GDASA coaches and managers at least three days prior to the voting meeting including the date, time, location and reason for the meeting.

5.06 Ratings Review Committee Meetings.

As deemed necessary, monthly meetings of the RRC shall be established by the RRC Chairperson. The notification will list the date, time, location, and purpose of the meeting. Six voting members are required for a quorum. The Chairperson will preside and keep professional order during RRC meetings. Only members of the RRC may participate in the discussions unless the Chairperson requests information from an attending GDASA member. The Chairperson will be responsible for maintaining official minutes of each RRC meeting and its subsequent decisions. The minutes will be submitted to the GDASA Secretary to be distributed to the Governing Board and team representatives.

5.07 Ratings Review Committee Voting.

- a. Each member will have one vote during RRC meetings.
- b. There must be at least six RRC members ready to vote on a player's rating point before a vote may be taken on that point, except as described in 5.08(f) below.
- c. Each player under review will be reviewed a minimum of two different games before a vote on their rating will take place.

Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

- d. In determining how to vote, RRC members may use knowledge of a player's skills based on observations made prior to the member being on the RRC.

5.08 Ratings Review Committee Voting Meeting.

During a voting meeting the following steps will take place:

- a. The RRC shall review any documentation submitted in support of a change in a player's rating by the team representative, Board, or appropriate player who submitted the request for review.
- b. The RRC shall discuss and share their observations and review notes for the specific player in question for ONLY the question(s) currently under review. If a quorum of the RRC has observed the player and is ready to vote, the RRC Committee will then vote. If a majority of the RRC quorum votes yes, the player is deemed to have that skill point. If a majority of the RRC quorum votes no, the player is deemed not to have that skill point. If the vote ends in a tie, those votes will be recorded according to 5.08(f) below and the decision on that point will be deferred.
- c. Once a vote has taken place that changes a rating, that ratings change is immediate.
- d. If the RRC needs additional time to observe the player under review, the date, time, and location (if known) for the next vote on the player will be communicated to the team representative of the player under review. This meeting must occur within one month of the current meeting.
- e. If a player is discussed at two consecutive meetings and not voted upon, the minutes must reflect why that person has not been voted upon.
- f. If, at the end of a season, a quorum of the RRC is unable to vote on a player's rating point, or the vote ends in a tie, the following will apply:
 - 1. If the review was not a result of a player ratings protest that may result in a forfeit, a vote will be taken despite the lack of a quorum and those votes will be recorded and kept in the possession of the RRC Chairperson. The player will remain on the RRC review list for the following season. If the player remains on the review list for the following season, when additional RRC members are able to vote, the prior season's votes will be included in the vote. If a member's vote was recorded from a previous season, they may not vote again on the same ratings point, but they may change their vote based on new information.
 - 2. If the review is a result of a player ratings protest that may result in a forfeit, the review will be removed from the RRC review list and the Governing Board will vote on the review within three (3) calendar days after the end of the regular season.

5.09 Ratings Review Committee Conflicts of Interest.

Any RRC member must abstain from a vote if there's a conflict of interest. The vote shall still take place without the RRC member with the conflict of interest voting as long as there is a quorum of the RRC present and able to vote. A conflict of interest is defined as the following:

- a. The affected player is on the same team
- b. Romantic partner
- c. Roommate
- d. Co-worker
- e. In a dating relationship

**Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions**

Last updated: 05/03/2023

- f. Family member
- g. Financial connection
- h. Any other conflict of interest deemed relevant by the RRC Chairperson or GDASA Board

During the review process RRC members will not accept gifts, cash, discounts, or entertainment from other players, coaches and/or manager that could be interpreted as given to influence an RRC member's decision.

5.10. Ratings Review Committee Player Assessment Days.

A player or the player's current manager may request that a player on the RRC Review List be assessed at an RRC Player Assessment Day. RRC Player Assessment Days will be scheduled as needed by the Governing Board. The process will be as follows.

