

PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION



2023 Fall Ball

Rules & Regulations

Approved - 6/13/2023

Article I. General

Section 1.01 PSSA Defined

- (a) Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association (PSSA) is a slow pitch softball league that is a member of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA).

Section 1.02 Member Defined

- (a) PSSA is a member in good standing of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), and as such, subscribes to their policies, mission and rules for softball unless specifically stated otherwise in PSSA bylaws or exceptions in PSSA's rules of play.

Section 1.03 Rules Defined

- (a) Rules of play shall be those adopted by USA Softball and NAGAAA unless stated otherwise in these Rules.

Article II. Eligibility

Section 2.01 Eligibility

- (a) Participants must be an amateur as defined in "Definitions" of the Appendix.
- (b) Participants must be 18 years of age on or before the first scheduled day of play of the current season

Article III. Membership

Section 3.01 Annual Fees

- (a) Membership fees of \$70 are payable by each member upon registration for the 2023 PSSA fall season.

Section 3.02 Team Registration

- (a) Team registration will open no later than July 15, and will close no later than August 15 for the 2023 season. Dates may be amended at the discretion of the PSSA Board of Directors.

- (b) Teams must have a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 9 players to be registered as a team.
- (c) No two teams may be registered with the exact same team name. Teams returning from the previous year will have priority to the name used the previous year, otherwise the first to register their team during the team registration window will have rights to that team name.
- (d) Coaches or managers must register their team name and division (Upper or Lower) online using the league's online Fall registration link located on the league website: www.dallaspssa.org. Contact the Competition Coordinator at competition@dallaspssa.org if you have questions. Team registration must include your list of 7-9 players who make up the team.
- (e) Coaches must also turn in a team ratings roster by August 15. Players will use the rating that they currently have at the time of the registration. No ratings protests or changes will be permitted in Fall Ball.
- (f) Teams may be merged with other teams at the discretion of Competition Coordinator based on league needs in coordination with the team coaches.

Section 3.03 Member / Player / Non-Player Registration

- (a) Each individual must register themselves, including agreeing to all documentation required by the league. Coaches may not register any players. PSSA will roster players on the website and provide periodic team registration updates to coaches.
- (b) Upon registration, each individual must either identify the team they are part of or identify themselves as a free agent. Free Agents will be assigned a division based on their ratings from the Spring 2023 season. If they do not have a 2023 rating, their 2022 rating will be used with a running question added. If no 2022 rating is available, they will be able to declare which division they would play within. Free agents will be randomly assigned to teams during the draft process.
- (c) In order to register for a specific team, registration must be completed online by August 31, 2023. After that date and up until the draft is begun, individuals may still register as Free Agents.

- (d) All players and non-players must be registered, insured by the league and pay fall membership fees before entering a dugout or field during PSSA league play. Anyone found to be not registered/paid/insured but in a dugout or on the field of play (as a player or non-player) will be immediately removed. That individual, as well as the manager/coach of the offending team will be subject to an investigation, including possible discipline by the Ethics committee.
- (e) Membership Fees are non-refundable and are not transferable. PSSA will make every effort to complete scheduled games, but no refunds will be issued for any games unable to be played due to weather.

Section 3.04 Player Limitations

- (a) After the draft, each team shall be composed of a minimum of fourteen (14) and not more than eighteen (18) playing members and up to two (2) non-playing members.
- (b) A member's name may not appear on more than one roster as a playing member.
- (c) PSSA is an LGBTQ+ founded, inclusive organization welcoming all people. PSSA maintains our focus on LGBTQ+ majority membership/participation and therefore, each team roster may have a maximum of only 4 players who do not identify as LGBTQ+. Each member is expected to answer the orientation truthfully upon registration for league membership.
- (d) Players claiming a permanent disability in conjunction with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must complete an application form provided by PSSA. The form will include name, contact information, team, and requests for information surrounding the disability.
 - Players with an ADA accommodation from the Spring 2023 season will automatically receive the same accommodation for Fall 2023.
 - Applications must be received by the board a minimum of 1 month prior to implementation in a game environment to allow time for the board to verify and

approve requests.

