



CPSA LEAGUE CODE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE 1: NAGAAA AFFILIATION

1.01 General

ARTICLE 2: INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

2.01 Dues

2.02 Requirements

2.03 Code of Conduct

2.04 Individual Penalties

2.05 Individual Investigations

2.06 Disqualification Procedures

ARTICLE 3: TEAM MEMBERSHIP

3.01 Maintaining Eligibility

3.02 Inducements

3.03 Sponsor Restrictions

3.04 Non-LGBT Players

3.05 Unpaid Team Dues, Fees, and Penalties

ARTICLE 4: TEAM REGISTRATION AND ROSTER PROCEDURES

4.01 Official Team Rosters

4.02 Team Registration Requirements

4.03 Player Rating Adjustments

4.04 Early Season Roster Changes

4.05 Player Addition and Drop Procedures

4.06 Late Season Roster Changes

4.07 At-Large Teams

ARTICLE 5: PLAYER AND TEAM CLASSIFICATION

5.01 Classification Responsibility

5.02 Ratings Review Committee Purpose

5.03 Ratings Review Committee Membership

5.04 Requesting a Rating Review

5.05 Ratings Review Committee Notifications

5.06 Ratings Review Committee Meetings

5.07 Ratings Review Committee Voting

5.08 Ratings Review Committee Voting Meeting

5.09 Ratings Review Committee Conflicts of Interest

5.10 Ratings Review Committee Player Assessment Days

5.11 Appeals

5.12 Appeal Hearing

5.13 Timing of Official Rating Change

5.14 Manager/Team Penalties for Player Rating Violations

ARTICLE 6: TEAM MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

6.01 General

ARTICLE 7: POSTPONEMENTS

7.01 General

ARTICLE 8: EQUIPMENT

8.01 General

8.02 Equipment Ownership

8.03 Altered Bats and Bat Testing

ARTICLE 9: PARK ETIQUETTE

9.01 General

ARTICLE 10: PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY AND FORMATS

10.01 Playoff Eligibility

10.02 Playoff Formats

10.03 Standings

10.04 NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) Berths

10.05 NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series Penalties

ARTICLE 11: INJURIES

11.01 Procedures

ARTICLE 12: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12.01 General

ARTICLE 13: STANDING COMMITTEES

13.01 Tournament Committee

13.02 Ratings Review Committee

ARTICLE 14: AMENDMENTS TO SOFTBALL LEAGUE CODE

14.01 Method

14.02 Effective Date

ARTICLE 1: NAGAAA AFFILIATION

1.01 General

The Carolina Piedmont Softball Association maintains an affiliation with the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance. Regarding additional clarification for players and teams participating in the Gay Softball World Series, the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance should be reviewed. A copy of this document is maintained on the league's website and will provide further clarification in terms of team rosters, player ratings, team entries, player eligibility, and eligibility of a NAGAAA-defined returning team.

ARTICLE 2: INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

2.01 Dues

Dues are set periodically by the Executive Board. Dues for a non-playing member shall be half the cost of a playing member.

2.02 Requirements

An Individual Member (defined as a player, coach, captain, or manager) is eligible to play in the League provided they:

- a. have properly and accurately registered and paid all applicable membership fees;
- b. maintain sportsmanlike conduct, follow the CPSA Code of Conduct, and respect and comply with all rules of the League;
- c. are not currently suspended from CPSA or NAGAAA competition;
- d. do not receive professional consideration as either a softball or baseball player, especially by accepting money (or merchandise that is easily converted into cash) when such payments are based primarily on the individual's performance or participation in softball competition;
- e. are at least 18 years of age at the time of registration. 16 min of age with a parent's consent.

Additionally, the CPSA Board may deny membership to someone who is currently suspended from another NAGAAA-affiliated league.

2.03 Code of Conduct

To maintain membership in CPSA, members must follow the following CPSA Code of Conduct. Failing to adhere to these standards may result in suspension or termination of membership or team management rights. To the best of their ability, Team Managers must ensure that members of their team follow the CPSA Code of Conduct.

