

THE SOFTBALL CODE OF THE
SOUTH FLORIDA AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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SECTION 1

General

- 11 Purpose:** The South Florida Amateur Athletic Association (SFAAA) Softball Code shall provide the operational procedures for all league games.
- 12 Governing Rules:** All SFAAA league games will be played under the SFAAA Softball Code with reference to the current year's ASA Code and the Mills Pond Softball Adult Athletic League Code of Conduct or any conduct rules of an alternate park where SFAAA games are played for game rules not covered in the SFAAA Softball Code.
- 13 Qualifying Season:** The Association will hold annually a season which shall be designated as the qualifying season. Said qualifying season shall meet the requirements as established in the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance (IoG).

SECTION 2

League Structure

- 2.1 Formation:** The Association consists of an Open Division of amateur softball players which has no restriction on the sex or gender of the participant. Participants must be 18 years of age.
- 2.2 Divisions:**
- A. Teams may compete in the following divisions based on their NAGAAA Player and Team Ratings (See Appendix A):
1. "A" Division:
 - a. All teams rated 270 or lower.
 - b. No Open division team on a roster with a cumulative rating lower than 170 is allowed to play in the A Division.
 2. "B" Division:
 - a. All teams rated 175 or lower.
 - b. No players rated over 19 are allowed.
 3. "C" Division:
 - a. All teams rated 135 or lower.
 - b. No players rated over 14 are allowed.
 4. "D" Division:
 - a. All teams rated 95 or lower.
 - b. No players rated over 10.
 5. Masters Division:
 - a. Classics: All teams rated 135 or lower; no players rated over 16 allowed.
 - b. Legends: All teams rated 115 or lower; no players rated over 12 allowed.

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- c. No player under 50 years of age. If a player is set to turn 50 years old during the calendar year, he or she shall be considered eligible to play in the Masters Division.
- B. During non-qualifying season, the Board may group the A & B division teams and refer to them as the Upper Division.
- C. SFAAA will immediately adopt any changes to all playing rules, ratings and division qualifications as determined by NAGAAA unless the Board determines not to adopt or delay the adoption of any such change.

SECTION 3

Team Rosters

- 3.1 Team Rosters:** A team roster must consist of at least 10 active players but no more than 18 active players. There is no roster limit on non-players. No active player may appear as an active player on two or more rosters at the same time in any given season.
- 3.2 Submittal:** The official team roster and player fees must be submitted to the Board prior to the start of said team's first game of league play.
- 3.3 Player Additions:** Additions of new players to a team may be made by submitting an add/drop form together with the player fee at any time during the season. A Board member must be notified of the addition before the game in which the new player is permitted to play in order to collect the fee and make a determination of skill level. If a player is added to a roster after the team has played more than half of their scheduled games, the player fee shall be reduced to equal that of the non-player.
 - A. In qualifying seasons, a player may not be added to a team's roster after 60 percent of the team's regular season games have been played. The 60 percent calculation is to be rounded up to the next whole number. However, should a team's active roster fall below 10 players, a player may be added in an attempt to preserve the viability of that team.
 - B. In non-qualifying seasons, a player may be added at any point during the season. However, a player must still play in the required number of games in order to be eligible for the postseason playoffs.
 - C. In either season, should a non-LGBT player be added to a roster, their name should be forwarded to a League official to ensure compliance with the gay non-LGBT rule as established in this softball code.
 - D. All new players to the Association who shall not have a current NAGAAA rating must be rated prior to playing in a league game. In the event that a player who has already been rated by another league according to the NAGAAA rating system seeks to be added to a roster through whatever means, the player's rating, if having been done within a year of their request addition, shall be considered a valid rating.

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E. Any games played by a player whose rating has not been verified or been determined by SFAAA may result in the forfeiture of those games and further disciplinary action by the League.

3.4 Player Transfers: A player may, upon notification to the Board and to the team that he or she is leaving, change teams no later than the start of the team's third scheduled game. After the start of the team's third game, any player roster changes must be approved by a majority vote of all members of the managers council in that division. No players may transfer more than once in any given season.

