



HSL Exec Board Meeting 3/10/21

## Agenda

Board Members Attending: Kyle Miller, Brennan Wheatley, Martin Cherrier, Jennifer Bell, Bleu Holden, Jason Gasaway, Brian Bates, Brian Dover, James McKinley

Board Members Absent:

Non-board Members Attending: Aaron Sones, Terry McGee, Justin Averette, Jeff Bligh-Jones

Start Time: 7:03 PM

Commissioner Opening – Kyle

Old Business:

1. Fields Update – Kyle
  - a. On track for Tolleson for April 11. Kyle will have a call with Johnson Park on Friday, March 12.
2. Recruitment Events – Martin
  - a. 58 new registrants forms.
  - b. 17 attendees at D-bat for clinics
  - c. 16 people looking for teams, 3 registrants not interested anymore, 34 still waiting to hear back.
  - d. Bleu and Martin will look at combining remaining players into a D team

New Business:

1. Social Events Planning/40<sup>th</sup> event – James
  - a. Do we want to plan for the pageants to have dates and space reserved and if need be it can be canceled if there is still a health safety concern?
  - b. The thought is if we can't make it mandatory we will not host at all.
  - c. James will propose a plan for next week's board meeting

- d. 40<sup>th</sup> event looking at 125 attendees. Kyle will bring back a proposal to board meeting next week.
- 2. Legislation amendments and required decisions – Brian
  - a. 7pieces of legislation to be proposed
    - i. 4 Rules & Regs amendments, 3 Constitution amendments
    - ii. Rules & Regs
      - 1. Brian Bates motion to approve amendment 1 to Rules & Regs. Brian Dover seconded. Motion passed unanimously
      - 2. Brian Bates motion to approve amendment 2 (Masters Division) section of Rules & Regs. Brian Dover seconded. Motion passed unanimously
      - 3. Brian Bates motion to approve amendment 3 (emergency authorization) to Rules & Regs. Martin Cherrier seconded. Motion passed unanimously
      - 4. Brian Bates motion to approve amendment 4 (Player being re-rated by another team or league). Kyle Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously
    - iii. Constitution amendments to be proposed to Summer Council
      - 1. Brian Bates motion to approve amendment 1 (numbering format). Seconded by Bleu Holden. Motion passed unanimously
      - 2. Brian Bates motion to approve amendment 2 (emergency authorization). Brian Dover seconded. Motion passed unanimously
      - 3. Brian Bates motion approve amendment 3 (extra-innings at discretion of HSL Executive Council). Bleu Holden seconded. Motion passed unanimously
  - b. Decisions to be made by executive council for Rules & Regs (Brians Email)
    - i. A. Section 3.3: \$35 non-player fee. Brian Dover motion to approve. Martin Cherrier seconded. Motion passed unanimously
    - ii. B. Section 4.1: Tabled
    - iii. C. Section 8.1: 55 minute games. Bleu Holden motion to approve. Brian Dover seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
    - iv. D. Section 16.5: \$500 GSWS deposit due by 5/16/2021. Brian Dover Motion to approve. Martin Cherrier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
    - v. E. Article 7: \$150 fine for missing Coaches meeting. Bleu Holden motion to approve. Martin Cherrier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Financials – Brian
  - a. Brian reviewed the 2021 budget that will be presented at Summer Council
- 4. Extra Innings Allotment – Brennan

- a. If amendment constitution for Emergency Authorization passes will not need to award extra innings
  - b. Or if amendment for emergency suspension of events passes will not need to award extra innings
5. Sponsorship emails/social marketing – Jason (Tabled)
6. Summer Council meeting agenda – Kyle
  - a. Kyle would like each board member's part to update the agenda by 3/14.
7. B division play with other cities – Bleu
  - a. Perfect Combination teams A & B will not be playing with HSL this year. Now two B teams in HSL
  - b. B teams are looking at doing inter-league play with Knoxville & Charlotte. All three cities have 2 teams each. Games will apply as qualifiers for NAGAA. Will also have 2 C-teams involved for a total of 9 teams. Visiting teams will pay \$125 apiece.
  - c. Charlotte, Knoxville, and Atlanta will split costs for fields
  - d. HSL will cover costs of umpires.
  - e. Motion made by Brian Dover and seconded by Bleu Holden to approve \$840 for fields and umpires for the play day. Motion passed unanimously.

**Section of Rules & Regulations and the Constitution to be reviewed at Spring Delegate (Coaches) meeting are attached at end of this document.**

Next Meeting: March 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM

End Time: 9:05 PM

# The Constitution of the Hotlanta Softball League



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## ARTICLE 1: NAME OF ORGANIZATION

- 1.1 The name of the organization shall be the Hotlanta Softball League (HSL), after this referred to as “HSL” or the “Organization”. The Organization may comprise two (2) separate divisions – an Open Division and a Women’s Division. Each division may adopt rules and regulations for its division and function independently of each other. The Open Division and the Women’s Division may be further divided into subdivisions based on competition levels and determined by the teams of the division. Each subdivision may establish rules and regulations for its subdivision upon approval by the entire division. HSL is a nonprofit corporation

## ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The primary objective of the Hotlanta Softball League is to develop members of character and integrity who will serve as positive members of the Atlanta community. The following objectives best amplify the league’s mission:
- A. Promote amateur athletics, youth education with special emphasis on the participation of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning community in an atmosphere of friendly competition, particularly softball.
  - B. Promote pride, unity and confidence in league teams, sponsors, and community.
  - C. Practice positive leadership and display the courage necessary to advocate just causes in the face of public or social pressures.
  - D. Hold ourselves responsible and accountable for our thoughts, feelings, and actions.

The Hotlanta Softball League has a strong foundation built on the values of family, community, and positive attitudes. All members of the Hotlanta Softball League will strive to uphold these traditions through hard work, professionalism, and loyalty.

**Family.** Relationships are to be grounded in honesty, trust, and respect. Through the bonds we create, we will hold ourselves and our teammates in the highest regard.

**Community:** HSL has an opportunity to strengthen the community through active participation and service. In giving ourselves, we can enrich the lives of others around us.

**Attitude:** HSL’s attitude will be defined by participants’ strength of character and constant pursuit of excellence both on and off the field.

## ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Any person who wishes to support the stated objectives of the Organization may become a member by satisfying the membership requirements set forth in the HSL Open Division Rules and

Regulations or Women's Division Rules and Regulations. All members of HSL are encouraged to support and participate in the local gay community activities, especially HSL functions.

The name and address of each member and date of issuance shall be entered in the private records of HSL, and will not be sold, rented or disseminated to any other organization. Without the expressed permission of HSL members. Reproduction, sale, rental, lease, or use of the mailing list, directory or any other content by any other person or group of any of the contents, for any purpose is expressly prohibited. Instances of unauthorized use will be sent to Executive Council for evaluation and possible actions.

#### **ARTICLE 4: SOFTBALL COUNCIL**

- 4.1 The HSL Softball Council shall be defined as either the Summer Softball Council or the Winter Softball Council. Any reference to Softball Council in HSL documents shall be interpreted to refer to whichever Council, summer or winter, is in session and duly authorized under this article.

The Summer Softball Council term shall be from the commencement of the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting through NAGAAA GSWS and ASANA World Series each year. The Winter Softball Council term shall be from the end of NAGAAA GSWS for Open Executive Council and ASANA World Series for Women's Executive Council, the latter of the two for HSL Commission and Treasurer, until the commencement of the next HSL Spring Delegate Meeting.

The Summer Softball Council shall consist of the members of the Executive Council (See Section 5) and a team representative, appointed by the team, for each team participating in the HSL Spring Season. To be considered a participating team, an initial roster and team fee must be submitted to HSL for the Spring Season. Executive Council members or their proxy shall be given voting rights as specified in Section 5. Each Summer Softball Council team representative or designated proxy, defined as a member of the same team, shall have one vote in representing member team in all decisions regarding HSL policies made at all meetings between the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting and the end of the Summer Softball Council term.

The Winter Softball Council shall consist of the members of the Executive Council. Each Winter Softball Council member shall have one vote in all decisions regarding HSL policies made at all meetings between the end of the Summer Softball Council term and the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting.

The Softball Council shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. Attendance at all duly scheduled HSL meetings.
- B. Be responsible for communicating Commission and League activities, requirements, and needs to their team and/or sponsor(s).
- C. Be familiar with both the Constitution and each division's rules and regulations.

- D. Other duties, as determined by a majority of the HSL Executive Council which may be necessary for the efficient administration of the organization.
- E. All may be subject to background checks.

## **ARTICLE 5: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

5.1 The Executive Council shall consist of the following elected officers with their respective responsibilities:

A. Officers

i. Commission/Chief Executive Officer CEO

The general duties of the Commissioner shall include, but are not limited to:

- a. Preside at all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- b. Assist the Treasurer in preparation of the budget.
- c. Serve as an authorized guarantor of HSL financial transactions.
- d. Establish such committees which may be necessary for the efficient administration of the Organization.
- e. Plan for elections and staffing of the election booth.
- f. Only vote in meeting to break a tie.
- g. Be responsible for the administration of any Fall Softball League sponsored by HSL.
- h. May attend all NAGAAA and ASANA meetings. If the Commissioner cannot attend, the Executive Council may select a replacement.
- i. Administration of fundraising on behalf of HSL.
- j. Pursue corporate sponsorship on behalf of HSL.
- k. Act as Public Relations on behalf of HSL
- l. Have such duties as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this constitution.
- m. Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled.

ii. Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer

The general duties of the Treasurer shall include, but are not limited to:

- a. Prepare a budget.
- b. Maintain financial records.
- c. Serve as an authorized guarantor of HSL financial transactions.
- d. Present regular financial reports to the HSL Commissioner, and Executive Council.
- e. Monitor and/or maintain tax exempt status and legal status of the organization.
- f. File taxes and maintain any documents necessary for the 501 c3 status
- g. Annually register HSL with Georgia Secretary of State as well as being listed as the Registered Agent of HSL
- h. Have one vote on all league and Executive Council matters.
- i. Attend the NAGAAA Summer meetings. If the Treasurer cannot attend, the Executive Council may select a replacement.
- j. Serve, if possible, as a committee member of the NAGAAA Open Division and ASANA Women's Division Financial Committees.
- k. Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate.

- I. Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled.
- iii. Assistant Commissioner
  - The general duties of the Assistant Commissioner shall include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Be recognized as the HSL NAGAAA representative.
    - b. Preside over any meetings of HSL in the absence of the Commissioner.
    - c. Have one vote in all league and Executive Council matters, except when presiding over any HSL meetings, the Commissioner will only vote to break a tie.
    - d. Attend the NAGAAA Winter and Summer meetings. If the Assistant Commissioner cannot attend, the Executive Council may select a replacement.
    - e. Serve as an authorized guarantor of HSL financial transactions.
    - f. Establish such committees as may be necessary for the efficient administration of the Division.
    - g. Become acting Commissioner should the Commissioner resign or is removed.
    - h. Create league and Commissioner's Cup schedules
    - i. Be responsible for the handling of all documents for the league scheduled to be sent to NAGAAA including but not limited to:
      - (i) Team rosters
      - (ii) List of teams and managers
      - (iii) Division designation of teams (i.e. A, B, C, E, etc.)
      - (iv) Reservation of slots in the GSWS
      - (v) GSWS rosters
      - (vi) Player rating information
    - j. Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
    - k. Oversees the JRC
    - l. Perform other such duties as the Commission may designate
- iv. Secretary
  - The general duties of the Secretary shall include, but not limited to:
    - a. Notify the softball council members of the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting, board meetings, and any divisional meetings.
    - b. Maintain the minutes of all meetings
    - c. Have one vote on all league, and Executive Council matters.
    - d. Prepare a sufficient number of ballots for elections and have copies of rosters available.
    - e. Maintain functionality of the HSL website.
    - f. Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
    - g. Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate.
- v. Parliamentarian/Historian
  - The general duties of the Parliamentarian shall include, but not limited to:
    - a. Advise the HSL Commissioner and Executive Council on all matters of procedure in according with the HSL Constitution, Robert's Rules of Order, and division's rules and regulations.

- b. Maintain an official record, electronic and hard copy, of the Constitution, the Rules and Regulations and Amendments thereto.
  - c. Have one vote on all league, respective division, and Executive Council matters.
  - d. Serve as Hall of Fame Chairperson
  - e. Maintain a History of the league
  - f. Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
  - g. Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate.
- vi. Social and Events Coordinator
- The general duties of the Social and Events Coordinator shall include, but not limited to:
- a. Organizing and overseeing all HSL fundraising events.
  - b. Serving as Board liaison for all Ad Hoc Standing Committees formed regarding additional HSL activities including but not limited to, any other social, fundraising or charity events.
  - c. Assisting player recruitment events and clinics.
  - d. Serve as a member of the Gay Pride Committee.
  - e. Have one vote on all league and Executive Council matters.
  - f. Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled.
  - g. Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate
- vii. Competition Coordinator
- The general duties of the Competition Coordinator shall include, but are not limited to:
- a. Obtaining playing equipment and field supplies including, but not limited to, banners, line-up cards, scorebook, first aid supplies, etc., if necessary and
  - b. Assuring supplies are available at the fields for all scheduled play
  - c. In conjunction with Assistant Commissioner help with scheduling and any NAGAAA requirements and assist other board members in the recruitment of new players.
  - d. Create schedule for the Officer of the Day
  - e. Overseeing and organizing player recruitment events and clinics to assist in the placement of new players and players with not team affiliation.
  - f. Coordinate with the JRC Chair to ensure all new players receive an initial rating.
  - g. Serve on the Big Peach Committee
  - h. Have one vote on all leave, and Executive Council matters.
  - i. Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
  - j. Responsible for maintaining player participation attendance at games for GSWS qualification.
  - k. Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate
- viii. Business Development Coordinator
- The general duties of the Business Development Coordinator shall include, but are not limited to:
- a. Developing and maintaining a sponsorship package for presentation to potential League Sponsors
  - b. Fostering and growing relationships with existing and potential Corporate Sponsors.