A. When Code is in Effect

The CPSA Code of Conduct is expected to be followed:

1. At the fields of play during game days, whether as a participant or spectator;
2. While participating in any CPSA event.

3. When posting on social media sites (such as Facebook pages) controlled and managed by CPSA, NAGAAA, ASANA, or other organizations/leagues associated with NAGAAA.
 4. Whenever a member is participating in any NAGAAA or ASANA event.
 5. Whenever a member is participating in any event of other organizations/leagues associated with NAGAAA or ASANA, including tournaments.
- B. CPSA Code of Conduct for All Members

CPSA Members must:

1. Maintain sportsmanlike conduct at all times, especially immediately before, during, and immediately after games.
2. Treat all members, opposing teams, and umpires with respect.
3. Promote CPSA's mission to provide a fun, competitive, safe, and welcoming environment for softball competition.
4. Learn the rules of the game.
5. Respect the judgment, decisions, and strategy of the team's manager.
6. Accept both victory and defeat with pride and composure; never be boastful or bitter;
7. Sincerely congratulate opponents following either victory or defeat.
8. Show respect for an injured player who is removed from a game.
9. Not engage in verbal or physical confrontations with umpires, coaches, managers, players, league officials, members, or NAGAAA officials.
10. Not engage in destruction of property, abusive behavior, or violation of federal, state, and local laws.
11. Respect all rules related to equipment, in particular the use of approved bats only.
12. Pay all fees, dues, and debts promptly to the League and the member's team.
13. Not commit fraud or theft against CPSA, NAGAAA, a team, or a member of the League.
14. Not play under an assumed name or falsify any other information to CPSA or NAGAAA officials.
15. Not use CPSA or NAGAAA trademarks, rights, or 501(c)(3) status without permission from the league.
16. Not use illicit drugs in the fields.
17. Not be on the field of play while under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs.
18. Encourage other members to follow the Code of Conduct and censure those who don't.
19. Respect the rules of parks and venues while being used by CPSA.

C. CPSA Code of Conduct for Team Managers/Coaches/Captains

CPSA Managers/Coaches/Captains must:

1. Set an example by always following the CPSA Code of Conduct for All Members.
2. Treat members of your team with dignity and respect.
3. Encourage members of your team to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
4. Ensure that you or a designer attend all required league meetings.
5. Always engage fellow managers, umpires, and league officials respectfully.
6. Follow all rules of the CPSA Softball League Code.
7. Stay in contact with the appropriate CPSA Athletic Director as necessary.

8. NAGAAA tournaments or any NAGAAA section code of conduct need to be upheld

2.04 Individual Penalties

Individual members may be disqualified for some time by the Executive Board for violations of the Softball League Code, with the caveat that the following acts may result in greater than a 1-year loss of eligibility and of loss of monies paid or due:

- a. Physical violence and or threat of physical violence.
- b. Committing or encouraging others to commit fraud (such as intentionally playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to the League or its Officers).
- c. Competing knowingly with disqualified players.
- d. Using an altered bat.

2.05 Individual Investigations

The Executive Board will investigate any alleged violations of the Softball League Code before beginning Disqualification Procedures (described below). However, if there is no way to validate the accusations, disqualification procedures will not proceed. Instead, the members will be personally reminded of the applicable Softball League Code and the potential penalties.

2.06 Disqualification Procedures

Disqualification procedures are constituted as follows:

- a. Notification - The individual member must be notified in writing of the time, place, and date of the hearing. Such notification must be made at least 48 hours before the date of the hearing.
- b. Hearing - Before disqualification, an individual/team member shall be given an opportunity for a hearing by the Executive Board.
- c. Ruling - After hearing the evidence available, the Executive Board will vote on necessary and appropriate action. If disqualification or suspension is approved, the Commissioner shall notify in writing all appropriate representatives of such action being taken.
- d. Appeal - An individual member disqualified from League play must notify the Commissioner within seven days if said team or individual member has an intention to appeal the disqualification or suspension. Such appeal must be in writing. The Commissioner shall at this time call for a meeting of the Commission as outlined in Article 4.