- a. Players being reviewed will be put through drills specifically designed to assess the skills under review.
- b. A quorum of the RRC as defined in SLC ### 5.06 and an Effort Assessment Committee (see below must be present.
- c. The RRC will evaluate the skills based on the performance during these drills.
- d. The Effort Assessment Committee will assess whether players are giving full and complete effort.
- e. The Effort Assessment Committee will be comprised of representatives from at least 10% of the teams, rounded up, and a quorum of the Governing Board. The team representatives for this committee will be chosen by the Governing Board.
- f. After the drills, an RRC member may call for additional individual player drills if they feel more review of that player is required.
- g. Upon completion of the drills, the procedure for voting on the players' skills will be as follows:
 - 1. The RRC will vote on each point. Each member must vote; there may be no abstentions except for conflicts of interest defined in SLC 5.09. The player will then be removed from the RRC Review List.
 - 2. For any NO vote, if any Effort Assessment Committee member feels that the player did not give full and complete effort, they may call for a vote of the Effort Assessment Committee. If a majority feels that full effort was not given, the player will be placed back on the RRC Review List. Or, the Governing Board may take an immediate vote on the player's skill point.

5.11 Appeals.

An appeal of the RRC decision can be made by the team manager to the GDASA Governing Board by submitting significant new evidence in writing within five calendar days of being notified in writing of the RRC decision. Any ruling of the RRC shall remain in effect until a successful appeal is made to the GDASA Governing Board. Any decision by the Governing Board to overturn a ruling made by the RRC shall be justified in writing at the next Board meeting and entered into the minutes. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Governing Board and not the full RRC Committee. The following outlines the steps required by both the Board and the RRC.

- a. The Team Representative must notify the Governing Board in writing that they wish to appeal the RRC ruling and submit significant new evidence within five calendar days of the RRC ruling.

Greater Denver Area Sports Association Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

- b. The GDASA Board will schedule an appeal hearing as soon as it is possible to gather all of the Governing Board or at least a quorum.
- c. The GDASA Board will notify the team representatives for the team filing the appeal and the RRC Chairperson of the date, time, and location for the appeal hearing.
- d. The RRC Chairperson will notify the RRC and gather the necessary back-up documentation in support of the RRC's decision on the affected player.

5.12 Appeal Hearing.

During the appeal hearing the following will take place:

- a. The RRC Chairperson will be given a maximum of 10 minutes to submit the summary of the RRC decision including any back-up information available to the Governing Board.
- b. The team representative will be given a maximum of 10 minutes to submit any supporting documentation to the Governing Board they have in support of their appeal to the RRC ruling.
- c. The Governing Board will vote to uphold or overturn the RRC ruling based on the information presented by the RRC Chair person, the team representative and the knowledge they also have regarding the player in question.
- d. Any decision to overturn the RRC ruling by the Governing Board must be justified in writing at the next Board meeting and entered into the minutes.

5.13 Timing of Official Rating Change.

When any skill point for a player is changed through the RRC process, the timing of the official change will be as follows:

- a. Upon a decision of the RRC that changes an existing point, the change is effective immediately.
- b. Upon a decision of the Governing Board (because of an appeal) that overturns an RRC decision, the change is effective immediately.
- c. Additionally, if a point is added to a player as a result of a protest during a GDASA game, the following will apply. If there is no appeal of the RRC decision or an appeal is heard and denied by the Governing Board, the rating change will be considered retro-active ONLY for the games where that point was protested. NOTE: if the resulting change creates a situation where the player and/or team was ineligible for the protested game, the result of that game shall be changed to a forfeit. Other games played after the protest and before the final ratings change will not be affected unless protests were filed for those games (see Rules of Play 12.02).

5.14 Manager/Team Penalties for Player Rating Violations.

If a player ratings points are added to a team's player(s) by any method other than a request by the team manager or player and the change remains after final appeal, the following penalties will apply. These penalties apply to the manager of record when the ratings change occurs:

- a. For the first point added per team during a season, the manager will be required to attend a Player Ratings Workshop prior to the next season.
- b. For the second point added per team during a season, the Governing Board may assess further penalties.
- c. For each point added per team during the season beyond the second added point, a \$50 fine per

additional point will be assessed in addition to the penalties described above.