- If approved, the player will be issued a PSSA ADA card to show to umpires and coaches indicating the accommodations in place for the player's disability.
- Modifications to game rules will be determined by the board in collaboration with the player as detailed in Rule 4, Section 2 of the USA Softball Official Rules.

Section 3.05 Draft

- (a) After online registration has concluded, a draft will be held to assign free agents to the available teams in each division.
- (b) Players will be assigned to the team with the fewest players first, balancing out team membership then progressing on until all free agents are assigned with a balanced number of players per team. If not enough teams are available to accommodate all free agents, a new team or teams will be formed to ensure a place to play for all who register.
- (c) After the draft has taken place, any new players registering for the league will be assigned a team at random by the Competition Coordinator with no new registrations permitted after the third week of play.

Section 3.06 Trades

- (a) Prior to the announcement of final teams at the draft, coaches may trade up to two free agents from their roster to other teams in exchange for an equal number of free agents.

Article IV. Disqualification and Suspension

Section 4.01 Acts Resulting in Disciplinary Action

The PSSA Code of Conduct must be signed by all members prior to the start of the season. Violation of the Code of Conduct may result in the disqualification, suspension, or expulsion of the player from the game or league. Code of Conduct violations include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (b) Physical violence, sexual harassment, verbal harassment, or the threat of physical violence of any kind against players, spectators or umpires while participating in practice, league or tournament competition while presenting themselves as a member of PSSA.
- (c) Players participating under an assumed name, falsifying affidavits, or roster or intentionally giving incorrect information to League officers will be considered as committing fraud and disciplined as such.
- (d) Participating while knowing they, or their team, does not meet the eligibility requirements of PSSA.
- (e) Knowingly competing with players that have been suspended and are ineligible from participating in league play.
- (f) Use of equipment during league play that is deemed illegal by USA Softball, NAGAAA, or PSSA. (See 6.06 – Bats)
- (g) Damaging league property through intent or negligence.
- (h) Knowingly using team or league activities to generate personal financial profit.
 - Payment to members for umpiring, scorekeeping, or approved merchandise sales does not fall within the scope of this section.
- (i) Unethical conduct by any member to encourage players to play to a given rating instead of their actual skill or a player intentionally “playing down”.

Section 4.02 Jurisdiction

- (a) If a team or player is in violation of the Code of Conduct or any violations referenced in 4.01, they may be subject to an Ethics committee investigation, as described in the Code of Conduct.

Article V. League Schedule

Section 5.01 Schedule

- (a) Teams will be scheduled for 10 to 12 games (including full round robins where possible) plus a playoff tournament to end the season.
- (b) A schedule of League games will be uploaded to Sports Engine and can be accessed on the PSSA website or on the Sports Engine app.
- (c) The schedule will list opponent, time, date, assigned home/visitor team, and location of each game.
- (d) In the event of team additions or deletions, weather conditions and field availability, etc. adjustments to the schedule may be made periodically as deemed necessary. Notices will be displayed on the PSSA website, PSSA Facebook page, and communicated to the membership via email when time permits. It is the coach/manager's responsibility to check for any communications from the league.
- (e) Teams may only request a bye for out-of-town tournaments during a scheduled week of league play. No other bye requests will be honored.

Section 5.02 Forfeits

- (a) Scheduled game time is forfeit time. Any team not able to field nine (9) players by the scheduled starting time of their game shall forfeit the game with a score of 7-0. (See section 6.13 regarding pick-up players.)
- (b) In the event the previous game runs over its allotted time, the starting time shall be assumed to be 5 minutes after the time the previous game ends.
- (c) If teams must move from one field to another in back-to-back games, the start time of the game on the second field will be delayed 5 minutes after the end of the game on the first field to allow the arriving team to occupy the dugout and create a lineup card.
- (d) Any team that forfeits more than 3 games will not be allowed to finish the remainder of their scheduled games. Eliminated teams will be ineligible to play in the Playoff tournament. If a team folds, players may request to be shifted to another team with the help and discretion of the board.