A. Players drafted in the new player draft may transfer only with the consent of the manager of the team which drafted them and the approval of a majority vote of the managers council in that division.

B. Players who were denoted as protected players are not eligible to transfer under this subsection.

C. A team manager may submit the vote via written ballot or by email that originates from the email address that is on file with the Association.

D. The Board shall communicate via electronic mail the results of the vote to the managers of the affected division prior to the next week of play.

3.5 Injured Players: A team can replace an injured player with another player on the roster provided the player will no longer return for the rest of the season. A statement from the player may be required. The new player will still be required to pay the appropriate player fee and meet playoff eligibility requirements.

3.6 Replacement Players: Teams may replace players on a roster with new players if a player will no longer return during that season either by injury or relocation. A player that has moved may request a refund, but must provide proof of moving. Replacement players will still be required to pay the appropriate player fee and meet playoff eligibility requirements. The replacement player shall take one of the 18 spots on the active player roster for the duration of the season.

3.7 New Teams: A team shall be considered a new team if its opening day roster contains 5 or fewer players from the previous season's roster.

3.8 Non-LGBT Players: There is no limitation on the number of non-LGBT players on a team's roster however, there is the following limitation on how many can be on the field (including extra hitters and courtesy runners) at any given time during an SFAAA game:

"A" and "B" Divisions: A team may have no more than three non-LGBT players (including extra hitters) on the field at any given time during a game.

"C" and "D" Divisions and Masters Division: A team may have no more than two non-LGBT players (including extra hitters and courtesy runners) on the field at any given time during a game.

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SECTION 4

New Players

- 41 New Player:** Each season, the Association shall hold a recruitment drive to recruit new players. The new players that attend a skills assessment session shall be drafted by the SFAAA teams based upon their skill set.
- 42 Draft:** The Association will conduct an initial draft prior to the start of each season in order to allow teams to add players to their roster who participated in a skills assessment session.
- A. The Board may require the attendance of a team manager at a draft in order for a team to be eligible to select a player in the draft. The Board will notify the team managers whether attendance at a draft is required.
- B. Draft Order: The first eligible team to draft a player in each league division shall be the team finishing lowest in the standings in the prior season with the next to last finisher drafting next and so on until all teams have had a chance to draft. New teams or teams moving up a division shall be considered for having the first pick of the draft at the discretion of the Board. If there are multiple new teams, the order of selection of the new teams will be by random selection as determined by the Board.
- C. Subsequent draft – The Association may conduct additional drafts subsequent to the initial draft. The order of the draft will continue where the most recent draft concluded during that season.
- D. If after the start of the season, a team is considered to no longer have 10 active players, the team will be permitted to have the first selection of the next draft. If there is more than one team who has less than 10 active players, the order of selection will be by random selection as determined by the Board.
- 43 Drafted Players:** Once a player has participated in the draft, they will not be allowed to be picked up by any team except under the aforementioned draft procedures. Any player drafted will not be allowed to play with any team other than the one that drafted them for that respective season without the consent of the manager of the drafting team and the approval of the managers' council for the division to which the player will

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44 Protected Players:

- A. In order to qualify as a protected player, the following criteria must be met:
1. A player who has not previously been a member of the Association or a player who has not been an active member for a period of two qualifying seasons and is required to be rated by the Association.
 2. The team manager must notify the League Commissioner or the Membership Coordinator by 11:59 p.m. of the day prior to the player being rated.
 3. The player must confirm on their registration form, prior to being rated, that he/she desires to be a member of the protecting team.
 4. The player must qualify to play in the division of the protecting team.
- B. Protected players will not be entered into a draft nor will the player be eligible for selection by any other team in accordance with 4.03.
- C. A protected player who does not have an initial rating and who does not qualify to play in the division of the protecting team will immediately be subject to the draft rules under 4.02.
- D. Upon the player receiving an initial rating, the protecting team may elect to withdraw its selection to protect the player providing the player does not receive a rating within that division in accordance with Section 2.02 of the Code.
1. The withdrawal of any protection of any player must occur prior to the first selection of the draft by any team. Should this occur, the player will be eligible for selection by any other team under the draft rules in accordance with Section 4.02
- E. Subsequent to the draft, any protected player who wishes to transfer to another team will not be allowed to transfer to that team without the consent of the manager of the protecting team and the approval of the managers' council for the division to which the player will go.
- F. Two teams that play in different divisions may co-protect the same player to a ratings session if both managers agree.