ARTICLE 6: TEAM MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

6.01 General.

A copy of the league's Bylaws, League Code, and Rules of Play shall be published on the league's website. At the start of each season, the league will provide a printed roster, copies of Bylaws, Rules of Play and League Code, line-up cards for each scheduled game along with a scorebook.

ARTICLE 7. SOFTBALL RULES OF GOVERNANCE

7.01

As a registered Amateur Softball Association (USA/ASA) member, the Rules of Play will follow the current USA Official Rules of Softball except where noted within these rules.

ARTICLE 8. PLAYING SEASON & SCHEDULE

8.01 General.

The term "season" used throughout this League Code shall refer to the summer season, unless otherwise specified. The summer season runs from May to July or early August. Spring and Fall season will be evaluated and added as needed.

8.02 Schedule

The Board shall publish the schedule by the start of League play. The schedule will list each League game's date, time, and place. It will also include the game time limit, the method the home team is determined, and brief directions to the playing fields. The Softball Director will monitor the telephone hotline and contact Managers of game cancellations.

ARTICLE 9. GAME START TIME

9.01

The start time of all GDASA games shall be the scheduled game time. However, if previous games end early, an umpire may start a game early if both managers agree. If games are running behind, teams should be ready to play after the previous game. After the pre-game meeting held by the umpire with both team managers, the umpire will announce the official game start time.

ARTICLE 10. FORFEITS

10.01

**Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions**

Last updated: 05/03/2023

Any team not able to field nine (9) players by the forfeit time of their game shall forfeit the game. Forfeit time is considered official game time plus 5 minutes. The waiting period is counted as part of the scheduled playing time. A forfeited game shall be scored as 10-0 in favor of the team not at fault. A double-forfeit game shall be scored 1-1 and considered a loss for both teams.

ARTICLE 11. GAME TIME LIMIT

11.01

The game time limit is 55 minutes or seven innings, published on the League site and set when the schedule is published. A new inning shall not start after this time limit. The home plate umpire will be the official timekeeper. International tie-breaker rules will be used if the game is tied at the end of seven (7) innings or at the regulation game time limit. Starting with each half inning, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who was last out being placed on second base. If there is no winner after one (1) tiebreak inning has been completed, then the second tiebreak inning will be played, and so on, until there is a winning team.

ARTICLE 12. POSTPONEMENTS

12.01 General

For the summer season only, in the event a game is postponed (for any reason) rescheduling of postponed games will be at the discretion of the board. The board will work to secure either another day or extend the complex rental time to accommodate additional games but cannot guarantee that additional play time will be accommodated by the field complex.

12.02 Rainout

For days where the weather or field conditions may impact the scheduled games, the League has a recorded message telephone number (the field conditions hotline), as noted on the game schedule. League members may call to determine the status of games for that day. On days with possible adverse weather or field conditions, the League will update the message one-half to two (2) hours before the first scheduled game or earlier if known. Teams should report to the fields without any up-to-date information to the contrary. Once teams are told to report to the fields for play or when teams are at the fields for play, and adverse weather or field conditions happen, the umpire will be responsible for determining if field conditions will allow the remaining scheduled games to be played. If a team can't field nine players for make-up, this will be a forfeit.

ARTICLE 13. PLAYING FIELD RULES

13.01

Whenever possible, the League and the umpires will develop standard written rules for the fields for League softball play. These rules should be available at the beginning of the respective softball season if set. The following WILL BE ALLOWED at the fields: alcoholic beverages (no glass), dogs (please bring water), and pictures are allowed and encouraged.

ARTICLE 14. UMPIRE FEES

14.01 Umpire Payments

GDASA is responsible for paying umpires. Since these are paid contractors, constructive feedback from team managers on their ability is appreciated. Although finding enough umpires is a challenge, we want to make sure we get the best we can for the League. Keep in mind that forfeits cause an umpire to get paid for no work. Please try to avoid numerous forfeits.

