## PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION



# 2024 Spring League Play 

Rules \& Regulations

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## 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 International Pride Softball (IPS), formerly North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA).

## Section 1.02 Member Defined

(a) PSSA is a member in good standing of IPS, 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 IPS unless stated otherwise in these Rules.

## Article II. Eligibility

## Section $2.01 \quad$ 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
(c) Participants who have membership in multiple IPS leagues must declare only one league as their GSWS eligible league, upon registration for the 2024 season. Any player declaring more than one IPS league as their GSWS eligible league, upon their registration for that league, will forfeit GSWS eligibility with either/both leagues.

## Article III. Membership

## Section 3.01 Annual Fees

(a) Membership fees of $\$ 115$ are payable by each member upon registration for the 2024 PSSA spring season.
(a) Team registration will open no later than December 1, and will close no later than December $31^{\text {st }}$ for the 2024 season. Dates may be amended at the discretion of the PSSA Board of Directors.
(b) 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.
(c) Coaches or managers must register their team name and division (A, $B, C, D, E, L C, L D$ ) online using the league's online Spring registration link located on the league website: www.dallaspegasussoftball.org .Contact the league secretary at secretary@dallaspssa.org if you have questions. Deadline to register your team to be included in the player registration team list is December 31, 2023 (teams registering late may not be included).
(d) Legends teams that intend to compete for Legends C or Legends D GSWS berths, must express intent by selecting LC or LD division upon team registration. Legends C teams will compete in regular season play in the C division, and Legends D registered teams will compete in the D division. In order to qualify as LC or LD, team rosters must consist of a minimum of 12 players who are legends-eligible ( 50 years old or turning 50 sometime in 2024) for the 2024 GSWS and meet the minimum roster size in 3.04(a). Legends qualifying teams may utilize non-legends-eligible players for league play, but those players are not permitted to play in the Legends Division EOS or at the GSWS.

## Section 3.03 MEMBER/PLAYER/NON-PLAYER REGISTRATION

(e) Each individual player and non-player 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.
(f) All players and non-players must be registered, insured by the league and pay annual 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.
(g) Membership Fees are non-refundable and are not transferable.

## Section $3.04 \quad$ Player and Roster Requirements

(a) 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 LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other non cis-heterosexual identities) founded, inclusive organization welcoming all people. PSSA maintains our focus on LGBTQIA+ majority membership/participation and therefore, each team roster may have a maximum of only 4 players who do not identify as LGBTQIA+. Each member is expected to answer the orientation truthfully upon registration for league membership. **IPS tournaments currently limit non-LGBTQIA+ identifying players to 3 per roster. This would include any IPS sanctioned tournament including the GSWS and IPS Cup.
(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.

- 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 Roster Completion/Deadlines

(a) Each coach/manager must electronically submit their initial team ratings roster using the league designated form by the Spring League Meeting along with any additional forms/information required.
(b) All information indicated on the roster must be completed as specified by PSSA.
(c) Rosters may be amended between the Spring league meeting and the freeze date, which is at 5 PM the Thursday after the second weekend of play within that team's division. Rosters for each weekend of play are due on the Thursday prior to that weekend at 5 PM. Roster changes after that deadline will not be in force until the following week.
(d) Failure to comply with roster deadlines will result in an assessed late fee of $\$ 200$, game forfeits and suspension from all league activities until such fee is paid and the roster is received. The Commissioner will reject any roster changes requested after a deadline has passed.
(e) After the freeze date, teams may petition the board for a waiver to amend their roster only if extreme circumstances arise. The Board will determine the eligibility to amend a roster. At a minimum, the following criteria must be met for the Board to consider allowing roster changes:

- Any new players must be able to qualify to play in the EOS and GSWS under PSSA and IPS guidelines (they must be available for $1 / 2$ of the team's total scheduled games or 5 total games in the Legends division).
- The team's roster must have fewer than 10 players, because of the verifiable hardship.
- If, because of extreme hardship, a team has fewer than 10 players, that team may add as many players as needed to get back to 10, but not more than 10.
- Once Board approval is granted, amended rosters for the team, plus any other appropriate documentation, must be submitted to the Secretary of the League by 5 pm on the Thursday prior to the next regular scheduled game, unless Board provides an alternative deadline. Failure to meet the Board mandated deadline will result in revocation of the Board approval to amend roster.
(f) After the freeze date, competitive division players may transfer only to a higher competitive division team because of a ratings increase. No player may transfer between teams more than once during a season, unless change of ratings mandates the change to a higher division only.


## Section 3.06 Released Player

(a) Coaches may release a player from their roster for non-ratings reasons at any time prior to the end of the sixth week of play in the team's division by contacting the Commissioner. Players released for
increased ratings reasons may happen at any time.
(b) A hearing before the Board of Directors may be requested within fortyeight (48) hours of notice of release by any player who feels they have been released from a team roster without due cause.
(c) Should the Board rule in favor of the player they may continue on the roster of their original team; but playing time and other factors will still be controlled by the coach of the team.
(d) Players in good standing with the league who finish the season on the roster of a team that qualified for the GSWS and who satisfy all the player qualification requirements for the GSWS must be included on that team's GSWS roster unless the player consents to being removed.

## Article IV. Disqualification and Suspension

## Section $4.01 \quad$ 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 rosters, 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, IPS, or PSSA. (See Article 6.08 - Bats)
(g) Damaging league or venue 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".
(j) Unethical behavior when it comes to player ratings or the ratings process, including knowingly playing a player in the league or in out of town tournaments under an old or incorrect rating.