45 Disciplinary Action: Managers or coaches of any team attempting to circumvent the draft are subject to disciplinary action by the Board and/or the Ethics Committee.

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SECTION 5

Ratings

5.1 Initial Ratings:

- A. At the first meeting of each playing season, the Ratings Committee Chairperson and the League Commissioner are responsible for disseminating the NAGAAA player ratings from the previous season to the Board, Managers Council, and Ratings Committee. The Manager will disseminate the corresponding player ratings information sheets to the team members. Each member will verify the rating and indicate by signing the SFAAA Ratings form and submitting the form to the Chairperson of the Ratings Committee by the team's opening game of the season.
- B. For a playing member who has previously played in a NAGAAA league, the initial player rating will be the most recent NAGAAA rating for that player if the rating was held within two (2) qualifying seasons.
- C. All new players and players whose former ratings are over two (2) years old shall attend the new players draft held prior to the start of each playing season. Ratings for each new player shall be evaluated by representatives of the ratings committee and dispersed to all managers within one week of the draft date.
- D. For a new playing member of NAGAAA and SFAAA who has not attended the new player's draft, the Board or team manager shall make arrangements for a time when they can be evaluated by representatives of the ratings committee. All ratings information ascertained on any new player shall be distributed by the League Secretary to all managers within seven (7) days of evaluation.

5.2 Player Ratings as Determined by the Player Ratings Committee: The Player Ratings Committee may revise player ratings and communicate such revisions in the following manner:

- A. If a member would like their rating reviewed, he or she must submit a player ratings review form found on the SFAAA website or obtained from a SFAAA board member.
- B. Reviews of all other players must be initiated by a team manager, a member of the ratings committee or a member of the Board.
- C. Rating review submission deadline: All rating reviews must be submitted no later than 48 hours after said player's team has played 51% of its games for the season. If said player changes teams during the season, the deadline will be applied using whichever team has played the fewest games at the time of transfer.
- D. The ratings committee will review and revise players ratings by watching SFAAA league play, team practices, and/or NAGAAA tournament play.
- E. All decisions rendered by the Ratings Committee shall be communicated league wide through the League Secretary within seven (7) days of any decision(s).
 1. Ratings revision deadline: The ratings committee will have all player ratings (including any revisions initiated by the committee) completed no later than a

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- date to be predetermined each season by the Board at its initial league meeting. The ratings revision deadline shall be no later than the 75% mark of an individual's league play for the corresponding season. After this mark, no reviews or enquiries may be initiated by any player or team manager.
2. The Ratings Committee Chairperson is responsible for distributing to the Board, Managers Council and Player Ratings Committee all player ratings no later than seven (7) days after the ratings revision deadline.
 3. Team managers or the player in question will have (7) days after the release of any revisions to appeal directly to the Board any committee decisions whereby a player's rating was altered.
- F. Any player whose rating has changed during the course of the season will be notified by the Ratings Committee Chairperson or by a Board Member.
- a. The player must sign a revised ratings worksheet acknowledging that their rating has changed.
 - i. The signing of the ratings worksheet will acknowledge the notification of the player. The signature of the player does not preclude the player from further appeal of the decision.
 - ii. Should a player refuse to sign the acknowledgement form, the Ratings Committee Chairman or a member of the Board will notify the player either via the player's registered email address or verbally by the Ratings Committee Chairman or their designee and one SFAAA Board member. The Board will document the notification taken and such notification will be deemed proper and the player's rating will be changed.
- G. In the week prior to the playoffs, the Ratings Committee shall distribute to each team a copy of the final ratings of all teams for that season unless a player is being reviewed under (H)(b) of this subsection. Any player who is under review under (H)(b) or Section 5.03 will be identified as a player under review or appeal.
- H. Request or protests made by managers or players will be reviewed within a timely manner by the Ratings Committee.
- a. The Ratings Committee may determine that it is necessary to watch a player during SFAAA league or NAGAAA tournament games in order to make its decision.
 - b. Any request or protest made by a manager or player not affecting a player's qualification within a division during a season may be determined by the Committee any time prior to the conclusion of the last week of the season.
 - c. Any request or protest made by a manager or player affecting a player's qualification within a division during a season shall be determined no later than the 75% mark of an individual's league play for the corresponding season.