- c. Serve as a Liaison between the HSL and all local business owners pertaining to their sponsorship of the league.
- d. Assist Commissioner in contacting potential sponsors
- e. Administrate all HSL Charity relationships and serve as a liaison with those Charities.
- f. Serve on the Big Peach Committee as Sponsorship Coordinator.
- g. Serve as the Chair of the HSL Gay Pride Committee, ensuring entry and overseeing HSL participation.
- h. Have one vote on all league and Executive Council matters.
- i. Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
- j. Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate.

ix. ASANA Representative

The general duties of the ASANA Representative shall include, but are not limited to:

- a. Coordinating between Executive Council and ASANA World Series teams
- b. Must be a member of ASANA
- c. Serve as an ASANA delegate to all ASANA meetings unless serving as an ASANA Executive Council Member nationally.
- d. Assist the JRC Chair in ratings and review of all female players.
- e. In conjunction with the Competition Coordinator, assist in the placement of Free Agents and create potential new teams for the placement of Free Agents as it relates to ASANA teams.
- f. Participate as a member of Ad Hoc standing committees including but not limited to Big Peach and Gay Pride Committee.
- g. Have one vote on all league and Executive Council Matters.
- h. Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
- i. Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate

B. Elections and Terms of Office

The Executive Council shall decide the time and place for the election of officers. Any person wanting to run for election must be a current member of HSL in good standing, and cannot run for more than one office. All nominations for officers must be submitted in electronic or written format to the HSL Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner, no later than fifteen (15) days before the election. Anyone elected Treasurer, Commissioner or any other position with access to HSL's bank accounts are subject to a background check. The background check will be conduction after election, but before access to bank accounts are given. HSL will be responsible for finding a company to do the background check and will be responsible for cost of the background check. If a background check comes back with any "negative" items, the unaffected board members will determine if the affected party should keep the position they were voted for. If the affected party does not keep the position, the affected board member can be removed using the process described at the end of this Article.

The membership shall be provided a notice in electronic or written format, of the election of all open offices and candidates running for each officer at least fourteen (14) days before the election. Each member of the Organization may cast one vote for each HSL Executive Council person.

Executive Council members will oversee the casting of ballots. Any Executive Council member running for election may not oversee the casting of ballots or the counting of votes. A member may abstain from voting for one or more positions on a ballot. A ballot without clearly marked selection for an elected position shall be considered invalid and not counted as a vote for that position only. If the same ballot clearly reflects a vote cast for other positions, the ballot will be considered valid for those positions as reflected on the ballot. Any determinations regarding the qualification or eligibility of a ballot will be determined by a majority vote of the officers not running for a position in the current election.

All votes for the election of officers shall be counted in an open forum of the Softball Council to be held the same day of the election. Any member of the organization shall have the right to be present as such forums and witness the counting of the votes the election of officers of the Organization. The HSL Secretary or Commissioner shall, immediately after the counting of the votes for the election of officers, record the total number of votes cast for each candidate. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be declared the winner of the election for such office. The HSL Secretary or the Commissioner shall affix their signature to the results of such election of officers.

Any office which does not have a candidate receiving greater than 50% of the votes cast shall have a run-off election between the top two (2) candidates. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify all coaches of the run-off at least five (5) days prior to the run-off election.

The term of office for all officers will be two (2) years. The term for all offices will begin at the end of Summer Council to the completion of the 2-year term. The HSL Commissioner, Treasurer, Parliamentarian/Historian, Competition Coordinator and ASANA Representative will be elected in even years. The Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, Social and Events Coordinator, and Business Development Coordinator will be elected in odd years.

Any member of the Executive Council who has unexcused absences from two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the Council may be deemed to have resigned as a member of the Council and may be replaced in accordance with the provisions stated in the HSL Constitution. Absences may be deemed "excused" upon a majority vote of the remainder of the council.

If a resignation or removal of any Executive Council Member occurs during the summer council and the position is up for election during the current Summer Council, then the position will be appointed by the Executive Council for the remainder of the term. If the

position is not up for election during the Summer Council, a special election will be held by Summer Council.

If a resignation or removal of any Executive Council Member occurs during the Winter Council, and the position is up for election during the upcoming Summer Council, then the position will be appointed by the Executive Council for the remainder of the term. If the position is not up for election during the upcoming Summer Council, the Executive Council shall appoint an interim member for the remainder of the Winter Council. The Summer Council will then elect a member for the remainder of the term.

If an Executive Council member fails to perform or violates the duties of their office, the Executive Council member may be removed from office by 66% vote of the Summer Council at any Council meeting, provided that said member receives written notification of the charges and meeting date by certified mail at least ten (10) calendar days before the meeting. The member will be given opportunity to rebut those charges at that meeting. The vacancy left for that position on the Executive Board shall be filled as provided in the HSL Constitution.

When any Executive Council member permanently becomes physically incapable of performing the duties of office, including by reason of death, a vacancy shall exist. In the event that any dispute arises in determining or permanent physical incapacity, the Executive Council shall decide the matter using all necessary and proper means.

C. Return of Property

Within 30 days upon leaving their position or at the end of their term, whichever comes first, any member of HSL Executive Council, shall return all documents and/or items that are property of HSL. Such items shall include, but not limited to:

- i. Email accounts
- ii. Emails
- iii. Contact information of all coaches/managers
- iv. Player information
- v. NAGAAA handbook

All projects or work developed, deployed, or created by an Executive Board Member during their term of office that was for HSL use, is HSL property.

D. Officer Transition

A transition meeting shall take place between the outgoing and incoming officers. At this meeting, an Oath of Office shall be administered and all HSL records and property shall be turned over to incoming officers. Bank signature cards shall be filled out thus turning over HSL accounts to the incoming officers. Failure to comply with this directive within thirty day time period of leaving the office shall result in this person being suspended from HSL. The suspension may be voided upon return of all HSL property.

## **ARTICLE 6: OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION METHODS AND PROXIES**

- 6.1 Any reference in HSL documents that require submission in writing shall be completed on physical paper or in electronic format. In the interest of efficient operation of the organization, the HSL Executive Council may, in its sole discretion, opt to hold any HSL meeting or call for a vote in person, via e-mail, or conference call.

HSL will recognize the designation of a proxy (not to include elections), provided that is properly submitted in writing to the presiding officer. When executing a proxy, an HSL Executive Council member may only designate another Executive Council member; and a team representative may only designate another member of their own team.

## **ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS**

- 7.1 A HSL Spring Delegate Meeting and Winter Executive Council meetings shall be held as a forum for interaction and planning of activities. The HSL Spring Delegate Meeting and Winter Executive Council meetings shall include all elected officers. A majority of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum for any such meeting.

A HSL Spring Delegate Meeting of the Organization shall be held in the spring of each year. The Secretary will notify all perspective members of the date, time, and place of such meeting. At the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting, the HSL constitution and HSL rules and regulations previously approved by the Winter Softball Council will be electronically distribute. No quorum shall be required for any such meeting.

Extra Innings will be awarded at the Spring Delegate meeting. Any team competing with an extra Innings or any Official HSL sanctioned event will be fined \$500. An appeal can be made to the Executive Council.

Special meeting may be called at any time by the HSL Commissioner or by a majority of the Softball Council. The designated Secretary shall notify each member of the Softball Council no fewer than five (5) days before any such meeting. The notice shall specify date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting. More than 50% of the membership of the Softball Council shall constitute a quorum for any such meeting.

Any member may attend any meeting of the Organization. Only members of the Softball Council or designated alternates may participate in the discussion and vote of a motion. Any member of the organization may attend any Executive Council Meeting, but may not participate. The attendance shall be in an observance capacity only. During Winter Council, notification of all Winter Council Meetings will be sent to the members of the previous Summer Council for that same year.

The HSL Executive Council, in its sole discretion, may declare any meeting mandatory. Any team that fails to send a representative to a mandatory HSL meeting will be assessed a fine; the amount will be determined each year by the Executive Council and announced prior to the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting. The fine must be paid to HSL before that team will be allowed to play its next HSL scheduled game.

In the event of an emergency, the HSL Executive Council reserves the right to conduct an emergency meeting during the Summer Council. The meeting would only be called when a decision is needed that would not affect the HSL Constitution or Division Rules and Regulations.

The minutes of all HSL meetings must be made available within 14 days of the conclusion of the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 8: SOFTBALL RULES**

- 8.1 The HSL Rules and Regulations shall be changed as needed by the Executive Council during the Winter Softball Council session and subsequently presented to the Summer Softball Council at the HSL Spring Delegates Meeting. Any changes made by the Executive Council during the Winter Softball Council can be overturned by the affirmative votes of not less than 66% of the Summer Softball Council. Additionally, changes to the rules and regulations may be presented anytime from the Spring Delegate Meeting until the end of the season. Any such changes shall require the affirmative votes of not less than 75% of the Summer Softball Council. Rules changed during the season will become effective immediately, unless otherwise specified.

#### **ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS**

- 9.1 Amendments to the Constitution may be made as necessary. Any Amendment shall require the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the Summer Softball Council. Amendments will become effective immediately, unless otherwise specified.

#### **ARTICLE 10: NATIONAL SPORTS ALLIANCE**

- 10.1 The Organization shall be a member of a national sports alliance, such as North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) or Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA), whose goals and objectives are similar to those of the Organization. Any membership fees of such national sports alliances shall be paid by the Organization. Not team shall represent Hotlanta Softball League at both NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series and ASANA Softball World Series.

## **ARTICLE 11: FEES AND EXPENSES**

- 11.1 Executive Officers and Softball Council members shall no receive any compensation or remuneration for their services to the organization. However, necessary and reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the organization by any Executive Officer or Softball Council member may be paid by the organization subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

Any expenditure that comes out of the HSL's savings account must be approved by the Executive Council. If an Executive Council meeting cannot be held, a quorum of the Executive Council members must approve the expenditure. Proper documentation to support the expenditure must be maintain and available for review by any HSL Member. Unapproved expenditures will be handled by Georgia State Law.

## **ARTICLE 12: GRIEVANCE/APEAL PROCESS**

- 12.1 The Softball Council may declare any person or team in HSL in violation of HSL Guidelines if that person or team exhibits behavior detrimental to the best interests of the HSL. The person or team would be in violation only after the guidelines as stated in the respective division's rules and regulations are followed.

Any penalty enacted by the Softball Council may be appealed in writing within three (3) days to the Executive Council. A majority vote of the Executive Council to uphold or alter the decision of the Softball Council shall be final.

## **ARTICLE 13: HALL OF FAME**

- 13.1 Purpose: The purpose of the Hotlanta Softball League Hall of Fame is to provide an historical perspective and perpetuate the history of gay softball in Atlanta and its surrounding areas.
- 13.2 Membership Eligibility
- A. Any member of the HSL, living or deceased (including players, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, sponsors, and fans), who has been in the HSL or a member of NAGAAA/ASANA for at least ten years is eligible for nomination to the HSL Hall of Fame. Length of membership will be determined by the Hall of Fame Director.
  - B. Nominees should have made *significant* contributions to the advancement, enhancement or continuation of the HSL.
  - C. If a nominee is deceased the 10 year rule can be waived.
- 13.3 Application/Nomination
- A. Nominations to the HSL Hall of Fame shall be due and submitted to the HSL Hall of Fame Director no later than the last day of the Spring Season..
  - B. The Nominations may be submitted by any person, past or present HSL member, who is familiar with the candidate. Talk to the person you wish to nominate and find out about their

history. A minimum amount of supporting information is advisable (Remember, just because you see that someone is doing a lot one year, does not mean they have contributed towards league enhancements in previous years.)

- C. We strongly recommend that the nomination include a photograph of the nominee. A photo helps; the reason for the photo is that names do not always convey the person nominated. A picture is worth a thousand words and could jog the memory of the voting members. It can determine whether or not a nominee is elected into the HSL Hall of Fame. Anyone submitting a photograph to identify a nominee gives HSL a "license" to use the photo only in conjunction with the HSL Hall of Fame.

#### 13.4 Voting Process

- A. The HSL of Fame Director will prepare an online ballot with the names of all nominees and provide a copy of the nominations to the HSL Hall of Fame voting members. The Hotlanta Softball League Hall of Fame committee reserves the right to have votes submitted via e-mail or US postal service.
- B. Voting members will have 15 days from the date the nomination biographies are distributed/posted to vote.
- C. The voting members may vote for up to 3 nominees. . A "yes" vote means that the nominee has exhibited values and accomplishments deserving of inclusion to the HSL Hall of Fame.
- D. The HSL Hall of Fame Director and HSL Commissioner will verify the validity of the voting members, tabulate the results of the voting, and notify the nominees, the HSL Executive Council, and the living HSL Hall of Fame members of the results.

#### 13.5 Induction

- A. In the 2013 Inaugural year, all HSL members previously inducted into the NAGAAA or ASANA Hall of Fame became HSL Hall of Fame members.
- B. After the inaugural year, a limit of 3 HSL Hall of Fame members will be awarded each year.
- C. Induction requires a candidate to receive "yes" votes from at least 66% of those votes cast.
  - i. In the event there are more candidates receiving the minimum 2/3rds vote than there are inductions spots in a given year, the person(s) receiving the most "yes" votes will become the inductee(s) for that year.
- D. For the first three years until 2016, Five HSL Hall of Fame memberships will be awarded. For 2017 and after, only three (3) memberships per year.
- E. Any HSL member inducted into NAGAAA/ASANA Hall of Fame shall be inducted into HSL Hall of Fame. These inductees will not affect the three (3) HSL Hall of Fame inductees.

#### 13.6 Voting Members

- A. Voting members shall consist of the following:
  - i. The members of the HSL Hall of Fame.
  - ii. The current HSL Executive Council.
  - iii. The current members of the HSL Hall of Fame Committee
- B. Only one ballot can be cast per member.

