

# MONTROSE SOFTBALL LEAGUE ASSOCIATION



# BYLAWS

*As adopted herein by the membership at the Annual Meeting of  
the Membership held in accordance with Article 2 on October 1,  
2023*

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## **ARTICLE 1 GENERAL**

### **SECTION 1.1 MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS**

The Board of Trustees may approve and accept all prospective members seeking membership in the League as their iPride/NAGAAA qualifying member association and those seeking a secondary membership in the League upon payment of the League's annual dues and completion of the appropriate membership application form(s), subject to the requirements outlined herein:

- A. All prospective members, shall upon request, furnish proof of age and government-issued identification showing the member's full, legal name to the officers of the League.
- B. All prospective members who may have been suspended or expelled by the Montrose Softball League Association or another iPride/NAGAAA Member Association, or sanctioned by iPride/NAGAAA itself (for Gay Softball World Series participation) shall be reviewed by the Board of Trustees to determine acceptance into the League.
- C. All prospective members agree to abide by the MSLA Code of Conduct as outlined in these Bylaws at the time they join the League.
- D. Any applicant for membership in the League who will not seek membership in any other iPride/NAGAAA member association will, upon approval, be granted membership in the League as their iPride/NAGAAA qualifying member association (pursuant to iPride/NAGAAA Governing Manual Chapter 20.10).
- E. Any applicant for membership in the League who already has declared (or intends to declare) another iPride/NAGAAA member association as their qualifying association will make this declaration as the time of application (pursuant to iPride/NAGAAA Governing Manual Chapter 20.10) and will, upon approval, be granted a secondary membership in the League. Individuals holding secondary membership in the League will not be granted voting privileges and may be subject to additional regulations or restrictions as set forth by the Board.

### **SECTION 1.2 VOTING**

- A. Each member, upon acceptance as a member of the League, shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to the League membership. A Manager shall have one vote as outlined in Article 6.
- B. Abstentions shall not be counted toward the necessary votes to pass any measure. The remaining members at any meeting, present and voting, must be properly counted to pass any measure. The term "majority, present and voting" shall be used to indicate the MSLA practice of conducting business in this manner.
- C. Voting conducted "by proxy" shall not be allowed when conducting the business of the MSLA.

### **SECTION 1.3 HONORARY MEMBERS**

The League may have honorary members. The number of honorary members shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Trustees. Recommendations for recognition as an honorary member may be made by a current member. The Board of Trustees shall then vote on admission of such person. Honorary members shall have the same voting rights and privileges as non-playing members of the League. Any individual that has been designated as a Jerry Award winner will be an honorary member for life.

### **SECTION 1.4 MEMBERSHIP RECORDS**

The full, legal name, home address, telephone number and email address of each member and their date of registration for each season shall be entered on the records of the League. The League shall also maintain records of all Playing Members' ratings, LGBT status declaration and team affiliation for each season of play.

## **SECTION 1.5 TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this League is not transferable or assignable. Should a membership be terminated, the annual dues shall not be refundable unless approved by a majority of the board, present and casting votes.

## **SECTION 1.6 TERM OF MEMBERSHIP**

Applications for membership in the Montrose Softball League Association will be accepted from the registration date of the new season until the final roster deadline for that year. Final Roster Deadline is determined by the Board of Trustees. Memberships will be valid until the Initial Roster Deadline for the following year's season, unless sooner terminated.

## **SECTION 1.7 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership may be canceled at any time for conduct in violation of the Bylaws or the League rules, or for conduct improper or prejudicial to the best interests of the League.

## **SECTION 1.8 CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. A. All members accept responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the integrity and reputation of the MSLA. Members shall respect all persons by way of proper conduct in the best interests of the League and are expected to behave with maturity and exhibit good sportsmanship and conduct at all times during MSLA and iPride/NAGAAA-sanctioned events. Members shall:
  - i. Promote the positive reputation of the MSLA and take all possible steps to prevent our organization and any members from being brought into disrepute.
  - ii. Adhere to our Instruments of Governance which include the Bylaws and Rules of Play.
  - iii. Not use foul or abusive language or gestures toward any affiliate of the League, including but not limited to any game official, service provider, beneficiary, League member: trustee, chairperson, committee member, player, non-player, manager, coach, or spectator.
  - iv. Not take any action which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate, degrade, disrespect, bring disgrace or discriminate against a member, including but not limited to any league or game official, or spectators. Members shall respect all persons by way of proper conduct in the best interests of the League.
  - v. Not possess weapons during league play or MSLA or iPride/NAGAAA sponsored events.
- B. This code of conduct is intended to apply to participants during all iPride/NAGAAA-sanctioned events, tournaments hosted by iPride/NAGAAA affiliated cities, MSLA meetings any MSLA-sanctioned events (presently defined as League play, the Lone Star Classic tournament, and the "Miss MSLA Pageant" and "Jocks-in-Dresses" fundraising events).
- C. Participants or officials who witness such acts should take immediate action steps to intervene when safe to do so. These action steps should include face-to-face conversation between the appropriate, responsible parties with the intent of resolving the conflict. Unresolved matters that cannot be handled through conversation shall immediately be reported to a member of the Board of Trustees, who will be the body given authority to promptly investigate and work to resolve the matter.
- D. Any participant or official who is found by the Board to be in violation of the Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action up-to-and-including termination of membership, suspension and/or expulsion from MSLA and/or iPride/NAGAAA.

## **SECTION 1.9 DISQUALIFICATION AND SUSPENSION**

The following is a list of act(s), any one of will be justification for the suspension or disqualification of any player or team:

- A. Violations of the Code of Conduct found in Section1 of the Bylaws
- B. Displaying unsportsmanlike conduct.
- C. Physical violence of any kind against other players, spectators, umpires, scorekeepers or officers of the League while participating in practice, league play or in tournament competition while acting as a member of the League.
- D. Commission of a fraud such as lying under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or intentionally giving false information to a League Trustee.
- E. Participating while knowing they, or their team, does not meet the eligibility requirements of the League.
- F. Knowingly competing with players that are disqualified from team play.
- G. Tampering with player(s) from one team regarding future play should be prohibited until after the conclusion of league play, both regular season and post season play.
- H. Knowingly competing with non-approved equipment.
- I. Tampering with, attempting to steal or stealing MSLA marked bat(s) or other MSLA equipment. Tampering with shall be defined as intentionally throwing or scratching bats, or attempting to remove MSLA identification tagging.
- J. Disputing a credit card payment for inclusion into MSLA after playing one or more weeks of play

## **SECTION 1.10 JURISDICTION**

- A. A team or team member(s) shall cease to be eligible to compete in league play, league conducted tournaments, or tournaments conducted by iPride/NAGAAA member associations while disqualified by iPride/NAGAAA or the League.
- B. A team or team member(s) shall cease to be eligible to compete in league play, league conducted tournaments, or tournaments conducted by iPride/NAGAAA member associations while disqualified by iPride/NAGAAA or the League. If a team or team members(s) have had a grievance filed against them due an on-field incident involving physical violence, threat of physical violence, or intentional harm caused to another person, then they will be considered ineligible for play until the Board of Trustees is able to make an adjudication on the grievance filed, unless the board determines the temporary suspension is not warranted.

## **SECTION 1.11 DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES**

The following shall constitute the procedure for disqualifying a team or member(s) from the League:

- A. Hearing - prior to disqualification, a team or team member(s) shall be given an opportunity for a hearing by the Managers' Council of the League.
- B. Notification - the team or team member(s) must be notified per the stipulations of Bylaw Article 6 of the time, place and date of the hearing.
- C. Ruling - after hearing all of the evidence available, the Managers' Council will present its findings and recommend action to the Board of Trustees. The Trustees will then take whatever action it deems necessary and appropriate with accordance with these rules.

## **SECTION 1.12 PENALTIES**

A team or team member(s) may be disqualified for a period of time at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for violation as shown in Section 5.1 of these rules. The following acts of disqualification require a minimum of one (1) year loss of eligibility:

- A. Physical violence
- B. Commission of fraud
- C. Competing knowingly with ineligible players
- D. Knowingly competing with non-approved equipment
- E. Tampering with, attempting to steal or stealing MSLA marked bat(s) or other equipment.

## **SECTION 1.13 LGBTQ+ / NON-LGBTQ+ PARTICIPATION**

A team participating in League play may not have more than three (3) non- LGBTQ+ players on their roster at any time during the season. A member who has been in good standing and has been a member in the League or in another iPride/NAGAAA member association for seven (7) or more total years shall be granted status as an “ally” and will not count towards the limit of non-LGBTQ+ players. No protests may be filed based upon a player’s sex, sexuality, gender, or gender identity.

## **SECTION 1.14 RULES OF BANKING**

- A. All payment transactions including but not limited to checks, electronic fund transfers (ETF), credit card, cashier’s checks or money orders, issued in the name of the League or in the name of any fund managed by the League, shall be approved by at least two authorized members as set fourth under the duties of the Trustees.
  - 1. In the event that the League manages a fund for a specific committee, then the Chairperson of that committee may serve as an authorized signatory on such fund if provided for in the resolution creating the committee.
  - 2. Payment requests must be submitted to the Treasurer on the MSLA payment request form or designated form equivalent.
- B. All funds of the League or any fund managed by the League shall be deposited to the appropriate account in such bank(s) as the Board shall select.
  - 1. An Executive Officer or Board Member-designee with appropriate signatory authority shall be responsible for collecting and depositing funds.
  - 2. Deposits must be made within three (3) banking days of receipt of funds.
  - 3. At any time, the Board may incorporate a tariff percentage on any donations made on behalf of a team through the organization that is managed by MSLA and/or the Treasurer.
- C. The Board of Trustees may accept on behalf of the League any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for general purposes or for any specific purpose of the League.
- D. No member of the League is authorized to purchase items for the League without consent. Any member who purchases items for League events, tournaments, or the like without permission to purchase will not be reimbursed. The Board of Trustees is the acting body authorized to make purchases on behalf of the League, unless otherwise authorized for a committee chairman in the fulfillment of the duties appointed. All purchases greater than a value to be set by the Board, including but not limited to legally binding purchase orders, contracts and invoices shall require at least two approvals from duly authorized members of the Board or

committee chair. It is recommended that one of these approvals be the Commissioner. Approvals must be evidenced via email or equivalent hard-copy documentation.

