

# Columbus Softball Association

## Policies & Procedures / Rules of Play

### Section I – Operating Policies

1. Effective Dates:
  - a. All Rules of Play shall carry-over into the future “as-is”. Annual updates to remaining policies will occur as needed by the Perpetual Members of Board of Trustees and/or by majority vote of the full board.
2. Policy and Rule Changes:
  - a. Requests for changes by Team Managers will require a signed petition (in lieu of a vote when a Board Meeting is not in session) from a majority of the current managers in good standing of an individual conference or all conferences as applicable. Once motioned, the rule will be open for discussion and only changed by a majority vote of the current Board of Trustees.
3. Business Address/Contact:
  - a. 605 N. High St. #203 Columbus, Ohio 43215
  - b. Website - www.clgsa.com
  - c. Email - info@clgsa.com
4. Board of Trustees
  - a. Perpetual Members: Two year terms commencing Oct 15th. All board members elected by paper ballot during the second annual meeting.
  - b. Exceptions: Field Coordinator one-year term; Treasurer appointed by Board of Trustees, serving an annual term commencing on Jan. 1st; NAGAAA Rep appointed annual term on Nov. 1st.
  - c. Current Officers:

Position	Name	Term Expires
Commissioner	Dallas Aldridge	10/15/2017
Assistant Commissioner	Shane White	10/15/2018
Secretary	Brian Highfill	10/15/2018
Treasurer	Vacant	
Business Development	Sam Schisler	10/15/2017
Field Coordinator	Jeremy Jones	10/15/2017
NAGAAA Rep	Keith Speers	10/31/2017

- i.
  - d. Conference Chiefs: One-year term commencing in April at the first annual meeting of the league. If the C Conference is split, B/C1 will be one conference Chief and C2 will be a separate Conference Chief.

Position	Name	Term Expires
A Conference Chief	Scott Filimon	4/15/18
C Conference Chief	Joshua Zimmerman	4/15/18
D Conference Chief	Ashley Bryant	4/15/18

- e. Interim Members: Term limited April 15th to October 15th of the year registered for play.
        - i. All managers of teams registered and in good standing with the league shall be interim, voting members of the board for the purposes of annual meetings. Any interim member may notify the secretary of a proxy for voting purposes at any meeting pursuant to Code of Regulations 1.04.
      - f. Umpire-in-Chief/Assigner
        - i. UIC to be determined at the beginning of each play week. In absence of UIC (or when UIC is a home plate umpire), the League Commissioner or other designated officer is UIC.
      - g. Umpire pay:
        - i. \$25 per time slot plus \$2 per game to the UIC.

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- ii. Pay is by corporate check, to be mailed to Umpire in Chief or each Umpire no later than Tuesday following the Sunday play. 1099's shall be issued in accordance to the subcontract laws of Ohio. No cash payments will be made.
5. Meetings:
  - a. Trustee/Officer Meetings -6 Per year
6. Annual Meetings:
  - a. On/Around April 15th – Review Rules, Elect Conference Chiefs, Schedule
  - b. Prior to Oct. 15th – Election of Trustees, Rules Updates, Other Business
7. Special Meetings:
  - a. May be called pursuant to Code of Regulations 4.03.
8. Budget:
  - a. Pursuant to Code 6.03 an annual budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees detailing revenues and expenses from April 1st through March 31st. The Annual Budget to be approved by the Trustees and Reviewed at the 1st Annual Meeting.
9. Field Preparations:
  - a. Under the direction of the field coordinator, all fields will be adequately prepared prior to game play. Raking off water, applying diamond dry, ensuring accuracy of bases, applying lime to the fields (when applicable), displaying any sponsorship signage, and set-up of equipment (i.e. balls, cones, etc.). All fields to be coordinated with the Columbus Department of Parks & Recreation.