ARTICLE 3: TEAM MEMBERSHIP

3.01 Maintaining Eligibility

To maintain eligibility, a team shall:

- a. Be responsible for requiring all individuals on their team to properly register as an Individual Member on the League website (including signing the waiver of liability)

- b. Be responsible for following the requirements of CPSA Softball League Code Article 5 - Team Registration and Roster Procedures;
- c. Not competing with ineligible players.
- d. Not competing with players on the field at any time who have not paid their membership dues and are properly registered as Individual Members.
- e. Have a Manager (or Manager's designee) attend a player rating workshop before the start of the team's first league game. A Manager's designee must be a member of the team. Failure to attend and sign in at any required rating workshop will result in the penalties below. The offending team shall be ineligible for play until penalties are resolved.
 - 1. Team Manager (or Manager's designee) must arrange to meet with either a Board Member or Board Member designee for a one-on-one rating workshop.
- f. Have a Manager (or Manager's designee) attend commission meetings. Penalties for team failure to attend special or regularly scheduled commission meetings during the season of participation will result in the following penalties.
 - 1. Failure to attend 1 required meeting will result in a written reprimand of the team's manager and be so noted in the meeting minutes of the next scheduled meeting.
 - 2. Every subsequent violation after the first missed meeting during the same season, a \$50 fine shall be imposed upon the team.

3.02 Inducements

Inducements, whether financial or otherwise, by any person/s in any form to any player to play for any team are strictly prohibited. Anyone b and below can not

3.03 Sponsor Restrictions

A team sponsor may not instruct a manager/captain/coach as to who will be on a team, who will play, or who will start a game.

3.04 Non-LGBT Players

The roster of a team registered in the E, D, or C divisions may not include more than three (3), non-LGBT players, by NAGAAA World Series guidelines. "Non-LGBT" - (also referred to as straight or non-gay) means not gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or non-binary.

3.05 Unpaid Team Dues, Fees, and Penalties

League team fees are due one week before the start of each season. Once a team is notified that money is overdue to the League, any future scheduled games will be forfeited by the team until all money owed is paid in full, including any money owed as a result of these forfeits. Additionally, as long as a team owes money to the League, they shall be ineligible for League playoffs, future League seasons, and NAGAAA championship plays until the money is paid in full.

ARTICLE 4: TEAM REGISTRATION AND ROSTER PROCEDURES

4.01 Official Team Rosters

Official team rosters shall be due by midnight the Friday before league play begins.

- a. Rosters will be submitted to the Commissioner or designated Board Member no later than the designated meeting and must be completed in full.
- b. The CPSA-approved numerical rating must be used for all players who have had a rating in the past. The CPSA-approved numerical rating is the most recent rating given to the player by CPSA, NAGAAA, or any NAGAAA-affiliated league. A manager should check with the Executive Board to find a player's rating if necessary.
- c. In the case of a new player (a player who has never had a CPSA-approved numerical rating), the manager shall assign a rating. A manager must assign an initial rating even if he or she has not seen the player play. In these cases, a manager may update this player's rating during the season as appropriate (see Article 6.01).
- d. If a manager wants to adjust a player's previously assigned rating, they must follow the procedures in Article 6 before the changes take effect.
- e. The roster must be completed in its entirety by the instructions on the form.
- f. The roster must meet the Division guidelines for team and player ratings as defined by NAGAAA for the next Gay Softball World Series (except for guidelines adopted within 30 days of the CPSA registration deadline).
- g. Team rosters shall have a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of twenty (16) players, and up to three (3) non-playing members.
- h. No more than the maximum number of non-LGBT players as defined in Article 3.04 may be included on the roster.
- i. The Commissioner or designated Board Member shall distribute a copy of all team rosters to each team manager before the first week of play; and
- j. The Team Manager/Coach/Captain must be registered as either a playing member or non-playing member of CPSA
- k. A player may not be listed on the roster of more than one team.
- l. The Executive Board may allow teams whose roster does not comply with the rules above to correct the deficiencies, if those deficiencies are corrected before the start of the season.