## Section 4.02 Jurisdiction

(a) If a team or player(s) 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) 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.
(b) The schedule will list opponent, time, date, assigned home/visitor team, and location of each game.
(c) 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.
(d) For divisional standings purposes, all teams will play an equal number of games against teams within their division unless otherwise dictated by 5.1(e). Additional games scheduled are considered exhibition or interdivisional games and will not count in league standings. Exhibition or interdivisional games will be clearly identified on the schedule on the website or the Sports Engine app.
(e) The schedule will consist of at least one or more full round robin(s). In divisions that would need more than 2 exhibition games to get to 16
total games, teams will be separated into tiers for all remaining games with teams only playing other teams within their tier an equal number of times. Only teams in the highest tier at the time of the split will be eligible for the GSWS bid from the regular season and EOS seeding will go by tier then overall record for the entire season.

- Legends $D$ will be required to play a minimum of 3 round robins during the regular season.
- Any team falling under the no-repeat rule classification described in 6.1(a) who have opted to play in their 2023 division will be slotted into tiers along with all other teams in accordance with their record for the year for the purposes of a tiered schedule
- If the no repeat rule team qualifies for the highest tier, one extra team will be included in the top tier
- In the event games must be canceled after all make up options have been utilized, the canceled games will not be made up and the season will be considered complete with the current standings considered final. The regular season cannot be extended onto EOS weekend.
(f) Teams may only request a bye for one out-of-town tournament during a scheduled week of league play. No other bye requests will be honored.
- Limited to 2 in E, 3 in D and 2 in C per week of play, granted on a first come first served basis.


## Section $5.02 \quad$ 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, including exhibition games, shall forfeit the game with a score of 7-0. (See section 7.13 regarding pick-up players.)
(b) A coach, or manager, from the non-forfeiting team must still submit a line up card, to the league, to receive player credit for games played, towards the EOS/GSWS.
(c) 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.
(d) 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.
(e) 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 EOS tournament. Eliminated teams will also forfeit their team eligibility for the GSWS. With board approval, players from eliminated teams who wish to continue playing, may transfer to other teams within their division or higher.

## Section $5.03 \quad$ 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 Assistant Commissioner (or Commissioner in the absence of the Assistant Commissioner) 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 Assistant Commissioner will be responsible for contacting all team coaches/managers.

## Section $5.04 \quad$ 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 ( $31 / 2$ ) 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 ( $31 / 2$ ) 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 $6.01 \quad$ Divisional Alignment

(a) Teams will play within the IPS defined $A, B, C, D$, and $E$ divisions.
(i) "A" division teams will be those teams with an aggregate rating total of no less than 170 OR that has any individual player whose rating is 21 or greater
(ii) "B" division teams will be those teams with an aggregate rating total of 180 (when adding up the top 10 individual player ratings) or lower and has individual players whose ratings are 20 and lower
(iii) "C" division teams will be those teams with an aggregate rating total of 140 (when adding up the top 10 individual player ratings) or lower and has individual players whose ratings are 15 and lower
(iv) " $D$ " division teams will be those teams with an aggregate rating total of 110 (when adding up the top 10 individual player ratings) or lower and has individual players whose ratings are 12 and lower.
(v) "E" division teams will be those teams with an aggregate rating total of 75 (when adding up the top 10 individual player ratings) or lower and has individual players whose ratings are 8 and lower.
(vi) Teams that fall under the IPS definition for no-repeat rule can play within the division in which they placed at the GSWS if they wish with the following stipulations:
(i) Games will count towards standings for Spring season trophies but will be exhibition games in standings for any GSWS bids from the regular season and EOS seeding.
(ii) These teams may not participate in the EOS tournament.
(b) For the End of Season Tournament, the league shall be divided into five divisions (C, LC, D, LD and E) in adherence to the current IPS rating system and Legends qualification rules.
(c) If the number of GSWS bids allowed per division is equal to the number of teams in the division, there will be no End of Season tournament for that/those division(s).

## Section 6.02 Player Ratings

(a) All players will be rated based on the IPS 28-point rating system.

Ratings must be submitted to the Commissioner by the date stated in Addendum A: Ratings Procedures (Section 2.4).
(b) Player ratings may be challenged based on the Ratings Procedures and Ratings Protest Procedures located in the Addendum A (Section $6)$.

## Section 6.03 Tiebreakers

(b) During regular season play, if time has run out, games may end in a tie with the home team getting the last at bat.
(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
(d) During the EOS tournament, IPS World Series rules will be followed, and the 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.
(i) The home team shall follow the same format.
(ii) If, after one (1) full inning the score remains tied, teams will follow this format until runs scored declare a winner.