### Section II – Organizational Policies/Procedures

1. Rosters:
  - a. All rosters are open & every player shall be rated with the current NAGAAA ratings guidelines.
  - b. Maximum of 18 players
  - c. Minimum Age - All players must be at least 16 years of age at the time of play (requires guardian signature for players under 18 years of age)
  - d. Additions/Changes -Team Registration must be finalized by the 1st Annual Meeting.
  - e. Player registration must be completed by 9pm Friday on the first week of play. Player additions will not be accepted after the April Manager's meeting if it requires the team to move divisions.
  - f. Late additions or additions over the roster limit require majority approval by the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and Conference Chiefs for the Divisions the player is not playing. Requests to add players must be received by 9PM on Friday prior to the week of play.
  - g. Limitations:
    - i. Players may play on a maximum of 2 teams, providing the teams are in two different conferences/divisions. Limit 3 players from another conference on any team roster. All players and teams must meet ratings guidelines for the conference in which they are registered. Any player on two rosters must identify one primary roster at the beginning of the season for NAGAAA/GSWS purposes.
2. Conferences:
  - a. The league will be comprised of 4 conferences with the option to create divisions within conferences at the discretion of the board/council.
    - i. A Conference -Advanced player/team skill level
      1. No. of Games Minimum of 10 regular season games.
      2. Times of Play Typically will play double-headers each of the 10 regular season weeks.
      3. If less than 4 teams, the A Conference will play the B Division
    - ii. B Conference -Advanced player/team skill level
      1. No. of Games Minimum of 20 regular season games.
      2. Times of Play Typically will play double-headers each of the 10 regular season weeks.
      3. If less than 6 teams, the B Conference will play the C1 Division
    - iii. C Conference - Intermediate player/team skill level
      1. No. of Games Minimum of 20 regular season games
      2. Times of Play Typically will play double-headers each of the 10 regular season weeks.

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3. May be split into 2 Divisions (C1/C2), divided based on team rating. C1 will play B during the regular season. C1 teams may play C2 teams at least once per season.
      - iv. D Conference - Intermediate player/team skill level
        1. No. of Games Minimum of 10 regular season games
        2. Times of Play May have double-headers, but will typically play single-headers each week.
3. Conference Assignment & Limitations:
  - a. Self-designation of conference/division preference will be allowed, but conference splits shall primarily be determined based on team ratings with oversight by the board of trustees. Number of teams per conference will be determined by the teams registered with the corporation.
  - b. Team Ratings Limitations - The ten highest player ratings on a team will determine a team's rating. Conference/Division limitations are as follows:
    - i. A Teams can have a player with any rating
    - ii. B Teams may not be rated higher than 175
    - iii. C1 Teams may not be rated higher than 140
    - iv. C2 Teams may not be rated higher than 125
    - v. D Teams may not be rated higher than 95
  - c. Player Ratings Limitations Player limitations are as follows:
    - i. Players rated > 19 must play in the A Conference
    - ii. Maximum player rating of 19 for B Conference
    - iii. Maximum player rating of 16 for C1 Division
    - iv. Maximum player rating of 14 for C2 Division
    - v. Maximum player rating of 10 for D-Conference
4. Fees - All fees are set by the Board of Trustees prior to registering any team with the corporation.
  - a. Team Fees:
    - i. Single Header Play: \$450.00 /team
    - ii. Double Header Play: \$600.00/team
5. Player Fees - A \$20 player fee shall be automatically implemented the following season of any year in which the league portion of net earnings from BNR (60%) does not raise enough revenue to cover the annual league deficit. Player fees shall be enacted for only one year, with the deficit amount to be recovered determined annually by the first annual meeting. To ensure 60% of net profits recover the current league deficit, BNR net profits for previous year must meet/exceed \$10,000.
6. All team fees must be paid prior to the start of the 1st Annual Meeting for a team to be in good standing and have voting privileges.
7. Late Fee - Any team fee not received by the end of the 1st Annual Meeting shall incur a \$50 late fee.
8. Final Deadline - All team fees must be paid prior to taking the field for the first game of the season.
9. Standings:
  - a. Point System
    - i. 2 win
    - ii. 1 Tie
    - iii. 0 Loss
    - iv. Tie Breakers
      1. Head to head competition
      2. Head to head runs scored differential
      3. Total run differential
  - b. If there are cross divisional games scheduled, all games will count toward the overall team point standings.
  - c. If a team forfeits a game, 1 point will be deducted from their over team point standings.
10. Playoffs - All teams are eligible to compete in the end of season tournament unless a team has forfeited 30% or more of regular season games. All teams will be seeded in playoff brackets based on regular season standings.
11. Awards:
  - a. Regular Season: 1st, 2nd, 3rd team awards + 1st place individual
  - b. End of Season Tournament: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place team awards
  - c. Individual: 1 Mac Gorby MVP per team

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### 12. Game Cancellations/Scheduling:

- a. Postponement - Commissioner or Field Coordinator, along with Columbus Recreation and Parks, make final decisions 1 hour prior to each conference's start time when deciding field fitness (postponement due to weather).
- b. Act of Nature
- c. Regulation Game - A game shall be declared regulation if 5 (4.5 if the home team is winning) or more complete innings have been played (or time limit).
- d. Rescheduling - If a game(s) has/have been postponed (bad weather, etc.), the Commissioner and Conference Chiefs will collaborate to reschedule games.
- e. Games may be rescheduled as soon as the next Sunday.
- f. If a game is not a regulation game (game called due to act of nature), the game will start as a new game.
- g. Notification - All managers will be notified of the time and location of rescheduled games at least 5 days prior to the rescheduled date. Information on rescheduled games will be posted on the league website.

### 13. Rules Protests:

- a. Regular Season Procedure
  - i. Formal written protests are allowed as described in the ASA rule book.
- b. The manager of the protesting team must notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest at the time of the contested point.
- c. An official protest must be received by the Umpire or Board of Trustees member.
- d. Protests will be reviewed by the Commissioner, Conference Chief, and UIC with further guidance sought from the Board of Trustees as required.

### 14. Playoff Procedure:

- a. Any dispute during a playoff game must be resolved at the time of the protest. Rule clarification and final decision will be made by the UIC and/or designee.

### 15. Player Eligibility:

- a. All players must have Valid DL or ID at all games. Any member of the league has the right to protest the use of an ineligible player. As a player or manager participating in the game, follow the protest procedure outlined above. As a non-participant in the game, inform the Commissioner, Conference Chief, and/or Board designee. If valid, all games in which that person played shall be forfeited and additional disciplinary action may be required.
- b. A player must have actively played in a minimum of 30% regular season games to be eligible for the playoff roster. Any eligibility protest must be brought forth and decided upon prior to the end of the game. Commissioner (or board designee) will have season records on hand detailing regular season play. If ineligible, the player is removed from game and substitute rules will apply. Manager is not to play that person in subsequent playoff games.

### 16. GSWS Qualification:

- a. Any team registered with the Corporation has a right to qualify for the NAGAAA GSWS provided the team meets NAGAAA eligibility requirements. The Corporation has limited berths; therefore, the following procedure will be used to determine qualification of teams to the GSWS:
- b. Declaration of Interest:
  - i. Interest in going to the GSWS and anticipated division of play should be stated at the time of team registration. A declaration of interest shall occur no later than the third week of play. A GSWS Commitment Form and a \$150 fee must be paid at time of declaration to offset any league costs of running a qualifying tournament. The total collected from all teams shall not exceed the cost of the tournament and any remaining funds collected will be refunded equally to all teams who paid fees for the tournament. Full deposits will only be refunded if a qualifying tournament is not scheduled.
- c. Number of Teams:
  - i. If the number of teams is equal to or less than the berths per division outlined by NAGAAA. The teams will automatically receive bids to compete. If the number of teams exceeds the awarded berths, a qualifying tournament will be scheduled.
- d. Tournament Scheduling:
  - i. A qualifying tournament will be scheduled by the Board and does not have to be played on a Sunday. The Board will notify managers of the date by the third week of play. The tournament must be completed by June 30th.

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- e. Tournament Format:
  - i. A 2 game round robin will be completed to determine seeding into a double-elimination bracket. Seeding tie-break procedures will follow league policy II.9. If there are 4 teams requesting to qualify, no round-robin will be played; instead, a random draw will place teams into a double elimination tournament. Qualifying teams will be the final two teams remaining in the double-elimination bracket.
- f. Qualifying Rosters:
  - i. Teams must qualify only by using players from their regular season rosters – no pick-up players will be allowed until after a team has received a bid. Players who are not eligible to play with the team in the GSWS may not play with the team in the qualifying tournament (i.e. ratings restrictions, no more than 3 non-LGBT players, non-residential players). All players must have played in at least 50% of the league games prior to the qualifying tournament. Players on two teams will only be eligible to play with the team designated at the beginning of the season.

### Section III - Ratings Review Committee

#### 1. Objectives:

- a. Create a ratings process which places the burden of proof on the individual desiring to change a rating (that individual must present the evidence to make a change).
- b. Provide clear steps for an appeal process with an independent group from those making the original determination.
- c. Protect CLGSA's financial interest and reputation in national tournaments by practicing risk avoidance to limit fines/ratings protests.
- d. Define appeal path to CLGSA Executive Board.

