SSBL
MILWAUKEE
BRIDGING OUR PAST TO OUR FUTURE
EST 1977

SSBL GOVERNING MANUAL

Revised – 12/01/2026

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Article One -- Name

1.1 The name of the organization is Saturday Softball League (SSBL), Inc., which shall do business as SSBL-Milwaukee, Inc.

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Article Two -- Existence

2.1 The period of existence is perpetual

Article Three -- Purpose

3.1 The purpose of the organization is to promote the health and wellness and general improvement of the quality of life of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies through athletics and social activities.

Article Four -- Members

4.1 The corporation shall have no members.

Article Five -- Directors

5.1 The general management of the affairs of the corporation shall be vested in the directors of the corporation.

5.2 The term of office of the initial directors shall be until the first meeting of the incorporators and the initial board of directors. The number of subsequent directors and their qualifications, manner of election and term of office shall be specified in the Bylaws.

5.3 The number of directors shall not be less than three (3).

Article Six – Disbursements

6.1 No part of net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; and the organization shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this document the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article Seven -- Operations

7.1 This corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

Article Eight -- Dissolution

8.1 Upon the dissolution of SSBL-Milwaukee, the League Committee shall, after paying all the liabilities of the Organization, dispose of the assets of the Organization, by turning them over to the Cream City Foundation, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Any assets not so disposed of, shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas in the county in which the Organization is located. Such location shall be determined by the legal mailing address of the Commissioner.

BYLAWS OF SSBL

CHAPTER 1 - MEMBERSHIP

1.01 Membership: There shall be no individual members of this organization. Membership shall be granted to teams in this organization across all sports. Membership is attained and maintained by the payment of fees and/or dues as determined by this organization and fulfillment of all other qualifications of membership.

1.02 Expectations of Membership: Membership in this organization is critical to the operations and goals of this organization. Team members, their individual members, and volunteers or staff members of SSBL Milwaukee are expected to adhere to the common set of expectations.

a. Conduct: Each member is expected to perform in and to the spirit of the SSBL Milwaukee policies and procedures, including the Code of Conduct of this organization and the rules of the game.
b. Association Participation: Each member must pay all fees by the date due, and any member owing funds to the organization shall be responsible to pay promptly. Members are expected and required to attend the meetings of this organization. Failure to attend as required, and/or pay all monies due may result in suspension of voting rights and/or suspension or termination of membership, including possible other sanctions, until such time as compliance is achieved.
c. Legal Issues: No member or individual may enter into a legal agreement using the incorporated name of this organization without the written consent of the Board of Directors. Members of this organization will adhere to the Conflict of Interest Policy of this organization. All members, committee chairs & members, board directors, staff, and volunteers shall return all organizational property & materials to the Commissioner within thirty (30) days after the end of term of service to the organization.

1.03 Suspension/Termination of Membership: Member teams and/or individuals on said teams or associated with this organization in any capacity may be suspended or terminated from the organization by action of the Ethics Committee in accordance with the procedure outlined by the Board of Directors. The Ethics Committee may act on any complaint for alleged violations of the bylaws, policies, and procedures of this organization, including, but not limited to the Code of Conduct, the governing rules of the game, and any other rules applied to this organization. A period of suspension may be ordered by the Ethics Committee which may include specific restorative and accountability requirements and/or other sanctions, which if not met, may result in termination of membership. Any team and/or person so suspended or terminated from this organization shall be eligible to appeal to the Commissioner whose decision on the matter shall be final.

CHAPTER 2 - COUNCIL

2.01 Authority & Purpose: The Council shall be the legislative body of this organization. All committees, boards, officers, staff, and volunteers are subordinate to the authority of the Council. The Council is limited in its power only by the provisions of these bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, and the Laws of the State of Wisconsin. The Council is created to give policy direction to the operations of SSBL; act on legislative proposals appropriate for the fulfillment of policy functions; elect officers of the organizations; create committees that assist the officers in the operations of the organization; act on matters relating to membership; and to support and promote the work of this organization.

2.02 Composition: The Council shall be composed of one (1) voting representative from each member. The voting representative for each member shall be the listed manager of the team or the manager's proxy provided that proxy is authorized in writing by the manager to hold proxy rights. For sponsored leagues where the team listed manager is assigned by the board of directors, that team will not be represented or a voting member of the council. (Ex Fall Ball), and will not be included in determining quorum.

2.03 Parliamentary Authority: The rules contained in the latest edition of ***Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*** shall govern the organization and all its bodies in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt. Attendance by a majority of those Council members granted the right to vote constitutes a quorum for any meeting of the Council. All main motions shall be delivered in writing, in the form and manner provided for by the Secretary. The bylaws of this organization may not be suspended during the course of the business by the Council unless amended as provided for in these bylaws.

2.04 Right of Vote: Each member of the council shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The Commissioner shall only be allowed to cast a vote in the event of a tie on any matter. No member shall be entitled to more than one (1) vote on any question pending before the Council or any of the subordinate functions (e.g.: committees, etc.) of this organization, not including the Board of Directors.

2.05 Right of Voice: The right of voice at the meetings of the council is extended to each member, the board of directors, committee chairs not serving as voting members, staff, volunteers, and any other person as approved by the council or by the board of directors. Committee chairs not serving as voting members shall be given the privilege of proposing questions and matters of business to the council but shall not be allowed voting rights.

2.06 Meetings: The Council will conduct one (1) annual meeting in a calendar year. The annual meeting will be held after September 1 or on or before December 1 in any year. Special Meetings may be petitioned for by at least two (2) members of the Board of Directors or by the signatures of a majority of the members of the Council. Said petition must include whether the meeting will be in held by physical attendance of the voting representatives or electronic means, and include all items of business to be discussed at the special meeting. Only those items of business listed on the petition for the special meeting shall be considered at that meeting.

2.07 Notice of Meetings: Written or printed notice stating the date, time and place of the Annual Meeting or a Special Meeting to held in physical attendance of the voting representatives, with a proposed agenda and items of businesses that have been appropriately submitted in the form and manner provided by the Governance Committee, will be delivered by electronic means to each Member Association at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the convening of said meeting. Notice shall be delivered in the same manner for a Special Meeting to be held by electronic means at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the convening of said meeting.

2.08 Elections: The Council shall elect members of the Board of Directors to specific office. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting. The Council shall nominate persons for office.

a. Election of Directors: The Council shall elect the directors of this organization. Each nominee will be given the opportunity to address the Council prior to the first ballot. Votes will be conducted by secret ballot unless a nominee is unopposed for election at which time a motion for a unanimous ballot shall be in order. A majority of the votes cast is required for election. If no nominee receives a majority on the first ballot, the nominee receiving the least votes shall be removed and a second ballot conducted in the same manner as the first. Ballots will continue to be conducted in the same manner as the first until such time as a nominee receives a majority of the votes cast. In the event of a tie on any ballot, the nominees engaged in the tie shall remain on the following ballot.

CHAPTER 3 - COMMITTEES

3.01 Committees: There are created the following committees which the Board of Directors shall engage to assist in the execution and management of this organization. The objectives, structure, reporting, and priorities of these committees shall be approved by the Board of Directors. The Commissioner will appoint one (1) member of each committee as its chairperson, one (1) member as the vice-chair of the committee, and the other members of the committee. The chairperson shall be responsible for the operation of the committee.

a. Ethics
b. Sponsorship & Development
c. Hall of Fame & Archives
d. Player Ratings
e. IT Technology

3.02 Sport & Season Committees: Each sport and season of that sport shall be governed by these bylaws and subordinate policies of this organization and organized by a committee, consisting of the teams of that sport and that season. Each team will have one (1) vote on that committee given to the listed team manager or their proxy. The chair of these committees shall be appointed by the Commissioner, and shall be considered the coordinator of that season. These committees shall meet at the call of the chair before the beginning of that season to provide the Board of Directors with recommendations on rules, format of the season and schedule, and proposed fees and may meet other times as necessary. The Board of Directors shall act on those recommendations as soon as practicable.

3.03 Ethics Committee Members & Procedures: The Board of Directors shall create a policy for the Ethics Committee by which the committee will hear complaints and adjudicate the matter. The members of the Ethics Committee shall include not less than five (5) members and all sports offered by this organization must be represented by the membership of the committee.

CHAPTER 4 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.01 Authority: The Board of Directors shall be the administrative & management body of the organization, subject to the policy direction of the Council.

4.02 Composition & Terms of Office: The Board of Directors shall consist of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. Directors shall serve two (2)-year terms. Each Director shall serve until his or her successor has been qualified and elected, unless such Director shall sooner be removed from office. The Commissioner and Treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years. The Assistant Commissioner, Secretary and Member-at-Large positions shall be elected in even numbered years. All terms of office begin on December 1 of the year of election and expire on November 30 of the second following year. Board of Directors serving a Designated Commissioner or a Designated Role due to vacancy shall be up for election during the year of designation, and the(se) newly elected Director(s) shall serve the remainder of the original, scheduled term.

4.03 Removal & Vacancies: A Director may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) Council vote for illegal conduct, failure to perform the duties of office, or violation of the expectations of a member. All such actions shall be adjudicated by the Ethics Committee and then forwarded to the Council for action. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner shall become the Commissioner and serve as interim Designated Commissioner until the immediate next election and a vacancy shall be declared in the Office of Assistant Commissioner. For a vacancy in any office, other than that of Commissioner, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Commissioner and serve as interim Designated Role until the immediate next election. Should a vacancy occur in the Office of Commissioner and the Office of Assistant Commissioner is also vacant, the remaining Board of Directors shall elect by majority a Commissioner to serve as interim Designated Commissioner until the immediate next election. Vacancies shall be filled as soon as practicable and the Board of Directors may not number less than three (3) officers at any time.

4.04 Director's Duties: Unless expressly provided for in these bylaws, the duties of Office for each individual Director shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

a. Commissioner: The Commissioner shall oversee all operations of the SSBL Board and the organization, including implementation of policies and procedures, enforcement of rules, administration of priorities

and initiatives. The Commissioner shall preside over meetings of the Council and propose the agenda and schedule of meetings. The Commissioner will appoint all league personnel. members of committees, taskforces, and any other subordinate groups.

b. Assistant Commissioner: The Assistant Commissioner shall serve as Acting Commissioner in the event the Commissioner is unable to act, resigns, or is removed from office. The Assistant Commissioner shall perform any other duties or functions as assigned by the Commissioner.
c. Secretary – The Secretary shall maintain, update, and record all official governance documents of the organization. The Secretary shall maintain and execute official communication with the member teams, voting representatives, Committees, and Board of Directors. The Secretary shall perform any other duties or functions as designated by the Commissioner.
d. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall oversee management and reporting of the organization's finances and compliance with applicable regulations. The Treasurer shall perform any other duties or functions as designated by the Commissioner.
e. Social Media/Member-at-Large: The Member-at-Large shall coordinate recruitment efforts for players and teams to join the league in all divisions and seasons, and perform any duties or functions as designated by the Commissioner.
f. Tournament Director: The Tournament director shall oversee the annual Dairyland Classic Softball Tournament. The Tournament Director will work with the Board of Directors to set dates, adopt an annual budget, create committees, and negotiate sponsorships and contracts.
g. Sponsorship/Marketing: The Sponsorship/Marketing Director leads SSBL Milwaukee's fundraising and sponsorship efforts to support the league's financial sustainability and mission. This role develops community and business partnerships and coordinates fundraising initiatives and events in collaboration with other Board members and league volunteers.
h. Athletic Representative (2 positions): The Athletics Representative supports the growth and operation of their respective SSBL Milwaukee division by promoting player and team development, coordinating skills training, and assisting with league scheduling and recruitment. This role also helps ensure compliance with iPride requirements, including player ratings and deadlines, while supporting team recruitment for league and tournament play.