## **SECTION 1.15 FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year for the Montrose Softball League Association shall be from 1 January until 31 December of the calendar year. For purposes of the annual report, fiscal activities shall be reported for the entire previous year as well as from 1 January to 31 August of the current year.

## **SECTION 1.16 AMENDMENTS**

- A. The Bylaws or any part hereof, may be amended, modified, or repealed at the annual meeting of the members, or at a special meeting of the membership, in accordance with Article Two. Acceptance of any amendment(s) to the Bylaws shall require an affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present and voting (abstentions shall not be counted).
- B. If bylaw changes have been proposed, a notification of such will be disseminated to the membership at least seven (7) days in advance of the Annual meeting or Special Meeting; said notification will include a copy of such proposed bylaw changes or identify an online source from which said proposals may be retrieved.
- C. Bylaw changes proposed by Members of the League for consideration at the Annual Meeting must be submitted in accordance with the following deadlines prior to the Annual Meeting:
  - 1. Bylaw submissions by members to the Secretary, thirty (30) days; to
  - 2. Board of Trustees, twenty-five (25) days; to
  - 3. The Jerry Committee, twenty (21) days for the purposes of review and consultation with the submitter; to
  - 4. The Board of Trustees, no less than ten (10) days for final review; and then
  - 5. Notification to the Members of the League no less than seven (7) days
- D. In addition, the Board (by majority vote) may supply proposals for amendments to the Bylaws for consideration at the Annual Meeting, provided they are distributed to the membership no less than seven (7) days before the Annual Meeting.
- E. A proposal for a Bylaw change slated for discussion at a Special Meeting of the Membership must be submitted in the manner as determined by the Board of Trustees upon request of any Member(s) of the League.

## **SECTION 1.17 PUBLICATION OF BYLAWS AND RULES OF PLAY**

A copy of the By-Laws and Rules of Play shall be posted online continuously on the MSLA Website. Amended Bylaws will be updated and posted online within 30 days of approval by the Membership at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting. Amended Rules of Play will be updated and posted online within 30 days of approval by Managers' Council.

## **ARTICLE 2 MEETING OF MEMBERS**

### **SECTION 2.1 ANNUAL MEETING**

An annual meeting of the members of the League shall be held in September or October following the completion of the GSWS of the current year for the purpose of finalizing business for the completed season, transitioning in newly elected Trustees, and for the transaction of other business as may come before the membership at the meeting. The Board of Trustees shall notify the membership of the date of this meeting by July 1<sup>st</sup> of that year.

## **SECTION 2.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of the members may be called by the Commissioner, a majority of the Board of Trustees, two-thirds (2/3) of the Managers' Council, or not less than one tenth (1/10) of the total League membership by petition to the League Commissioner or Secretary. An Order of Business for a Special Meeting must be provided at the time said meeting is called and these shall be the only items of business conducted at said meeting.

## **SECTION 2.3 PLACE OF MEETING**

The Board of Trustees may designate any place of meeting for any Annual Meeting or for any special meeting so long as it shall be held within the boundaries of the Greater Houston Metropolitan area.

## **SECTION 2.4 NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

With the exception of the Annual Meeting (whose notice is considered satisfied by Section 2.1), notice stating the place, day, and hour of any meeting of members shall be delivered either personally, by telephone, by e-mail or by mail, to each member at their last known address, or published on the official MSLA website calendar, not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of such meeting. In the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice.

## **SECTION 2.5 QUORUM**

The members in good standing present at any meeting of the members that is duly called shall constitute a quorum at such meeting.

## **SECTION 2.6 MANNER OF ACTING**

- A. At any duly called and assembled meeting of the membership, any vote of the membership will become effective immediately unless otherwise designated in the motion that passes. All other requirements of a proper meeting must be in place for a meeting to proceed.
- B. Unless otherwise designated in a different section of the instrument of governance requiring an alternative vote to pass, any motion will be deemed passed by a majority of those members in good standing, present and casting votes. Abstentions will not count. The chair of the meeting shall not vote except in the event of a tie vote. The chair of the meeting shall not discuss any proposal as an advocate on any side of the issue unless they pass the chair, however the chair may add comments for informational purposes or to make clarifications as needed.
- C. At Special Meetings of the Membership, only those matters for which the meeting was called may be addressed.
- D. For any meeting, including Special Meetings of the Membership, derivative motions of any original motion may be entertained and voted on subject to acceptance by the chair that the derivative motion is reasonably related and on point.
- E. Subject to standing League rules or designated agendas for any given meeting, the chair of the meeting, at their discretion, will utilize the general principles of Roberts Rules of Order to conduct any meeting. At no time will Roberts Rules of Order be deemed an authoritative or binding rule(s); the Instruments of Governance and the decisions by the Chair shall prevail. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to override decisions by the Chair upon a favorable vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the remaining (non-Chair) members of the Board of Trustees present.
- F. The Instruments of Governance shall be applied as the authoritative applicable rules in the following order: the By-Laws, followed by the Rules of Play.



## **SECTION 2.7 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

At the annual meeting of the members, unless otherwise directed by a vote of the majority of members present and voting, the order of business shall be as follows:

- A. Opening Remarks / Call to Order
- B. Reading and Approval of Minutes (The presentation of the minutes of the last annual meeting of the members and every special meeting of the members held subsequent thereto)
- C. Report of the Treasury
- D. Reports of the Board of Trustees
- E. Reports of the Standing Committees
- F. Reports of Special Committees (Committees appointed to exist only until they have completed a specified task)
- G. Old Business (Unfinished Business and General Orders of matters previously introduced which have come over from the preceding meeting)
- H. Good of the Order (iPride/NAGAAA Updates, Conduct, Fines, Ethics, Members Not In Good Standing)
- I. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws
- J. New Business
- K. Announcements
  - 1. Upcoming Fiscal Year Important Dates
  - 2. Upcoming iPride/NAGAAA Winter Meeting – Date and Location
- L. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE 3 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **SECTION 3.1 GENERAL POWERS**

The affairs and funds of the League shall be managed by the Board of Trustees.

### **SECTION 3.2 NUMBER, TENURE, AND QUALIFICATIONS**

The Board of Trustees shall consist of eleven (11) members who shall be elected by and from the membership of the League, as hereinafter provided. Each Trustee shall hold office for two (2) consecutive years and until the next annual meeting of the members and until a successor shall have been qualified and elected, unless such Trustee shall sooner resign or be removed.

### **SECTION 3.3 TRUSTEES**

- A. The Trustees of the League shall be a Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Public Relations/Sponsorship Coordinator, a Competition Coordinator, a Fundraising Coordinator, and four (4) Member-at-Large positions.
- B. The Executive Officers of the Board shall be the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer and Competition Coordinator.

### **SECTION 3.4 QUALIFICATION OF NOMINEES**

All candidates for the Board of Trustees of the MSLA must have been an active member of MSLA for a minimum of one (1) year and must be a current MSLA member in good standing. It is recommended that candidates for the Executive Officer positions on the Board meet the following additional qualifications:

- A. Nominees for Commissioner: it is recommended the candidate meet the minimum qualifications of having served one full fiscal year on the MSLA Board of Trustees or as Chairperson of a Standing Committee.
- B. Nominees for Assistant Commissioner: it is recommended the candidate meet the minimum qualifications of having served on MSLA Board of Trustees for one full fiscal year or Chairperson of a Standing Committee and have previous experience related to parliamentary rules of order.
- C. Nominees for Secretary: it is recommended the candidate meet the minimum qualifications of having served on MSLA Board of Trustees for one full fiscal year or Chairperson of a Standing Committee, having excellent organizational, written, and verbal communication skills and a basic knowledge of Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel.
- D. Nominees for Treasurer: it is recommended the candidate meet the minimum qualifications of having served on MSLA Board of Trustees for one full fiscal year or Chairperson of a Standing Committee, having previous, verifiable accounting and/or bookkeeping experience that includes budget development and knowledge of building and maintaining spreadsheets.
- E. Nominees for Competition Coordinator: it is recommended the candidate meet the minimum qualifications of having served on MSLA Board of Trustees for one full fiscal year and having served one full fiscal year on one of the Lone Star Classic or Ratings Committee.

The Election Committee shall evaluate the experiences of each candidate for the above positions and publish to the membership alongside the ballot a notification of which candidates meet the recommended requirements and which do not.

Candidates for the Board, if elected, will serve in a volunteer capacity during their tenure on the Board. As such, all candidates will be required to sign the MSLA Volunteer Waiver in order to have their name placed on the ballot.

### **SECTION 3.5 NOMINATIONS BY MEMBERS**

Any member of the League is eligible to nominate any member of the League for any position on the Board to be filled by General

Election. All nominees must meet the qualifications for each Board position as outlined herein.

### **SECTION 3.6 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

- A. The Commissioner/Asst. Commissioner shall appoint the Election Committee Chairperson prior to Opening Day games and shall serve as the Board Liaison to the Election Committee. This duty shall fall to the Board position not up for election.
- B. The Election Committee shall consist of members chosen from a pool of volunteers from both the playing and non-playing membership.
- C. Nominations for the Board of Trustees election are officially open beginning Sunday, the first week of official play. The name of the Committee Chair and all members of the Election Committee will be posted on the official league website..
- D. The Board Liaison will coordinate with the Election Chair and Public Relations Coordinator to post on the official League website a list of all candidates as they are deemed eligible for the Board position(s). Any nominee may be self-removed from the election process by submitting a written notice to the Election Chair prior to the

elections ballot being finalized. Any candidate/election winner may concede the elected Board position prior to the Annual Meeting of the Members.