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE HOTLANTA SOFTBALL LEAGUE

(Revised February 2019)



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### **ARTICLE I – NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of the organization shall be the Hotlanta Softball League (HSL), after this referred to as “HSL” or the “Organization”. The Organization may comprise two (2) separate divisions – an Open Division and a Women’s Division. Each division may adopt rules and regulations for its division and function independently of each other. The Open Division and the Women’s Division may be further divided into subdivisions based on competition levels and determined by the teams of the division. Each subdivision may establish rules and regulations for its subdivision upon approval by the entire division. HSL is a nonprofit corporation.

### **ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of the Hotlanta Softball League is to develop members of character and integrity who will serve as positive members of the Atlanta community. The following objectives best amplify the league’s mission:

1. Promote amateur athletics, youth education with special emphasis on the participation of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning community in an atmosphere of friendly competition, particularly softball.
2. Promote pride, unity and confidence in league teams, sponsors, and community.
3. Practice positive leadership and display the courage necessary to advocate just causes in the face of public or social pressures.

4. Hold ourselves responsible and accountable for our thoughts, feelings, and actions.

The Hotlanta Softball League has a strong foundation built on the values of family, community, and positive attitudes. All members of the Hotlanta Softball League will strive to uphold these traditions through hard work, professionalism, and loyalty.

**Family:** Relationships are to be grounded in honesty, trust, and respect. Through the bonds we create, we will hold ourselves and our teammates in the highest regard.

**Community:** HSL has an opportunity to strengthen the community through active participation and service. In giving of ourselves, we can enrich the lives of others around us.

**Attitude:** HSL's attitude will be defined by participants' strength of character and constant pursuit of excellence both on and off the field.

### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

Any person who wishes to support the stated objectives of the Organization may become a member by satisfying the membership requirements set forth in the HSL Open Division Rules and Regulations or Women's Division Rules and Regulations. All members of HSL are encouraged to support and participate in the local gay community activities, especially HSL functions.

The name and address of each member and date of issuance shall be entered in the private records of HSL, and will not be sold, rented or disseminated to any other organization without the expressed permission of HSL members. Reproduction, sale, rental, lease, or use of the mailing list, directory or any other content by any other person or group of any of the contents, for any purpose is expressly prohibited. Instances of unauthorized use will be sent to Executive Council for evaluation and possible actions.

### **ARTICLE IV – SOFTBALL COUNCIL**

The HSL Softball Council shall be defined as either the Summer Softball Council or the Winter Softball Council. Any reference to Softball Council in HSL documents shall be interpreted to refer to whichever Council, summer or winter, is in session and duly authorized under this article.

The Summer Softball Council term shall be from the commencement of the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting through NAGAAA GSWS and ASANA World Series each year. The Winter Softball Council term shall be from the end of NAGAAA GSWS for Open Executive Council and ASANA World Series for Women's Executive Council, the latter of the two for HSL Commissioner and Treasurer, until the commencement of the next HSL Spring Delegate Meeting.

The Summer Softball Council shall consist of the members of the Executive Council (see Article V) and a team representative, appointed by the team, for each team participating in the HSL Spring Season. To be considered a participating team, an initial roster and team fee must be submitted to HSL for the Spring Season. Executive Council members or their proxy shall have voting rights as specified in Article V. Each Summer Softball Council team representative or designated proxy, defined as a member of the same team, shall have one vote in representing members team in all decisions regarding HSL policies made at all meetings between the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting and the end of the Summer Softball Council term

The Winter Softball Council shall consist of the members of the Executive Council. Each Winter Softball Council member shall have one vote in all decisions regarding HSL policies made at all meetings between the end of the Summer Softball Council term and the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting.

The Softball Council shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Attendance at all duly scheduled HSL meetings.
- b. Be responsible for communicating Commission and League activities, requirements, and needs to their team and /or sponsor(s).
- c. Be familiar with both the Constitution and each division's rules and regulations.
- d. Other duties, as determined by a majority of the HSL Executive Council which may be necessary for the efficient administration of the organization.
- e. All may be subject to background checks

## **ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Executive Council shall consist of the following elected officers with their respective responsibilities:

### **A. Officers**

#### **1. Commissioner/ Chief Executive Officer CEO**

The general duties of the Commissioner shall include, but are not limited to:

- a) Preside at all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- b) Assist the Treasurer in preparation of the budget.
- c) Serve as an authorized guarantor of HSL financial transactions.
- d) Establish such committees which may be necessary for the efficient administration of the Organization.
- e) Plan for elections and staffing of the election booth.
- f) Only vote in meetings to break a tie.
- g) Be responsible for the administration of any Fall Softball League sponsored by HSL.
- h) May attend all NAGAAA and ASANA meetings. If the Commissioner cannot attend, the Executive Council may select a replacement.
- i) Administration of fundraising on behalf of HSL.
- j) Pursue corporate sponsorship on behalf of HSL.

- k.) Act as Public Relations on behalf of HSL
- l) Have such duties as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this constitution.
- m) Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled.

**2. Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer CFO**

The general duties of the Treasurer shall include, but are not limited to:

- a) Prepare a budget.
- b) Maintain financial records.
- c) Serve as an authorized guarantor of HSL financial transactions.
- d) Present regular financial reports to the HSL Commissioner, and Executive Council.
- e) Monitor and/or maintain tax exempt status and legal status of the organization.
- f) File taxes and maintain any documents necessary for the 501c3 status
- g) Annually register HSL with Georgia Secretary of State as well as being listed as the Registered Agent of HSL
- h) Have one vote on all league and Executive Council matters.
- i) Attend the NAGAAA Summer meetings. If the Treasurer cannot attend, the Executive Council may select a replacement.
- j) Serve, if possible, as a committee member of the NAGAAA Open Division and ASANA Women’s Division Financial Committees.
- k) Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate.
- l) Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled.

**3. Assistant Commissioner**

The general duties of the Assistant Commissioner shall include, but are not limited to:

- a) Be recognized as the HSL NAGAAA representative.
- b) Preside over any meetings of HSL in the absence of the Commissioner.
- c) Have one vote in all league and Executive Council matters, except when presiding over any HSL meeting, the Commissioner will only vote to break a tie.
- d) Attend the NAGAAA Winter and Summer meetings. If the Assistant Commissioner cannot attend, the Executive Council may select a replacement.
- e) Serve as an authorized guarantor of HSL financial transactions.
  
- g) Establish such committees as may be necessary for the efficient administration of the Division.
- h) Become acting Commissioner should the Commissioner resign or is removed.
- i) Create league and Commissioner’s Cup schedules
- j) Be responsible for the handling of all documents for the league scheduled to be sent to NAGAAA including but not limited to:

- 1. Team rosters
- 2. List of teams and managers

3. Division designation of teams (i.e. A, B, C, E, etc.)
  4. Reservation of slots in the GSWS
  5. GSWS rosters
  6. Player rating information
- k) Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
- l) Oversees the JRC
- m) Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate

#### **4. Secretary**

The general duties of the Secretary shall include, but not limited to:

- a) Notify the softball council members of the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting, board meetings, and any divisional meetings.
- b) Maintain the minutes of all meetings
- c) Have one vote on all league, and Executive Council matters.
- d) Prepare a sufficient number of ballots for elections and have copies of rosters available.
- e) Maintain functionality of the HSL website.
- f) Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
- g) Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate.

#### **5. Parliamentarian/Historian**

The general duties of the Parliamentarian shall include, but not limited to:

- a) Advise the HSL Commissioner and Executive Council on all matters of procedure in accordance with the HSL Constitution, Robert's Rules of Order, and division's rules and regulations.
- b) Maintain an official record, electronic and hard copy, of the Constitution, the Rules and Regulations and Amendments thereto.
- c) Have one vote on all league, respective division, and Executive Council matters.
- d) Serve as Hall of Fame Chairperson
- f) Maintain a History of the league
- g) Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
- d) Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate.

#### **6. Social and Events Coordinator**

The general duties of the Social and Events Coordinator shall include, but not limited to:

- a) Organizing and overseeing all HSL fundraising events.
- b) Serving as Board liaison for all Ad Hoc Standing Committees formed regarding additional HSL activities including, but not limited to, any other social, fundraising or charity events.
- c) Assisting player recruitment events and clinics.
- d) Serve as a member of the Gay Pride Committee.
- e) Have one vote on all league and Executive Council matters.
- f) Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled.
- g) Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate

## **7. Competition Coordinator**

The general duties of the Competition Coordinator shall include, but are not limited to:

- a) Obtaining playing equipment and field supplies including, but not limited to, banners, line-up cards, scorebooks, first aid supplies, etc., if necessary and
- b) Assuring supplies are available at the fields for all scheduled play
- c) In conjunction with Assistant Commissioner help with scheduling and any NAGAAA requirements and assist other board members in the recruitment of new players.
- d) Create schedule for the Officer of the Day
- e) Overseeing and organizing player recruitment events and clinics to assist in the placement of new players and players with not team affiliation.
- f) Coordinate with the JRC Chair to ensure all new players receive an initial rating.
- g) Serving on the Big Peach Committee.
  - h) Have one vote on all league, and Executive Council matters.
  - i) Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
  - j) Responsible for maintaining player participation attendance at games for GSWS qualification.
  - k) Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate

## **8. Business Development Coordinator**

The general duties of the Business Development Coordinator shall include, but are not limited to:

- a) Developing and maintaining a sponsorship package for presentation to potential League Sponsors
- b) Fostering and growing relationships with existing and potential Corporate Sponsors.
- c) Serve as a Liaison between the HSL and all local business owners pertaining to their sponsorship of the league.
- d) Assist Commissioner in contacting potential sponsors
- e) Administrate all HSL Charity relationships and serve as a liaison with those Charities.
- f) Serve on the Big Peach Committee as Sponsorship Coordinator.
- g) Serve as the Chair of the HSL Gay Pride Committee, ensuring entry and overseeing HSL participation.
- h) Have one vote on all league and Executive Council matters.
- i) Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
- j) Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate

## **9. ASANA Representative**

The general duties of the ASANA Representative shall include, but are not limited to:

- a) Coordinating between Executive Council and ASANA World Series teams
- b) Must be a member of ASANA
- c) Serve as an ASANA delegate at all ASANA meetings unless serving as an ASANA Executive Council Member nationally.
- d) Assist the JRC Chair in ratings and review of all female players.
- e) In conjunction with the Competition Coordinator, assist in the placement of Free Agents and create potential new teams for the placement of Free Agents as it relates to ASANA teams.
- f) Participate as a member of Ad Hoc standing committees including but not limited to Big Peach and Gay Pride Committee.
- g) Have one vote on all League and Executive Council Matters.
- h) Serve as Officer of the Day when scheduled
- i) Perform other such duties as the Commissioner may designate

## B. Elections and Terms of Office

The Executive Council shall decide the time and place for the election of officers. Any person wanting to run for election must be a current member of HSL in good standing, and cannot run for more than one office. All nominations for officers must be submitted in electronic or written format to the HSL Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner, no later than fifteen (15) days before the election. Anyone elected Treasurer, Commissioner or any other position with access to HSL's bank accounts are subject to a background check. The background check will be conducted after election, but before access to bank accounts are given. HSL will be responsible for finding a company to do the background check and will be responsible for cost of the background check. If a background check comes back with any "negative" items, the unaffected board members will determine if the affected party should keep the position they were voted for. If the affected party does keep the position, the affected board member can be removed using the process described at the end of this Article.

The membership shall be provided a notice in electronic or written format, of the election of all open offices and candidates running for each officer at least fourteen (14) days before the election. Each member of the Organization may cast one vote for each HSL Executive Council position.

Executive Council members will oversee the casting of ballots. Any Executive Council member running for election may not oversee the casting of ballots or the counting of votes. A member may abstain from voting for one or more positions on a ballot. A ballot without a clearly marked selection for an elected position shall be considered invalid and not counted as a vote for that position only. If the same ballot clearly reflects a vote cast for other positions, the ballot will be considered valid for those positions as reflected on the ballot. Any determinations regarding the qualification or eligibility of a ballot will be

determined by a majority vote of the officers not running for a position in the current election.

All votes for the election of officers shall be counted in an open forum of the Softball Council to be held the same day of the election. Any member of the organization shall have the right to be present at such forums and witness the counting of the votes for the election of officers of the Organization. The HSL Secretary or Commissioner shall, immediately after the counting of the votes for the election of officers, record the total number of votes cast for each candidate. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be declared the winner of the election for such office. The HSL Secretary or the Commissioner shall affix their signature to the results of such election of officers.

Any office which does not have a candidate receiving greater than 50% of the votes cast shall have a run-off election between the top two (2) candidates. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify all coaches of the run-off at least five (5) days prior to the run-off election.

The term of office for all offices will be two (2) years. The term for all offices will begin at the end of Summer Council to the completion of the 2 year term. The HSL Commissioner, Treasurer, Parliamentarian/Historian, Competition Coordinator, and ASANA Representative will be elected in even years. The Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, Social and Events Coordinator, and Business Development Coordinator will be elected in odd years.

Any member of the Executive Council who has unexcused absences from two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the Council may be deemed to have resigned as a member of the Council and may be replaced in accordance with the provisions stated in the HSL Constitution. Absences may be deemed "excused" upon a majority vote of the remainder of the Council.

If a resignation or removal of any Executive Council Member occurs during summer council and the position is up for election during the current Summer Council, then the position will be appointed by the Executive Council for the remainder of the term. If the position is not up for election during the current Summer Council, a special election will be held by Summer Council.

If a resignation or removal of any Executive Council Member occurs during the Winter Council, and the position is up for election during the upcoming Summer Council, then the position will be appointed by the Executive Council for the remainder of the term. If the position is not up for election during the upcoming Summer Council, the Executive Council shall appoint an interim member for the remainder of the Winter Council. The Summer Council will then elect a member for the remainder of the term.