CHAPTER 5 - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

5.01 Fiscal Year & Budget: The fiscal year begins on the first day of January and ends on the last day of December of the same calendar year. The Treasurer shall prepare, in consultation with the Commissioner, a budget to be adopted by the Board of Directors prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.

5.02 Budget Provisions: The budget shall provide that all sports and seasons of each sport have sufficient revenue to pay the expenses for administration of each season. The Board of Directors shall set the compensation of all staff and volunteers serving in roles and positions designated for compensated status. The Board of Directors shall set the monetary amount of all fees and corresponding due dates, unless otherwise expressly specified in these bylaws, and list those amounts along with the relevant deadlines in the Master Fees Schedule. No fee for any sport and/or season may increase or decrease following the commencement of the season.

CHAPTER 6 – POLICIES OF THIS ORGANIZATION

6.01 Policies: The Council, the Board of Directors, and/or any subordinate body (e.g.: committees, etc.) of this organization may create policies and procedures not in conflict with these bylaws and/or policies created by the Council. Any policy created shall contain and provide for the manner of amendments. Policies are the jurisdiction of the body authorizing them unless stated otherwise. Policies of this organization shall be organized in chapter 10 or higher of the governing documents and are subordinate to the bylaws.

CHAPTER 7 - BYLAW AMENDMENTS

7.01 Amendments: These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. Amendments shall become effective immediately upon adoption unless a different effective date is adopted concurrently with the amendment.

POLICIES OF SSBL

CHAPTER 10 – BUDGET & FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and amended at any board meeting by majority.

10.02 Salaries & Benefits: No person shall be considered an employee eligible for full-time or part-time employment in this organization unless authorized in this chapter.

10.03 Payments to Persons: SSBL shall pay all persons owed stipends on a bi-weekly basis.

10.04 League Official Stipends: A $15 per week stipend shall be paid to one (1) Chief Scorekeeper for each week of league play during the Summer Open Softball and Summer Women's Softball seasons. A $15 per game stipend shall be paid to one (1) scorekeeper per game for any game for which scorekeeping is authorized by the Board of Directors.

10.05 Umpires: Umpires for Summer Open Softball, Summer Women's Softball, and Fall Open Softball shall be paid $30 for each game officiated.

CHAPTER 11 – MASTER FEES SCHEDULE

11.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and amended by majority at any board meeting.

11.02 Schedule: The fees & deadline schedule of this organization is:

SEASON	FEE TYPE	AMOUNT	DEADLINE
Summer Open Softball	Team Fee	200.00	Before 1st game
Summer Open Softball	Player Fee	$55.00	Before 1st game
Fall Open Softball	Player Fee	$35	Before 1st game

CHAPTER 12 – AFFILIATIONS

12.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Council and amended by majority at any Council meeting.

SECTION 1 – INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

12.10 IPRIDE: SSBL Milwaukee shall be a member of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance, Open Division Softball, Inc. (IPRIDE). Dues for this affiliation shall be paid by SSBL and SSBL shall participate as required in the expectations of membership of IPRIDE. The Commissioner, or a SSBL affiliated individual as appointed by the Commissioner, shall represent SSBL Milwaukee at all IPRIDE meetings. SSBL shall pay the reasonable expenses of any person attending the IPRIDE meetings acting in official capacity on behalf of SSBL.

SECTION 2 – LOCAL AFFILIATIONS

12.20 MGSN: SSBL Milwaukee shall be a member of the Milwaukee Gay Sports Network (MGSN). SSBL affiliated individuals, as appointed by the Commissioner, shall represent SSBL Milwaukee on the MGSN Board of Directors.

CHAPTER 14 – GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION

14.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and amended at any board meeting by majority.

14.02 Purpose: In recognition of the nature and mission of this organization as a LQBTQ+ organization, founded and continued by predominantly LGBTQ+ persons, this policy is intended to give the widest possible latitude to the Board of Directors to manage the growth of this organization while balancing the need to maintain the identity and nature of this organization as a crucial past, present, and future predominantly LGBTQ+ organization dedicated to the health and wellness of the community and region it serves.

14.03 Expansion teams/sports: In any season of any sport, should the number of registered teams exceed the number of registered teams in the same season of the same sport in the prior year by one-hundred fifty percent (150%), then the team(s) that was/were not registered in the prior year shall be subject to a decision of the Board of Directors on whether that/those team(s) will be allowed to compete in that season. The decisions of the Board of Directors shall be a determination of whether or not the addition of the team(s) to the season would violate the purposes of this organization and/or this chapter. The decision of the Board shall be final and without appeal.

14.04 First Year Sports: Notwithstanding 14.03, any team entering an inaugural season of a sport in this organization is subject to approval by the Board of Directors as to whether or not the addition of the team to the season would violate the purposes of this organization and/or this chapter. The decision of the Board shall be final and without appeal.

This chapter adopted 5-13-17

CHAPTER 15 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

15.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Council and amended by majority at any council meeting.

15.02 Purpose: The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (SSBL Milwaukee) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

15.03 Definitions: The following definitions apply to this chapter:

a. Interested Person - Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.
b. Financial Interest - A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family: (a) An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, (b) A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or (c) A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct

and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under this chapter, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

15.04 Annual Statements: Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall, prior to each meeting, sign a statement which affirms such person:

a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
b. Has read and understands the policy,
c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
d. Understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one (1) or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

15.05 Compensation: A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURES

15.10 Procedures: This organization shall follow the procedures listed in this section to determine if a conflict exists.

15.11 Duty to Disclose: In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

15.12 Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists: After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

15.13 Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest: An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

15.14 Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy: If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

15.15 Records of Proceedings: The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain: (a) the names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.; and (b) the names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

SECTION 2 – PERIODIC REVIEWS

15.20 Periodic Reviews: To ensure the Organization operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax- exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.
b. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Organization's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurnment, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

15.21 Use of Outside Experts: When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in this chapter, SSBL Milwaukee, may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

CHAPTER 16 – ETHICS PROCEDURE

16.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and amended at any board meeting by majority.

16.02 Authority & Applicability: The power of this organization to discipline its member associations or teams and/or players of the individual member associations is vested in the Ethics Committee by the bylaws through the processes in this chapter. Penalties and sanctions as assigned by this organization only apply to membership in SSBL and official events as hosted by this organization. SSBL reserves the right to seek suspension or termination of any individual from any national or local affiliation(s) which SSBL is a member of or associated with. In this chapter, disqualification shall be interpreted broadly to indicate any action to which the Ethics Committee may apply discipline.

16.03 Petition for Discipline: A team, through its manager, an umpire with the concurrence of a sport/season coordinator or member of the Board of Directors, or a member of the Board of Directors or a sport/season coordinator may file a petition seeking discipline against a team and/or individual. The petition shall include the following information to be accepted:

a. Name(s) of the alleged violators

b. Date(s) of the alleged violations
c. Reference to the rule(s) violated
d. Brief Summary of the violation

16.04 Screening of Petition: The Assistant Commissioner & Chair of the Ethics Committee shall screen all petitions received and ensure that the required information is presented and the petition is not frivolous. All attempts will be made to assist in correcting a petition. Any petition that is screened out shall not be forwarded to the Ethics Committee for action, except that a report shall be made by the Chair to the Commissioner of the petition and its nature. All petitions accepted shall be forwarded for action under this chapter.

SECTION 1 – HEARING

16.10 Hearing Procedures: The following procedure shall be followed in all actions where discipline may be applied:

a. Hearing – Prior to disqualification by the Ethics Committee, a Team or Team member must be given an opportunity for a hearing by and in front of the Ethics Committee.
b. Notification – If the Ethics Committee is taking the action, the Secretary will notify the person and/or team in question at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled hearing date, electronically and/or in writing of the time, place and date of the hearing.
c. Rulings - After hearing all of the evidence, the Ethics Committee may take whatever action it deems necessary and appropriate in accordance with the bylaws and policies of this organization. The person and/or team in question must be advised electronically and/or in writing of the action taken.
d. Right of Appeal – A person and/or team disqualified from SSBL may appeal to the Commissioner who shall determine if a fair hearing was held and an equitable decision reached. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final.
e. Timing of Appeal - Any disqualified person and/or team must notify the Commissioner of their desire to appeal the decision within three (3) days of being notified of the disqualification. Such appeal must be made in writing.

SECTION 2 – PENALTIES

16.20 Sanctions Imposed by SSBL: The Ethics Committee's action to set sanctions as it sees fit, in accordance with the bylaws and the policies of this organization, shall be recorded the Secretary. The Ethics Committee may order financial sanctions, including fines and/or fees.

16.22 Discretionary Penalties Available to the Ethics Committee: Any or all of the following penalties, but not limited to these stated, may be imposed by the Ethics Committee:

a. Suspension of participation or right to be present for all or any members of the team, any national or regional tournament, any SSBL Event or any combination of these for any length of time at the discretion of the Ethics Committee.
b. Suspension of participation or right to be present for any non-playing person(s) at any SSBL event for any length of time at the discretion of the Ethics Committee.
c. Suspension of the team's voting privileges.
d. Permanent expulsion of the Manager.
e. Permanent expulsion of the player(s) involved.
f. Permanent expulsion of the person(s) involved.
g. A fine.

CHAPTER 17 – LEAGUE FUNDRAISING

17.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and amended at any board meeting by majority.

17.02 Purpose: This chapter's purpose is to explain the policies that govern league fundraising, the proceeds of fundraising that benefit individual players, and the means of volunteering for the league that satisfy the requirements for return of a membership deposit.

17.03 Definitions: The following definitions apply throughout this Governing Manual in their plain context:

- **a. League Fundraiser:** A league fundraiser is any event where the proceeds of the fundraising efforts are benefitting SSBL in whole or in part. The fundraisers may also benefit financially a team or teams of this organization or a charitable entity as designated by the Board of Directors. Fundraising events or labor where proceeds in whole or in part are deposited into individual player accounts in this organization are not considered league fundraisers despite any amount of proceeds that may be garnered by SSBL from that event or labor.
- **b. Player Benefitting Fundraiser:** A fundraising event or labor where the proceeds of the event or labor in whole or in part are deposited into an individual player account.
- **c. Team Fundraiser:** A fundraising event or labor where the proceeds of the event or labor in whole are kept by the sponsoring team for their use.

17.04 League Fundraisers: The Board of Directors shall schedule and be responsible for the planning, implementation, and operation of the league fundraisers. The board may enlist any volunteer help needed and delegate this authority and responsibility as it chooses. No team of this organization may hold or conduct a team fundraiser during any portion of a league fundraiser. The Board of Directors may elect to share a portion or the whole of the proceeds of a league fundraiser with any charitable entity meeting the purpose of this organization or the needs of the LGBTQ+ community or may elect to share proceeds with a team or teams of this organization for collective team expenses for the purposes of representing SSBL at any regional, national, or international tournament of their sport.

17.05 Team Fundraisers: Teams of this organization may schedule a team fundraiser at any time except during the same time as a league fundraiser or during the time another team has scheduled a fundraiser. The Board of Directors shall create a calendar wherein teams shall be allowed to schedule a team fundraiser on a first come, first serve basis. No team shall be allowed to schedule more than one (1) team fundraiser on a Saturday following league play until all teams of the Summer Open Season have been offered a chance to schedule one (1) team fundraiser on a Saturday during the course of that season. SSBL shall promote all team fundraisers through the social media, web, and email applications of the organization at the request of the team. Teams are responsible for requesting such promotion and developing materials and media the team wishes to be used in the promotion.

