

Mat-Su Softball Association, Inc.
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BY LAWS

ARTICLE I – RULES

The OFFICIAL Rules of SOFTBALL and USA Softball RULES and REGULATIONS as adopted by USA Softball shall be and hereby are made a part of the Bylaws of Mat-Su Softball Association, Inc. (“The Association”) and with like force and effect as if they were hereinafter deemed to be amended so far as necessary to be consistent and comply with those rules as they now exist or as they may hereinafter be amended by the USA Softball.

ARTICLE II – LIABILITY

This Association, being of a recreational nature and those who participate recognizing the hazards attendant to such participation, shall in no way hold the Association, their agents or representatives liable for any injury that occurs as a result of their participation in this Association.

A team, outside group, or individual shall not be allowed to sell any promotional material or product to benefit, unless authorized by the Executive Board of the Association.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

The membership in this Association shall consist of league, team, individual, and associate membership.

Section 1. Divisions: The team and league membership shall be divided into the following divisions:

- A. Men’s Slow Pitch, including all classes of teams.
- B. Women’s Slow Pitch, including all classes of teams.
- C. Coed Slow Pitch, including all classes of teams.

Section 2. Registration: All teams will be registered with the USA Softball.

Section 3. Associate Membership: Associate membership may be issued to those persons who aid the association in such capacities as announcers, scorekeepers, gate help, etc. Associate members do not pay Association fees, can hold offices within the Association and vote in Association activities.

Section 4. Duration: All memberships shall extend for the duration of the year, March 1 through February 28.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBER MEETINGS:

Section 1. Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the members shall be held within 30 days of the close of season play at a location designation by the Executive Board. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect persons to the Board, approve reports for the fiscal year and transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

Section 2. Notice: Notice must be given seven (7) days before any meeting of the members.

Section 3. Quorum: A quorum at any meeting of the membership shall consist of 25% of the number of teams holding membership.

Section 4. Voting: Each member within the Association shall have one (1) vote. In all cases of a tie the President shall cast the deciding vote. Except for the recall of the elected board members, a majority vote of the members present is necessary for passage of an issue. The President of the Association may not vote as his/her team's designated representative.

Section 5. Order of Business: The Roberts Rules of Order, revised, shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable, and are not inconsistent with the law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Section 1. General Powers: The administration and general affairs of the Association shall be directed by an Executive Board of five (5) officers and one (1) player representative for every ten (10) teams in each league for Men's, Women's, Coed and one (1) Junior Olympic representative in the Association which shall exercise all the powers of the Association except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

Section 2. Election: The general membership shall elect four (4) members to the Board of Directors each year on or before the annual banquet. Then the Board of Directors shall elect from within itself the Executive Board.

Section 3. Officers: The officers of the Association shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations Director. The Board of Directors shall elect from within itself the officers, league rep(s) for Men's, Women's, Coed.

Section 4. Qualifications: Any person wishing to serve on the Board of Directors must be a member who is at least 18 years of age. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the Association who is not a member of the Association definition of these Bylaws. Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions the board shall remove such board member(s) from the board. A member of the association or board of directors is ineligible to serve as President until he/she has served a minimum of one year on the Board.

Section 5. Vacancies: Any vacancy may be filled by a temporary appointment by the Executive Board for the remaining tenure of office.

Section 6. Tenure: All board members shall serve for a term of two (2) years as a voting member and six (6) months as an advisory board member.

Section 7. Nominations: A nominating committee will be appointed by the Executive Board prior to the annual election. The committee chairperson shall verify all nominees before voting.

Section 8. Recall:

A. The Board of Directors may recall a board member due to nonperformance of his/her duties, if a written notice were made to the respective board member at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. A quorum of the board shall be necessary for recall.

B. A Board member may be recalled and a special meeting of the Association scheduled for a vote, provided that a written petition be submitted to the board containing signatures of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the voting membership. The meeting will be scheduled within seven (7) days of written notification to all Association members where a majority vote of those present will validate the recall.

Section 9. Board Meetings: Regular and special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by any member of the Board. Notice of the meetings shall be given to all Board members seven (7) days prior to established meeting dates. Emergency meetings of the Executive Board may be called with sufficient notice given to each Board Member.

Section 10. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of more than 50% of the board members.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES:

The Executive Board has authorization to appoint standing committees necessary for the proper functioning of the Association as follows:

1. OBJECTIVES: To work toward establishing and achieving goals of the Association.
2. FIELD DEVELOPMENT
3. FIELD MAINTENANCE
4. PUBLIC RELATIONS: To promote and publicize softball activities.
5. BUDGET: To prepare an operating budget for the year.
6. PROTEST/DISCIPLINARY ACTION
7. TOURNAMENTS
8. SCHEDULING
9. UMPIRES
10. JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM
11. Any additional committees appointed as needed.