If an Executive Council member fails to perform or violates the duties of their

office, the Executive Council member may be removed from office by a 66% vote of the Summer Council at any Council meeting, provided that said member receives written notification of the charges and meeting date by certified mail at least ten (10) calendar days before the meeting. The member will be given the opportunity to rebut those charges at that meeting. The vacancy left for that position on the Executive Board shall be filled as provided in the HSL Constitution.

When any Executive Council member permanently becomes physically incapable of performing the duties of office, including by reason of death, a vacancy shall exist. In the event that any dispute arises in determining of permanent physical incapacity, the Executive Council shall decide the matter using all necessary and proper means.

#### C. Return of Property

Within 30 days upon leaving their position or at the end of their term, whichever comes first, any member of HSL Executive Council, shall return all document and/or items that are property of HSL. Such items shall include, but not limited to:

1. Email accounts
2. Emails
3. Contact information of all coaches/managers
4. Player information
5. NAGAAA handbook

All projects or work developed, deployed, or created by an Executive Board Member during their term of office that was for HSL use, is HSL property.

#### D. Officer Transition

A transition meeting shall take place between the outgoing and incoming officers. At this meeting, an Oath of Office shall be administered and all HSL records and property shall be turned over to incoming officers. Bank signature cards shall be filled out thus turning over HSL accounts to the incoming officers. Failure to comply with this directive within thirty day time period of leaving the office shall result in this person being suspended from HSL. The suspension may be voided upon return of all HSL property.

## **ARTICLE VI – OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION METHODS AND PROXIES**

Any reference in HSL documents that requires submission in writing shall be completed on physical paper or in electronic format. In the interest of efficient operation of the organization, the HSL Executive Council may, in its sole discretion, opt to hold any HSL meeting or call for a vote in person, via e-mail, or conference call.

HSL will recognize the designation of a proxy (not to include elections), provided that it is properly submitted in writing to the presiding officer. When executing a proxy, an HSL Executive Council member may only designate another Executive Council member; and a team representative may only designate another member of their own team.

## **ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS**

A HSL Spring Delegate Meeting and Winter Executive Council meetings shall be held as a forum for interaction and planning of activities. The HSL Spring Delegate Meeting and Winter Executive Council meetings shall include all elected officers. A majority of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum for any such meeting.

A HSL Spring Delegate Meeting of the Organization shall be held in the spring of each year. The Secretary will notify all perspective members of the date, time, and place of such meeting. At the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting, the HSL constitution and HSL rules and regulations previously approved by the Winter Softball Council will be electronically distributed. No quorum shall be required for any such meeting.

Extra Innings will be awarded at the Spring Delegate meeting. Any team competing with an extra Innings or any Official HSL sanctioned event will be fined \$500. An appeal can be made to the Executive Council.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the HSL Commissioner or by a majority of the Softball Council. The designated Secretary shall notify each member of the Softball Council no fewer than five (5) days before any such meeting. The notice shall specify date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting. More than 50% of the membership of the Softball Council shall constitute a quorum for any such meeting.

Any member may attend any meeting of the Organization. Only members of the Softball Council or designated alternates may participate in the discussion and vote of a motion. Any member of the organization may attend any Executive Council Meeting , but may not participate. The attendance shall be in an observance capacity only. During Winter Council, notification of all Winter Council Meetings will be sent to the members of the previous Summer Council for that same year.

The HSL Executive Council, in its sole discretion, may declare any meeting mandatory. Any team that fails to send a representative to a mandatory HSL meeting will be assessed a fine; the amount will be determined each year by the Executive Council and announced prior to the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting. The fine must be paid to HSL before that team will be allowed to play its next HSL scheduled game.

In the event of an emergency, the HSL Executive Council reserves the right to conduct an emergency meeting during the Summer Council. The meeting would only be called when a decision is needed that would not affect the HSL Constitution or Division Rules and Regulations.

The minutes of all HSL meetings must be made available within 14 days of the conclusion of the meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII – SOFTBALL RULES**

The HSL Rules and Regulations shall be changed as needed by the Executive Council during the Winter Softball Council session and subsequently presented to the Summer Softball Council at the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting. Any changes made by the Executive Council during the Winter Softball Council can be overturned by the affirmative votes of not less than 66% of the Summer Softball Council. Additionally, changes to the rules and regulations may be presented anytime from the Spring Delegate Meeting until the end of the season. Any such changes shall require the affirmative votes of not less than 75% of the Summer Softball Council. Rules changed during the season will become effective immediately, unless otherwise specified.

## **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution may be made as necessary. Any Amendment shall require the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the Summer Softball Council. Amendments will become effective immediately, unless otherwise specified.

## **ARTICLE X– NATIONAL SPORTS ALLIANCE**

The Organization shall be a member of a national sports alliance, such as North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) or Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA), whose goals and objectives are similar to those of the Organization. Any membership fees of such national sports alliances shall be paid by the Organization. No team shall represent Hotlanta Softball League at both NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series and ASANA Softball World Series.

## **ARTICLE XI – FEES AND EXPENSES**

Executive Officers and Softball Council members shall not receive any compensation or remuneration for their services to the organization. However, necessary and reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the organization by any Executive Officer or Softball Council member may be paid by the organization subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

Any expenditure that comes out of HSL's savings account must be approved by the Executive Council. If an Executive Council meeting cannot be held, a quorum of Executive Council members must approve the expenditure. Proper documentation to support the expenditure must be maintained and available for review by any HSL Member. Unapproved expenditures will be handled as permitted by Georgia State Law.

## **ARTICLE XII – GRIEVANCE/APPEAL PROCESS**

The Softball Council may declare any person or team in HSL in violation of HSL Guidelines if that person or team exhibits behavior detrimental to the best interests of the HSL. The person or team would be in violation only after the guidelines as stated in the respective division's rules and regulations are followed.

Any penalty enacted by the Softball Council may be appealed in writing within three (3) days to the Executive Council. A majority vote of the Executive Council to uphold or alter the decision of the Softball Council shall be final.

## **ARTICLE XIII – HALL OF FAME**

### **A. Purpose**

The purpose of the Hotlanta Softball League Hall of Fame is to provide an historical perspective and perpetuate the history of gay softball in Atlanta and its surrounding areas.

### **B. Membership Eligibility**

1. Any member of the HSL, living or deceased (including players, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, sponsors, and fans), who has been in the HSL or a member of NAGAAA/ASANA for at least ten years is eligible for nomination to HSL Hall of Fame. Length of membership will be determined by the Hall of Fame Director.
2. Nominees should have made *significant* contributions to the advancement, enhancement or continuation of the HSL.
3. If a nominee is deceased the 10 year rule can be waived.

### **C. Application/Nomination**

1. Nominations to the HSL Hall of Fame shall be due and submitted to the HSL Hall of Fame Director no later than the last day of the Spring Season..
2. The Nominations may be submitted by any person, past or present HSL member, who is familiar with the candidate. Talk to the person you wish to nominate and find out about their history. A minimum amount of supporting information is advisable (Remember, just because you see that someone is doing a lot one year, does not mean the they have contributed towards league enhancements in previous years.)
3. We strongly recommend that the nomination include a photograph of the nominee. A photo helps; the reason for the photo is that names do not always

convey the person nominated. A picture is worth a thousand words and could jog the memory of the voting members. It can determine whether or not a nominee is elected into the HSL Hall of Fame. Anyone submitting a photograph to identify a nominee gives HSL a “license” to use the photo only in connection with the HSL Hall of Fame.

#### D. Voting Process

1. The HSL of Fame Director will prepare an online ballot with the names of all nominees and provide a copy of the nominations to the HSL Hall of Fame voting members. The Hotlanta Softball League Hall of Fame committee reserves the right to have votes submitted via e-mail or US postal service.
2. Voting members will have **15 days** from the date the nomination biographies are distributed/posted to vote.
3. The voting members may vote for up to 3 nominees. . A “yes” vote means that the nominee has exhibited values and accomplishments deserving of inclusion to the HSL Hall of Fame.
4. The HSL Hall of Fame Director and HSL Commissioner will verify the validity of the voting members, tabulate the results of the voting, and notify the nominees, the HSL Executive Council, and the living HSL Hall of Fame members of the results.

#### E. Induction

1. In the 2013 Inaugural year, all HSL members previously inducted into the NAGAAA or ASANA Hall of Fame became HSL Hall of Fame members.
2. After the inaugural year, a limit of 3 HSL Hall of Fame members will be awarded each year.
3. Induction requires a candidate to receive “yes” votes from at least 66% of those votes cast.
  - a) In the event there are more candidates receiving the minimum 2/3rds vote than there are inductions spots in a given year, the person(s) receiving the most “yes” votes will become the inductee(s) for that year.
4. For the first three years until 2016, Five HSL Hall of Fame memberships will be awarded. For 2017 and after, only three (3) memberships per year.
5. Any HSL member inducted into NAGAAA/ASANA Hall of Fame shall be inducted into HSL Hall of Fame. These inductees will not affect the three (3) HSL Hall of Fame inductees.

#### D. Voting Members

1. Voting members shall consist of the following:
  - a) The members of the HSL Hall of Fame.
  - b) The current HSL Executive Council.
  - c) The current members of HSL Hall of Fame Committee

2. Only one ballot can be cast per member.

Open Division  
Rules and Regulations  
Hotlanta Softball League



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## SECTION 1: RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE HSL OPEN DIVISION

1.1 A League, in order to function smoothly, must have a set of documents that govern organization and operations. The governing documents of the Hotlanta Softball League (HSL) are the Constitution and Open Division Rules and Regulations. League rules must be understood by members, managers and players. An electronic copy of the Rules and Regulations adopted each year by the Winter Council will be provided to each team representative at the Spring Delegate meeting.

1.2 The Executive Council and/or the Softball Council shall have the authority to suspend specific sections of the Rules and Regulations during times of emergency or when situations arise and it is impossible or impractical to convene necessary Councils to formerly amend the Rules and Regulations. The Executive Council and/or the Softball Council must follow these guidelines:

A. Declare a State of Emergency and the rationale for declaration

B. Identify which section(s) of the Rules and Regulations are being suspended

C. Identify the duration of the suspension, not to exceed 12-months

1.3 If the declaration is made by the Executive Council, the Softball Council may call a special meeting following the procedures laid out in Article 7.1 of the HSL Constitution and can overturn and/or amend the emergency declaration by not less than 75% of the delegates.

~~1.11.4~~ 1.11.4 In addition to suspending parts of the Rules and Regulations, under an emergency declaration, the Executive Council and/or Softball Council may put temporary rules in place to ensure the safety of the league, players, coaches, umpires, fans and guests. These temporary rules may not exceed 12-months unless added to the Rules and Regulations via the procedures as spelled out in Article 8.1 of the HSL Constitution.

\* Amendments to the Rules and Regulations can be made pursuant to Article 8 of the HSL Constitution.

## SECTION 2: DIVISIONS OF PLAY

2.1 The Open Division may/will be comprised of up to six (6) levels of competitive play consistent with the divisions established by NAGAAA (i.e. A, B, C, D, E, and Masters Divisions). Additional divisions may be added to further the objectives of the Organization.

2.2 All team and player caps for GSWS qualifying divisions will not exceed those established by NAGAAA

2.3 In order to qualify for a GSWS qualifying division, teams must meet the following team composite ratings of:

“A” Division – minimum of 170

“B” Division – minimum of 130

“C” Division – minimum of 100

“D” Division – minimum of 65

“E” Division – no minimum

- 2.4 In order to foster new membership, additional Divisions may be established which may or may not be eligible for the GSWS. These Divisions may or may not comply with ratings of Divisions as established by NAGAAA. Individual players may be eligible to be picked-up for GSWS play based upon their NAGAAA ratings.

### **SECTION 3: HSL MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 “Team” Membership in the Organization shall require dues in an amount per team, per season, as set by the Executive Council. Divisional declaration must be made upon payment of team dues.
- 3.2 “Playing” Membership in the Organization shall require dues in an amount per person, per season as set by the Executive Council. “Playing” Membership shall be defined as:
- A. An eligible player.
  - B. Permitted to participate fully in all activities of the Organization, including voting privileges.
- 3.3 “Non-Playing” Members in the Organization shall require dues in an amount per person, per season, as set by the Executive Council. “Non-Playing” Membership shall be defined as:
- A. Any person other than an eligible player.
  - B. Permitted to participate fully in all activities of the Organization, including voting privileges.
- 3.4 No refunds of team or membership dues will be made by HSL after the start of regular season play. A team or player may plead a hardship case to the Executive Council to waive this rule.
- 3.5 Only HSL members are allowed on the field and bench area.
- 3.6 HSL cannot be held responsible for the actions taken by any media or persons that publish names and/or photographs of any HSL Member.
- 3.7 Any person, team, or sponsor who presents a check to HSL that is not honored by the bank will be required to pay a \$30 (thirty dollar) fee and any dues via certified check or money order before that person or team is allowed to participate in HSL. Any person, team or sponsor who presents more than one (1) check in a calendar year, which is not honored by the bank, may be required to pay any monies due HSL via certified check or money order for the remainder of that year and the following year.
- 3.8 The Executive Council may declare any person or sponsor ineligible for membership in HSL if such person has any debt to HSL and has failed to make satisfactory arrangements for repayment of such debt.
- 3.9 Playing, non-playing, and members in possession of assets belonging to HSL shall return such assets to HSL on demand. Any problems regarding assets shall be resolved by the Executive Council.

### **SECTION 4: TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 Team membership shall be limited to twenty (20) players per roster. Team membership shall include unlimited “non-playing” members.

- A. A team roster with player ratings must be presented to the Assistant Commissioner before the HSL regular season begins on a date set by the Executive Council. A finalized team roster and player ratings, for submission to NAGAAA, must be presented to the Assistant Commissioner by a date set by the Executive Council.