17.06 Player Benefitting Fundraisers: The Board of Directors shall schedule and be responsible for the planning, implementation, and operation of the player benefitting fundraisers. The board may enlist any volunteer help needed and delegate this authority and responsibility as it chooses. For each individual player benefitting fundraiser, SSBL shall retain no more than fifty (50%) percent of the net proceeds made or earned, not including bonuses and incentives paid to the organization. The Board of Directors may lower that retained percentage at its discretion. The balance of the net proceeds shall be distributed equally into the individual player accounts of those players of this organization who volunteered labor or services for the fundraiser. Any person may volunteer for these fundraisers, but funds will only be designated to an individual player account or SSBL. Non-players working these events shall declare to the Board of Directors to which entity their share of the proceeds shall be deposited.

a. **Scheduling of Persons for Player Benefitting Fundraisers:** SSBL shall make known to all players the schedule of available player benefitting fundraisers and provide an opportunity for players to schedule time on a first come, first serve basis. Those volunteering for certain events must be present for those

events or provide notice to the Board of Directors forty-eight (48) hours prior to the event so that replacements can be recruited.

b. **Authorized Player Benefitting Fundraisers**: Delaware North (SportsService) – Miller Park; Levy Restaurants – Bradley Center.

SECTION 1 – SPECIAL ROLES IN PLAYER BENEFITTING FUNDRAISERS

17.10 Season Coordinator: One person shall be appointed as the Season Coordinator for each season of a player benefitting fundraiser by the Commissioner. The Season Coordinator shall serve as the primary liaison for the organization to the authorized contact for the fundraiser. The Season Coordinator shall report to the Commissioner and be responsible for the following:

a. Recruitment of volunteers to satisfy the organization's obligations to the fundraiser
b. Scheduling of volunteers for each event that the organization works, including communications to the fundraiser of any shortage, cancellation, or alteration of planned volunteer counts
c. Distribution of parking passes for volunteers
d. Collecting commission & tip reports from cash managers and inventory discrepancies from stand managers after each individual event
e. Collecting tips from each event and delivering to the Treasurer
f. Reporting attendance of the volunteers for each event
g. Updating records used by the organization for recording volunteer participation and earned commissions.
h. Any other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors

17.11 Cash Manager: A volunteer designated for each event that is responsible for cash management and reporting for the event. This includes collection of beginning cash banks, distribution of cash to stand registers and volunteers, management and maintenance of cash and currency while at the event, final collection and deposit of cash, reconciliation of stand financial reports, reporting of daily financial reports to the Season Coordinator, and any other duties as assigned.

17.12 Stand Manager: A volunteer designated for each event that is responsible for being the primary stand manager for this organization. This includes responsibility for beginning and ending inventory, maintenance and cleanliness of the stand, adherence the non-profit agreement and rules of the facility, general supervision of the volunteers, reporting of inventory discrepancies, ensuring the stand is maintained in the layout designated by the organization, and other duties as assigned.

17.13 Cook: A volunteer designated for each event that is responsible for preparing provided food for the event. This includes grill preparation, cooking of food while maintaining health and safety standards in compliance with existing policies, reporting of food safety measures and logs, and clean-up activities after the event. This role will ensure accurate inventory tracking is maintained and will provide of daily reports to the Season Coordinator and any other duties as assigned.

SECTION 2 – DESIGNATION OF COMMISSION EARNINGS

17.20 Commission Earnings: For every daily commission earned (including tips earned) by this organization the following distributions shall be made:

a. 100% of the total tips (cash and credit card) to the general fund of SSBL
b. 100% of the total incentives (series and pick up games) to the general fund of SSBL. The season coordinator may designate these funds as bonus awards for individual player accounts for any reason.
c. 0% of the total commission to the player account of the Stand Manager designated for that game

d. 0% of the total commission to the player account of the Cash Manager designated for that game
e. 0% of the total commission to the player account of the Cook designated for that game
f. 1% of the total commission for each game successfully staffed to the player account of the Season Coordinator
g. 100% of the total commission earned in that event shall be split equally to the volunteers, including the cash manager and stand manager, working that event and deposited into each's individual player account

17.21 Multiple Locations In A Single Event: In the event that more than one location is assigned to this organization the total commission of all locations (including tips earned) shall be aggregated and distributed according to 17.20.
In the event that a single event requires more than one (1) cash manager, stand manager, or cook, the designated persons in each role shall split the assigned percentage and have that amount deposited into their individual player account.

17.22 Bonus: SSBL shall retain all bonus payments added to the commission for the purposes of supporting this organization and creating a fund for which this organization can offer incentives to volunteers as needed.

This chapter adopted 5-13-17

CHAPTER 18 – INDIVIDUAL PLAYER ACCOUNTS

18.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and amended at any board meeting by majority.

18.02 Purpose: This chapter's purpose is to explain the policies that govern the individual player accounts of this organization and legitimate sport expenses for and methods of reimbursement.

18.03 Definitions: The following definitions apply throughout this Governing Manual in their plain context:
a. **Individual Player Account:** An in and out account of a segregated fund of SSBL titled in the name of a player whom is a member of SSBL to be used a depository of funds earned in service to SSBL and from which reimbursement made be made to that named player for legitimate sport expenses.

18.04 Eligibility: A player, registered non-rostered player, officer, appointed official, or member of the Hall of Fame of this organization or its affiliates are eligible to maintain an individual player account. Any person volunteering at a player benefitting fundraiser who is not eligible to maintain such an account may designate that funds that they would have earned had they been eligible will be deposited to an eligible account holder of their choice or to SSBL Milwaukee.

18.05 Individual Player Account Usage: Any player may be reimbursed for legitimate sport expenses as outlined in this chapter by submission of a receipt for such expense to the Treasurer. No person shall be reimbursed for any expense not explicitly listed in this chapter or for any amount exceeding the amount available at that time in the individual player account. With the concurrence of the Commissioner, the Treasurer may provide an advance towards the purchase of a legitimate sport expense which shall not exceed the amount available in the individual player account and for which a receipt must be submitted. Violations of this section shall be subject to the ethics process of this organization. A player seeking to apply funds from this account to SSBL purchases need only notify the Treasurer of such a transaction for which the Treasurer shall issue a written or e-mail receipt.
a. The Treasurer shall deduct from any player account the full or a partial amount of a balance due of that player when the amount due is net 90 days delinquent. The Treasurer shall provide notice to that player of the deduction by email to the address provided at registration.

b. SSBL will reimburse all payments through the Zelle system of on-line transfers. Checks shall be utilized only when absolutely necessary.

18.06 Legitimate Sport Expenses: Legitimate sport expenses are limited to the sports offered by this organization unless explicitly authorized by this section. In no manner shall alcohol, tobacco products, or marijuana products (where legal) be considered a legitimate sport expense. The Board of Directors will make a final determination on any question of an expense qualifying under this section. The following are legitimate sport expenses:

a. Sports Equipment: Any piece of equipment, not including clothing, which is necessary for the playing of a sport or which add to the training and preparation for that sport. This shall not be construed to authorize home fitness equipment. (EX: Bats, gloves, bat weights, bat bags, balls, etc.)

b. Sports Attire: Any piece of clothing which is part of the generally accepted attire necessary for the playing of or preparation for a game in a sport. (EX: Jerseys, hats, cleats, warm-up jackets, sweat bands, socks, jockstraps, etc.)

c. Travel Tournament Expenses: Travel costs to, from, and during any tournament, event or meeting sanctioned by this organization or its affiliates; hotel and lodging costs; meals (limit three (3) per day).

d. Registration Expenses: Registration fees (team or player) at any tournament or league, including SSBL seasons.

e. Fundraising Expense: Any expense, in the judgement of the Board of Directors, for products or services necessary for a team fundraiser. Pre-authorization from the Board of Directors for these expenses is required.

f. Health & Wellness Expense: A player is eligible for reimbursement from the Individual Player Account of up to $100 per calendar year for tobacco cessation products or gym memberships of six (6) months or more.

g. Charitable Donations: A player may request a donation be made to any charitable organization which serves and/or furthers the work of the LGBTQ+ community. Pre-authorization from the Board of Directors for these donations is required.

18.07 Individual Player Account Expiration: An individual player account shall expire on December 1 of the calendar year following the last calendar year in which the player participated in an SSBL event or season. Registration in any SSBL season or volunteer participation in any league fundraiser or player benefitting fundraiser shall constitute participation for the purposes of keeping the individual player account active. The balance of any account which expires shall be forfeited to the SSBL general fund.

18.08 Individual Player Account Availability: An individual player account shall be created for new players when any necessary training has been completed. Players will receive deposits in their individual player accounts once notification of commission is received. Commission deposits will be held until player has accrued three (3) volunteer sessions before being release to the player. Any player not meeting the three session minimum during the applicable season will forfeit any commission earned to the SSBL general fund.

This chapter adopted 5-13-17

CHAPTER 19 – TEAM FUNDING ACCOUNTS

19.01 Jurisdiction

This chapter shall be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and may be amended at any Board meeting by majority vote.

19.02 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish policies governing Team Funding Accounts, including their creation, ownership, permitted uses, withdrawal authority, disposition upon team disbandment, and compliance with SSBL Milwaukee's legal, financial, and tax-exempt obligations.

19.03 Definitions

The following definitions apply throughout this Governing Manual in their plain context:

Team Funding Account:
A segregated internal accounting fund of SSBL Milwaukee, titled in the name of an SSBL-recognized team, used to deposit funds earned or raised on behalf of that team and from which reimbursement or direct payment may be made for legitimate team-related sport expenses as defined in this chapter.

Team Representative:
The individual(s) designated by the team and recognized by the Commissioner/Treasurer to act as authorized signatory(ies) for the Team Funding Account. The team's representative may not be a Board Member or representative who has direct access to the team's Funding Account. (Commissioner, Treasurer, Fundraising Coordinator) unless there is an alternate designee to approve disbursals.

Disbanded Team:
A team that is no longer recognized by SSBL Milwaukee due to dissolution, failure to register for a season, or revocation of status by the Board of Directors.

19.04 Ownership and Legal Status

All Team Funding Accounts are owned by **SSBL Milwaukee** and shall be maintained within the league's financial accounts.

No Team Funding Account constitutes a personal, private, or independent bank account of any individual or team. Teams shall have **use rights only**, subject to this Governing Manual and oversight by the Board of Directors.

Funds held in Team Funding Accounts remain the property of SSBL Milwaukee at all times and are administered in furtherance of the league's mission and tax-exempt purpose.

19.05 Eligibility and Creation

Any team officially registered and recognized by SSBL Milwaukee may maintain a Team Funding Account.

A Team Funding Account shall be created upon:

Official team registration for a season, and

Designation of at least one Team Representative approved by the Commissioner.

Teams may maintain only one Team Funding Account at any given time.

19.06 Deposits

Deposits into a Team Funding Account may include:

Team fundraising proceeds approved by SSBL Milwaukee

Allocations from league-sanctioned volunteer or fundraising events

Transfers from Individual Player Accounts (with player authorization)

Other funds approved by the Board of Directors

All deposits shall be recorded by the Treasurer and reflected in the league's internal financial records.

19.07 Authorized Use of Funds

Funds in a Team Funding Account may be used **only** for legitimate team sport expenses, including but not limited to:

Team registration fees

Tournament entry fees

Team equipment and supplies

Uniforms and team apparel

Approved fundraising expenses

Travel and lodging expenses related to SSBL-sanctioned events

Other expenses approved by the Board of Directors

In no manner shall alcohol, tobacco products, marijuana products (where legal), fines, or personal expenses be considered legitimate team sport expenses.

All expenses must align with SSBL Milwaukee's nonprofit purpose and tax-exempt status.

19.08 Withdrawal and Disbursement Authority

Withdrawals from a Team Funding Account shall be made only:

By reimbursement upon submission of a receipt, or

By direct payment issued by the Treasurer on behalf of the team

Only designated Team Representatives may request withdrawals, subject to:

Availability of funds at the time of request

Approval by the Treasurer

Compliance with this Governing Manual

The Treasurer, with concurrence of the Commissioner, may issue advances for approved team expenses not exceeding the available account balance. Receipts must be submitted within a reasonable timeframe as determined by the Treasurer.

No cash withdrawals shall be permitted.