5.3 Player Ratings Appeal Procedure: Any decision made by the Ratings Committee may be appealed to the Board by any team manager or the player whose rating has been reviewed. The following applies to all appeals:

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- A. The notification of the intent to appeal must be received by the Board no later than seven (7) days after distribution of the Ratings Committee player ratings decision. The appeal must identify the specific player rating questions for review by the Board.
- B. The Board of Directors will hold the ratings appeal meeting.
- C. All Rating Appeals Meetings, including those involving a change of Division, shall be held within seven (7) days of the request to the Board.
- D. The Board of Directors will provide at least three (3) days advance notice of any Ratings Appeal Meeting, specifying the date, time and place of said meeting.
- E. During the Ratings Appeal Meeting, the appealing party(ies) may be present, state their case for revision and provide such input as needed. The League Commissioner and Ratings Committee Chairperson (or their Committee designee) shall present the case for the Ratings Committee. Once all pertinent information has been provided, the Board will decide on the final player rating and provide that information to all parties prior to the conclusion of the Ratings Appeal Meeting.
- F. The League Commissioner shall recuse himself from voting during the appeal rating appeal.
- G. All Ratings Appeal Meetings must take place prior to any GSWS representative determination playoffs.
- H. A Board member should recuse themselves from any Ratings Appeal vote should any conflicts of interest present themselves.
- I. The ruling of the Board on *all* appeals will be final.

SECTION 6

Manager Responsibilities

- 61 Team Manager Responsibilities:** The following are responsibilities afforded to the manager of a team participating in the League play of the SFAAA. The manager or their designee shall be responsible for:
- A. representing his/her team at Managers Council Meetings. Managers may designate a representative from their team to attend a meeting provided they turn in a written proxy as described in the SFAAA Bylaws;
 - B. reporting the results of the Managers Council Meetings back to their team;
 - C. collecting and submitting to the Board a player roster, sponsor and player fees, insurance waivers and all documents as prescribed by the Board for the upcoming season;
 - D. submitting a fully completed lineup card to the opposing team's manager before each game;
 - E. turning in team game results and lineup cards to the Assistant Commissioners or as designated by the Board;
 - F. maintaining that their team conducts itself in a level of good sportsmanship;
 - G. informing the Board of any changes of managers on their team;
 - H. notifying team sponsors of after game parties;

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- I. communicating to the Board the bye weeks requested by the team for that season.
- J. distributing and maintaining all equipment, uniforms and marketing materials if the aforementioned are sponsor or team owned.

62 Manager Compliance: Should a manger fail to uphold their responsibilities as established in 6.01, appropriate corrective action may be taken by the Board.

SECTION 7

Uniforms

- 7.1 Ownership:** Uniforms which are purchased by a sponsor or a team shall remain the property of the sponsor or team unless other arrangements have been made and documented between the sponsor and the team member(s).
- 7.2 Player Responsibility:** If property is deemed as belonging to a sponsor or team, each player is responsible for the return of his/her uniform to the team manager at the close of the playing season or at such time as the player discontinues, for whatever reason, his/her participation with that team. In the event that a player does not return his/her uniform in satisfactory condition, normal wear and tear expected, that player shall be ineligible for league play until the uniform is returned or other restitution is made to the satisfaction of the team or its sponsor. Requests for return of uniform(s) must be made in writing prior to the next playing season.