ARTICLE 15. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

15.01 General.

Each team must provide its own bats, warm-up balls, and other equipment.

15.02 Equipment Ownership.

Unless other arrangements have been made, the uniforms and equipment purchased by a team belong to that team. Each player is responsible for his or her team purchased uniform and equipment, and its return to the team upon request. However, the League will only penalize members as described below for not returning jerseys. In the event a player drops, is dropped, or completes a playing season, and fails to return their team purchased jersey upon request, the Governing Board may deem the player ineligible to play. To deem a player ineligible the League Board or Board Member must receive and acknowledge a written or electronic notification from the team regarding the player in question. After an investigation, and if the Board agrees the jersey was not returned, the player will then be deemed ineligible for league play. The player will remain ineligible until the jersey is returned or payments and/or other arrangements are made to the satisfaction of the team, and/or board.

15.01 Uniforms

In reference to the USA rule on the wearing of uniforms, the umpires will enforce those rules regarding the color and likeness of uniforms only as the restrictions apply to uniform shirts. The uniform MUST be of the same team. We understand many teams have multiple jerseys, and players bring the wrong one. We request players are respectful and attempt to keep the mismatch to a minimum. If they have the same TEAM jersey, they will be allowed to play.

15.02 Bats

The official bat made up of the knob, handle, grip, taper, barrel and end cap shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, rattles and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat may be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer and shall be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance for expansion. The Official bat must bear the appropriate certification mark as shown below and must not be listed on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks.



AND must be included on a list of approved bat models published by USA Softball OR must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured before 2000 and, if tested, would comply with USA Softball Bat Performance Standard. This includes wooden bats.

It is the responsibility of the managers and players to verify this information. If a bat doesn't meet the criteria, the player will be ejected from the game.

15.03 Altered Bats.

The use of Altered Bats is strictly prohibited and may lead to loss of eligibility (see Article 1.06).

15.04 Bat Testing.

GDASA reserves the right to test bats and prohibit the use of bats that do not pass.

15.05 USA Bat Certification

Umpires do not have the discretion to allow bats that do not have the appropriate ASA certification mark.

15.06 Balls

In accordance to USA softball, Open division shall use 12" balls and Womens+ division shall use 11" balls. For ball specifics, refer to USA Softball Rules Section 3 – Official Softball

ARTICLE 16. LINE-UP AND GAME PARTICIPATION

16.01 Line-up Sheets

The line-up sheet is the list of offensive players in the order in which members of that team must bat and will be established before the game starts. The line-up sheet should state the first name, last initial or last name, first initial, and uniform number. The line-up may contain a minimum of 9 batters with a max of 13 batters. Unlike regular USA rules, starting a game with nine batters does not cause the 10th spot to be an automatic out.

16.02 Submitting an Official Line-up

Before the start of each game, the batting order will be submitted on the official line-up sheet to the home plate umpire. The line-up sheet will consist of all rostered players, starting players, and substitutes, who are at the game and in the dugout. The umpire will attempt to verify that only the legal number of players physically represented at the game is listed on the line-up sheet. If a line-up sheet contains a player's name who was not at the game before their name was placed on the line-up sheet,

**Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions**

Last updated: 05/03/2023

the Governing Board could review the violation for written reprimand or game forfeiture. The starting players will be listed in batting order sequence, with all substitutes noted at the end of the line-up sheet. There will be an OFFICIAL GDASA scorebook that the home team will be in charge of during each game.

16.03 Losing a Batter to Injury

Ten or more batters. If a team elects to bat 10, 11, 12, or 13 players and that team loses a player due to injury and does not have an available substitute on the bench, that team may continue to play; however, the team will be assessed an out every time that player's batting position comes up in the batting order. If the team loses a player due to ejection and does not have a substitute on the bench, the team will automatically forfeit the game. There is no limit to the number of batters on the line-up.