SSBL Milwaukee will reimburse payments primarily through electronic transfer methods. Checks shall be used only when absolutely necessary.

19.09 Oversight and Compliance

All Team Funding Accounts are subject to:

Review by the Treasurer

Oversight by the Commissioner

Audit or review by the Board of Directors

Any misuse of funds, misrepresentation, or violation of this chapter shall be subject to the ethics and disciplinary processes of SSBL Milwaukee.

19.10 Tax-Exempt Status and Legal Compliance

Because Team Funding Accounts are held within SSBL Milwaukee's financial system:

All expenditures must comply with nonprofit and tax-exempt regulations

Funds may not be used for private benefit or inurement

SSBL Milwaukee retains final authority over all financial decisions

Teams and Team Representatives acknowledge that use of SSBL Milwaukee's tax-exempt status is a privilege and not a right.

19.11 Team Disbandment or Inactivity

Upon team disbandment or failure to register for an SSBL season:

The Team Funding Account shall be frozen

No further withdrawals shall be permitted

Any remaining balance shall be handled as follows:

Funds may be transferred to a successor team only with Board approval

Funds may be allocated to Individual Player Accounts only with Board approval

Otherwise, the balance shall be forfeited to the SSBL Milwaukee general fund

No individual shall have a claim to remaining funds upon team disbandment.

19.12 Team Funding Account Expiration

A Team Funding Account shall expire on December 1 of the calendar year following the last season in which the team participated in an SSBL-sanctioned event.

The balance of any expired Team Funding Account shall be forfeited to the SSBL Milwaukee general fund unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors.

19.13 No Vested Rights

Participation in a Team Funding Account does not create any vested financial right for any individual, player, manager, or team representative. All use of funds is conditional upon continued compliance with SSBL Milwaukee policies.

CHAPTER 20 – CODE OF CONDUCT

20.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Council and amended by majority at any council meeting.

20.02 Acts of Disqualification: The following is a list of acts any one of which may be justification for the ejection, suspension or termination of any individual, team, team member, or member association by the Ethics Committee:

a. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
b. Abusive behavior toward an umpire, tournament official or participant of the current event immediately preceding, during, or after a game or at any event hosted or sponsored by SSBL. Any expense that is incurred by SSBL to ensure the safety of the SSBL participants will be paid by the offending member association or person or persons.
c. Commission of fraud such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to tournament officials.
d. Any player and/or team accepting a cash prize in a tournament or athletic competition.
e. Receiving money or financial benefits in consideration of participating in an athletic competition.
f. Participating while knowing they do not meet the eligibility requirements of the league.
g. Knowingly competing with players that are disqualified from play in SSBL.
h. Accepting money (directly or indirectly) by capitalizing on athletic ability, athletic performance, or fame in softball or baseball, such as allowing the use of the player's name to advertise, recommend, or promote the sale of softball or baseball sporting goods or by accepting compensation for using such goods.

i. Posting disparaging, inaccurate, or inflammatory information about the SSBL league, it's officers, teams, coaches, players, or sponsors on social media accounts associated with SSBL.
j. Inappropriate, unauthorized, or misuse of SSBL funds through player account or league reimbursement requests.

20.03 Ejections: During SSBL play, any time a player, coach, manager, fan, or volunteer is ejected that person shall be required to leave the facility immediately. Additionally, that person shall be ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled game for the team they are associated with. Any individual ejected from a game or any individual who engages in conduct defined as act of disqualification at any SSBL event may be recommended for further sanctions, including suspension or termination of membership, by the Ethics Committee at the recommendation of the umpire involved, any member of the Board of Directors, not including the Commissioner, and/or the sports/season coordinator.

20.04 Person Not Eligible to Register & Participate in SSBL: Any person(s) and/or teams suspended or permanently expelled from membership or participation by any organization to which SSBL has elected to become affiliated with shall not be eligible to register or participate in SSBL events, activities, and/or leagues until such time as the suspension has expired or the expulsion is reversed.

CHAPTER 21 – SUMMER OPEN SOFTBALL RULES

21.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and amended by a majority of the board at any meeting, but not during the course of the Summer Open Softball season. The Summer Open Softball Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the rules of this season prior to the start of the season.

21.02 Definitions: The following definitions apply throughout this chapter.

a. Manager – the person designated as the manager of the team rostered with and bears the duty of directing the actions and purposes of the team.
b. Player – any person rostered by a team and eligible to play in this league.
c. Season Coordinator – the official, appointed by the Commissioner, to act as the season/sport coordinator for this season and whom is responsible for the administration of the season.
d. Sponsor – any person, organization, or business providing financial or in-kind resources to the league for league operations or team fees.
e. Team Members – shall include players, managers, coaches and team scorekeepers.

21.03 USA SOFTBALL Rules: This season shall adopt and conform to the USA SOFTBALL Rules of Softball for Men's Slow-Pitch, latest edition, unless explicitly stated in this chapter, and all policies and procedures of this organization.

21.04 Schedules & Rules: Managers will be issued a season schedule and a copy of these rules, prior to the first game played. The Assistant Commissioner or Season Coordinator retains the right to revise the schedule as needed to accomplish the goals & requirements of this League. The Season Coordinator shall provide each team an equal number of games as the home team and as the away team as possible. Any odd-number of games shall be determined by flip of a coin by the Season Coordinator in creating the schedule.

21.05 League Standings: League standings will be maintained by the Season Coordinator. Standings will be published on the league website and may be published in any local publications, social media, and/or other resource at the direction of the Board of Directors.

a. Any ties in season record shall be broken by the following standards in this order: 1) Team with most wins. 2) Team with highest point scored differential. 3) Head-to-head record. 4) Coin Flip
b. Trophies shall be awarded for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place in any division with five (5) or more teams. Trophies for 1st and 2nd place shall be awarded for any division with less than five (5) teams.

21.06 Divisional Standards & Placement: The creation of divisions and placement of teams in divisions in this season is the duty of the Season Coordinator in consultation with the Assistant Commissioner. Teams shall be placed in appropriate divisions by the Season Coordinator prior to the beginning of the season. In the event a team is moved to another division due to athletic ability and fair play, the games played in the original division shall be counted towards official standings.

21.07 IPRIDE Qualifying Season: This season shall be the official IPRIDE Qualifying Season and all players in this season shall be rated on their skills and abilities in accordance with the IPRIDE Player Rating Guidelines. From this season shall all Milwaukee IPRIDE Gay Softball World Series & IPRIDE Cup teams be selected.

21.09 Player Ratings Cap:

Each player will be Rated following the current years iPride rating guide.

Teams in Rec division shall have the following ratings limits imposed:

1. No players rated over 9 (based on IPS/IPRIDE Ratings) on their regular season roster.
2. No more than 2 players rated 9 (based on IPS/IPRIDE Ratings) on their regular season roster.
3. A new player with no rating can be added to the roster, but if that player is rated higher than 9 before the ratings deadline, that player will need to be moved to a ~~comp~~ higher division. If that player is rated 9, and the 2-player limit has already been met, that player may continue with the team for the duration of the season, but the following season will fall under this rule.

Teams in Intermediate division shall have the following ratings limits imposed:

1. No players rated over 12 (based on IPS/IPRIDE Ratings) on their regular season roster.
2. No more than 2 players rated 12 (based on IPS/IPRIDE Ratings) on their regular season roster.
3. A new player with no rating can be added to the roster, but if that player is rated higher than 12 before the ratings deadline, that player will need to be moved to a higher division. If that player is rated 12, and the 2-player limit has already been met, that player may continue with the team for the duration of the season, but the following season will fall under this rule.

Teams in Competitive Division will not be subjected to a player ratings limit.

21.10 Team Ratings Cap:

The team rating is determined by taking the top 10 rated players on the roster and adding the ratings together.

Teams shall have the following team ratings limits imposed:

3. Rec Division: No team shall have a Team rating of over **70.**
4. Intermediate Division: No team shall have a Team rating of over **100.**
5. Competitive Division: There will be no Team rating cap for this division.

SECTION 1 – PLAYER ELIGIBILTY & REGISTRATION

21.10 Registration & Eligibility: All teams must pay all fees by the due date prior to the start of any play for the season. Team manager(s) are responsible for ensuring the player is rostered on their team prior to the individual playing in their first game.

a. Players must be eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of registration and may register to play with one (1) team only in this season. A player shall not be eligible to play until such time as the player has paid the fees required, agreed to all terms and conditions of the league presented during registration and is rostered by a team manager on a team's roster. No player may play any game or portion of a game unless the fees are paid in full. Any person, of any gender identity, may register, be rostered, and compete for any team.

21.11 Managers Responsibilities: The team manager(s) is responsible for the conduct of the team members. The manager must verify that a team member has registered with the league and paid all applicable fees before the player is listed on the roster. A manager found to have played an ineligible player or found to have participated in unsportsman-like conduct may be suspended.

21.12 Forfeits & Reinstatements: A team will forfeit a game by failing to field a minimum of seven (7) players on the field, quitting in defiance of an umpire's decision, and/or playing an ineligible player.

21.13 Forfeit Fines: Any team that will knowingly forfeit a game must contact the Season Coordinator at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of scheduled game(s) to announce the forfeit(s), without penalty.

a. Any team that fails to make such a declaration shall be assessed a forfeit fine of Forty ($40.00) Dollars per game. This fine must be paid prior to the next scheduled game. Failure to pay this makes a team ineligible to play any future games until the fine is paid.
b. No forfeit fines shall be assessed for a forfeit in a Season-Championship Tournament.

21.14 Player Releases From Roster: No team member may join another team unless officially released by the manager first signing him/her as a team member. Official release cards must be used for this purpose. Release cards must be filed with the Season Coordinator prior to the next game. Any player being released from a team to another team will not be eligible to play for the team transferred to until one (1) game has been played by team transferred to after the transfer was effective. Positively no team member can be released over the phone.

a. A sponsor with more than one team may move a player from one sponsored team to another sponsored team one time within the first three calendar weeks of actual play of the league, without incurring the one game ineligibility in this section. This transfer of the player is final and no transfer is allowed to any other team with the same sponsor.

21.15 Team Disbandment, Manager and/or Sponsor Change: If a team disbands during a season, with more than one-half (1/2) of the season remaining to be played, all teams shall receive a win whether or not they have played the scheduled game(s) with the disbanded team. If a team disbands during a season, with less than one-half (1/2) the season is remaining in the schedule, the remaining games will be automatically forfeited. Standings will remain the same.

a. If a team disbands or drops out of the league and the individual team members wish to play for another team, the players may be transferred to another team with that team's consent and shall be eligible to play immediately upon transfer.
b. In the instance of a change in the management or sponsorship of a team, written notification of the change must be given to the Season Coordinator prior to playing the next game or games.
c. Once a team has played one (1) complete game, all fees become the property of the league and all fees are forfeited in the event a team drops out or disbands.

21.16 Protests of Eligibility: Protests on the eligibility of players will be accepted any time during a team's season of play. The season will be considered officially completed for a team one (1) day after the team's final league game, inclusive of any tournament as part of the league. No protest on an illegible player can be filed against a team after the expiration of the time limit. There will be no stoppage of play for the purposes of filing a protest.

a. All protests or appeals must be in writing on the form provided by the Executive Board and must be appropriately completed and filed with the Season Coordinator or the Assistant Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of the game and must be accompanied by a fifty ($50.00) dollar filing fee. If the protesting team prevails, the fee will be returned to that team. If the protest is dismissed or rejected, the filing fee is forfeited to SSBL.
b. The Assistant Commissioner, the Season Coordinator, and one (1) team manager, not involved in the protest, shall constitute the Protest Committee and hear and decide the protest outcome. Any member(s) of the Board of Directors, not including the Commissioner, may be substituted for the Assistant Commissioner or Season Coordinator as necessary.
c. Appeals of the protest decisions may be made to the Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of decision being announced to the parties. The ruling of the Commissioner is final.