4.02 Team Registration Requirements

Teams must properly register online and make full payment of team membership fees and bonds by the close of registration set by the Executive Board before the season. Teams must also meet the requirements of Team Membership in Article 3. After the close of registration, team fees are non-refundable. Any team will need to pay the fees before the deadline set with NAGAAA. If the said fee is not paid the team will not be able to play in the GSWS.

4.03 Player Rating Adjustments

If a player's numerical rating is increased above the limit for his or her division, he or she is automatically dropped from the team's roster. Said players will be added to a team in which they will still be able to play in the league.

4.04 Early Season Roster Changes

Following the initial roster submission and before a team beginning play of the game that would constitute completion of greater than 50% of the season's regularly scheduled games, roster additions, and deletions can be made under the guidelines detailed in Article 5.05. Such roster changes shall be distributed to all team managers before their next regularly scheduled game by the Commissioner or designated Board Member.

4.05 Player Addition and Drop Procedures

- a. Drop Procedures: A team manager may request to drop a player from a roster by using the Roster Change Request Form on the league website. The form must include the reason why the player is being dropped. Permission to drop a player will be given after the Commissioner is satisfied the change is in the best interest of both the player and the team. A player may not be dropped just for the sake of making room for another player on the roster.
- b. Add Procedures: A manager may add a player to a roster by using the Roster Change Request Form on the league website. This written communication must be delivered to the appropriate persons listed on the form by Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. before the next regularly scheduled game. Additionally, the player must properly register and pay his or her player fee by Wednesday at midnight to play that coming Sunday.
- c. Same-Day Registrations: For as long as player registration is open, new players can register on game days but will only be considered free agents, they cannot be placed on a team until Monday.
- d. Duties of the Executive Board. The Executive Board will review requests for all roster changes. If the request is denied, the Commissioner must inform the requesting manager by 9:00 p.m. on the Friday before the next scheduled game. If the request is approved, all managers within the requesting manager's division must be informed of the roster additions. Only the requesting manager will be informed in the event the request is denied.

4.06 Late Season Roster Changes

Once a team begins play of the game that constitutes the completion of greater than 50% of the season's regularly scheduled games, the following roster rules apply:

- a. No player shall be dropped from the roster except for extenuating circumstances to be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Commissioner or because of a player's rating adjustment as described in 4.03 above;
- b. No new roster additions will be allowed unless the team's roster is below 12 active players except in the case of 4.06.c and 4.06d below.

- c. A player who is automatically dropped from a roster due to a rating adjustment as described in 5.03 above may be picked up by any team in a higher division;
- d. A player who is dropped from a roster by a team because the team's rating increased above their division's limits may be picked up by any team; and
- e. A player will only be eligible for playoff competition if they have played at least one of the scheduled games on the team that they will participate in within the playoffs.

4.07 At-Large Teams

The Executive Board may form an At-Large team for a season if there are enough players who want to play but do not have a team. For At-Large teams, the following special rules will apply:

- a. At the discretion of the Board, At-Large teams will be exempt from some or all of the roster rules in this section of the Softball League Code, except as they relate to changing the rating of an existing player.
- b. The Board may waive or reduce the Team Membership Fee, but team members must pay the Individual Membership Fee.