Any revisions to the team roster or player ratings must be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner before noon on the Thursday preceding the next scheduled game in order for the revision(s) to take effect. It is the responsibility of the coach or manager to submit appropriate registration forms and/or dues to the HSL Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, or Officer of the Day before that member participates.

- B. A team must satisfy other requirements for participation as may be established by NAGAAA or ASANA.

- 4.2 A player may not change teams without being released by their current coach, who then has 48 hours to confirm via any communication. A player may not change teams after the start of the third week of play of the regular season. To change teams, a player must inform both involved coaches and the Assistant Commissioner in writing of their intent prior to the team change deadline, to be eligible to play on their new team. If the team change is not completed and the roster listing the new player is not submitted by the roster submission deadline, then the player will be ineligible to play that week. A player may plead hardship case to the Executive Council to waive this rule.
- 4.3 New players may not be added to a team roster after that team has played more than 50% of its scheduled games. Cases of hardship may be appealed to the Executive Council.

## **SECTION 5: INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION**

- 5.1 Every member must complete a HSL registration form, pay membership dues, and submit any other document deemed necessary by the Executive Council before they are eligible to participate. A member must submit their own form,
- 5.2 In any case where this procedure is not followed properly, the associated coach and/or manager will share responsibility with the member for any consequences that may result in terms of liability. The member and the coach and/or manager in question may all face possible disciplinary action.
- 5.3 A playing member must have an approved NAGAAA or ASANA rating on file with HSL before they are eligible to play
- 5.4 A player must declare with NAGAAA member association will be their NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series qualifying city upon registration.

## **SECTION 6: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

HSL Open Rules and Regulations will govern player eligibility. Violation of these Guidelines will make the player in question ineligible for participation in that particular division of play. Any Fall season sanctioned by HSL will abide by regular season guidelines.

#### 6.1 Regular Season Guidelines

- A. A player must be duly registered to one (1) and only one (1) HSL team.
- B. A player may only play on the team to which they are registered.
- C. A player must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on or before the date they first plays a league game.
- D. A player is not eligible to play while on suspension.
- E. Players under the age of twenty-one (21) years of age are not allowed to participate in functions that are hosted at establishments that require a minimum age of twenty-one (21) to enter.
- F. A player must satisfy any and all other requirements for participation as may be established by NAGAAA, ASANA, and/or HSL.

#### 6.2 HSL Commissioners Cup Guidelines

- A. A player must satisfy all Regular Season Guidelines as described in Section 6.1.
- B. A player must have been present and listed for participation in a minimum of 50% of their respective HSL Division team's regular season games as determined by the official line-up cards. Only regular season line-up cards including the first and last name of the player in question will be considered for determining that player's eligibility in the Tournament. Cases of hardship may be appealed to the Executive Council.

#### 6.3 GSWS Tournament Guidelines

- A. A player must satisfy all Regular Season Guidelines as described in Section 6.1.
- B. A player must have been present and listed for participation in a minimum of 50% of their respective HSL Division team's regular season games as determined by the official lineup cards. Only regular season lineup cards including the first and last name of the player in question will be considered for determining that player's eligibility in the tournament. Cases of hardship may be appealed to the Executive Council.
- C. A player must have declared Atlanta as their NAGAAA GSWS qualifying city upon registration for the regular season.

### **SECTION 7: SCHEDULES AND STANDINGS**

- 7.1 The HSL season schedule will be prepared by the Executive Council after the team registration deadline. HSL Team Representatives will be issued a season schedule as soon as it becomes final.
- 7.2 Team Representatives will be issued HSL line-up cards before the season starts. Home team will be designated on the schedule.
- 7.3 It is the responsibility of the Assistant Commissioner or their designee to inform the team representatives as to whether or not the field is playable. It is the team representative's responsibility to inform the players.

- 7.4 Cancelled games will be rescheduled at the discretion of the Executive Council. The Secretary will notify the team representative of each team involved in the revised schedule.
- 7.5 In the event of change in weather conditions after a game has started, the umpire can suspend a game until weather conditions improve, or cancel a game. USA Softball (USA) Rules apply for all suspended and/or cancelled games.
- 7.6 Request for schedule changes will be decided by the Executive Council. Teams must give a written notice via email to the HSL Assistant Commissioner for a possible schedule change by the date that team fees are due at the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting. The Executive Council has the right to refuse a schedule change request.
- 7.7 If a team disbands or withdraws from the league during the season for any reason, all scheduled opponents of that team shall receive a win for next scheduled game for the remainder of the season. All previously played game standings will remain.
- 7.8 Standings will be kept by HSL and will be published regularly.

## **SECTION 8: LENGTH OF GAME**

- 8.1 A game will have a time limit, with no new innings starting after the time limit expires. The time limit for all games will be determined prior to the start of the regular season by the Executive Council and announced at the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting.
- 8.2 All tie games will continue, using the USA Softball (USA) tie-breaker rule, after the time limit expires or after seven (7) innings have been completed, until a team wins.
- 8.3 A team shall be declared winners if, after five (5) completed innings they have scored ten (10) runs, or fifteen (15) runs after four (4) innings, or twenty (20) runs after three (3) innings, more than their opponent. Complete innings must be played, unless the home team scores the run ahead limit while at bat.
- 8.4 All Commissioners Cup Tournament Championship games will be played for a full seven (7) innings (six and one-half (6 & ½) if the home team is ahead) with no time limit and/or run rule.
- 8.5 Rule changes related to time limits and scheduling may be implemented by the Executive Council as deemed necessary before and during the season and/or post-season.
- 8.6 If a member of the Executive Council is involved in any of the games in question, they will not be involved in any of the decisions be made in regards to status of the games in question.

## **SECTION 9: PLAYING RULES**

HSL will abide by the official softball rules adopted by USA Softball (USA) with the following exceptions:

- 9.1 HSL Open Division Rules and Regulations and an official USA Softball (USA) Rulebook will be at the field during all games to assist in resolving any potential conflicts. It is each Coach's responsibility to carry copies of these documents.
- 9.2 All HSL games shall be officiated by an USA Softball (USA) accredited umpire. If such an umpire is not available, any knowledgeable member of the HSL mutually agreed to by both managers,

- having both signed the official scorecard prior to the game, with Officer of the Day present, will be allowed to officiate.
- 9.3 The Home Plate Umpire will be the official scorekeeper. Prior to the start of each game, the coaches, using the HSL Line-up Card, must provide the Home Plate Umpire and the opposing coach with the official line-up including substitutes and players present but unable to play due to injury. The home team's scorebook will be the official scorebook. If the home team does not have a scorekeeper, then the visitor's scorebook will become the official scorebook at which time the umpire will note this on the official scorecard. The official HSL Line-up Card must be filled out per USA Softball (USA) rules and will determine HSL standings and player participation.
- 9.4 Official Line-up – A team shall consist of no fewer than nine (9) players. A team shall not be allowed to start or continue a game with fewer than nine (9) players. A team that begins with nine (9) players may add a tenth (10) player during the game. Such tenth (10) player must bat in the tenth (10) position in the line-up. A team that begins play with nine (9) players will be penalized with an automatic out in the tenth (10) spot in the line-up. A team that begins play with ten (10) players may end the game with nine (9) players, but the missing player becomes an automatic out in the line-up. (USA Softball (USA) Rules apply to starting line-ups with eleven (11) players.) However, HSL allows a 12<sup>th</sup> batter.
- 9.5 There will be a ten-minute (10) grace period for the first game of the day only. A team must have enough players to field a team at the designated starting time of their game or the umpire will call an official forfeit. The ten-minute (10) grace period will count as part of the official game time.
- 9.6 Uniforms must consist of matching team shirts with numbers on either the front, back, and/or sleeves. If a team has more than one uniform or shirt, a player may be allowed to wear either team shirt if approved by the Officer of the Day. However, players on the same team may not wear identical numbers. The USA Softball (USA) Uniform Rule will be superseded by USA Softball (USA) Rules related to blood stained uniforms and open wounds (replacement uniforms will not have to match).
- 9.7 HSL will provide all bats to be used during its season for all divisions. The same bats will be provided to both teams to use during competition and must meet current USA Softball (USA) bat rules. Any player who uses a non-approved bat on the playing field, inclusive of the dugouts, at any time the approved bats are on the field shall be ejected from that game if the violation occurs during game play, or the next game for the player's team, if the violation occurs before or after game play NAGAAA Governing Manual Chapter 10.4. There is no appeal to this rule.
- 9.8 A team may utilize up to one (1) courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner may be any player listed on the line-up card submitted for that game. If the courtesy runner remains on base when their turn at bat occurs, an out will be recorded if no substitution may be inserted for the player in which the courtesy runner was used.

## **SECTION 10: FORFEITS**

- 10.1 A team will forfeit a game for any of the following:
- A. Failure to have and maintain a minimum of nine (9) players on the field.
  - B. Quitting in defiance of an umpire's decision.

- C. Fielding a player who is ineligible on game day.
- 10.2 In an instance where both teams forfeit a coin flip by the HSL officer of the day will determine win/lose. Both teams will be assessed fines.
- 10.3 A fine will be assessed for each forfeit. Amount will be set by Executive Council.
- 10.4 Teams are ineligible to play if fines are not paid by the start of their games the next scheduled week of play. After payment, a team may appeal their fin, in writing, to the Executive Council to have their money refunded.
- 10.5 A team may not be considered for the GSWS if fines are not paid.
- 10.6 A team with three (3) forfeits can play for the remainder of the season. However any wins during that period will be losses. Appeals for reinstatement may be made, in writing, to the Executive Council.
- 10.7 A team with more than two (2) forfeits will be declared ineligible for the GSWS participation.
- 10.8 Any forfeit due to a ratings protest for a player which results in a divisional change for that player or team will not be assessed a fine but will still result in a loss for that game. Such forfeits will also not count towards the Rule 10.7 forfeit limit.
- 10.9 A team may plea hardship case, in writing, to the Executive Council to waive any of these sanctions.

## **SECTION 11: PLAYER RATINGS**

- 11.1 Coaches/Manager are responsible for creating and maintaining a rating for each player on their team roster as set forth by the NAGAAA Player and Team Rating Guidelines.
- 11.2 A player's coach/manager may change a rating question for a player with an existing rating from a "No" to a "Yes" in conjunction with notifying in writing by submitting a revised player rating form to the Assistant Commissioner. A player is deemed to have an existing rating if a rating from the current year or prior two years is on file with HSL or NAGAAA.
- 11.3 A coach/manger seeking to change a rating question for a player with an existing rating from a "Yes" to a "No" must obtain approval from the Judicial Review Committee (JRC).
- 11.311.4 Any player who currently or has previously played with HSL, moved or played with another NAGAAA league or team, and had their player rating reduced, will be re-reviewed during a regular or special called JRC meeting to determine if the lower rating given by another NAGAAA league or team is justified or if the player should be re-rated.
- 11.411.5 Requests for rating reductions (i.e. "yes" to "no") that involve serious private health issues may be heard by the Executive Council instead of the JRC. The Chairman of the JRC or Assistant Commissioner will decide which situations qualify as serious private health issues. The Chairman will then forward the rating reduction request to the Executive Council for a hearing to decide the request.
- 11.511.6 The Assistant Commissioner may elect to change a rating question from a "No" to a "Yes" after reviewing any evidence which substantiates the change. The Assistant Commissioner must present in writing the change and substantiating evidence to be approved by the Judicial Review Committee (JRC). This information must also be provided to the impacted player's coach/manager. An appeal may be made, in writing, to the JRC within 5 days of notification of the

decision. If an appeal to the JRC is successful, the Assistant Commissioner cannot alter the appealed rating until the following summer season. If the rating change is not successfully appealed, it may be changed according to the provisions of Section 11.

~~11.6~~11.7 Individual players will verify their ratings by signing their initial team roster at the beginning of the season. Further, individual players will verify and sign any subsequently submitted rosters on which changes are made to such players rating, including rosters submitted as a result of changes made during the mid-season review.

## **SECTION 12: JUDICIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (JRC)**

- 12.1 The primary purpose of the Judicial Review Committee is to ensure each player is rated appropriately according to their current skill level. The JRC will also hear protests and other grievance requests as instructed by the Executive Council.
- 12.2 Both the JRC Chair and the League-appointed representative to the NAGAAA Open Council shall honor all player rating changes decided by the JRC, unless overturned on appeal to the Executive Council.
- 12.3 JRC Chair
- A. The JRC Chair shall be appointed by the Executive Council prior to the Spring Delegate Meeting on odd years.
  - B. The JRC Chair will serve a term of two full years beginning immediately after their appointment and ending when a new Chair is appointed.
  - C. The JRC Chair is a member of the JRC.
  - D. The Chair of the JRC shall work in conjunction with the Assistant Commissioner.
  - E. The duties of the JRC Chair are as follows:
    - i. To schedule the four (4) regular JRC meetings and have this schedule distributed to all JRC representatives and HSL Coaches by the first regular season game.
    - ii. To preside over all JRC meetings.
    - iii. To provide voting sheets for each representative to allow for anonymous voting.
    - iv. To offer guidance and counsel to the JRC prior to and during each meeting.
    - v. To vote only if a JRC decision ends in a tie and if the tie-breaking vote will influence the outcome.
    - vi. To represent the JRC in any appeals to the Board, they will not vote on appeal related Board decisions.
    - vii. To schedule “non-regular” meetings as necessary to address player ratings requests, protests, or other hearings directed by the Executive Council. The JRC Chair shall notify JRC representatives and all HSL coaches of these “non-regular” meetings, including the time, location, and player/topic(s) to be discussed, at least five (5) days in advance.
    - viii. To report all JRC Decisions, within five (5) days to the Executive Council and to the affected coaches and specific players involved in the JRC decisions. A summary of all JRC meetings will be posted, within 14 days, on the HSL website which will serve as a communication to the Summer Council and all HSL Members.