21.17 Protest Penalties: A team found to have an ineligible player in their line-up will forfeit to its opponent all games in which the ineligible player participated. The Protest Committee may be forward the protest to the Ethics Committee for further sanctions including, but not limited to, fines, suspensions, and/or termination.

SECTION 2 – LOCAL RULES OF THE GAME

21.20 Rosters & Scorekeeping: Each team manager shall provide a completed lineup card to the home-plate umpire, the opposing manager, and the league scorekeeper prior to the start of the game. League scorekeepers shall keep the official scorebook of the game subject to the calls and determinations of the home plate umpire and Umpire-in-Chief. Neither team members nor spectators shall interfere with the duties of the scorekeepers or they shall be subject to discipline by the Umpire-in-Chief.

21.21 Game Length: The length of game shall be fifty (50) minutes, with a completed inning, or seven innings; whichever occurs first.

a. The umpire will allow a ten (10) minute grace period before forfeiting a game only for teams unable to field a lineup of a minimum of eight (8) players on the field at the scheduled game time. After ten (10) minutes, the umpire will order the appearing team to take the field and the pitcher must throw the ball to the catcher before the umpire can officially forfeit the game. The appearing team must have at least eight (8) players on the field.

21.22 Players Required for a Game: A team shall not be permitted to start or to continue a game with less than eight (8) players. In the event a team begins a game with eight (8) or nine (9) players and other team members arrive late, the late players may be inserted in the game. They must be put at the end of the batting line-up. A team that starts with ten (10) can bat up to twelve (12) players.

21.23 Tie-breaker: The International Tiebreaker rule shall apply in time-restricted games if the score is tied after seven (7) innings or 50 minutes. At the beginning of each half inning, the batting team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning being placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner following regular substitution rules.

21.24 Stealing: No base stealing will be allowed in any division.

21.25 Pitches: The official pitch height shall be 6' to 12'. All batters will begin with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. A foul ball hit on the second (2nd) strike shall be an "out" in the Competitive & Intermediate Divisions. For the first two (2) weeks of regular season play, the Recreation Division teams may have a courtesy foul wherein a batter is not out after hitting a ball foul on the second strike but shall be granted one more strike before being called out. The courtesy foul rule for the Recreational Division shall be extended for the season at the discretion of the Assistant Commissioner.

21.26 Home-run Limits: The following are the divisional limits for out of the park home runs: Competitive Division-1, Intermediate Division-1, Recreational Division-0. Once a team has reached their maximum of out of the park home runs, any additional out-of- the-park homerun will be an out in all divisions.

21.27 Run Rule: The run rule is identified as 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings. Any team after completed innings ahead by such number of runs in the appropriate inning is declared the winner and the game complete. The losing manager decides the continuation of the game.

21.28 Protests on Play Calls: Protests on the rules of play and calls will be made by the home plate umpire. The decision of the home plate umpire is final.

a. All complaints regarding officials or field conditions must be made in writing and given to any league official within twenty-four (24) hours after the game. Such complaints will be forwarded to the Umpire in Chief or the Board of Directors, as appropriate.

21.29 Weather & Field Conditions: The park custodian solely determines if the field is playable. The Season Coordinator will make all decisions on rain outs for a league day or portion of a day upon consultation with the Umpire-in-Chief, groundskeeper, or Board of Directors as needed.

21.291 Weather Stoppages During Play: In the event of a change in weather conditions after a game has started, the home plate umpire may suspend a game until weather conditions improve. If a game is suspended, play will resume when weather conditions permit, at the point at which play was stopped. If weather conditions do not improve that day, the Season Coordinator shall terminate the game.

a. If a game is terminated following a suspension before it is an official game the game will be replayed from the beginning. If the game is terminated after it is official, the game will count in the standings as a completed game.
b. A game is an official game and stands as completed with the winner having more runs after five (5) complete innings OR the home team is the winner if the home team has more runs after four and one-half (4-1/2) innings are played.

21.1.X Flip-Flop Rule: The Flip-Flop Rule will be in effect for all regular season and league tournament games. If the Home Team is trailing (by any amount) at the conclusion of an

inning AND there are less than 5 minutes remaining in the game, the Home Team will bat again.

If the Home Team fails to tie or surpass the score of the Away Team, the game ends and the Away Team is declared the winner.

If the Home Team ties or surpasses the Away Team score, the Away Team will bat.

If the game becomes tied at the conclusion of that inning, the tie-breaker rule will take effect with the original Away Team batting first in the tie-breaker inning.

Managers will have the option to Override this rule with the agreement of the opposing manager and the home plate umpire.

SECTION 3 – EQUIPMENT

21.30 Bat Rules: The league will provide a number of bats for use by players at the fields, in addition to bats provided by players. The umpires assigned to each field shall be the custodian of the bats and responsible for their return. All bats utilized by any player must conform to USA SOFTBALL rules and are subject to inspection at any time by the umpire. Bat-testing may be implemented at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

21.31 Uniforms: Uniform shirts/jerseys are required. In the event of any team not having complete uniforms for all members, team are encouraged to have like-colored shirts. Regardless of the type of uniform or shirt, all players must have an USA SOFTBALL compliant number affixed to their back or sleeve in each game played in. No two players on a team may have the same number during a game. Each player must maintain the same number throughout the season unless explicitly exempted by the Season Coordinator. At the umpire's discretion shirts may be removed for the game.

21.32 Metal Cleats: No metal cleats shall be worn by any player, manager, coach, or umpire.

21.33 Gloves: Gloves of any type are permitted.

SECTION 4 – SEASON-CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

21.40 Rules Apply: These rules apply to all games in the season-championship tournament, except that these following rules shall apply to that tournament:

a. Seeding into the double-elimination tournament shall be based on the final standings of each team in league play. Any teams tied in those standings shall be seeded into their appropriate place by coin flip.
b. The home team for all games shall be the highest seeded team for that game, except that no team with one loss may be the home team when playing against a team with no losses.

21.41 Player Eligibility: No player on a team's roster is eligible if that player did not play or was able to play in at least twenty-five (25%) percent of the team's completed games.

21.42 Protests: There shall be no protests during this tournament. Any matter of player eligibility is ruled on by the Season Coordinator and the Assistant Commissioner whose decision is final. Any member of the Board of Directors, not including the Commissioner, may be substituted for the Assistant Commissioner or Season Coordination as appropriate.

21.43 Trophies: Trophies shall be awarded for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place in any division with five (5) or more teams. Trophies for 1st and 2nd place shall be awarded for any division with less than five (5) teams.

This chapter adopted 2-26-17

CHAPTER 22 – SUMMER WOMENS SOFTBALL RULES

22.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and amended by a majority of the board at any meeting, but not during the course of the Summer Women's Softball season. The Summer Women's Softball Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the rules of this season prior to the start of the season.

22.02 Definitions: The following definitions apply throughout this chapter.

f. Manager – the person designated as the manager of the team rostered with and bears the duty of directing the actions and purposes of the team.
g. Player – any person rostered by a team and eligible to play in this league.
h. Season Coordinator – the official, appointed by the Commissioner, to act as the season/sport coordinator for this season and whom is responsible for the administration of the season.
i. Sponsor – any person, organization, or business providing financial or in-kind resources to the league for league operations or team fees.
j. Team Members – shall include players, managers, coaches and team scorekeepers.

22.03 USA SOFTBALL Rules: This season shall adopt and conform to the USA SOFTBALL Rules of Softball for Women's Slow-Pitch, latest edition, unless explicitly stated in this chapter, and all policies and procedures of this organization.

22.04 Schedules & Rules: Managers will be issued a season schedule and a copy of these rules, prior to the first game played. The Commissioner or Season Coordinator retains the right to revise the schedule as needed to accomplish the goals & requirements of this League. The Season Coordinator shall provide each team an equal number of games as the home team and as the away team as possible. Any odd-number of games shall be determined by flip of a coin by the Season Coordinator in creating the schedule.

22.05 League Standings: League standings will be maintained by the Season Coordinator. Standings will be published on the league website and may be published in any local publications, social media, and/or other resource at the direction of the Board of Directors.

c. Any ties in season record shall be broken by the following standards in this order: 1) Team with most wins. 2) Team with highest point scored differential. 3) Head-to-head record. 4) Coin Flip
d. Trophies shall be awarded for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place in any division with five (5) or more teams. Trophies for 1st and 2nd place shall be awarded for any division with less than five (5) teams.

22.06 Divisional Standards & Placement: The creation of divisions and placement of teams in divisions in this season is the duty of the Season Coordinator in consultation with the Assistant Commissioner. Teams shall be placed in appropriate divisions by the Season Coordinator prior to the beginning of the season. In the event a team is moved to another division due to athletic ability and fair play, the games played in the original division shall be counted towards official standings.

SECTION 1 – PLAYER ELIGIBILTY & REGISTRATION

22.10 Registration & Eligibility: All teams must pay all fees by the due date prior to the start of any play for the season. Team manager(s) are responsible for ensuring the player is rostered on their team prior to the individual playing in their first game.

b. Players must be eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of registration and may register to play with one (1) team only in this season. A player shall not be eligible to play until such time as the player has paid the fees required, agreed to all terms and conditions of the league presented during registration and is rostered by a team manager on a team's roster. No player may play any game or portion of a game unless the fees are paid in full. Any person, of any gender identity, may register, be rostered, and compete for any team.

22.11 Managers Responsibilities: The team manager(s) is responsible for the conduct of the team members. The manager must verify that a team member has registered with the league and paid all applicable fees before the player is listed on the roster. A manager found to have played an ineligible player or found to have participated in unsportsmanlike conduct may be suspended.

22.12 Forfeits & Reinstatements: A team will forfeit a game by failing to field a minimum of eight (8) players on the field, quitting in defiance of an umpire's decision, and/or playing an ineligible player.

22.13 Forfeit Fines: Any team that will knowingly forfeit a game must contact the Season Coordinator at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of scheduled game(s) to announce the forfeit(s), without penalty.

c. Any team that fails to make such a declaration shall be assessed a forfeit fine of Forty ($40.00) Dollars per game. This fine must be paid prior to the next scheduled game. Failure to pay this makes a team ineligible to play any future games until the fine is paid.

22.14 Player Releases From Roster: No team member may join another team unless officially released by the manager first signing him/her as a team member. Official release cards must be used for this purpose. Release cards must be filed with the Season Coordinator prior to the next game. Any player being released from a team to another team will not be eligible to play for the team transferred to until one (1) game has been played by team transferred to after the transfer was effective. Positively no team member can be released over the phone.

b. A sponsor with more than one team may move a player from one sponsored team to another sponsored team one time within the first three calendar weeks of actual play of the league, without incurring the one game ineligibility in this section. This transfer of the player is final and no transfer is allowed to any other team with the same sponsor.

22.15 Team Disbandment, Manager and/or Sponsor Change: If a team disbands during a season, with more than one-half (1/2) of the season remaining to be played, all teams shall receive a win whether or not they have played the scheduled game(s) with the disbanded team. If a team disbands during a season, with less than one-half (1/2) the season is remaining in the schedule, the remaining games will be automatically forfeited. Standings will remain the same.

d. If a team disbands or drops out of the league and the individual team members wish to play for another team, the players may be transferred to another team with that team's consent and shall be eligible to play immediately upon transfer.

e. In the instance of a change in the management or sponsorship of a team, written notification of the change must be given to the Season Coordinator prior to playing the next game or games.

f. Once a team has played one (1) complete game, all fees become the property of the league and all fees are forfeited in the event a team drops out or disbands.