ARTICLE 5: PLAYER AND TEAM CLASSIFICATION

5.01 Classification Responsibility

- a. **General.** Every CPSA player has a numerical rating using NAGAAA's player rating guidelines. See Article 4 for roster guidelines related to player ratings.
- b. **Assistant Commissioner.** The Assistant Commissioner is responsible for approving and reporting such ratings as required by and to NAGAAA, to other League Commissioners, to Tournament Directors, and the League's team managers. The Secretary, with assistance from the Rating Committee, has a continuing responsibility to observe and review player ratings to ensure that player and team ratings continue to be accurate and current.
- c. **Manager/Coach/Captain.** A manager who fails to properly monitor and update the ratings for players on his/her team may be subject to penalties as defined in Article 5.14.
- d. **Ratings Changes.** A player's numerical rating may only be changed by using the Ratings Change Request Form and only in these circumstances:
 - to correct a clerical error.
 - by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
 - by agreement between the player's team's manager and the Executive Board
 - for adding skill points only, by agreement between a player and his team manager.
 - For new players only, by a team manager at any time before 9 pm on Wednesday before the final regular-season Sunday, except that if a player is protested by an opposing team during a CPSA league game in which case that player's rating is frozen until the RRC process (not including the appeals process)

is completed This applies only to players who did not have a CPSA-approved numerical rating before the season.

- Through the Rating Review Process described below.

5.02 Ratings Review Committee Purpose

The Ratings Review Committee (RRC) shall serve from year to year as a standing committee. The RRC will review and affirm or deny requests for player rating reductions and increases.

5.03 Ratings Review Committee Membership

The Director of Competition and Executive Board as assigned by the Commissioner. The Chairperson will be appointed by the Commissioner and the six additional voting members may be nominated by any CPSA member and will be elected by the Executive Board. Executive Board Members may only serve as non-voting members of the RRC and are not included in the voting member count.

5.04 Requesting a Rating Review

- a. Requests for a rating review can only be made as follows:
 1. By the Commissioner
 2. By a majority vote of the Executive Board
 3. By the team representative for members of that team
 4. By a player for his rating
 5. Because of a protest by an opposing team during a CPSA League game. Procedures for filing a rating protest are found in the CPSA Rules of Play, Article 12.
 6. Because of a successful protest by a non-CPSA team at a tournament sponsored by a NAGAAA-affiliated league. The Commissioner shall request a rating review automatically in this case.
- b. All requests must be submitted using the Ratings Review Request Form, and in the method described on the form. If the request is from the player or the team representative, a brief explanation must be given on the form.
- c. Every season, each team may request one rating point for one player to be reviewed for free.
- d. Except for the free review above, any request by a team or player for a rating review, requires a \$25 bond per rating point, paid to CPSA.
- e. The review of a player's rating point may be removed from the Rating Review List by the person or persons who requested/initiated the rating review any time before a final RRC vote on that point is taken. In this case, if a \$25 bond was paid for that point, it will be refunded.

5.05 Ratings Review Committee Notifications

- a. Executive Board. Upon receiving a rating review request, the executive board shall for to Rating Chair within five business days
- b. RRC Chairperson. The RRC Chairperson will notify the RRC of the request in writing and arrange for a quorum of the RRC to review the player. The RRC Chairperson will notify the Executive Board, RRC, and the CPSA coaches (upon reviewing the rating chair will for the executive board)

5.06 Ratings Review Committee Meetings

As deemed necessary, monthly meetings of the RRC shall be established by the RRC Chairperson. The notification will list the date, time, location, and purpose of the meeting. Three voting members are required for a quorum. The Chairperson will preside and keep professional order during RRC meetings. Only members of the RRC may participate in the discussions unless the Chairperson requests information from an attending CPSA member. The Chairperson will be responsible for maintaining the official minutes of each RRC meeting and its subsequent decisions. The minutes will be submitted to the CPSA Secretary to be distributed to the Executive Board and team representatives.

5.07 Ratings Review Committee Voting

- a. Each member will have one vote during RRC meetings, creating five potential voters.
- b. There must be at least three RRC members ready to vote on a player's rating point before a vote may be taken on that point, except as described in 6.08(f) below.
- c. Each player under review will be reviewed a minimum of two different games before a vote on their rating will take place.
- d. In determining how to vote, RRC members may use knowledge of a player's skills based on observations made before the member was on the RRC.