- ix. To screen all rating reduction and player review requests for completeness and appropriateness, and, when necessary, to decide which requests shall be deliberated at a given meeting. Every effort shall be made to hear all ratings and player review requests, and additional “non-regular” meetings shall be convened to accommodate as needed.
- x. To oversee player attestations to their ratings prior to opening games of season.
- F. If the JRC Chair cannot be present at a JRC meeting, then they shall name an interim Chair from among the elected JRC members. In such cases, the interim Chair assumes all duties of the JRC Chair for that meeting.
- G. If a protest, grievance, or Player Rating Review being heard by the JRC involves a teammate, coach, roommate, current or former partner of the JRC Chair, or other associate for which the Chair may not be able to render an unbiased opinion, then the JRC Chair will recuse themselves from that deliberation and vote, and the JRC Chair shall name an interim Chairperson from among the JRC members.

#### 12.4 JRC Representatives

- A. JRC representatives shall be elected annually by vote of the Summer Council at the Spring Delegate Meeting.
  - i. Nominations for the JRC membership are due to the Assistant Commissioner one week prior to the Spring Delegate Meeting
  - ii. Nominees must be a paid member in good standing by the Spring Delegate Meeting
- B. Representatives serve a one (1) year term of office.
- C. Representatives shall represent all 5 divisions but cannot be teammates, and the number of elected members shall be proportionate to the number of teams in each division as follows:
  - i. A division with 1-4 teams sends 1 representative
  - ii. A division with 5-9 teams sends 2 representatives
  - iii. A division with 10-14 teams sends 3 representatives
  - iv. A division with 15-19 teams sends 4 representatives
  - v. A division with 20 or more teams sends 5 representatives
- D. A minimum of three (3) additional at large representatives shall be appointed by the JRC Chair with Executive Council approval for a total of not less than eleven (11) JRC representatives
- E. There may be an even or odd number of JRC representatives.
- F. The Executive Council, in consultation with the JRC Chair, will appoint a replacement representative from the same division to serve out the remainder of the term under the following circumstances:
  - i. A representative resigns or is otherwise unable to complete their term.
  - ii. A representative misses two (2) regular JRC meetings, or four (4) total JRC meetings in one calendar year.
  - iii. A representative knowingly maintains inaccurate rating of themselves, or, if they are a Coach, that of a member of their team.
  - iv. If a representative fails to follow JRC meeting rules, is disruptive to JRC meetings, or is otherwise failing to meet the expectation of an elected HSL representative.
  - v. Any removal of a JRC Chair or a JRC Representative will be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Council at a meeting with the affected members present.

- G. All JRC representatives shall regularly watch players from all divisions, as able, to assist in future Player Review meetings.
- H. If a player review, protest or grievance being heard by the JRC involves a teammate, coach, roommate, current or former partner of the JRC representative, or other associate for which the representative may not be able to render an unbiased opinion, then that representative will recuse themselves from that deliberation and vote. If the recusal of the representative(s) makes quorum unattainable, then the JRC Chair shall name an auxiliary JRC members to serve as a voting representative for that meeting.

#### 12.5 Auxiliary JRC Members

- A. All HSL Head Coaches, except current HSL Executive Council members, are automatically considered auxiliary JRC members.
- B. Executive Council members may NOT be auxiliary JRC members.
- C. Former JHC/JRC representatives or JHC/JRC Chairs, including non-coaches and retired players, may be invited by the JHC/JRC Chair to be auxiliary JRC members.
- D. In the event that there are insufficient JRC representatives to fulfill the quorum, then the JRC Chair may call upon an auxiliary member to fill in as a voting representative for that meeting or a portion of that meeting.

#### 12.6 JRC Meeting Format

- A. A quorum of 60% (rounded up) of the total number of JRC Representatives is required to convene a JRC meeting.
  - i. If a quorum is unattainable with JRC representatives, then the JRC Chair may select (an) auxiliary JRC member(s) to fill in for that meeting.
  - ii. No more than 3 auxiliary JRC members may be appointed to fill in for any given JRC meeting.
- B. There shall be at least 4 regular JRC meetings to be held annually, including a dedicated “Mid-Season Review” meeting and a “World Series Review” meeting.
- C. Additional “non-regular” meetings may be called by the JRC Chair as needed to address ratings reduction requests, player review requests, or as directed by the Executive Council.
- D. Once the JRC meeting is called to order by the JRC Chair, the JRC Chair will briefly go over the meeting format with the JRC and presenters. Presenters will then be invited to make their case. After making their case, presenters and any other non JRC Committee members will be asked to leave while the JRC deliberates, and then invited back to hear the JRC decision.
- E. JRC representatives must decide whether to vote “YES”, “NO”, or “ABSTAIN”.
- F. Following deliberation of the JRC, each representative will anonymously mark their votes and submit to the JRC Chair, who will tally the votes.
- G. A majority of “NO” votes is required to remove a question, a majority of “YES” votes is required to add a question. For all JRC Meetings a “Majority” will be defined as greater than 50% of the JRC representatives who are eligible to vote on a question.
- H. The JRC Chair will inform the presenter of the JRC decision(s) immediately.

#### 12.7 JRC Meeting Types

- A. Player Rating Reduction Requests
  - i. The JRC shall hear all requests for player rating reductions.

- ii. A player or their coach may request a ratings reduction by notifying, in writing, the JRC Chair of the request, along with a completed Rating Reduction Request Form.
  - iii. A clear photo of the player in question should accompany the Rating Reduction Request form. This is for the benefit for the player so that all JRC representatives are familiar with them.
  - iv. Scorebook data, video, testaments from other coaches, and other applicable evidence are strongly encouraged during the JRC presentation.
  - v. JRC representatives will vote as the would answer the ratings question presented (i.e.: If the representative feels that the player should have that question, the representative should vote "YES".)
  - vi. A simple majority of the JRC is required to remove a ratings question (i.e.: a majority of all votes cast must be "NO" to the question).
  - vii. A player or coach in disagreement with the outcome of the vote may appeal the decision to the Executive Council as provided under Section 12.7 F.
- B. Player Ratings Review Requests
- i. A Coach, JRC member, Executive Council, or Executive Council Member may request a player review on a player from another team if they feel that player is improperly rated.
  - ii. Player review requests should be submitted to the JRC Chair, along with a completed HSL Ratings Request form. Forms may also be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner.
  - iii. Coaches making a player review request are strongly encouraged to include input from other coaches, scorebook evidence, and video or other evidence to assist the JRC during their deliberation.
  - iv. If both the JRC Chair and the Assistant Commissioner determine the Player Review Request submitted is unwarranted, the Coach submitting the form will be notified that no further action will be taken. The Coach may still file a protest under Section 14 if eligible.
  - v. The JRC Chair will not disclose the identity of the Coach submitting the Ratings Request Form to the JRC Committee, the player in question, players Coach or any other person. The Commissioner and/or Assistant Commissioner will be informed of the request submitted and the identity of the coach submitting the form.
  - vi. Upon receipt and determining the validity of the Ratings Review Request Form, the JRC Chair will have at least three JRC members observe the player during the player's games. If two of the raters feel the player possesses the skill in question, the player will be placed on the discussion list for the next regular or non-regular meeting.
  - vii. The JRC Chair will notify both the player and the coach of that player that a Ratings Review Request for was submitted and the player will be reviewed at a JRC meeting. This notification will occur after the player has been observed. The player and the coach of that player will be informed of the date, time, and location of the meeting.
  - viii. The coach and/or player may attend the JRC meeting and submit documentation for defense at this review.
  - ix. JRC voting follows the same format as for Rating Reduction Requests.
  - x. A player or coach in disagreement with the results of the vote may appeal the decision to the Executive Council as provided under Section 12.7 F.

C. Mid-Season NAGAAAA GSWS Review

- i. The JRC shall convene in the middle of each season to conduct a mid-season review of certain player ratings. This is one of the four (4) mandatory JRC meetings to be scheduled by the JRC Chair at the start of the season.
- ii. Player ratings to be reviewed may be submitted to the JRC Chair by Coaches, Executive Council members, JRC representatives, or players who wish for their own rating to be re-evaluated.
- iii. To promote efficiency, the JRC Chair shall decide from among the requests which player ratings will be reviewed during this meeting. Any player rating not reviewed during this meeting may be reviewed at a subsequent regular or “non-regular” meeting through the normal Player Rating Reduction or Player Review requests.
- iv. If there are any player reviews submitted that will result in a vote by the JRC representatives at this meeting, the JRC Chair will notify the player and the coach of that player. The player and/or coach may attend the meeting and submit documentation in defense of this review.
- v. JRC voting will follow the same format as ratings reduction requests.
- vi. The JRC may also review ratings of all HSL players and determine if there are any other players that should be monitored or re-evaluated. The JRC may not vote on the identified players until the next regular or non-regular meeting to allow the player and the coach of the player to be notified and provide documentations for defense of the review.

D. World Series Reviews

- i. All players being included on a World Series roster, either NAGAAA or ASANA, MUST be reviewed by and receive the consent of the JRC prior to playing in that tournament.
- ii. Coaches and players may choose to present evidence at World Series Review meetings.
- iii. World Series reviews will be held after the conclusion of the HSL season (after the Commissioner’s Cup), but at least six (6) days before the NAGAAA roster deadline.
- iv. Coaches of World Series teams are responsible for providing a complete roster with accurate player ratings to the JRC Chair prior to the World Series Review meeting.
- v. Multiple World Series review meetings may be held if more time or evidence is required to make an informed decision on questionable players.
- vi. While each World Series-bound player should have their ratings reviewed by the JRC, special emphasis should be placed on those players at or near the maximum rating for their division.
- vii. The JRC is permitted to increase or decrease ratings during the World Series Review regardless of whether the Coach of the player or player is in attendance at the meeting.
- viii. Voting during the meeting will be consistent with the voting under Player Reduction Request.
- ix. In lieu of changing the player’s rating, the JRC may recommend to the Coach and player that the player’s rating should be changed. If the Coach and player decide to leave the player’s rating unchanged, the Coach will assume all responsibility for any fines relating to the players protest at the GSWS.

E. Special Reviews

- i. Any player who is disqualified from an ASANA, NAGAAA, or NAGAAA member city tournament for improper rating MUST be reviewed by the JRC prior to that player being eligible to participate in any future HSL game.
- ii. The Executive Council may request that the JRC review the ratings of new or transferring players.
- iii. The Executive Council, any Executive Council member, JRC representative, or JRC Chair may request that a particular player be reviewed by the JRC if they feel that player's rating is inaccurate and causing an unfair advantage to their team, or could place the league at risk for fine or other repercussion if that player were to be disqualified from a future tournament due to an improper rating.
- iv. A ratings question may be added to a player under review if a simple majority of the JRC concurs.
- v. Any player returning to the league with a reduced rating based upon rule 11.4b will automatically be placed under review.

F. Protests

- i. The JRC shall hear all game protests, as directed by the Executive Council.
- ii. No more than 2 representatives from each team involved in the protest may present evidence at a protest hearing.
- iii. Following presentation of the evidence, team representatives and any non JRC committee members will be asked to leave while the JRC deliberates.
- iv. At least 75% of the JRC attendees must concur for a protest to be upheld.
- v. The JRC may recommend penalties to the JRC Chair, but the final decision for penalties resulting from an upheld protest rests with the Executive Council.
- vi. If an upheld game protest involves improper player ratings, then the JRC is empowered, with 75% majority agreement, to immediately add a ratings question (or questions) to a player (or players).
- vii. JRC decisions may be appealed to the full Executive Council, which can overturn the JRC decision with a 75% Board majority.
- viii. Any player who becomes ineligible for divisional or league play as a result of a JRC decision shall remain ineligible to play in their current division, unless their appeal to the Executive Council is successful.
- ix. A player who is ruled ineligible for their current division due to an increase in their rating may be permitted to play in the division in which they qualify for with their new rating with the approval of the Assistant Commissioner. If approved:
  - a. The requirements under Section 4.2 will be waived.
  - b. The total games of the player's participation in both divisions will be combined to determine eligibility for the HSL Commissioners Cup and the GSWS Tournament under Section 6.2 & 6.3.

G. Special Grievances

- i. The JRC may be asked by the Executive Council to hear special grievances that fall outside the purview of the Executive Council and do not involve player ratings.

- ii. Unless otherwise directed by the Executive Council, a simple majority of the JRC is sufficient to render a decision on the question.

## **SECTION 13: RULE VIOLATIONS**

There will be three (3) types of rule violations – Minor, Major, and Special Conditions. The Executive Council will determine into which category a situation will fall based on the specific details involved and the parties will be notified in writing by the Executive Council.

### **13.1 Minor Violations**

- A. Rule violations determined not to be intentional or flagrant.
- B. Minor unsportsmanlike conduct.
- C. Coach not preventing or quickly handling on field actions of their players.
- D. Player ejection from game by umpire.

Violations will result in a reprimand, probation or suspension for a period not to exceed five (5) games. Game suspension may continue into the next season. The severity of the consequences will be determined by the Executive Council.

### **13.2 Major Violations**

- A. Rule violation determined to be intentional or flagrant
- B. Major unsportsmanlike conduct
- C. Coach repeatedly not preventing or quickly handling on field actions of their players
- D. Player second ejections from game by umpire.

Violations will result in a severe suspension for a period of no less than six (6) games. Game suspension may continue into the next season. A year on probation will accompany any such suspension. Further violations while on probation will result in prompt expulsion from HSL.