22.16 Protests of Eligibility: Protests on the eligibility of players will be accepted any time during a team's season of play. The season will be considered officially completed for a team one (1) day after the team's final league game, inclusive of any tournament as part of the league. No protest on an illegible player can be filed

against a team after the expiration of the time limit. There will be no stoppage of play for the purposes of filing a protest.

d. All protests or appeals must be in writing on the form provided by the Executive Board and must be appropriately completed and filed with the Season Coordinator or the Assistant Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of the game and must be accompanied by a fifty ($50.00) dollar filing fee. If the protesting team prevails, the fee will be returned to that team. If the protest is dismissed or rejected, the filing fee is forfeited to SSBL.
e. The Assistant Commissioner, the Season Coordinator, and one (1) team manager, not involved in the protest, shall constitute the Protest Committee and hear and decide the protest outcome. Any member(s) of the Board of Directors, not including the Commissioner, may be substituted for the Assistant Commissioner or Season Coordinator as necessary.
f. Appeals of the protest decisions may be made to the Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of decision being announced to the parties. The ruling of the Commissioner is final.

22.17 Protest Penalties: A team found to have an ineligible player in their line-up will forfeit to its opponent all games in which the ineligible player participated. The Protest Committee may be forward the protest to the Ethics Committee for further sanctions including, but not limited to, fines, suspensions, and/or termination.

SECTION 2 – LOCAL RULES OF THE GAME

22.20 Rosters & Scorekeeping: Each team manager shall provide a completed lineup card to the home-plate umpire, the opposing manager, and the league scorekeeper prior to the start of the game. League scorekeepers shall keep the official scorebook of the game subject to the calls and determinations of the home plate umpire and Umpire-in-Chief. Neither team members nor spectators shall interfere with the duties of the scorekeepers or they shall be subject to discipline by the Umpire-in-Chief.

22.21 Game Length: The length of game shall be fifty (50) minutes, with a completed inning, or seven innings; whichever occurs first.

b. The umpire will allow a ten (10) minute grace period before forfeiting a game only for teams unable to field a lineup of a minimum of eight (8) players on the field at the scheduled game time. After ten (10) minutes, the umpire will order the appearing team to take the field and the pitcher must throw the ball to the catcher before the umpire can officially forfeit the game. The appearing team must have at least eight (8) players on the field.

22.22 Players Required for a Game: A team shall not be permitted to start or to continue a game with less than eight (8) players. In the event a team begins a game with eight (8) or nine (9) players and other team members arrive late, the late players may be inserted in the game. They must be put at the end of the batting line-up. A team that starts with ten (10) can bat up to twelve (12) players.

b. A team that appears with seven (7) players at the time game play is to be called (following the 10-minute grace period) can add one player from any team in an appropriate division with the concurrence of the other coach to begin the game, without penalty.

22.23 Tie-breaker: The International Tiebreaker rule shall apply in time-restricted games if the score is tied after seven (7) innings or 50 minutes. At the beginning of each half inning, the batting team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning being placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner following regular substitution rules.

22.24 Stealing: No base stealing will be allowed in any division.

22.25 Pitches: The official pitch height shall be 6' to 12'. All batters will begin with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. A foul ball hit on the second (2nd) strike shall be an "out".

22.26 Home-run Limits: The following are the divisional limits for out of the park home runs: Competitive Division-2, Intermediate Division-1, Recreational Division-0. Once a team has reached their maximum of out of the park home runs, any additional out-of- the-park homerun will be an out in all divisions.

22.27 Run Rule: The run rule is identified as 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings. Any team after completed innings ahead by such number of runs in the appropriate inning is declared the winner and the game complete. The losing manager decides the continuation of the game.

22.28 Protests on Play Calls: Protests on the rules of play and calls will be made by the home plate umpire. The decision of the home plate umpire is final.

c. All complaints regarding officials or field conditions must be made in writing and given to any league official within twenty-four (24) hours after the game. Such complaints will be forwarded to the Umpire in Chief or the Board of Directors, as appropriate.

22.29 Weather & Field Conditions: The park custodian solely determines if the field is playable. The Season Coordinator will make all decisions on rain outs for a league day or portion of a day upon consultation with the Umpire-in-Chief, groundskeeper, or Board of Directors as needed.

22.291 Weather Stoppages During Play: In the event of a change in weather conditions after a game has started, the home plate umpire may suspend a game until weather conditions improve. If a game is suspended, play will resume when weather conditions permit, at the point at which play was stopped. If weather conditions do not improve that day, the Season Coordinator shall terminate the game.

c. If a game is terminated following a suspension before it is an official game the game will be replayed from the beginning. If the game is terminated after it is official, the game will count in the standings as a completed game.
d. A game is an official game and stands as completed with the winner having more runs after five (5) complete innings OR the home team is the winner if the home team has more runs after four and one-half (4-1/2) innings are played.

SECTION 3 – EQUIPMENT

22.30 Bat Rules: The league will provide a number of bats for use by players at the fields, in addition to bats provided by players. The umpires assigned to each field shall be the custodian of the bats and responsible for their return. All bats utilized by any player must conform to USA SOFTBALL rules and are subject to inspection at any time by the umpire. Bat-testing may be implemented at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

22.31 Uniforms: Uniform shirts/jerseys are required. In the event of any team not having complete uniforms for all members, team are encouraged to have like-colored shirts. Regardless of the type of uniform or shirt, all players must have an USA SOFTBALL compliant number affixed to their back or sleeve in each game played in. No two players on a team may have the same number during a game. Each player must maintain the same number throughout the season unless explicitly exempted by the Season Coordinator. At the umpire's discretion, shirts may be removed for the game.

22.32 Metal Cleats: No metal cleats shall be worn by any player, manager, coach, or umpire.

22.33 Gloves: Gloves of any type are permitted.

This chapter adopted 3-5-17

CHAPTER 23 – FALL OPEN SOFTBALL RULES

23.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter shall be the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and amended by a majority of the board at any meeting, but not during the course of the Fall Open Softball season. The Fall Open Softball Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the rules of this season prior to the start of the season.

23.02 Definitions: The following definitions apply throughout this chapter.

a. Manager – the person designated as the manager of the team rostered with and bears the duty of directing the actions and purposes of the team.
b. Player – any person rostered by a team and eligible to play in this league.
c. Season Coordinator – the official, appointed by the Commissioner, to act as the season/sport coordinator for this season and whom is responsible for the administration of the season.
d. Team Members – shall include players, managers, coaches and team scorekeepers.

23.03 USA SOFTBALL Rules: This season shall adopt and conform to the USA SOFTBALL Rules of Softball for Men's Slow-Pitch, latest edition, unless explicitly stated in this chapter, and all policies and procedures of this organization.

23.04 Schedules & Rules: Managers will be issued a season schedule and a copy of these rules, prior to the first game played. The Assistant Commissioner or Season Coordinator retains the right to revise the schedule as needed to accomplish the goals & requirements of this League. The Season Coordinator shall provide each team an equal number of games as the home team and as the away team as possible. Any odd-number of games shall be determined by flip of a coin by the Season Coordinator in creating the schedule.

23.05 League Standings: League standings will be maintained by the Season Coordinator. Standings will be published on the league website and may be published in any local publications, social media, and/or other resource at the direction of the Board of Directors.

a. Any ties in season record shall be broken by the following standards in this order: 1) Team with most wins. 2) Team with highest point scored differential. 3) Head-to-head record. 4) Coin Flip
b. Individual medals shall be awarded to players on 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place teams if the season has five (5) or more teams. Individual medals shall be awarded to players on 1st and 2nd place teams if the season has less than five (5) teams.

SECTION 1 – PLAYER ELIGIBILTY & REGISTRATION

23.10 Registration & Eligibility: Players must be eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of registration. A player shall not be eligible to play until such time as the player has paid the fees required, agreed to all terms and conditions of the league presented during registration and is rostered on a team under these rules. No player may play any game or portion of a game unless the fees are paid in full. Any person, of any gender identity, may register, be rostered, and compete for any team.

23.11 Team Draft Process: Upon the close of registration, the Season Coordinator shall perform the following steps to draft players to teams for the season.

a. The Season Coordinator shall determine number of teams to be rostered by dividing the aggregate number of registered players by twelve (12) and the number of teams shall be the next lowest whole number from that answer.

b. The Season Coordinator shall assign one person to manager of each team with that person's consent, and roster one registered player who is a consistent pitcher, regardless of the pitcher's rating, to each team to ensure that teams have pitching ability.
c. The Season Coordinator shall randomly determine the order of each team's position in the draft process. This selection order shall order teams in the draft from first to last and then last to first. (Example: Teams 1 to 5 will draft followed by Teams 5 to 1 in reverse order). This order repeats until available players are exhausted.
d. The Season Coordinator shall divide all registered players into groups based on that years or the last available year's IPRIDE rating; each group being all the players in that rating group, and one (1) group being all unrated players. Players who's last IPRIDE rating is more than five (5) seasons prior to the current season shall be considered non-rated players.
e. The Season Coordinator shall begin with the highest rating group and randomly draft one (1) player to the team with the first selection in the draft process. The Season Coordinator shall repeat this step drafting a player from the highest rating group with players available for the next team in the selection order and continue in such a manner until all rated players are drafted to a team.
f. Prior to drafting non-rated players, the Season Coordinator shall determine the total team rating of each team which is the sum of the ratings of all players on the team to this point. The Season Coordinator shall then, at their discretion, reassign players as necessary to balance, as best as practicable, the team ratings across the teams. The assigned pitchers and/or managers shall not be reassigned under this step.
g. The Season Coordinator shall next draft unrated players to the teams following the same process as in (e). This step shall begin with the next team in the selection order to receive players.
h. After all players have been assigned, the Season Coordinator shall ensure that no team roster is more than one (1) player larger or smaller than every other team in this season. To accomplish this, unrated players may be moved to another team to balance the roster.
i. In this process, any player who has designated a partner, spouse, or significant other who is also a player to be assigned to the same team as the original player, shall be considered paired and both players shall be rostered on the same team. The Season Coordinator is authorized to adjust rosters to accomplish all pairings.
j. The Season Coordinator shall publish team rosters in such time before the season start so that team's may organize as desired.

23.12 Managers Responsibilities: The team manager(s) is responsible for the conduct of the team members. A manager found to have participated in unsportsman-like conduct may be suspended.

23.13 Forfeits & Reinstatements: A team will forfeit a game by failing to field a minimum of eight (8) players on the field, quitting in defiance of an umpire's decision, and/or playing an ineligible player.

23.14 Forfeit Fines: Any team that will knowingly forfeit a game must contact the Season Coordinator at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of scheduled game(s) to announce the forfeit(s), without penalty.

a. Any team that fails to make such a declaration shall be assessed a forfeit fine of Forty ($40.00) Dollars per game. This fine must be paid prior to the next scheduled game. Failure to pay this makes a team ineligible to play any future games until the fine is paid.

SECTION 2 – LOCAL RULES OF THE GAME

23.20 Rosters & Scorekeeping: Each team manager shall provide a completed lineup card to the home-plate umpire, the opposing manager, and the league scorekeeper prior to the start of the game. League scorekeepers shall keep the official scorebook of the game subject to the calls and determinations of the home plate umpire and Umpire-in-Chief. Neither team members nor spectators shall interfere with the duties of the scorekeepers or they shall be subject to discipline by the Umpire-in-Chief.

23.21 Game Length: The length of game shall be fifty (50) minutes, with a completed inning, or seven innings; whichever occurs first.

a. The umpire will allow a ten (10) minute grace period before forfeiting a game only for teams unable to field a lineup of a minimum of eight (8) players on the field at the scheduled game time. After ten (10) minutes, the umpire will order the appearing team to take the field and the pitcher must throw the ball to the catcher before the umpire can officially forfeit the game. The appearing team must have at least eight (8) players on the field.

23.22 Players Required for a Game: A team shall not be permitted to start or to continue a game with less than eight (8) players. In the event a team begins a game with eight (8) or nine (9) players and other team members arrive late, the late players may be inserted in the game. They must be put at the end of the batting line-up. A team that starts with ten (10) can bat up to twelve (12) players.

a. A team that appears with seven (7) players at the time game play is to be called (following the 10-minute grace period) can add one player from any team with the concurrence of the other coach to begin the game, without penalty.