Section 5.03 Postponements / Cancellations

- (a) In the event a game is postponed or canceled for any reason, every effort will be made to reschedule the game(s).
- (b) In the event there are no available time-slots due to multiple games

being affected, it may be necessary to reschedule only games that will ultimately affect the order of teams in the final League standings.

- (c) The decision to cancel or delay the start of games due to inclement weather before the first scheduled game time will be made by the Competition Coordinator (or Assistant Commissioner in the absence of the Competition Coordinator) as directed by city/field management, or perceived unsafe conditions.
- (d) Umpires will make the decision to postpone or cancel games in progress.
- (e) All PSSA coaches, managers, and players should check the Rainout app, or PSSA social media (Facebook) for any announcements of time changes for games.
- (f) In the event of unusual circumstances, the Competition Coordinator will be responsible for contacting all team coaches/managers.

Section 5.04 Time Limit

- (a) A time limit will be in effect for regular League play. No inning will start after 55 minutes from the actual starting time of the game.
- (b) A game will be considered as complete if four (4) full innings have been played (or three and a half (3 ½) innings if the home team is ahead) should it become necessary to conclude a game before 55 minutes has passed.
- (c) If a game needs to be postponed for any reason before 4 full innings of play have been completed (or three and a half (3 ½) innings if the home team is ahead), every effort will be made to record game details at the time of postponement. Games may be picked up where they left off, or may be required to start over at the discretion of the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner.

Article VI. Competition

Section 6.01 Divisional Alignment

- (a) Teams will play within Upper and Lower divisions for regular season and playoff tournament play.
 - (i) Upper division teams will be those teams with individual players whose ratings are 11 or higher and an average rating for non-free agent players of 13 or lower (plus one player rated 16 or higher that does not count in the average rating) prior to drafting Free Agents. Players rated lower than 11 may opt to play in the Upper division but will not count in the team average rating.

- (ii) Lower division teams will be those teams with individual players whose ratings are 10 or lower and an average rating for non-free agent players of 9 or lower prior to drafting Free Agents. No player with question 4 or 5 may play in the lower division.

Section 6.02 Player Ratings

- (a) All players will be rated based on the NAGAAA 28-point rating system. Ratings must be submitted to the Commissioner by the date stated in Addendum A: Ratings Procedures (Section 2.4).
- (b) No ratings changes or protests will be permitted in the Fall season.

Section 6.03 Tiebreakers

- (b) During regular season play, if time has run out, games may end in a tie with the completion of the inning.
- (c) League division standings tiebreakers will be based on:
 - (i) The head-to-head win/loss record of the teams involved in the tie
 - (ii) Then placed in order by the run differential within head-to-head league standing results of all of the tied teams
 - (iii) Then by runs allowed within the head-to-head results of the tied teams
 - (iv) Then by run differential in all games counted in the league standings
 - (v) Then by coin flip

Section 6.04 Lineups

- (a) Any lineup card may be used and **must be submitted** to the umpire with copies to the opposing team legibly listing the **FULL first and last names of all players, including substitutions, along with jersey numbers** prior to the scheduled start of every game. If FULL first and last names are not legibly included on the lineup card, the team will not be permitted to take the field and may result in a game forfeit. An original, legible top copy of the lineup sheet must be submitted for each game. Duplicate and/or carbon copies of lineup sheets are not permitted and will result in a forfeit.
- (b) Changes to the lineup sheet after the official lineup has been submitted

must be made to the home plate umpire at the time of the change. The opposing team must be notified of any changes.

- (c) Team members arriving late must be scratched from the lineup before the start of the game, but may be added to the official lineup card, by the home plate umpire, up until the first pitch at the top of the 3rd inning.
- (d) Any player claiming an ADA accommodation must be listed as ADA on the lineup card and show their PSSA ADA card to the umpires / opposing coaches prior to the beginning of the game or at the time of being added to the lineup card. The card will include which players on their team may be used instead of the ADA player for the accommodation. If the card is not present, the ADA accommodation must be verified with a board member before it can be implemented in the game.
- (e) After the completion of play for the day, score sheets will be collected by the league Competition Coordinator for the purpose of recording scores and standings for the day.