ARTICLE VII – REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS:

Section 1. Registration: Players in the Association shall register on an official player contract form designating the team for which they intend to play. Such application for registration shall not be accepted for filing without the membership fee paid. Each application must be signed by the player to be official. If the player is a minor, under the age of 18, the application must be accompanied by a signed parental consent form. A player is not eligible for play until his/her application has been accepted by the Executive Board. The player contact must be turned in to the Office by 6 PM on the day of the player's first game.

Section 2. Number of Transfers: A player may only change teams one (1) time during a fiscal year with exceptions by approval of the Executive Board. All transfers must be turned into the office by 6 PM for the player to be eligible to play on that day. An additional membership fee is not imposed.

Section 3. Cutoff Date: Transfers or additions of players to team rosters will not be accepted after midnight July 15. Emergency or hardship exceptions must be approved by the Executive Board.

Section 4. State Cutoff Date: Transfers or additions of players to team roster after the date set by the State Commissioner will not be eligible for playoffs or state tournaments. Emergency or hardship exceptions must be approved by the State USA Softball Commissioner.

Section 5. Expiration: All player registrations shall expire at the end of the fiscal year.

Section 6. State Team Size: Teams shall be limited to twenty (20) registered players for state tournaments.

ARTICLE VIII – SCHEDULING:

Section 1. Schedules: the Executive Board shall draft schedules assigning fields, dates, and times. The Board shall approve schedules and provide the schedule to each team manager.

Section 2. Umpires: The assignment of umpires to all league games will be done by the Executive Board or Umpires Association.

Section 3. Tournaments: Prior to the first game of the season, a vote of the Board of Directors shall determine the type of tournament which shall be held for each respective division for MSSA hosted tournaments.

Section 4. Classification: When it becomes necessary to fill a particular league due to lack of teams, a team or teams in the lower classification may be elevated to a higher classification by the classification committee for the purpose of equalizing competition. Appeals may be directed to the Board of Directors. The Classification Committee shall consist of the President, District Commissioner, and Player Rep. of the league involved. If a member of the Classification Committee is on the team involved, another member of the Executive Board shall be appointed by the President.

Section 6. Length of Games: The length of all league games shall be determined by the Executive Board at the beginning of the season. The travesty rule shall apply in all games.

Section 7. Score Reporting: The umpires are required to record the score of their scheduled games nightly. The Executive Director is required to report them weekly. The home team is responsible for keeping score and report it to the umpire

ARTICLE IX – REGULATION FOR PLAY:

Section 1. Game Balls: The league shall provide a new ball and a lightly used ball(per gender, if applicable) at the start of each league night.

Section 2. Infield Practice: Infield practice between innings shall be limited to three (3) warm up pitches through the first three (3) innings with the remainder of the game left to the discretion of the umpire. If the time is restricted, the umpire may eliminate the warm-ups.

Section 3. On Deck Batter: The player who is next at bat shall always occupy the area of the batter's on deck circle.

Section 4. Discussion with Umpires: Only the MANAGER or CAPTAIN shall have the right to discuss disputes on rules interpretations with the umpire(s).

Section 5. Fitness of Grounds: Fitness of the grounds shall be determined jointly by executive board members or Executive Director, umpires, and grounds keeper.

Section 6. Number of Players: A team may start and finish a league game with nine (9) players, but if the tenth player arrives, he/she must be inserted immediately. (Coed must have four (4) of one gender and five (5) of the other gender). If a team starts with nine (9) players, the tenth player will be

counted as an out. If a team has an injured player or a player with an emergency and there is not a substitute, they may drop down to nine (9) players with the tenth being out only for their next at bat.

Section 7. Cleats: No metal cleats shall be allowed any time.

ARTICLE X – PROTESTS:

Section 1. Format: Protests and rule interruptions will be accepted only if they conform to the protest rule of USA Softball Official Guide.

Section 2. Committee: The protest committee will consist of the President, U.I.C. and the player rep from the league involved. If a member of the protest committee is on the team involved, another member of the Executive Board shall be appointed by the President.

Section 3. Notice: Whenever a protest situation arises during a game, the manager or captain of the protesting team shall immediately notify the umpire(s) and opposing manager that the game is being played under protest from that point. This will provide all interested persons an opportunity to take notice of the conditions surrounding the making of the decision and will aid in the proper determination of the issue. Failure of a team to follow this procedure shall forfeit its right to file an official protest.