- E. The committee chair will determine the method used for voting. Upon completion of polling, a minimum of two-thirds of all members of the Election Committee (excluding the Board liaison) must be present to count and validate the ballots. An election report signed by the committee members will be submitted to the Election Chair. The Election Chair shall provide a written statement to the Board communicating that the votes are secure, have been counted and that the results have been validated.
- F. Determination and Announcement of Winners:
  - 1. Candidates who receive the most votes cast shall be the winner. For the Members-at-Large, the two (2) candidates who receive the most votes cast shall be the winners.
  - 2. In the event of a tie, a run-off election will be held at the GSWS Qualifying tournament (or an alternate date specified by the Election Committee if no tournament is held) between only the candidates who obtained tie votes.
  - 3. An announcement of the election results shall be disclosed to the membership within seven (7) days of the election.
- G. Newly elected trustees will be asked to attend each Board meeting scheduled after the annual awards banquet and receive all board communications during the transition period.
- H. The newly elected trustees will attend the annual meeting and assume assigned duties at the conclusion of the annual meeting.
- I. Timeline and Deadlines

*(Posted to the Official League Website)*

Candidate Nomination Period Opens: *Opening Day*

Candidate and Award Nominations Close, Early Voting Day, Election Day, and Run-Off Election or Rain-out: *Will all be on a date and time as determined by the Board of Trustees*

Announcement of Winners: *Shall be disclosed to the Membership within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the election process.*

Elected 2-year Term Begins: *At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Members*

*Note: Timeline is subject to change based on acts or circumstances not under the control of the Board of Trustees. Any such change(s) must be communicated to the Membership.*

### **SECTION 3.7 TERMS**

- A. The term of each office shall coincide with the League's Annual Meeting of the Membership, beginning at the end of the Annual Meeting for a term of two (2) consecutive years on an alternating basis, herein provided, until the appropriate date as previously prescribed and until successors are qualified and elected, unless such Officer shall sooner resign or be removed.
- B. Elections will be held in even years for the offices of Commissioner, Secretary, Fundraising / Sponsorship Coordinator, Public Relations Coordinator, and Member-at-Large positions one (1) and three (3).
- C. Elections will be held in odd years for the offices of Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer, Competition Coordinator, and Member-at-Large positions two (2) and four (4).

### **SECTION 3.8 OATH OF OFFICE**

Each Trustee shall sign and commit to the Board of Trustees Oath of Office upon taking office. I affirm that I will faithfully conduct the office for which I have been elected or appointed and will abide by the Instruments of Governance of the Montrose Softball League Association and will at all times strive to advance the ideals and purposes for which our Association was founded. I take this obligation upon myself, voluntarily and without mental reservation.

### **SECTION 3.9 VACANCY**

Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Trustees may be filled by the Board of Trustees and the appointee shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the Trustee who is succeeded.

### **SECTION 3.10 NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

All meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be made to be known to the membership, notice stating the place, day, and hour of any meeting of the Board members shall be delivered by e-mail to the Managers' Council Members and published on the official MSLA website calendar, not less than two (2) days prior to the date of such meeting. In the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice.

### **SECTION 3.11 REGULAR MEETINGS**

Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held every month of the year at a time and place to be determined by the Board. All meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to all members of the League.

### **SECTION 3.12 SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings may be called by the Commissioner on three (3) days' notice to each Trustee either personally, by telephone, by e-mail, or by standard mail. Special meetings shall be called by the Commissioner or the Secretary on the request of any five (5) Trustees serving like notice.

### **SECTION 3.13 QUORUM**

- A. A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board.
- B. Members of the Board of Trustees may participate virtually in any Board meeting and shall be counted as present for the purposes of establishing a quorum. Member(s) participating virtually shall have the same voting privileges as if they were present and voting at the designated meeting location. The Chair of the meeting may be a Board Member that is participating virtually.

### **SECTION 3.14 MANNER OF ACTING**

- A. At any duly called and assembled meeting of the Board of Trustees, any vote of the Board will become effective immediately unless otherwise designated in the motion that passes. All other requirements of a proper meeting must be in place for a meeting to proceed.
- B. Unless otherwise designated in a different section of the instrument of governance requiring an alternative vote to pass, any motion will be deemed passed by a majority of Trustees, present and casting votes. Abstentions will not count. The chair of the meeting shall not vote except in the event of a tie vote.
- C. The chair of the meeting shall not discuss any proposal as an advocate on any side of the issue unless they pass the duties of the chair; however, the chair may add comments for informational purposes or to make

clarifications as needed.

### **SECTION 3.15 INVOLUNTARY RESIGNATIONS**

Any member of the Board of Trustees who has absences from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Trustees and regular meetings of the Managers' Council may be deemed to have resigned as a member of the Board.

### **SECTION 3.16 REMOVAL**

- A. The Board shall have the authority to, with a two-thirds vote, remove any Trustee of the League for reason of conduct not in the best interest of the League, or for failure, refusal, or inability to perform the official duties of the office.
- B. At any duly called Managers' Council meeting, the Council may, with a two-thirds vote, remove a Trustee of the League from the Board for reasons of non-performance of duties or violations of the Code of Conduct.
- C. The Jerry Award Committee may, at any meeting of the committee, take action to recommend to the Board the removal of any Trustee of the League.
- D. A member of the Board being considered for removal must be provided a three (3) day notice of the intent to consider removal. The grounds for removal must be included in the notice with sufficient detail to provide the Trustee the opportunity to prepare a response.

### **SECTION 3.17 COMPENSATION**

The Board of Trustees shall serve without compensation; however, the annual dues shall be waived for all members of the Board.

## **ARTICLE 4 DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **SECTION 4.1 COMMISSIONER**

The duties of the Commissioner shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Presiding at all formal meetings of members and of the Board.
- B. Appointing members of any duly authorized committee of the League.
- C. Serving as the official delegate and voting representative of the League on the Council of the International Pride Sports/North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (iPride/NAGAAA). Travel, hotel expenses and a per diem for iPride/NAGAAA meetings will be covered by the League with a limit set forth by the Board. This will also include expenses for the week of GSWS due to serving on Protest Committee, unless they are a playing member of a GSWS participating team.
- D. With Board approval, designate and appoint the appropriate number of delegates (with priority given to Executive Board members) to attend or serve the League at any scheduled meeting of the iPride/NAGAAA Council, GSWS related events, or Committees of iPride/NAGAAA. Each designated delegate may have an expense budget for use not inconsistent with the budget assigned to each of the delegates by the Board of Trustees. All delegate expenditures including but not limited to travel, hotel expenses and a per diem for iPride/NAGAAA events will be covered by the League. The budget for these expenses will be approved by the Board of Trustees.
- E. Ruling on the interpretation and intent of the Bylaws.
- F. Serving as an authorized signatory on the League banking account(s) and on any funds managed by the League.

- G. Overseeing all day-to-day functions of the League.
- H. Providing all required League information to iPride/NAGAAA by the specified iPride/NAGAAA deadlines.
- I. Collecting and depositing funds of the League in such banks as shall be specified by resolution of the Board, or designating to a Board member with appropriate signatory authority.
- J. May appoint a Sergeant at Arms, as necessary.
- K. May appoint a Parliamentarian to rule on matters of Parliamentary Procedure at all meetings of the Managers' Council.
- L. May submit a Player Protest.

## **SECTION 4.2 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**

The duties of the Assistant Commissioner shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Performing all duties and exercising all powers of the Commissioner during the Commissioner's absence or disability.
- B. Becoming the acting Commissioner should the Commissioner resign or be removed from office.
- C. Ruling on Parliamentary procedures at all formal meetings of the members or the Board.
- D. Maintaining order at all meetings.
- E. Coordinating and overseeing field maintenance.
- F. Serving as liaison between the League and any entities providing playing fields.
- G. Serving as an authorized signatory on the League banking account(s).
- H. Presiding at all Managers' Council Meetings.
- I. Disseminate information, which is pursuant to activities of the Managers' Council, to the Managers' Council.
- J. Collecting and depositing funds of the League in such banks as shall be specified by resolution of the Board, or designating to a Board member with appropriate signatory authority.
- K. May submit a Player Protest.

## **SECTION 4.3 SECRETARY**

The duties of the Secretary shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. Keeping the minutes of the meetings of the Board, the membership, and of the Managers' Council. Minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees must be distributed to each and every Trustee within ten (10) days of said meeting. Minutes of meetings of the Managers' Council must be distributed to each and every Trustee as well as each and every member of the Managers' Council within ten (10) days of said meeting. Minutes of meetings of the membership must be distributed to each and every Trustee within thirty (30) days of said meeting, and must be available for distribution upon request to any League member; also, minutes of meetings of the membership must be available for distribution at the next meeting of the membership.
- B. Maintaining an official record of the By-Laws, and Rules of Play.
- C. Retaining the exclusive power to make clerical, non-substantive revisions (including, but not limited to reformatting and renumbering, rewording for clarity, and rectifying grammatical errors) to the By-Laws and Rules of Play with approval by vote of two-thirds majority of the Board of Trustees, less any vacancies.
- D. Retaining the exclusive power to rectify conflicting statements contained within the By-Laws such that they

reflect the most recent amendments to the documents with approval by vote of two-thirds majority of the Board of Trustees, less any vacancies.