Section 6.05 Game Balls

- (a) PSSA will use 12" restricted flight core .52, 300 compression, optic yellow "Tattoo" softballs as adopted by NAGAAA. The league will provide all game balls.

Section 6.06 Bats

- (a) PSSA plays a pick-a-stick format, therefore all bats for PSSA league play will be provided by PSSA. No bat other than those provided by PSSA may be used in league play at any time.
- (b) Bats will be provided with three weights (25, 26, and 27 ounces).
- (c) Bats will be secured and delivered to each field by the Competition Coordinator, other board member, UIC, umpire or park manager only.
- (d) Bats will be placed near home plate and must be returned after use.
- (e) Umpires will be responsible for bats between games to ensure no one uses, removes or switches any bats and will return the bats to the Competition Coordinator or other PSSA Board member at the end of their games each day.
- (f) Should a bat break or be deemed illegal during game play, that bat will

be replaced by a bat of the same style and weight from the PSSA set of bats for the remainder of play, if a replacement bat is available.

(g) While league bats are on the field:

- 1) No league bat may be taken into a dugout at any time. Any player taking a league bat into a dugout will be immediately ejected from the game. If the umpire cannot determine which player that brought the bat into the dugout, the coach will be immediately ejected from the game. Any player who brings a bat into the dugout may be brought before the Ethics committee, at the discretion of the Board. If a player brings an unapproved/non-league bat onto the field of play or into their dugout, that player will be immediately ejected from the game and may be brought before the Ethics committee, at the discretion of the Board.
- 2) A player/team discovered using any unapproved bat will be subject to the following penalties:
 - Forfeit of game.
 - Player and coach will be ejected from the following scheduled game.
 - Player and coach will be brought before the Ethics Committee.

Section 6.07 Courtesy Runner

- (a) During league play and the Playoff tournament one (1) courtesy runner is allowed per team each inning.
- (b) The courtesy runner may be any player listed on the lineup card for that game, including substitutes. A courtesy runner is considered in the game when the runner touches the base.
- (c) If the courtesy runner is on base when they are scheduled to come up to bat, the batter will be called out and the runner will stay on base.
- (d) All other game rules will remain the same for the courtesy runner.
- (e) Runners used for players as part of an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) allowance, do not count as a courtesy runner.
 - That courtesy runner will be the most recent out for their team. If no out had happened, it will be the person who would bat last in their order who is not currently on base. If the runner is still on base when their time in the order comes up, they will be replaced on base with the most recent out at the time that occurs. The spot on base will

not become an out.

- The player with an ADA also may not progress beyond first base during their at bat. If they do, they will be called out. This includes ADA courtesy runners from home plate.

Section 6.08 Defense

- (a) All rostered players in attendance for a game must play in the field for at least one inning with a fair rotation being applied across the roster.

Section 6.09 Pitching

- (a) Play will begin with a 1-1 count with one courtesy foul.
- (b) Pitch height is defined as 6' to 12', differing from USA Softball.

Section 6.10 Batting

- (a) The team batting lineup must include all rostered players in attendance for that game. No subs are permitted. Injured players who attend the game may be left off the lineup prior to the start of the game at their discretion.
- (b) All players actively participating in play that will not be starting in fielding positions must be clearly identified on the line-up sheets as "extra hitters" or "EH".
- (c) In the event of an injury during a game, a player may be removed from the batting order with the agreement of the both coaches. If the coaches do not agree, the umpire has the final say.
- (d) If a player in the batting order does not complete the game, that player's hitting position is counted as an out each time that position comes up to bat unless otherwise decided in 6.10(c).

Section 6.11 Home Run Limits

A home run will be defined as any fair ball that goes over the fence unassisted by a defensive player.