Nine batters. A team that elects to bat nine (9) players and loses a player due to injury or ejection and does not have any available substitutes on the bench will forfeit the game.

16.04 Courtesy Runners

USA rules are used for courtesy runners. A courtesy runner is anyone in the line-up, including subs. You receive one courtesy runner per inning. If the runner is on base at their time to bat, the batter will receive an out.

16.05 Late Arriving Players

When a team begins a game by batting nine players, a late-arriving tenth player may report to the umpire and enter the game as soon as it is appropriate. This player will become the tenth person in the batting order. Any other late arriving players must report to the umpire and will only be considered as a regular substitute. The batting order cannot be expanded past ten players once the game begins.

16.06 Only GDASA Members May Participate

Anyone (including players, coaches, managers, scorekeepers, etc.) participating on the field or in the dugout in a GDASA game must be a GDASA member in good standing.

ARTICLE 17. EJECTIONS

17.01 Documentation

If a player is ejected from a game, the Umpire Coordinator (UIC) will ask the umpire to provide a written description of the events that led to the ejection.

17.02 Review

The Softball Director or their designee will review all game ejections. If the Softball Director determines the ejection to be flagrant, they may suspend the player for two (2) additional games. This additional suspension is not subject to appeal but may be reduced or overturned by a two-thirds vote of the Governing Board. Additionally, if the Commissioner or Softball Director considers the act a violation of the GDASA League Code, they may call for a disciplinary hearing per the GDASA Bylaws.

ARTICLE 18. PROTESTS

Greater Denver Area Sports Association Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

18.01 General

In general, protests follow the procedures of USA Rule 9 (Protests) in the current edition of the USA Rules of Softball, except for playoff game protests (see Article 13). If possible, for protests of rule interpretation, the UIC will resolve the protest at the field of play before play resumes. Otherwise, protests must be followed up in writing. The written protest must be mailed or e-mailed to the Softball Director and appropriate team manager. The written protest and fee (\$50) must be received by 9:00 P.M. on Tuesday following the game that is being protested. The Team Manager or Team Representative may make the protest. Protests will be reviewed by the Governing Board as soon as possible, and a decision will be issued per USA Rule 9. If the Governing Board upholds the protest, the protest fee will be refunded.

18.02 Player Rating Protests

In addition to the type of protests defined by USA (rule interpretation, illegal player, and ineligible player), a team may file a protest regarding a rating point if they feel that a player should have a specific point added. The protesting team must indicate to the umpire and opposing team manager or team representative what point(s) is/are being protested. Each protested issue is considered a separate protest; therefore, a \$50 fee would be required for each protested point. The protest must be made during a GDASA league game in which the protesting team is playing against the player's team. The protest must be made before the umpires leave the playing field or if the umpires will be officiating the next game before the start of the next game.

Protests will be reviewed by the Governing Board immediately, and a decision will be issued. If the Governing Board upholds the protest, the protest fee will be refunded. The Governing Board may also vote to place the protested player on the Rating Review list for the RRC to review and vote before a final decision on the protest is determined. The Softball Director will evaluate the protest hearing procedures and communicate them to the protest hearing participants.

NOTE: if the resulting change creates a situation where the player or team was ineligible for the protested game, the result of that game would be changed to a forfeit. Suppose the protested player plays in any subsequent games between the Governing Board on the protest. In that case, the Governing Board's vote will change the result of all games played, including the protested game and all subsequent games played after the protested game before the vote of the Executive Board. If a player is not registered and plays, the team automatically forfeits the game. Pickup players with an appropriate rating may be added to a daily game roster for \$10.00. Keep in mind that these individuals must register and sign the liability waiver before the game(s) they intend to participate in.