#### 2. What is it?

- a. The Ratings Review Committee (RRC) is a committee that evaluates ratings information submitted to them by managers, opposing managers, or players. The committee's sole purpose is to evaluate evidence to change a player rating based on the evidence presented to them, not their own personal perspectives. They are not responsible for watching games and should be able to set their personal opinions aside and review the evidence presented to them.
- b. The committee year runs from immediately following the Annual Spring Managers Meeting to the following year's Annual Spring Managers Meeting.
- c. The committee consists of (3) elected Conference Chiefs, Assistant Commissioner, NAGAAA Representative, and 2 additional members selected by the CLGSA Executive Board. The additional members must have a complete understanding of the NAGAAA ratings questions.
- d. The Assistant Commissioner shall serve as the chairman of the committee. In the absence of the Assistant Commissioner, the NAGAAA Representative shall serve as chairman.
- e. If a member resigns from the RRC, the CLGSA Executive Board will replace that member for the remaining term.

#### 3. How does the RRC work?

- a. The Chairman presides over the meeting and keeps professional order, but does not vote unless there is a tie.
- b. The Chairman will call a meeting of the RRC and notify the RRC representatives, the representatives of the team(s) involved in the ratings inquiry at least five (5) days before the meeting as to the date, time, place, reason for the meeting, and content of the ratings inquiry.
- c. In order for a RRC meeting to take place, there must be a quorum, which includes at least 4 voting members, not including the Chairman).
- d. In the event that a ratings inquiry occurs and must be settled before the 5 day notification can be issued or a quorum of committee members can be established, the Chairman can call an emergency hearing if the RRC chairman and Commissioner agree to waive the five day rule. The CLGSA Executive Board may also appoint temporary members from the CLGSA membership in good standing to complete the emergency RRC hearing.

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- e. If there is a conflict of interest where a committee member, including the chairman, is involved in the hearing, they must remove themselves as a RRC member from that hearing. They may participate in the appeal itself as a team representative. Conflicts of interest include but are not limited to: being on the same team, being a roommate/co-worker/partner/spouse.
- f. The team filing the inquiry will present its evidence with appropriate time for a response and any counter evidence. The RRC members will then ask pertinent questions. The RRC will vote by secret ballot as to the outcome of the ratings inquiry.
- g. The Chairman is responsible for maintaining official minutes of each RRC meeting and its subsequent decisions. The minutes will be submitted to the Secretary and stored in the Softball League's records
- h. After the vote, the Chairman will assemble all relevant parties and presented the RRC's decision.
- i. Any person or team who becomes ineligible for play within a division as a result of a RRC's decision will remain so until they successfully appeal the RRC decision to the CLGSA Executive Board.

#### **4. Who is responsible for rating a player?**

- a. Managers are responsible for creating and maintaining a rating for each player on his/her own team as set forth by the NAGAAA Player and Team Ratings Guidelines.
- b. A player is deemed to have an existing rating if a rating from the current year or prior two years is available on file with CLGSA or NAGAAA.
- c. All new players are reviewed at a ratings clinic before playing on a team. It is then the manager's responsibility to review the player and suggest any adjustments needed. The player rating will be finalized by June 15th.
- d. All new players will have their ratings reviewed in the off season by the Rating Review Committee.
- e. In the event that ratings questions are changed or updated by NAGAAA, the Assistant Commissioner can require a complete review of all players in the league either through manager submission of ratings or review of players at beginning of season ratings session or during league play.

#### **5. What do I do if I feel a player's rating on my team should be changed?**

- a. A manager may request a change to a rating question for a player with an existing rating from a "No" to a "Yes" or a "Yes" to a "No" by submitting a revised rating form to the Assistant Commissioner and Secretary.
- b. It is the manager's responsibility to notify his/her player when a ratings change has been submitted.
- c. There are a few types of ratings changes:
  - i. A move from a "No" to a "Yes" on a specific question where the player being moved does not oppose the move.
    - 1. This is the simplest of moves. The manager does not need to submit evidence and there does not need to be a RRC hearing.
  - ii. A move from a "No" to a "Yes" on a specific question where the player is not in agreement to the move:
    - 1. The manager requesting the change must submit any evidence supporting his/her recommendation and be as specific as possible. There would be a RRC hearing and they player would have an opportunity to defend his/her current rating
  - iii. A move from a "Yes" to a "No" on a specific question:
    - 1. In all cases, the manager requesting the change must submit any evidence supporting his/her recommendation and be as specific as possible. There would be a RRC hearing and the player would have an opportunity to defend his/her current rating.
- d. Note: if a question change moves a player from one division to another, the CLGSA Executive Board will notify the player directly so ensure he/she is aware of the proposed change.