### **13.3 Special Conditions**

- A. Actions determined to be intentional, flagrant, and/or detrimental to the best interest of the HSL Organizations
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct at any HSL function or facility, GSWS or any city tournament will not be tolerated.
  - i. Such actions as spitting, excessive use of profanity, obscene gestures, or throwing of objects will result in a hearing by the Executive Council in accordance with procedures outlined in the HSL Constitution Article 12 Grievance/Appeal Process. Any such behavior determined to be minor in nature will result in one (1) warning by the umpire or Officer of the Day. The warning will be logged onto the Official Scorecard for use at the subsequent hearing.
  - ii. Any further infraction by a player, coach, or HSL member will result in expulsion from any game, facility, or function in question and suspension from HSL pending a hearing. Any

- HSL member involved in such activity will be asked to leave the ballpark or facility. Failure to leave, when asked, will result in expulsion from HSL.
- iii. Any verbal abuse, fighting, physical abuse, or damage to property involving an umpire, officials, players, members, or fans by any HSL member will result in immediate expulsion from any game in question and immediate suspension from HSL. Any HSL member involved in any such activity will be asked to leave the ballpark or facility. Failure to leave when asked will result in expulsion from HSL.
- C. Enforcement of this rule will be executed by the HSL Executive Officer designated as Officer of the Day by the Commissioner.

## **SECTION 14: PROTESTS**

- 14.1 All USA protest rules will apply, unless otherwise stated in HSL's Constitution or Open Rules and Regulations.
- 14.2 The official HSL protest must be filed in writing with the Assistant Commissioner or Officer of the Day within twenty-four (24) hours after the game in question. It must be accompanied by a protest fee (certified checks, money orders, or electronic bank transfer only) as set forth by Rule 14.3. If the protest or appeal is granted, the fee will be retained by HSL.
- 14.3 The protest fees are as follows:
- A. Non-rating protests will be \$50.
  - B. Rating protests will be \$100 per player plus \$20 per question.
  - C. If a protest is upheld, the protest fees are returned.
  - D. If only a portion of the protest is upheld, monies shall be returned based on sliding scale for the protest filing fee and challenged question fee, pursuant to the guidelines set forth by NAGAAA Governing Manual Chapter 50.15
  - E. If the protest is denied, all fees are nonrefundable
- 14.4 The Judicial Rating Committee, according to the process in Section 12.7 F, will hear protests. No ratings related protests are permitted during the Commissioners Cup tournament.
- 14.5 A protest of a player and/or team's NAGAAA rating will be considered as an USA eligibility protest and the protest fee applies.
- 14.6 Any Ratings Protest that results in a ratings increase shall not result in a forfeit unless it moves the Player or Team to a higher division.
- 14.7 Any team participating in a NAGAAA rated tournament that is successfully protested may be subject to further sanctions by HSL Executive Council.

## **SECTION 15: SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES GRIEVANCE/APPEAL PROCESS**

- 15.1 The person or team in question must be challenged in writing by a current member of HSL to the HSL Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner.
- 15.2 Special Circumstances Grievance is defined as but not limited to:
- A. Any rule violations whether intentional or not

- B. Any flagrant unsportsmanlike behavior
  - C. Any verbal or physical abuse directed at an HSL Officer, HSL Member, Spectator, Umpire, or facility personnel.
- 15.3 Rating issues are not considered a Special Circumstance or Grievance and should be brought before the JRC.
- 15.4 The written challenge must state the name of the person or team in question, the reason for the challenge, and a specific list of charges that prompted the challenge.
- 15.5 The challenge must be presented to the HSL Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner for a challenge of any Executive Council member(s), for presentation to the Executive Council. (All subsequent references to the Commissioner in the Article shall be interpreted as the HSL Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner as appropriate to the challenge, except that the HSL Commissioner shall not preside over any meeting in which the HSL Commissioner is the person being challenged, in which case the Assistant Commissioner shall preside.) The executive council will have a hearing to determine if the Special Circumstance or Grievance is valid, before calling a meeting of the Summer Council. If a member of the Executive Council is part of the Special Circumstance or Grievance that member or their teammate, Coach, roommate, current or former partner cannot attend the Hearing.
- 15.6 If the Special Circumstance or Grievance is valid. The HSL Commissioner will call a meeting of the Softball Council and notify the Executive Council, the person or team representative of the team in question, and the person issuing the challenge at least five (5) days before the meeting as to the date, time, place, and reason for the meeting.
- 15.7 The HSL Commissioner will preside over the meeting. The person issuing the challenge will read his or her challenge. The person or team representative of the team being challenged will respond to the challenge after such reading is finished. There will be a maximum of thirty (30) minutes allowed for questions and comments from the Softball Council. The person issuing the challenge and the person or team representative for the team being challenged will both leave the room for a maximum of thirty (30) minutes to allow for discussion by the Softball Council. At the end of the discussion by the Softball Council, the Softball Council will vote by secret ballot to determine whether the person or team in question is in violation of HSL Guidelines.
- 15.8 A person or team will be considered in violation if 75% of the Softball Council in attendance votes in favor of the challenge. The specific penalty assessed for the violation will be determined by the nature of the infraction, based on the HSL Constitution and HSL Rules and Regulations. Possible penalties include, but are not limited to, reprimand, probation, suspension for a period not to exceed five (5) games, severe suspension lasting no fewer than six (6) games and a year on probation, loss of voting privileges, expulsion, removal from office, ineligibility for membership or ineligibility to compete in a particular subdivision. The period of time associated with the penalty, if applicable, will be determined at the time the penalty is assessed. Suspension may extend into next season.
- 15.9 At the end of the vote tabulation by the HSL Commissioner, the HSL Commissioner will assemble all persons involved and the decision of the Softball Council will be presented.
- 15.10 Any person or team declared ineligible for membership will remain so until they petition the Executive Council for reinstatement.

- 15.11 Any person or team declared ineligible for membership may petition the Executive Council for reinstatement by filing such a petition with the HSL Commissioner before said person or team begins HSL play. Any reinstatement will follow the grievance/appeal process guidelines above, except the person issuing the challenge need not appear.
- 15.12 If a person or team being challenged does not cooperate with the guidelines stated above, that person or team shall be considered ineligible for membership for the rest of the season.
- 15.13 If the person issuing the challenge does not cooperate with the guidelines stated above, the challenge will be dropped and that person issuing the challenge will be suspended for a period to be determined by the Executive Council.

## **SECTION 16: HSL CHAMPIONS AND GSWS REPRESENTATIVES**

- 16.1 Each division of HSL will recognize Open Division League Champions. All teams must play in their respective division per NAGAAA Ratings.
- 16.2 The winner of the most regular season games in each division will be declared the HSL League Champion for that division. In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances and the games cannot be made up as determined by the Executive Council then the winning percentage will determine the final divisional standings.
- 16.3 In case of a tie the final divisional standings will be settled by the following tie-breaking system
  - A. Head to head win-loss record. If more than two (2) teams are tied, the tie-breaker will be the overall win-loss record versus the teams that are tied for the position in the standings. If still tied.
  - B. Head to head run differential. If more than two (2) teams are tied, the tie-breaker will be the overall run differential versus the teams that are tied for that position in the standings. If still tied.
  - C. Total runs against
  - D. Total runs scored
  - E. Win-loss record versus best common opponent.
  - F. Run differential versus best common opponent.

If there is only one (1) team within a division, that team shall be declared the HSL League Champion for that division upon the completion of their regular season scheduled games.

- 16.4 Participation of HSL in the GSWS will be determined by guidelines provided each year by HSL and NAGAAA.
  - A. The number of teams HSL can send to the GSWS is pursuant to the guidelines set forth by NAGAAA Governing Manual Chapter 30.45.
    - i. If only one berth is allocated to a division the Spring season HSL Division Champion will be declared the GSWS representatives.
    - ii. If two berths are allocated to a division the Spring season HSL League Division Champion will be awarded the first berth The Second berth will be awarded to that Divisions Commissioners Cup winner.

- iii. If three berths are allocated to a division the HSL Spring season first and second place team will be declared the GSWS representatives. The third berth will be awarded to that Divisions Commissioner Cup winner.
- iv. If HSL has between 30-34 teams and HSL is awarded an additional berth per NAGAAA Governing Manual Chapter 30.45, Executive Council will determine the allocation of the extra berth.
- v. HSL may also send unlimited A Division teams to the GSWS as long as the team composition meets the minimum required for A Division as set forth by NAGAAA. If HSL sends only one A Division team to the GSWS, it can be an open roster team as set forth by the NAGAAA guidelines.

vi. HSL may send an unlimited amount of Masters Division teams, but may ~~only~~ sponsor a maximum of zero to one team in each Division. The decision on whether HSL will sponsor any declared teams will be made before team registration starts. If there are no declared teams, HSL may choose to NOT sponsor any composite teams. That decision will be made during the season, but no later than the week prior to the Commissioner's Cup.

a. If only one team declares for either division, that declared team will be the only team eligible for HSL sponsorship from that division, even if there are composite teams that form.

b. If two or more teams declare for a division, and two or more teams wish to be considered for GSWS sponsorship, those teams will compete in the Commissioner's Cup to determine who will be awarded the sponsorship. If only one team from each division wants to play in the Commissioner's Cup, that team will be the only team eligible from that division to be awarded the sponsorship. Composite teams will not be eligible to compete in the Commissioner's Cup if there are declared teams in that division.

c. If no teams declare for a division and:

(i) No composite teams form, no GSWS sponsorship will be awarded for that division.

(ii) Only one composite team form, that team MAY be eligible for GSWS sponsorship at the discretion of the Executive Council.

~~vi.~~ If two or more composite teams form, and they wish to be eligible for GSWS sponsorship, those teams will compete in the Commissioner's Cup and the winner will be eligible for GSWS sponsorship if awarded.

~~a-d.~~ Classic Division

(i) Team composite of 140 or lower, all players must meet NAGAAA GSWS Masters Division eligibility requirements.

~~(ii) Team must have a minimum of 10 GSWS Master Division eligible HSL players. Players must have Atlanta as their NAGAAA designated city.~~

~~(iii)~~ (ii) No players rated over 15 are allowed to play.

~~(iv)~~(iii) Any HSL team(s) may declare themselves as a Classic Masters team before the spring season begins. . Team(s) must have a minimum of 10 players turning 50 years old or older in the calendar year.

~~(v)~~(iv) Declared Classic Masters team will not be eligible for C Division GSWS berths.

~~(vi) In the event there are 2 or more declared Classic Masters Division HSL teams, the teams will compete in the Commissioner's Cup for potentially sponsored GSWS berth. Classic Masters team players competing in the Commissioner's Cup must meet NAGAAA Classic Division GSWS eligibility requirements. All players must be on the Spring Season Masters team roster. The losing team(s) may still participate in the GSWS Masters Division but will be responsible for all NAGAAA fees.~~

~~(vii) If there are no declared Classic Master Division team. A composite team may form for the Classic Masters Division. In order to represent HSL at the GSWS they must have a minimum of eligible players for the potentially sponsored GSWS berth. Players must have Atlanta as their NAGAAA designated city.~~

~~(viii)~~(v) A composite Classic Masters team(s) may form even if there is a are one or more designated Classic Masters teams. In order to represent HSL at the GSWS they must have a minimum of 10 eligible HSL players for the GSWS berth. Players must have who have declared Atlanta as their NAGAAA designated city.

#### b.e. Legends Division – Masters

(i) Team composite rating of 110 or lower, all players must meet NAGAAA GSWS Masters Division eligibility requirements. ~~Players must have Atlanta as their NAGAAA designated city.~~

(ii) No players s rated over 12 are allowed to play.

(iii) Any HSL team(s) may declare themselves as a Legends Master Team before the Spring season begins. Team(s) must have a minimum of 10 players 50 years old or older in the calendar year.

(iv) Declared teams will not be eligible for D Division GSWS berth.

~~(v) In the event there are 2 or more declared Legends Master Division teams. The teams will compete in the Commissioner's Cup for potentially sponsored GSWS berth. Legends Masters team players competing in the Commissioner's Cup must meet NAGAAA Legion Division GSWS eligibility requirements. Players must be on Spring season team roster. The losing team(s) may still participate in the GSWS Masters Division but will be responsible for all NAGAAA fees.~~

~~(vi) In the event there are 2 or more declared Legends Master Division HSL teams, the teams will compete in the Commissioner's Cup for potentially sponsored GSWS berth. Classic Masters team players competing in the Commissioner's Cup must meet NAGAAA Legion Division GSWS eligibility requirements. All players must be on Spring Season Masters team roster. The losing team(s) may still~~

~~participate in the GSWS Legends Division but will be responsible for all NAGAAA fees. Players must have Atlanta as their NAGAAA designated city.~~

~~(vii)(v) \_\_\_\_\_ If there are no declared Legends Master Division team. A eComposite Legends Master teams may form even if there are one or more designated for the Legends Masters teams Division. In order to represent HSL at the GSWS they must have a minimum of 10 eligible HSL players for the potentially sponsored GSWS berth. Players must have who have declared Atlanta as their NAGAAA designated city.~~

- B. If an HSL Divisional Champion is ineligible by NAGAAA Guidelines, the second place team will represent HSL in the GSWS.
  - C. The winner of the Commissioners Cup in the B, C, and D divisions will be the second or third representative for their division to the GSWS, (if the division is allocated a second or third GSWS bid). If this team is ineligible or otherwise unable to represent HSL at the GSWS, then the bid will be made available to the other teams in the division based on the final regular season division standings. Note that a team that has already earned a GSWS bid based on its place in the current season standings may not participate in the end of season tournament if the division's second or third GSWS bid is at stake.
  - D. The Commissioners Cup will be open to all HSL teams and their players who qualify in accordance with section 6.2.
  - E. In the event that a Commissioners Cup cannot be held the additional berths will be awarded based on division standings.
- 16.5 Any team earning the right to represent HSL in the GSWS will be required to demonstrate "Financial Ability" and "Player Commitment" to participate by a deadline set by the Executive Council. Should a team be unable to demonstrate their ability to participate in the GSWS, the next highest team in the standings will have the opportunity to participate in the GSWS.
- A. "Financial Ability" requirements will be set each year by the Executive Council based on league funding and the GSWS Host City.
  - B. "Player Commitment" requires a minimum of eight (8) players from the regular season roster attend the GSWS.
  - C. Failure of any HSL team to participate in the GSWS after meeting the qualifications and stating their commitment to participate will result in a financial penalty and probation to be established by the Executive Council.
  - D. Any NAGAAA fines will be incurred by the teams in violation.
- 16.6 Any team earning the right to represent HSL in the GSWS must satisfy all other requirements for participation as may be established by NAGAAA, included but not limited to:
- A. Teams may add up to four (4) eligible additional players, replacing active players on their roster or filling empty slots, as long as no more than eighteen (18) players participate in the GSWS.
  - B. The team must meet current NAGAAA player and team rating guidelines.
  - C. Teams will pay any additional GSWS fees required by NAGAAA above HSL team fees.
- 16.7 Responsibility for fines assessed at the GSWS will be distributed as follows:
- A. Fines related to a player's rating