## Section $6.04 \quad$ IPS World Series League Team Representation

(a) IPS allots berths to the GSWS based on the size of a league for the current season. Berths will be allotted relative to the make-up of the League divisions as decided annually by the Board of Directors.
(b) GSWS berths for 2024 (based on 29+ regular season teams) are as follows (excluding no-repeat rule berths):
(i) A Division - unlimited berths
(ii) $\quad \mathrm{B}$ Division - unlimited berths
(iii) C Division - 2 berths
(iv) D Division - 3 berths
(v) E Division - 2 berths
(vi) Legends Division C - 2 berths
(vii) Legends Division D-2 berths
(c) Teams representing PSSA at the annual IPS GSWS will be determined as follows:
(i) In the C, D, LD and E divisions, the regular season standings winner in each division will earn an automatic berth to the GSWS and will not participate in the PSSA EOS tournament. (In the event of a standings tie, tie-breaker procedure detailed in 6.03 .b will be utilized to determine a single winner).
(ii) Remaining GSWS berths will be awarded based on the order of finish in the End of Season Tournament for each division. If a division is allotted the same number of berths, or fewer berths as there are teams, there will be no EOS, and GSWS berths will be awarded to all teams within that division.
(iii) All Legends C division GSWS berths will be determined in an EOS if the teams declared to be in that division is larger than the number of GSWS bids available. If there are equal or fewer teams, all teams will get a berth.
(iv) Should a Legends declared team win the regular season in D or C , they may take that berth. However, if they subsequently opt to accept a Legends division berth or to play in the Legends EOS tournament, that berth would be forfeit and given to the second place team.
(v) A and B division teams are allowed unlimited berths to the GSWS, therefore there will be no EOS tournament requirement since all qualifying teams are eligible to attend the GSWS.
(vi) Teams falling under the IPS no-repeat rule (IPS Governing Manual rule 30.46) may accept an additional bid in the first year after placing at the GSWS, not counting against league allocation of berths if the team competes in the next higher division, and if their team consists of at least 4 players from the GSWS $1^{\text {st }}-4^{\text {th }}$
placing team (in B, C, D, E divisions only) or 1st-2nd placing team (Legends D).
(vii) In the event a team that qualifies for the GSWS does not accept their bid for that division, the berth will be offered to the next highest EOS finisher. In the event of a tie, tournament seeding will be used to determine the berth offering.
(viii) PSSA will pay the GSWS team entry fee for all teams earning a bid from the regular season or EOS within their declared division. Each team is responsible for paying any player fee or hotel deposit required by IPS.
(ix) In the event the number of GSWS berths for a division exceeds the number of teams in that division, unclaimed bids will be made available to teams in lower divisions, upon request, and offered in the order of EOS final placing. The team must pay all GSWS tournament fees to receive the bid and will not be eligible for league GSWS funds.
(x) In a Legends division, should there be more bids than regular season teams, newly formed non-regular season teams will have until one week following the EOS to declare their intent to secure a bid. If the declared teams are equal to or less than the remaining bids, those teams will get a bid. If there are more declared teams than bids, PSSA will host an additional double elimination tournament for those teams to compete for the remaining bids before July 15th.
(d) The End of Season Tournament will be open to all qualified competitive division PSSA teams and players, in accordance with the stipulations above.
(e) Teams will only play teams within their own division.
(f) To qualify to play in the EOS tournament, a player must be present and available to play in a minimum of $50 \%$ of their team's scheduled league games in the current PSSA season. For Legends teams, players must have been present and available to play for 5 games during the season.
(g) In the event the EOS tournament is unable to be completed before July 14th of the current year, despite exhausting all options available to the board, the board may award GSWS berths to teams in order of regular season standings within their division, allocating to the highest tier first in order of overall record, then second tier and so on, based on preseason allotments determined by the Board. The Board may amend GSWS allotments, within IPS guidelines, in extreme circumstances outside of the control of the Board.

## Section 6.05 Lineups

(a) An official, PSSA provided, lineup card will be provided 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 $3^{\text {rd }}$ inning.
(d) All players listed on the lineup card as "substitute" players must check in with the home plate umpire prior to the first pitch of every game. Substitute players not checking in prior to the first pitch will be scratched off the substitute list by the umpire and will not be eligible to enter the game after the first pitch of the $3^{\text {rd }}$ inning. Substitute players who do not check in will not receive game participation credit required for GSWS qualification for that game. Coaches adding substitute players who are not in attendance or available to play, are subject to ejection from the game and an investigation and possible additional disciplinary actions as recommended by the Ethics committee.
(e) 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. If the card is not present, the ADA accommodation must be verified with a board member before it can be implemented in the game.
(f) After the completion of play for the day, the official lineup sheets and score sheets will be collected by the league Secretary for the purpose of recording player participation.

## Section 6.06 Scorekeeping

(a) PSSA will attempt to hire scorekeepers responsible for keeping league books for all league games.

1. Scorekeepers may be PSSA members in good standing or non-members who sign up to participate.
2. Scorekeepers must participate in a PSSA organized training prior to being able to score games and/or pass a PSSA scorekeeping test and attend a committee meeting to go over any changes needed in the process.
3. Scorekeepers must complete and submit any documents required by the league prior to being able to score games.
4. Scorekeepers may not be scheduled in the hour directly preceding or following their scheduled game.
5. Books must be kept to a minimum standard, including but not limited to:

- Team names, full player names, player number, final score, date and time.
- Results of the at bat (hit, fielder's choice, error)
- $\quad$ Progress of the base runners \& scoring
- Velocity of all batted balls during the at bat
- Substitutions and inning they entered the game
- Courtesy runner usage

6. Scorekeepers will be paid on a per game basis and will be scheduled and managed via a Scorekeeping Chair / committee reporting to the Assistant Commissioner. Invoices for games worked must be submitted to treasurer@dallaspssa.org based on the agreed upon payment schedule.
7. In the event a hired scorekeeper cannot be provided, home team will be responsible for keeping the league book. If the home team is unable to do so, home team designation will switch to the opposing team and they will keep the book.