#### **6. What do I do if I feel a player's rating (on my team or another team) should be changed?**

- a. A coach may request a change to a rating question for a player with an existing rating from a "No" to a "Yes" or a "Yes" to a "No" by submitting a revised rating form to the Secretary.
- b. The form will then be forwarded to the Ratings Review Committee (RRC) to determine whether the request is upheld or not.
- c. In either case, the manager requesting the change must submit any evidence supporting his/her recommendation and be as specific as possible.

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- d. \*Exception: If the ratings change request involves serious private health issues, the request may be heard by the CLGSA Executive Board instead of the RRC. The Chairman of the RRC will determine which situations qualify as serious private health issues.
- 7. Is there a fee to challenge a rating of a player on my team?**
    - a. No
  - 8. Is there a fee to challenge a rating of a player on another team?**
    - a. Yes. There is a \$25 ratings protest fee + \$10 per question if you wish to challenge a rating of a player on another team.
    - b. If the entire challenge is successful (all questions), the fees will be promptly refunded
    - c. If the challenge is not successful, the fees will not be refunded.
    - d. If a portion of the challenge is upheld, the amount refunded will be the total protest fee divided by the number of questions protested. The amount will be divided equally per question (example: 4 Questions - \$65, 1 upheld, \$16.25 refunded.
    - e. \*Exception: The CLGSA Executive Board, as custodians of the league, are not required to pay the fee but must meet the same burden of proof and follow the same process as any other challenger.
  - 9. When can I make a ratings inquiry?**
    - a. A ratings inquiry may be made at any time, provided proper evidence is assembled.
    - b. The deadline is June 10<sup>th</sup> to submit a ratings inquiry to ensure the process will be completed in time to be a part of the next NAGAAA Ratings Submission.
    - c. Ratings are finalized and submitted to NAGAAA on July 1st. Once a rating is entered into the database; it is final for that season and will determine divisional eligibility.
  - 10. What if I don't agree with the RRC's decision?**
    - a. Any player or manager has the right to appeal a ratings decision by the RRC.
    - b. An appeal must be made within three (3) days of the RRC ruling by submitting, in writing, the reason for the appeal and any convincing evidence to the CLGSA Executive Board.
    - c. The Commissioner will call of a meeting of the CLGSA Executive Board with at least five (5) days' notice with date, time, place, and reason for the meeting, notifying all persons involved in the original filing before the RRC.
    - d. The Commissioner will preside over the meeting. The person requesting the appeal will read his/her appeal. There will be no more than 30 minutes allocated for questions from the CLGSA Executive Board. The parties will then leave the room and the CLGSA Executive Board will have no more than 30 minutes for debate, culminating in a secret ballot.
    - e. The Commissioner only votes in the case of a tie.
    - f. The decision of the CLGSA Executive Board is final and there are no further appeals.
  - 11. Can a player have a different rating for our league, for NAGAAA tournaments, and for the World Series?**
    - a. No. Every player in CLGSA will have exactly one (1) official NAGAAA rating which will be used in determining division eligibility and NAGAAA tournament participation including the World Series.

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### Section IV – Code of Conduct