23.23 Tie-breaker: The International Tiebreaker rule shall apply in time-restricted games if the score is tied after seven (7) innings or 50 minutes. At the beginning of each half inning, the batting team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning being placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner following regular substitution rules.

23.24 Stealing: No base stealing will be allowed.

23.25 Pitches: The official pitch height shall be 6’ to 12’. All batters will begin with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. A foul ball hit on the second (2nd) strike shall be an “out”.

23.26 Home-run Limits: There is a limit of one (1) out of the park home run per team per game. Once a team has reached their maximum of out of the park home runs, any additional out-of-the-park homerun will be an out in all divisions.

23.27 Run Rule: The run rule is identified as 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings. Any team after completed innings ahead by such number of runs in the appropriate inning is declared the winner and the game complete. The losing manager decides the continuation of the game.

23.28 Protests on Play Calls: Protests on the rules of play and calls will be made by the home plate umpire. The decision of the home plate umpire is final.

a. All complaints regarding officials or field conditions must be made in writing and given to any league official within twenty-four (24) hours after the game. Such complaints will be forwarded to the Umpire in Chief or the Board of Directors, as appropriate.

23.29 Weather & Field Conditions: The park custodian solely determines if the field is playable. The Season Coordinator will make all decisions on rain outs for a league day or portion of a day upon consultation with the Umpire-in-Chief, groundskeeper, or Board of Directors as needed.

23.291 Weather Stoppages During Play: In the event of a change in weather conditions after a game has started, the home plate umpire may suspend a game until weather conditions improve. If a game is suspended, play will resume when weather conditions permit, at the point at which play was stopped. If weather conditions do not improve that day, the Season Coordinator shall terminate the game.

a. If a game is terminated following a suspension before it is an official game the game will be replayed from the beginning. If the game is terminated after it is official, the game will count in the standings as a completed game.
b. A game is an official game and stands as completed with the winner having more runs after five (5) complete innings OR the home team is the winner if the home team has more runs after four and one-half (4-1/2) innings are played.

SECTION 3 – EQUIPMENT

23.30 Bat Rules: The league will provide a number of bats for use by players at the fields, in addition to bats provided by players. The umpires assigned to each field shall be the custodian of the bats and responsible for their return. All bats utilized by any player must conform to USA SOFTBALL rules and are subject to inspection at any time by the umpire. Bat-testing may be implemented at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

23.31 Uniforms: Uniform shirts/jerseys are required and shall be provided by the league. In the event of any team not having complete uniforms for all members, team are encouraged to have like-colored shirts. Regardless of the type of uniform or shirt, all players must have an USA SOFTBALL compliant number affixed to their back or sleeve in each game played in. No two players on a team may have the same number during a game. At the umpire's discretion shirts may be removed for the game.

23.32 Metal Cleats: No metal cleats shall be worn by any player, manager, coach, or umpire.

23.33 Gloves: Gloves of any type are permitted.

CHAPTER 24 – RATINGS PROCESS

24.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter is listed as information only for the benefit of informing players and league officials on the process of assigning player ratings for the purposes of IPRIDE compliance.

24.02 Commissioner's Duties: It is the duty of the Commissioner to ensure that each player of this league, playing in the IPRIDE Qualifying Season, is rated appropriately and according to the IPRIDE Player Rating Guidelines. The Commissioner may request the assistance of the Board of Directors, managers, players, or other league personnel to assess and complete the player ratings.

24.03 Ratings Final & Public: The Commissioner's determination of a player's rating and entry into the IPRIDE database is final and without appeal. Player ratings will be publicly made available on the SSBL website.

CHAPTER 25 – iPride PLAYER RATING GUIDELINES

25.01 Jurisdiction: This chapter is provided as information for players in the Summer Open Softball Season on the goals and terms of ratings as applied by iPride, affecting iPride sanctioned tournaments and other regional tournaments adopting these ratings as their own.

You can access the current rating questions from the iPride website here, in their Governing manual on page 18.

SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS

25.10 Definitions: The following definitions apply to this chapter:

a. At-bat – An at-bat is charged to a player following every plate appearance except when: 1) the player hits a sacrifice fly that scores a runner, 2) the player is awarded a base on balls, or 3) the third out

occurs and the batter is not entitled to run to first base. Exception #3 shall not be considered if the batter is out due to a strike being a foul ball which ends the at-bat. In the event of any discrepancy between this definition and the official scoring rules of the USA Softball (ASA) and definition contained therein, the latest version of the USA Softball (ASA) rules shall control.

b. Base Safely Reached on Error – A batter shall be credited with a base safely reached on error on the part of a defensive player(s) who is charged with an error by the scorekeeper.

c. Behind the player (for fly balls) – The area on the field starting directly to the right of the player, proceeding in a 180-degree arc behind the player and ending directly to the left of the player.

d. Cleanly fielding the ball – The player receives and controls the ball immediately while over his/her center of gravity (i.e. not on their knees, on the ground or off-balance) and does not cause any delay in making the next play (e.g., tags the runner, steps on the base, throws the ball to the appropriate place on the field).

e. Deliver multiple pitch techniques with accuracy – The ability to use arc, spin, location and movement of the ball to deliver various pitches (e.g. curve, change up, cutter / reverse curve, knuckle ball) that are called strikes or cause the batter to swing.

f. Directly at the Player – A ball hit at a player that does not require the player to move his/her feet, although it may cause the player to reach in any direction to make the play.

g. Fly Ball - Any batted ball that is in the air for more than 3 seconds but less than 5 seconds

h. Ground Ball – Ball hit with a downward trajectory that makes contact with the ground in front of the player when hit directly at a player or in front of the bases when hit between players.

i. Hard Hit Ball / High Velocity – a ball hit greater than 250 feet in the air or a ground ball that would roll to a distance greater than 250 feet, if not impeded

j. High Fly Ball – Any batted ball that is in the air for five (5) seconds or more.

k. Hit – A batted ball that allows the batter to reach base safely: 1) on a fair ball which settles on the ground, clears the fence, or strikes the fence before being touched by a fielder, 2) on a fair ball which is hit with such force or such slowness or which takes an unnatural bounce that it is impossible to field with ordinary effort in time to make an out, 3) when a fair ball which has not been touched by a fielder becomes dead because of touching the person or clothing of an umpire, or 4) when a fielder unsuccessfully attempts to retire a previous runner and in the scorer's judgement, the batter-runner would not have been retired at first base by perfect fielding. A hit shall not be scored: 1) when a runner is forced out on a batted ball or would have been forced out except for a fielding error, 2) when a player fielding a batted ball retires a preceding runner with ordinary effort, 3) when a fielder fails in an attempt to retire a preceding runner, and in the scorer's judgement, the batter-runner could have been retired at first base, or 4) when a batter reaches first base safely as a result of a preceding runner being called out for interfering with a batted or thrown ball, or with a defensive player. In the event of any discrepancy between this definition and the official scoring rules of the USA Softball (ASA) and the definition contained therein, the latest version of the USA Softball (ASA) rules shall control.

l. In the Hole – A ball hit that requires a player to take 4-5 steps (12-foot or greater) in order to make the play.

m. Intentionally – See "on purpose"

n. Intentionally Place Hit a Ball – The batter executes getting on base and/or moving base runners for an advantage by hitting the ball to a specific place within their field of choice with at least medium velocity; A player can drive the ball down the baseline of the side on which they bat (e.g., right handed batter can hit down the 3rd base line); a player can drive the ball down the baseline of the opposite side on which they bat (e.g., right handed batter can hit down the 1st base line); A player can adjust footing, stance, swing or timing to cause the ball to move in a direction that is advantageous to their game or

runners (e.g., hitting behind a runner, intentionally not hitting towards where the lead runner is advancing as his goal, hitting to a specific player that has struggled to field well during the game, etc.), or; this is a manufactured hit.

o. Line Drive – a ball that from the point of contact rises vertically less than 10% of the total horizontal 766 distance it travels, or in the case of a throw, a ball that from the point of release rises vertically less than 5% of the total horizontal distance it travels.

p. Medium Hit Ball / Medium Velocity – a ball hit 150 to 250 feet in the air or a ground ball that would roll to 769 a distance of 150-250 feet, if not impeded.

q. Modified batting average – The percentage resulting from the sum of a player's: 1) hits and 2) bases safely reached on error divided by the player's at-bats.

r. Off center of gravity – The player fields the ball from his/her knees, off one foot, while moving the opposite direction from the throw or while in the air.

s. On Purpose – with intent

t. Slow Hit Ball / Slow Velocity – a ball hit up to 150 feet or less in the air or a ground ball that would roll to a distance of less than 150 feet, if not impeded.

u. Stopping the ball – The player prevents the ball from continuing beyond the player and causes it to 778 remain in the vicinity of the player. The player is not able, however, to make the next play without delay.

v. Vicinity – within a step in any direction laterally of the player receiving the throw

w. Within a few steps - A ball hit that requires a player to take 2-3 steps (9-10 feet) in order to make the play.

(NOTE: In reference to the modified batting average, a batted ball resulting in a fielder's choice is not included in the definition of a hit and therefore is not included in the number of hits a player is recorded to calculate the modified batting average. The USA Softball Rules and IPRIDE Governing Manual do not define a fielder's choice. A Fielder's Choice is understood to be an outcome of a batted ball where a preceding runner was put-out (or could have been in the judgement of the scorer) rather than the batter-runner. See subsection k for these results of a batted ball that do not constitute a hit. This note is explanatory on the definition of modified batting average, and is not considered a governing rule. Added by Board of Directors February 17, 2019)

SECTION 2 – PLAYER RATING GUIDELINES

25.20 Rating Guidelines: The following are the official rating guidelines this organization:

Directions:

1. Read the following Statement of Purpose: *This form is intended to be used as a tool to assist those responsible for rating players so ratings may be fair and consistent across all levels of play and across all leagues in the Open Division. All questions are intended to determine if a player possesses a skill or skills necessary for softball*
2. Read & understand the definitions of the various terms used in ratings in the definitions section of this chapter
3. Answer YES or NO for each question.
4. Many questions have multiple parts. A YES to ANY one part is a YES to the question.
5. Questions: All questions will begin with the phrase: DOES THE PLAYER HAVE THE ABILITY TO...

CHAPTER 26 – GSWS PARTICIPATION AND FINANCIAL POLICY

26.01 Jurisdiction

This chapter shall be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and may be amended at any Board meeting by majority vote.

26.02 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish policies governing participation in the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS), including berth allocation, player eligibility, financial obligations, and compliance with SSBL Milwaukee's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

26.03 Definitions

The following definitions apply throughout this chapter:

- **Team Payment Initial Deposit:** A non-refundable administrative deposit paid by the Team Captain to officially declare intent to field a GSWS team.
- **Player Intent Deposit:** A refundable deposit paid by individual players to secure their spot on a GSWS roster.
- **Standard Roster:** A roster consisting of players from a single regular-season SSBL team (max 4 pickups within SSBL). Used when two or more teams compete in one division.
- **All Association Roster:** A "Select" roster built from players across any SSBL team. Only permitted if only one team is entered in that specific division.
- **Extended Association Roster:** A roster allowing up to four pickups from other iPride associations. Only permitted if SSBL sends exactly one team total to the GSWS.
- **Home City:** The primary association affiliation ("Milwaukee") chosen by a player during official league registration.

Section 1: Annual Tables of Reference

The SSBL Board of Directors shall set and publish the specific amounts and deadlines for the following tables no later than February 1st of each calendar year.