## Section 6.07 Game Balls

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

## Section 6.08 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 member taking a league bat into a dugout will be immediately ejected from the game. If the umpire cannot determine which member brought the bat into the dugout, the umpire will immediately eject the fourth batter in the current batting order from the offending team from the game. Any member who brings a bat into the dugout may be brought before the Ethics committee, at the discretion of the Board. If a member brings an unapproved/non-league bat onto the field of play or into their dugout, that member 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 $6.09 \quad$ Courtesy Runner

(a) During league play and EOS 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 has happened, it will be the person who is furthest away from hitting in the batting 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 6.10 Pitching

(a) For both league and EOS, play will begin with a 1-1 count with one courtesy foul.
(b) Pitch height is defined as $6^{\prime}$ to $12^{\prime}$, differing from USA Softball.

## Section 6.11 Batting

(a) During league play:
(i) Team batting lineup may include up to a maximum of 18 players.
(ii) 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".
(iii) Substitutes must also be listed on line-up sheets and identified accordingly. (All players listed must be present at the field at the time line-up is submitted.)
(iv) In the event a team bats all eligible roster players and a player is subsequently injured or must leave before the game is concluded, that player's hitting position is counted as an out each time that position comes up to bat.
(b) For EOS Tournament, batting is limited to twelve (12) players.

## Section 6.12 Home Run Limits

A home run will be defined as any fair ball that goes over the fence unassisted by a defensive player.
(a) A division - 5 per game (home runs above the limit result in an out)
(b) B division - 3 per game (additional over the fence, unassisted home runs result in an inning ending out)
(c) C division - 1 per game (additional over the fence, unassisted home runs result in an inning ending out)
(d) D division - 0 (an over the fence, unassisted home run is an inning ending out)
(e) E division - 0 (an over the fence, unassisted home run is an inning ending out.)

## Section 6.13 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 6.14 Pick-up Players

(b) During league play:
(i) In the event a team has only eight (8) roster players for a regular season game, to avoid a forfeit that team may pick up one (1) player from another PSSA rostered team if that player is rated within or lower than that division of play. The tenth $\left(10^{\text {th }}\right)$ batting position will be an automatic out whenever that position is to come up to bat. If the team has a ninth $\left(9^{\text {th }}\right)$ roster player before the first pitch of the third inning, the roster player may be added to the line-up but may only be substituted in for the pick-up player.
(ii) Pick-up players must wear a jersey, with permanent, non-duplicate numbers, a minimum of 8 " in height.
(c) During EOS tournament, no pick-up players are allowed

## Section 6.15 Game Scorecards

(a) All scorecards for completed games are final once coaches and/or team representatives have signed them. It is the duty of the coach or team representative to ensure the card is correct prior to signing it. PSSA will not alter any final scores after the signatures have been collected from the team representatives.

## Article VII. Uniforms

## Section 7.01 Uniforms

(a) Players are required to appear at each game in full uniform. Full uniform is defined as jerseys alike in color and style with permanent, non-duplicated clearly visible numbers, a minimum of 8 " in height.

## Section $7.02 \quad$ Cleats

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

## Article VIII. End of Season Tournament (EOS)

## Section $8.01 \quad$ Qualification

(a) Players must be a PSSA member in good standing, on the regular season roster for the team and have been present and listed on the
lineup card in 50\% of their team's total scheduled games, to participate in the End of Season Tournament.

## Section 8.02 Procedure

(a) The format for the End of Season Tournament will be a double elimination bracket.
(b) End of Season Tournament format may change at the discretion of the Board, in the event of extreme circumstances outside of the control of the Board.

## Section $8.03 \quad$ Seeding

EOS seeding will be based on tier, then overall win/loss record for games played against teams within your defined division with ties broken as described in 6.03.
(a) EXCEPTION: If a team changes division due to a change in the team's final ratings, it will be seeded as last in the division.

## Section $8.04 \quad$ Time Limit

USA Softball and IPS GSWS rules will be in effect for the PSSA League playoffs with the following exceptions:
(a) All games will be played with a fifty-five (55) minute time limit, finish the inning.

## Section 8.05 Home Team

(a) 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.

## Section $8.06 \quad$ Forfeits

(a) 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.

## Section $8.07 \quad$ Officiating

(a) During the End of Season Tournament, and whenever possible during regular season, all games will be officiated by two (2) umpires.
(b) During all league and EOS play, no member currently in the league may
umpire any league or EOS game in the division they play or coach in during the spring season.

## Article IX. Official PSSA Activity Participation Requirements

## Section 9.01 League Fundraising Events

For a team to be eligible for a portion of the funds raised for teams attending the GSWS, they must:
(a) Have a minimum of $70 \%$ attendance (verified by individual sign-in after payment of $\$ 10$ cover charge) from the current team roster (including non-players) at each of the official PSSA fundraising events (Uniform Night(s), PSSA Drag \& Variety Show and the PSSA Scavenger Hunt).
(i) Players who opted to prepay their event entry fees at the time of registration will be required to attend and sign in. Should they choose to attend the event, they will not be required to pay again to gain entry.
(ii) Sign in will be available from the official start of the event until 2 hours after the start of the event. After two hours, sign-in will close and no additional sign-ins will be accepted. Sign in will remain open for the entire 3 hours of the Uniform Party.
(iii) Each player is allotted one (1) player buy-out of one (1) fundraising event per season. (A player buy-out is considered to be one (1) entry fee paid to the League per player being bought out.)
(iv) Each team is limited to three (3) player buy-outs per event.
(v) If a team buys out a player for a particular event, that player is counted as present, and the team receives credit for the player's participation.
(vi) If any PSSA member has any legitimate issue or objection to attending an official PSSA fundraiser in an establishment that serves alcoholic beverages, that player or their coach must notify the Secretary (secretary@dallaspssa.org), at least one week prior to the event, so that PSSA may arrange member sign in and payment of $\$ 10$ cover charge outside of the event environment.
(b) Complete one of the following options in conjunction with the league fundraisers before the end of the Spring regular season:

1) Participate as a performer in the PSSA Drag \& Variety Show (minimum 10 performers required)
2) Participate as a team in the PSSA Scavenger Hunt (minimum 8 roster members participating, maximum 16 teams able to participate)
3) Participate as a team by completing 40 cumulative hours of community service as volunteers with a 501(3)c organization approved through the Community Giving chair (minimum 70\% of team participating, documentation of volunteer work required). Collecting money or supplies for a charity at a team event at a bar or other venue will NOT be considered volunteering and will not receive credit.

- Individuals may submit to be selected to volunteer at the Scavenger Hunt to satisfy hours for their team. Volunteers will be selected by the Event Coordinator from the pool submitting their names.

4) All teams are required to follow rules distributed by the Events Coordinator.
(c) Registration for the options in 9.01b will occur at Uniform Night. Priority selection will be based on the timing of each team reaching $70 \%$ sign in at Uniform Night and then by random draw.
5) Teams wishing to participate in multiple options may do so at their will, but must designate one as the required participation option. In addition, should they decide to back out for a non-required option, one week notice to the EventsCoordinator will be required or that team will not receive credit for participation in the fundraisers.
(d) Legends teams that play together for the full season are subject to the full participation rules and will receive a full team share if they qualify.
(e) One team who qualifies for the funds from these fundraisers but does not earn a bid to the GSWS will be randomly selected to receive a share of the funds.
(f) Funds for GSWS teams will be maintained in an account with the league through the end of the following Spring season. GSWS hotel deposits will be paid to IPS out of these funds then returned to the team account once we receive the refund from IPS after the GSWS. Beyond that, teams must submit softball related expenses to the Treasurer for reimbursement to utilize the funds.

## Section 9.02 Individual Team Fundraising Events

(a) Teams holding fundraising events may submit a graphic that is compliant with the medium where it would be posted along with your request to the Public Relations Coordinator to advertise their event on the PSSA website and social media no more than two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled date.

## Section 9.03 Extra Innings

(a) Teams must notify Assistant Commissioner and Sponsorship Coordinator of their requested official Extra Innings date and location in order to be included on the schedule. No events will be allowed to use the term "Extra Innings" without going through this process.
(b) Extra Innings will be limited to 3 events per week, but may be increased at the discretion of the board.

## APPENDIX

## Definitions

1. Amateur:

Player who engages in the sport solely for pleasure and physical, mental or social benefits derived there from. Players considered to have ever played in a professional capacity or who have been paid to participate in play will not be eligible to participate in PSSA League play.
2. Disqualified player:

A person who has been disqualified from play in events promoted or conducted by PSSA, IPS, or another IPS member city.
3. Team:

Includes all paid and insured members listed on a league roster (i.e. coaches, managers, players and non-players).
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct:

Action that is detrimental or unbecoming to the purposes and objectives of PSSA. Also called unsporting behavior or ungentlemanly conduct, a foul or offense in many sports that violates the sport's generally accepted rules of sportsmanship and participant conduct. Examples could include verbal abuse or taunting of an opponent, an excessive celebration following a scoring play, or feigning injury.

## Addendum I - PSSA Ratings Procedures

## Article I. Objective

Section 1.01 Accurately rate players based on their individual set of skills and guide coaches and players on divisional alignment. The responsibility for ratings rests with team coaches, the Ratings Coordinator, the Ratings Council, the Board of Directors and ultimately the league Commissioner.

## Article II. Pre-Season

Section 2.01 P-layers will start with their most recent rating from the 2021, 2022 or 2023 seasons (from PSSA or from their most recent IPS league). Players without a rating from one of those three seasons may start fresh with a rating recommendation from the Ratings Advisory Committee and/or a rating given to them by their coach.
a. A preseason ratings meeting will be held (under the 2023 ratings process and team alignments as teams may not have officially formed yet to be able to execute the 2024 process) in which players and coaches may request changes to their hitting questions only (Q1-Q9) based upon results from the 2023 season.
(i) Due to the change of the definition of Q6 \& Q7 in E, the league will run stats from 2023 league books on all E Players and flag those who had an MBA of .700 or higher in 2023.
(ii) Those E players with an MBA of .700 or higher will have Q6 submitted as an increase and those with .800 or higher will have Q7 submitted as an increase.
b. Players with a starting point rating from prior to 2023 will have one running question (Q10-14) added to their rating UNLESS:
(i) The player does not have Q10 (in their 2022 rating) AND demonstrates that they cannot run 70' in 5 seconds or less at an official field day administered by PSSA ratings officials
(ii) The player already had Q14 in their 2022 rating and Q13 was a "No" in their starting point rating
c. Players with a starting point rating from 2021 who were identified as being able to hit 250' $20 \%$ of the time will need to start with Q3 as a "Yes".
d. Players who are starting fresh are requested to attend a field day, if one is available, to have a recommended rating provided by the Ratings Advisory Committee. Coaches' ratings may differ from the Ratings Advisory Committee; however, all questions marked as a "No" that were a "Yes" by the Ratings Advisory Committee will be added to the watch list. Subsequently, the ratings difference may appear on the ratings meeting agenda should evidence indicate the player can perform the skill.