SECTION 8

Forfeits

- 8.1 Team Forfeits:** A team will have forfeited a game if it:
- A. fails to submit all documentation, player fees and sponsor fees prior to the start of a season, or;
 - B. fails to have nine players on the field after 5 minutes past the game's starting time, or;
 - C. fails to continue to field at least nine players at any point of the game, or;
 - D. fields an ineligible player after the first pitch of the game has been delivered, or;
 - E. if the Board deems it necessary due to a failure of compliance with SFAAA Bylaws, Softball Code or any violation of the Ethics Code.
- 8.2 Forfeiture Penalties:**
- A. The forfeiting team shall receive a loss in the standings by a score of 0-10. A double forfeit shall be scored as 0-0 and considered a loss for both teams.

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- B. There shall be no financial penalty for any team's first two forfeited games. A \$25 penalty shall be assessed for a third forfeiture. A \$50 penalty shall be assessed for a fourth and final forfeiture.
- C. All forfeiture fines need to be paid by the forfeiting team prior to the conclusion of the current season or that team will not be allowed to register for the following season. The forfeiting team may appeal to the Board for special consideration due to extenuating circumstances.

8.3 Team Expulsion: A team that forfeits four games will no longer be eligible to participate in any SFAAA games for that season, including the postseason.

- A. All games and statistics recorded by that team shall remain in the standings. All games scheduled the rest of that season shall be counted as 0-10 losses for the ineligible team, and 10-0 victories for their scheduled opposing team.
- B. Eligible players from a team that is no longer eligible to play in the SFAAA shall retain all privileges as a member of the SFAAA.
- C. A special draft shall be administered by the Commissioner/Board in a timely fashion by which all teams within the suspended team's division are able to draft eligible players from that suspended team. The draft shall be conducted in reverse order of the newly defined current standings.
- D. If the final forfeit occurs after half of the regular season is complete, players will only be eligible for a draft to play in the remainder of the fall season (including postseason.) Players from a team who become ineligible after half of the regular season is complete will not be eligible to be drafted for the remainder of a Gay Softball World Series qualifying season (including postseason).
- E. All games already played by the newly suspended players will be counted toward any playoff or Gay Softball World Series requirement.

SECTION 9
Game Rules

9.1 Game Regulations:

- A. Game Length: An SFAAA game shall last seven innings or no more than a time limit set by the Board at the beginning of each season.
 - 1. The League shall purchase and maintain a set of 8 audible timers to be utilized by umpires in order to maintain the consistency of the time allotment per game.
 - 2. Any injury which stops play shall require a stoppage of the timer with said stoppage communicated to both managers.
- B. Official Game: In the event of a rain-out or any unforeseen circumstance, a game shall be considered an official game after five (5) innings of play or four and one half (4½) if the home team leads.
- C. Rainouts/Inclement Weather: If any game, including a playoff game, is called due to rain or inclement weather before the game becomes official, the game will be

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rescheduled and played in its entirety. The rainout/cancelled game shall not count toward any playoff or Gay Softball World Series requirement.

- D. Tie games: If the score is tied after seven innings or after the time limit has expired, the game will be played using the Kansas City tiebreaker format. Under the Kansas City tiebreaker format, each team, in their respective half of each subsequent inning, shall place on second base the player on their team who made the last recorded out. The team shall proceed by batting the next batter in the lineup at the prior inning's end and so forth until three outs are recorded. Each batter will start with a full count with no courtesy foul. This procedure is repeated in each subsequent inning until one team has outscored the other at the end of a completed inning.
- E. Run Rule: A game shall cease and the score recorded as the final score if a team leads by 12 or more runs after five (5) innings or four and one half (4½) innings if the home team leads, or if a team leads by 20 or more runs after three (3) innings or two and one half (2½) if the home team leads.