Section 4. Deadline For Filing Protests: The formal protest must be filed or emailed within 48 hours of the game in question. The complainant shall submit their protest in writing to the Executive Board who will forward it to the protest committee for a decision. A filing fee of 25.00 must accompany all protests. If the protest is allowed, the fee is returned. If the protest is not allowed the fee reverts to the Association treasury.

Section 5. Ineligibility Protests: Protest based on the ineligibility of a player must be filed with the Executive Board within 48 hours of the game in question.

Section 6. Tournament Protests: Protests based on rule interpretations during tournament play must be settled by the Tournament Director and Umpire(s) before the game proceeds.

Section 7. Appeals: All decisions made by the association may be appealed in writing to the state commissioner

ARTICLE XI – PERSONAL BEHAVIOR:

Section 1. Violations: There shall be certain standards of conduct expected from every member and person associated with a team. Teams shall be held responsible for the actions of their followers. A player, manager, coach or any person(s) connected with a team shall not commit any of the following violations:

- A. Delay the game with stalling tactics.
- B. Use vulgar or abusive language.
- C. Smoke or vaping on the playing fields and/or the dugouts.
- D. Engage in a fight with a spectator, umpire player, etc.

Unsportsmanlike: These or any similar action may be considered unsportsmanlike.

Section 2. Spectator Behavior: If, in the umpire(s) opinion, the game cannot be continued in a sportsmanlike manner, the game shall be suspended until the offending spectator is removed.

ARTICLE XII – DISQUALIFICATION:

Section 1. Disqualifying Acts: A player or team may be disqualified for any of the following:

- A. Unsportsmanlike conduct (see Article XI).
- B. Physically assaulting an umpire or an official of the Association or for violation of the rules of the Association. (This applies to any player, coach, manager, sponsor, or anyone connected with an USA Softball team, or an umpire registered with the Association.)
- C. Commission of fraud, such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to tournament directors.
- D. Participating while knowing he/she does not meet the eligibility requirements of the USA Softball or the association.
- E. Competing with or against players that he/she knows are disqualified from either USA Softball or the Association.

Section 2. Procedures: The person subject to suspension shall be entitled to a hearing before the Executive Board. The person(s) must be notified in writing of the date, time and place of the hearing. The person(s) are entitled to an alternate date if for a good cause the original date is not acceptable. Should the accused fail to attend the hearing, the person conducting the hearing may proceed and take evidence of those in attendance. After hearing all the evidence, the person presiding at the hearing may take whatever action he/she deems appropriate in accordance with this Article. The person(s) involved should be advised in writing by the Executive Board of the action taken, and a copy sent to the State Commissioner.

Section 3. Appeals: Any person(s) suspended from USA softball or the Association play may appeal to the State commissioner. The decision of the State Commissioner may further be appealed according to USA Softball of Alaska code. Those wishing to appeal must notify the State Commissioner, in writing of such intention to appeal within 15 days after the mailing of the notice of disqualification.

Section 4. Interim Eligibility: Under no circumstances will any individual involved be allowed to participate in USA softball activity until he/she has either been found not guilty or has completed his/her term of suspension.

Section 5. Penalties: A player must be disqualified for a period of time at the discretion of the Executive Board for violations outlined in this Article with the exception that the following acts of disqualification require loss of eligibility for the remainder of the fiscal year:

- A. Physical Violence
- B. Commission of Fraud
- C. Competing knowingly with or against disqualified players

ARTICLE XIII – AWARDS:

The Executive Board will determine what league trophies and special awards will be awarded. Local, Regional, and National Hall of Fame Nominations are submitted by a local committee and or the USA Softball of Alaska Commissioner.

ARTICLE XIV – MEMBERSHIP FEES AND FINANCES:

Section 1. Membership Fees: Team sponsor fees, player fees, tournament fees, and other money matters shall be established by the Executive Board and such fees must be paid before competing.

Section 2. Bank Accounts: The Executive Board is authorized to establish banking accounts for the Association, including a checking account.

Section 3. Check Signers: All checks must be signed by at least two (2) members of the Executive Board.

Section 4. N.S.F Charges: The fee imposed on all NSF checks will be set yearly according to state law.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS:

Amendment to these bylaws may be made by the Board of Directors, providing all team reps are notified at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Amendments must be approved by two-thirds votes of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVI – DISSOLUTION LIABILITY:

Any monies currently held by the Association that were gained using the gaming permit shall be donated to a bonafide charity should Mat-Su Softball Association dissolve.

REVISED BYLAWS PASSED May 2026