Section 2.02 Coaches/Managers must submit opening day ratings rosters to commissioner@dallaspssa.org_no later than 5pm (CDT), Saturday February 10, 2024
with a minimum of 12 players.
Section 2.03 Players added after the initial ratings roster must be submitted on an amended ratings roster no later than 5 pm on the Thursday prior to the next scheduled games. Failure to do so will render new players ineligible to play that week.

Section 2.04 Coaches may voluntarily increase a player's rating with their submission of opening day rosters, or at any time during the season except the time period between when a ratings agenda is released and the ratings meeting occurs, during which questions on the agenda may not be submitted as voluntary increases.. Voluntary increases require the impacted player to submit their consent via email to ratings@dallaspssa.org and commissioner@dallaspssa.org. Once submitted, a voluntary increase may not be withdrawn. There is no limit to the number of questions that a team can ask to have voluntarily increased within a season. Increases will be reported to the Board and can only be lowered by going through the established ratings review process.

Section 2.05 The PSSA Commissioner and/or Ratings Coordinator will confirm all player ratings, whether they are new/current/former PSSA members or players transferring from other IPS associations. Discrepancies will be sent back to the coach; however, the rating in the database will be used unless the coach can prove that the database is incorrect. The coach has until 5:00 pm on the Friday before Opening Day to address inconsistent ratings.
a. Up until week 3 of the season, any member of the board may place a question on the watch list for any player in the league. Those requests must include the player name, team and question to be watched.

## Article III. Ratings Roster Distribution

Section 3.01 Ratings rosters will be distributed to each coach in each division for review prior to Opening Day. Amended rosters will be updated on Friday prior to each week of play, as changes dictate, and will include any approved changes and any submitted voluntary increases. Ratings will be made available to all coaches and league members at the discretion of the board, via email request to the commissioner via Google Sheets.

## Article IV. Ratings Chair

Section 4.01 The Ratings Coordinator willoversee all ratings matters, submit ratings review questions, manage the advisory committee watching players on the watch list ,and facilitate meetings of the Ratings Council.

Section 4.02 The Ratings Coordinator acts as a non-voting facilitator of the process and never votes during a ratings proceeding.

## Article V. Ratings Advisory Committee

Section 5.01 The Ratings Coordinator will appoint a Ratings Advisory Committee to assist with gathering statistics and analyzing information on player skills.

Section 5.02 Members of the Advisory Committee must have strong ratings system knowledge and may not evaluate ratings for a player within a division in which they play or coach.

Section 5.03 The Advisory Committee's role may include evaluating new players preseason, observing and compiling statistics during season games or tournament play, watching specific players placed on a watch list at the request of the Ratings Coordinator or a board member, watching players submitted by a coach for an increase or decrease and providing documentation to the Ratings Coordinator.

## Article VI. Ratings Councils

Section 6.01 The Ratings Council for all divisions except A \& B will be comprised of 7 members per division who have a solid understanding of the ratings process and ratings questions and have no conflicts with the division in which they will serve (coaching, playing, etc in the division.). Members must be nominated by a coach within the division, the Ratings Coordinator or Commissioner to serve on the Ratings Council. The Ratings Coordinator and Commissioner will then have the ability to veto any names nominated before forwarding the nominees to the board. The final 7 Ratings Council members for each division will then be voted upon and confirmed by the board. For Ratings Council process purposes, Legends $C$ will participate with the $C$ division and Legends $D$ will participate with the D division.

Section 6.02 All validated rating change requests, with the exception of voluntary increases, will be discussed and voted on by the Ratings Council. The results of the Ratings Council votes will be submitted to the commissioner for final approval once the Board validates the proper procedures were followed. In the event the board feels a decision by the RatingsCouncil is egregiously wrong, the board may vote within the board meeting to overturn the decision and instruct the Commissioner to change the result. The Commissioner has final authority on all ratings changes.

Section 6.03 The A/B Division Council will include a representative from each B team plus the Board, not including the Commissioner. For A/B Divisions, the Commissioner will confirm that the process was followed and consider all recommended changes.

Section 6.04 Ratings review requests may be submitted by any of the following parties:
(a) A player wishing to have his/her own rating changed with coach consent,
(b) The Ratings Coordinator or a current Board Member,
(c) A player's coach, or any coach in the player's division or in a lower division in which the player's rating permits them to play wanting an opposing team player's skill reviewed.

Section 6.05 If a player's coach submits a request to have a specific question considered by the Council (by emailing the Ratings Coordinator at ratings@dallaspssa.org), the player must consent to the request being added to the agenda. The email shall contain the player's name, the question under review, and the reason for review.

Section 6.06 A team can collectively submit up to ten (10) questions to be lowered during the season. Questions submitted by Board Members or the Ratings Coordinator do not count towards the ten(10) question limit.

Section 6.07 Decrease requests may only be filed once per season per player/question.
Section 6.08 Any decrease requests for questions 1-9 must be accompanied by a copy of the team's most current and complete scorebooks for the season as supporting evidence. Failure to submit complete scorebooks will result in a rejection of the decrease
request by the Ratings Coordinator.
Section 6.09 To have a rating review added to the agenda for an opposing player, the submitter shall complete a submission form (available on the website) and send it to the Ratings Coordinator. The submission form shall contain the player's name, question under review, and rationale or evidence supporting the request. Items submitted by the Ratings Coordinator or a Board Member shall follow the same process. The Ratings Coordinator has the authority to reject incomplete forms which will be sent back to the submitting party to be completely filled out and resubmitted. Submitters will then have 24 hours to resubmit and only one resubmittal will be allowed per question.