- E. Maintaining a record of all members of the League and their respective contact information.
- F. Managing player and team registration for the League by:
  - 1. Determining the process by which teams and individuals will be required to register for League participation and establishing all required forms that will be required as part of registration
  - 2. Publishing registration guidelines to the membership, managers and in a public forum accessible to new members at least seven (7) days prior to the date set by the League calendar for registration to open
- G. Providing sign-in sheets at applicable League functions.
- H. Disseminating all general notices to the membership.
- I. Having custody of the checkbook(s) of the League and of any funds managed by the League in absence of the Treasurer.
- J. Serves as the official Instruments of Governance (IOG) Board Liaison between and among the League members, the Board of Trustees, and any appointed IOG Review Committee member. All IOG item submissions will be submitted with required contact information to the Secretary. The League member's required contact information will be held anonymously with the Secretary. If IOG submissions are reviewed by other Board members or official committees, the Secretary will act as the Liaison and will remove the League member's contact information prior to sharing the IOG submission with others.
- K. May submit a Player Protest.

#### **SECTION 4.4 TREASURER**

The duties of the Treasurer shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Accounting monthly for all dues and monies collected and all disbursements made by the League.
- B. Having custody of the checkbook(s) of any funds managed by the League.
- C. Collecting and depositing funds of the League in such banks as shall be specified by resolution of the Board, or designating to a Board member with appropriate signatory authority.
- D. Making disbursements and having charge of the financial affairs of the League and of any funds managed by the League under authorization of the Board.
- E. Providing online access to the monthly bank statements and a monthly check register for Board review, as needed.
- F. Providing a copy of the monthly financials for board approval, Council review and posting online for the membership. At a minimum, the financials should present budget and actual amounts for consolidated level with all League events and also individual League events for the current month.
- G. Identifying, implementing and monitoring best practices and practical internal controls relating to all financial matters of the League.
- H. Coordinating compliance with the League's 501(c)(3) guidelines related to fundraising and use of funds with the Public Relations Coordinator.
- I. Monitoring compliance of all 501(c)(3) related matters with the League's CPA, including the annual IRS Form 990 filing.
- J. Coordinating to maximize grant opportunities with the Public Relations Coordinator.

- K. Coordinating to secure and manage Corporate Sponsors for the League with the Public Relations Coordinator and the Fundraising / Sponsorship Coordinator.
- L. Identifying and suggesting solutions to maximize low risk investment opportunities for non-operating cash.
- M. May submit a Player Protest.

#### **SECTION 4.5 COMPETITION COORDINATOR**

The duties of the Competition Coordinator shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Providing a League playing schedule at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of League play to the Board for approval, and, once approved, disseminating the schedule to the Managers' Council at least seven (7) days prior to the start of League play.
- B. Interpreting the Rules of Play, or designating another qualified individual to do so.
- C. Coordinating the scheduling of umpires for League play with the Umpire in Chief. Will nominate a person for UIC, who must be approved by a vote of the Board of Trustees. If the UIC selected is a member of the League, they will have their dues waived.
- D. Serving as a liaison between the League and any entities providing umpires.
- E. Planning competition with teams that are not members of the League, upon approval of the Board.
- F. Overseeing all tournament committees that are authorized by the Board.
- G. Serving as an authorized signatory on the League banking account(s).
- H. Providing player ratings from the previous year to every team Manager/Coach prior to the start of League play.
- I. Distributing all player ratings from to every team Manager/Coach no later than fourteen (14) days after the final roster deadline.
- J. Addressing safety concerns identified from observations by any of the Board of Trustees including their own and enforcing the Board of Trustees' corrective actions to protect the safety of all players as deemed appropriate based on the facts and circumstances.
- K. Collecting and depositing funds of the League in such banks as shall be specified by resolution of the Board, or designating to a Board member with appropriate signatory authority.
- L. Once league play begins on a given day, the Competition Coordinator or Board Designee shall determine the suitability of the field(s) for continuing play.
- M. May submit a Player Protest.

#### **SECTION 4.6 PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR**

The duties of the Public Relations Coordinator shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Collecting information and overseeing the publication of the League newsletter.
- B. Serving as spokesperson for the League with the news media.
- C. Approving all advertising/marketing materials that are published in any medium on behalf of the League and/or League-related events.
- D. Coordinating and approving all League communications (by anyone other than fellow Board of Trustees members) to outside parties.
- E. Serving as an authorized signatory on the League banking account(s).



- F. Serving as the primary Trustee for recruiting new members into the League, both playing and nonplaying.
- G. Serving as the primary Trustee for the League website.
- H. Coordinating with the Treasurer and the Fundraising / Sponsorship Coordinator to secure and manage corporate sponsors for the League
- I. Coordinating compliance with the League's 501(c)(3) guidelines related to fundraising and use of funds with the Treasurer.
- J. May submit a Player Protest.

#### **SECTION 4.7 FUNDRAISING / SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR**

The duties of the Fundraising Coordinator shall include but are not limited to:

- A. Coordinating all League fundraising activities with the teams and members of the League.
- B. Serving as an authorized signatory on the League banking account(s).
- C. Serving as the liaison between the Team Title Sponsors and the Board.
- D. Coordinating with the Treasurer and the Public Relations Coordinator to secure corporate sponsors for the League.
- E. Coordinating with the Division Coordinators and Member-at-Large Coordinators to secure team sponsors.
- F. May submit a Player Protest.

#### **SECTION 4.8 MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

The Board may assign specific duties to the Members-at-Large where doing so shall benefit the League. In addition to any duties assigned by the Board, the duties of the Members-at-Large shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. Serving as a liaison between the Board of Trustees and their assigned teams.
- B. Assisting the Assistant Commissioner in training any new Manager on their assigned teams on the Manager's responsibilities to their team and the League.
- C. Assisting the Secretary in ensuring all Rosters are current and complete in their assigned teams.
- D. Assisting the Treasurer in ensuring all Player and Team dues are paid on their assigned teams.
- E. Assisting the Competition Coordinator in distribution of Ratings to their assigned teams in conjunction with the Ratings Committee and iPride/NAGAAA.
- F. Assisting the Fundraising Coordinator in ticket distribution and collection for their assigned teams.
- G. Coordinating with the Fundraising / Sponsorship Coordinator to help teams secure sponsors if needed.
- H. Serving as an authorized signatory on the League banking account(s).
- I. May submit a Player Protest.

#### **SECTION 4.9 EXCLUSIVE POWERS**

The Board of Trustees shall have the following exclusive powers and responsibilities:

- A. Enforcing the penalties for violation of the League rules.
- B. Prescribing additional duties for any of the Trustees in addition to those set forth in these Bylaws.

- C. Setting fees for membership dues will be supported with rationale.
- D. Upon a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Board members present at a duly called meeting, suspending or expelling a member for conduct in violation of these Bylaws or rules, or for conduct improper or prejudicial to the best interests of the League, or denying membership of any person into the League.
- E. Electing an Umpire in Chief to serve the Board.
- F. Preparing annual IRS reports, including the hiring of a CPA, if necessary.
- G. Settling disputes regarding final player ratings
- H. In addition to the foregoing specific powers, managing all the affairs of the League and acting on any and all questions relating in any manner whatsoever thereto, and making all contracts necessary for the proper transaction of all business of the League.
- I. Ensuring a current registered agent is appointed and on file with the Office of Secretary of the State of Texas. The registered agent must be a member in good standing.
- J. Upon vote of not less than a 2/3 majority of the Board members present at a duly called meeting, removing a player from a division for safety concerns and requiring the player be immediately re-rated and allowed to continue to play in the appropriate division.
- K. The Board of Trustees may declare an emergency. Once the Emergency has been declared, the Executive Board may meet in person or via teleconference to make decisions on behalf of the full Board.

## **ARTICLE 5 COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION 5.1 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The MSLA will have committees to serve the operations of the league that will fall into the following categories:

- A. An Advisory Committee consisting of the Jerry Award winners residing in the greater Houston area
- B. Standing Committees that are central to the operations of the League and which will have their structure, membership and duties outlined herein.
- C. Charter Committees that shall be created and dissolved by the Board on an as-needed basis to serve the League. The charters of these committees shall detail the structure, membership and scope of duties as set by the board and said charters shall be added to the Board Policies and Committee Charters supplement to the IOG.

### **SECTION 5.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S): THE JERRY AWARD COMMITTEE**

- A. The Jerry Award Committee will consist of those individuals awarded the Jerry Award and living in the Houston vicinity.
- B. Meetings of the Jerry Award Committee shall be held from time to time, with notice given to the committee members at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.
- C. The guidelines for winning the Jerry Award shall be
  - 1. Based on the individual's length of membership in the League and service to the League in areas including (but not limited to): committee, coach/manager, umpire, Board member and League sponsorship.
  - 2. Winners must have shown the ability and willingness to place the League's best interest above their personal or team's best interest.
  - 3. Winners must have served the League at a level above and beyond reasonable expectations.

4. Winners must have represented the League well in the community and been respected in the League and the community.
- D. There may not be more than three (3) awards given in any one year and if the committee agrees, no award(s) can be given.
- E. The Jerry Award past winners will serve as the steering committee for the League and present new ideas to the current board for League improvement.

### **SECTION 5.3 RULES GOVERNING STANDING AND CHARTER COMMITTEE(S)**

- A. Term and appointment of committee chair:
  1. The chair of each Committee shall be appointed by the Commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Trustees.
  2. Unless such committee shall sooner be terminated or unless such member shall resign or be removed from the committee, the Chair of each standing committee shall serve from the time of appointment until the next annual meeting of members and may be approved by the Commissioner to continue service until their successor is appointed.
  3. In the case of a mid-term vacancy, the vacancy may be filled in the same manner as the original Chair was appointed.
- B. Board liaison: For each committee created, the Commissioner shall appoint one member of the Board of Trustees to serve as Board Liaison for such committee; the purpose of the Board Liaison shall be to help facilitate communication between the Board and the committee, as well as insure proper operation of the committee.
- C. Budgets: Each committee may develop a budget for its own committee use not inconsistent with the budget assigned the committee by the Board of Trustees. All committee expenditures should be approved by the Committee Chairman, and are subject to ultimate approval/rejection by the Board of Trustees.
- D. Minutes of meetings: Minutes shall be taken of all committee meetings. Such minutes shall be distributed to the appropriate Board Liaison within ten (10) days of such meeting. It shall be the duty of the Chair to record said minutes or to appoint a secretary for the meeting to do so.
- E. Committee membership: At minimum, membership on a committee requires the individual be a current member of the MSLA and in good standing with the League. Additional qualifications for membership on any committee may be established. The Chair of the committee is responsible for maintaining the membership of their committee. Membership on the committee may be terminated by the Chair, whenever in their judgment the best interest of the League shall be served by such removal.