1. As a voluntary member of the CLGSA, members agree to conduct themselves in a responsible manner consistent with good sportsmanship. This manner, reflective of the integrity and spirit of the league and its members, is expected to be maintained at all league sponsored/affiliated meetings, events, tournaments, and play. This includes conduct “off the field” at any league complex while league play is occurring.
2. Unacceptable Conduct:
  - a. The following violations require a minimum of a 2-game suspension and may include up to expulsion from the league:
    - i. Physical violence or threat of physical violence
    - ii. League/Tournament misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct in the league or at tournament
    - iii. Commission of fraud (such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying a roster)
    - iv. Receiving professional considerations (such as money or cash prizes)
    - v. Competing knowingly with a suspended or ineligible player
    - vi. Any fraudulent behaviors related to the CLGSA in violation of local, state or federal regulations
  - b. Manager Violations:
    - i. Any manager found to be knowingly and intentionally fielding an ineligible player(s) during any regular season or playoff game shall be automatically suspended from managing a team in the league for a minimum of one year from the date of the infraction.
    - ii. Suspension from managing a team does not automatically indicate suspension from playing in the league or expulsion. However, any violation of this code of conduct by a manager is subject to enactment of further sanctions at the discretion of the CLGSA Board.
3. Ejection/Suspension:
  - a. A player may be ejected by the game umpire for the following reasons:
    - i. Members may not threaten or flagrantly disrespect an umpire or umpire’s decisions.
    - ii. Team managers are responsible for maintaining control of their players while on the field and the spectators associated with their team.
    - iii. Members may not threaten or flagrantly disrespect players, coaches, managers or spectators.
    - iv. Unnecessary physical contact with other players or rough tactics on the field.
    - v. Physical contact such as assault, including the threat of assault.
    - vi. Flagrant use of profanity or obscene language directed at an individual or in a disruptive manner on or off the field.
    - vii. Throwing any objects for any reason that could be dangerous.
    - viii. Violation of any rules set forth by the Columbus Parks and Recreation or the City of Columbus.
    - ix. Violation of any rules set forth by CLGSA.
    - x. A suspended player may not play in any games in the league until eligible in all conferences.
    - xi. Any action the umpire feels represents unsportsmanlike conduct or is in violation of ASA rules.
  - b. At the time of an ejection/suspension, the umpire shall notify the CLGSA board of directors verbally or in writing (usually via the score card) of the player’s name and reason for ejection. Any player ejected from a game by any umpire will be automatically suspended from the team’s next two (2) scheduled games and may be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the board of directors.
  - c. Each ejection/suspension will be reviewed by the board of directors to determine if further action is needed. Further action may be up to and including expulsion from the league.
  - d. The board of directors may be notified of actions that violate the code of conduct that were not addressed on the field by the umpire at the time of the violation. With a majority vote, the board of directors may agree to review and take action against a player/manager/coach that is determined to be in violation of the code of conduct or league rules/policies. Action may be a warning up to and including expulsion.
4. Expulsion:
  - a. Same as "Suspension: Greater than 2 games ..." except the term is for an undetermined length of time. In order to be reinstated to the league, the member must re-apply in writing to the Commissioner.



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5. Violation Procedure:
  - a. All decisions by the CLGSA Board of Trustees or Full Board are final with the exception of an expulsion, which may be appealed.
6. Notification:
  - a. The individual will be notified in writing of any code of conduct violation(s) within five (5) days following notification of the violation(s). Team manager/coach will also be included in notification.
7. Suspension Review:
  - a. Prior to any CLGSA board of directors meeting to review the violation, the team or individual shall be given an opportunity to submit a statement in writing and include any witness statements related to the suspension. The information submitted will only be used for additional action and will not overturn the umpire action on the field. The statements and witness statements must be provided to the Commissioner within seven (7) days of the notification.
8. Ruling:
  - a. After hearing and reviewing the information, the CLGSA board of directors will meet and a majority vote will determine if any additional action to be taken. The suspension review will take place within 10 days of the notification to the player/coach. The review does not need to be completed in person and may be done via email or conference call.
9. Appeal:
  - a. A team or individual may appeal only an expulsion ruling. This appeal must be presented to the CLGSA Commissioner within seven (7) days of the CLGSA board of director's notification of additional action to be taken. At that time, a random group of seven (5) team managers representing all conferences will be selected by the commissioner to review the appeal and make a final decision via a majority vote. An appeal will only review the process for fairness and to ensure the process was followed correctly.
10. Exceptions:
  - a. Extensions for hearing and ruling dates may apply in situations where expulsion or extenuating circumstances exist that require review and voting by the full Board of managers.
  - b. The decision for expulsion only from the league may be appealed to the entire CLGSA board for review following the steps listed above.

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### Section V – Rules of Play