Section 6.10 Increases on an opposing team's player may only be filed once per season/per question by the person filing the request. This does not prevent other coaches or Board Members from filing the same question in subsequent meetings.

Section 6.11 In the event that reviews are submitted for a team on which the Ratings Coordinator plays or coaches, all Ratings Coordinator duties for those reviews will shift to the League Assistant Commissioner, then Secretary if needed. Any ratings challenges for a team on which the Chair plays or coaches must be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner (or Secretary in the case of an Assistant Commissioner conflict as well) rather than the Ratings Coordinator.

Section 6.12 The Ratings Coordinator, board members and the Commissioner may speak and voice opinions during the meeting but cannot vote on the Ratings Council regarding ratings changes or instruct Ratings Council members on how to vote. All voting members should have solid knowledge of the ratings system.

Section 6.13 Any rating change that results in a player being able to play in a lower division must also obtain consent from the board via a majority vote for that change.

## Article VII. Ratings Meetings

Section 7.01 Ratings review requests for consideration by the Ratings Council must be submitted prior to the published agenda deadline. A calendar with submission opening and closing dates, as well as the Ratings Council meeting date(s), will be published at the beginning of the season.

Section 7.02 No ratings request (increase, voluntary increase or decrease) may be withdrawn once it is submitted to the Ratings Coordinator.

Section 7.03 The Ratings Coordinator (or the chair's designee) will compile agenda items for the Ratings Council meetings and will send the agenda to coaches. The agenda will include a player's name, player's team, question submitted, and increase/decrease. The agenda will not include the filing party, player's current total rating, or team's current total rating.

1) A Watch List meeting will be held prior to finalization of the agenda between the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Competition Coordinator and

Ratings Coordinator to evaluate the evidence gathered by the advisory committee for each question on the watch list.
2) Ratings Coordinator will present evidence on a question by question basis with the other three board members voting on if there is enough evidence to forward the question to the Ratings Council.
3) A majority vote of the three will place the question on the ratings meeting agenda.
4) Questions may still be filed via another process laid out in these rules even if they were denied via the watch list process.

Section 7.04 Rating questions will be addressed in numeric order starting with Question 1 and ending with Question 28.

Section 7.05 The party requesting the ratings change is provided an opportunity to present an argument with supporting data. In the case of an anonymous submission, the Ratings Coordinator will read from the submittal form. Evidence may include game statistics from league play or IPS tournaments, league or team scorebooks, videos, or other notes. Other members of the Ratings Council and coaches or players in attendance may present their own data to either support or oppose the requestor's argument (all coaches are encouraged to bring scorebooks or videos). The Ratings Coordinator may provide additional documentation such as league scorebooks or statistics accumulated by the Advisory Committee. Ultimately, the burden of proof rests with the party requesting the change.

Section 7.06 Acute medical conditions may not be considered as evidence for a ratings change as the skill level of the player will return once they have healed from the condition. Chronic conditions may be considered, but documentation must be provided to and verified by the board in executive session prior to discussion of that condition in council meetings.

Section 7.07 Each member of the Ratings Council for that division will receive one vote. Teams may have the coach or designated representative and one additional representative present. Teams may request additional people in the room by emailing the Ratings Coordinator in advance of the meeting.

Section 7.08 Voting will be anonymous. An electronic voting system will be used to track voting irregularities, while ensuring confidentiality of votes.
(a) The Commissioner, Secretary, Ratings Coordinator and/or Technology Chair are permitted to see electronic voting results for the purposes of counting votes only.
(b) Ratings changes will be referred to the board with a majority of votes cast to increase or decrease a rating. Non-votes or abstentions do not factor into the formula. The number of votes required will be rounded to the nearest vote. A tie vote is a failed vote.
(c) The Ratings Coordinator or person running the meeting shall have the right to remove any person from the room if their behavior is disruptive to the process and the respective team loses their voting right for any questions discussed after removal.
(d) After the meeting, voting patterns will be analyzed by the Ratings Coordinator and/or Commissioner. Any voting irregularities flagged by the Ratings Coordinator will be addressed with the Commissioner only.

## Article VIII. Impact of Ratings Changes

Section 8.01 If a player's rating is increased by three or more points during the ratings review process (excluding any voluntary increases but including any questions conceded to during the ratings meetings) or if the team's ratings exceed the maximum amount of points for that division after increased points are added, any games completed with that player on the roster shall be considered a 0-7 loss.

Section 8.02 If multiple players on the team are pushed over the player cap for the division or if the team as a whole is pushed over the team limit for their division, the team will not be eligible to win a GSWS bid from the regular season.

- Teams with a player (or players) or the team pushed over the cap must make the appropriate changes to their roster prior to the next game being played or move up to the division appropriate for their roster.

Section 8.03 Any team that incurs fines via protests at the GSWS will be responsible for paying half of those fines (with the league responsible for the other half). The coach on that team's roster will not be permitted to participate in the league until payment has been made.
(a) In addition, should a team be ejected from the GSWS due to ratings issues, the coaches for that team will be required to work directly with the commissioner and Ratings Coordinator for the initial ratings for their team(s) in the subsequent Spring season. Disagreements among the group will be decided based on a majority vote of the three parties.
(b) Coaches/managers may also be subject to additional suspensions, or ethics filings, should their team(s) be ejected from multiple GSWS.