### **SECTION 5.4 STANDING COMMITTEES**

LONE STAR CLASSIC COMMITTEE: The Lone Star Classic Committee shall consist of the following members and their duties and functions:

- A. The functions of the Tournament Director shall be:
  1. Ensuring that all deadlines established by the Board of Trustees are met.
  2. Recruiting teams for the Tournament from both iPride/NAGAAA and non-iPride/NAGAAA softball Leagues throughout North America.
  3. Submitting the proposed budget from the Tournament Committee to the board for final approval.
  4. Recruit additional members to the committee and assign specific duties related to the planning and

functioning of the tournament to members of the committee on an as-needed basis to ensure a well-run tournament.

B. The Competition Coordinator will be appointed by the Director. The functions of the Competition Coordinator shall be:

1. Securing the playing fields for the Lone Star Classic Tournament.
2. Establishing a committee for field maintenance, preparation, and clean up (to include bleacher and spectator's area(s)).
3. Selecting the Umpire in Chief, with the approval of the Committee, and securing qualified umpires. The UIC can be a non-member of the League.
4. Serving as the primary Committee member to answer all questions about game play once the playing of games starts.
5. Assuming the duties of the Director if they are unable to perform.

#### ELECTION COMMITTEE

Prior to the start of League play, the appropriate Trustee will appoint an Election Committee Chairperson and the Chair shall maintain a committee roster of no fewer than five (5) members. This committee shall collect nominations, assist in campaign events, and run the Elections for the current year's Trustee positions.

#### RECRUITMENT DAY COMMITTEE

A. The functions of the Recruitment Day Committee shall be:

1. Host recruitment event(s).
2. Purpose is to solicit new members for the League.

#### RATINGS COMMITTEE

A. Chair and Committee:

1. Prior to the start of League Play, the Board will appoint a Ratings Committee Chair.
2. The chair shall select a committee with approval from the managers' council consisting of at least 5 members with at least 1 member from each league applicable division (A-E).
3. The Committee Chair shall be responsible to ensure all member of the committee are familiar with the iPride/NAGAAA Player Ratings Guidelines.
4. The committee shall conduct meetings as needed and records shall be kept.

B. Committee Responsibilities

1. Shall help educate members regarding the iPride/NAGAAA Player Ratings Guidelines.
2. Shall conduct Ratings Clinic(s) as needed.
3. Shall serve as the official body to administer MBA-related activity, to include:
  - a. Shall review records of the MBAs (to be completed by each team's manager or delegate) and will post their results on the MSLA website within seven (7) days after all discrepancies have been finalized.
  - b. MBAs (with a minimum of 20 At Bats within your division and Legends (previously Masters) equivalent) will be calculated through the week prior to the final week of regular season play by each team/manager and will be used to determine player ratings for questions related to MBAs.
  - c. MBAs (with a minimum of 20 At Bats within your division and Legends equivalent) will be modified to include the final week of regular season play and these modified MBAs may be used as evidence as appropriate and necessary in the Player Ratings Final Appeal Meeting (Section 10.3).

- d. Appeals of MBA-related player ratings questions may be filed for consideration at the Player Ratings Final Appeal Meeting; such appeals must adhere to the procedures outlined in Section 10.2.D.5.i-iv.
- 4. Shall serve as the official body to administer (hear and rule on) ratings-related Protest Hearings (Section 10.2.D).
- 5. Committee can make a recommendation to the Board for a manager to lose protesting privileges if they deem that the manager is filing excessive protests that are deemed to be invalid or the protests are denied.

## **SECTION 5.5 CHARTER COMMITTEES**

### **CREATION OF CHARTER COMMITTEES**

Committees may be created and dissolved by resolution of the Board adopted by a majority vote of the Board. Charters, once adopted by the Board, shall be added to the Board Policies and Committee Charters supplement to the IOG. Except as otherwise provided in such resolution, members of each committee created shall be members of the League in good standing, and the Chair of the committee shall maintain a membership roster for the committee. A board resolution creating a committee must, at minimum, include the following items in the committee charter:

- A. Name of the Committee
- B. Appointment of Chair of the committee (or process required for naming the Chair)
- C. Appointment of Board Liaison to the committee
- D. Requirements for membership on the committee
- E. Establishment of a budget for the committee
- F. Description of the scope of duties of the committee

## **ARTICLE 6 MANAGERS' COUNCIL**

### **SECTION 6.1 MANAGERS' COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The Managers' Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, shall consist of the manager or their appointed representative from their team that is a member of the League. Each team manager or their designee shall have one (1) vote for the purpose of conducting business as a member of the Managers' Council.

### **SECTION 6.2 MEETINGS**

- A. Regular Meetings - Meetings of the Council shall be held on a regular basis. The Assistant Commissioner will notify each member of the Board and Council at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.
- B. Special Meetings - Special meetings of the Council may be called by any five (5) managers on five (5) days' notice to each member of the Board and the Council. Special meetings of the Council may be held with or without the Board present. The cost of the meeting will be equally divided and paid amongst the Managers calling the Special Meeting unless approved by a Majority of the Board at the next routinely scheduled Board Meeting.
- C. Hearing Meetings - Grievances, misconduct, and the like pertaining to Members of the League must be addressed to the Board of Trustees within three (3) days after completion of the event leading to the request for a hearing, unless such event occurs at the Gay Softball World Series (if the event occurs at the GSWS, reporting to the Board must occur within seven (7) days after completion of the event leading to the request for a hearing). The Assistant Commissioner will notify each member of the Board and Council at least three (3) days prior to the set hearing, unless the hearing involves an incident(s) occurring at the GSWS, in which case at least five (5) days' notice is required. The Manager/Coach of the member(s) to which the hearing pertains shall give notice of the hearing to said member(s). A quorum of the Board must be present at all hearings.

### **SECTION 6.3 NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

All meetings of the Managers' Council shall be made to be known to the membership, notice stating the place, day, and hour of any meeting of the Board members shall be delivered by e-mail to the Board of Trustees, the Managers' Council Members, and published on the official MSLA website calendar, not less than the required number of days prior to the date of such meeting as indicated within Section 6. In the case of a regular meeting, the agenda will be stated in the notice. In the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice.

### **SECTION 6.4 QUORUM**

A majority of the Council members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Council meeting.

### **SECTION 6.5 MANNER OF ACTING**

At any duly called and assembled meeting of the Managers' Council, any vote of the Council will become effective immediately unless otherwise designated in the motion that passes. All other requirements of a proper meeting must be in place for a meeting to proceed.

Unless otherwise designated in a different section of the instrument of governance requiring an alternative vote to pass, any motion will be deemed passed by a majority of the Council in good standing, present and casting votes. Abstentions will not count. The chair of the meeting shall not vote except in the event of a tie vote. The chair of the meeting shall not discuss any proposal as an advocate on any side of the issue unless they pass the chair, however the chair may add comments for informational purposes or to make clarifications as needed .

### **SECTION 6.6 COMPENSATION**

The Council members shall serve without compensation.

### **SECTION 6.7 DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL**

The duties of the Council shall be:

- A. Reviewing the Rules of Play and making recommendations for changes or revisions. Those managers present will vote on any changes or revisions for their respective division. In the case where interdivision play will occur, managers present from those teams involved in inter- division play will vote on any changes or revisions effecting the playing of their games, including inter-division games. Changes or revisions that are not division specific shall be voted on by the Council as a whole. Any changes or revisions will be in effect immediately, unless otherwise provided for in the revision.
- B. Approving the method of determining the League/division championship teams(s) for the regular season. The League/division championship team(s) shall be the regular season champions(s) unless an alternate method is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of council.
- C. Approving the method of determining the League/division championship team(s) hierarchy for GSWS berth determination.
- D. Serving as the body to receive grievances from members about players or teams in possible violation of rules and, after hearing the grievance, bringing such grievance to the Board with a recommendation for any penalties which may be assessed. (This function is not a protest committee for protests involving actual play of game)
- E. Upon request of the Commissioner or Secretary, conduct a special meeting of the Manager's Council involving the removal of any Board of Trustee.