1. Team Sanctioning - All teams sanctioned by the ASA (Adult League).
2. ASA Rule Books to be available following sanctioning of all managers.
3. General Playing Rules - will follow all sanctioned rules of the ASA (Amateur Softball Association) adult league.
4. Rule Changes - Minor deviations to ASA rules allowed (and follow below). Rule changes reviewed at 1st Annual Meeting. Changes to the rules of play require discussion & majority vote by current Board.
5. Rule Clarification - If a league rule requires clarification on the playing field, the 2 managers should attempt to resolve it with the umpire showing our playing rules. If needed, the Umpire-in-Chief or designee for the day will rule on any unresolved issues.
6. Softball Type:
  - a. 12" Only
7. Minimum Players:
  - a. Minimum 9 players to start with no penalty if starting with 9.
  - b. Score cards must be completed prior to the start of the game. The number of players listed on the original score card may not be altered.
  - c. Teams may choose to fill score card with 10, but will receive an out if a player is not able to bat. Teams starting with 9 players may not add an additional player once the score card has been submitted
  - d. Extra Players (E.P.) - May list 2 E.P. for a total of 12 batters. E.P. must be present at the start of the game
  - e. Uniforms - A shirt with a unique number is required. Shirts do not have to match (This IS NOT a point for protest (correct on the diamond at time of play).
8. Metal cleats are prohibited.
9. Bats:
  - a. Refer to ASA Approved Bat List - All bats must have an ASA stamp.
10. Pitched Ball Heights:
  - a. Minimum – 6' Maximum – 12'
11. Count/Foul Balls:
  - a. Games start with a 1 and 1 count.
  - b. 2 strikes is an out
  - c. 3 balls is a walk
  - d. Free Foul – 1st foul ball after 2 strikes is not an out
12. Courtesy Runners:
  - a. Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.
13. Run Rule:
  - a. (All Conferences) - 15 run difference after 5 innings or 5 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead
  - b. 10 run difference after 6 innings or 6 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead
  - c. B, C, and D Conferences will NOT use the 9-run per ½ inning rule.
  - d. During cross-conference games, teams will be limited to scoring 7 runs per inning. If 7 runs are scored, the teams will switch as if three outs had been counted.
  - e. D Division limited to maximum of 7 runs per inning.
14. Playoffs:
  - a. All aforementioned rules will remain the same for playoff games in all conferences.
15. Game Times:
  - a. Start Time - All games will start on time or immediately following the previous game. NO grace period is allowed. Games will last 1 hour OR 7 complete innings, whichever comes first. No new inning will start after 55 minutes.
16. Ties are allowed, BUT if a game is tied after 7 innings, AND the time limit has not expired, additional innings may be played (umpires discretion as to whether or not "enough time" is left to start the additional innings beyond 7). If time remains on the clock, the next inning must begin.
17. Playoffs - The game continues until a winner is declared (no ties allowed).

# Columbus Softball Association

## Policies & Procedures / Rules of Play

18. Home/Away Designation - All teams will be designated as home/away on the regular season schedule distributed as close to evenly as possible. Coin toss at the start of each game will determine home/away in ALL playoff games.

### Section VI – Calendar and Events

1. Registration and Kick-Off Events - The Board of Trustees will hold at least one registration and kick-off event:
2. 1st Annual Meeting
  - a. The first annual meeting of the full Board of Trustees (perpetual and interim members) will be scheduled on or around April 15th of each year:
3. Game Schedules - All managers will be provided with a game schedule a minimum of 7 days prior to the first scheduled game.
  - a. Dates of Play - Regular Season games will be played on Sundays beginning on or around the first Sunday of May and concluding on or around the first week of August. Locations and Diamonds to be released on game schedules.
4. Bat-N-Rouge - An annual charity event will be hosted by the corporation on Sunday of Pride weekend.
  - a. Date - Sunday, June 18, 2017
  - b. Location - Dodge Park – 667 Sullivant Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43215
  - c. Goal - Financial statements, expense receipts and income will be reconciled with treasurer within 90 days after the event.
  - d. Profit Distribution - Net Profit: 60% League & 40% Charity – Charities to be determined by BNR committee and Board.
5. Buckeye Softball Classic:
  - a. The Buckeye Softball Classic is an annual tournament hosted in Columbus. The tournament will use NAGAAA ratings.
  - b. The winner of each division in the end of season tournament will be offered the following for the Buckeye Softball Classic:
    - i. 1st Place - \$150 off
    - ii. 2nd Place - \$100 off
    - iii. 3rd Place - \$50 off
  - c. The team roster must contain at least 10 members from the league roster and will not be transferred to another team.
6. Gay Softball World Series:
  - a. As a member of NAGAAA, league teams have the opportunity to qualify for the GSWS.
  - b. League Berths - Per NAGAAA guidelines: Maximum 6 teams with 2 teams per division (B, C, & D), host city receives an extra berth per division.
  - c. Location/Dates
    - i. 2017: Portland, OR, September 4 – 9
    - ii. 2018: Tampa, FL, September 3 - 8