ARTICLE 19. PLAYOFFS

19.01 General

- a. **Player.** For a player in good standing to be eligible for the playoffs, they must have played eight regular-season games (or been on the substitution list and present). If this requirement isn't met, said player is ineligible for the playoffs.
- b. **Team.** A team is eligible for the playoffs if it has at least 9 players that are eligible to play in the playoffs (see article 19.01)

Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

The League will provide softballs for all playoff games, at least one (1) umpire for each game, and two (2) umpires for all semi-final and final games. The game time limit will be the same as regular

19.02 Playoff formats.

- a. Playoffs will be held as a double-elimination tournament with teams seeded according to their regular season standings.
- b. All game rules will follow GDASA's rules of play, except for the coin flip to determine home and away teams.
- c. The higher seeded team chooses home or away through the first championship game.
- d. If there is a second championship game (if-game), home and away teams will be decided by a coin flip.

19.03 Standings.

For the purpose of GSWS and playoff consideration, the official standings for each division will include only those games played within the division, excluding inter-league games. If at the end of the regular season, two or more teams finish with identical won-lost-tied percentages, then the following will be used to determine final standings:

- a. Two Teams
 1. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games between the teams).
 2. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest runs in games between the tied teams.
 3. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest average runs per game of all games played.
 4. For Division Championship only, a one-game playoff.
 5. Coin toss.
- b. Three or More Teams
(Note: If two teams remain tied after third or other teams are eliminated during any step, tie breaker reverts to step 1 of the two-team format).
 1. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games among the teams).
 2. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest average runs per game among the tied teams.
 3. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest average runs per game of all games played.
 4. Coin toss.

19.02 Playoff Protests

For playoff games, all protests will be resolved by the Governing Board immediately before both teams leave the field. All applicable protest fees must be paid to a Governing Board member immediately following the game for the protest to be heard. If the protest is upheld, protest fees will be returned.

ARTICLE 20. GAME RULES OF NOTICE

20.01 Starting a Game with Nine Batters

Starting a game with nine batters does not cause the 10th spot to be an automatic out. See Articles 16.01 thru 16.03 for details.

**Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions**

Last updated: 05/03/2023

20.02 Base Stealing

There will be no base stealing allowed in league games.

20.03 Legal Pitch Height

A legal pitch is between 6 and 12 feet high.

20.04 Starting Count

All batters will start with one ball and one strike (1-1 count) with no courtesy foul.

20.05 Run Rule – All Divisions

The following run rule will be in effect:

- a. 20 runs after three innings
- b. 15 runs after four innings
- c. Ten runs after five innings

20.06 Inning Run Limit – Inter-Division Play

- a. The following run limit is specifically designed when 2 different division teams are playing in competition. Any scheduled games with an Asterisk * Inning Run Limit will be in effect. The limit per inning for the higher division team will be six runs per inning or three outs. The run limit will be lifted in the 7th inning or last inning called by the umpire.
- b. Exception to this rule will be dependent on the lower's division's game time line-up. See 21.02
 - a. If the lower division team picks up players to make their line-up 10 players total, the inning run limit rule will be forfeited.

20.08 Out-of-the-Park Home Run Limits

The following are the divisional limits for out-of-the-park home runs

- a. All Divisions – 2 Home Runs
- b. Once a team has reached their maximum out-of-the-park home runs, any additional out-of-the-park home run will be considered an out.

20.09 Courtesy Foul

No Courtesy foul will be given.

ARTICLE 21 PICKUP PLAYERS

21.01 Definition

A pickup player is a roster addition for one game only. A pickup player must be a league member in good standing and may be on the current roster of another team or a member-at-large (provided they have paid the applicable fee to participate).

21.02 Roster Rules

- a. **Number of Pick-up Players Allowed.**
 - a. An open team may add up to three (3) players (9 total players on the line-up) when playing IN-Division games.