9.2 Management of Team Lineup:

- A. Requirement: A team must start the game and maintain at least nine rostered players on the field or a forfeit will be declared. A 10th player may be added before the first pitch of the fifth inning. The 10th player will be inserted as the last batter on the lineup card.
- B. Extra Hitters: Only at the start of a game may a team may add an 11th and 12th player to the lineup and designate them as extra hitters. At any time during a game, the extra hitter(s) may enter and play defensively switching the defensive player to the extra hitter slot. Both players shall remain in the same batting order for the entire game.
- C. Ejected Players: If a player is ejected or leaves the game for any reason and no substitute is available, the team may continue to play with at least nine players but will receive an out in the position of the ejected or vacated player.
- D. Injured Players: If a player is injured during the game and no substitute is available, the team will receive an out in the batting order position of the injured player.
1. Non-LGBT Players:
 2. "A" and "B" Divisions: A team may have no more than three Non-LGBT players (including extra hitters) on the field at any given time during a game
 3. "C" and "D" Divisions: A team may have no more than two non-LGBT players (including extra hitters and courtesy runners) on the field at any given during a game.

9.3 Bats:

- A. All bats that are ASA approved and that do not appear on the latest ASA non-approved list may be used during an SFAAA game. Altered or titanium bats shall be deemed as illegal bats and will be ejected from the game and result in the player using the bat to be called out. Refer to Appendix B for a list of ASA non-approved bats.

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- B. All bats must be inspected by the Commissioner/Board Member before the start of each SFAAA season. Each bat that passes the inspection will receive a sticker so all managers, players and Mills Pond umpires may attest to its legality. For a bat to be considered legal it must:
1. clearly display the ASA 2004 approved stamp.
 2. not have any cracks.
 3. have the end cap in tack.
 4. be free of any dents.
 5. will have a wrapped handle that is of non-slick tape.
 6. be tested for sound to insure that bat is not cracked or worn out. This will also detect if the bat has been altered.
- C. The Commissioner/Board member has the right to deem any bat illegal if any bat does not meet one of the above criteria
- D. Any player who is caught using an illegal bat may be suspended from all SFAAA games for the remainder of the season. If the same player is caught a second time, that player will be suspended for life from any SFAAA sponsored games.
- E. The manager of the player being suspended may be put on probation for the balance of the season. If the same manager has any other players caught with an illegal bat, he/she may be suspended for the balance of the season.
- F. Any managers or players that are suspended for any bat infractions will have to meet with the SFAAA Board and state why they should be reinstated.

9.4 Metal Cleats: Metal-tipped cleats are not permitted during SFAAA play.

9.5 Pitcher's Count: Batters will start with a one-one count and will be allowed one courtesy foul.

9.6 Pitching Arc: A pitch shall be considered a legal pitch if, from the ground, it equals or exceeds six (6) feet and does not exceed 12 feet in the duration of its flight from the pitcher's hand to home plate.

9.7 Courtesy Runners: Each team shall be allowed one courtesy runner per inning.

A. Any player on the official lineup card for that game may be used as a courtesy runner, as long as three non-LGBT players are not in the game at the same time in D Division, C Division and Masters games. Three non-LGBT players are allowed in Upper Division games.

B. If the courtesy runner is due up to bat while on base, an out will be recorded in that players spot in the batting order.

9.8 Reentry Rule: Any player may be substituted and reentered once during a game. The substituted player may in turn reenter for the original player. However, upon second reentry, the substituting player must remain in the game unless substituted, in turn, by a different bench player as submitted on the lineup card as a substitute.

A player that is substituted for can only re-enter the game for the player that replaced them and must assume the same batting position in the lineup.

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9.9 Home run Rule: A team may be allowed the following number of home runs hit over the fence:

1. "A" Division: Four (4) home runs allowed progressive to a cap of 6 with no progressive allowed in the bottom of the last inning. Any home run hit after the limit will be considered an out.
2. "B" Division: Two (2) home runs. Any home run hit after the limit will be considered an out.
3. "C" Division: One (1) home run. Any home run hit after the limit will be considered an out.
4. "D" Division: No home runs allowed. Any home run hit will result in an inning- ending out.
5. Masters Division: No home runs allowed. Any home run hit will be considered an out.
6. Any interdivisional games shall utilize the homerun rule of the lower division.