5.08 Ratings Review Committee Voting Meeting

During a voting meeting the following steps will take place:

- a. The RRC shall review any documentation submitted in support of a change in a player's rating by the team representative, Commissioner, or appropriate City Commissioner who submitted the request for review.
- b. The RRC shall discuss and share their observations and review notes for the specific player in question for ONLY the question(s) currently under review. If a quorum of the RRC has observed the player and is ready to vote, the RRC Committee will then vote. If a majority of the RRC quorum votes yes, the player is deemed to have that skill point. If a majority of the RRC quorum votes no, the player is deemed not to have that skill point. If the vote ends in a tie, the decision on that point will be deferred.
- c. Once a vote has taken place that changes a rating, that ratings change is immediate.
- d. If the RRC needs additional time to observe the player under review, the date, time, and location (if known) for the next vote on the player will be communicated to the team

representative of the player under review. This meeting must occur within one month of the current meeting.

- e. If a player is discussed at two consecutive meetings and not voted upon, the minutes must reflect why that person has not been voted upon.

5.09 Ratings Review Committee Conflicts of Interest

Any Rating Committee member must abstain from a vote if there's a conflict of interest. The vote shall still take place without the RRC member with the conflict of interest voting as long as there is a quorum of the Rating Committee present and able to vote. A conflict of interest is defined as the following:

- a. The affected player is on the same team
- b. Romantic partner / in a dating relationship
- c. Roommate
- d. Co-worker
- e. Close friend
- f. Family member
- g. Financial connection
- h. Any other conflict of interest deemed relevant by the Rating Committee Chairperson or CPSA Commissioner

During the review, process Rating Committee members will not accept gifts, cash, discounts, or entertainment from other players, coaches, and/or managers that could be interpreted as given to influence a ratings Committee member's decision.

5.10 Ratings Review Committee Player Assessment Days

A player or the player's current manager may request that a player on the RRC Review List be assessed at an RRC Player Assessment Day. RRC Player Assessment Days will be scheduled as needed by the Executive Board. The process will be as follows.

- a. Players being reviewed will be put through drills specifically designed to assess the skills under review.
- b. A quorum of the RRC as defined in 5.06 must be present.
- c. The RRC will evaluate the skills based on the performance during these drills.
- d. The Ratings Review Committee will assess whether players are giving complete effort.
- e. After the drills, an RRC member may call for additional individual player drills if they feel more review of that player is required.
- f. Upon completion of the drills, the procedure for voting on the players' skills will be as follows:
 - 1. The RRC will vote on each point. Each member must vote; there may be no abstentions except for conflicts of interest defined in 5.09. The player will then be removed from the RRC Review List.
 - 2. If due to conflicts of interest, there are less than 4 RRC members who can vote on a point, they will vote anyway. Those votes will be turned over to the

Executive Board for reference only. The Executive Board will then vote on the point.

3. For any NO vote, if any Ratings Review Committee member feels that the player did not give complete effort, they may call for a vote of the Ratings Review Committee. If a majority feels that full effort was not given, the player will be placed back on the RRC Review List. Or the Executive Board may take an immediate vote on the player's skill point.

5.11 Appeals

An appeal of the RRC decision can be made by the team manager to the CPSA Executive Board by submitting significant new evidence in writing within five calendar days of being notified in writing of the RRC decision. Any ruling of the RRC shall remain in effect until a successful appeal is made to the CPSA Executive Board. Any decision by the Executive Board to overturn a ruling made by the RRC shall be justified in writing at the next commission meeting and entered into the minutes. The following outlines the steps required by both the Board and the RRC.

- a. The Team Representative must notify the Executive Board in writing that they wish to appeal the RRC ruling and submit significant new evidence within five calendar days of the RRC ruling.
- b. The CPSA Commissioner will schedule an appeal hearing as soon as it is possible to gather all of the Executive Board or at least a quorum.
- c. The CPSA Commissioner will notify the team representatives for the team filing the appeal and the RRC Chairperson of the date, time, and location for the appeal hearing.
- d. The RRC Chairperson will notify the RRC and gather the necessary backup documentation in support of the RRC's decision on the affected player.