## Article IX. Post-Season

Section 9.01 Voluntary increases may be submitted after the ratings meeting and up to the roster deadline for GSWS. A voluntary increase must be sent to the Ratings Coordinator along with the player's consent. The Ratings Coordinator will consult with the player's season coach in the event a submission is requested by another coach for whom the player has agreed to play for at GSWS. The Chair will provide notification of any increases to the Commissioner and the Board at the next scheduled board meeting.

Section 9.02 Ratings changes will not be considered during Fall Ball.

## Article X. Appeals

Section 10.01 In the event a player feels his/her rating review was not handled in accordance with official procedures, the player may approach the Board to discuss any possible grievances. That meeting will be scheduled at a place and time to be determined
based upon need.
Section 10.02 The league Commissioner has veto power throughout the process to make sure integrity is upheld at all times. The Commissioner will serve as final authority in all ratings decisions.

- In the event the Commissioner has a significant conflict of interest for a team or player, they will recuse themselves from this role and veto authority will rest with the Assistant Commissioner for those teams or players.
- If the Assistant Commissioner also has a conflict and recused themselves, this veto power would go to the following in order: Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Coordinator.


## Addendum II - Ratings Protest Procedures - EOS Tournament

## 1. Protest Chair

- The Ratings Coordinator, or a designated Protest Chair appointed by the Commissioner, serves as a neutral and impartial facilitator of all protest proceedings during the End of Season (EOS) Tournament.
- The Chair will assemble a Protest Committee once a protest has been filed.
- The Chair will explain the procedure to be followed prior to the start of the protest hearing.


## 2. Protest Committee

- Composition
a. The Protest Committee will comprise a minimum of three (3) league members with strong ratings knowledge and no conflict of interest to act as protest committee members.
b. Committee members will review protests filed in any division except the one they coach/play.
c. A maximum of one (1) representative from each team will be allowed, but no player or coach involved in the protest may sit on the Committee.
d. Board members (excluding the commissioner) may only participate on the committee as a last resort when no other qualified committee members are available.
- Scheduling
a. The Ratings/Protest Chair will convene the Protest Committee for purposes of hearing the evidence/arguments of a protest at an assigned time and place as best fits the schedule of play.
b. Committee members must be present and available to hear the entire protest.
c. Committee members will render its decision immediately after hearing evidence/arguments.


## 3. Filing a Protest

a. Protests for challenging ratings may only be filed by a team's designated coach or manager during a game in which they are playing the protested team.
b. Protests must be filed with the home plate umpire, who will notify the Assistant Commissioner, Competition Coordinator, or the Ratings/Protest Chair while a game is being played by the protested party. The person who was notified will determine if the game will continue to completion or be halted for the protest to occur.
c. Protests may be filed against a player for a skill that was reviewed through the Ratings Review process.
d. When filing a protest, the protesting party must identify the player(s) being protested and the specific question(s) from the Players Rating Guide in the IPS Governing Manual.
e. A CASH protest fee must be posted at the same time the protest is filed.
i. During the EOS Tournament, the protest is $\$ 40$ per question (including the first question)
f. Handling fees:
i. If all questions of the protest are upheld, all fees are returned
ii. If all questions of the protest are denied, all fees are forfeited
iii. If the protest results in a split decision, then the amount of fees proportionate to the total upheld to those received will be returned

## 4. Protest Hearings

- The time and place of the hearing will be scheduled as quickly as possible. The hearing will be conducted prior to the start of any game which could be affected by the outcome of the hearing.
- Notes for all hearings will be taken by the Ratings/Protest Chair. The notes will then be transferred to the League Secretary and placed in the League records.
- It is STRONGLY encouraged that the protested player be available to answer Committee member questions, if they should have any.
- Protests are to be evidenced-based. Scorebooks and personal observations are allowed.
- The protest begins with the protesting party laying out the basis for the protest, presenting the specifics regarding player(s) skills and why they believe the player rating is in error.
- The protested team /player will then be allowed to refute the arguments.
- After both parties have presented their evidence, Committee members may ask questions, review books and any prior Ratings Advisory Committee or Ratings Council reports to gather information they need to discuss the protest.
- The Committee may choose to ask both parties to excuse themselves to allow for discussion.
- Voting will be anonymous, but taken in the presence of all parties. Votes will be counted in front of the parties and the results will be announced immediately.
- Any change to a player's rating will be reported to the League Commissioner and immediately becomes that player's IPS rating.


## 5. Automatic Penalties

a. If the protest results in a player(s) rating change of 1 point that does not cause the player(s) or team to move up a competitive division:
i. The results of the protested game stands (W-L)
ii. Player rating is changed and the team total reflects that change immediately
iii. Player and team can compete in the same competitive division with no further penalty
b. If the protest results in a player moving up 2 points but the team total allows it to remain in the current division:
i. The result of the game is a loss by the protested team. (If this is the second loss in the tournament, the team is eliminated.)
ii. Player is eliminated from the EOS Tournament and cannot compete at GSWS on any roster
c. If the protest results in a team having 3 or more questions upheld or the team is pushed over the team cap for that division the team is removed from the Tournament and is not eligible to play at the GSWS.

## 6. Appeal

- Appeals concerning the integrity of the process must be filed immediately with the Commissioner.
- Appeals may not simply question the result of the protest.
- The League Commissioner will hear any appeals on protest decisions (except in instances where the Commissioner has recused themselves due to conflict of interest, then the Assistant Commissioner will hear them).
- The ruling will be final.