9.10 Ejections:

A. Ejections made for umpire abuse, fighting, or unsportsmanlike conduct are, at a minimum, for the remainder of that game and a one-game suspension of the next scheduled game to be played by his or her team. Players during their suspension may not step on the field or be in the dugout of their team.

B. A second suspension in the same season will result in an automatic two (2) game suspension.

C. Further action, not enumerated above, may be taken by the SFAAA Ethics Committee for any infraction.

SECTION 10

League Divisional Standings

101 League Divisional Standings: Current league standing will be posted on the Association's website, www.sfaasoftball.com. It is the manager's responsibility to check the correctness of the standings and notify the Board on any errors.

102 Final Divisional Standings: At the end of the regular season, the final standings of each division shall be determined by win-loss percentages of all teams in that division.

103 Tie-Breakers: Ties in the final divisional standings will be settled by the following tie-breaking system:

A. Head to head win-loss record. If more than 2 teams are tied, the tie-breaker will be the overall win-loss record versus the teams that are tied for that position in the standings. If still tied...

B. Head to head run differential. If more than 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...

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- C. Total runs against.
- D. Total runs scored.
- E. Win-loss record versus best common opponent.
- F. Run differential versus best common opponent.

SECTION 11

Playoffs

11.1 Eligible Players:

- A. In order to participate in the playoffs for a season, a player's name must appear on a lineup card for at least one half of that season's possible games for their subdivision.
- B. A player's name may appear on a lineup card if that player has:
 - 1. taken the field or batted at any point in the game's progress, or;
 - 2. has been at the game's field for more than two innings of the respective game.
- C. Exceptions to this stipulation may be appealed to the Board.

11.2 Double Elimination: All SFAAA playoffs will use a double elimination format.

11.3 Home Team: Highest seed will be made the home team throughout the playoffs.

11.4 Championship Games: There will be no time limit during the championship game(s).

SECTION 12

Protests

12.1 Game Playing Protests: The current official ASA rule book shall be utilized for all protests regarding the application of rules of play. Game playing protests must be filed according to ASA rules and made through the umpire prior to the last out of the game.

12.2 Eligibility of Players Protests: Should a manager question the eligibility of a player, he or she must fill out a protest incident report and provide it to a member of the Board with protest fee if applicable. Protests must be made prior to the end of the game.

12.3 Resolution: The Board shall resolve all disputes and protests arising out of any Association sanctioned softball game within 72 hours after a dispute or protest has been served to the Board.

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SECTION 13
NAGAAA

131 Gay Softball World Series Bids: Bids to the Gay Softball World Series will be awarded to divisions based on the number of qualifying teams in each respective division. The division with the highest number of qualifying teams shall receive the first bid. The next division with the most number of qualifying teams shall receive the second bid and the remaining division shall receive the third bid. Since the A division is automatically given bids by NAGAAA that do not affect the other division, they do not figure into this process. This process will be followed until all bids awarded by NAGAAA to the SFAAA are given out. If two divisions have the same number of teams, the higher division will be the first to receive a bid followed by the lower division. Bids within each division will be awarded as follows:

- A. If one bid is awarded to a division, the recipient of said bid would be the first-place winner of the playoffs during the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series qualifying season.
- B. If two bids are awarded to a division, the recipients of said bids will be the first-place team of the regular season and the winner of the playoffs during the Gay Softball World Series qualifying season.
- C. If three bids are awarded to a division, the recipients of said bids will be the first- and second-place team of the regular season and the winner of the playoffs during the Gay Softball World Series qualifying season.

132 Notification of Intent: Teams receiving bids must notify the Board whether they will accept or decline the bid no later than one month prior to the due date for registered teams as established by NAGAAA or one week after the SFAAA playoffs, whichever day is the latter of the two dates.

