

# 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](http://www.clgsa.com)
  - c. Email - [info@clgsa.com](mailto:info@clgsa.com)
4. Board of Trustees
  - a. Perpetual Members: Two-year terms commencing Oct 15th. NAGAAA Rep appointed annual term on Nov. 1st. 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. 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - c. Current Officers:

Position	Name	Term Expires
Commissioner	Jeremy Jones	10/15/2021
Assistant Commissioner	Larry Castle	10/15/2022
Secretary	Brian Highfill	10/15/2022
Treasurer	Erin Love	10/15/2021
Business Development	VACANT	10/15/2021
Field Coordinator	James Sorensen	10/15/2021
NAGAAA Rep	Adam Cogar	10/31/2020

- d. Conference Chiefs: One-year term commencing in October 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/B Conference Chief		4/15/21
C Conference Chief		4/15/21
D Conference Chief		4/15/21
E Conference Chief		4/15/21

- 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.
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.

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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. Nondiscrimination
  - a. CLGSA does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, board member selection, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members, volunteers, players, vendors, and fans.
2. 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 divisions. Limit 3 players from another division 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. If a player ends up on teams in the same division after the C Conference split, the player must designate the primary team and will not be eligible for the second team.
3. 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 Approximately 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 C Conference
    - iii. C Conference - Intermediate player/team skill level
      1. No. of Games Approximately 20 regular season games.
      2. Times of Play Typically will play double-headers each of the 10 regular season weeks.

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- iv. D Conference - Intermediate player/team skill level
  - 1. No. of Games      Approximately 20 regular season games.
  - 2. Times of Play      Typically will play double-headers each of the 10 regular season weeks.
- v. D Conference - Beginner player/team skill level
  - 1. No. of Games      Approximately 20 regular season games.
  - 2. Times of Play      Typically will play double-headers each of the 10 regular season weeks.
- 4. 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 180
    - iii. C Teams may not be rated higher than 140
    - iv. D Teams may not be rated higher than 110
    - v. E Teams may not be rated higher than 75
  - c. Player Ratings Limitations Player limitations are as follows:
    - i. Players rated <19 must play in the A Conference
    - ii. Maximum player rating of 20 for B Conference
    - iii. Maximum player rating of 15 for C Conference
    - iv. Maximum player rating of 12 for D Conference
    - v. Maximum player rating of 8 for E Conference
- 5. Fees - All fees are set by the Board of Trustees prior to registering any team with the corporation.
  - a. Team Fees:
    - i. Double Header: \$700.00/team
- 6. Player Fees - \$20 player fee for all registered players. Player fee must be paid prior to the start of the season. If a player has not paid the player fee, the player will not be eligible to be included on the roster.
  - a. An individual may request a hardship player fee exception by emailing the Commissioner at [info@clgsa.com](mailto:info@clgsa.com), the request is kept as confidential as possible for the board to review the request for approval.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Late Fee - Any team fee not received by the end of the 1st Annual Meeting shall incur a \$50 late fee.
- 9. Final Deadline - All team fees must be paid prior to taking the field for the first game of the season.
- 10. 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 allowed differential
      - 3. Total run differential
  - b. If there are cross conference games scheduled, games will not count toward team overall standings.
  - c. If a team forfeits a game, 1 point will be deducted from their over team point standings.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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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13. 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.
14. Rules Protests:
  - a. Regular Season Procedure
    - i. Formal written protests are allowed as described in the ASA/USA 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. A player must be present at 50% of the scheduled games to be eligible for the end of season playoffs. The name must be listed on the scorecard the day of the game and will not be added at a later date. 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.
  - 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,

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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 V – Rules of Play

1. General Playing Rules - will follow all sanctioned rules of the ASA (Amateur Softball Association) adult league.
2. Rule Changes - Minor deviations to USA 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.
3. 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.
4. Softball Type:
  - a. 12" Only
5. 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).
6. Metal cleats are prohibited.
7. Bats:
  - a. Refer to USA Approved Bat List - All bats must have an USA/ASA stamp.
8. Pitched Ball Heights:
  - a. Minimum – 6' Maximum – 12'
9. 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
10. 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.
11. The following are the divisional limits for out of the park home runs: Once a team has reached their maximum of out of the park home runs, any additional out-of- the-park homerun will be considered an inning-ending out in all divisions.
  - a. A-4
  - b. B-2
  - c. C-1
  - d. D-0
  - e. E-0
  - f. Masters-C Division – 1

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- g. Masters-D Division – 0
- 12. 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. E Conference limited to a maximum of 7 runs per inning, this does not apply to the last inning of the game.
- 13. Playoffs:
  - a. All aforementioned rules will remain the same for playoff games in all conferences.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.
- 15. Playoffs - The game continues until a winner is declared (no ties allowed).
- 16. Home/Away Designation - All teams will be designated as home/away on the regular season schedule distributed as close to evenly as possible. In playoff games, the higher seed will determine home/away for 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. Location - Dodge Park – 667 Sullivant Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43215
  - b. Goal - Financial statements, expense receipts and income will be reconciled with treasurer within 90 days after the event.
  - c. 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 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. 2021: Columbus, OH., August 24 – 29
    - ii. 2022: Dallas, TX
    - iii. 2023: Twin Cities