5.12 Appeal Hearing

During the appeal hearing, the following will take place:

- a. The Ratings Committee Chairperson will be given a maximum of 10 minutes to submit the summary of the RRC decision including any backup information available to the Executive Board.
- b. The team representative will be given a maximum of 10 minutes to submit any supporting documentation to the Executive Board they have in support of their appeal to the Rating Committee ruling.
- c. The Executive Board will vote to uphold or overturn the Rating Committee ruling based on the information presented by the Ratings Committee Chairperson, the team representative, and the knowledge they also have regarding the player in question.
- d. Any decision to overturn the Rating Committee ruling by the Executive Board must be justified in writing at the next commission meeting and entered into the minutes.

5.13 Timing of Official Rating Change

When any skill point for a player is changed through the RRC process, the timing of the official change will be as follows:

- a. Upon a decision of the RRC that changes an existing point, the change is effective immediately.
- b. Upon a decision of the Executive Board (because of an appeal) that overturns an RRC decision, the change is effective immediately.
- c. Additionally, if a point is added to a player as a result of a protest during a CPSA game, the following will apply. If there is no appeal of the RRC decision or an appeal is heard and denied by the Executive Board, the rating change will be considered retroactive ONLY for the games where that point was protested. NOTE: if the resulting change creates a situation where the player and/or team was ineligible for the protested game, the result of that game shall be changed to a forfeit. Other games played after the protest and before the final rating change will not be affected unless protests were filed for those games (see Rules of Play 12.02).

5.14 Manager/Team Penalties for Player Rating Violations

If a player ratings points are added to a team's player(s) by any method other than a request by the team manager or player and the change remains after the final appeal, the following penalties will apply. These penalties apply to the manager of the record when the rating change occurs:

- a. For the first point added per team during a season, the manager will be required to attend a Player Rating Workshop before the next season.
- b. For the second point added per team during a season, the Executive Board may assess further penalties.
- c. For each point added per team during the season beyond the second added point, a \$50 fine per additional point will be assessed in addition to the penalties described above.

ARTICLE 6: TEAM MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

6.01 General

A copy of the league's Bylaws, League Code, and Rules of Play shall be published on the league's website. At the start of each season, the league will provide line-up cards for each scheduled game along with a scorebook and USA Softball (ASA) Official Rules of Softball.

ARTICLE 7: POSTPONEMENTS

7.01 General

In the event a game is postponed (for any reason) the game will be rescheduled, to the best ability of the Executive Board and Athletic Directors.

ARTICLE 8: EQUIPMENT

8.01 General

Each team must provide its own bats, warm-up balls, and other equipment.

8.02 Equipment Ownership

Unless other arrangements have been made, the uniforms and equipment purchased by a team belong to that team. Each player is responsible for his or her team-purchased uniform and equipment, and its return to the team upon request.

8.03 Altered Bats and Bat Testing

The use of Altered Bats is strictly prohibited and may lead to loss of eligibility (see CPSA Rules of Play, Article 9). CPSA reserves the right to test bats and prohibit the use of bats that do not pass. CPSA reserve the right to keep a bat for the remainder of the day

Multiple shots up the middle resulting in hitting the pitcher will be a discretion with the umpire

1. Time a warning
2. CPSA will hold on to the bat for the remainder of the day
3. Player will be asked to sit out the rest of the day

ARTICLE 9: PARK ETIQUETTE

9.01 General

After each game, each team is responsible for the cleanup of the dugout and the immediate surrounding area (including the field stands). Smoking is not permitted in the dugouts or on the playing field. Drinking alcoholic beverages is not permitted for league members on park grounds. All players, coaches, and fans are representatives of the league and should behave with maturity and respect. Violations of these rules could result in suspension from the league. Multiple offenses will be reviewed by the CPSA board. With a minimum 1-year band.