- (a) Upper Division – 2 per game (additional over the fence, unassisted home runs result in an inning ending out)
- (b) Lower division – 0 (an over the fence, unassisted home run is an inning ending out)

Section 6.12 Run Rules

- (a) The following run rule will be in effect:
 - (i) 25 runs ahead after 2 innings
 - (ii) 20 runs ahead after 3 innings
 - (iii) 15 runs ahead after 4 innings
 - (iv) 10 runs ahead after 5 innings
- (b) The flip flop rule will be used as follows:
 - (i) If at the start of an inning, the run rule for that particular inning is exceeded and the home team is losing, the home team will stay up to bat and bat as the visiting team.
 - (ii) If, after three outs, the home team is not able to reduce the run difference, the game will be over.
 - (iii) If the losing home team is able to reduce the run difference, the visiting team will come up to bat as the home team and continue the game as normal with home and away reversed for the remainder of the game (or until a flip back is required by this same rule).

Section 6.13 Pick-up Players

- (a) During league play:
 - (i) In the event a team has seven (7), eight (8) or nine (9) roster players available for a regular season game, to avoid a forfeit that team may pick up to get to ten (10) players from another PSSA rostered team if that player is rated within or lower than that division of play.
 - (ii) Players may put their name into a bag to be randomly drawn as a pick up player each hour should teams need them. Teams will have to draw their pick ups at random from the bag. If a field is running behind and a player will not be ready to play at the time your game is to start, you will need to draw a new pick up player for that spot.
 - (iii) If the team has a rostered player show up before the first pitch of the third inning, the roster player must be added to the line-up but may only be substituted in for one of the pick-up players.
- (b) During playoff tournament, no pick-up players are allowed

Section 6.13 Umpires

- (a) One (1) umpire will be used for all fall ball games.

Article VII. Uniforms

Section 7.01 Uniforms

- (a) Shirts with numbers will be provided by the league.

Section 7.02 Cleats

- (a) Metal cleats are not allowed during PSSA play.

Article VIII. **Playoff Tournament**

Section 8.01 Procedure

- (a) The format for the Playoff Tournament will be a double elimination bracket.

Section 8.02 Seeding

- (a) Seeding will be based on overall win/loss record for games played against teams within your defined division with ties broken as described in 6.03.

Section 8.03 Rule Adjustments from Regular Season

USA Softball and NAGAAA GSWS rules will be in effect for the PSSA Fall Playoffs with the following exceptions:

- (a) All games will be played with a fifty-five (55) minute time limit, finish the inning with no ties.
 - USA Softball International Tiebreaker rule will be utilized. A new inning shall be played with the visiting team placing their final batter from the previous inning on second base and then completing the half inning as usual.
 - The home team shall follow the same format.
 - If, after one (1) full inning the score remains tied, teams will follow this format until runs scored declare a winner.
- (b) The higher seed will always be home team, except for the championship game where the winner's bracket champion will be

designated home team. If needed, the “if game” will be a coin toss.

- (c) If a team is required to forfeit a game due to lack of sufficient number of players, the game will be counted as a loss for that team. If it is their first loss, they will move to the loser’s bracket. If it is their second loss, they will be eliminated from the tournament.

Article IX. Awards and Recognition

Section 9.01 Awards

- (a) The Competition Coordinator will maintain standings throughout the season, and medals will be awarded to the first through third place teams in each division at the End of Season Awards
- (b) Team managers will designate a most improved player and a most valuable player. These players will be recognized at the End of Season Awards.
- (c) Playoff Tournament winners in each division will receive medals at the End of Season Awards.

Section 9.02 Incentives for individual participation

- (a) Facilitate a raffle or other incentive program to encourage participation in the fall season. Announce winners at the End of Season Awards.
 - Prizes
 - Priority pick for Extra Innings
 - Waved Spring Season Dues
 - Waved individual entry fee for spring league fundraisers (uniform night, drag & variety show, scavenger hunt, etc)
 - Priority pick for Spring Participation Event
- (b) Earning Entries (this will require some creative discussions and does not need to be final yet)
 - All attending members are given one entry for attending the event
 - Roster Race - members will receive a raffle entry for every 4 games they play

- Charity Drive - members will receive two raffle entries for each charity event they participate in during the Fall Season
 - Season Standing - rostered members of first place teams will receive one entry each
 - Tournament Winners - rostered members of the first place Playoff Tournament teams will receive one entry each
- (c) Attendance is not required for league prizes; prizes claimed in person will not have ticket ownership verified