- A. In the event a team declines the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series bid, the bid, regardless how it has been awarded, shall be designated to the next highest placing team in that division's regular season who may then accept the bid. Should the next highest placing team also not accept the bid, the awarded bid will be made to each successive placing team until the bid is accepted.
- B. In the event that no team within a division accepts the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series bid, the Board may award the bid to another team in another division subject to the rules under NAGAAA.

133 Gay Softball World Series champions: Teams that compete in the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series and place first or second in their division at the GSWS must move up and play in the next highest division for at least one year starting the following season.

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A team shall be considered the same team if there are four (4) or more returning team players from the roster at the World Series.

- 134 NAGAAA Fines:** Any player or team that is fined and/or suspended by NAGAAA shall be responsible for paying the fine.
- A. Failure to pay the fine directly to SFAAA will result in an automatic suspension of the player or team as determined by the SFAAA Board.
 - B. The Board will notify by email the players and managers affected by any NAGAAA fines and/or suspensions.

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Definitions

active players:

any member of a team who participates on the field of play and is included on the lineup card of any game.

altered bat:

a bat that has been modified in any way from the manufacturer's original specifications or design.

amateur:

a softball player who engages in the sport solely for pleasure and/or the physical, mental or social benefits.

Association:

the entire paying membership of the South Florida Amateur Athletic Association (SFAAA)

Board:

the composite of the SFAAA Board of Directors as enumerated in the Bylaws

Board member:

a member, either elected or appointed, to the SFAAA Board of Directors.

Conflicts of interest: A conflict of interest may be present in situations such as, but is not limited to, the following:

- The affected player is on the same team
- Romantic partner
- Roommate
- Co-worker
- In a dating relationship
- Family member
- Financial connection
- Any other conflict of interest deemed relevant by the Board

courtesy runner:

a non-substituted player who appears on the game's lineup card who shall be able to take the place of any player who has reached base safely.

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drafted player:

any person who, at the new player draft or any subsequent draft, that is selected by a team

eligible player:

any person who is over 18 and is in good standing with the Association and NAGAAA.

gay:

includes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT or LGBT) individuals.

Gay Softball World Series (GSWS):

a tournament hosted annually by the North American Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA).

Non-LGBT:

means not gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

Instruments of Governance (IoG):

the document that includes the SFAAA's Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Softball Code, Ethics, and Appendices.

manager:

the person designated by a team to fulfill those roles and complete those responsibilities as enumerated in the Softball Code.

North American Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA):

the organization responsible for hosting the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) and from which this Association's rating system is derived.

non-qualifying season:

a playing season in which the results do not award bid(s) for the right to compete in the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series.

non-player:

any person whose name appears on an active roster but does not appear on a lineup card throughout the course of a season. Non players may include but are not limited to scorekeepers, coaches, managers, or anyone designated by their team as serving an active role on the team.

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Protected player:

Any player who is eligible to attend the SFAAA draft or any other skills assessment session and is designated by the player and team manager that the player wishes to be a member of a specific team. A protected player will not be eligible to be drafted by any other team other than the team which protected the player (see Section 4.04).

qualifying season:

a playing season in which the results of the season play award bid(s) for the right to compete in the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series. In a qualifying season, the Association shall schedule at least six (6) games as stipulated in the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance.

replacement players:

any person who has taken the place of a player who has relocated or qualified as an injured player on the team's roster. In doing so, the person replaced shall no longer be considered eligible to appear on team's lineup for any lineup submitted after the replacement procedure has been finalized by the Board.

sponsor:

any person, organization, business or other entity who shall be designated by the team as having provided support to its ability to participate in a softball season.

uniform:

as defined in the SFAAA Ethics Policy, a uniform shall be constituted of a maximum of two (2) shirts, two (2) pants and/or shorts and two (2) hats.

unsportsmanlike conduct:

action that is detrimental or unbecoming to the purposes and objectives of the SFAAAA, its teams or its membership.