ARTICLE 10: PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY AND FORMATS

10.01 Playoff Eligibility

- a. Player. A player must be present at the game and legally on the line-up card for at least one of the team's scheduled games to be eligible for playoff games. The Commissioner shall make such determination of eligibility.
- b. Team. A team is eligible for the playoffs if it has at least 9 players that have played at least one of the scheduled games for the team on which they are presently rostered.

10.02 Playoff Formats

- a. If there are 3 teams in a division, playoffs will be held as a single-elimination tournament with teams seeded according to their regular-season standings. If there are 4 or more teams in a division, playoffs will be held as a double-elimination tournament with teams seeded according to their regular-season standings.
- b. All game rules will follow CPSA's rules of play, except there will be no coin flip to determine home and away teams.
- c. The higher seeded team chooses home or away through the first championship game.
- d. If there is a second championship game (if-game), home and away teams will be decided by a coin flip.

10.03 Standings

For GSWS and playoff consideration, the official standings for each division will include only those games played within the division, excluding inter-league games. If at the end of the regular season, two or more teams finish with identical won-lost-tied percentages, then the following will be used to determine the final standings:

- a. Two Teams
 1. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games between the teams).
 2. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest runs in games between the tied teams.
 3. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest runs against them in all games played.
 4. For Division Championship only, a one-game playoff.
 5. Coin toss.
- b. Three or More Teams

(Note: If two teams remain tied after third or other teams are eliminated during any step, the tie breaker reverts to step 1 of the two-team format).

1. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games among the teams).
2. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest average runs per game among the tied teams.
3. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest average runs per game of all games played.
4. Coin toss.

10.04 NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) Berths

- a. In divisions that are allowed 2 GSWS berths, the first-place team of the division will be awarded the first berth and the second berth will be decided by playoffs.
- b. If a team already qualified or is not eligible to qualify for the GSWS through NAGAAA rules and/or competition, they are excluded from the standings referenced above for GSWS berths.

- c. If a team is allotted a berth and does not or cannot accept the berth, the following will apply:
 1. If a team that qualifies for the GSWS based on the CPSA final regular-season division standings does not or cannot accept the GSWS berth, the next highest placing team, in the final regular-season division standings, is awarded the GSWS berth. This process will continue until the next highest placing team accepts the berth. (i.e., 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.).
 2. If a team wins a GSWS berth during the CPSA playoff and does not or cannot accept the berth, the berth will be offered to the next highest finishing playoff team. This process will continue until a team accepts the berth. (i.e. 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc). If there is a tie in the playoff finishing rankings, the GSWS berth will be decided by the team that finished the highest in the final regular-season standings among the tied teams.

10.05 NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series Penalties

If during participation in the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series, the team and/or any of its players is cited for a ratings violation and CPSA is fined, then the team will be making the full payment, not CPSA. Also, the team would be responsible in the same proportion for any financial penalties the league incurs due to any other type of violations based on the team's participation in the NAGAAA GSWS, except for penalties related to incorrect player names and dates of birth. For penalties related to incorrect player names and/or dates of birth, the team will be responsible for the entire fine.

ARTICLE 11: INJURIES

11.01 Procedures

The League is not responsible for injuries to members. Members must utilize their insurance if a claim is filed, or each team has the option to purchase team insurance.

ARTICLE 12: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12.01 General

The Board of Directors, collectively known as the Board or Executive Board, will include the Officers as stated in the CPSA Bylaws. A Director shall serve until he or she is removed, resigns, is no longer a CPSA member, or the term of office expires. Any officer who leaves office for any reason (including voluntarily) shall simultaneously be removed from the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 13: STANDING COMMITTEES

13.01 Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee shall serve from year to year as a Standing Committee. Its duties shall include all League-sponsored tournament activity for the annual NAGAAA tournament. The Committee

Master Copy Controlled by CPSA Board of Directors