Table 26-A: Table of Fees

Fee Item	Recipient	Responsibility
Team Payment Initial Deposit	SSBL Treasurer	Team Captain / Team Fund
Player Intent Deposit	SSBL Treasurer	Individual Player (Refundable)
GSWS Participant Fee	iPride (Online)	Individual Player
GSWS Team Entry Fee	SSBL Treasurer	Team or League (See 26.07)
GSWS Hotel Deposit	SSBL Treasurer	Team or League (See 26.07)
USA Softball Card	SSBL Treasurer	Team or League (See 26.07)

Table 26-B: Table of Dates

Milestone	Annual Deadline
Team Intent Declaration & Initial Deposit	*Published Feb 1*
Player Intent Deposit Refund Deadline	*Published Feb 1*
50% Total Team Fee Payment Due	*Published Feb 1*
100% Total Team Fee Payment Due	*Published Feb 1*
Final Roster Freeze / iPride Registration	*Published Feb 1*
Hotel Receipt Submission	*Published Feb 1*

26.04 Berth Allocation and Declaration

- **26.04.1 Team Declaration:** To initiate the process, a Team Captain must submit the **Team Payment Initial Deposit** (Table 26-A) to the SSBL Treasurer by the declaration deadline (Table 26-B). This deposit is non-refundable and will be applied toward the total Team Entry Fee.
- **26.04.2 The "First to Eight" Rule:** Once a team is declared, individual players must submit their **Player Intent Deposit** (Table 26-A). A berth is only officially reserved once eight eligible players have paid this deposit.
- **26.04.3 Conflict Resolution:** If interest exceeds available berths, priority is given to Standard Rosters over All Association Rosters. Tie-breakers are determined by the date and time the eighth Player Intent Deposit was confirmed by the Treasurer.
- **26.04.4 Payment Failure and Berth Forfeiture:** If a team fails to submit the **50% Total Team Fee Payment** by the deadline (Table 26-B), the Board of Directors reserves the right to block that team from participating and revoke the berth. This protection ensures that divisions with multiple teams (requiring Standard Rosters under 26.05.1) are not negatively impacted by late-stage withdrawals that would have otherwise allowed the remaining team to utilize an All Association Roster.

26.05 Roster Types and Restrictions

- **26.05.1 Multiple Teams per Division:** If two or more teams enter the same division, all such teams must use a **Standard Roster**.
- **26.05.2 Single Team per Division:** If only one team enters a specific division, they may utilize an **All Association Roster**.
- **26.05.3 Single Team Total:** If only one team represents SSBL Milwaukee total, they may utilize an **Extended Association Roster**.
- **26.05.4 Orientation Caps:** Rosters are limited to a maximum of three players identifying as "Ally" or "Prefer not to Disclose," verified via league registration data.
- **26.05.5 Ethical Representation of Orientation:** As an LGBTQ+ organization, SSBL Milwaukee requires accurate representation of player sexual orientation. Any intentional misrepresentation of a player's orientation by a Team Representative to circumvent iPride roster caps is strictly prohibited and shall be considered an ethical violation subject to disciplinary action under Section 26.09.

26.06 Player Eligibility

- **26.06.1 The Milwaukee Rule:** All players must have selected "Milwaukee" as their **Home City** (Table 26-A) during registration. Out-of-association players are ineligible except under the conditions of 26.05.3.
- **26.06.2 Participation Minimums:** Players must have participated in at least 50% of scheduled regular-season games. Teams must have completed at least 10 games during the qualifying summer season.

26.07 Financial Responsibility and Workflow

- **26.07.1 Treasurer as Intermediary:** To ensure 501(c)(3) compliance, all team fees (Entry, Hotel, USA Cards) must be paid to the SSBL Treasurer. SSBL will remit payment to iPride; teams shall not pay iPride directly for team-level fees.
- **26.07.2 Funding Breakdown:** If SSBL sends only one team total, the league ***may*** cover the Team Entry, Hotel Deposit, and USA Cards. The funding decision to cover a single team is made by the Board and must be publicized at the Spring Meeting. If multiple teams are sent, SSBL covers only the individual USA Softball cards.
- **26.07.3 Player Intent Deposit Refund:** This deposit is returned in person at the GSWS. Refunds for withdrawals are only permitted before the deadline established in Table 26-B.

- **26.07.4 Hotel Deposit:** The refund of this deposit is contingent upon the team meeting the room-night minimum and submitting receipts to the Treasurer by the deadline (Table 26-B).

26.08 Fundraising and Team Accounts

- **26.08.1 Optional Account Creation:** The creation of an internal league account is not mandatory; teams are permitted to maintain and manage their own fundraising proceeds independently.
- **26.08.2 SSBL Assistance:** SSBL offers teams the option to establish a Team Funding Account upon request to facilitate the collection and administrative management of fundraising efforts.
- **26.08.3 Governing Jurisdiction:** If a team elects to utilize a Team Funding Account, or utilizes transfers from Individual Player Accounts (IPAs) for GSWS expenses, the team and its representatives are strictly subject to the regulations and oversight set forth in Chapter 19 (Team Funding Accounts) and Chapter 18 (Individual Player Accounts).
- **26.08.4 Tax-Exempt Compliance:** All funds managed within SSBL internal accounts must be used solely for legitimate team sport expenses in furtherance of the league's 501(c)(3) non-profit mission.

26.09 Oversight and Compliance

- **26.09.1 Final Authority:** SSBL retains final authority over all financial and administrative decisions related to GSWS participation.
- **26.09.2 Ethical Violations:** Any misuse of funds, failure to settle balances, intentional misrepresentation of player data, or violation of this chapter shall be subject to the ethics and disciplinary processes of SSBL.

ADDENDUM: 2026 SEASON (COLUMBUS, OH)

Populating Tables 26-A and 26-B for the current calendar year.

2026 Table of Fees:

- **Team Payment Initial Deposit:** $100
- **Player Intent Deposit:** $50
- **GSWS Participant Fee:** $45 (Paid to iPride)
- **GSWS Team Entry Fee:** $650
- **GSWS Hotel Deposit:** $500
- **USA Softball Card:** $30

2026 Table of Dates:

- **Team Intent Declaration & Initial Deposit:** June 1, 2026
- **Team Berth Finalized with "First to Eight" and deposit satisfied:** July 1, 2026
- **50% Total Team Fee Payment Due:** July 1, 2026
- **Player Intent Deposit Refund Deadline:** July 15, 2026
- **100% Total Team Fee Payment Due:** July 15, 2026
- **Final Roster Freeze / iPride Registration:** August 1, 2026
- **Hotel Receipt Submission:** December 1, 2026

2026 Special Note: Berth caps are temporarily increased to 4 teams (1–9 league teams) and 6 teams (10–18 league teams).

Appendix

Appendix A - SSBL League Policies

Policy A: SSBL Forfeit Fines Policy

Purpose:
To encourage communication, reduce last-minute forfeits, and maintain the integrity of the season standings and schedule. This policy outlines the procedures, fines, and score impacts related to forfeited games.

Forfeit Notification Requirements

- Teams **must contact the Season Coordinator** as early as possible to announce a forfeit.
- A **minimum of forty-eight (48) hours notice** before the scheduled game time is required to avoid a fine.

Forfeit Fines

- **No fine** will be assessed if proper notice (48+ hours in advance) is given.
- If a team **fails to notify** the league at least 48 hours prior:
- A **$40.00 forfeit fine per game** will be assessed.
- The fine must be paid **prior to the team's next scheduled game**.
- **Failure to pay** the fine makes the team **ineligible to play** until payment is received.

Forfeit fines are not enforced for games in the Season Championship Tournament.

Forfeit Score Policy

- Game Day is defined as **8:00 AM on the day of the scheduled game**.

Notification Timing	**Score Recorded**
More than 7 days before game	7–0
Between 7 days and 48 hours before game	7–0
Less than 48 hours before game (but not same-day)	Starts at 7–0; increases by 2 runs for each additional occurrence
Game day (after 8:00 AM)	Starts at 10–0; increases by 2 runs for each additional occurrence

- If a team forfeits **multiple games on the same day**, the same score will be applied to each forfeited game.

Additional Notes

- **Run differential is used as a tiebreaker** for standings, so forfeit scores will affect playoff seedings.

- The **League Secretary** will track all forfeits and apply appropriate scores and fines during weekly updates.
- **Sponsors are not responsible** for paying fines. Fines are the responsibility of the team captain/manager and team members.

Policy B: SSBL Player Accommodations Policy (formerly ADA Accommodation Policy)

Purpose:
To support inclusive participation in league play by allowing reasonable accommodations for players with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), while maintaining fair and consistent gameplay.

Request for Player Accommodation

- Players requesting an accommodation must complete the **Player Accommodations Request Form**, including:
- A brief explanation of the accommodation needed.
- Documentation from a **licensed medical professional** confirming an ADA-defined disability and supporting the request.
- This policy does **not apply** to temporary injuries or non-ADA conditions.

Review and Approval

- The **League Commissioner** will review each request and approve or deny accommodations at their discretion.
- Approved accommodations are valid for the **current season only** and must be re-applied for each year.

Player Accommodation Card

- Approved players will be issued a **laminated Player Accommodation Card**.
- This card **must be presented to the umpire and opposing manager** before the start of each game.
- Failure to present the card pre-game may result in the accommodation **not being honored for that game**.

Approved Gameplay Modifications

If approved, the Commissioner may grant any of the following in-game modifications:

1. **Runner from Home Plate** – A substitute runner may start from home in place of the player.
2. **Runner from First Base** – A substitute runner may take over once the player reaches first base.
3. **Designated Batter (Player Runs)** – Another player may bat for the individual, who then runs for themselves.

Substitute Selection Rules

- The **substitute runner or batter** must be the **last recorded out**. If no outs have occurred this inning, follow this order:

1. Last out from the previous inning
2. Last player to score
3. If no runs have scored, the last player in the lineup

- If the ADA player is already on base when their turn to bat arrives, they may receive a **substitute runner without penalty**.

Forfeiture of Accommodation (Per Game)

- If a player **refuses their accommodation** at any point during a game (e.g., choosing to run or bat instead), they will **forfeit the use of the Player Accommodations Policy for the remainder of that game**.
- This rule ensures consistent enforcement and prevents in-game advantage switching.

Policy C: SSBL Game Reschedule Policy

Purpose:
To maintain competitive balance, fairness, and schedule consistency across the league, this policy outlines the procedures and limits for teams requesting a game reschedule.

Schedule Release and Initial Adjustments

- The full 9-week schedule (with double headers) will be released **2 weeks prior to Opening Day**.
- Teams will have **7 calendar days after schedule release** to request any **initial schedule adjustments** (e.g., known player conflicts, team events). These early changes do **not** count toward the reschedule limit.
- After this 7-day window, the reschedule policy below goes into effect.

In-Season Reschedule Requests

- Each team may request a **maximum of 2 reschedules per season** (once the season starts).
- All reschedule requests must be made at least **5 days prior** to the scheduled game date.
- Teams requesting a reschedule must:
- Notify the **League Commissioner** via email or the designated platform.
- Include the reason for the request.
- Propose at least **two alternative dates/times**.
- The **opposing team must agree** to the new date, and league leadership must approve the change.

Reschedule Limitations

- Reschedules are **not guaranteed** and are subject to field availability and league approval.
- Rescheduling should not result in a team playing **more than 2 games per week** unless agreed to by both teams and approved by the league.
- No rescheduling will be initiated after the 2/3 mark of the season.
- If a team exceeds their 2-request limit or cannot find a suitable reschedule time:
- The game will be recorded as a **forfeit** in favor of the opposing team unless the opposing team agrees to a different outcome.

Exceptions

- In case of weather cancellations or field closures, the league will coordinate make-up games. These do **not** count toward a team's reschedule limit.

- Exceptional circumstances (e.g., emergencies) will be reviewed on a **case-by-case basis** by the League Board.

Summary

Category	**Rule**
Max Reschedules	2 per team, per season
Request Deadline	At least 5 days before the game
Early Adjustment Window	7 days after schedule release
Max Games/Week	Should not exceed 3 unless approved
Weather-related Reschedules	Not counted toward limit

Governing Manual adopted 2-9-17