Greater Denver Area Sports Association Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

- b. A Womens + team may add up to four (4) players (10 total players on the line-up)
- c. A lower division team may add up to four (4) players (10 total players on the line-up) if playing a higher division team.
- b. **Roster Limitations.**
 - a. A pickup player must not cause a team's roster to violate rating limitations for the division of play. The player's rating must fall within the acceptable range for the division, and the player's rating must not cause the team's rating to go above the acceptable range for the division. However, it is permissible for a pickup player to temporarily increase a roster size above the maximum number of players.
- c. **Division of Play.**
 - a. For this rule, if a game is between teams from two different divisions, the higher division will be deemed the division of play for that game. For example, if a C Division team is playing against a B Division team, the C team may pick up players such that their resulting roster would fall within the roster limitations for a B team.
 - b. The lower division team has the option to
 - c. Womens+ Division
 - i. When playing another Womens+ team can only pick up players that are eligible to play in the Womens+ Division.
 - ii. When playing an Open Division team the Womens+ team is allowed to pick up Open Division players that meet the roster rules 21.02a and 21.02b

21.04 Womens+ Pick Up Players

- a. To aide the growth of the Womens+ division, Womens+ teams may pick up non-GDASA members provided that they:
 - a. Qualify as a Womens+ player as stated in Article 4.08
 - b. Pay the appropriate Pick Up Player/Sub fee set by the Governing Board
 - c. Sign the player waiver and GDASA Code of Ethics
- b. The player may be eligible to play in the Playoffs as long as that person has become an official GDASA member by paying the full player fee and has fulfilled the player playoff eligibility requirements as stated in Article19.

21.03 Line-up Sheets

Pickup players should be noted on the line-up sheet by circling the player's name or placing a "PU" by the player's name. A pickup player may not be added after the game begins. Teams with pickup players automatically become the Away Team.

21.04 Uniforms

Suppose the team that uses a pickup player does not have an available uniform for the pickup player to wear. In that case, the pickup player should wear the team's uniform on which he is rostered, even if it results in a duplicate uniform number.

ARTICLE 22: INJURIES

22.01 Procedures.

The League is not responsible for injuries to members. Members must utilize their own insurance if a

**Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions**

Last updated: 05/03/2023

claim is filed. The League insurance is designed to protect the league from itself and damage to the fields/parks.

ARTICLE 23: HALL OF FAME PROCEDURES.

22.01 Committee.

The Chairman of this Committee shall be appointed by the GDASA Board. The Committee shall consist of no more than five good standing and active members as appointed by the Chairman and Board of GDASA. GDASA Hall of Fame Committee members are requested to serve a minimum of one full year starting May 1st through December 31st. The Chairman will assign duties to members of the Committee. Any good standing member with a minimum of five years within the League can be considered for the GDASA Hall of Fame Committee.

22.02 Procedures.

Any 10-year individual member, whether living or deceased, or a team that has been in good standing for a minimum of ten (10) years in GDASA, can be nominated for the Hall of Fame. The nominees should have made significant contributions to their teams and/or GDASA. The applications may be submitted by any active GDASA member and/or Hall of Fame member who is familiar with the candidate. The Committee strongly recommends that the application include a photograph of the nominee, as names alone do not always convey the person nominated. The photo will become the property of the GDASA Hall of Fame.

Nominations will be accepted beginning September 1st (Fiscal Year). Nominations will close on April 30.

Teams nominated must have met the same required criteria to meet eligibility. No individuals are recognized amongst any team nominations. Any teams successfully inducted into the Hall of Fame will have their team name retired, thus no other team can take this name within GDASA moving forward.

- a. **Round 1 Voting:** Round 1 voting will open on the Monday following the 2nd Sunday of May and remain open for 14 days or until all eligible voters have voted, whichever is sooner. If a nominee receives a 'yes' vote on at least two-thirds of the votes cast, then the nominee will be inducted into the GDASA Hall of Fame. A nominee who receives a 'yes' vote on at least fifty percent votes cast will be eligible for consideration in round 2. A nominee who receives a 'yes' vote on less than fifty percent of votes cast will be rolled over for consideration during the next fiscal year provided it's not their second and final year of consideration.
- b. **Round 2 Voting:** Round 2 voting will open within 1 week from the close of Round 1 voting and remain open for 14 days or until all eligible votes have voted, whichever is sooner. If a nominee receives a 'yes' vote on at least two-thirds of the votes cast, then the nominee will be inducted into the GDASA Hall of Fame. A nominee who receives a 'yes' vote on less than two-thirds of votes cast will be rolled over for consideration during the next fiscal year provided it's not their second and final year of consideration.