## ARTICLE 7 DUTIES OF THE MANAGER/COACH

Each team will have an individual or individuals that will serve as a manager, coach, or a manager/coach. The duties of this individual(s) will be to:

- A. Attend all Managers' Council meetings in accordance with Article 6. If the Manager is unable to attend Council meetings, they must send a representative from their team in their place. A Manager or representative of the same team missing two (2) consecutive Council meetings will result in that Manager/Team losing voting privileges at Manager Council meetings for the remainder of that season.
- B. Inform the Board of Trustees of any new individuals in the community that have expressed interest in becoming a playing or non-playing member of the League.
- C. Disseminate League information to team members, both playing and non-playing.
- D. Provide team members to assist in field maintenance, as may be prescribed by both the Assistant Commissioner and/or the Competition Coordinator.
- E. Provide team members to assist the Concessionaire when scheduled by the Board.
- F. Inform team members of all League activities to include distribution and accountability of League raffle tickets and admission tickets to League activities.
- G. Confirm that all League forms are fully completed and presented to the assigned Member-at-Large Coordinator by the due date as established by the Board. Also ensure that all team member's dues, both playing and non-playing, are paid and membership applications are completed.
- H. Confirm that a current playing roster is turned in to the assigned Member-at-Large Coordinator whenever there is a change in that roster.
- I. Ensure there are sufficient playing members for all games.
- J. Ensure that all team members, both playing and non-playing, adhere to the League's Rules of Play.
- K. Handle Manager's duties related to Player Ratings, including:
  - 1. Provide an initial player rating for any team member who does not have a player rating established from the previous year.
  - 2. Provide a listing of player rating questions for review for any team member who would like to have a previous year's player rating reviewed.
  - 3. Disseminate Player Rating information to team members.
  - 4. Provide a listing of player rating questions for review for any team member who would like to appeal a player rating to the Board of Trustees.
  - 5. Attend training – as necessary – to ensure complete understanding of the iPride/NAGAAA ratings questions.
  - 6. Shall compile a record of the MBAs for their respective team and submit to Ratings Committee for each week of play. If the manager chooses, a fee may be paid at the beginning of Regular Season play to have the Ratings committee compile a record MBAs during the season.
- L. Comply with any additional guidelines as directed by the Board of Trustees.
- M. Confirm dues/fee deadlines are met. All sponsor fees, along with a team roster, signed waiver forms and dues must be paid online prior to the start of the season (Initial Roster Deadline) as set by the Board. Failure to perform this duty will result in penalties as outlined in Article 8 and the team will be deemed ineligible for play until a majority of the Board has approved that the team has satisfied the registration requirements.
- N. Provide a summary of 501(c)(3) team funds upon request from a team's playing member(s), non-playing member(s), or the Board. The summary should present compliance of the use of team funds with the League's

501(c)(3) fundraising guidelines. A summary template shall be available on the MSLA website to be followed as a guide.

- O. Maintain the appropriate "Home" scorebook for each game, or designate a competent individual to assume these duties. A "Home" book will be kept for each game.

## **ARTICLE 8 GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES (GSWS)**

### **SECTION 8.1 PARTICIPATION**

As an alliance member of the iPride/NAGAAA, the Montrose Softball League Association is committed to active participation in the GSWS.

### **SECTION 8.2 TEAM QUALIFICATIONS FOR GSWS DIVISIONS**

Montrose Softball League Association teams participating in the GSWS will be designated as "A", "B", "C", "D", "E" or "Legends C" or "Legends D" (with additional age restrictions) by iPride/NAGAAA, based on player ratings of the GSWS roster. A team may play in a higher GSWS division than that of their rating designation in accordance with iPride/NAGAAA rules.

### **SECTION 8.3 GSWS BERTH ELIGIBILITY**

- A. To be eligible for GSWS determination procedures, a team must be qualified under all relevant Articles/Sections of the MSLA Bylaws and Rules of Play, as well as all relevant iPride/NAGAAA rules. The League shall not establish or require a fundraising requirement be met by any team as a condition to qualify for GSWS eligibility.
- B. All teams desiring to represent the League in the GSWS, including those who qualify under Section 8.3.A, must have paid to the League any fees and/or deposits required by League Bylaws or Rules of Play at least ten (10) days prior to the originally scheduled start of the initial division's Playoffs to be eligible to qualify for GSWS participation.
- C. During the Player Ratings Appeal Procedure, it may be determined that a team played in a division with an ineligible team rating or individual player rating for that division during the Regular Season. In order to qualify for participation in GSWS Representative Determination, that team must:
  - 1. Utilizing their final Regular Season roster and final player ratings, qualify for the GSWS using the procedures of, and in competition with teams rated in, the division for which their final Regular Season rating designates that team, or
  - 2. After altering their final regular season roster by dropping players to create a GSWS Representative Determination Roster that qualifies them for participation in the GSWS Representative Determination procedures for the division in which that team participated in the Regular Season, then must participate in that division's Playoffs as the lowest seed among teams who competed in that division during the regular season, but ahead of any teams who competed in a lower division during the regular season and are playing up. Teams shall be seeded in the order of finish in their Regular Season division's hierarchy for GSWS berth determination should there be more than one (1) team from that division participating in the Playoff under these conditions.
- D. Any team who forfeits a game (or games) on more than one (1) day of play is ineligible for GSWS participation. Exceptions to this rule may be granted upon a vote of not less than two thirds (2/3) of the Board members present at a duly called meeting of the Board.
- E. All teams that does not abide by the MBA calculation requirement or have paid the fee prior to the start of the season to have the Ratings Committee compile MBAs for their team may be deemed ineligible for GSWS participation.



## SECTION 8.4 BERTH ALLOCATION AND DETERMINATION

- A. iPride/NAGAAA awards berths to member cities based on the total number of rostered teams in the regular season. The allocation is as follows (this chart is taken directly from the iPride/NAGAAA IOG – this allocation chart may be administratively updated in the event iPride/NAGAAA makes changes)

ASSOCIATION BERTH ALLOTMENTS							
Team entries may not exceed maximum limits for each division nor the total maximum berths.							
TEAMS IN MEMBER ASSOCIATION	A DIVISION	B DIVISION	C DIVISION	D DIVISION	E DIVISION	MASTERS C DIVISION	MASTERS D DIVISION
1-9 Teams	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	2 teams total distributed any way between C/D/E Division			1 team in Masters C or Masters D	
10-18 Teams			3 teams total distributed any way between C/D/E with a max of 2 per Division			1	1
19-28 Teams			5 teams total distributed any way between C/D/E with a max of 2 per Division			2	2
29+ Teams			7 teams total distributed any way between C/D/E with a max of 3 per Division			2	2
The GSWS Host City may add one (1) team in each division for only the 2023 GSWS. For the 2024 GSWS and on, the host city may only add one (1) team in the division of their choice.							

Note: "Masters" in now "Legends".

- B. For any and all divisions granted unlimited GSWS berths per Member Association by iPride/NAGAAA, berths will be filled by any and all eligible teams for those divisions and no Playoffs will be played for such divisions.
- C. If, due to unforeseen circumstances (as determined by the Board of Trustees), the league has been unable to complete enough regular season games to sufficiently (as determined by the Board of Trustees) award berths based on regular season standings for a division, all berths for said division shall be determined by a GSWS Playoff.
- D. In a division where the MSLA is awarded one (1) berth, the berth will be awarded to the highest placing eligible team from the results of the regular season
- E. In a division where the MSLA is awarded two (2) berths, the first berth will be awarded to the highest placing eligible team from the results of the regular season and the second berth will be awarded to the highest placing eligible team from a GSWS Playoff to be held at the end of the regular season.
- F. In a division where the MSLA is awarded three (3) berths, the first and second berths will be awarded to the highest placing eligible team from the results of the regular season and the third berth will be awarded to the highest placing eligible team from a GSWS Playoff to be held at the end of the regular season.
- G. Other Circumstances:
1. In the event the MSLA is granted eight (8) berths with a maximum of five (5) entries to be split between the C and D division, each division will receive two (2) berths automatically with the remaining berth to be awarded to the division that has the highest percentage of regular season teams that have submitted a GSWS deposit.
  2. In the event the MSLA registers and rosters the maximum number of berths allotted and is awarded an extra berth to be utilized in any division, the extra berth will be awarded to a division having a minimum of five (5) teams participating in the regular season based on the following criteria:

- i. Of the total teams submitting GSWS deposits, minus teams that received an automatic berth, the division with the highest percentage of teams remaining with a submitted deposit will be awarded the “bonus” berth.

**EXAMPLE:** (eligible for administrative revision should clarity be required)

4 B teams submit, 2 already have been awarded automatic berths = 2 B teams remain

10 C teams submit, 2 already have been awarded automatic berths = 8 C teams remain

12 D teams submit, 2 already have been awarded automatic berths = 10 D teams remain

Total of remaining teams = 20 teams, D = 50% (10/20), C = 40% (8/20), B = 10% (2/20)

Result = the “bonus” berth will be awarded to the D division

- ii. In case of a tie, the division with the highest percentage of regular season teams with deposits gets the berth

**EXAMPLE:** (eligible for administrative revision should clarity be required)

10 C teams submitted deposits out of 12 total teams in C division regular season = 83%12

D teams submitted deposits out of 20 total teams in D division regular season = 60%

Result = the “bonus” berth will be awarded to the C division

- iii. Should this division now have four (4) berths awarded, the first three (3) berths will be awarded to the three (3) highest placing eligible teams from the results of the regular season, and the fourth berth will be now be awarded to the highest placing eligible team from a GSWS Playoff to be held at the end of the regular season.
- H. Should a team that has been awarded a GSWS berth subsequently relinquish their right to attend the GSWS, the berth shall be offered to eligible teams who participated in the GSWS Playoff for that division. This process shall continue until a team has claimed the berth by submitting a deposit as outlined in Section 8.8.
  - I. In the case where all eligible teams for a division relinquish their rights to attend the GSWS, teams in the division with the most teams eligible for the GSWS will be offered the opportunity to fill the berth based on their finish in the GSWS Playoff for that division. The berth will be offered to the eligible teams who participated in the GSWS playoff for that division and this process shall continue until a team has claimed the berth by submitting a deposit as outlined in Section 8.6.
  - J. After all procedures per the Bylaws have been exhausted to fill all berths, or if the ability to determine such berths has been precluded by the inability to complete a regular season and GSWS Playoff (as determined by the Board of Trustees), and a berth or berths remain unfilled, it shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to determine an appropriate method by which a team is to be identified to fill the remaining berth(s).