- i. HSL will pay 50% of the fine;
  - ii. The coach of the team drawing the fine will pay 25% of the fine; and the player whose rating was increased as a result of a protest will pay 25% of the fine. If applicable, the individual player(s) who are the cause of the fine will pay 25% of the fine (to be split equally among such players if more than one is the cause).
- B. Fines related to HSL assessed for multiple player rating protests will be paid by HSL
  - C. Fines related to player unsportsmanlike conduct or other player actions will be paid by the player(s) involved in the incident resulting in a fine.
  - D. In the event that an HSL Player joins another NAGAAA League's team for the GSWS, , then the player will assume 100% responsibility for non rating and 50/50 for rating fines.
- 16.8 Any player or coach refusing to pay the fine, as assessed in 16.7 above, will be prohibited from playing in HSL until such time as the fine is paid and may be recommended for placement on NAGAAA's "Banned Player List"

## **Current rules regarding amending the Rules and Regulations and Constitution of the Hotlanta Softball League**

**From the HSL Constitution**

### **ARTICLE VIII – SOFTBALL RULES**

The HSL Rules and Regulations shall be changed as needed by the Executive Council during the Winter Softball Council session and subsequently presented to the Summer Softball Council at the HSL Spring Delegate Meeting. Any changes made by the Executive Council during the Winter Softball Council can be overturned by the affirmative votes of not less than 66% of the Summer Softball Council. Additionally, changes to the rules and regulations may be presented anytime from the Spring Delegate Meeting until the end of the season. Any such changes shall require the affirmative votes of not less than 75% of the Summer Softball Council. Rules changed during the season will become effective immediately, unless otherwise specified.

### **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution may be made as necessary. Any Amendment shall require the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the Summer Softball Council. Amendments will become effective immediately, unless otherwise specified.

- **Attached are the approved amendments to the Rules and Regulations as voted on by the Executive Council**
- **Attached are the proposed amendments to the Constitution as voted on by the Executive Council**
- **Proposed Amendments from Delegates**

The Executive Council is requesting that all proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations and/or the Constitution of the Hotlanta Softball League be ***submitted in writing to the Parliamentarian ([parliamentarian@hotlantasoftball.org](mailto:parliamentarian@hotlantasoftball.org)) no later than Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.***

Time is needed to review the proposed amendments, identify possible conflicts within the Rules and Regulations and/or Constitution, and review for any possible unintended consequences that may arise from passing the proposed amendments.

## **Approved Amendment to the Rules and Regulations 2021-01**

### **Reformatting of the Rules and Regulations of Hotlanta Softball League**

#### ***Passed Executive Council 3/10/2021 unanimously***

No content was changed except as noted below. Document should be identical to previous Rules and Regulations version 2-2019 *pending*, including typos and errors with the exception of formatting issues as outlined below.

Change in formatting was necessary to move into a more standard section numbering and there were inconsistencies and errors in the document that needed to be corrected.

Any references to other sections in either the Rules and Regulations or Constitution have been updated to reflect new section numbers. I think I caught all of them, but there may be a few outliers we can correct on the fly.

#### **Structural Changes to Rules and Regulations**

- Re-formatted numbering sequencing throughout. Changed first subsections from Capital letters (A, B, C) → section number followed by .1, .2, .3

For example:

Section 2 A → Section 2.1

Section 2 B → Section 2.2

This makes it much easier to reference a section, especially when referring to amendments and changes.

- Subsequent sub-sections also changed numbering sequences.
  - Subsection 2: 1. → A.; 2. → B and so forth
  - Subsection 3: a. → i; b. → ii; d. → iv and so forth
  - Subsection 4: 1. → a.; 2. → b.; 3. → c. and so forth
  - Subsection 5: a) → (i); b) → (ii); c) → (iii) and so forth
- Section 4 – numbering sequence was incorrect. Started with “J” and should have started with “A”. Corrected so that 4 J is now 4.1 and applied to following subsections.
- Section 16 – Several numbering issues under Old Subsection D
  - 2a was incorrect. Should have been D a (not 2 a)
  - Sections 5 and 6 were missing or 7 and 8 were incorrectly numbered
  - Sections now read: 16.4 with subsections A through E

#### **Final version is noted in the current Rules and Regulations**

## **Approved Amendment to the Rules and Regulations 2021-02**

### **Changes to the Rules and Regulations (16.4) regarding the Masters Divisions**

***Passed Executive Council 3/10/2021 unanimously***

#### Rationale

- The language was inconsistent between Legends and Classic Divisions. This document brings both divisions into alignment
- There was redundant language throughout, especially in Legends Division. Standardized the language that applied to both Classic and Legends
- Clarifies what happens if there are 2 or more teams that are declared prior to the season
- Clarifies what happens if 2 or more composite teams form during the season
- Clarifies how the GSWS berths are awarded under multiple scenarios
- Clarifies how many teams HSL will sponsor
- Brought requirements for Masters team players in alignment with NAGAAA requirements

**Final version is noted in the current Rules and Regulations**

## **Approved Amendment to the Rules and Regulations 2021-03**

### **Changes to the Rules and Regulations adding Emergency Authorization to Section 1**

#### ***Passed Executive Council 3/10/2021 unanimously***

Without such temporary emergency powers, the league could be violation of its own Rules and Regulations.

This legislation is designed to be specific and temporary.

To add the following sub-sections to Section 1: Rules and Regulations for the HSL Open Division

- 1.2 The Executive Council and/or the Softball Council shall have the authority to suspend specific sections of the Rules and Regulations during times of emergency or when situations arise and it is impossible or impractical to convene necessary Councils to formerly amend the Rules and Regulations. The Executive Council and/or the Softball Council must follow these guidelines:
  - A. Declare a State of Emergency and the rationale for declaration
  - B. Identify which section(s) of the Rules and Regulations are being suspended
  - C. Identify the duration of the suspension, not to exceed 12-months
- 1.3 If the declaration is made by the Executive Council, the Softball Council may call a special meeting following the procedures laid out in Article 7.1 of the HSL Constitution and can overturn and/or amend the emergency declaration by not less than 75% of the delegates.
- 1.4 In addition to suspending parts of the Rules and Regulations, under an emergency declaration, the Executive Council and/or Softball Council may put temporary rules in place to ensure the safety of the league, players, coaches, umpires, fans and guests. These temporary rules may not exceed 12-months unless added to the Rules and Regulations via the procedures as spelled out in Article 8.1 of the HSL Constitution.

**Final version is noted in the current Rules and Regulations**

## Approved Amendment to the Rules and Regulations 2021-07

### Changes to the Rules and Regulations

- **Modifying Section 11. Adding in new section 11.4 and renumbering accordingly.**
- **Modifying Section 12.7 E v to redirect to the new section 11.4**

### *Passed Executive Council 3/10/2021 unanimously*

Currently, Section 12.7 E v refers to a section of the Rules and Regulations that does not exist or has been omitted. Section 12.7 E v refers to special JRC reviews and references a player who had their rating lowered by another NAGAAA league and then has returned to HSL. This amendment adds that section back into the Rules and Regulations and modifies the referring section.

To add the following sub-section to Section 11: Player Ratings and renumbers all subsequent sections

### **SECTION 1: PLAYER RATINGS**

- 1.1 Coaches/Manager are responsible for creating and maintaining a rating for each player on their team roster as set forth by the NAGAAA Player and Team Rating Guidelines.
- 1.2 A player's coach/manager may change a rating question for a player with an existing rating from a "No" to a "Yes" in conjunction with notifying in writing by submitting a revised player rating form to the Assistant Commissioner. A player is deemed to have an existing rating if a rating from the current year or prior two years is on file with HSL or NAGAAA.
- 1.3 A coach/manger seeking to change a rating question for a player with an existing rating from a "Yes" to a "No" must obtain approval from the Judicial Review Committee (JRC).
- 1.4 **Any player who currently or has previously played with HSL, moved or played with another NAGAAA league or team, and had their player rating reduced, will be re-reviewed during a regular or special called JRC meeting to determine if the lower rating given by another NAGAAA league or team is justified or if the player should be re-rated.**
- 1.5 Requests for rating reductions (i.e. "yes" to "no") that involve serious private health issues may be heard by the Executive Council instead of the JRC. The Chairman of the JRC or Assistant Commissioner will decide which situations qualify as serious private health issues. The Chairman will then forward the rating reduction request to the Executive Council for a hearing to decide the request.
- 1.6 The Assistant Commissioner may elect to change a rating question from a "No" to a "Yes" after reviewing any evidence which substantiates the change. The Assistant Commissioner must present in writing the change and substantiating evidence to be approved by the Judicial Review Committee (JRC). This information must also be provided to the impacted player's coach/manager. An appeal may be made, in writing, to the JRC within 5 days of notification of the decision. If an appeal to the JRC is successful, the Assistant Commissioner cannot alter the

appealed rating until the following summer season. If the rating change is not successfully appealed, it may be changed according to the provisions of Section 11.

- 1.7 Individual players will verify their ratings by signing their initial team roster at the beginning of the season. Further, individual players will verify and sign any subsequently submitted rosters on which changes are made to such players rating, including rosters submitted as a result of changes made during the mid-season review.

Change 12.7 E v to reflect the new section.

- v. Any player returning to the league with a reduced rating based upon rule 11.4 will automatically be placed under review.

**Final version is noted in the current Rules and Regulations**

## **Proposed Amendment 2021-04**

### **Reformatting of the Constitution of Hotlanta Softball League**

***Executive Council voted unanimously in favor of sending this amendment to the Summer Council Spring Delegates meeting on 3/10/2021***

No content was changed except as noted below. Documents should be identical to previous Constitution version 2-2019 *pending*, including typos and errors with the exception of formatting issues as outlined below.

Change in formatting was necessary to move into a more standard section numbering and there were inconsistencies and errors in the document that needed to be corrected.

Any references to other sections in either the Rules and Regulations or Constitution have been updated to reflect new section numbers. I think I caught all of them, but there may be a few outliers we can correct on the fly.

### **Structural Changes to the Constitution**

- Article sections changed from Roman numerals to Western Arabic.  
II → 2, VIII → 8, IX → 9 and so forth
- Added Subsections where there were none. Many of these long paragraphs are going to need to be broken down into smaller subsections for review and addressing at a later time, this gives us a baseline, is consistent throughout, and matches the formatting of the Rules and Regulations.
- Assistant Commissioner – letter (f) was missing or section was mis-numbered. Section was renumbered accordingly.
- Parliamentarian – section numbering was as follows (d), (f), (g), (d) --- (e) was missing and a second (d) was after (g). Section was renumbered accordingly.

**Constitution of Hotlanta Softball League proposed version is included as an additional attachment.**

## **Proposed Amendment 2021-05**

### **Changes to the Constitution adding Emergency Authorization to Section 8**

***Executive Council voted unanimously in favor of sending this amendment to the Summer Council Spring Delegates meeting on 3/10/2021***

Without such temporary emergency powers, the league could be violation of its own Constitution.

This legislation is designed to be specific and temporary.

This language matches changes to the Rules and Regulations that was approved by the Executive Council.

To add the following sub-sections to Section 8: Softball Rules

- 8.2 The Executive Council and/or the Softball Council shall have the authority to suspend specific sections of the Constitution during times of emergency or when situations arise and it is impossible or impractical to convene necessary Councils to formerly amend the Constitution. The Executive Council and/or the Softball Council must follow these guidelines:
  - A. Declare a State of Emergency and the rationale for declaration
  - B. Identify which section(s) of the Constitution are being suspended
  - C. Identify the duration of the suspension, not to exceed 12-months
- 8.3 If the declaration is made by the Executive Council, the Softball Council may call a special meeting following the procedures laid out in Article 7.1 of the HSL Constitution and can overturn and/or amend the emergency declaration by not less than 75% of the delegates.
- 8.4 In addition to suspending parts of the Constitution, under an emergency declaration, the Executive Council and/or Softball Council may put temporary rules in place to ensure the safety of the league, players, coaches, umpires, fans and guests. These temporary rules may not exceed 12-months unless added to the Constitution via the procedures as spelled out in Article 8.1 of the HSL Constitution.

## Proposed Amendment 2021-06

### Changes to the Constitution regarding Extra Innings

***Executive Council voted unanimously in favor of sending this amendment to the Summer Council Spring Delegates meeting on 3/10/2021***

Article 7 currently reads that “Extra Innings will be awarded at the Spring Delegate meeting.”

This give the Executive Council and HSL no latitude to not award Extra Innings based upon circumstances that are beyond our control.

With the pandemic still impacting Atlanta and the country, and not knowing what future events may arise, the proposed amendment is to allow the Executive Council to determine whether or not is in the best interest of the league to award Extra Innings.

Change Article 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph to read:

Extra Innings ~~will~~ may be awarded, at the discretion of the HSL Executive Council, at the Spring Delegate meeting. Any team competing with an extra Innings or any Official HSL sanctioned event will be fined \$500. An appeal can be made to the Executive Council.