22.03 Voting Members.

The voting members consist of the living elected members of the GDASA Hall of Fame and the current GDASA Hall of Fame Committee members including the Governing Board.

Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions

Last updated: 05/03/2023

22.04 Membership.

The selected inductees will be invited as a guest of the League to attend the end of the season banquet to receive their GDASA Hall of Fame award. Their name, bio, and photo will appear on the GDASA website (with their consent), and he/she will become eligible to vote on the selection of future Hall of Fame inductees.

ARTICLE 23: NATIONAL SPORTS ALLIANCE(S)

23.01 General.

The Organization, if approved by said National sports board, shall be a member of national sports alliances, such as the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) and Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA), whose goals and objectives that align to those of the Organization. Any membership fees of such national sports alliances shall be paid by the Organization.

23.02 Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA)

As of 2021, GDASA is a member of the Amateur Sports Alliance of North America.

- a. ASANA World Series Qualification: To be eligible for the ASANA World Series
 - i. The player must have been present for one-third (1/3) of games played by their team(s) in the regular season, or the portion of the regular completed prior to the World Series.
 - ii. This requirement is waived for deployed active-duty military players provided that they were on the team roster at the beginning of the regular season.
 - iii. Their classifications must still be verified in accordance with the ASANA Code.
- b. Ratings:
 - i. Managers must submit ratings on all players who are new to the league by June 1st of the current year.
 - ii. If Managers do not rate a player, they will not appear on an official ASANA Roster.
 - iii. Once ratings have been entered into the ASANA Database, a copy of the team roster will be sent back to the manager for their own records.
 - iv. Player ratings will be in accordance with the ASANA Current Ratings & Guidelines Questionnaire.
- c. Fees:
 - i. GDASA is responsible for paying the organization's ASANA membership fee
 - ii. All teams that have met the eligibility to attend GSWS, shall pay any and all fees associated with attending the GSWS including but not limited to Host Hotel deposits and registration fees.
 1. Deposits shall be paid to GDASA and shall be due prior to GDASA's confirmation of that Team's attendance to the GSWS. All Host Hotel deposits will be refundable, if the team meets the requirements of ASANA, regarding the Host Hotel, and the team does participate in the GSWS as committed. All refunds are issued to the respective team once they have fulfilled all requirements for a hotel deposit refund. Refer to the most current ASANA rules regarding the Host Hotel requirements.
- d. Annual Meetings
 - i. Per ASANA's membership requirements, GDASA is required to send a delegate to both the Winter meetings and Summer meetings.

**Greater Denver Area Sports Association
Softball League Rules - Open & Womens+ Divisions**

Last updated: 05/03/2023

- ii. The GDASA delegate will be the Softball Director or GDASA Commissioner. If both are unable to attend the meeting, the GDASA Board of Directors will determine who will attend the meeting. The stand-in delegate will need to be a member of that years Softball Board or Governing Board.
- iii. GDASA is to pay for the attendee(s) airfare and hotel for the meetings.
- iv. GDASA reserves the right to send more attendees as needed.

ARTICLE 24: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

24.01 General.

The Board of Directors, collectively known as the Board or Governing Board, will include the Officers as stated in Bylaws Article 6.01 and three Open Members. A director shall serve until such time as he or she is removed (by league vote or no-confidence, resigns, is no longer a GDASA member, or the term of office expires. Any officer who leaves office for any reason (including voluntarily) shall simultaneously be removed from the Board of Directors. All references to Governing Bord can be found in the Bylaws Article 8 sections 8.01 through 8.10

ARTICLE 25. AMENDMENTS

25.01

The method by which these Rules of Play may be altered, amended or repealed and new Rules of Play adopted is by a majority vote of the entire Governing Board. Adopted amendments should not be effective until the current season is completed or before the start of the upcoming season, whichever comes first unless the amendment specifies otherwise.