## SECTION 8.5 GSWS PLAYOFF

- A. The format for Playoffs for each division shall be a double elimination tournament.
- B. Only teams who desire and are eligible to represent the League in the GSWS are allowed to participate in the Playoffs. A team that has already been awarded a berth to the GSWS may not participate in the GSWS Playoff.
- C. GSWS Playoff seeding:
  1. Should the GSWS Playoff be utilized due to the invoking of Section 8.4.C. of the Bylaws to determine all berths for a division, seeding for such a GSWS Playoff will be determined by random draw, beginning with all teams associated with that division for originally scheduled regular season play; any team(s) associated with a lower division for originally scheduled regular season play shall receive bottom seeding(s) in the GSWS Playoff (utilizing random draw among such teams should more than one team be involved).
  2. For a GSWS Playoff NOT due to the invoking of Section 8.4.C. of the Bylaws, seeding will be determined as follows: Eligible teams shall be seeded for the GSWS Playoff based on their placement in the regular season in their division. Any team who participated in a lower division for the regular season shall receive bottom seeding in the GSWS Playoff. Should more than one team from a lower division be “playing up”

these teams will be seeded in their order of finish in their regular season division

**EXAMPLE:** *(eligible for administrative revision should clarity be required)*

*The automatic berths in the C Division were awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place team from the regular season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place team was disqualified from earning an automatic berth due to a ratings protest that was upheld and affirmed at the Final Ratings Appeal Meeting which resulted in a player on the roster being ineligible for play in the C Division.*

*There are 10 teams participating in the GSWS Playoff for the C Division berth*

*Seed #1-6 Teams that played in the C Division that finished 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> in division play*

*Seed #7 Team that played in the C Division that finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in C Division play but lost the automatic berth due to a ratings protest that was upheld at the Final Player Ratings Appeal Meeting*

*Seed #8 Team that played in the C Division that finished 7<sup>th</sup> in C Division play but lost a player rating protest that was upheld at the Final Player Ratings Appeal Meeting*

*Seed #9 Team that played in the C Lower Division and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in division play (and is playing up)*

*Seed #10 Team that played in the D Competitive Division and finished 1<sup>st</sup> in division play, but lost a player rating protest that was upheld at the Final Player Ratings Appeal Meeting (and is playing up)*

- D. Playoffs will not be scheduled to coincide with the July 4th holiday weekend. Since July 4th may be during the week, the specific dates deemed unavailable for playoffs under this Bylaw shall be identified and communicated to the Managers' Council with the approved playing schedule before the start of League play.
- E. The Board shall determine the contingency plan for completing the GSWS Playoffs if weather disrupts the ability to hold the GSWS Playoff as originally planned. This plan will include the potential "make up dates" for holding the GSWS Playoff and a cut-off date after which no GSWS Playoff will be held. This plan will be communicated with the playing schedule for the regular season before the start of League play. In the event that no GSWS Playoff is held, the berth that would have been awarded to the winner of the playoff will go to the eligible team finishing the highest in that division's regular season that was scheduled to participate in the GSWS Playoff (with the exception that, if the GSWS Playoff was being utilized due to the invoking of Section 8.4.C. of the Bylaws, all berths for that division will be determined by the Board of Trustees per Section 8.4.I. of the Bylaws).
- F. Any player that is not qualified to participate in the Gay Softball World Series for whatever reason is considered to be ineligible to participate in the MSLA end-of-season tournament. It is the assigned Member-at-Large's responsibility to ensure each player is in compliance prior to the start of the tournament.

## **SECTION 8.6 ADDITIONAL ("PICK UP") PLAYERS**

Additional players for the GSWS representative teams are subject to eligibility requirements and iPride/NAGAAA stipulations.

## **SECTION 8.7 SUPPORT OF THE WORLD SERIES TEAMS**

The MSLA will pay for the entry fee as set forth by iPride/NAGAAA for each team representing the League in the GSWS.

## **SECTION 8.8 DEPOSIT FOR TEAMS ATTENDING THE WORLD SERIES**

- A. Pursuant to Section 8.3.E, each team(s) with the intent of attending the GSWS must pay via electronic payment a deposit equal to the cost of one GSWS team entry fee as set by iPride/NAGAAA. If a team forgoes the right to attend the GSWS at any time after paying their deposit, that team will forfeit the entire deposit to the League. Exceptions to the deposit forfeiture requirement are:
  - 1. Once all available GSWS berths have been initially filled, deposits will be refunded to those teams not identified as earning berths to the GSWS.
  - 2. Should a berth subsequently become available:
    - i. All teams that submitted deposits for the GSWS Playoff Tournament who are still eligible for said berth

- will have seventy-two (72) hours after being notified of such availability to turn in a GSWS deposit (equal to the cost of one GSWS team fee). The berth will be awarded to the team placing highest in the GSWS Qualifying Playoff Tournament.
- ii. If no team is awarded the berth, all GSWS eligible teams in the division will have seventy-two (72) hours after being notified of such availability to turn in a GSWS deposit (equal to the cost of one GSWS team fee). The berth will be awarded to the highest placing team from the regular season who submits a deposit at this time.
  - iii. As with initial GSWS deposits, if any team turning in a deposit subsequently relinquishes their right to attend the GSWS, that team will forfeit the entire deposit to the League.
  - iv. A berth for the GSWS that becomes available more than 28 days after the completion of the GSWS Playoff (or the date the berths that would have been determined by the playoff are awarded in the case that a GSWS playoff cannot be held) will not be filled. The board may grant exception to this rule and determine the procedure for filling the relinquished berth in the event that two or more teams are affected as a consequence of the berth remaining unfilled.
3. Should the initially scheduled date for completing GSWS berth determination (Playoffs and any lotteries) be altered subsequent to deposits being paid, any team may request a refund of their deposit, making the team ineligible for GSWS berth determination procedures. The Board must be made aware of such a request as soon as possible, but no later than eight (8) hours before the start of any rescheduled GSWS berth determination procedures. Also, such requests must be made by a team before said team has completed Playoff participation. If all requirements are met regarding this request for refund, the deposit will be refunded to the team.
- B. All teams earning a GSWS berth are responsible for an amount equal to the per team hotel deposit required by iPride/NAGAAA.
  - C. Once a GSWS team has participated in (not including forfeiting) a GSWS game, that team is entitled to a return of their GSWS deposit, less the amount of the per team hotel deposit required by iPride/NAGAAA.
  - D. Once a GSWS team has furnished the MSLA Board with documentation equal to that required by iPride/NAGAAA for return of that team's hotel deposit, that team is entitled to a return of an amount equal to the per team hotel deposit required by iPride/NAGAAA. A GSWS team has until December 31 of the year of the GSWS participated in to furnish such hotel documentation to the MSLA Board of Trustees; after that time, no deposit funds will be returned by the MSLA.

## **SECTION 8.9 iPride/NAGAAA FINES**

- A. Teams earning GSWS berths must be provided a copy of iPride/NAGAAA -required roster information at least one (1) week prior to the iPride/NAGAAA deadline required for submission of such information to iPride/NAGAAA (for both Regular Season and GSWS Rosters).
- B. Teams earning GSWS berths must notify the MSLA Commissioner of any changes to the information required in Section 8.7.A above at least 3 days prior to the iPride/NAGAAA deadline required for submission of such information to iPride/NAGAAA.
- C. Any fines by iPride/NAGAAA to the MSLA relating to information required in Section 8.7.A above that is incorrect is the responsibility of the team involved in providing such incorrect information. Exceptions to this rule may be granted upon a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Board members present at a duly called meeting of the Board. If an exception is not granted by the Board, the matter may be appealed to the MSLA membership at a membership meeting (Annual or Special).

## **SECTION 8.10 LEDENG'S DIVISION**

A person(s) wishing to create a team for the GSWS Legends C or D Divisions and wanting to identify it as an MSLA entry must present a proposal for such to the MSLA Board of Trustees no later than July 1 of the year of the applicable GSWS to receive a berth in accordance with current iPride/NAGAAA allocations. If another team(s) chooses to form a Legends team, they would receive a second berth. Any such proposal should address such items as: roster makeup, deposit provisions, entry fee provisions and any other items they may deem appropriate. The MSLA Board of Trustees shall review the proposal and have total and final responsibility for the approval or denial of such proposal, along with the ability to stipulate any related required provisions. The decision of the MSLA Board of Trustees must be made and communicated no later than two weeks prior to the GSWS roster deadline of the year of the applicable GSWS.

## **ARTICLE 9 SPONSORSHIP**

### **SECTION 9.1 TEAM SPONSORSHIP**

Each team in the League may secure sponsorship for their team entry fee and any other team expenses in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Board.

### **SECTION 9.2 LEAGUE SPONSORSHIP OF A TEAM**

- A. The Montrose Softball League Association will provide sponsorship of a team if the Board of Trustees or its appointed committee cannot find a community sponsor. The sponsorship will be limited to two (2) teams per year.
- B. Determination of the sponsorship will be based solely on the earliest request received by the Board of Trustees. In the event an application is received and the Board of Trustees does not approve the sponsorship, all dues will be refunded to the applicants by the start of the season.
- C. The team or teams must meet the following criteria:
  - 1. The team must have a designated coach
  - 2. The team must have at least ten (10) persons that have not been a member of the Montrose Softball League Association within the past three (3) years
  - 3. A request for sponsorship must be submitted in writing to any board member along with at least ten (10) League application and injury waiver forms of the new players, their dues and the name and phone number of the designated coach.

## **ARTICLE 10 PLAYER RATINGS**

### **SECTION 10.1 INITIAL PLAYER RATINGS**

Initial player ratings will be determined in the following manner:

- A. For a playing member who has previously played in an iPride/NAGAAA League, the initial player rating will be the most recent iPride/NAGAAA rating for that player. There are two ways to modify such an initial player rating:
  - 1. Notify the Player Ratings Committee of such a desire, including what specific questions are requested to be reevaluated, and participate in a Ratings Clinic to enable such a reevaluation; or,
  - 2. The manager or player may submit a player ratings change form, with appropriate data, for the Ratings Committee to review and vote on the change
- B. For a new playing member of iPride/NAGAAA and MSLA, the team manager / coach is responsible for submitting a rating for a player at the initial roster deadline or at time the player is added to the team roster.

This rating shall be submitted on the team's Player Rating Form and the player shall be designated as new player and the rating designated as a Manager Supplied Rating.

## **SECTION 10.2 PLAYER RATINGS PROTESTS**

- A. A player's rating may be protested during the season through the following process:
1. The protesting manager must complete the Player Rating Protest Form in its entirety. This form must be submitted in the manner established by the Board to the designated Board member.
  2. The protesting manager must submit sufficient and relevant evidence supporting the protest identified. For example, this may include scorebook references (actual scoresheets are not necessary if references are provided since official scoresheets are posted on the MSLA website) from multiple games to indicate over-the-fence hitting power, video evidence of running speed, video evidence of hitting velocity, video evidence of fielding and throwing ability (possibly from multiple games), etc.
- Relevant evidence from scorebooks (including MBA calculations published by the MSLA) must be limited to such information from MSLA Regular Season games from the current season (since the scorebooks are posted on the website and vetted and the MBA calculations are produced from those official scorebooks), along with the potential use of scorebooks/data from MSLA historical seasons (since they have been posted and vetted).
- Tournament books will be accepted for every game played and must be submitted by 11:59 pm Friday after the tournament weekend.
- B. Once received by the designated Board member, the Board member shall review and confirm the form has been completed in its entirety and the required supporting evidence has been submitted.
1. If the form is not completed in its entirety and/or if the appropriate evidence has not been submitted, the designated Board member will notify the protesting manager the protest was deemed invalid.
  2. If the form is deemed to have been completed in its entirety and the required evidence has been submitted, the designated Board member will notify the protesting manager that the protest has been accepted and will provide the time and place of the protest hearing.
- C. Protest Timeline
1. The completed Player Rating Protest Form and accompanying evidence from the current season data must be submitted prior to 11:59pm on the Thursday before any scheduled week of regular season play.
  2. The protest hearing will be held at the time and place designated by the designated Board member which will take into account needed time to allow the Ratings Committee to view subsequent games/occurrences involving the protested player:
  3. The designated Board member will notify the managers of both teams involved in the protest, along with the Ratings Committee Chair, of the date, time and location of the protest meeting no later than 72 hours three (3) days prior to the hearing.
  4. The preferred date, time and location of a protest hearing will be at the field complex during a scheduled day of play and at a time not conflicting with the playing times of the individuals involved in the hearing. However, in extenuating circumstances, the designated Board member may arrange for an alternative date, time and location for the hearing to ensure the integrity of the hearing process is upheld.
- D. Protest Hearing Procedures
1. The Protest Hearing will consist of the following individuals:
    - i. Protest Chair: The designated Board member serving as the non-voting chair of the protest hearing

- ii. The members of the Ratings Committee who are not affiliated with the teams involved in the protest
  - iii. Individuals providing testimony on behalf of either the protesting or protested parties
2. The process for the Protest Hearing will be conducted as follows:
    - i. The Protest Chair will begin the proceedings by explaining the protest hearing procedures to all of the parties involved and present
    - ii. The protesting party will begin the hearing by explaining the basis for the protest and presenting any evidence to support the protest
    - iii. The Ratings Committee members involved in the hearing have the authority to then call for a vote to determine if enough evidence has been presented to move the protest forward.
    - iv. After the protesting party has presented its case, the protested party will be afforded the opportunity to present evidence to rebut the protesting party's argument.
    - v. The Protest Chair shall remove all parties from the room except for the Ratings Committee members involved to allow deliberation.
    - vi. The Ratings Committee members involved shall vote by secret ballot to determine whether to uphold or deny the protest.
    - vii. The individuals involved in the protest will be returned to the room and the votes will be announced to all present individuals.
  3. In the event that the protest is upheld, the Protest Chair will notify the managers of the division that the protest has been upheld and the following consequences shall be in effect:
    - i. The protested player's rating will change immediately. Should the player's rating make them or their team ineligible for play in their current division, the player may:
      - a. Be released from their current team (or the manager may release another player to bring the team rating into compliance with their division requirements) and they will be free to join another team in the League without penalty to the player or the new team the player joins. [NOTE: To then qualify for a berth in the GSWS, the protested team must adhere to Section 8.3.C.2.] The player's rating moving forward will reflect the outcome of the upheld protest, or
      - b. The player may remain on the roster of their current team as an ineligible player; as a result, all games in which the player participates going forward will be deemed a forfeit due to an ineligible player and the results shall be recorded as a 7-0 loss for the team. This team shall forfeit their eligibility for an automatic berth to the GSWS. The Ratings Committee members involved may recommend to the Board that this option be eliminated if they deem the player to be a safety risk in their current division .
  4. In the event that the protest is denied, the Protest Chair will notify the managers of the division that the protest has been denied.
  5. Either the protesting or the protested party may appeal the ruling of the Protest Hearing to the Board for consideration at the Player Ratings Final Appeal Meeting
    - i. Such appeals must comply with the procedures outlined in Section 10.2.A.
    - ii. Once received by the designated Board member, the Board member shall review and confirm the form has been completed in its entirety and the required supporting evidence has been submitted.
    - iii. If the form is not completed in its entirety and/or if the appropriate evidence has not been submitted, the designated Board member will notify the protesting manager and the Board that the protest was deemed invalid.

- iv. If the protest request is deemed valid, the designated Board member will notify the protesting manager, protested manager, Ratings Committee Chair and the Board that the protest has been accepted and will be added to the Player Ratings Final Appeal Meeting agenda for hearing.

### **SECTION 10.3 PLAYER RATINGS FINAL APPEAL MEETING**

- A. Player Ratings Final Appeal Meeting may be scheduled to address valid appeals of Player Ratings Protest rulings during the season (see Section 10.2.D.5) and any valid appeals of MBA-related player ratings questions. In addition, the board may review the player MBA data and may consider changes to MBA-related questions at this meeting.
- B. The Board will provide at least ten (10) days advance notice of a Player Ratings Final Appeals Meeting to the Managers' Council and each player who will have a rating discussed, specifying the date, and time place of said meeting.
- C. During the Player Rating Final Appeal Meeting, the protesting and protested parties must be present and state their case. Any and all interested parties may provide input. Once all pertinent information has been provided, the Board of Trustees will decide if sufficient evidence exists to warrant discussion of the appeal. If the appeal is validated, the Board will entertain further discussion and will vote on the final player rating, providing the result of the vote and tally of votes cast prior to the conclusion of the Player Rating Final Appeal Meeting. The ruling of the Board on all appeals will be final.
- D. This Player Ratings Final Appeal Meeting must occur prior to the GSWS divisional playoffs.

### **SECTION 10.4 GSWS PLAYER RATINGS SPECIAL APPEALS MEETING**

- A. The Commissioner may call a GSWS Player Ratings Special Appeals Meeting to address player ratings specific only to Pick up Players and/or any ratings the Commissioner may wish to review on GSWS Rosters for qualified Team Rosters
- B. The Commissioner will provide at least three (3) days advance notice of a GSWS Player Ratings Special Appeals Meeting, specifying the date, time and place of said meeting.
- C. During this meeting, appealing parties may be present and state their case for revision and any and all interested parties may provide input. The input must be based on new information including date, time and games in which the player evaluation form occurred and date to support the question being reviewed. Once all pertinent information has been provided, the Board will decide on the final player rating and provide that information prior to the conclusion of the GSWS Player Ratings Special Appeals Meeting. The ruling of the Board on all appeals will be final.
- D. This GSWS Player Ratings Special Appeals Meeting must occur prior to the iPride/NAGAAA GSWS Roster deadline.

### **SECTION 10.5 FINAL PLAYER RATINGS**

- A. After the Player Ratings Final Appeal Meeting all ratings are considered final unless reviewed at a GSWS Player Ratings Special Appeals Meeting (if one is held). All player ratings will be submitted to iPride/NAGAAA as such by the iPride/NAGAAA deadline.
- B. Final ratings as determined at the conclusion of the Player Ratings Final Appeal Meeting will be used to determine GSWS eligibility as well as final team placement in division standings for the regular season. A team who has total team rating (based on new ratings of all players appearing on the team roster as of the Final Roster Deadline) that disqualifies them from play in the division of play in which they competed for the regular season will also be disqualified from being awarded a first, second or third place finish in the division. All remaining teams will sequentially move up in the standings to fill any vacated positions.



## **SECTION 10.6 TEAM RATINGS**

A team rating is calculated by totaling the ratings of the ten top-rated players on each team.

## **ARTICLE 11 LEAGUE OPERATIONS**

### **SECTION 11.1 DEADLINES**

The deadline time shall be 11:59 P.M. on the due date for all submissions of any suspense required items.

- A. Deadlines PRIOR: Day counting for a suspense with a set number of days prior shall be counted in the following method: The due date day shall be counted as day one and then proceed to count backwards to the number of days permitted for the appropriate suspense deadlines, then add one day which will determine the set actual deadline day and submission time no later than 11:59 PM.
- B. Deadlines AFTER: Day counting for a suspense with a set number of days after shall be counted in the following method: The initial deadline day shall be counted as day zero and then proceed to count forward to the number of days permitted which will determine the actual deadline date and time of 11:59 PM for any items to be submitted in an AFTER situation.

### **SECTION 11.2 USE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS**

When conducting the periodic reviews or legal reviews of contracts and service agreements, the Board of Trustees may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing Board of Trustees of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted. All outside experts must be approved by majority vote of the Board.

## **IOG SUPPLEMENT: BOARD POLICIES AND COMMITTEE CHARTERS**

### **SECTION 1 JURISDICTION**

Policies adopted by the Board to facilitate the operations of the League (known as Board Policies, "BP") and Committee Charters ("CC") shall be published herein and shall be considered acting policy of the MSLA. Board Policies and Committee Charters must align with the intent of the current Bylaws and Rules of Play, and shall be superseded by either document should a conflict exist.

### **SECTION 2 BOARD POLICIES**

### **SECTION 3 COMMITTEE CHARTERS**